

Table 5. Key values and management direction for Management Areas in the Stikine Country Protected Areas.				
Natural and cultural heritage values	Existing facilities and recreational values	Management Direction		
		Zone	New Facilities	Other direction
MIDDLE STIKINE RIVER				
• caribou winter range from Beggerlay Creek upstream • moose habitat • portion of the only fully protected area in B.C. enclosing contiguous streams, large rivers and lakes believed to support blue-listed bull trout in the full diversity of its life histories	• trapline cabin near the McBride River • BC Parks and Protected Areas Branch cabin near the confluence of the Stikine and Spatsizi rivers • BCR railroad bridge over the Stikine River • foot bridge over Beggerlay Creek • lower portion of the Stikine River and Spatsizi River canoe routes • commonly used area by floatcraft and motorboats • guide-outfitter camp just downstream from the confluence of the Stikine and Spatsizi rivers	• Wilderness Recreation • Intensive Recreation around Highway 37 bridge • Natural Environment at the guide-outfitter camp just downstream from the confluence of the Stikine and Spatsizi rivers • Natural Environment on the water portion of the Stikine and Pitman rivers	Structures: • small, rustic backcountry shelters • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process¹ Trails/Routes: • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process	• Follow Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP direction • Consider limits on motorboat use above Beggerlay Canyon before the hunting season opens, if necessary, to maintain an appropriate balance between motorized and non-motorized users • Monitor river user experiences and site impacts and establish controls on river use if necessary • Work with other agencies and First Nations to minimize and mitigate impacts from industrial activities and road access in adjacent areas on water quality and other protected area values • Maintain access opportunities at Highway 37 bridge • Consider road access to potential frontcountry type development at the Highway 37 bridge • Investigate developing a trail for half to full day frontcountry hiking trips and/or an interpretive trail in the Stikine River bridge area • Encourage all river users to practice no-trace camping techniques
KEHLECHOA				
• high value low elevation caribou winter range • high value moose habitat • high elevation Stone's sheep habitat • high elevation mountain goat habitat • portion of the only fully protected area in B.C. enclosing contiguous streams, large rivers and lakes believed to support blue-listed bull trout in the full diversity of its life histories		• Wilderness Recreation	Structures: • No • Exception: to support existing tenures (subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process) Trails/Routes: • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process	• Focus on maintaining caribou and caribou winter habitat and Stone's sheep and mountain goat populations and habitat • Work with other agencies and First Nations to minimize and mitigate impact from industrial activities and road access in adjacent areas on protected area values

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UPPER STIKINE				
• high value low elevation caribou habitat • high value low elevation moose habitat • portion of the only fully protected area in B.C. enclosing contiguous streams, large rivers and lakes believed to support blue-listed bull trout in the full diversity of its life histories	• guide-outfitter camp at Hyland Post on private property • guide-outfitter cabin near the confluence of the Stikine and Chukachida rivers • portion of the Stikine River and Spatsizi River canoe routes	• Wilderness Recreation • Natural Environment on the water portion of the Stikine and Pitman rivers, and on the water portion of the Spatsizi River downstream from Hyland Post	Structures: • No Trails/Routes: • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process	• Consider limits on motorboat use above Beggerlay Canyon before the hunting season opens, if necessary, to maintain an appropriate balance between motorized and non-motorized users • Monitor river user experiences and site impacts and establish controls on river use if necessary • Work with other agencies and First Nations to minimize and mitigate impacts from industrial activities and road access in adjacent areas on water quality and other protected area values • Maintain the non-motorized use restriction on the Spatsizi River upstream of Hyland Post from breakup to September 1, with an exception for the guide-outfitter to access Bear Camp for maintenance purposes
PITMAN RIVER				
• high value low elevation moose habitat • portion of the only fully protected area in B.C. enclosing contiguous streams, large rivers and lakes believed to support blue-listed bull trout in the full diversity of its life histories • wildlife movement corridor to wildlife habitat to the east	• guide-outfitter camp at Pitman Lake	• Wilderness Recreation • Natural Environment on the water portion of the mainstem of the Pitman River • Natural Environment around potential mining road if developed	Structures: • small, rustic backcountry shelters • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process¹ Trails/Routes: • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process	• Follow Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP direction • Conduct stream inventories to identify important bull trout information • Consider limits on motorboat use above Beggerlay Canyon before the hunting season opens, if necessary, to maintain an appropriate balance between motorized and non-motorized users • Work with other agencies and First Nations to monitor, minimize and mitigate impacts on water quality and other protected area values if road access is developed through Pitman River Protected Area or if industrial activities occur in adjacent areas

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CHUKACHIDA				
• high value low elevation moose habitat • portion of the only fully protected area in B.C. enclosing contiguous streams, large rivers and lakes believed to support blue-listed bull trout in the full diversity of its life histories • wildlife movement corridor to wildlife habitat to the east	• trapline cabin at Chukachida Lake • guide-outfitter cabin at Chukachida Lake	• Wilderness Recreation • Natural Environment on the water portion of the mainstem of the Chukachida River • Natural Environment around potential mining road if developed	Structures: • small, rustic backcountry shelters • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process¹ Trails/Routes: • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process	• Follow Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP direction • Conduct stream inventories to identify important bull trout habitat • Consider limits on motorboat use above Beggerlay Canyon before the hunting season opens, if necessary, to maintain an appropriate balance between motorized and non-motorized uses • Work with other agencies and First Nations to monitor, minimize and mitigate impacts on water quality and other protected area values if road access is developed through Chukachida Protected Area or if industrial activities occur in adjacent areas
EAGLENEST PLATEAU				
• most of the Stone's sheep range in Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park • high value caribou, mountain goat and grizzly bear habitat • mule deer habitat at Hyland Post • plants and plant communities at risk • portion of the only fully protected area in B.C. enclosing contiguous streams, large rivers and lakes believed to support blue-listed bull trout in the full diversity of its life histories	• Eaglenest Creek Trail • McEwan Creek Trail • other popular trails • several non-permanent guide-outfitter camps • most of the land based and self-supported recreational use of Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park occurs in this area	• Wilderness Recreation	Structures: • No Trails/Routes: • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process	• Conduct Stone's sheep surveys and long-term vegetation monitoring to monitor the effects of the recent Hyland Post burn • Evaluate areas of concentrated horse use and develop strategies to minimize impacts of horse use, if required • Work with and explore partnerships with the Iskut First Nation, other agencies, commercial operators and NGO's in managing access along the BCR railroad grade • Work with other agencies and First Nations to minimize and mitigate impacts of potential industrial activity and access in the Klappan drainage on protected area values

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GLADYS LAKE				
• high value Stone's sheep, caribou, mountain goat and grizzly bear habitat • plants and plant communities at risk	• Eaglenest Creek Trail (Danhue Pass) • Icebox Canyon Trail • Waterfall Creek Trail • Airplane Valley Trail • Paramount Trail • research cabin at Gladys Lake	• Ecological Reserve (zoning not applicable)	• No	• Allow access to the reserve by foot only. Horse travel will be allowed along Eaglenest Creek Trail through Danhue Pass, Icebox Canyon Trail, Waterfall Creek Trail, and Paramount Trail as shown in Appendix 12. Reasonable maintenance of these trails will be allowed subject to prior agreement on the type and extent of maintenance, and regular impact assessments will be conducted. • Discontinue maintenance of Gladys Lake Trail and remove mention of the trail and Gladys Lake cabin from brochures and the website • Allow Airplane Creek Trail to remain open to hiking use subject to ongoing assessments of impacts • Close Gladys Lake to aircraft access except for research and management • Allow use of Gladys Lake cabin only for research and management and review the level of use of the cabin • Consider proposals for scientific research consistent with the objectives for the reserve and this management plan • Consider proposals for guided or unguided educational opportunities involving an approved educational plan and subject to a full assessment of potential impacts on ecological reserve values
DAWSON/TOMIAS				
• high value caribou calving, summer, rutting and high elevation winter habitat • mountain goat, moose and grizzly bear habitat • limited Stone's sheep habitat	• several non-permanent guide-outfitter camps	• Wilderness Recreation	Structures: • No Trails/Routes: • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process	• Evaluate areas of concentrated horse use and develop strategies to minimize impacts of horse use, if required

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STIKINE HEADWATERS				
• mostly summer habitat for caribou, mountain goats, moose and grizzly bears • significant caribou and moose winter habitat at the lower reaches of the Stikine and Spatsizi rivers within the area • limited Stone's sheep habitat • portion of the only fully protected area in B.C. enclosing contiguous streams, large rivers and lakes believed to support blue-listed bull trout in the full diversity of its life histories	• Cold Fish Lake Camp (BC Parks/Nature Trust) • several guide-outfitter camps including Bug Lake, Laslui Lake and Buckinghorse Lake • most of the facilities within Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park are located in this area • contains the most scenic portions of the Stikine River and Spatsizi River canoe routes	• Wilderness Recreation • Natural Environment at camps at Laslui Lake, Bug Lake and Cold Fish Lake	Structures: • small, rustic backcountry shelters • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process¹ Trails/Routes: • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process	• Evaluate areas of concentrated horse use and develop strategies to minimize impacts of horse use, if required • Maintain Cold Fish Lake camp for its traditional and historical value with a priority for public outdoor recreation use • Designate some lakes to remain free from any facility development to maintain their relatively undisturbed wilderness character • Maintain the Parks and Protected Areas Section motorboat at Cold Fish Lake camp for safety and management purposes and park host use only • Continue deactivated status of Cold Fish Lake airstrip • Restore the Fountain Rapids campground area and portage trail, and designate formal camping areas if required to prevent further impacts • Discourage firewood collection at Fountain Rapids • Work with other agencies and the First Nations to minimize and mitigate impacts of potential industrial activity and access adjacent to the management area on protected area values • Work with other agencies, the Iskut First Nation, commercial operators and NGO's and to manage access along the BCR railroad grade • Maintain the non-motorized use restriction on the Spatsizi River upstream of Hyland Post from breakup to September 1, with an exception for the guide-outfitter to access Bear Camp for maintenance purposes • Monitor river user experience and site impacts, and establish controls on river use, if needed

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METSANTAN				
• Caribou Hide and Metsantan village sites		• Wilderness Recreation • Special Feature around Caribou Hide and Metsantan village sites	• for cultural and interpretive purposes only Structures: • subject to BC Parks and Protected Areas Impact Assessment Policy procedure¹ Trails/Routes: • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process	• Work with other agencies and the Tahltan Band Council and Iskut First Nation to minimize and mitigate impacts of potential industrial activity and access adjacent to the Metsantan area on protected area values • Work with the Tahltan Band Council and Iskut First Nation to develop a policy for the Metsantan site with respect to protection and possible rehabilitation of the traditional village site • Work with other agencies and First Nations by participating in planning and management of access from the Omineca Mining Road to minimize and mitigate potential impacts on protected area values • Establish an Initial Attack zone for fire suppression over the whole management area
CHAPEA				
• high value caribou summer and rutting habitat	• No facilities	• Wilderness Recreation	Structures: • No Trails/Routes: • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process	• Work with other agencies and the First Nations to minimize and mitigate impacts of potential industrial activity and access in the area adjacent to the east on protected area values

Table 5. Key values and management direction for Management Areas in the Stikine Country Protected Areas.				
Natural and cultural heritage values	Existing facilities and recreational values	Zone	New Facilities	Management Direction
				Other direction
TATLATUI				
• mostly spring, summer and fall habitat for caribou, moose, mountain goat and grizzly bear • limited Stone's sheep range • rainbow trout only fish system	• guide-outfitter camps on the Firesteel River (2), Kitchener Lake, Stalk Lake, and Tatlatui Lake • public use cabin on Kitchener Lake	• Wilderness • Recreation	• Structures: • 1 new structure in Tatlatui Provincial Park for guided hunting purposes only; subject to BC Parks impact Assessment Process, consultation with affected stakeholders, and no significant impacts on other existing operations in the park • No other new structures • Trails/Routes: • subject to BC Parks and Protected Areas impact Assessment Policy procedure	• Work with other agencies and First Nations to minimize and mitigate impacts of potential industrial activity and access in the area surrounding the park on protected area values • Work with other agencies and First Nations in the planning and management of access from the Omineca Mining Road to minimize and mitigate potential impacts on protected area values • Encourage affected stakeholders to develop an acceptable strategy for dealing with current user issues in Tatlatui Provincial Park. • Allow no more than 3 angling guides to conduct guided angling activity. No new angling guides will be allowed. • Establish a working group consisting of government staff, First Nations, angling guides, anglers, and other stakeholders to develop specific guidelines for angling and angling guide management in Tatlatui Provincial Park. Consider defining an angling zone for each waterbody or adjoining waterbodies, classifying waterbodies (or angling zones) into angling experience categories, and assigning rod-days by experience category or other approaches for managing guided angling use. • Assess and confirm reported mountain pine beetle attack and develop a management strategy if necessary • Confirm sightings of pikas and melanistic chipmunks • Focus recreational activities in the eastern portion of the park, where grizzly habitat values are lower, to minimize interactions between bears and humans

11 Visitor Information

11.1 Introduction

Stikine Country Protected Areas are largely wilderness areas with low use levels and little infrastructure. Visitors expect undisturbed wilderness when they travel to these protected areas, but also have a responsibility to help preserve this environment during their stay. Many Stikine Country Protected Areas have relatively low visitor use levels; contacts among users are infrequent outside of staging areas such as Cold Fish Lake Camp. Some potential exists for contact between motorized and non-motorized users on the Stikine River and its tributaries; however, this contact occurs primarily in the autumn when jet boats are used to access hunting areas.

The remoteness of Stikine Country Protected Areas also means that visitors will need to be fully independent and self-reliant as even the access points can be far from assistance. Visitors need to be prepared for all weather conditions, including snow, which can fall at any time at higher elevations. The trails within these protected areas are often little more than routes, so good map reading and navigation skills are essential.

Currently, information on the Stikine Country Protected Areas System is distributed to protected area visitors through brochures, signs, Environmental Stewardship Division offices and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection official web site (<http://wvlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/index.htm>). Protected area visitors travelling through the region may also obtain some information from Tourist Information Centres. Most of this information focusses on outdoor recreation activities (e.g. designated trails and campsites, allowable outdoor recreation activities, access) with limited interpretive information.

11.2 Orientation Information

Orientation information provided to visitors in brochures and signs assists people in becoming familiar with protected areas and the opportunities available within them. In-park handouts usually contain maps and show people the location of facilities such as trails and campsites. These brochures also inform visitors about backcountry etiquette, safety concerns, and provincial park regulations.

Stikine Country Protected Areas sustain healthy populations of many animal species including grizzly and black bear, mountain goat, caribou, Stone’s sheep, moose and wolf. People will likely encounter some of these animals during their visits to the protected areas. Interactions with bears, however, are of special concern because of the potential harm to visitors and impacts on the bears. Visitors need to be aware of bear encounter avoidance techniques to reduce this potential.

11.2.1 General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Protected area brochures and other orientation material will continue to provide protected area visitors with up-to-date information subject to available funding. Educational material for

protected area visitors will include information on how to avoid impacts to protected area values and how to avoid negative interactions with bears.

Objectives and Strategies

To provide information to visitors that is consistent, pertinent and accurate, and helps conserve the values of Stikine Country Protected Areas identified in this management plan.

- Ensure that information about the Stikine Country Protected Areas System is current and accurate.
- Ensure that information on the Stikine Country Protected Areas System reflects the management direction given in this document and includes backcountry etiquette, safety concerns and protected area regulations.
- Investigate the possibility of developing a small visitor centre with other agencies, First Nations, commercial operators and NGOs as potential partners.
- Evaluate the need for a structured orientation session focussed on bear awareness and avoidance and backcountry etiquette intended for visitors to the Stikine Country Protected Areas System. Examine the most cost-effective locations and method for the delivery of such sessions.
- Place orientation information about the Stikine Country Protected Areas System at staging areas to reach visitors.
- Develop partnerships and promote sponsorships to enable visitor information to be delivered.

11.3 Marketing and Promotion

The marketing and promotion of a protected area can affect the level and type of use the protected area receives. Thus, the marketing efforts and promotional materials must reflect the management goals of the protected area. The management goals of Stikine Country Protected Areas advocate the maintenance of the protected area natural, cultural heritage and wilderness values, while still providing outdoor recreation opportunities. Care must be taken not to promote Stikine Country Protected Areas to such a degree that increased levels of use compromise protected area wilderness experiences and natural or cultural heritage values.

Other groups, such as tourism organizations, lodge operators, and guide-outfitters also promote protected areas. These groups must cooperate closely with the Environmental Stewardship Division to ensure that their promotional material and level of marketing is consistent with the management direction for these protected areas.

11.3.1 General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Promotional material will inform people about the protected areas and educate visitors about the natural, cultural heritage and wilderness values of Stikine Country Protected Areas. Environmental Stewardship Division will market Stikine Country Protected Areas using a relatively low profile, in harmony with the values of the protected areas.

Objectives and Strategies

To ensure that promotional material and the amount of marketing for Stikine Country Protected Areas is consistent with the protection of wilderness, natural and cultural heritage values.

- Provide promotional material that ensures visitors are aware and respectful of the wilderness, natural and cultural heritage values of the protected areas.
- Monitor use levels and adjust levels of marketing and promotion to help maintain wilderness, natural and cultural heritage values.
- Ensure that commercial promotion is consistent with protected area values and management direction.

11.4 Interpretation

Interpretation provides opportunities to educate the public about protected areas, protected area cultural heritage and natural values, outdoor recreation opportunities, and appropriate backcountry conduct. Currently most of the information about Stikine Country Protected Areas focuses on orientation. A visitor centre in the Stikine Region would facilitate an expanded interpretation program about Stikine Country Protected Areas. This centre could be developed as a joint project between Environmental Stewardship Division, the Tahltan Nation, local tourism and other commercial operators, and NGOs. Interpretive themes are listed in Table 6. Interpretation plays a critical role in protected area visitor awareness, appreciation and understanding of the effects of their presence in the protected areas system.

11.4.1 General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Interpretation of protected area values is a critical component of conserving natural, cultural heritage and outdoor recreation values in Stikine Country Protected Areas. Interpretation will focus on protected area values and the role of protected area visitors and the public in conserving those values and will be subject to partnerships and sponsorship being developed to fund and implement specific initiatives.

Objectives and Strategies

To provide interpretive information to protected area visitors and to tourists traveling along Highway 37.

- Investigate the possibility of developing a small visitor centre with other agencies, First Nations, commercial operators and NGOs as potential partners.
- Develop partnerships and promote sponsorships to enable visitor information to be delivered.
- Develop additional interpretive material on the interpretive themes listed above and provide it in tourist information centres, in protected areas near access points (e.g. Stikine River Bridge), and on the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection official web site.
- Investigate developing an interpretive trail in a frontcountry area (e.g. Stikine River Bridge, Stikine River Provincial Park on the Telegraph Creek Road).
- Work with First Nations to include cultural heritage information, First Nations art and design and First Nations place names where appropriate, and interpretive material, maps and signs.

- Work with the Tahltan Nation to support (where feasible) their plans to establish a Cultural Heritage Committee and a Cultural Heritage Centre.

To educate protected area visitors on how to avoid impacts on natural and cultural heritage values.

- Provide outdoor recreation users and commercial operators with information on the significance of geologic features, their vulnerability to human disturbance and appropriate activities adjacent to and within these areas.
- Provide visitors and commercial operators with information on the significance of species at risk and their habitat and impacts from human disturbance.
- Provide visitors and commercial operators with information on the significance of wildlife habitat and impacts from disturbance, especially those habitats highly sensitive to disturbance.
- Provide visitors and commercial operators with information on how to avoid human/bear interactions.

Table 6. Interpretive themes for the Stikine Country/Protected Areas System.	
Broad Themes	Specific Subject Area
First Nations	• Village sites. • Obsidian. • Hunting, trapping and fishing. • Culture. • Legend sites and archaeological sites. • Trade routes and trails.
Wildlife	• Predator/prey dynamics. • Large mammal species. • Habitat use. • Species at risk and unique/sensitive species. • Rare and endangered species.
Aquatics	• Monocultures of rainbow trout. • Bull trout. • Barriers to fish migration. • Arctic and Pacific systems.
Geological Processes and Features	• Volcanism. • Erosion. • Glaciation. • Grand Canyon of the Stikine River. • Spectrum Range and Mount Edziza. • Fossils. • Hot springs and geothermal phenomena.
Vegetation	• Natural disturbances. • Plants and plant communities at risk. • Plant succession.
Human history	• Aboriginal – pre-contact. • Aboriginal and non-aboriginal – post-contact.
Role of visitors in maintaining natural, cultural heritage and outdoor recreation values:	• Human and bear interactions. • Non-native species. • No trace camping. • Backcountry etiquette. • Wilderness travel and safety.

12 Managing Commercial Activities, Other Tenures and Protected Area Operations

12.1 Commercial Recreation Opportunities and Tenure Management

Many commercial tenures and outdoor recreation opportunities exist within Stikine Country Protected Areas. Environmental Stewardship Division will work to ensure that all commercial operators are under park use permit. Existing tenure holders expect to be treated in a fair and open manner. Nine guide-outfitters have all or part of their territory within Stikine Country Protected Areas. Seven angling guides have park use permits to operate on a total of 22 lakes and rivers in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System. Also, seventeen recreation guiding park use permits have been granted for activities such as hiking, canoeing, rafting, skiing, horseback tours and jet boating.

New commercial outdoor recreation opportunities exist in Stikine Country Protected Areas. Environmental Stewardship Division may use two methods to provide tenure for these opportunities: first-come/first-serve and Request for Proposals (RFP). In general, current policy indicates that non-exclusive opportunities will be handled on a first-come/first-serve basis, while exclusive opportunities will be handled through the RFP method. Each application will be assessed on its own merits with a vision to minimize user conflicts and social and environmental impacts, while maximizing opportunities for visitor enjoyment in a wilderness protected area setting. Environmental Stewardship Division must also provide tenure in a manner that recognizes the local community, while not excluding outside interests. In addition, tenure length must be sufficient to provide viable business opportunities. Environmental Stewardship Division will pursue partnerships with commercial operators to assist with maintaining protected area facilities.

Environmental Stewardship Division will actively monitor commercial recreation activities for environmental impacts and user conflicts and, when appropriate, will take management action to restrict, limit and/or increase special provision operating procedures within the park use permit. Environmental Stewardship Division will consult with commercial operators before implementing any changes.

The Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP provided the following recommendations for the management of new protected areas and protected area additions (Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP 2000):

- *Include consultation with tourism industry representatives during management planning processes in order to examine potential commercial opportunities within provincial parks, subject to the primary goal of protecting conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values within protected areas.*
- *Assess commercial opportunities with regard to their compatibility with protected area management plans and, where appropriate, their contribution to the local economy and local employment.*
- *Include local employment and business creation as criteria for awarding commercial park use permits.*

- *Work with local tourism operators and communities to ensure that information on recreation opportunities in protected areas is available and accurately described consistent with values in protected areas.*
- *Provide information to local communities on potential economic and employment opportunities associated with protected areas.*

Balancing public and commercial recreation use is important to ensure fairness of access to the protected area and to protect the natural and cultural heritage values that contribute to the outdoor recreation experience. Commercial use must not displace public or non-commercial recreation use.

12.1.1 General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Commercial opportunities will be made available using a fair and open process. Environmental Stewardship Division policy normally governs the awarding of exclusive opportunities. In addition, Environmental Stewardship Division will work with First Nations and local communities to ensure that, to the extent possible, new opportunities made available are in line with the capacity and readiness of local entrepreneurs. Any increase in commercial recreation activities will occur incrementally. In general, commercial and public opportunities (except hunting and angling) will be in balance where use levels are limited. The *Wildlife Act* regulates levels of public and commercial use in areas of hunting, angling and trapping. Concerning commercial operators in Stikine Country Protected Areas, the objectives of Environmental Stewardship Division are:

- to contribute to the sound and sustainable economic growth of the region through the management of the direct contribution to the economy from appropriate commercial outdoor recreation services and indirectly through the attraction of residents and non-commercial tourists to this area in particular and British Columbia in general;
- to establish successful stable operators delivering quality services compatible with the management direction for the Stikine Country Protected Areas System and who are responsive to advice and direction from Environmental Stewardship Division;
- to foster public appreciation and support for British Columbia's protected areas system;
- to protect and manage the natural, cultural heritage and recreation resources in Stikine Country Protected Areas consistent with the Stikine Country Protected Areas Management Plan and the Tahltan/BC Parks Agreement with the Tahltan Band Council and Iskut First Nation; and,
- to provide for a fair financial return to the province for commercial opportunities tenured within the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.

Objectives and Strategies

To provide commercial recreation opportunities consistent with conservation and outdoor recreation objectives.

- Provide information to local communities about upcoming opportunities for employment and economic development and work with entrepreneurs to ensure that:
 - procedures and rules for accessing opportunities are readily available; and,
 - timing and scope of opportunities, to the extent practical, are consistent with local capacity.

- Manage non-exclusive commercial recreation opportunities on a first-come/first serve basis.
- Manage exclusive commercial recreation opportunities and non-exclusive commercial recreation opportunities where limits have been established subject to Environmental Stewardship Division policy. If a Request for Proposals is used, evaluate proposals considering criteria such as:
 - benefits to the protected area and protected area values;
 - quality of visitor services;
 - qualifications and expertise;
 - financial and corporate capacity;
 - financial return to the province; and,
 - benefits to the local community.
- Manage establishment of new structures subject to Environmental Stewardship Division policy and BC Parks Impact Assessment Process.
- Evaluate new commercial recreation opportunities subject to the BC Parks Impact Assessment Process.
- Follow direction from the Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP for commercial recreation opportunities in new protected areas and protected area additions and apply to existing protected areas:
 - include consultation with tourism industry representatives during management planning processes in order to examine potential commercial opportunities within provincial parks and protected areas, subject to the primary goal of protecting conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values within protected areas;
 - assess commercial opportunities with regard to their compatibility with protected area management plans and, where appropriate, their contribution to the local economy and local employment;
 - work with local tourism operators and communities to ensure that information on recreation opportunities in protected areas is available and accurately described consistent with values in protected areas; and,
 - provide information to local communities on potential economic and employment opportunities associated with protected areas.
- Ensure consultation with First Nations as per Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection consultation guidelines and the Agreement between BC Parks and the Tahltan Joint Councils.

12.1.2 Potential Commercial Recreation Opportunities

Below is a preliminary list of potential commercial recreation opportunities for Stikine Country Protected Areas. These activities may require specific impact assessments. Other commercial activities may be considered provided they are consistent with the general management direction and management objectives of the Stikine Country Protected Areas Management Plan.

- Increased non-motorized winter recreation using existing facilities.
- Day floatcraft trips from the Klappan River Bridge to the Stikine River Bridge and multi-day floatcraft trips on the Stikine and Spatsizi rivers.
- Commercial motorboat use on the Stikine River system upstream of Highway 37 Bridge for drop off and pick up purposes for multi-day trips and guide-outfitter support.

- Single day horse trips to the Stikine Canyon from the Telegraph Creek Road, and multi-day horse trips into backcountry areas.
 - Canoe trips on the Kakiddi Lakes chain.
 - Single or multi-day hiking, nature study or mountaineering trips.
 - Backcountry trips of various sorts including skiing, hiking and canoeing.
 - Up to three new angling guiding opportunities in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.
 - Cultural camps/interpretive sites run by First Nations.
 - Walking/circle tours in frontcountry areas (Stikine River Bridge/Stikine River Canyon).
 - An interpretive centre (possibly in a neighbouring community) developed with Environmental Stewardship Division, the Tahltan Band Council and Iskut First Nation, commercial operators and NGOs as potential partners.
 - Orientation sessions for protected area visitors.
 - Pending the establishment of maximum use levels or carrying capacity, the following maximum numbers of new or additional commercial opportunities will be considered above and beyond 2003 permitted levels:
 - up to 3 new angling guiding opportunities in line with current angling policy with a maximum of 300 rod days in total;
 - up to 4 winter recreation opportunities (ski touring, snowshoeing, dog sledding, mountaineering) with a maximum of 300 user days in total;
 - up to 6 floatcraft opportunities (rafting, canoeing) with a maximum of 700 user days in total;
 - up to 10 hiking/nature study opportunities with a maximum of 1000 user days in total;
 - up to 2 educational opportunities in Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve with a maximum of 200 user days in total (user day total excludes hiking or horse travel through the ecological reserve along existing named trails outlined in Appendix 12);
 - up to 3 horse tour opportunities with a maximum of 300 user days in total;
 - up to 3 additional floatplane and helicopter opportunities with a maximum of 40 return flights in total; and
 - up to 2 commercial recreational guiding opportunities (excluding hunting) in the Stikine Grand Canyon Management Area with a preference given to the Tahltan Nation employing qualified guides.
- These new or additional commercial opportunities will be in addition to those under permit at the time of plan approval and/or at the maximum historic level of existing commercial operators except for guided educational opportunities in Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve, which will have a total of 2.

12.2 Private Inholdings and Non-recreational Tenures

Stikine Country Protected Areas contain four inholdings, three in Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park and one in Stikine River Provincial Park. In Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park, two privately held lots at Hyland Post total 160 hectares, and one lot at Cold Fish Lake encompassing the Cold Fish Lake Camp covers 84 hectares. Nature Trust of British Columbia owns the lot at Cold Fish Lake. In Stikine River Provincial Park, one 10.9 hectare privately owned lot (Willie Williams) is located near the Stikine River Bridge. An additional 25.5 hectare parcel of Crown land adjacent to this private lot is not within the park.

Non-conforming uses include three communications transmitters, and a permanent residence at Mess Lake. Environmental Stewardship Division will terminate this latter use when the tenure holder no longer holds the tenure or relocates.

The western portion of the Stikine River Provincial Park contains portions of two grazing areas; the Mess Creek addition to Mount Edziza Provincial Park contains a portion of one grazing area; and the Klastline addition to Mount Edziza Provincial Park also contains a portion of one grazing area. The Ministry of Forests previously administered and monitored these areas under the *Range Act*. The Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP states, “*existing grazing use will be allowed to continue*” (Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP 2000).

12.2.1 General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Environmental Stewardship Division will work with private property owners to manage existing access to their properties located within Stikine Country Protected Areas. Non-conforming uses existing at the time of protected area establishment will be continued if appropriate and if they do not have unacceptable impacts on protected area values and are consistent with legislation establishing the protected areas. Non-conforming uses will be discontinued when no longer needed.

Objectives and Strategies

To recognize private inholdings within Stikine Country Protected Areas.

- Work with private property owners to maintain existing access to their private properties with minimal impact to natural and cultural heritage values.
- Consider purchasing private property located within Stikine Country Protected Areas if available for sale.

To minimize the number of non-conforming uses in Stikine Country Protected Areas.

- Re-evaluate the need for each communication transmitter at the time of permit renewal and remove transmitters when no longer required.
- Terminate the residential use at Mess Lake when the current tenure holder no longer holds the tenure or relocates, and consider removal of improvements and site cleanup.

To manage grazing uses within Stikine Country Protected Areas.

- Allow existing grazing use to continue as directed by the Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP.
- Work with the Ministry of Forests to monitor and manage grazing uses within Stikine Country Protected Areas under Park Use Permit.

12.2.2 Commercial Filming Permits

Under the provisions of the *Park Act*, all commercial film productions taking place in a Class A park or *ELU Act* protected area must be authorized by a park use permit. Under the *Ecological Reserve Act* and the *Ecological Reserve Regulations*, commercial film production is not permitted except for films of a research or educational nature.

The BC Parks’ policy on commercial filming allows commercial film productions within protected areas subject to the following:

- all commercial filming must be authorized under the *Park Act* or the *Ecological Reserve Act*;
- the Ministry reserves the right to approve or deny any requests for filming;
- filming in ecological reserves shall be restricted to films for research or educational purposes;
- the province is protected against potential liability arising from the commercial filming activity;
- as the public has the right to free and reasonable access to protected areas for their inspiration, use and enjoyment, only commercial filming with minimal public disruption will be considered;
- the protection and conservation of natural and cultural heritage, recreation use and appreciation values shall take precedence over any commercial filming activity;
- vehicles and aircraft may not be permitted in protected areas or portions thereof where access is closed to other park users because of safety or ecological considerations;
- all direct costs and expenses to the ministry resulting from commercial filming activity are recovered;
- the rights of pre-existing permittees are recognized; and,
- filming advertisements for a commercial product or service are prohibited when it results in or implies in any manner the ministry endorsement of the product or service.

12.2.2.1 General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Commercial filming will be permitted where it does not impact natural, cultural heritage, recreation use, spiritual and appreciation values and where it is consistent with the spirit and intent of the protected areas system and management direction provided in this management plan. Management of commercial filming activities in Stikine Country Protected Areas will follow BC Parks Commercial Filming Policy and Guidelines.

Objectives and Strategies

To permit commercial filming activities that do not impact on natural, cultural and recreation values and that provide benefits to local communities.

- Assess each commercial filming permit application individually for impacts on natural, cultural heritage, appreciation and recreation values.
- Encourage filming companies to purchase provisions and to hire from First Nations and other local communities and where appropriate, specify minimum employment opportunities to be offered to First Nations.
- Consider helicopter landings for filming where helicopter landings are permitted and if they have extremely low impacts and provide significant benefits to the protected areas system.

12.3 Funding Protected Area Operations

Managing natural, cultural heritage and recreational values in the Stikine Country Protected Areas is a challenging task. Part of the challenge is ensuring adequate funding for conducting management and monitoring activities. Because of the remote nature of the protected areas, even

basic tasks such as trail maintenance and enforcement patrols are a costly undertaking. Managing the Stikine Country Protected Areas may require some innovative methods for securing funding.

12.3.1 General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Environmental Stewardship Division will consider a variety of options for funding and conducting protected area operations including partnerships with local communities, stakeholders, non-government organizations and the public.

Objectives and Strategies

To secure additional funds to support management activities in the Stikine Country Protected Areas.

- Consider a variety of options for funding protected area operations including but not limited to establishing a foundation for the management of the Stikine Country Protected Areas and establishing or increasing user fees.

To involve local communities, stakeholders, NGO's and the public in specific protected area management activities and planning.

- Investigate a range of partnerships with local communities, stakeholders, NGO's and the public such as:
 - commercial operators providing benefits to the protected areas system;
 - specific volunteer or stewardship projects (i.e. clean up of sites);
 - establishment of a "Friends of the Stikine Country Protected Areas" group;
 - operation of facilities at Cold Fish Lake; and,
 - trail maintenance.

13 Plan Implementation

13.1 Introduction

The Stikine Country Protected Areas Management Plan will guide protected area management over the next ten to twenty years. The plan provides long-term vision and strategic guidance for the management and stewardship of Stikine Country Protected Areas and sets out objectives and strategies for conservation, recreation, interpretation and operations.

13.2 Priorities

Stikine Country Protected Areas consist of approximately 1.4 million hectares of a primarily remote landscape. Information on many aspects of the system is limited and therefore some objectives and strategies address information gaps. Because of the number of protected areas, the size of the Stikine Country Protected Areas System, and the high natural and cultural heritage values, this plan advocates a significant number of management objectives and strategies. Implementation of these strategies is subject to funding and where possible, partnerships will be developed with First Nations, other agencies non-governmental organizations, stakeholders, the public and other interested parties to deliver some strategies.

The following section provides a preliminary list of short-term, long-term and ongoing and monitoring priorities from the Stikine Country Protected Areas Management Plan. Short-term priorities should be implemented within the first 5 - 7 years of plan approval and long-term priorities should be implemented within the first 10 - 15 years of plan approval. Ongoing priorities and monitoring should be conducted on an ongoing basis as needed.

The priority lists will be reviewed with the BC Parks/Tahltan Park Advisory Committee and the proposed Stikine Country Protected Areas Advisory Committee and refined as appropriate. The lists will be amended on an ongoing basis based as changing circumstances warrant (e.g. Proposals for use, emerging environmental pressures etc.).

13.2.1 Short-term priorities (1 - 7 years)

13.2.1.1 Inventory and assessment

- Assess the new areas added to the protected areas system (Mess, Klastine, Metsantan, Stikine River, Pitman, and Chukachida) for plants and plant communities at risk, and sensitive plants and plant communities.
- Inventory and assess already established facilities and trails for damage to native plants and plant communities.
- Assess the distribution and extent of non-native plants within Stikine Country Protected Areas and determine their impacts on natural vegetation features.
- Assess and verify reports of mountain pine beetle attack near Tatlatui Lake.
- Assess the extent and impacts of unauthorized camps (e.g. along the Stikine River downstream from the mouth of the Spatsizi River) and develop site plans as needed. If necessary, remove sites and designate formal camping areas.

- Assess horse impacts at guide-outfitter camps and develop strategies to reduce and prevent impacts in consultation with guide-outfitters.
- Map critical wildlife winter range areas and restrict access in these areas.
- Conduct surveys for potential wildlife species at risk.
- Update all large mammal population estimates for caribou, Stone’s sheep, mountain goat and moose within five years as funding permits.
- Identify and establish waters that can be used as benchmarks for the study of native fish species that are unaffected by human disturbance, including angling.
- Determine existing angling guides and rod-day allocations within recently established protected areas and additions and accommodate existing tenures.
- Conduct a “Voluntary Angler Report” program for waters in the Stikine River drainage east of Highway 37, which includes distribution/drop boxes at Cold Fish Lake, Didene Portage, Tuaton or Laslui Lake, and the Highway 37 access point.
- Evaluate the potential of the Kakiddi Lakes chain as a canoe route.
- Evaluate areas of concentrated horse use (e.g. guide-outfitter camps) and develop strategies to minimize impacts of horse use if required.

13.2.1.2 Natural, Cultural and Outdoor Recreation Management

- Rehabilitate heavily used campsites along the Stikine River canoe route (e.g. Fountain Rapids).
- Discourage firewood collection at Fountain Rapids.
- Rehabilitate and improve the portage trail at Fountain Rapids to avoid unacceptable impacts on wet areas.
- Revise fire management plans to include additions and changes to protected areas, and to update and standardize fire management strategies to reflect vegetation management direction in this plan. Maintain Initial Attack zones for fire suppression in current fire management plans and establish Initial Attack zones for fire suppression around Metsantan village and on the north side of the Stikine River near the McBride River.
- Conduct a study using radio-collars for caribou in Mount Edziza Provincial Park to determine winter habitat use and important wintering areas.
- Conduct surveys of Stone’s sheep in the Marion Wildlife Inventory Zone to determine effects of the burn on lamb recruitment and population numbers.
- Consider conducting a prescribed burn near Hyland Post, to fulfil management objectives of the original prescribed burn, subject to consultation with the Tahltan Nation and affected stakeholders.
- Consider conducting a full review of population levels and harvest rates for all species for both resident and guided hunts to ensure hunting levels are sustainable, conservation and First Nations considerations are met, and recreational hunting allocations are consistent with management objectives. This review will be conducted in consultation with government wildlife biologists, First Nations, local hunters, the BC Wildlife Federation, protected area managers, guide-outfitters and other stakeholders.
- Consider amending Wildlife Management Unit zone boundaries for these three zones by:
 - amending Management Unit 6-20A to include:
 - ⇒ the new Stikine River Provincial Park boundary east of Highway 37;
 - ⇒ the Metsantan addition to Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park; and,
 - ⇒ Chukachida Protected Area and Pitman River Protected Area.

- amending Management Unit 6-21 A to include:
 - ⇒ the Mess Creek and Klashline additions to Mount Edziza Provincial Park; and,
 - ⇒ Stikine River Provincial Park west of Highway 37.
 - Develop funding partnerships with commercial operators to identify potential effects of new or expanded commercial recreation activities on wildlife and to monitor those effects.
 - Investigate and implement angling regulations that conserve large-sized bull trout in the Stikine River system. Pay special attention to the fall spawning season when bull trout are especially vulnerable because of their aggressive nature and aggregating behaviour, and when riverboat travel is greatest because of hunting.
 - Use the system for managing angling and angling guiding that will be developed to assign an appropriate lake classification and angling use levels for Buckley Lake.
 - Work with the Tahltan Band Council and Iskut First Nation to develop a policy for the Metsantan Site with respect to protection and possible rehabilitation of the traditional village site.
 - Provide a pullout on the Telegraph Creek Road for access to the proposed initial trail to the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River. Provide additional pullouts for additional trails as required.
 - Consider a range of opportunities that would result in self-sustaining maintenance of the Cold Fish Camp facilities, which retain traditional and historic values and provide for continued public use. Opportunities may include:
 - increased user fees;
 - public/private sponsorship; and,
 - operation of the facilities by the Tahltan Nation, NGOs and/or other public groups or partnerships.
- Any proposals would be considered in conjunction with the Nature Trust, the Tahltan Nation and the proposed Stikine Country Protected Areas Advisory Committee.
- Pursue partnerships with other organizations and commercial operators (e.g. guide-outfitters, recreation guides) to assist with trail maintenance.
 - Require non-commercial outdoor recreation users who handle and store fuel during their recreation activities to follow fuel handling and storage guidelines.
 - Apply waste management guidelines to all commercial base camps.
 - Place orientation information about the Stikine Country Protected Areas System at staging areas to reach visitors.
 - Investigate a range of partnerships with local communities, stakeholders, NGOs and the public such as:
 - commercial operators providing benefits to the protected areas system;
 - specific volunteer or stewardship projects (e.g. clean up of sites);
 - establishment of a “Friends of the Stikine Country Protected Areas” group;
 - operation of facilities at Cold Fish Lake; and,
 - trail maintenance.
 - Establish a Stikine Country Protected Areas Advisory Committee for an initial 3 year term (subject to renewal) to advise on specific aspects of implementation of the Stikine Country Protected Areas Management Plan. The committee will be advisory to the Regional Manager, Environmental Stewardship Division, voluntary (i.e. without remuneration) and will focus on specific implementation items assigned by the Regional

Manager, Environmental Stewardship Division. The committee will consist of representatives of Environmental Stewardship Division, First Nations, local communities, stakeholders and NGOs and will conduct 1 - 2 meetings per year with supporting teleconference calls, as required. Terms of Reference for the committee will be approved by the Regional Manager, Environmental Stewardship Division.

- In conjunction with First Nations and others, develop education and information materials to share with the public and protected area users on the nature, significance and fragility of cultural heritage values and ways to respect cultural heritage values.
- Investigate the possibility of developing a small visitor centre with other agencies, First Nations, commercial operators and NGOs as potential partners.
- Evaluate the need for a structured orientation session focussed on bear awareness and avoidance and backcountry etiquette intended for visitors to the Stikine Country Protected Areas System. Examine the most cost-effective locations and method for the delivery of such sessions.

13.2.1.3 Strategies and guidelines

- Establish management protocols/strategies for important aboriginal and non-aboriginal cultural heritage sites and trails (e.g. Caribou Hide village sites, Metsantan Village site, Cold Fish Lake Camp, Hyland Post Trail, Telegraph Trail, etc.). Determine the need for site or trail restoration. Develop and implement strategies to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts to cultural heritage sites in conjunction with First Nations and user groups.
- Develop a firewood management strategy that includes an assessment of supply and demand and strict guidelines on the removal of vegetation for supplying firewood.
- Work with First Nations to develop and implement a wildlife harvest monitoring program to evaluate current First Nations harvest levels in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.
- Develop a strategy for managing wildlife hunting recreation activities that considers issues such as hunting zones, levels of harvest and consistency of regulations. This strategy will ensure that guide-outfitter quotas and LEH hunts are applied consistently between protected areas within each Greater Ecosystem and will be developed in consultation with government wildlife biologists, First Nations, local hunters, the BC Wildlife Federation, protected area managers, guide-outfitters and other stakeholders. Limited Entry Hunting and protected area guide-outfitter quotas are the preferred methods for managing hunting opportunities in Stikine Country Protected Areas.
- Establish a system of waters that includes a variety of recreational angling opportunities, such as limited daily catch quotas and catch and release only angling in consultation with angling guides, anglers and First Nations.
- Consider developing a system for managing angling and angling guiding that defines an angling zone for each water body or set of continuous waterbodies, classifies waterbodies (or angling zones) into angling experience categories, and assigns rod-days by angling category by protected area. Develop the system in consultation with angling guides, anglers and First Nations.
- Establish a working group consisting of government staff, First Nations, angling guides, anglers, and other stakeholders to develop specific guidelines for angling and angling guide management in Tatlatui Provincial Park. Consider defining an angling zone for

each waterbody or adjoining waterbodies, classifying waterbodies (or angling zones) into angling experience categories, and assigning rod-days by experience category.

- In consultation with the BC Floatplane Association (BCFA), BC Aviation Council, commercial operators, charter operators and other users, develop protocols/approaches to manage aircraft use to meet protected area management objectives. In the short term, approaches will recognize the existing regulation governing aircraft use, which requires prior approval for aircraft entering or leaving the protected areas system. In the long term, should regulations be amended, approaches will be modified to reflect the revised regulations.
- Encourage affected stakeholders to develop an acceptable strategy for dealing with current user issues (aircraft use/wilderness experience) on the Firesteel River.
- Work with the Tahltan Band Council and the Iskut First Nation to develop snowmobile use guidelines along the Klastine Trail in the Klastine Management Area.
- Develop fuel handling and storage guidelines for permitted commercial operators in Stikine Country Protected Areas in consultation with user groups. At a minimum guidelines should include direction on:
 - acceptable fuel storage containers and dispensing methods;
 - location of the fuel storage site;
 - management of empty storage containers;
 - management of full or partially full storage containers at the end of the season; and,
 - a spill kit requirement.
- Develop garbage disposal guidelines for non-commercial users.
- Review the waste management requirements for users of other rivers such as the Tatshenshini River and adapt those waste management requirements to the Stikine Country Protected Areas System if necessary.
- Consider a variety of options for funding protected area operations including but not limited to establishing a foundation for the management of the Stikine Country Protected Areas and establishing or increasing user fees.

13.2.1.4 Access

- Review bridge placement options over the Klastine River in consultation with the Tahltan Band Council and the Iskut First Nation and construct a bridge if funding is available.
- Investigate the potential for designating some trails or portions of some trails as horse-only or hiking-only trails and if necessary, develop new trails subject to the BC Parks Impact Assessment Process.
- Initially, develop one trail or route to the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River, subject to conducting an impact assessment following the BC Parks Impact Assessment Process to avoid unacceptable impacts on mountain goat populations, or on plants or plant communities at risk, from viewing activities and trails.
- Investigate developing an interpretive trail in a frontcountry area (e.g. Stikine River Bridge, Stikine River Provincial Park on the Telegraph Creek Road).
- Work with the Tahltan Band Council and the Iskut First Nation to protect Denkladia Mountain by considering limiting access to the area.
- Restrict access on Eve Cone to the designated trail.

- Maintain the ban on helicopter landings on the cinder cones and implement a ban on helicopter landings on calcite deposits, associated plant communities or other associated features at any hot springs.
- Close the Volcanic Plateau, Stikine Grand Canyon, Dawson/Tomias, Eaglenest/Plateau, Upper Stikine, Metsantan and Chapea management areas to helicopter landing, except for management purposes or by special permit, and only if they have extremely low impacts and provide significant benefits to the protected areas system.
- Close Gladys Lake to aircraft landings, except for research and management purposes only.

13.2.2 Long-term priorities

- Develop appropriate action plans to deal with known historic impacts on water quality.
- Assess long-term climatic conditions to determine potential changes in natural disturbance patterns.
- Develop indicators and baseline measures for water quality monitoring.
- Develop a water quality monitoring strategy for water bodies with lower levels of use that considers outdoor recreation and commercial use levels.
- Develop a vegetation management plan that addresses current vegetation patterns, natural disturbance management and climate change.
- Protect the known localities of dry steppe plant communities at risk from human disturbance.
- Assess the current state of knowledge of vegetation features in Stikine Country Protected Areas and determine further information needs including information on species at risk.
- Identify and map known localities of plants and plant communities at risk, and sensitive plants and plant communities.
- Conduct further assessments of existing protected areas for plants and plant communities at risk and sensitive plants and plant communities.
- Assess the Mess Creek hot springs and other hot springs for location and extent of plants and plant communities at risk and sensitive plants and plant communities.
- Identify and map known localities of plants and dry steppe plant communities at risk along the Stikine River.
- If necessary, develop guidelines to reduce the current distribution and extent of non-native plant species, and/or to reduce potential future introductions.
- Delineate known ungulate winter and summer ranges based on research conducted by the Spatsizi Association of Biological Research on radio-collared animals, and on inventories.
- Conduct wildlife habitat capability and suitability mapping at 1:50,000 or 1:100,000 scale for protected areas in the Spatsizi Greater Ecosystem and Mount Edziza Greater Ecosystem for caribou, Stone's sheep, mountain goat, moose, grizzly bear and species at risk.
- Use the wildlife habitat map to determine overall wildlife habitat condition and to identify critical or sensitive habitat.
- Identify known areas of important habitat outside protected area boundaries.
- Delineate known caribou winter range and identify winter range characteristics based on existing information.

- Compile known locations of wildlife species at risk in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.
- Determine habitat and life cycle requirements of wildlife species at risk known to occur in Stikine Country Protected Areas.
- Develop guidelines for minimizing disturbance to wildlife species at risk and their habitat.
- Develop guidelines for encounters between protected area visitors and wildlife to minimize disturbance and displacement of animals.
- Establish long-term vegetation monitoring plots at the recent Hyland Post burn to monitor wildlife habitat quality.
- Delineate Wildlife Inventory Zones for Stikine River Provincial Park, Chukachida Protected Area, Pitman River Protected Area and additions to Mount Edziza and Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness provincial parks.
- Conduct a caribou inventory during the fall rut to determine a population estimate for the Mount Edziza caribou population.
- Undertake basic amphibian inventories in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.
- Confirm sightings of pikas and melanistic chipmunks in Tatlatui Provincial Park.
- Conduct ground investigations to determine extent and range of those species and develop guidelines to minimize disturbance to habitat and colonies.
- Work with First Nations to identify historical and currently used important habitats and migration routes.
- Identify and assess traditional habitat management activities.
- Investigate funding sources and partnerships for collecting baseline information on medium and small mammals, amphibians and invertebrates in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.
- Develop a population monitoring strategy for wolves.
- Develop a monitoring strategy for wolverine and fisher for Stikine Country Protected Areas and monitor population status of those species.
- Identify aquatic habitats that are sensitive to jet boat use and implement restrictions if necessary.
- Conduct investigations to determine the population and reproductive status of the Buckley Lake rainbow trout population including:
 - field sampling of age class structure;
 - assessment of potential spawning streams; and,
 - interviews with First Nations elders.
- Conduct aquatic inventories for the Chukachida River and Pitman River to identify important bull trout habitat and to collect basic aquatic information.
- Consider implementing restrictive regulations for angling harvest of species at risk such as bull trout.
- Develop a system for monitoring angling pressure by non-guided anglers.
- Continue voluntary creel censuses with distribution and drop points at all registration and access locations. Cards should be coded prior to distribution to identify angler data by point of origin.
- Investigate and implement means of achieving higher participation rates for creel surveys.

- Implement a simple reporting program by angling guides of observed non-guided angling activities.
- Assess impacts of angling on the lake trout population in Cold Fish Lake and implement water-specific angling regulations if necessary.
- Investigate the degree of angler interest in Arctic grayling in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System and implement measures to conserve Arctic grayling populations if necessary.
- Encourage the study of all aspects of Stikine Country Protected Areas natural history by academic and scientific organizations, with special attention to the following priorities:
 - harvested fish and wildlife;
 - vegetation including species at risk;
 - non-harvested fish and wildlife;
 - terrestrial ecosystem inventories;
 - backcountry outdoor recreation use and activity and their effects on natural and cultural values; and,
 - cultural heritage.
- Encourage the study of cultural heritage and history of the protected areas that respects First Nations' concerns.
- Through consultation with First Nations develop a summary of spiritual values for the Stikine Country and the British Columbia Protected Areas System.
- Work with First Nations to understand and define (if appropriate) their perspective about spiritual values in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.
- Develop a management strategy to conserve spiritual values in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.
- Collect more detailed information on outdoor recreation use levels and trends.
- Conduct site assessments to determine if campsite locations conflict with cultural heritage values.
- Work with First Nations, trapline holders and guide-outfitters to minimize the impacts of continued limited snowmachine access on natural, outdoor recreation and cultural heritage values.
- Work with commercial operators to minimize the use of motorboats on lakes in Stikine Country Protected Areas.
- Work with BC Rail to determine the safety conditions at the BCR railroad bridge and implement any required measures.
- Remove mention of the Gladys Lake cabin from all protected area brochures and the official Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection web site to discourage outdoor recreation use.
- Review the need for maintenance of the Gladys Lake cabin for research purposes and assess the level of unauthorized recreation use of the cabin.
- Develop partnerships and promote sponsorships to enable visitor information to be delivered.
- Provide recreation users and commercial operators with information about:
 - the significance of geological features, their vulnerability to human disturbance and appropriate activities next to and within these areas;
 - the fragility of volcanic cones and specific direction about how to avoid damage to the cones;

- the sensitivity of lichen and plant communities growing on volcanic cones;
- the vulnerability of calcic deposits at Mess Creek and other hot springs to human disturbance and establish clearly marked trails to avoid damage to sensitive areas;
- the vulnerability of plants and plant communities at Mess Creek hot springs;
- the cultural importance of the obsidian deposits to the Tahltan Nation and stressing that the removal of obsidian for recreational or commercial use is prohibited under the *Park Act* and the *Park and Recreation Area Regulation*;
- the significance and functioning of the two Stikine Country Protected Areas' predator-prey systems to visitors;
- the significance of critical or sensitive habitat and impacts caused by human disturbance;
- the significance of species at risk and their habitat and impacts caused by human disturbance;
- the significance of wildlife habitat and impacts from disturbance, especially those habitats highly sensitive to disturbance;
- how to avoid human/bear interactions;
- river etiquette for operation of motorboats on rivers where floatcraft (i.e. canoe, kayak, inflatable raft) use also occurs (include information on river etiquette and safety while navigating through Jewel Rapids and Beggerlay Canyon);
- no-trace camping techniques; and,
- collecting firewood prior to arriving at Fountain Rapids (in the brochure; at the information shelter at Tuaton Lake; as part of an information package to be distributed by aircraft charter companies).
- Employ educational programs to increase visitor awareness of natural and cultural history, and bear avoidance, where feasible.
- Work with First Nations and users to develop strategies to reduce or eliminate damage where outdoor recreation use impinges on First Nations' traditional uses or cultural heritage sites.
- Develop protocol arrangements with First Nations on the sharing of cultural heritage inventories and other cultural information.
- Work with the Tahltan Band Council, the Iskut First Nation and the Ministry of Transportation to assess a possible pullout for viewing the Tahltan Eagle.
- Work with the Tahltan Band Council and Iskut First Nation to develop an interpretive package for the Tahltan Eagle.

13.2.3 Ongoing priorities and monitoring

- Review hunter harvests on an annual basis to ensure that they do not exceed annual allowable harvest levels.
- Identify and eliminate “noxious weeds” with low impact techniques such as removal by hand, and low intensity burns as required.
- Encourage visitors and commercial operators to avoid known high value winter habitat and birthing areas during those seasons. If necessary, close areas to human access to protect wildlife during sensitive seasons.
- Encourage visitors and commercial operators to avoid using known high value sensitive habitat. If necessary, close areas to human access to protect sensitive wildlife habitat.

- Encourage angler compliance with angling regulations by maintaining postings of provincial sport angling regulations at access points to the protected areas where angler reports are distributed and collected (especially Highway 37).
- Annually review the angling effort and harvest levels to ensure levels do not adversely influence conservation objectives.
- Monitor harvest levels and changes in population structure of trout in Buckley Lake.
- Continue to work with First Nations on issues pertaining to opportunities to take fish for ceremonial or sustenance purposes.
- Ensure that information on the Stikine Country Protected Areas System reflects the management direction given in this document and includes backcountry etiquette, safety concerns and protected area regulations.
- Provide promotional material that ensures visitors are aware and respectful of the wilderness, natural and cultural heritage values of the protected areas.
- Provide information to local communities about upcoming opportunities for employment and economic development and work with entrepreneurs to ensure that:
 - procedures and rules for accessing opportunities are readily available; and,
 - timing and scope of opportunities, to the extent practical, are consistent with local capacity.
- Add updated protected area boundaries to aeronautical charts. Also, add sensitive sites to aeronautical charts if necessary.
- Work with aviation organizations (BC Floatplane Association, BC Aviation Council, etc.) and commercial air charter companies to educate pilots on the effects of aircraft on wildlife.
- Remove facilities that are unsafe, no longer used or not required for emergency purposes and not of significant historic or cultural heritage value.
- Monitor water quality in the most heavily used areas (e.g. Cold Fish Lake, Stikine River at the bridge, Tuaton Lake, Fountain Rapids, Buckley Lake) and at permanent facilities, and implement strategies to offset, remediate or eliminate impacts from outdoor recreation or commercial activities if necessary.
- Monitor the demand for and use of firewood/heating fuel and restrict consumption if necessary.
- Continue to monitor the condition of campsites and trails and implement strategies to rehabilitate damaged areas and to avoid further impacts.
- Monitor natural disturbances and evaluate recent disturbances for wildlife habitat value and use.
- Conduct periodic monitoring for forest insect disturbances and, if consistent with management intent of the plan or to protect values outside the protected areas system, manage forest insects with fall and burn or prescribed fire.
- Conduct surveys of hunted populations of caribou, Stone's sheep, moose and mountain goats. Suggested time interval: every four to six years.
- Conduct surveys of un hunted populations of caribou, Stone's sheep, moose and mountain goats. Suggested time interval: every six to eight years.
- Establish and monitor long-term monitoring plots to investigate terrestrial lichen availability and dynamics in the caribou winter range along the Stikine River.
- Monitor the effects of natural disturbances on caribou winter habitat.
- Monitor trapping harvests specific to Stikine Country Protected Areas.

- Monitor hunter harvests for grizzly bear and trapping harvests for wolverine and fisher and revise or establish quotas if necessary.
- Develop a baseline monitoring program for amphibians that are found to occur in Stikine Country Protected Areas.
- Monitor outdoor recreation and commercial activities, including winter activities, and their impacts on wildlife during sensitive seasons and implement strategies to minimize disturbance if necessary.
- Monitor the rainbow trout only aquatic systems of Stikine Country Protected Areas.
- Monitor angling guide activity through annual reporting of client angling activity, catch and harvest on each waterbody for each guide and compile information annually.
- Monitor all angling guide activity in Tatlatui Provincial Park, including that occurring in months other than July and August, through annual reporting of client angling activity, catch and harvest.
- Monitor the number of flights, visitor experience quality and possible environmental impacts over time. In consultation with the BC Floatplane Association, the BC Aviation Council, commercial operators and private users, assess whether guidelines or site specific restrictions (e.g. number of commercial aircraft charter companies) are desirable. Implement management regime as necessary.
- Monitor aircraft use levels and visitor satisfaction to determine the need for use limits.
- Monitor the effects of aircraft on the mountain goats in the Stikine Canyon for possible impacts and develop and implement additional management strategies if necessary.
- Monitor river user experience and site impacts, and establish controls on river use, if needed, to maintain visitor satisfaction. Possible controls include numbers of groups, group size, trip timing, and number of trips/day.
- Monitor the effects of hiking use on the cinder cones.
- Conduct regular impact assessments on the Eaglenest, Icebox Canyon, Waterfall Creek and Paramount trails to ensure that hiking and horse use do not result in unacceptable impacts on Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve values. If necessary, close or relocate portions of trails to avoid further impacts while accommodating continued hiking and horse access to areas beyond the reserve.
- Monitor levels of use and visitor satisfaction to determine if use limits or other controls need to be implemented.
- Monitor the impacts of outdoor recreation activities and facilities on natural and cultural heritage values and implement measures to reduce unacceptable impacts if necessary.
- Conduct impact monitoring along the Kakiddi Lakes chain at the initial stages of canoe use of this route.
- Complete trail horse use impact surveys and monitor plants and plant communities at risk near trails.
- Monitor use levels and adjust levels of marketing and promotion to help maintain wilderness, natural and cultural heritage values.
- Work with the Ministry of Forests to monitor and manage grazing uses within Stikine Country Protected Areas under Park Use Permit. Monitor the effects of existing grazing activities on native plants and plant communities. Develop and implement a strategy to reduce those impacts if necessary.
- Manage access on volcanic cones and, if necessary, restrict access to designated trails or prohibit all outdoor recreation activities on cones.

- Manage access at the Mess Creek hot springs and other hot springs by providing designated trails while avoiding disturbance to plants and plant communities at risk and sensitive sites.
- Work with other agencies and commercial interests to minimize and mitigate impacts of current and potential commercial activities and associated access in adjacent areas on natural, cultural heritage and outdoor recreation values of the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations in vegetation management planning exercises on adjacent lands (i.e. landscape unit planning) within the Spatsizi Greater Ecosystem and Mount Edziza Greater Ecosystem to promote compatibility of vegetation management objectives with those for Stikine Country Protected Areas, while respecting management regimes outside the protected areas system.
- Work with the Ministry of Forests to establish habitat management objectives for areas adjacent to the protected areas that are known to be used by protected area wildlife.
- Work with First Nations, other agencies and the public to minimize and mitigate impacts of activities outside protected areas on the large mammal predator-prey system centred in protected areas within the Mount Edziza Greater Ecosystem and Spatsizi Greater Ecosystem.
- Ensure protected area objectives are considered in hunting and trapping regulations in areas adjacent to Stikine Country Protected Areas System within the Spatsizi Greater Ecosystem and Mount Edziza Greater Ecosystem.
- Cooperate with other agencies, First Nations and resource industries to maintain regional connectivity for wide ranging large mammal species.
- Work with other agencies to follow Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP management direction for water quality.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations to ensure that Environmental Stewardship Division is fully involved with any decisions regarding road building on adjacent lands that may affect Stikine Country Protected Areas.
- Work with and explore partnerships with the Iskut First Nation, other agencies, commercial operators and NGOs in managing access along the BCR railroad grade.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations to manage access to mineral tenures adjacent to the Metsantan area.
- Work with Ministry of Transportation to maintain access to the Stikine River at the Highway 37 Bridge.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations by participating in the planning and management of access on the Omineca Mine Road, to minimize and mitigate impacts of that access on Tatlatui Provincial Park.
- Consult with Tahltan and Kaska-Dene First Nations on any activities that have potential to infringe on existing aboriginal or treaty rights.
- Continue to support and implement the Tahltan/BC Parks Agreement that provides for a joint Protected Areas Committee.
- Work with First Nations to develop and share cultural heritage inventories and assess the significance of cultural heritage sites and potential for damage from public and commercial recreation.

- Work with First Nations to facilitate the exercise of existing aboriginal rights and development of programs/initiatives to introduce First Nations youth to the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.
- Host periodic open houses/meetings and information sessions in local communities and regional and provincial centres that increase knowledge and communication while providing an opportunity to resolve identified issues.
- Ensure that updates to strategic planning for Stikine Country Protected Areas are available to the public.
- Provide information to local communities about upcoming opportunities for employment and economic development and work with entrepreneurs to ensure that: a) procedures and rules for gaining access to opportunities are readily available; and b) timing and scope of opportunities, to the extent practical, are consistent with local capacity.
- Meet periodically with commercial operators to review operations and issues related to those operations.

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15 Glossary

Aboriginal rights: Rights of First Nations as defined by the courts or treaty settlements.

Adaptive management: Refers to the systematic process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of an operational program.

Arboreal lichens: Refers to lichens that grow on trees.

At risk: Refers to taxa that are vulnerable, threatened or endangered.

Blue List: List of vulnerable taxa that are candidates for the Red List in the foreseeable future and/or are generally suspected to be vulnerable due to limited information.

Capability (of habitat): What a given habitat is capable of supporting with manipulation of the seral stages, assuming management for maximization; capability under ideal conditions.

Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): A body of government, non-government and academic experts who assess species at risk nationally.

Ecosystem: Refers to all living and non-living components of an environment and the processes that link them in time and space.

Endangered: Refers to a species facing imminent extinction or extirpation (COSEWIC definition).

Extinct: Refers to a species that no longer exists (COSEWIC definition).

Extirpated: Refers to a species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but occurs elsewhere (COSEWIC definition).

Facilities: Include all structures, trails and routes.

Historical use: Refers to past use by non-aboriginal people.

Precautionary Principle: This principle states that all stakeholders have a responsibility to take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize adverse effects to the environment. The lack of full scientific certainty as to impacts should not be an adequate reason to postpone measures that will protect the resource (Akcakaya et al. 1997).

Red List: List of taxa that are designated as Threatened or Endangered under the *Wildlife Act*, are candidates for this designation, or are extirpated but were once part of the natural fauna of BC.

Rustic backcountry shelters: Refers to small cabins or tent frames but not to a significant lodge development

Special Concern (formerly “vulnerable”): Refers to a species that is of special concern because of characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events (COSEWIC definition).

Structures: Include shelters (cabins, tent frames), sheds, and any other constructed item other than trail improvements.

Terrestrial lichens: Refers to lichens that grow on the ground.

Threatened: Refers to a species likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed (COSEWIC definition).

Traditional use: Refers to use or activities by First Nations that have occurred over time. Some, but not all, traditional activities or uses may be established as aboriginal rights.

Trails: Include bridges and boardwalks and any other similar trail improvements.

Vulnerable: Refers to a species that is particularly sensitive to human activities and natural events.

16 Appendix 1. Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP - General and Specific Management Direction for New Protected Areas

Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP - General Management Direction for protected areas

Goals/ Desired Future State

- ☐ A protected area system for the LRMP area that has viable, representative examples of the natural diversity of the LRMP area including terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, characteristic habitats, hydrology, landforms, and characteristic backcountry recreational and cultural heritage values of each ecosection.
- ☐ A protected areas system for the LRMP area that has special natural, cultural heritage and recreational features including rare and endangered species and critical habitats, outstanding or unique botanical, zoological, geological, and paleontological features, outstanding or fragile cultural heritage features, and outstanding outdoor recreational features such as trails
- ☐ Protected areas in the Cassiar Iskut-Stikine that are a major contributor to the local economy and local employment

Table 1. Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP General Management Direction for Protected Areas

Objectives	Strategies
1. Ensure the maintenance of the conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values within protected areas. This includes developing comprehensive park management plans in a timely manner.	1.1 Develop comprehensive management plans for each approved protected area in a timely manner and with respect to the priority resource values at risk. 1.2 Develop management plans with the benefit of extensive public, First Nations and inter-agency participation and incorporate direction and consider advice from the approved LRMP. 1.3 Develop plans that, among other things, define park-specific management objectives, acceptable uses, acceptable levels of use, zoning, and other strategies to minimize conflicts and help ensure the integrity of important protected area values. 1.4 Include consultation with tourism industry representatives during management planning processes in order to examine potential commercial opportunities within provincial parks, subject to the primary goal of protecting conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values within protected areas. 1.5 Assess commercial opportunities with regard to their compatibility with protected area management plans and, where appropriate, their contribution to the local economy and local employment. Generally, physical commercial infrastructure (e.g., roads, lodgings, staging areas, etc.) will be directed outside of protected area boundaries in order to minimize impacts within protected areas. 1.6 Pending the development of comprehensive management plans for each protected area, develop management direction statements in a timely manner to direct management and operations. Management direction statements will involve consultation with stakeholders, LRMP participants and First Nations.
2. Recognize and accommodate traditional uses and aboriginal rights of First Nations in protected areas.	2.1 Develop government-to-government relationships between BC Parks and First Nations concerning management of protected areas. 2.2 Establish communication protocols between BC Parks and First Nations with respect to proposed and existing protected areas.
3. Recognize the legal rights of existing tenure holders and landowners within newly established parks and deal fairly with those interests	3.1 Existing mineral and timber tenures and other tenures/encumbrances associated with commodity extraction will be discontinued within new protected areas. The terms of discontinuance will be negotiated in a timely manner with owners of existing tenure interests, in accordance with provincial policy respecting resource rights compensation. Existing non-tenured uses (commercial and private) may be continued subject to compatibility with management objectives and values for individual protected areas.

Table 1. Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP General Management Direction for Protected Areas	
Objectives	Strategies
	3.2 Existing tenures within new protected areas for utility rights-of-way, communication sites, grazing, commercial backcountry recreation, guide-outfitting, trapping, water works and use, and other tenures not based in commodity extraction, will be allowed to continue, in accordance with the existing management conditions attached to those tenures. In the future, the management conditions attached to those tenures may be amended to comply with the requirements of BC Parks policy and management plans developed for individual protected areas. 3.3 Consistent with tenure document provisions and current assignments/transfer procedures, holders of existing tenures of the type identified in strategy 3.2 above may assign/transfer their tenures to different parties. However, where existing tenures lapse or are voluntarily surrendered by a tenure holder, the province is under no obligation to re-issue the tenure rights. 3.4 Further to 3.2 and 3.3 above, trapping will continue as an authorized, use in protected areas. Extinguishment of tenure will occur on a voluntary basis only, through purchase by BC Parks at fair market value. 3.5 Further to 3.2 and 3.3 above, existing range tenures that are within protected areas will continue to be administered and managed in accordance with the <i>Range Act</i>, as per the transitional provisions for new parks in the <i>Park Amendment Act</i>, 1997. 3.6 Alterations to conditions of tenure will be based on sound resource management principles with respect to the activity in question (e.g., sustainability of trapping, guiding, grazing activities) and/or avoidance of impacts to the resource values for which the protected area was established (e.g., carbon, biodiversity, recreation etc.). Alterations will be made in consultation with the tenure holder. Where alterations to conditions of tenure act, in practical terms, to extinguish tenure, it is recommended that the tenure holder be fairly compensated. 3.7 Existing owners of private land and First Nations will continue to exercise their rights. Where private land is surrounded by a new park and the only access is through the protected area, rights to existing access to those properties will continue.
4. Maintain ecosystem representation and integrity, and ensure protection of key resource values and natural features.	4.1 Within protected areas, management emphasis will be placed on maintaining the ecosystems, resource values and natural features for which protected areas were established. 4.2 Management interventions will not significantly alter natural ecological, hydrological and geomorphic processes except for express management purposes as defined by a protected area management plan. facing slopes) will be maintained in conjunction with Ministry of Forests through application of range management guidelines. 4.4 Assemble resource inventories for new park areas as budgets permit 4.5 Vegetation management may be undertaken, where appropriate, (e.g., burning to enhance wildlife forage). 4.6 Monitor visitor use and manage so that levels of use do not exceed carrying capacity (i.e., overuse is avoided) 4.7 Encourage use of low impact outdoor techniques in protected areas.
5. Protect key species and their habitats.	5.1 Permit opportunities to establish benchmarks for scientific study and management of rare, endangered and at risk species. 5.2 Within protected areas, manage rare, endangered and at risk species and their habitats as priority resource values. 5.3 Maintain functional habitat, cover and site-specific features for fish and wildlife species. 5.4 Encourage human use patterns that minimize impact on the environment (e.g. trails, boardwalks, facilities)
6. Coordinate strategic planning and management between protected areas and the adjacent landscape	6.1 Manage natural occurrences (e.g., fires, insects, and forest disease) within park boundaries relative to their impact on the ecosystem within the boundaries of the protected area, and on the broader ecosystem values of which the protected area is a part.

Table 1. Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP General Management Direction for Protected Areas	
Objectives	Strategies
	6.2 Coordinate planning of resources and resource development activities on land adjacent to and within protected areas (e.g., mountain pine beetle management, management for wildlife, recreation, visual quality and fire, and access management adjacent to sensitive features within a park).
7. Provide a range of recreation opportunities from primitive to intensive recreation use, compatible with the values being protected.	7.1 Plan for a range of recreation experiences compatible with the general wilderness quality of the region, in order to complement recreation elsewhere in the plan area.
	7.2 Where appropriate, close or reclaim existing access and trails within protected areas to support primitive recreation experiences. Similarly development of trails and facilities and recreational access to some areas may be managed or limited to maintain the quality of the recreational experience and protected area values.
	7.3 Limit development of trails and facilities in wilderness protected areas to maintain primitive recreation values
	7.4 Levels of recreational use and associated impacts will be monitored and management applied, where necessary, to maintain the backcountry qualities of an area.
	7.5 Provide recreational opportunities accessible to local residents, subject to the carrying capacity of individual protected areas and the values being protected
	7.6 Develop and maintain facilities and trails to support tourism and local resident use in frontcountry protected areas zoned for intensive recreation consistent with values being protected
8. Plan and manage protected areas in a manner that protects cultural heritage values	8.1 Identify and protect archaeological sites, special sites, traditional use, and heritage trails (First Nations and pioneer)
9. Recognize hunting as an acceptable use within protected areas.	9.1 Continue to provide hunting opportunities for First Nations, local and resident hunters, and guide outfitters in protected areas, except where there are the following overriding considerations: • Public safety; and • Conservation priorities
	9.2 Develop hunting regulations in cooperation with B.C. Environment, Fish and Wildlife Branch. Detailed guidelines for hunting will be developed in consultation with guide outfitters and local and resident hunter groups.
	9.3 Base any future changes to acceptable harvests on up-to-date professional and scientific information on the status of wildlife populations.
	9.4 Address allocation of harvest among First Nations, local and resident hunters, and guide outfitters, when changing hunting regulations within new protected areas.
10. Where opportunities are identified in a protected area management plan and are consistent with the objectives for which the protected area is managed, facilitate increased local business development and employment associated with protected areas	10.1 Include local employment and business creation as criteria for awarding commercial park use permits
	10.2 Work with local tourism operators and communities to ensure that information on recreation opportunities in protected areas is available and accurately described consistent with values in protected areas.
	10.3 Provide information to local communities on potential economic and employment opportunities associated with protected areas.

Table 2. Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP recommended management direction for new protected areas in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.

Items to be addressed in the protected area management plan		
Protected Area	Values to be protected	Management Direction
Klasiline	To increase the viability of the predator prey ecosystem associated with adjacent Mount Edziza Provincial Park and the protected area along the Stikine River. Specific features include: • One of the most northern winter ranges for mule deer • South facing grassy aspen slopes • Representative ecosystems of the spruce-willow birch zone • High habitat values for mountain goat • Recreational and cultural heritage values associated with Klasiline Trail	• Hunting will continue as per Objective 9, Section 2.5.1: GMD for protected areas • Permit non-motorized use only on Klasiline Trail from spring thaw to fall freeze-up. • Snowmobile use is allowed along the Klasiline Trail • Maintain opportunities for construction of cabins, as required, to support recreational use along the Klasiline Trail.
Mess Creek	To protect high value low elevation habitat and ecosystems adjacent to Mount Edziza Provincial Park and large mineral springs with extensive tufa deposits and associated wetlands, including: • Rare plant species associated with tufa deposits and wetlands • Mineral licks • High value wildlife habitat for goat, moose, grizzly along valley, including a major movement corridor and key winter range	• Hunting will continue as per Objective 9, Section 2.5.1: GMD for protected areas • Provide designated trails to minimize impacts to calcite deposits. • Accommodate existing trapping use consistent with protected area values.
Stikine Grand Canyon	To recognize and protect the Grand Canyon of the Stikine as an exceptional natural landform, including Heritage designations • A unique population of canyon mountain goats.	• Allow a range of front-country to backcountry viewing opportunities along the Grand Canyon of the Stikine. • Locate trails to viewing areas to minimize potential for disturbance of riparian habitat
Upper Stikine Spatsizi Extension	To protect the Spatsizi predator-prey system and the upper reaches of the Stikine River, including: • Important low elevation habitat in Stikine River valley and tributary valleys • Highly significant caribou winter habitat at Mount Brock, in forested	• Allow opportunities for frontcountry tourism development in the vicinity of the Stikine bridge on Highway 37. • The protected area will exclude the right-of-way to either side of existing highways (Highway 37 and the Telegraph Creek Road) and gravel sources required for maintenance and upgrading activities. • Identify existing private commercial uses that may be untenured and seek to accommodate those uses consistent with protected areas values and the protected area management plan e.g. the existing trail riding operation. • Continue to allow existing access to private or leased land • Existing grazing use will be allowed to continue • Hunting will continue as per Objective 9, Section 2.5.1: GMD for protected areas • Consider important archaeological sites, cultural / heritage values, and activities of First Nations in protected areas planning. • Allow opportunities for construction of backcountry cabins as required to support recreational use, compatible with protected area values. • Continue to allow motorized boat use for recreation and hunting along the Stikine, Chukachida, and Pitman Rivers, consistent with

Table 2. Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP recommended management direction for new protected areas in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.		
Items to be addressed in the protected area management plan		
Protected Area	Values to be protected	Management Direction
	• areas north of Stikine River and year-round caribou habitat, including major rutting areas at Mt Edozadelly • High value moose habitat and calving grounds, particularly at Pitman River, Chukachida River and Geese Creek. • High value sheep habitat, particularly the enhancement area at Beggary Mountain • Key wildlife movement corridors along Pitman and Chukachida Rivers, providing connectivity to high value habitat in the Mackenzie LRMP • High cultural heritage values for the Tahltan, including very high values at Caribou Hide and Metsantan Village e.g., grave sites, archaeological sites, and remnant buildings. Potential use for summer elder trips, youth camps and other traditional activities • Internationally recognized river recreation • Other wilderness recreation opportunities (hunting, fishing, backpacking)	acceptable types and levels of use • Hunting will continue as per Objective 9, Section 2.5.1: GMD for protected areas For Pitman River: • In the event that a request is made for access and where reasonable review determines that no practicable alternative exists outside of the protected area, then a decision regarding the most appropriate access will be made by Government authorities. The decision will be made in full consideration of the functional integrity of the protected area and the need for access for mineral activities, in accordance with applicable review and approval processes. • If a road is required, locate it to minimize environmental and wildlife impacts, including providing access controls if required. Permanently deactivate the road upon completion of operations. • Do not create a circle route as a result of providing access across this protected area. • The Pitman River has highly unstable terrain. If a road is required, recommend full bonding for road construction in recognition of the higher environmental risk. • In keeping with the LRMP Economic Strategy, it is preferred that any mining roads north of the Pitman connect with northern routes (e.g., the Jade Road), to allow economic benefits to accrue to the local area. For Chukachida River and Geese Creek: • In the event that a request is made for access and where reasonable review determines that no practicable alternative exists outside of the protected area, then a decision regarding the most appropriate access will be made by Government authorities. The decision will be made in full consideration of the functional integrity of the protected area and the need for access for mineral activities, in accordance with applicable review and approval processes. • If a road is required, locate it to minimize environmental and wildlife impacts, including providing access controls if required. Permanently deactivate the road upon completion of operations. • Do not create a circle route as a result of providing access across this protected area. • The Chukachida area includes one mineral tenure that will be addressed as per Section 2.5.1, Strategy 3.1: GMD for protected areas. For Metsantan: • Existing mineral tenure areas (Map 15) will be excluded from the Metsantan protected area and will be available for staking, mineral exploration, and mine development for a period of 20 years from the date of LRMP approval. At the end of 20 years, if there are no mineral tenures in place, these areas will be added to the protected area. If there are tenures in place 20 years from plan approval, the tenure areas will be added to the protected area once tenures lapse. • To the extent compatible with mine development, maintain the long-term ecological integrity and cultural values of the excluded Metsantan tenure areas in consideration of their eventual protected area status. • Manage access into mineral tenures adjacent to the protected area to minimize disturbance of seasonal migration of caribou.

17 Appendix 2. Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP recommended management direction for the Mount Edziza Resource Management Zone.

Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP recommended management direction for the Mount Edziza Resource Management Zone.	
This area was formerly the Mount Edziza Recreation Area. The area is surrounded on three sides by Mount Edziza Provincial Park and includes the Spectrum property, a developed gold-copper prospect. The intent of this zone is to promote a cooperative approach to managing mineral exploration, development and reclamation adjacent to a park. While mineral development is currently allowed in this zone, the intent in the long term is for the area to become part of Mount Edziza Provincial Park. To this end, any development in this zone should be undertaken in consideration of its eventual park status. Objective: To cooperatively manage mineral exploration, development and reclamation while: ⇒ maintaining the ecological integrity and backcountry character of the adjacent Mount Edziza Provincial Park; and, ⇒ to the extent compatible with mine development, maintaining the long-term ecological integrity and backcountry character of the Mount Edziza zone. <i>Commercial forest harvesting will continue to not be allowed within this zone.</i>	
Management Category	Strategies
Biodiversity	• Avoid disturbance of red- and blue-listed plants and plant communities when locating roads and mine infrastructure.
Wildlife	• Avoid disruption of the mineral lick along Tennaya Creek • Locate roads and mine infrastructure to minimize disruption of wildlife, in particular mountain goats during kidding season and the use of spring and summer range by mountain ungulates.
Aquatic Ecosystems and Riparian Habitat	• Maintain water quality and fisheries values, including within the Nuttlude Lake chain and its tributaries, as per GMD.
Hunting, Trapping, Guide-outfitting, Fishing	• As per GMD
Recreation/Tourism	• Minimize potential to damage or destroy unique volcanic features e.g., (Pipe Organ Rock) during blasting.
	• Where road access is required, plan road layout to minimize visual impacts from Nuttlude Lake (e.g., using forest screening).
Access Management	• Manage public use of any new access cooperatively between BC Parks and the responsible agencies in consideration of the park management plan for Mount Edziza Provincial Park • Recommend that permits for a road through Mount Edziza Provincial Park be issued in a timely manner in the event of mine development being approved in the Mount Edziza Resource Management Zone. For advanced mineral exploration e.g., bulk sampling, consider allowing road access through Mount Edziza Provincial Park where reasonable review determines that no practicable alternative exists. Any decision to put a road through the park should be accompanied by an appropriate public review process. (See Appendix 5: Policy Recommendations)
Mineral and Energy Resources	• This zone will be available for staking, mineral exploration, and mine development for a period of 20 years from the date of LRMP approval. At the end of 20 years, if there are no mineral tenures in place, the zone will be added to Mount Edziza Provincial Park. If there are tenures in place 20 years from plan approval, the zone will be added to the park once tenures lapse. • To the extent possible, fully reclaim all land disturbed by mineral exploration and mine development.
Timber	• Commercial timber harvesting is not allowed in this zone. • Minimize the harvesting of timber during mine development e.g., only harvest timber where necessary to clear mine sites and access roads. Timber required for mine construction should be harvested from outside the zone.

GMD = Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP General Management Direction for the whole LRMP area

18 Appendix 3. Vegetation characteristics of Stikine Country Protected Areas

Appendix 3. Table 1. Ecoregion and Biogeoclimatic Subzone/variant Representation within Stikine Country Protected Areas ¹									
Biogeoclimatic Subzone/Variant ²	Mount Edziza Provincial Park and proposed Protected Area	Mount Edziza RMZ ³	Stikine River Provincial Park	Pitman River Protected Area	Chukachida Protected Area	Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park	Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve	Tatlatui Provincial Park	
Southern Boreal Plateau									
SBS	19839	620							
ESSFw	34339	2149							
BWBSdk1	7431		87432	4771		49112			
SWB	39382		104107	1486		341973	12202	48372	
AT	86546	664	5155	60		314226	30230	53138	
Total	187537	3433	196694	6317		705311	42432	101510	
Stikine Plateau									
BWBSdk1	54071		43852						
SWB	6216		7742						
AT			588						
Total	60287		52182						
Tahltan Highland									
SBS									
ESSFw	15009								
BWBSdk1									
AT	829								
Total	15838								
Northern Skeena Mountains									
ESSFw	943								
AT	2386								
Total	3329								
Eastern Skeena Mountains									
AT									
Total									1886 1936
Cassiar Ranges									
BWBSdk1			3136	2150	986				
SWB			1953	7671	17420				
AT			2	173	995	170			
Total			5091	9964	19401	170			

Information on ecosystem representation in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System was compiled for the Stikine Country Protected Areas Technical Background Information Summary that was completed in 2000. Ecosystem representation information in this management plan includes new protected area boundaries but does not include recent updates to the ecosystem map.

² AT = Alpine Tundra zone (undifferentiated)
BWBSdk1 = Boreal White and Black Spruce zone – Stikine variant of the dry cool subzone
ESSFnc = Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir zone – moist cold subzone
ESSFw = Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir zone – wet, very cold subzone
SBS = Sub-Boreal Spruce zone (undifferentiated)
SWB = Spruce-Willow-Birch zone (undifferentiated)

³ Mount Edziza RMZ = Mount Edziza Resource Management Zone