



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AGENDA**

Thursday, September 3, 2020

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	Receive
	<u>AGENDA</u> – September 3, 2020	Approve
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
2-5	Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2020	Adopt
	<u>DELEGATION</u>	
	<u>NORTHWEST INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL (via Zoom)</u> Penni Adams, Program Manager Denise McLean, Invasive Plant Specialist, FLNRORD RE: Update	
	<u>REPORTS</u>	
6- 10	John Illes, Chief Financial Officer – Accounting of Administrative Overhead	Recommendation
11-13	John Illes, Chief Financial Officer – Accounting of Expenses and Remuneration	Recommendation
14-18	Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services – Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation – Core Advisory Council	Recommendation
19-27	Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services – Cow Moose and Calf Cull	Recommendation
28-35	Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning - Parks and Outdoor Recreation Service Implementation Strategy Update	Receive
36-45	Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning - Cheslatta Land Transfer	Receive
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING****Thursday, June 4, 2020**

PRESENT: Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Gladys Atrill – via Zoom
Shane Brien
Mark Fisher
Dolores Funk
Judy Greenaway
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Brad Layton – via Zoom
Linda McGuire
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Sarrah Storey – via Zoom

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator – via Zoom
Janette Derksen, Deputy Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 1:10 p.m.
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – via Zoom/in person at 12:46 p.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 12:05 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Liliana Dragowska, RPP, Dynamic Community Planning – via Zoom – left at 1:21 p.m.
Hillary Morgan, RPP MCIP, Principal, Dynamic Community Planning – via Zoom – left at 1:21 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

STAFF INTRODUCTION

The following staff were introduced to the Regional Board:

- Lindsay King, FireSmart Coordinator
- Crystal Miller, Accounting Clerk 1.

AGENDAMoved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director McGuire**C.W.2020-6-1**

"That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 4, 2020 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – May 7, 2020

Moved by Director Lambert
 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

C.W.2020-6-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of May 7, 2020 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

DYNAMIC COMMUNITY PLANNING – Hillary Morgan, RPP MCIP, Principal and Liliana Dragowska, RPP RE: Parks and Outdoor Recreation Study

Chair Thiessen welcomed Hillary Morgan, RPP MCIP, Principal and Liliana Dragowska, RPP, Dynamic Community Planning.

Ms. Dragowska and Morgan provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

RDBN Parks & Outdoor Recreation Study.

- Meet the Team
- Background & Purpose
- Project Scope
- Four Phases
 - Pre-Engagement
 - Stakeholder Engagement
 - Building Blocks & Public Engagement
 - Synthesize Findings & Develop Scenarios
- Seven Common Needs
- Eight Principles
- Building Blocks
 - RDBN Administration
 - Non-Profit Society
 - RDBN Owned or Leased Outdoor Recreation Assets
 - Multi-Year Funding Agreements with Clubs
 - Grants
- Open House Overview
- Feedback Form Responses
- Examples of Scenarios
- Scenario Assumptions
 - Scenario 1: Region-Wide Service with
 - Scenario 2: Region-Wide
 - Scenario 3: Electoral Area A
- Proposed Tax Rates & Responses to Feedback Forms
- Blue/Orange Block vs. Red/Yellow Block
 - Sample Budget for Orange Block
 - Sample Budget for Red & Yellow Blocks
- Next Steps and Recommendations
- Key Questions for RDBN Board
- Thank You!

Break for lunch at 12:04 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:46 p.m.

The Board of Directors thanked Mmes. Morgan and Dragowska for an excellent made in the Bulkley-Nechako approach.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

DYNAMIC COMMUNITY PLANNING – Hillary Morgan, RPP MCIP, Principal and Liliana Dragowska, RPP RE: Parks and Outdoor Recreation Study

The following was discussed in regard to the RDBN Parks & Recreation Study:

- Bringing forward the Study to municipal councils
- Outdoor recreation
 - Key component in regard to attraction and retention
 - Contributes to healthy communities
- Revenue and funding a service
 - Matching funds
 - Establishing service area
 - Establishing a service limit
 - Taxation from a specific area provide funding to that specific area
 - RDBN Administration
 - Provides consistent oversight (quality)
 - Concerns regarding additional staff
 - RDBN providing funding to non-profit society(ies) to deliver outdoor recreation service
 - Support for funding directly to groups
 - Multi-Year Funding Agreements
 - Grants an option for Area F
 - Area D consideration of utilizing other grant sources to assist in developing recreation groups in area
- Concerns regarding public turnout/input in certain areas
- Interest in municipal participation
- Sub-regional approach
- Strategic in new property investments
 - Maintenance of existing/new recreation infrastructure
 - Access roads and maintenance costs aren't addressed in report
- People don't recognize artificial boundaries.

Chair Thiessen thanked Ms. Morgan and Dragowska for attending the meeting.

REPORT

Draft Parks and Recreation Study

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

C.W.2020-6-3

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the draft Parks and Recreation Study."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Lake Babine Nation - Lake Babine Nation's Draft Foundation Agreement

Moved by Director J. Greenaway
Seconded by Director T. Greenaway

C.W.2020-6-4

"That the Committee of the Whole receive the correspondence from Lake Babine Nation – Lake Babine Nation's Draft Foundation Agreement."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

CAO Helgesen commented, that along with Chair Thiessen, a meeting is being scheduled with Chief Gordon Alec, Lake Babine Nation to discuss the Draft LBN Foundation Agreement. Director McGuire mentioned that a meeting has been requested with the Village of Granisle and the Village has asked Tom McCarthy, Divisional Chief Negotiator, Negotiations Regional Operations Division, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to facilitate the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

COVID-19 Board Meeting Safety Precautions and Electronic Meeting Technology Improvements

Discussion took place in regard to plexiglass desk dividers in the Board Room and the estimated costs associated to potentially allow for in-person participation of all Directors during the COVID-19 event. The importance of quality audio equipment to allow for better participation via electronic meetings was discussed. Utilizing Northern Capital Planning Grant funding as an option for building improvements was also discussed. The 2020 Budget includes Northern Capital Planning Grant funding allocated for building improvements.

The potential need for plexiglass dividers in the event of an Emergency Operations Centre activation was brought forward.

Moved by Director Brien
 Seconded by Director McGuire

C.W.2020-6-5

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Board approve plexiglass desk dividers at an estimated cost of \$8,000.”

Opposed: Director Newell **CARRIED**

(All/Directors/Majority)

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
 Seconded by Director Brien

C.W.2020-6-6

“That the meeting be adjourned at 1:46 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

To: Board of Directors
From: John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Date: September 3, 2020
Re: Accounting of Administrative Overhead

Recommendation (All/Directors/Majority):

That the Committee direct staff to bring back the Accounting of Administrative Overhead Policy (as amended) to the next Board meeting for approval.

Background:

In preparation for the 2021 budget process, staff would like to revisit with the Board the accounting for administration overhead. Historically, every five years the Regional District updates its overhead policy to reflect changes in the Regional District and its environment. This policy was to be updated for the 2020 budget year but was delayed by the directors to allow for more research to be completed.

A review of 12 other Regional District overhead allocation policies was completed. Most of these policies were very detailed and often extended to over ten pages. A concerted effort was made to provide a short and easy to understand policy that still fairly distributed the administration costs to the various service areas.

In its revised directions to Regional Districts, the Province stated that overhead costs are to be allocated to the local service areas except for those strictly of a governance nature that may be allocated to a general administration account.

Recommendation for apportionment of governance costs are by population, the quantity of service used by each jurisdiction (the weighted number of service model), fixed portions or a combination of other pertinent factors.

Recommendations for cost recovery for support services is that these costs are to be allocated on use.

Governance:

The cost of Governance is generally thought of as the Corporate Governance or Administrative Services department. This includes the CAO, Corporate Officer (Manager of Administrative Services) and their department's staff and operational costs. The cost estimate for Governance Service in our current budget is approximately \$650,000.



The proposed policy (and the current practice) suggests that this governance cost be allocated to either General Government (funded through taxation of the entire Regional District) or Rural Government (funded through taxation of all the Electoral Areas).

Using the weighted number of service model, the percentage amount to be allocated to Rural Government is estimated to be 55% of the total costs. With Electoral Area services such as the Fort Fraser Local Government Services, Electoral Area Planning, Development Services, Building Inspection, Protective Services (or Emergency Preparedness Planning) combined with many smaller services such as Rural Fire Protection, and Street Lighting, this estimate is not unreasonable.

On the basis of population, 45% of the governance allocation would be assigned to Rural Government.

On the basis of fixed allocation, two models could be used – by assessment would result in 49% of the costs being assigned to Rural Government and by the number of jurisdictions (7 of 15), 47% of the costs would be assigned to Rural Government.

Rural Government currently is charged \$97,000 or 15% of the \$650,000 governance costs. To limit the amount of change in the budget for 2021, the proposed policy suggests an increase to 35%. This change would increase the taxation for Rural taxpayers by \$2.60 per \$100,000 while decreasing the taxation for Municipal taxpayers by \$1.68 per \$100,000. A further assessment will be done in 2021 for the 2022 budget year.

Support Services:

Support Services will be allocated by each service's share (less certain costs such as debt and capital costs) multiplied by a flat percentage rate depending on the support service level required. The percentage figures are chosen to recover approximately \$500,000 of support service cost from the various local service. Some examples are:

Environmental Services	6.0%	a service requiring payroll/HR/AP/AR
Protective Services	6.0%	
Bulkley Valley Swimming Pool	4.5%	is a complex service but without payroll
Street Lighting Services	3.0%	they have accounts payable monthly
Regional Fire Services	1.5%	they have only one payment per year

Currently support services are not allocated and are paid for under General Administration (funded by both Rural and Municipal taxation). For example, this means that all the Regional District's taxpayers pay for a portion of the costs associated with individual street lighting services and fire services. If these services were spread evenly throughout the Regional District this would be a fair distribution of these expenses. However, the distribution of services is not even throughout the Regional District. For example, two member municipalities – Granisle and Vanderhoof – are not part of any



local services while one electoral area – Electoral Area A - participates in twelve local services. The process outlined above proposes to fairly allocate the cost associated with the support services in a transparent and easy method.

Some examples of cost that would be charged to various departments:

Environmental Services:

Bulkley Valley Swimming Pool

\$4,700,000 budget
Multiplied by 6.0%

\$730,000 budget
multiplied by 4.5%

Total Allocation is \$282,000

Total Allocation is \$32,850

Burns Lake Fire Service

Fort Fraser Street Lighting

\$113,000 budget
Multiplied by 1.5%

\$8,544 budget
multiplied by 3.0%

Total allocation is \$1,695

Total calculated allocation is \$256*
Total minimum would be \$500

If an Electoral Area or Municipality was not part of any local services, they would see their tax decrease by approximately \$4.00 per \$100,000 of assessed value (or approximately 3%) with respect to this change.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board Policy

SUBJECT: Accounting for Administrative Overhead
 CATEGORY: Financial Services
 LAST REVIEW:

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set out the cost allocation for administration overhead in a fair, clear and transparent manner.

2. CONTEXT

All local services share the same governance, administration, information technology, infrastructure, and office space. To provide a true cost of providing local services, these costs must be allocated.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

The allocation of costs falls into three categories.

- a. The Corporate administration costs including the costs for the Chief Administrative Officer and the Manager of Administrative Services and their department are recognized as governance costs and are charged directly to the Rural Administration or General Administration budgets.

The determination of the percentage apportionment of the governance costs is based on an analysis of all RDBN services with an assigned weighting factor representing effort. The weighted ratio of the number of electoral area and municipal services to the total weighted number of services, determines the percentage split.

The initial allocation will be 35% to Rural Administration and 65% to General Government Administration.

A revised estimate will be completed every five years or sooner if requested by the Board.

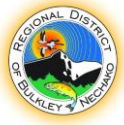
- b. Support Services include the Finance Department and administrative support services. The allocation of these costs is described in Part 4.



- c. Other Shared Costs including infrastructure, information technology and services, insurance, and fleet costs. The allocation of these costs is also described in Part 4.

4. ALLOCATION OF SHARED COSTS

- a. Support Services allocation is based on:
 1. Service budget (less debt servicing costs, cost allocations, transfer to reserves, and capital purchases)
 2. Multiplied by the:
 - 6.0% for full service including payroll/AP/AR
 - 4.5% for substantial services such as AP/AR only
 - 3.0% - limited service such as monthly grants or parcel taxes
 - 1.5% - for annual payments only
- b. Allocation of Other Shared Costs
 1. Information Technology and Services will be allocated by FTE based on the number of staff issued a computer.
 2. Cellular Service will be allocated by FTE based on the number of staff issued a cell phone.
 3. Administration building costs and replacement reserve costs will be allocated on FTE based on the amount of staff with space allocated in the administrative building.
 4. Fleet costs will be based on actual use or in the case of shared vehicles it will be on FTE based on the number of staff the have access to that vehicle.
 5. Liability Insurance will be based on an assessment of risk associated with each service to be adjusted each year by the CAO and CFO.
 6. Property Insurance will be allocated based on the total property value of each service divided by the total value of the Regional District Property.
- c. The Minimum administrative amount charged to each service shall be \$500 for services with a budget \$5,000 or greater and \$250 for services with a budget of less than \$5,000.
- d. For budgets that vary greatly year to year a three-year floating average may be used as an "average" budget to determine the administrative charge.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

To: Board of Directors
From: John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Date: September 3, 2020
Re: Accounting of Expenses and Remuneration

Recommendation (All/Directors/Majority):

That the Committee direct staff to bring back the Policy for Director Remuneration and Expenses [as amended] to the next Board Meeting for approval.

Background:

Currently the accounting expenses and remuneration for directors are found in several different policies and are often determined by past practice. The attached policy simplifies the accounting. It is important to note that this policy only determines the accounting for travel and remuneration it does not determine eligible expenses or budget amounts.

This policy if implemented will allow for an easier budget process with respect to governance expenses moving forward.

This basis of this policy is that:

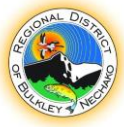
Board and Committee Meeting Expenses are paid for by all taxpayers.

Expenses associated with the Chair and Committee Chairs are paid for by all taxpayers except for the Rural Chair (paid for by rural taxpayers). In general, this was the case in the past. However, in the past often a committee chair's expenses were assigned to the most similar local service.

The Regional District has not paid for a Municipal Director travel (except in the capacity of the Chair) for many years. This policy formalizes this practice. The other side of this practice is that expenses associated with Electoral Area Director travel is paid for by rural taxpayers. This was often the case in the past, but again this policy formalizes this practice.

The policy on Directors travel to various local events such as Minerals North or NCLGA is impacted by this policy and will be updated to ensure consistency.

One time exceptions to this policy can always be made by Board motion.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board Policy

SUBJECT: Accounting for Director Remuneration and Expenses
 CATEGORY: Financial Services
 LAST REVIEW:

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set out the accounting for Board remuneration and expenses in a clear and easily understandable manner.

2. CONTEXT

Bylaw: The Board has outlined the remuneration and expenses for the Board in Bylaw 1837 - "Regional District of Bulkley Nechako Directors' Remuneration and Expenses"

3. POLICY STATEMENT

The administrative and governance expenses for the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is assigned to either of two revenue sources: General Administration that obtains taxation revenue from both Municipalities and Electoral Areas and Rural Administration that obtains taxation revenue from Electoral Areas only.

The Board recognizes that Directors' attendance at Board and Committee meetings is at the core of the governance for the Regional District and as such the expenses and remuneration to attend these meetings will be assigned to General Administration.

The Board recognizes that the Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Chair positions are working on behalf of the entire Regional District and therefore the Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Chair remuneration and expenses related directly to a Director acting in one of these positions will be assigned to General Administration.

The Chair of the Rural/Agricultural Committee is primarily of interest to Electoral Area Directors and therefore the remuneration and expenses association with a Director being Chair of the Rural/Agricultural Committee shall be assigned to Rural Administration.

The Regional District will not pay remuneration or expenses for Municipal Directors to attend events outside of Board and Committee Meetings except for a Director's work as Chair or Committee Chair.



All remuneration and expenses for Rural Directors outside of the Director's work as Chair or Committee Chair and attendance at Board and Committee Meetings will be paid from Rural Government.

The benefits and remuneration associated with Electoral Area Directors shall be assigned to Rural Administration. This includes among other things Rural Area Population Remuneration, Rural Director's Remuneration Supplement, and expenses associated with attending local meetings of interest to the local rural communities.

One time exceptions to the policy can be approved by Board motion.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Memo

TO: Chair Thiessen and Committee of the Whole

FROM: Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services

DATE: September 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation – Core Advisory Council

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board nominate Curtis Helgesen, CAO to the Core Advisory Council.

BACKGROUND

Attached is a letter from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation in regard to the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Province of B.C., Canada, and Hereditary Chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en Nation.

A Community Engagement Strategy has been developed consisting of a Regional Engagement Group, Core Advisory Council, and Public Engagement Sessions.

At this time, nominations are being sought for the Core Advisory Council.



Ref. 50419

August 13, 2020

Curtis Helgesen
CEO
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Gerry Thiessen
Chair
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Mark Fisher
Area A Director
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Michael Riis-Christianson
Area B Director
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Clint Lambert
Area E Director
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Chris Newell
Area G Director
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Dear Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako staff:

On May 14, 2020 the Province of British Columbia, Canada and Hereditary Chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en Nation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to negotiate agreements to implement Wet'suwet'en rights and title in their traditional territory "the Yintah." Matters of rights and title have been left unresolved for many years, resulting in uncertainty and conflict. The goal of these negotiations is to bring greater certainty for everyone and to work together for the benefit of all people who live in the region.

Doing this work during the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional challenges and we have adjusted our target for a draft agreement to mid-October 2020. While we continue to work in good faith in an agreed-upon accelerated process, it is now time to involve stakeholders who have an interest in the Yintah. We'd like you, as a key community leader and representative of important interests, to be part of that. Developing a common understanding of Wet'suwet'en rights and title is essential to creating an agreement that contributes to a vibrant economy and builds strong local relationships.

To support transparency and the success of the negotiations, we have developed a comprehensive Community Engagement Strategy. (For more detail, please see the attached background.) We would like to invite you to become a member of a Regional Engagement Group comprised of key community leaders from local government, industry, services agencies and user groups, which will ensure a diversity of voices is considered throughout our negotiations.

We will be holding an introductory meeting to discuss the MOU, its implications, and how the agreement will be developed, as well as how voices from the broader community who represent the varied views and interests in the Yintah should be included. We intend to hold these meetings on an ongoing basis about every three months throughout the negotiations. Virtual options to attend will be available. The first meeting will be held at 19:00 on September 10, 2020. Please confirm your interest in attending this initial meeting by replying to Katherine Bellefontaine via email (Katherine.Bellefontaine@gov.bc.ca).

.../2

Ref. 50419

- 2 -

We also invite you to consider nominating an individual to become a member of a Core Advisory Council. The Core Advisory Council will be a smaller group of committed and credible voices expected to inform the negotiation process and engage with the Regional Engagement Group as well as the broader community. The Core Advisory Council will meet on a monthly basis. Its members should have a strong voice within key sectors of society and be able to provide critical input and feedback to the negotiation process. Should you have a nominee, please send their contact information and a brief summary of their suitability to Katherine Bellefontaine via email (Katherine.Bellefontaine@gov.bc.ca).

Please note that if you agree to become a standing member of the Regional Engagement Group or Core Advisory Council you would be expected to commit to regular attendance at meetings. At these meetings you will receive updates on this negotiation process and have an opportunity to provide input. While a final Terms of Reference to guide each group will be developed by the group themselves, the expectation would be that members commit to a sustained level of participation to ensure trust-building and respectful relationships. As you consider this opportunity, I encourage you to reach out to Stewart Dickson (Stewart.Dickson@gov.bc.ca) or Sandra Harris (Smharris877@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

On behalf of the Province of British Columbia, the Federal Government of Canada, and the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, thank you for taking the time to consider our invitation to play a critical role in this historic process. This is a significant opportunity to advance reconciliation, create more certainty, and lend your local voice and experience in the development of an agreement that will have generational significance.

ON BEHALF OF THE WET'SUWET'EN NATION
by the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs

Woos (Frank Alec)

Madeek (Jeff Brown)

Knededeas (Warner William)

T'sek'ot (Ron Austin)

Hagwilneghl (Ron Mitchell)

Kloum Khun (Alphonse Gagnon)

Na'Moks (John Ridsdale)

Gisday'wa (Fred Tom)

Smogelgem (Warner Naziel)

Lay'oh (James Namox)

ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA
by the Minister of INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

Hon. Scott Fraser

.../3

Ref. 50419

- 3 -

Backgrounder: Components of the Wet'suwet'en, Canada, B.C. Community Engagement Strategy

Stakeholder and community engagement are key parts of any significant negotiation between Government and Indigenous Nations. This multi-layered Community Engagement Strategy offers targeted and public engagement opportunities to the general public and key interest-holders and is critical to successful implementation of the MOU between Wet'suwet'en, B.C. and Canada. The Community Engagement Strategy consists of four components:

Regional Engagement Group (REG)

- 30-50 members that represent key community interests and sectors
- Representative of local government, industry, service agencies, user groups, etc.
- Receives updates on negotiations and provides input to ongoing discussions
- Meets quarterly

Core Advisory Council (CAC)

- Consists of 8-12 members that are nominated from the Regional Engagement Group for consideration to join the Core Advisory Council
- Selected individuals are key influencers able to represent the broad interests of the REG, and are:
 - Committed – willing to attend the process through to signing of Rights & Title
 - Courageous – willing to represent difficult conversations and decisions and bring back critical feedback
 - Curious – able to represent strong views yet remain open to new approaches to governance
 - Credible – have a strong voice within key sectors of society within the Yintah and the support of members of the REG
- Meets monthly, responsible for shaping the content of REG quarterly meetings and Public Engagement Sessions
- Provides input to ongoing discussions on a regular basis
- Receives personal and professional development opportunities

Public Engagement Sessions

- Semi-annual webinar/town hall to engage public on the rights and title dialogue
- Opportunity for information sharing about the process and progress of title negotiations
- Platform for community dialogue and education about reconciliation, rights and title, and the Wet'suwet'en Nation

Working Committees

- Determined by topic when more in-depth engagement is necessary
- Called as needed in support of priority topics at the rights and title table
- Relevant interest-holders will be invited to participate to engage in dialogue on specific issues of importance



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Memo

TO: Chair Thiessen and Committee of the Whole

FROM: Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services

DATE: September 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Cow Moose and Calf Cull

RECOMMENDATION

That, in preparation for the Minister of FLNRORD UBCM meeting regarding the Board's opposition to the cow moose and calf cull, the Board request letters of support from First Nations and sportsman's groups within the RDBN.

BACKGROUND

The Board has requested a meeting with Minister Donaldson regarding the cow moose and calf cull. Attached is some background information that has been provided from the Ministry that indicates that there are areas within the RDBN that are impacted, as well as additional areas that are under consideration.

Cheryl Anderson

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]: RE: Moose Cull
Attachments: MooseCaribou_Two-Pager.pdf; Woodland Caribou Recovery PNAS Extension Note.pdf

From: Skerik, David FLNR:EX <David.Skerik@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: August 25, 2020 9:47 AM

To: Cheryl Anderson <cheryl.anderson@rdbn.bc.ca>; Jacklin, James FLNR:EX <James.Jacklin@gov.bc.ca>; Wiebe, Heather I FLNR:EX <Heather.Wiebe@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Mitchell, Sean FLNR:EX <Sean.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]: RE: Moose Cull

Thanks, Cheryl.

Working across administrative boundaries complicates things. This certainly is the case for your inquiry. I appreciate where your coming from. To help clear things up I am going to convey an over simplified view of two regions (Skeena/Omenica) management so forgive me if I don't quite get it right but it will spare you from having to piece it all together from multiple sources.

First some basic facts regarding cow/calf LEH:

1. A cow/calf LEH is tool supporting the recreational hunting program where we aim to maximize hunting opportunity while meeting wildlife management objectives (i.e. sustainable harvest).
2. A cow/calf LEH is also a tool used to support caribou management in a couple of contexts. I've attached two documents depicting high level overviews of these contexts.

Second, the status of antlerless moose hunting in support of the recreational hunting program.

Recreational Antlerless Moose Hunting (RDBN Area)

- Skeena region management units do not currently have a cow/calf season in the RDBN area.
- Omenica region management units in the RDBN area each have one cow/calf LEH authorization, the same has occurred for the past several years in response to moose population declines.

Third, the status of antlerless moose hunting in support of the caribou recovery program.

Recreational Antlerless Moose Hunting in support of Caribou Recovery (RDBN Area)

- One or more Skeena region management units in the RDBN are under consideration for antlerless moose hunting to maintain moose density objectives to help avoid extirpation of the Tweedsmuir-Entiako Caribou Herd from wolf predation (primary prey management). A specific proposal has yet to be developed. Stakeholders were notified last Thursday that a proposal is expected to be forthcoming for consultation this fall.
- Omenica region management units do not currently have a cow/calf season in the RDBN area in support of caribou management objectives.

To complicate matters, Omenica region does have antlerless seasons in support of caribou recovery but are not in the vicinity of the RDBN area. So what you read in the paper is accurate but Omenica is much bigger in area than the RDBN area. I hope this answers your inquiry and shows why it can be challenging to answer questions from just one region's perspective. That said, I will invite my colleagues James Jacklin from the Omenica Region and Heather Wiebe of the Caribou Recovery Program to clarify or correct anything above. Please let us know if this raises more questions than answers.

I'd be happy to discuss any aspects of wildlife management, including why we use the term primary prey management instead of moose cull. I hope the attached documents provide some more insight to the stuff you might be reading about in the press. Sean Mitchell is a wealth of information and a good contact for caribou management. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

I hope RDBN has a good meeting with our Minister and the discussion on this topic is well informed. Let us know if we can be of service.

All the best,

David Skerik
Director Resource Management
BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
3726 Alfred Ave.
Bag 5000
Smithers, BC
(250) 847-0330

From: Cheryl Anderson <cheryl.anderson@rdbn.bc.ca>
Sent: August 24, 2020 2:44 PM
To: Skerik, David FLNR:EX <David.Skerik@gov.bc.ca>; Mitchell, Sean FLNR:EX <Sean.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]: RE: Moose Cull

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Good afternoon David and Sean,

The RDBN Board of Directors has requested a meeting with Minister Donaldson during the Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention to discuss the moose cow/calf LEHs. When the Board initially spoke of the topic, there was not any indication that it would impact our region. In last week's edition of the Lakes District News, it states that this will be happening in the Kootenay and Omineca regions.

I believe Omineca would fall within our Regional District. Can you please provide any additional information you may have in this regard?

Thank you.

Cheryl Anderson
Manager of Administrative Services
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Phone: (250) 692-3195
TF: 1-800-320-3339
Fax: (250) 692-3305

Finding shared solutions for moose and caribou management in B.C.

• JUNE 2020

Moose, caribou and wolves have a unique predator-prey relationship that has been significantly influenced in many areas by natural and human-caused habitat alteration. The Province of B.C. is striving to find shared solutions that allow all three species to persist on the landscape.

Moose are integral to British Columbians

Moose are an iconic part of British Columbian landscapes. As the largest member of the deer family, they are a key food source for other wildlife, and their presence on the landscape is highly valued by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Moose populations are declining in many parts of the Province. Given their ecological, cultural, and economic importance, these declines are a source of significant concern for Indigenous peoples, stakeholders, and the broader public. There is a pressing need to better understand the factors causing this decline and find ways to achieve desired population goals.

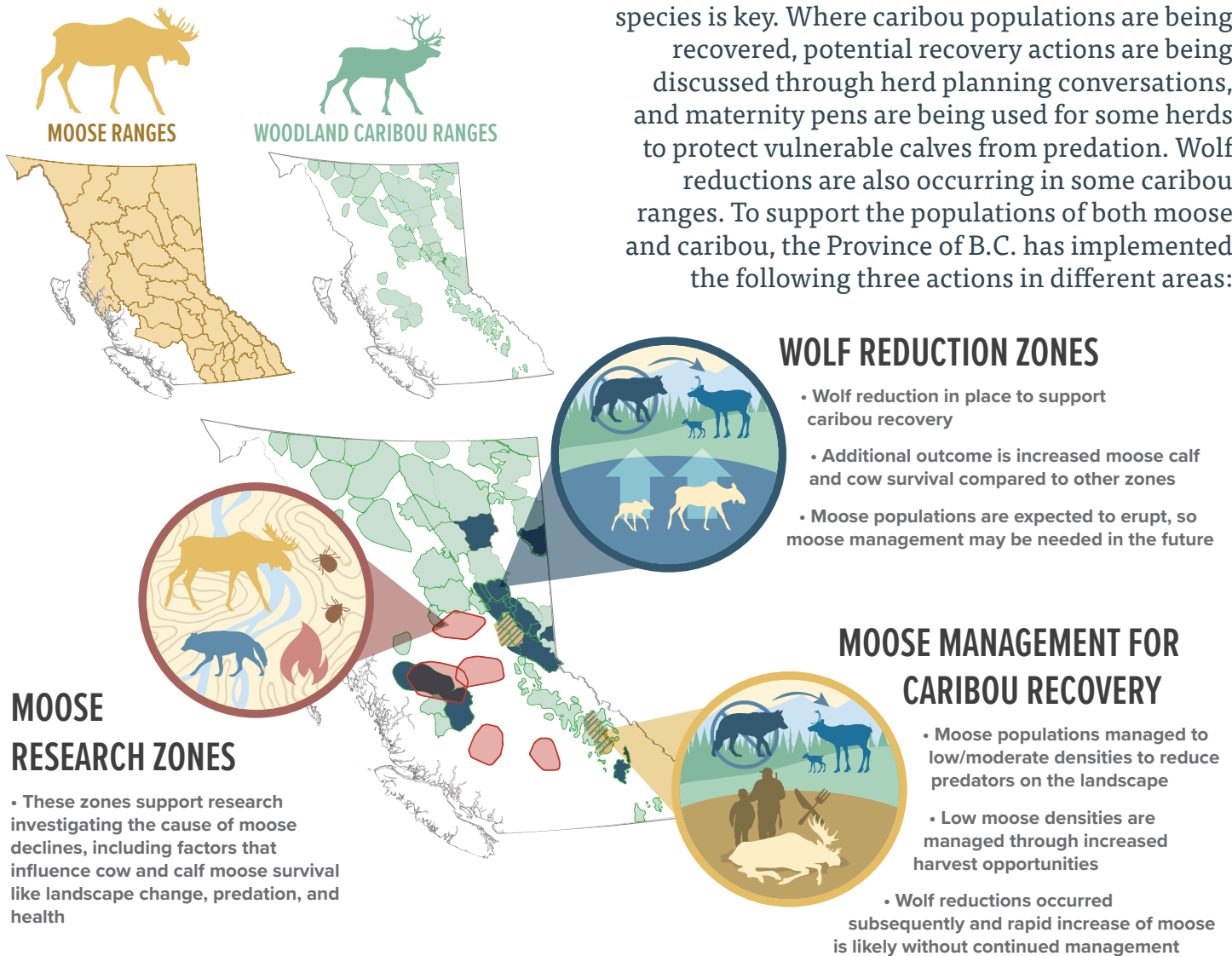


Caribou: a key conservation challenge

Woodland caribou are also an iconic Canadian species. As a high-profile species at risk, caribou population recovery is one of the Province's highest priorities. Herds in Southern B.C. have been listed as Endangered by COSEWIC, at least five herds have been recently extirpated, and an additional six herds are assessed as being under imminent threat of extirpation by the federal government. Like moose, caribou are of cultural significance to Indigenous communities and are a key part of the Province's rich biodiversity.

Different strategies in different regions

Historically, caribou and moose ranges did not overlap extensively. However, habitat alteration has increased the overlap between moose and caribou. Maintaining spatially separated, and high-quality habitat for both species is key. Where caribou populations are being recovered, potential recovery actions are being discussed through herd planning conversations, and maternity pens are being used for some herds to protect vulnerable calves from predation. Wolf reductions are also occurring in some caribou ranges. To support the populations of both moose and caribou, the Province of B.C. has implemented the following three actions in different areas:



1. Moose Research Zones: Examining the Cause of Declines

Landscapes altered by resource development can affect moose populations in a variety of ways. In some areas of B.C., altered landscapes may have caused significant moose declines, while in other areas habitat alteration creates favourable habitat conditions for moose. Scientific information is being gathered in five study areas where moose are declining. This research examines three key issues:

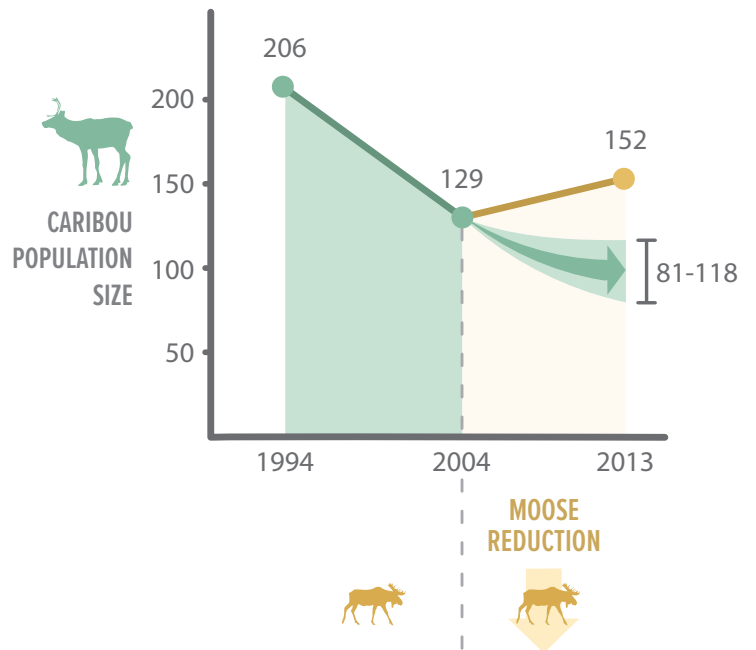
1. Factors that influence cow and calf moose survival,
2. The effect of landscape changes on moose survival, and
3. Habitats that are important for moose.

Learning more about how these factors influence moose populations will help inform management decisions that will support the long-term sustainability of moose throughout the Province.

2. Moose Management for Caribou Recovery

In two areas of the Province, Parsnip and Revelstoke, attempts were made to lower moose populations using increased hunting opportunities to support caribou recovery. Reducing moose numbers may help to keep wolf numbers low, which relieves predation on caribou. **In the Parsnip, this strategy did not appear to benefit caribou, but in Revelstoke moose were reduced by 80% and caribou numbers stabilized for the largest herd, whereas two very small herds continue to decline.** Without the moose reduction, it was projected caribou would have continued to decline significantly.

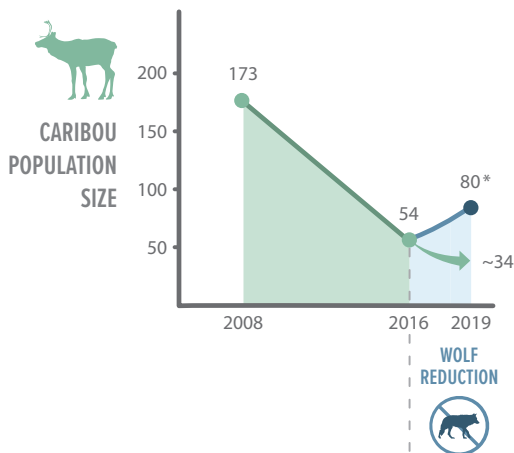
REVELSTOKE CARIBOU POPULATION BEFORE AND AFTER MOOSE REDUCTION



3. Wolf Reduction Zones: Supporting Caribou Recovery

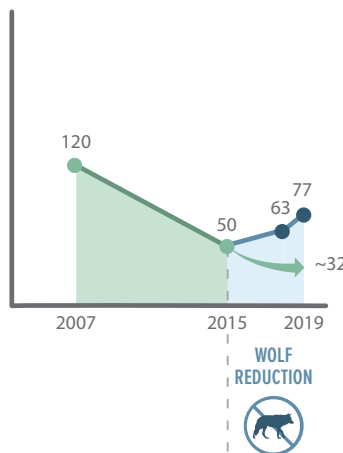
Caribou have declined steeply in areas with high levels of habitat alteration, and elevated wolf numbers have resulted in high caribou mortality from predation. Wolf reductions are therefore an important tool to support caribou recovery alongside habitat protection and restoration.

QUINETTE CARIBOU POPULATION BEFORE AND AFTER WOLF REDUCTION



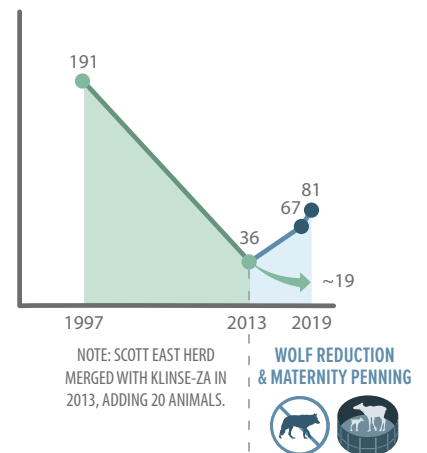
* THE VALUE 80 IS FROM ADULT SURVIVAL AND CALF RECRUITMENT ESTIMATES.

KENNEDY CARIBOU POPULATION BEFORE AND AFTER WOLF REDUCTION



SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING ALSO BEGAN IN 2014.

KLINSE-ZA CARIBOU POPULATION BEFORE AND AFTER WOLF REDUCTION



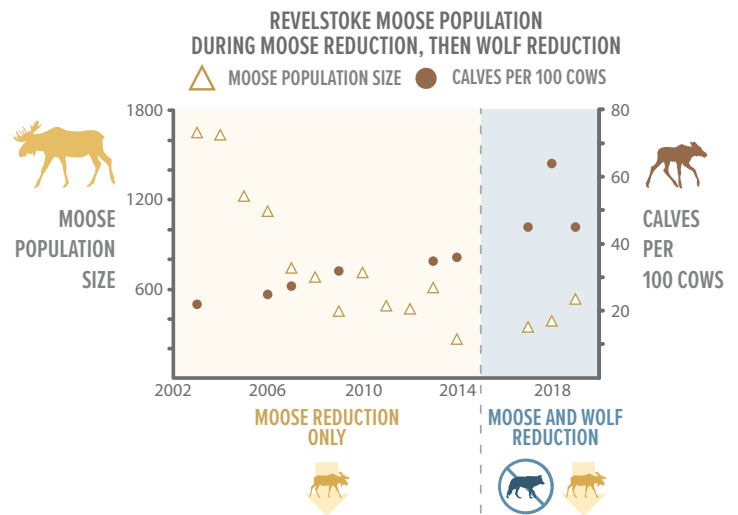
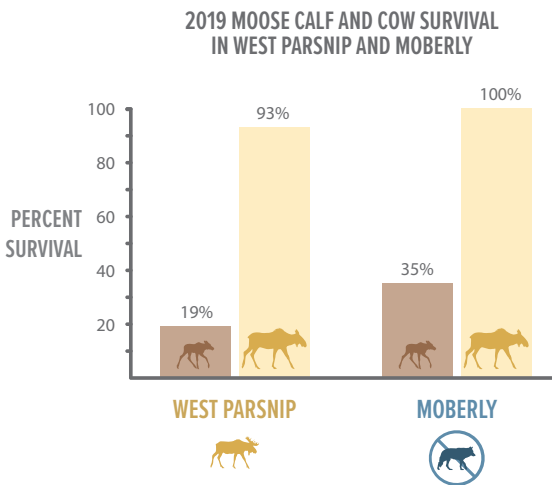
NOTE: SCOTT EAST HERD MERGED WITH KLINSE-ZA IN 2013, ADDING 20 ANIMALS.

Wolf reductions for caribou: effects on moose

In the Peace region, wolf reductions to help recover the Klinse-za caribou herd may have resulted in greater cow and calf survival in the overlapping Moberly moose population relative to the nearby West Parsnip moose population. Results from 2017 and 2018 did not show an increase in moose survival, but results from 2019 suggest some preliminary evidence of increases (next page, bottom left).

In Revelstoke, moose reductions by licensed hunters began in 2003, which in turn reduced wolves and stabilized the caribou decline for the Columbia North herd. In 2017, direct removal of wolves began as an additional caribou recovery measure. Since these wolf reductions began in combination with increased harvest of moose, caribou numbers have increased by about 4% per year, though these are early results. Additionally, the moose population has grown by 20% per year and the ratio of calves to cows have increased rapidly (bottom right).

As wolf reductions for caribou recovery continue, **there may be some outcomes where caribou populations increase and moose hunting opportunities will likely increase for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous harvesters.** However, continued careful monitoring is needed to determine this possibility.



For additional details on these results, please see:

Sittler, K.L. 2019. *Moose Limiting Factors Investigation: Annual Report 2018-19*. Wildlife Infometrics Inc. Report No. 678_Wildlife Infometrics Inc., Mackenzie, British Columbia, Canada.

Coordinated Management

Ensuring the resiliency of B.C.'s moose and caribou populations is of critical importance. Getting there won't be easy and will require a holistic approach that doesn't focus on just one species, habitat, or management strategy. Through continued research and an adaptive approach to management, the Province of B.C. hopes to improve the long-term persistence of caribou and maintain healthy moose populations in the Province in collaboration with First Nations and stakeholders.

References: Pelletier, A. and D. Seip. 2019. *Population Status of Central Mountain Caribou Herds in British Columbia, and Response to Recovery Management Actions*. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations, and Rural Development.



Ministry of
Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations
and Rural Development



PHOTO: S. HAZENBERG



PHOTO: COLUMBIA MOUNTAINS CARIBOU PROJECT

Population Management Needed To Avoid Further Extirpation of Caribou

A comprehensive review has shown that until habitat recovers, intensive measures to reduce predation rates are necessary for the survival of woodland caribou.

SERROUYA, R., D.R. SEIP, D. HERVIEUX, B.N. MCLELLAN, R.S. MCNAY, R. STEENWEG, D. HEARD, M. HEBBLEWHITE, M. GILLINGHAM, S. BOUTIN. 2019. SAVING ENDANGERED SPECIES USING ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT. PNAS. www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1816923116

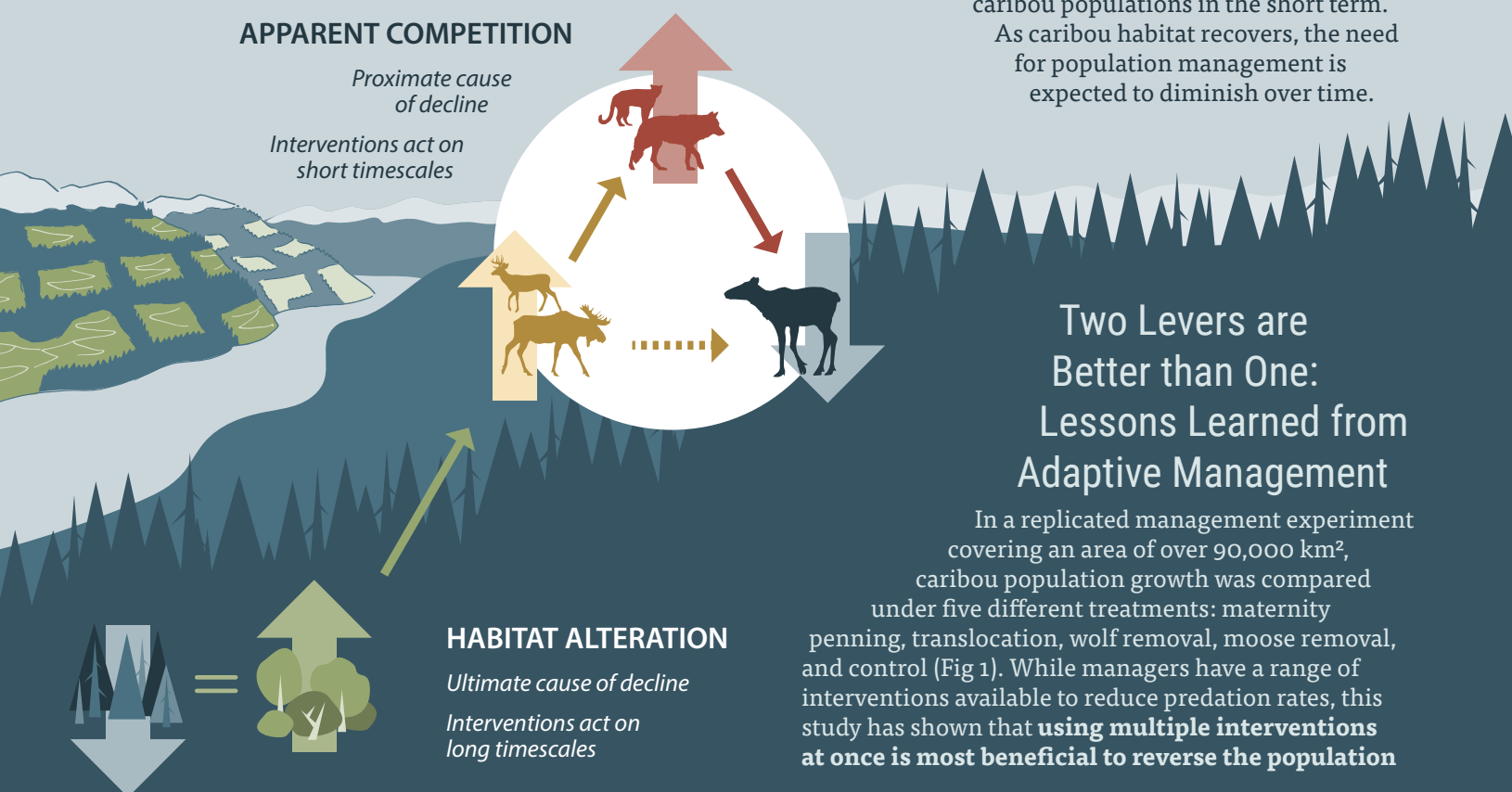
A Conservation Emergency

Woodland caribou have recently become extirpated from the contiguous USA, and many of the remaining populations in BC and Alberta may soon disappear without rapid emergency intervention.

Studies have shown that a core driver of this decline in caribou is habitat alteration. When forests are disturbed through industrial activity, the regenerating vegetation is initially dominated by deciduous plants, which are prime food for moose and white-tailed deer. In a process known as apparent competition, these increased populations of prey support an unusually high number of predators, which in turn place an unduly high predation pressure on caribou herds.

Complementary Approaches Needed for Short and Long-Term Recovery

Studies to date have focused on two related approaches to recovering caribou. The first involves protecting and restoring habitat. The second involves population management, which means directly managing populations of caribou, their predators, and competing ungulates. There has been debate about the role of these approaches in caribou recovery, but to date there have been few comprehensive studies which have tested these techniques at large scales. In a new, comprehensive analysis, we find that **immediate population management is needed to save remaining herds and avoid continued extirpation**. While habitat recovery and restoration is key for the long-term recovery of caribou, this recovery happens gradually over long time-scales. Population treatments are therefore necessary to increase woodland caribou populations in the short term. As caribou habitat recovers, the need for population management is expected to diminish over time.



decline. Combining treatments that act on both calf recruitment and adult survival (penning and wolf reduction, respectively) achieved the greatest improvement to the population growth rate. Overall, the benefit of population management is clear. In multiple cases, treatment implementation reversed an ongoing decline (Fig 2), while all control populations continued to shrink in size.

Half Measures Will Hamper Program Effectiveness

One key observation from this analysis was that caribou response was linked to treatment intensity. **In all instances where treatment intensity was limited (e.g. only a portion of wolves were removed from a caribou range), no change in caribou population growth was observed.** Treatment intensity is a critical factor in determining whether an intervention would benefit caribou. Managers should be aware that **half measures will erode confidence in a treatment as a viable conservation action.**

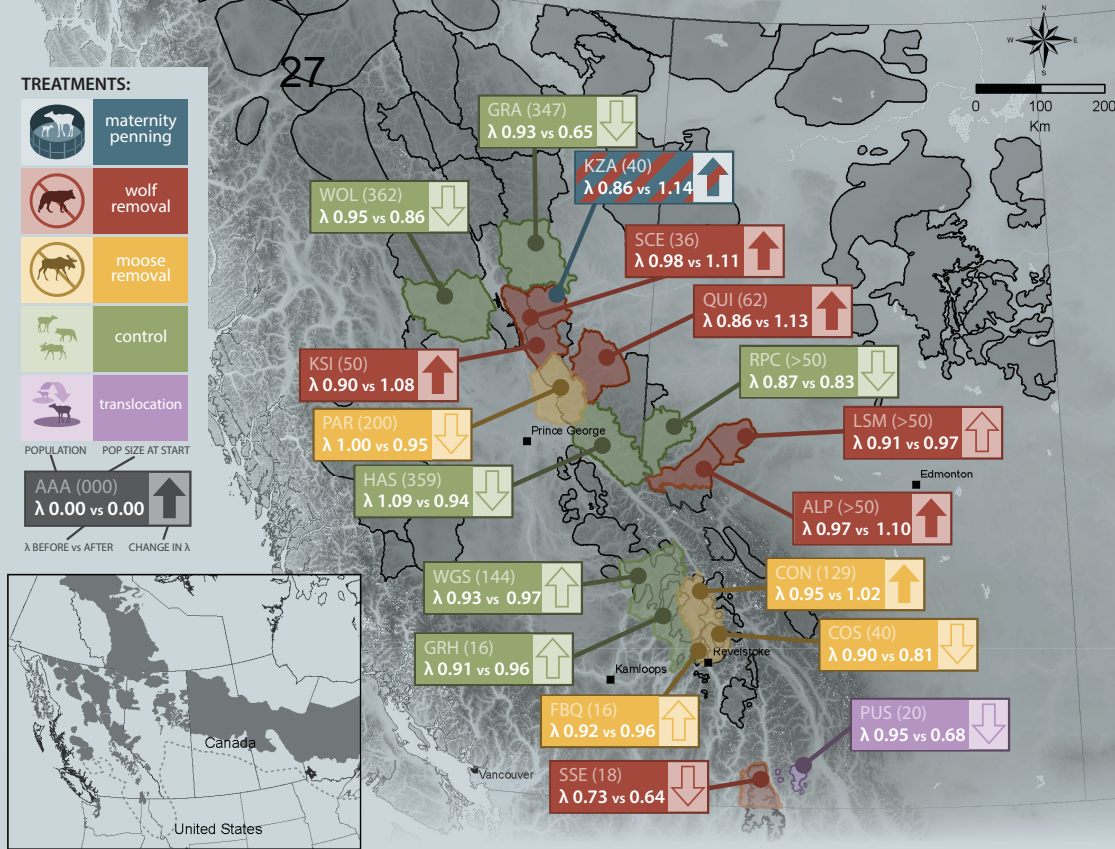


Fig 1. Population growth rates (λ) before and after treatments. Arrow direction indicates the change in growth rate, and a solid arrow indicates that the population has reversed its decline and is now increasing ($\lambda > 1$).

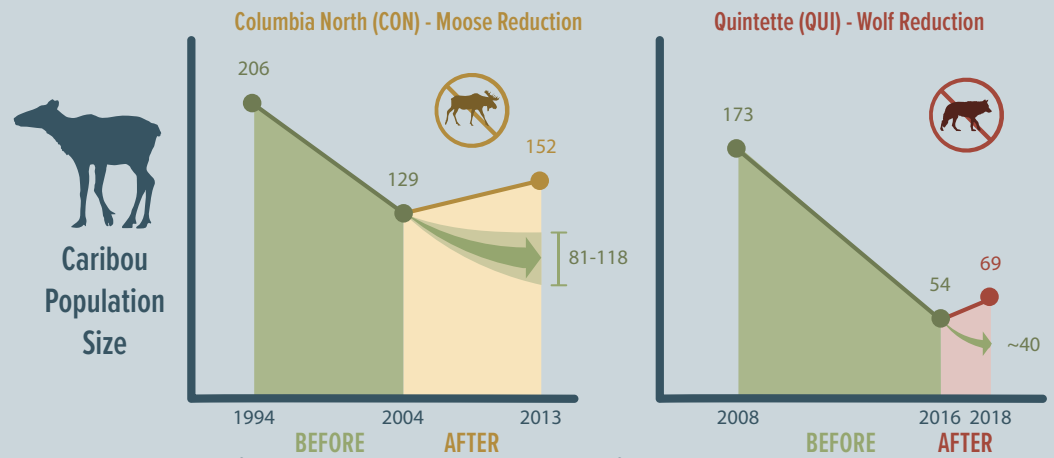


Fig 2. Two examples of caribou populations that ceased declining after a population treatment was applied. The projected decline in absence of treatment is also shown.

Population Management is Needed Regardless of the Initial Degree of Forest Alteration

The degree of habitat alteration did not dampen the observed patterns. **At these short time-scales, population management has a far greater effect on caribou population growth** than the amount of habitat that has been altered. While important for the long-term continuation of woodland caribou, **habitat recovery and restoration alone will not be enough to save herds facing impending extinction.**

This comprehensive synthesis has shown that the survival of woodland caribou depends on rapid population management. Treatments should be high intensity and, ideally, simultaneous. The need for population management is expected to decrease over time as habitat recovers.

Acknowledgements:

This project is a partnership among provincial governments, First Nations, universities, and subject matter experts and made possible through funding from the Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. Idaho Fish and Game also paid for South Selkirk (SSE) caribou surveys.

Learn more at:
<https://cmu.abmi.ca/>





REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO STAFF REPORT

TO: Chair Thiessen and Committee of the Whole
FROM: Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
DATE: September 3, 2020
SUBJECT: Parks and Outdoor Recreation Service Implementation Strategy Update

RECOMMENDATION

Receipt

VOTING

All Directors / Majority

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the June 18, 2020 Board Meeting the Board directed staff to develop a strategy for the implementation of a parks and recreation service that does the following:

- allows Directors the ability to determine the services provided, if any, in their service areas,
- allows for the ownership of parks and recreation facilities,
- allows for the provision of sustainable funding to Societies; and,
- ensures that taxation dollars are spent in the service areas in which they were raised.

This report outlines a proposed parks and recreation service implementation strategy for discussion.

THE PROPOSED PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICE

Parks and Trails Establishment Bylaw 1881, 2019

"Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Electoral Areas' Parks and Trails Establishment Bylaw No. 1881, 2019" was adopted November 21, 2019 for the purpose of creating, operating and marketing Regional Parks and Regional Trails within the Electoral Areas of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.

This service includes all of the RDBN's Electoral Areas and authorizes the collection of taxes in support of the service based on the net taxable value of improvements in the rural area. The bylaw requires that each Electoral Area is to be apportioned the cost (including administration) attributed to the actual costs associated with the capital, operational and administration for each park or trail within the Electoral Area. The accounting of staff time on this basis has not yet occurred.

Staff are proposing that "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Electoral Areas' Parks and Trails Establishment Bylaw No. 1881, 2019" be amended to include municipalities wishing to participate in the service, and establish the following 7 sub-regional parks and recreation service areas (subject to confirmation of municipal participation).

- Electoral Area A Service Area (Electoral Area A, Town of Smithers, Village of Telkwa)
- Electoral Area B and E Service area (Electoral Area B and E, Village of Burns Lake)
- Electoral Area C Service Area (Electoral Area C, District of Fort St. James)
- Electoral Area D Service Area (Electoral Area D, Village of Fraser Lake)
- Electoral Area F Service Area (Electoral Area F, District of Vanderhoof)
- Electoral Area G Service Area (Electoral Area G, District of Houston, Village of Granisle)

The intention is that taxes received from the above noted Service Areas would support the parks and recreation services provided in the rural area. It is noted that full municipal participation is not necessary for the proposed implementation strategy to proceed. Bylaw 1881 may be amended in future years, with Board agreement, to include municipalities wishing to join a Service Area at a later date.

Service Area Budgeting and Decision Making

Staff envision that the following process would occur to consider the development of a park or recreation asset in a Service Area.

- Step 1 - Initial proposal by Electoral Area (EA) Director, municipality, staff or public.
- Step 2 - Preliminary RDBN staff evaluation.
- Step 3 - Consultation with EA Director and participating municipality.
- Step 4 - Staff report to RDBN Board for direction to proceed.

- Step 5 - Staff undertakes project planning and budgeting with input from EA Director and participating municipality.
- Step 6 - Board gives budget approval and designates the asset as an RDBN park or recreation facility.

The intent is that staff's recommendations regarding the budgeting for and development of parks and recreation assets in a Service Area are made based on consultation with EA Directors and municipal partners. However, the Board remains as the decision-making authority.

Preliminary Taxation Breakdown

A rough preliminary estimate of the administration costs associated with implementing and operating the proposed Parks and Recreation Service is estimated to be approximately \$100,000 including staff time, vehicle costs, office space, supplies, etc. Parks and recreation capital and operational costs specific to a Parks and Recreation Service Area would be allocated to that Service Area.

The administration cost allocation shown below is preliminary and is based on anticipated workload for the first two years of the service. The known priority projects are located in Electoral Areas A, B and E. In future years it is expected that projects in other areas will represent a greater share of the workload, and costs moving forward.

It is noted that the below taxation is based on improvements only.

		Admin Share	150K HOUSE	250K HOUSE	400K HOUSE
Smithers, Telkwa, Area A		55%	\$ 3.74	\$ 6.24	\$ 9.99
	Electoral Area A	\$ 22,751.58			
	Smithers	\$ 27,941.81			
	Telkwa	\$ 4,306.61			
Houston, Granisle, Area G		5%	\$ 1.32	\$ 2.20	\$ 3.52
	Electoral Area G	\$ 1,314.96			
	Granisle	\$ 178.05			
	Houston	\$ 3,506.99			
Burns Lake, Area B & E		25%	\$ 5.24	\$ 8.73	\$ 13.97
	Electoral Area B	\$ 10,824.05			
	Electoral Area E	\$ 7,693.91			
	Burns Lake	\$ 6,482.04			
Fraser Lake and Area D		5%	\$ 1.65	\$ 2.76	\$ 4.41
	Electoral Area D	\$ 3,047.25			
	Fraser Lake	\$ 1,952.75			
Vanderhoof and Area F		5%	\$ 0.57	\$ 0.94	\$ 1.51
	Electoral Area F	\$ 2,163.34			
	Vanderhoof	\$ 2,836.66			
Fort St. James and Area C		5%	\$ 0.79	\$ 1.32	\$ 2.11
	Electoral Area C	\$ 3,320.24			
	Fort St. James	\$ 1,679.76			
		\$100,000.00			

THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

To implement the proposed Parks and Recreation Service for the 2021 budget the following process and timelines are proposed.

Step 1-	Municipal Confirmation of Participation	(Sept. / Oct. 2020)
Step 2 -	Board 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd readings of Bylaw 1881 amendment bylaw	Oct. / Nov. 2020
Step 3 -	Councils authorization of Bylaw 1881 amendment bylaw	Nov. / Dec. 2020
Step 4 -	Submission of Bylaw 1881 amendment bylaw to Province	Dec. 2020
Step 5 -	Provincial approval of Bylaw 1881 amendments	60 day estimate
Step 6 -	Board adoption of Bylaw 1881 amendment bylaw	Feb. 2020
Step 7 -	Development of Parks and Recreation Service Area Budgets	Jan. – Mar. 2021
Step 8 -	Board approval of Parks and Recreation Service Area Budgets	Mar. 2021
Step 9 -	Hire staff person	April 2021
Step 10 -	Implement 2021 Work Plan	June 2021

Municipal Consultation

To date staff have presented as a delegation to every municipality in the RDBN. Based on the preliminary feedback received it is anticipated that most municipalities will agree to participate in a Service Area with their surrounding Electoral Area.

During these presentations municipalities were advised that the RDBN may be seeking confirmation of participation in the service in September – October of 2020, and formal authorization of Bylaw 1881 amendment in November – December 2020.

2021 WORK PLAN

General Administration

- Development of a Parks Bylaw that establishes regulations regarding the use of RDBN trails and parks (camping, fires, littering, smoking, hours of operation, etc.).
- Establishment of a local government ticketing bylaw that lays out the actions that are offences within RDBN parks and trails and the penalties for each offence.
- Development of a maintenance policy for parks and trails.

Project Work

- Cycle 16 Trail Project Planning (Electoral Area A).

- Trout Creek Park use and development plan and implementation (Electoral Area A)
- Imerson's Beach Park parking lot and rail crossing development (Electoral Area B).
- Hospital Point Park operation and maintenance plan development (Electoral Area E).

2022- 2023 WORK PLAN

General Administration

- Development of a comprehensive Parks and Trails Master Plan for the RDBN with a sub-regional plan for each Service Area. It is anticipated that the plan will provide a strategic plan for parkland acquisition in each area.
- Development of guidelines (to be included in Official Community Plans) regarding the provision of parkland or cash in-lieu equivalency to the RDBN as part of the land subdivision process. These guidelines must be established to give the RDBN authority to determine if cash is provided in lieu of parkland.
- Development of an implementation strategy for the collection and distribution of funds to societies providing recreation services. This strategy will include an elector assent process.

Project Work

- Cycle 16 Trail Construction (Electoral Area A).
- Telegraph Trail Cabin Recreation Site maintenance plan development (Electoral Area A).
- Glenannan Park maintenance plan development (Electoral Area D).
- Cluculz Lake boat launch feasibility assessment (Electoral Area F)?
- Stuart River boat launch (Electoral Area C)?

CURRENT RDBN PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION INITIATIVES

The RDBN has undertaken a number of parks and outdoor recreation initiatives, which are included in the 2021 workplan. The Preliminary Taxation Breakdown provided earlier in this report is based on these initiatives and the expected workload. These projects are outlined in more detail below.

Cycle 16 Commuter Trail / Electoral Area A

The RDBN has agreed to work with the Cycle 16 Trail Society on establishing a 12 km. commuter trail between Smithers and Telkwa. The proposed 12 km trail runs adjacent to Highway 16 and is predominantly within the Highway right of way. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) require that the RDBN take ownership of and responsibility for, the trail.

The RDBN has entered into a MoU with the Cycle 16 Trail Society. The following work is required to move the project forward:

- Registration of right of ways on private property.
- ALC approval of the trail through the ALR.
- Ministry of Transportation approval for infrastructure in road right of way.
- Detail design, construction drawings, and construction cost estimates.
- Engagement with impacted property owners.
- Identification of construction funding.
- RFP for construction contract and oversight of construction process.
- Development and implementation of a maintenance strategy.

There may be demand that some of the work necessary to move this project forward will occur in 2020 / 2021 prior to the hiring of recreation staff in 2021. This may have Planning Department workplan implications.

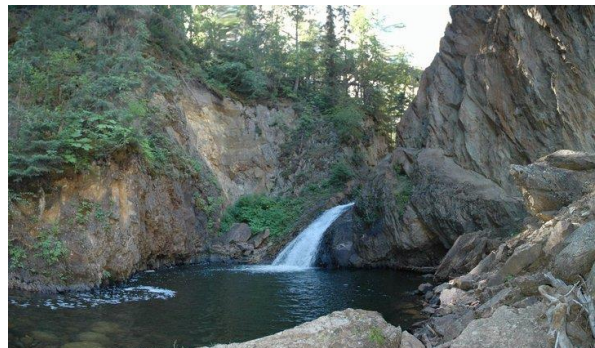
Trout Creek / Electoral Area A

Trout Creek is a 32.925 ha. (81.36 ac.) property on the Bulkley River located approximately 20 kms west of the Town of Smithers. The property has potential for development as a park used as a day use area, campground, boat launch, and fishing spot. The site could also serve as a parking lot for a trail to a waterfall / swimming hole.

The following work is proposed to be completed:

- Establishment of an advisory group to assist in developing a use and development plan.
- Ministry of Transportation approval for parking lot infrastructure / access.
- License of Occupation or Crown Grant approval for the trail and waterfall.
- Agricultural Land Commission approval for certain uses (trail, campground, parking lot, etc).
- Site development plan, construction drawings, and construction cost estimates.
- Identification of site development funding, and oversight of construction process.
- Development and implementation of a maintenance strategy.

There may be demand that some of the work necessary to move this project forward will occur in 2020 / 2021 prior to the hiring of recreation staff in 2021. This may have Planning Department workplan implications.



Imerson's Beach / Electoral Area B



Imerson's Beach is an 11 acre property located approximately 4 km east of Burns Lake near Tintagel Road. The property contains a small beach which has been used by area residents for decades. The beach area is heavily used in the summer and is accessed by both boat and foot.



The following work is proposed to be completed:

- Ministry of Transportation approval for parking lot in road right of way.
- Ministry of Transportation access permit approval.
- CN approval of railway crossing design by engineer.
- Identification of site development funding, and oversight of construction process.
- Development and implementation of a maintenance strategy.

Hospital Point / Electoral Area E

Hospital Point is an 11 acre parcel on the southside of Francois Lake which contains a community hall and day use recreation area. The Southside Seniors Housing Society gifted the land to the RDBN.

The following work is proposed to be completed:

- Development of a Hospital Point Park use and development plan (including potential upgrade of the building to allow for safe public use).

- Identification of site development funding, and oversight of construction process.
- Development and implementation of a maintenance strategy.



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO STAFF REPORT

TO: Chair Thiessen and Committee of the Whole
FROM: Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
DATE: September 3, 2020
SUBJECT: Cheslatta Land Transfer

RECOMMENDATION

Receipt

VOTING

All Directors / Majority

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January 2020 the RDBN received a referral from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation regarding the proposed disposition of Crown land to the Cheslatta Carrier Nation. The Board expressed no objection to the proposed land dispositions provided that the lands being transferred into fee simple ownership are zoned to the Board's satisfaction prior to land transfer. The Board encouraged the province to consult with impacted property owners and mitigate any concerns that may exist and directed staff to initiate the zoning process in consultation with the Cheslatta Carrier Nation.

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation have responded that the Province has engaged directly with specific interest holders in the area, and that the Province intends to conclude its engagement by the end of September. The Province requests that any further comments be provided by September 21, 2020.

DISCUSSION

The Proposed Tenures

The tenures being considered for transfer to the Cheslatta Carrier Nation include license of occupations, Land Act withdrawal from dispositions, and notations of interest, in addition to fee simple ownership. These tenures are described below and are identified on the attached map from the province.

A licence of occupation allows non-exclusive use of land and may include the right to modify the land and/or construct improvements as specified in the tenure document. A licence of occupation does not confer a right to the exclusive use and occupancy of the land and a licence of occupation does not allow the tenure holder to stop public access over the licence area (except where it would impact the licencees' right to use the land as per the licence document).

A withdrawal from disposition means to withdraw or withhold Crown land from alienation and precludes or prevents the acceptance of Crown land applications or the disposition of those Crown lands. A withdrawal is established on Crown land for a specific term, with a maximum term of 30 years.

A notation of interest is registered in recognition of an interest in Crown land. A notation of interest does not preclude the acceptance and adjudication of Crown land applications in the subject area. There is no term limit for a notification of interest.

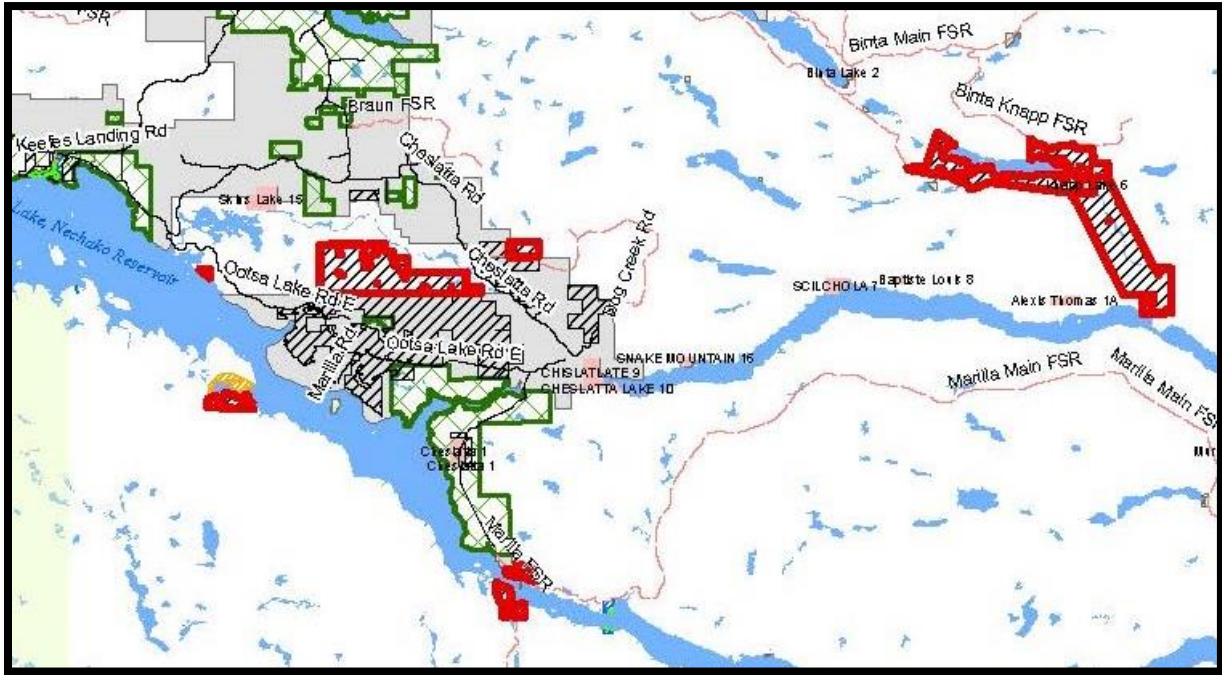
The uses allowed under the proposed license of occupations, the term of the withdrawal from disposition, and the specific reasons for the notations of interest were not known at the time of the writing of this report. However, based on the information provided and the location of the lands, staff have no concerns or objections

The Fee Simple Lands and Zoning

The attached maps 1 and 2 shows the location of Crown lands proposed to be transferred to the Cheslatta Carrier Nation as fee simple lands in relation to RDBN zoning and the ALR.

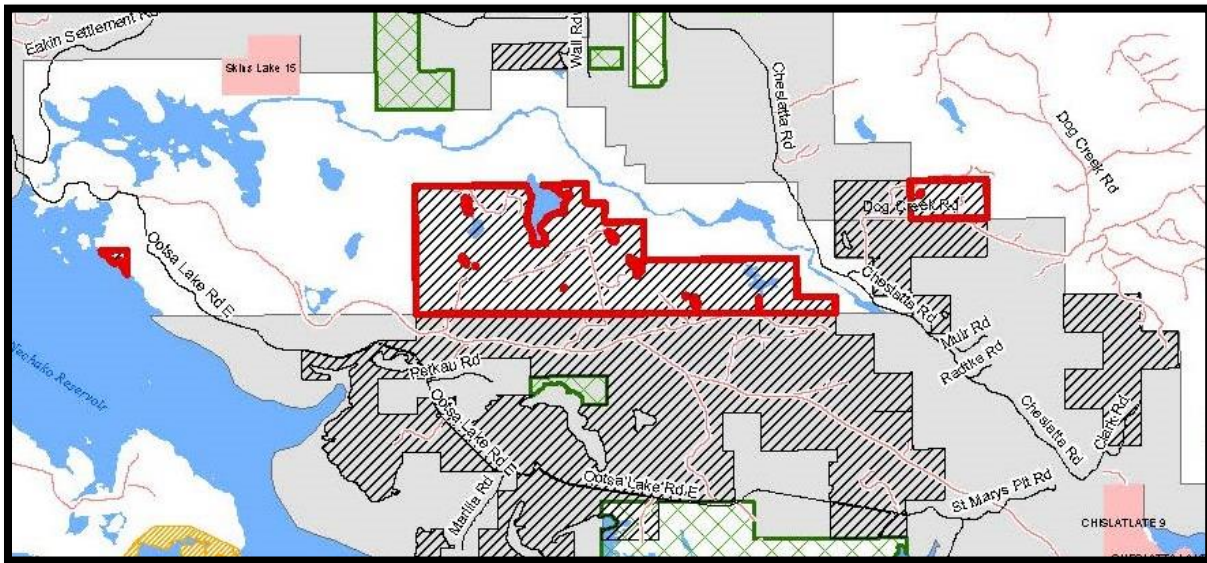
- Zoned lands are shown in grey.
- ALR lands are shown with green square hatching.
- Zoned lands proposed for transfer have black diagonal hatching.
- Unzoned lands proposed for transfer have red diagonal hatching.

Map 1



Map 2 shows the location of fee simple lands proposed for transfer which are relatively centrally located but not subject to RDBN zoning. In staff's opinion the unzoned lands in this area should be zoned, in consultation with the Cheslatta Carrier Nation, prior to the transfer of the fee simple lands. This will ensure that all fee simple lands in the area are subject to the same regulation regardless of ownership.

Map 2



Staff are not recommending that the remaining unzoned fee simple lands shown on map 1, which are south of Ootsa Lake and remotely located to the south and east, be zoned prior to land transfer.

The Rezoning Process

Planning Department staff have discussed the proposed rezoning of lands in the area to the Rural Resource (RR1) zone on a number of occasions with the Cheslatta First Nations representative on the project (Mike Robertson). To date no objections have been received.

The Cheslatta First Nations have been asked to provide written comment on the proposed rezoning. They have also been asked to identify any specific land uses that may be envisioned so that these uses may be considered for inclusion in the zoning that is applied to the lands. To date no response has been received.

It is anticipated that staff will initiate the rezoning process in late, 2020. This process will include formal referrals being sent to all First Nations that identify traditional territory in the area.

ATTACHMENTS

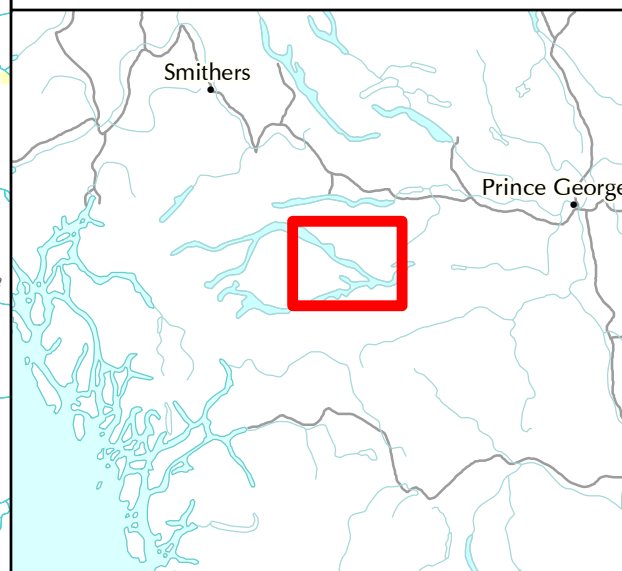
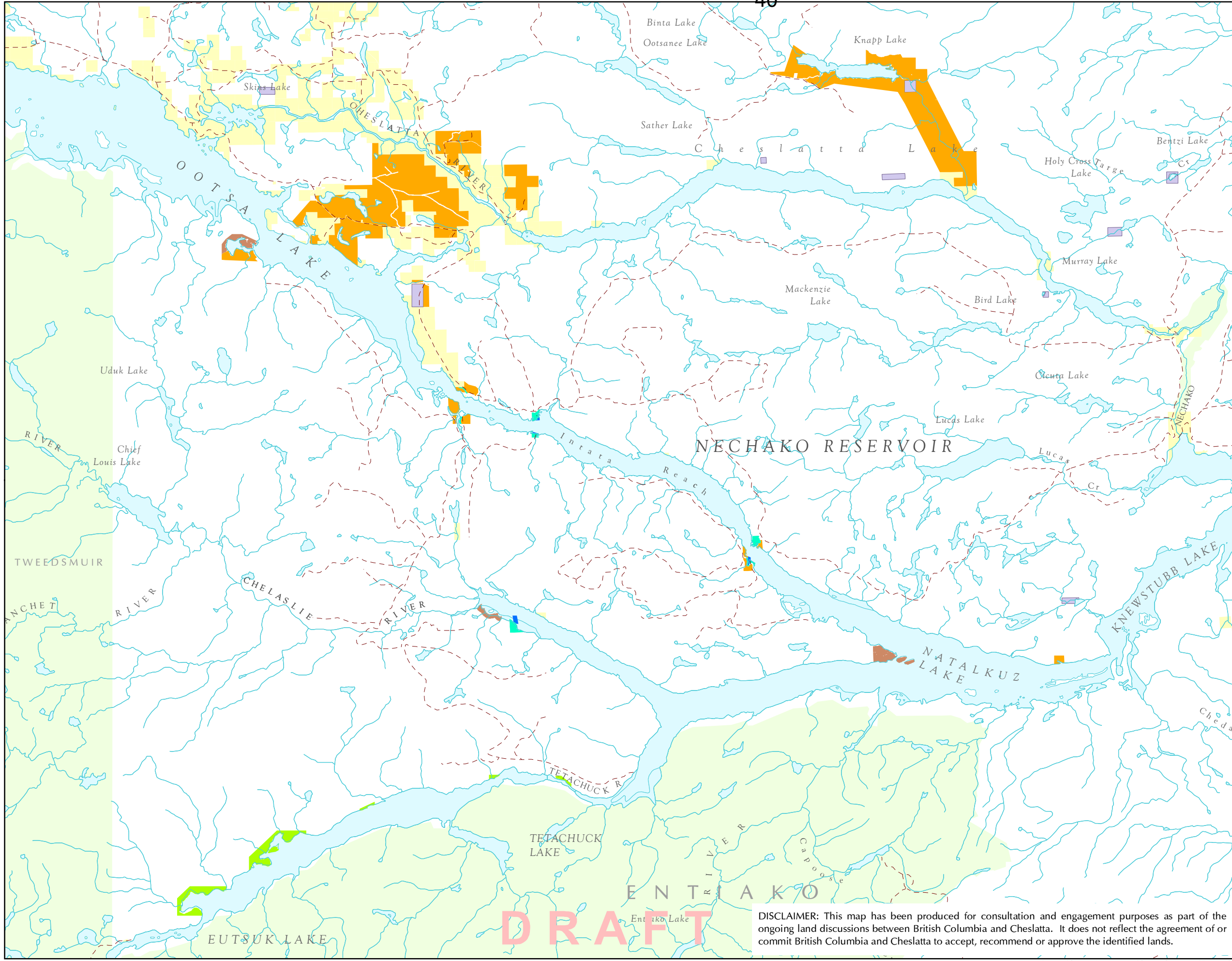
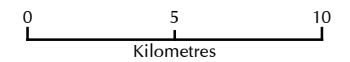
1. Letter dated August 21, 2020 from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
2. Letter dated February 13, 2020 from the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako to the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Cheslatta Carrier Nation Lands Under Discussion Phase 1 Overview

- Proposed Fee Simple Land
- Proposed Foreshore Licence of Occupation
- Proposed Licence of Occupation
- Proposed Land Act Withdrawal from Disposition
- Proposed Notation of Interest
- Indian Reserve
- Private Land

The Consultation Area Database is not intended to create, recognize, limit, or deny any aboriginal rights, including title, that any First Nation may have; or impose any obligations on British Columbia; or alter the legal status of resources within the Province.

The Consultation Area Database is intended for use by provincial government staff only. Digital data is copyright of the Province of British Columbia, and files cannot be copied or redistributed without the permission of the Province.



DRAFT

DISCLAIMER: This map has been produced for consultation and engagement purposes as part of the ongoing land discussions between British Columbia and Cheslatta. It does not reflect the agreement of or commit British Columbia and Cheslatta to accept, recommend or approve the identified lands.

Produced by: GeoBC
 Created by: Decision Support Section, NZ
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 BC Environment Albers
 Date: August 27, 2019
 Produced for:
 Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation



August 21, 2020

File: 280-30/Cheslatta
Ref. 50458

VIA EMAIL

Jason Llewellyn
Director of Planning
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
37 3rd Avenue
PO Box 513
Burns Lake BC V0J 1E0
jason.llewellyn@rdbn.bc.ca

Dear Jason Llewellyn:

The Province of British Columbia greatly appreciates the time that you have taken to review and comment on potential dispositions of Crown Land in the vicinity of the Nechako Reservoir to the Cheslatta Carrier Nation (Cheslatta) under their 2019 Settlement Agreement. The purpose of this letter is to inform the Regional District that the Province intends to proceed with the decision-making process on some Phase 1 dispositions of Crown Land to Cheslatta in October 2020. The Province would like to extend a final opportunity for you to provide further input relating to dispositions of Crown Land, and associated decisions, by September 21, 2020.

Details of the decisions required to be made over the next year to enable land transfers and tenures (dispositions) can be found in *Appendix 1*. Through correspondence and meetings since May of 2018, the Province has sought your input on impacts to your tenures from the disposition of the parcels indicated in the maps that have been shared with you. For each of the decisions listed in *Appendix 1*, MIRR will provide decision makers the information gathered to date, including potential impacts of these dispositions on your tenures.

The Province has attempted to minimize potential impacts of the land transfers through the following approaches: existing barge landing sites and primary roads will remain Crown Land under the jurisdiction of the Province to maintain continued access to Crown Land for hunting, fishing, gathering, and recreation; and Cheslatta is willing to work with interest holders to explore opportunities for continued access to their private lands after any fee simple land transfers.

.../2

Engagement activities since May 16, 2018 have included emails, letters, phone calls, delegations, and meetings. During engagement, you indicated that RDBN has no objection to the land disposition proposed, provided that the lands being transferred into fee simple ownership are zoned to the Board's satisfaction prior to land transfer. The Board also encouraged the Province to consult with impacted property owners and work with them to address any concerns that may exist.

We thank you for working with Cheslatta and so quickly amending your zoning bylaw to include these lands. As you know, we initiated stakeholder and community engagement in June 2018 with an Open House in Burns Lake. We have since been engaging with stakeholders that have specific interests that overlap the proposed parcels. We are working with the few stakeholders who have identified potential impacts to their interests and hope to develop approaches that work for all parties prior to disposition.

Your comments have been documented and will be provided to the decision makers for their consideration. You will be informed of any final decisions to transfer or tenure these parcels of Crown land to Cheslatta.

We understand that individuals have been prioritizing the health and safety of your families, and that capacity to respond or participate in the engagement process may have been limited. Given delays due to COVID-19, we have extended our engagement time frames beyond those shared in prior correspondence.

In order to be included in a package for decision makers, any additional information regarding potential impacts of the proposed land disposition on your trapline must be provided to us by September 21, 2020. If no additional information is received, our intent is to proceed with our decision-making processes without further request for input.

Should you require additional information or wish to schedule another meeting, please contact Colleen Gellein, Senior Resource Coordination Officer, by email at Colleen.Gellein@gov.bc.ca or by telephone at (250) 876-6830, or me by email at Karen.MacDowell@gov.bc.ca or by telephone at (250) 713-3008.

Yours truly,



Karen MacDowell
Negotiator, North Area

Appendix (1): List of Decisions that may be required for Proposed Dispositions

Enclosures (2):

1. 2020 02 11 Letter 49092 Cheslatta Engagement RDBN
2. 2020 02 13 Letter RDBN Response

Appendix 2: List of Decisions that may be required for proposed dispositions

Authorization	Legislation	Decision Maker	Agency Responsible	Comments
Transfers in fee simple (Crown Grants)	Ministerial Order under Section 9 of <i>Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act</i>	Assistant Deputy Minister	FLNR	Ministerial Order is a legal instrument made under the authority of a statute. Orders may be made by the Minister responsible for a particular statute. Surface rights only, including timber, but not minerals, petroleum, or natural gas
Licences of Occupation	Ministerial Order under Section 9 of <i>Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act</i>	Assistant Deputy Minister	FLNR	Conveys non-exclusive use for a particular purpose for a relatively short term, in this case 60 years. Can apply for replacement prior to expiry. It is not registerable on title.
Section 17 Conditional Withdrawal for Tetachuck Lake	Section 17 of <i>Land Act</i>	Director of Authorizations, Skeena Region	FLNR	Designates a portion of Crown land for, or except for, a particular use or for the conservation of natural or heritage resources
Notations of Interest	Not legislated	Director of Authorizations, Skeena Region	FLNR	A recording on the province's maps of an interest in Crown land by a provincial ministry or agency. It is not a reserve, withdrawal or designation, and does not preclude the acceptance of land applications or disposition of Crown land. It ensures that a ministry can provide input into proposed projects.
Section 16 withdrawal or Section 17 conditional withdrawal	Section 16 or Section 17 of <i>Land Act</i>	Director of Authorizations, Skeena Region	FLNR	For interim protection of parcels until Crown Grant is complete
Removal from Provincial Forest	Ministerial Order under <i>Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act</i>	Assistant Deputy Minister	FLNR	Required for all fee simple parcels that are in the Ootsa and Nechako Provincial Forest
Cancellation or amendments to Orders-in-Council			Ministry responsible	A legal instrument made under the authority of a statute. Orders may be made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council
Deactivation of Forest Roads Cancellation of Road Permits	<i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> ; <i>Forest Act</i>	District Manager, Nadina Natural Resource District	FLNR	All legislative and regulatory requirements pertaining to the cancellation of 3rd party interests prior to transfer are identified and contemplated in the project timeframe

Authorization	Legislation	Decision Maker	Agency Responsible	Comments
Cancellation or Amendments to Grazing Licences	<i>Forest and Range Practices Act; Range Act</i>		FLNR	
Amendments/ Cancellations of OGMAs. (GAR orders, Changes to SRMP, gravel or filled foreshore areas)	Ministerial Orders		FLNR	
Amendment/Cancellation of existing Special Use Permits, and existing Log Handling Licences of Occupation	<i>Forest Practices Code Act</i>	District Manager Nadina Natural Resource District	FLNR	
Cancellation of lease	<i>Land Act</i>	Director of Authorizations, Skeena Region	FLNR	
Statutory Right(s) of Way to Rio Tinto; Release Indemnity/ s 219 covenant	<i>Land Act</i>	Director of Authorizations, Skeena Region	FLNR	Registerable Instruments to allow existing rights granted to Rio Tinto under their water licence/permit authorizing the use of Crown Land below 2820' of elevation on the reservoir
Decisions relating to Surveying	<i>Land Title Act</i>	Surveyor General	Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA)	Registerable Instruments to allow existing rights to continue
BC Hydro blanket Stat RoW			BC Hydro	
Any decisions to dispose of contaminated sites			FLNR/ ENV	No sites are registered
Cancellation of blanket Notation of Interest that was placed over entire land package under Lands file 6409066		Director of Authorizations, Skeena Region	FLNR	Cancel as dispositions are approved



37, 3RD AVE, PO Box 820
BURNS LAKE, BC
VOJ 1E0

REGIONAL DISTRICT
OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
"A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR REGION"

February 13, 2020

Colleen Gellein, Senior Resource Coordination Officer
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
2957 Jutland Road
Victoria, BC V8T 5J9

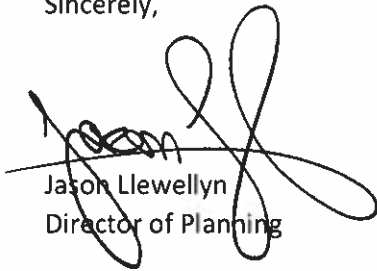
Emailed to: colleen.gellein@gov.bc.ca

RE: Cheslatta Land Transfer

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors have no objection to the land disposition proposed in your January 15th, 2020 referral, provided that the lands being transferred into fee simple ownership are zoned to the Board's satisfaction prior to land transfer.

The Board encourages the province to consult with impacted property owners and work with them to address any concerns that may exist.

Sincerely,



Jason Llewellyn
Director of Planning

cc: Karen MacDowell, Negotiator, North Area
Email: karen.macdowell@gov.bc.ca

Mike Robertson, Senior Policy Advisor
Email: mrobertson@cheslatta.com

MUNICIPALITIES:

SMITHERS FORT ST. JAMES
VANDERHOOF FRASER LAKE
HOUSTON TELKWA
BURNS LAKE GRANISLE

ELECTORAL AREAS:

A - SMITHERS RURAL E - FRANCOIS/OOTSA LAKE RURAL
B - BURNS LAKE RURAL F - VANDERHOOF RURAL
C - FORT ST. JAMES RURAL G - HOUSTON RURAL
D - FRASER LAKE RURAL

INQUIRIES@RDBN.BC.CA

WWW.RDBN.BC.CA

PH: 250-692-3195

FX: 250-692-3305

TF: 800-320-3339