

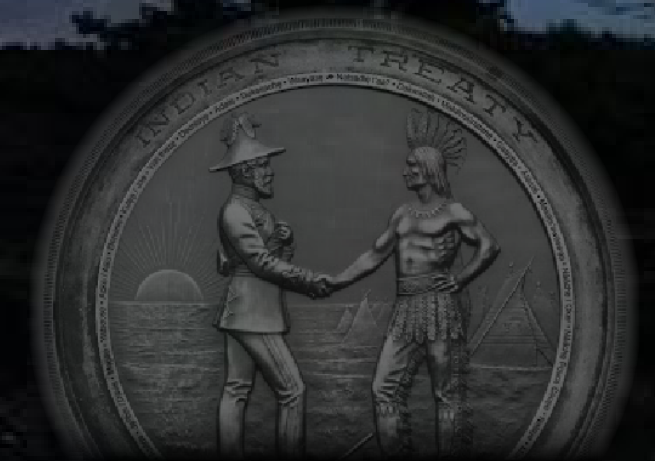


NAN WÚÚJQ T'AA DÂAH'ÁA?

LAND USE PLAN FOR THE TERRITORY

This is a living document.... This plan is reviewed regularly and on an ongoing basis. It is intended to evolve as new information is gathered, unforeseen issues arise, and our needs change over time.

Last Reviewed: January 2025





The spirit of our *Náácheṇe* and prophecies of returning to the land

The *Dane-z̓aa* people (also known as “Beaver”) live in a vast territory that covers northeastern British Columbia and northwestern Alberta. We are the *Tsááʔ ché ne dane* – one of the main *Dane-z̓aa* groups, and the original “First People” of the Peace River area. Our stories go all the way back to the time when the *Wq̓lii Nachi* (giant animals) walked the land. For countless centuries, our people were stewards. We carefully managed and protected the landscape and lived in harmony with nature.

Our ancestors moved throughout the full extent of our territory with the changing seasons and followed the sacred teachings and visions of our *Náácheṇe* (dreamers). Our *Náácheṇe* used songs and stories to guide us through life on earth. They often illustrated their dreams through the drawing of maps on moose hides and drum skins; some of these dream maps still exist today. Most of our *Náácheṇe* descended back to earth from heaven, bringing along with them abilities to prophesize through visions of future events that would impact our people. Often, these visions included lessons about living harmoniously with each other and with the wildlife we depend on for survival. Many of our *Náácheṇe* have said, “If you fool around with nature, nature will fight back.”

The first *Náácheṇe* was Makénúúnatane, whose dreams predicted the arrival of Europeans. His songs are still passed on through generations. Other *Náácheṇe* prophesized that the white man would come to *Dane-z̓aa* lands and extract the grease of the giant animals (the bad animals, which were the ones that were sent underground). They could see a time when giant snakes (pipelines) would cover the ground. They said there would be a time when a huge dam on the Peace River would break, causing a great flood. They tell us that we need to stay connected to our land and animals, and to each other. They tell us that *Dane-z̓aa* people will go back to the muskeg for clean water when all the rivers carry a sickness. They tell us a time will come when we won't be able to rely on stores, when people will fight over food and water, and that we always need to be ready to go back to our special places and depend on the land and the animals to survive.

The spirit of our Náácheṇe is strong and their sacred teachings are an important part of Tsááʔ ché ne dane culture today. This document is intended to help ensure that when the prophecies of our Náácheṇe are fulfilled we can return to the land.



Image: The late Tommie Attachie and a *Náácheṇe* (dreamer's) drum

Message from Chief and Council

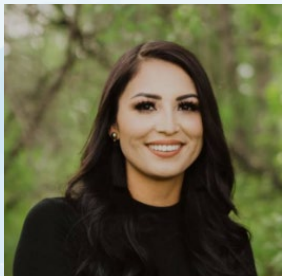
Doig River First Nation (DRFN) Chief and Council are pleased to share this Land Use Plan on behalf of DRFN. It is a modern document that has been developed in alignment with the traditional teachings of our *Nááchehe*. The development of this Land Use Plan represents an important step towards asserting our jurisdiction and once again fulfilling our sacred responsibility to look after the land, the water, and the animals. This document is consistent with and builds upon our Comprehensive Community Plan, and establishes direction required to manage the DRFN Planning Area responsibly and effectively. The Land Use Plan is intended to:

- 🌿 Be an expression of DRFN jurisdiction over land and resource development
- 🌿 Ensure that the Treaty is Honoured
- 🌿 Protect *Dane-zâa* knowledge, culture, patterns of land use and way of life
- 🌿 Heal the land from previous industrial development and manage cumulative effects into the future
- 🌿 Set out land and resource development expectations for the Crown and industry proponents

The development of this document has been led by our members and it reflects the collective vision of our people. It has been in process for many years and represents the culmination of numerous community engagements. Our commitment to community engagement is one of our greatest strengths and we are honored to be a part of this path and implementing our modern day ‘Dream Map’ for the future.



Chief
Trevor Makadahay



Councilor
Brittany Brinkworth



Councilor
Starr Acko



Councilor
Justin Davis

Super Elders Message

DRFN's 'super elders' were born at a time when the land, water and wildlife were still healthy. They were born at a time when large scale resource development was just starting to begin, and settlement was starting to alienate *Dane-zâa* people from their territory. They were children when our most important gathering place – the former Montney Reserve – was taken. They were young adults when the seasonal round became difficult, and landscape was degraded to the point that drinking water could no longer be trusted when on the land. Fortunately, our 'super elders' are survivors and they have tirelessly advocated for a better way. They have consistently called for:

- ✦ The promises of Treaty 8 to be honoured;
- ✦ DRFN authority to be respected and jurisdiction exercised;
- ✦ The protection of *Dane-zâa* Knowledge, Culture, Patterns of Land Use and Way of Life; and
- ✦ Healing the land.

The development and implementation of this land use plan is an important step in the right direction. It represents a new path.



Madeline Davis
Born on December 10, 1938



William (Billy) Attachie
Born on January 7, 1941



Emma Pouce Coupe
Born on August 15, 1943



Maggie Davis
Born on July 3, 1944

“

*Dane-Ṗaa make decisions all together,
we move in one direction together, like
a river.*

- William (Billy) Attachie



Image: Tsáá? ché ne dane territory

Overview of the Land Use Plan

The Land Use Plan includes the following parts:

Part 1: Introduction

Part 1 sets out DRFN's objectives for the Land Use Plan. It also provides important information related to the planning boundaries, authority, and the planning process in general.

Part 2: Planning Context

Part 2 provides a brief overview and history of our people. It also provides context related to the following major issues:

- **Cumulative Impacts** associated with historic settlement and resource development.
- **Climate Change** and the need to prepare and respond.

Part 3: Finding *Ke Maah* – A Good Place in Nature

Part 3 introduces and explores the concept of *K̓e Maah*, which means ‘a good place in nature’ in the *Dane-ḡāa Záágé* (language). *K̓e Maah* exists when our people are healthy and living in balance with nature. There are many things that can impact and influence our ability to find *K̓e Maah*. The following are foundational elements of *K̓e Maah* and are the planning themes in the Land Use Plan:

- **Cultural Resilience** (*Dane-zâa k'édzê? dane ɛhdétl'ane ts'êlɛ*)
- **Healthy Wildlife** (*Ghadii ehsɛ wúújɔ ghadaa*)
- **Healthy Water** (*Chuu wúújɔ*)
- **Healthy Land** (*Úújɔ jii nan áanáa wódleh ésé*)
- **Prosperity** (*Yiideh dzɛ? Wɔlii aa?waah ɛ*)

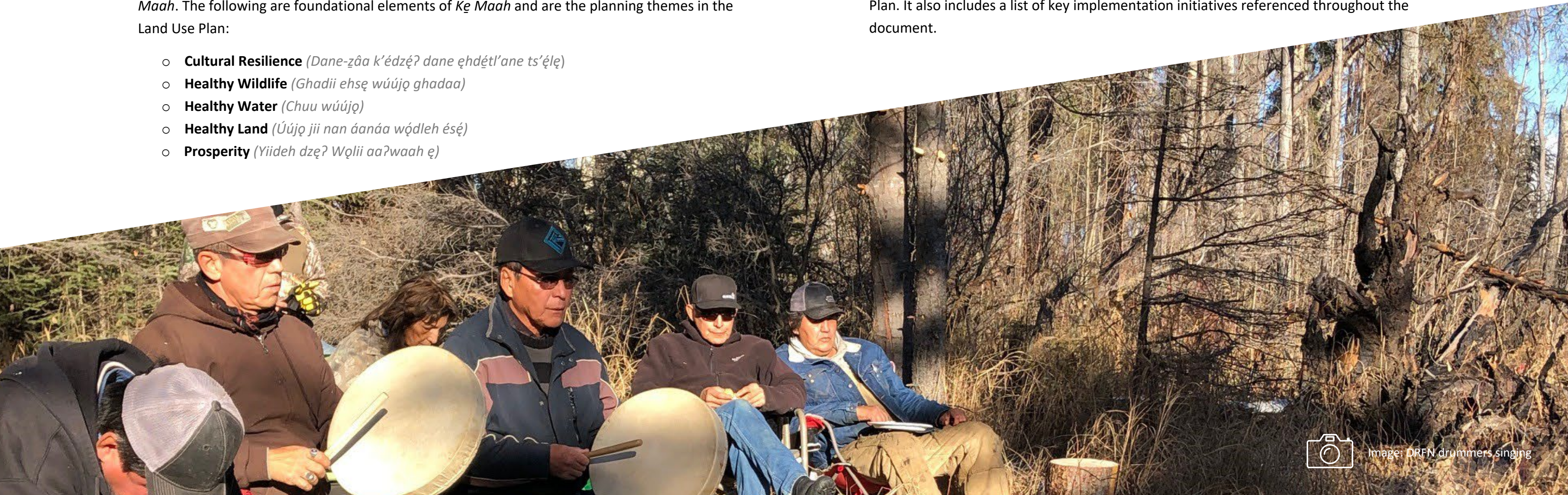
🌲 Part 4: The Trail Forward

Part 4 provides the management direction for different areas within the DRFN Planning Area. This includes identifying boundaries the following areas:

- **DRFN Water Stewardship Area** with a set of foundational goals that new land uses and resource developments in this area must clearly align with.
- **DRFN Planning Area** that falls within the DRFN Water Stewardship Area. It includes management objectives with corresponding policies and management directives. It also includes three Management Zones with zone-specific management visions, planning targets, key management tools, and management responses.
- **DRFN Enhanced Planning Areas** that are a network of critically important areas that are to be protected with additional measures.

Part 5: Implementation

Part 5 outlines processes and procedures for monitoring, reviewing, and amending the Land Use Plan. It also includes a list of key implementation initiatives referenced throughout the document.



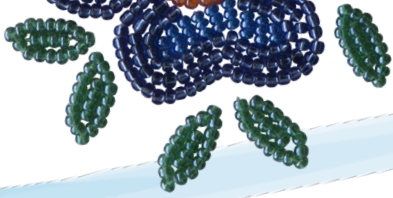


Image: Agriculture on
Tsáá? ché ne dane
territory

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Image: Land use planning workshop

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- Appendix D – *Protect remaining habitat that can support wildlife that is culturally and ecologically significant* (Management Objective #4).
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- Appendix I – *Limit and minimize climate change impacts* (Management Objective #9).
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- Appendix L – *Ensure land use and ongoing resource development results in meaningful benefits to DRFN* (Management Objective #12).
- Appendix M – *Generate own source revenue for DRFN* (Management Objective #13).
- Appendix N – *Timeline from DRFN’s Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP).*
- Appendix O – *Pre-Engagement Checklist*



Image: Doig members in the Peace River valley. From left to right: Vern Davis, Shirley Acko Howatt, Barb Davis, Annie Acko, Beatrice Attachie, Carrolyn Attachie

PART 1: INTRODUCTION



Image: Doig elders Johnny “Jack” Askoty and Gary Oker with a group of youth on the land

PART 1 INTRODUCTION

Land use planning is about thinking of the future. This plan sets out specific direction required to manage the lands and resources throughout the DRFN Planning Area responsibly and effectively.

Important Note → *This document is intended to operate at a policy level and “set the goal posts” for decision making. It is to be supported by, and ultimately implemented through, several complimentary planning documents and initiatives. These supporting documents will be more operational in nature (e.g., with detailed regulations and procedures).*



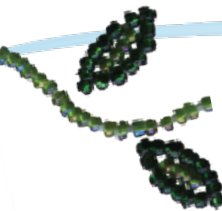
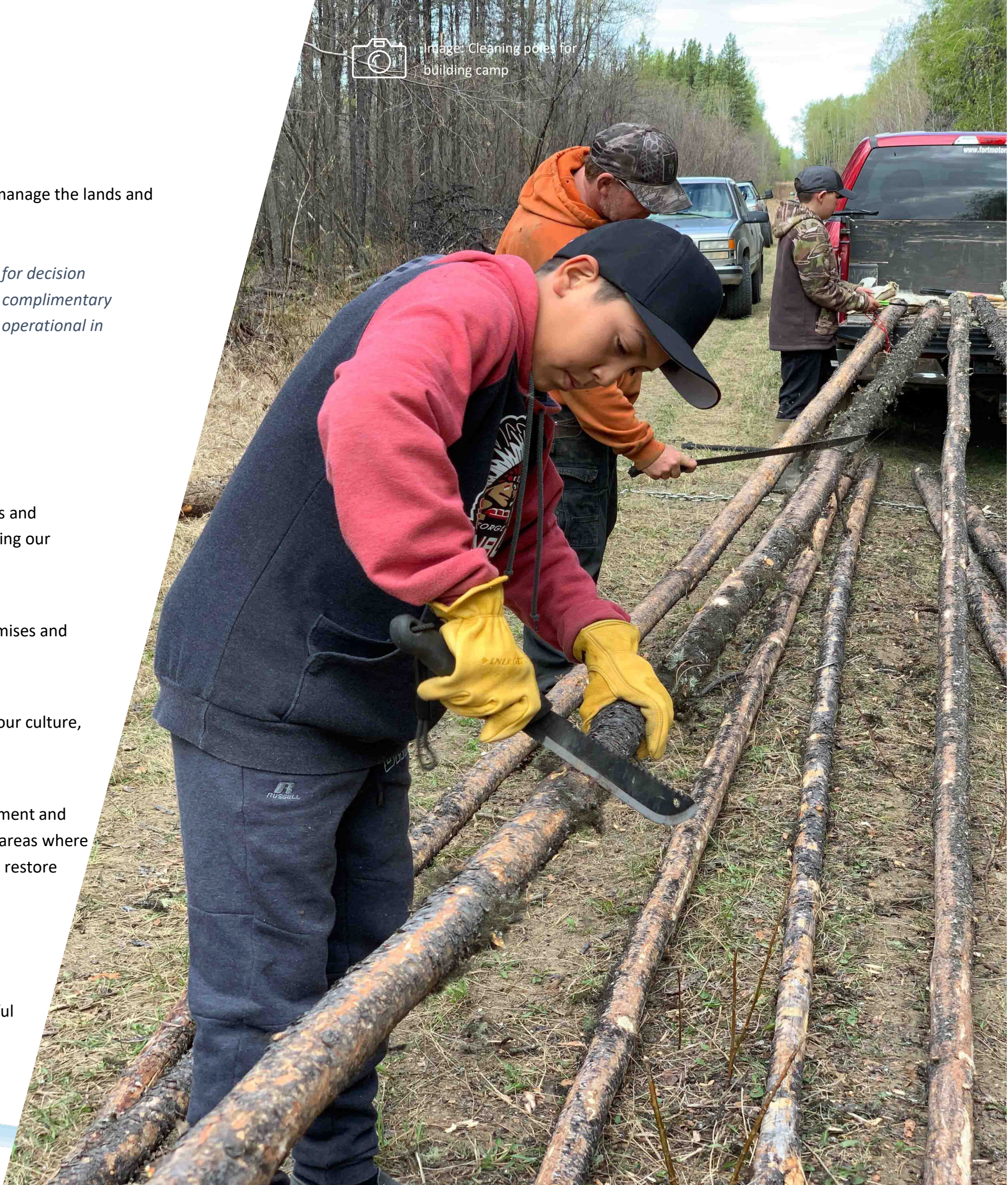
1.1 Strategic Objectives

This Land Use Plan has been developed with the following strategic objectives in mind:

- ✦ **Express DRFN stewardship and jurisdiction over land and resource development**
Identify the extent of the DRFN Planning Area where we are focusing our management of lands and resources to protect our Treaty Rights. A brief overview of our history will assist in demonstrating our inseparable connection to the lands and resources throughout the DRFN Planning Area.
- ✦ **Ensure the Treaty is Honoured**
Establish a clear understanding of the conditions that must exist for us to consider certain promises and obligations in the Treaty to be met.
- ✦ **Protect Dane-zâa Knowledge, Culture, Patterns of Land Use and Way of Life**
Protecting places, practices, species, and resources that hold significant value that are vital to our culture, language, and way of life.
- ✦ **Heal the Land and Water and Manage Cumulative Effects**
Establish goals and policies to reduce the cumulative effects associated with resource development and natural disturbance based on environmental, cultural, social, and economic priorities. Identify areas where the land has been damaged because of historic resource development and prioritize actions to restore those areas so they can become healthy and productive once again.
- ✦ **Outline Expectations of the Crown and Industry Proponents**
Clearly outline our expectations of the Crown and industry proponents regarding: management and stewardship of our lands, waters, and resources; development standards, respecting and protecting our Treaty Rights; and consent-based decision making and meaningful consultation.



Image: Cleaning poles for building camp



1.2 Planning Boundaries

Map 1 on the following page shows the extent of our key planning boundaries. The nature of each key planning area is described below.

🌿 **Treaty 8 Territory**

Encompassing a landmass of approximately 840,000 square kilometres, Treaty 8 is home to 39 First Nations. DRFN members can practice their constitutionally protected Treaty rights throughout this area.

🌿 **DRFN Water Stewardship Area**

This area is within Treaty 8 Territory in British Columbia. It consists of key watersheds that are directly linked to the DRFN Planning Area (see next bullet). Land use and resource development in the outer parts of this area can cause nearby or downstream impacts. Because of this, we are monitoring conditions throughout the full extent of the DRFN Water Stewardship Area. The Land Use Plan includes a set of foundational goals with which new land use and resource development in this area must align (see Part 4.1).

🌿 **DRFN Planning Area**

This is our “backyard,” and the area where DRFN has the greatest interest in land use planning. It falls within the DRFN Water Stewardship Area. We have strong, intergenerational ties to this area and chose to focus our resource management and decision-making jurisdiction within these boundaries. Members of other Treaty 8 First Nations can practice their Treaty Rights here in accordance with traditional protocols that acknowledge and respect our authority as the original “First People” of the area (see Part 2.1).

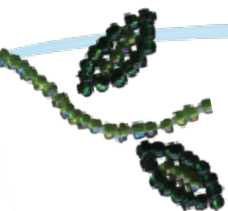
🌿 **DRFN Enhanced Planning Areas**

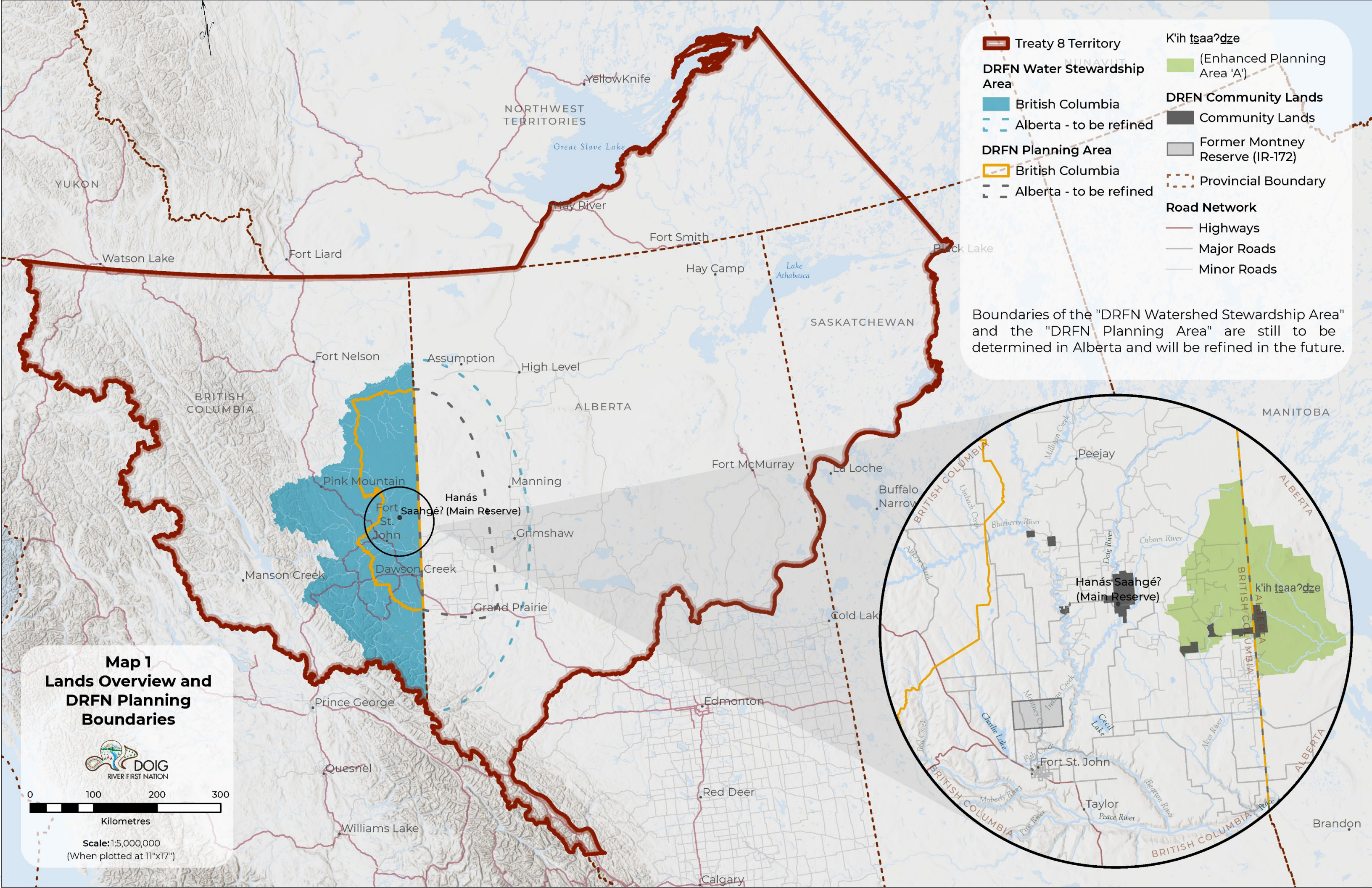
These are special areas that DRFN members have identified that have high ecological and cultural significance (see Part 4.3). They must be in a healthy condition and largely undisturbed for DRFN members to be able to practice their Treaty Rights in a meaningful way.

🌿 **DRFN Community Lands**

These are important lands that we control – our reserve lands, TLE land selections, and privately owned lands. These are planning areas where we will make significant investments in community infrastructure. They are identified to act as a reference point for other planning documents and laws that contain specific details beyond the scope of this document.

In some cases, work needs to be done with our neighbours to address “overlap” issues and revisit the traditional protocols that govern shared territories and resources. Any governments representing the Crown must seek to understand and not interfere with work that needs to take place at a Nation-to-Nation level.





1.3 Authority

We are the *Tsáá? ché ne dane* – the original “First People” of the Peace River area. Our laws, customs, and traditions include sacred responsibilities to past, present, and future generations. These include our rights to the waters, lands, and resource on which our food security, society, and culture depend. Section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982* recognizes and affirms the existing aboriginal and treaty rights for aboriginal people within Canada.

This document is a key step in strengthening our systems of self-government and ensuring our people are recognized as stewards of the waters, lands, and resources throughout our Territory.

Promises of Treaty 8

Treaty 8 was first signed in June 1899. Our ancestors adhered to the Treaty in the summer of 1900 as part of the Fort St. John Beaver Band. The written text of Treaty 8 assured Indigenous signatories they would be able to "pursue their usual vocations of hunting, trapping and fishing" throughout treaty lands subject to government regulation and taking up of land "from time to time" for settlement and other purposes.¹ The Treaty text alone does not fully define the extent of the understanding between Indigenous signatories and the Crown regarding ongoing land use rights. The Treaty Commissioners who met with Indigenous signatories made oral promises which were written in their official report on the treaty negotiations and documented by eyewitnesses. The importance of oral tradition in our culture means that to understand the meaning of “treaty,” one must go beyond the text of the document to the verbal commitments made by the Commissioners and the historical context that encompassed the treaty signing. Oral history from Elders who attended the signing reveals an understanding of the oral promises given by the Commissioners as a guarantee of their traditional way of life, not merely temporary privileges that would give way to settlement or resource development.

The oral promises have been relied on by Canadian courts to interpret the Treaty and courts have also recognized that these promises were made to persuade the Indigenous signatories to enter treaty. Specifically, Commissioners promised the same means of earning a livelihood would continue after the Treaty as existed before it, and they were “guaranteed that they would be protected, especially in their way of living as hunters and trappers, from white competition, they would not be prevented from hunting and fishing, as they had always done, so as to enable them to earn their own living and maintain their existence.”² The Crown has a duty to ensure lands and resources throughout the DRFN Planning Area are properly managed and that constitutionally protected Treaty Rights are upheld.

¹ <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100028809/1564415096517>

² <https://treaty8.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Treaty-No-8-and-the-Commissioners-Report.pdf>



Image: DRFN youth receiving her first "Treaty Payment" 2023



Garry Oker's artistic rendition of the signing of Treaty 8

Honouring treaties is a significant component for 'UNDRIP' and 'DRIPA' legislation to have any meaningful impact towards



United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

UNDRIP was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007.

Article 19 of UNDRIP states:

Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions.

Article 26 of UNDRIP states:

Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories, and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

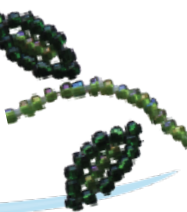
Article 32(2) of UNDRIP states:

States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

In May 2016, Canada endorsed UNDRIP, without qualification. In September 2017, British Columbia committed to UNDRIP, and in November 2019, British Columbia followed through on its commitment and passed the legislation to implement UNDRIP.

British Columbia's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) Legislation

The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) establishes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the Province of British Columbia's framework for reconciliation, as called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Call to Action*.



Recent Legal Precedence

A Treaty of Peace and Friendship

Our ancestors understood Treaty 8 to represent a commitment between the parties to live in peace and to share the land. While government takes the position that the Treaty was a surrender of land, Indigenous signatories who witnessed treaty negotiations have consistently taken a different view. This issue was before the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories in the 1973 decision in *Re Paulette et al. v. The Queen*. In that case, the Dene Nations of Treaties 8 and 11 had attempted to file a caveat on Crown lands over which they asserted unextinguished Aboriginal title. They argued that the “cede, release, and surrender” clauses in Treaties 8 and 11 did not reflect the understanding of the Indigenous signatories. Justice Morrow found, “...notwithstanding the language of the two treaties, there [is] a sufficient doubt on the facts that aboriginal title was extinguished...”.³ The Supreme Court of Canada has acknowledged that while the Indigenous signatories understood that white settlers would enter their land for settlement, farming, and mining, they believed that most of the land would remain unoccupied by settlers and continue to be available to them for hunting, fishing, and trapping.

Land Management and Cumulative Effects

On June 29, 2021, the British Columbia Supreme Court released its decision in *Yahey v. British Columbia*. This case is important because it represents the first time a court in Canada has found treaty infringement based on cumulative effects of resource development within a First Nation’s territory. Our sister nation, Blueberry River First Nations, filed a claim in 2015 alleging the cumulative effects of industrial development had damaged the forests, lands, waters, fish, and wildlife within an area identified on a map that the court referred to as the “Claim Area,” which had a profound and negative effect on their members’ ability to exercise their Treaty 8 Rights. The court said Treaty 8 does not give the province infinite power to take up lands to hold, otherwise it would leave an “empty shell of a treaty promise.” Additionally, the court found:

- ✿ The Province had taken up so much land that the exercise of rights was no longer meaningful;
- ✿ The Province had failed to implement the Treaty honourably and diligently; and
- ✿ The existing regulatory processes for authorizing industrial development did not adequately account for cumulative effects or ensure that Treaty Rights were protected.

Having identified that the Province breached the Treaty and infringed Treaty Rights, the court issued a declaration prohibiting British Columbia from authorizing further activities which infringe on rights.

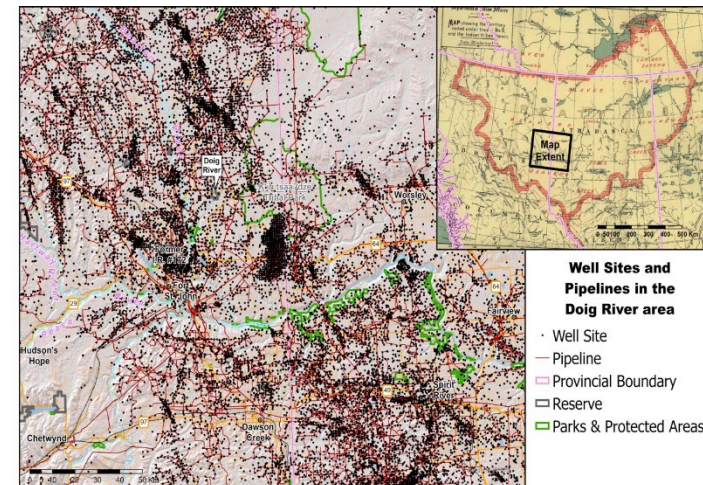


Image: Treaty 8 Chiefs in Vancouver at the Yahey v. British Columbia 2021 Press Release

³ <https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/5866/index.do>

An Opportunity for Reconciliation and a New Relationship

In British Columbia

British Columbia did not appeal the court's decision in the *Yahey v. British Columbia* case. Instead, they initiated discussions with Treaty 8 First Nations around a series of agreements. Through this process, they committed to (amongst other things) working with Nations on the following:

- ✦ A new approach to wildlife co-management that promotes an improved shared understanding and management of wildlife;
- ✦ New land use plans and protection measures;
- ✦ A “cumulative effects” management system, linked to natural resource landscape planning and restoration initiatives;
- ✦ Pilot projects to advance shared decision-making for planning and stewardship activities;
- ✦ A multi-year, shared restoration fund to help heal the land;
- ✦ A new revenue-sharing approach to support the priorities of Treaty 8 First Nations; and
- ✦ Actions to promote education about Treaty 8 through collaborative promotion, anti-racism training, and awareness building.

In Alberta

DRFN territory includes lands on both sides of the BC-Alberta border, including our *K'ih tsaa?dze* Tribal Park. These lands and re-establishing our jurisdiction over lands in Alberta have been legally formalized as part of our Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Settlement where there will be a 5000-acre reserve created in Alberta through the federal Additions to Reserve (ATR) process.

In recent years, both the federal government and the province of Alberta been consulting DRFN on decisions that may impact the exercise of our Treaty Rights in Alberta, and work is underway to further establish and define a new relationship with the Alberta government.

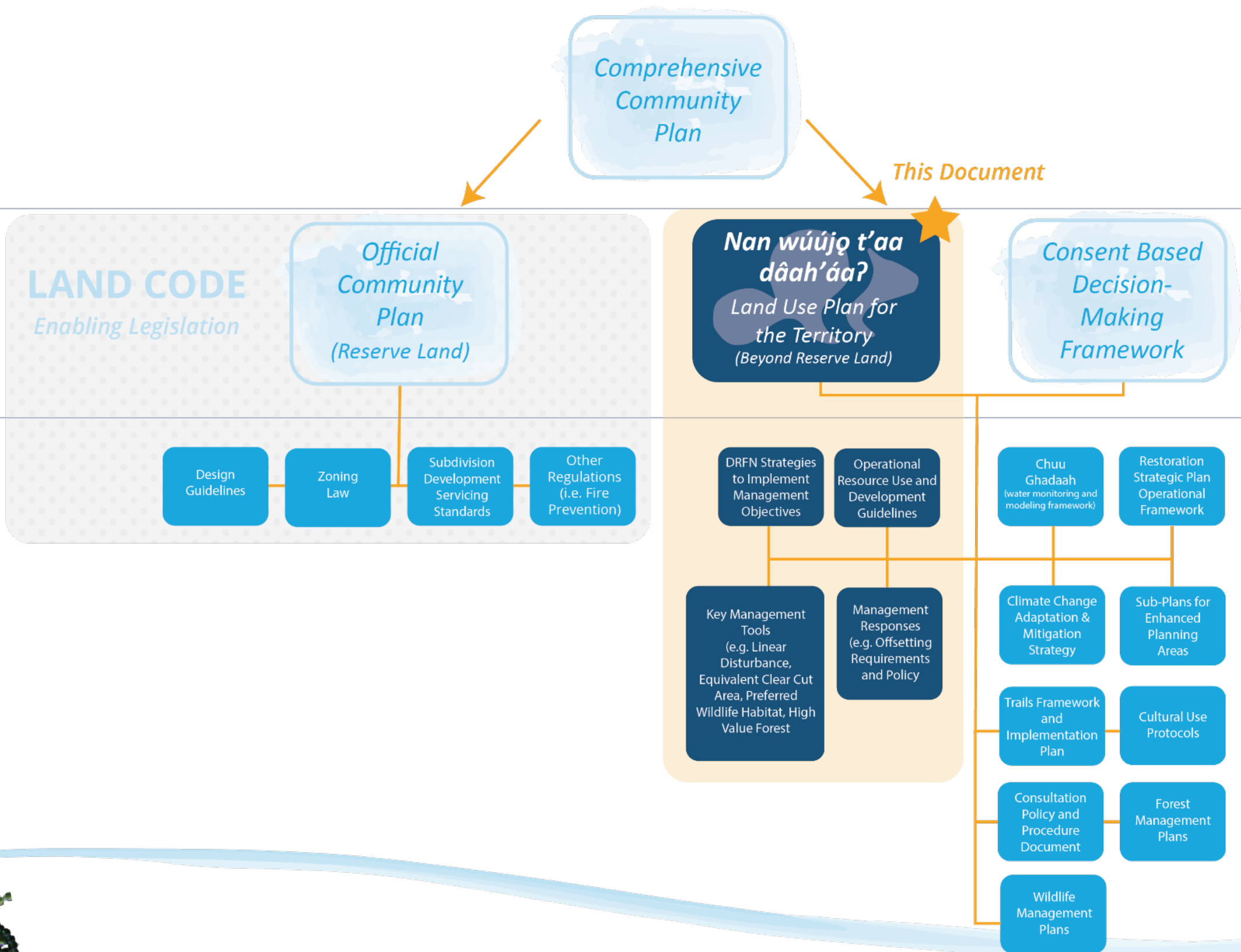
Important projects that DRFN is currently working on are documenting and mapping of historical place names in Alberta, and educating industry proponents about our history and the on-going need to consult and engage with DRFN through relationship agreements.



Image: Chief Trevor Makadahay and Councillors Brittany Brinkworth and Starr Acko at the Consensus Document Signing with British Columbia – January 2023

1.4 Planning and Land Management Hierarchy

This document is consistent with and builds upon the direction established under DRFN’s Comprehensive Community Plan. It is a key policy document that intends to “set the goal posts” for decision making related to land use and resource development in DRFN territory. It is to be supported by, and ultimately implemented through, several complimentary documents that are more operational in nature. As the diagram below indicates, some (but not all) key operational items are included in this document.



VISIONARY DOCUMENT

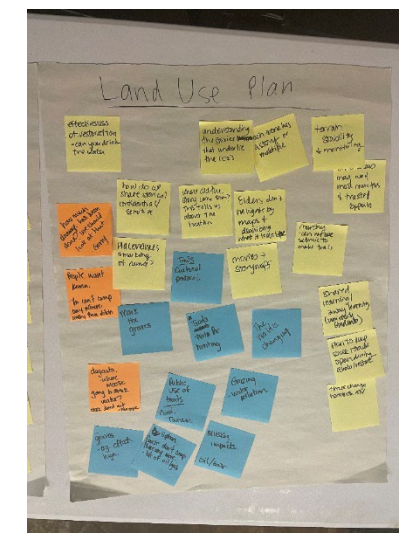
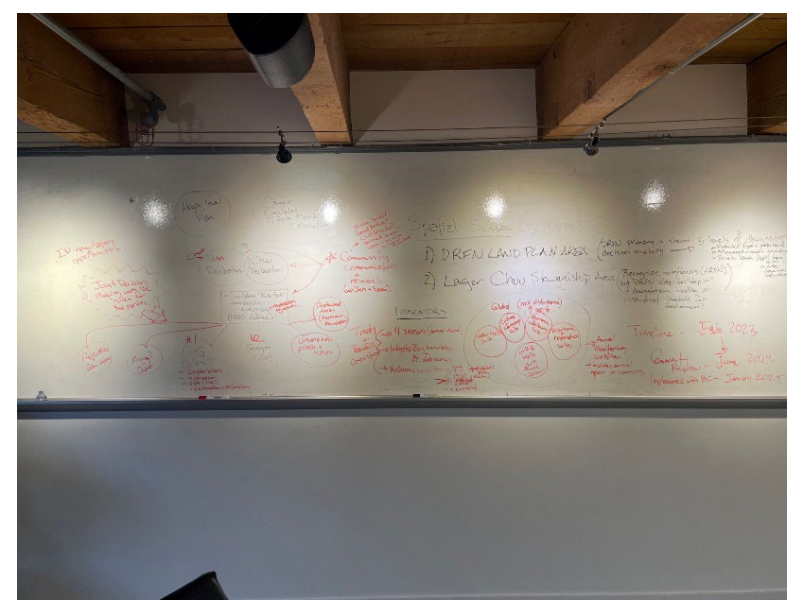
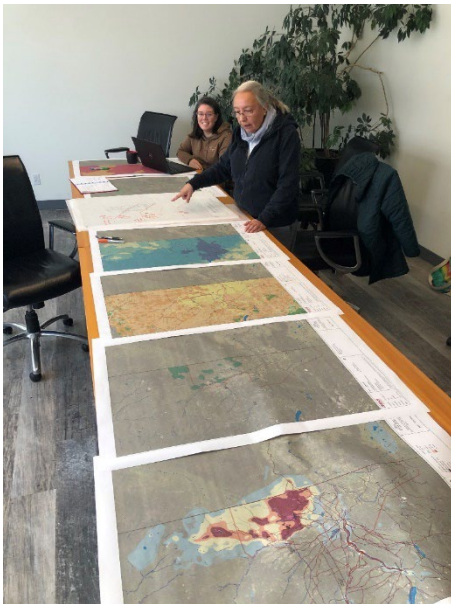
KEY POLICY DOCUMENTS
Set Goal Posts

OPERATIONAL DOCUMENTS
Detailed Policy Regulations & Procedures

1.5 Our Grassroots Planning Process

This document has been driven by our members and is intended to reflect the collective vision of our people. It has been in process for many years and represents the culmination of numerous community engagements. In 2007, our members and our staff came together to map culturally important areas called “Critical Community Use Areas.” The goal was to identify important areas that should be protected and influence land and resource management and decision making. Over the next decade our members and staff continued working to identify important issues, trends, and features of the landscape. This was done through numerous community meetings, working groups, and during trips on the land. In 2021 and 2022, our efforts increased to finalize the plan. Our staff hosted a series of community meetings. The core concepts, vision, goals, tools, and policies contained in this document emerged iteratively with our members during those meetings.

Images from our Grassroots Planning Process





PART 2: PLANNING CONTEXT



Tsaa? Çhé Ne Dane Territory

PART 2 PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 Tsáá? Çhé Ne Dane

The *Dane-zâa* people have been living in a territory that covers northeast British Columbia and northwest Alberta for millennia. Our members refer to themselves as *Tsáá? çhé ne dane* – (original Beaver Tribe) and along with Blueberry River First Nations are the original “First Peoples” of the Peace River region. *Tsáá? çhé ne dane* stories describe events and people in the area long before the arrival of European explorers and go all the way back to the time when the *Wq̓lii Nachi* (giant animals) walked the land. Archaeological evidence at the Charlie Lake cave site shows that the area was occupied from at least 10,500 years ago by people who were hunting bison and other megafauna. Today’s *Tsáá? çhé ne dane* are descendants of those early inhabitants.

The spirit of *Nááche̱ne* is still strong and the teachings of these dreamers are an important component of *Tsáá? çhé ne dane* culture today. In addition to working in the wage economy, many of our members sustain themselves through hunting, trapping, fishing, collecting plants, and other cultural resources. At DRFN, many elders and land users still know the traditional names and stories for important places throughout their territory.

The Seasonal Round

Tsáá? çhé ne dane moved freely throughout their territory along a complex network of trails while hunting, trapping, and gathering important cultural and natural resources along the way. They moved seasonally within the Peace River region from Montney to Dawson Creek, Grande Prairie, TeePee Creek, Dunvegan and back through Clearhills (see **Map 2** to the right). They also travelled west to the Rocky Mountains and north to the Fontas area where they would hunt, gather, and socialize with other *Dane-zâa* kinship groups.

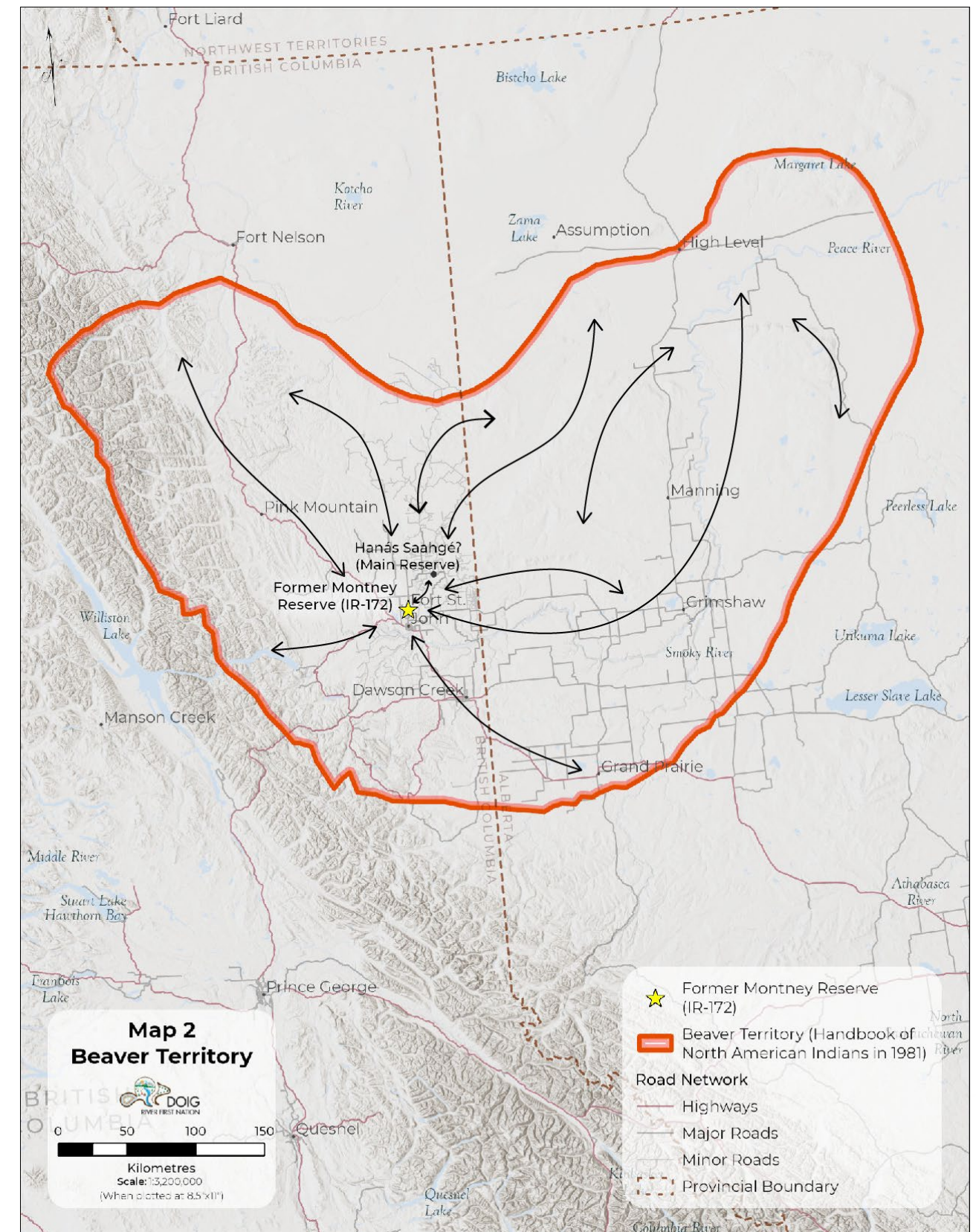




Image: Madziih (Caribou)

“

When I was young ... they [DRFN peoples] kept moving from different place, different place. They take some animals out of here, and some animals out of there. That's the way our people used to live... We preserve the animals so that generations after generations [the animals] will definitely come back.



Vern Davis

Former Montney Reserve (I.R.#172)

The most important gathering place was Montney, an area just north of Fort St. John that was centrally located within broader *Dane-zâa* territory and surrounded by plentiful resources that could accommodate many people over a summer season. Our ancestors and other kinship groups would gather here each summer and share food and stories and engage in spiritual activities. They also made alliances, married, and partook in other social activities filled with songs, drumming, and dance. This place was the hub of *Dane-zâa* social and spiritual life. It was called *Suunéch'ii Kéch'iige*, which means “The Place Where Happiness Dwells.”

The Fort St. John Beaver Band selected this place as the site of its reserve in accordance with the provisions of Treaty 8, and in 1916, Canada set aside 18,168 acres of land here. Two years later, during the Spanish Flu epidemic, Chief Montney (pictured right, with his son) died there at the age of seventy-two. The area is still often referred to as the Montney Reserve (or I.R. #172). For several decades after Treaty 8 was signed, *Tsáá? ché ne dane* continued to travel freely, making use of this special place during the seasonal round. The Montney Reserve was located on prime agricultural land that settlers coveted since their arrival, and the Department of Indian Affairs considered leasing the land to farmers. In 1944, directions were given to pursue the surrender of the Montney reserve, and on September 22, 1945, members of the Fort St. John Beaver Band were summoned to discuss the surrender. Marks from the Chief and a few other individuals ended up on the surrender documents, however, it is not clear that the implications of this document were understood, as testimony from our Elders later confirmed that most members did not understand the implications, nor did they agree to the surrender. Nevertheless, Canada formally accepted the surrender on October 16, 1945, and proceeded to give the land to settlers and returning war veterans. *Tsáá? ché ne dane* were no longer permitted to gather there.

The loss of the Montney Reserve was significant and *Tsáá? ché ne dane* tried to regroup following the surrender by continuing to travel on the land and gathering seasonally in smaller summer camps including Sweeney Creek, near the Alberta border. For almost a decade, there was no formal reserve allocated to the band and many members were relocated and lived at Petersen's Crossing. In 1950, the Crown established three new reserves close to trapping areas near the Doig, Blueberry, and Beatton Rivers. These reserves totaled 6,194 acres – one third of the original Montney reserve's size – and were not well-suited to be a central gathering place. By 1952, as with many First Nation people, they were required to live on reserve and were subject to the rules imposed by the *Indian Act* that were enforced by the Indian agents, the RCMP, and religious institutions.



Image: Chief Montney and his son, circa 1904-1905

2.2 An Impacted and Changing Landscape

We have been impacted by changes in environmental, social, economic, and cultural values over time. These impacts have been caused by the combined effects of human activities (anthropogenic disturbance) and natural processes.

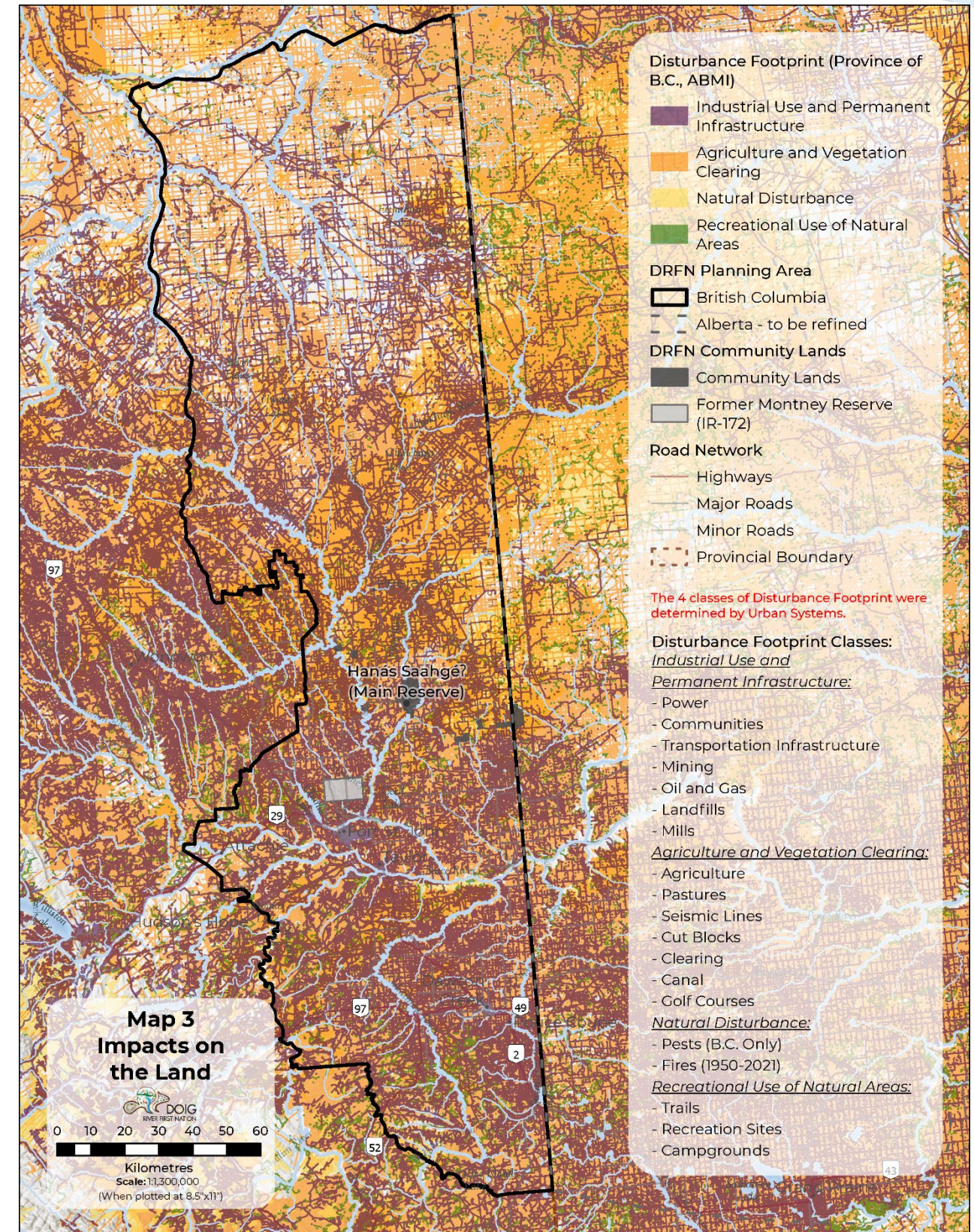
Contact with Europeans marked the beginning of a challenging time for our people that brought new diseases we were not immune to. Many people died during this period and unbeknownst to our ancestors, Britain had declared our territory a British colony. In the late 1800's, the newly formed Dominion of Canada had expansion on its mind and was looking to make lands available for resource development and settlement. *Tsáá? ché ne dane* were assured that their way of life would not be impacted, and so the Fort St. John Beaver Band adhered to Treaty 8. Despite this being a treaty of peace and friendship, the Crown immediately began implementing systems to confine Indigenous people to reserves. The BC Registered Trapline System was implemented and large tracts of land in the Peace River region were given to settlers for homesteading and agriculture. In the 1940's, the Fort St. John Beaver Band lost their most important gathering place at Montney and over the following decades became increasingly alienated from significant portions of their territory. Large scale natural resource development coupled with minimal environmental regulations degraded and contaminated the landscape. Resource development continued at an unprecedented pace and impacts began to compound to the point where the *Tsáá? ché ne dane* could no longer meaningfully practice traditional ways of life as promised in Treaty 8. This was affirmed in *Yahey v British Columbia (2021)*, an important court ruling that directed the BC government to heal the land and address cumulative effects.

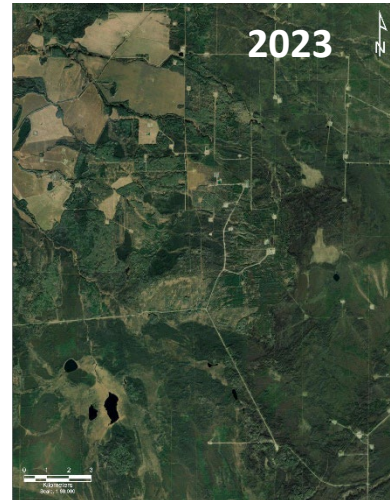
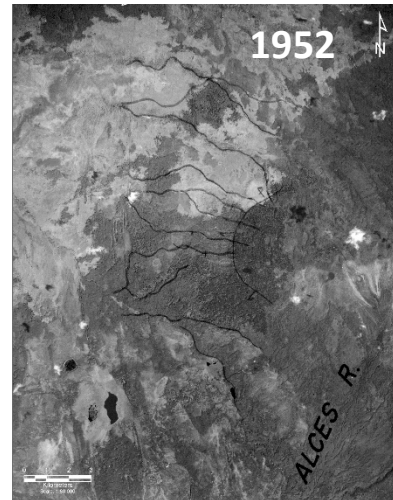
In addition to land alienation, cultural loss, and ecological impacts, our members experienced deep trauma from the actions of local Indian agents, the federal day school programs and the Sixties Scoop.

Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects are defined as changes in environmental, social, economic, and cultural values caused by the combined effects of past, present, and potential anthropogenic, and natural processes. As **Map 3** to the right indicates, there have been substantial changes in human land use and disturbance in the DRFN Planning Area since Treaty 8 was signed (initially in 1899), and we were promised the ability to practice our way of life. We are now trying to heal the land and get back to a point where our members can practice traditional ways and exercise their Treaty Rights. There has been an increase in human footprint from 409,039 ha to 554,441 ha across the DRFN Planning Area since 1984 (the earliest available satellite data).

Important Note → DRFN is developing a Cumulative Effects Management Tool and framework which can quantify anthropogenic (human-caused) and natural disturbances relative to a culturally appropriate baseline condition. DRFN is also developing several culturally relevant indicators to better understand the total cumulative impact on what is culturally and environmentally important to us.





The satellite images show the same area (near Alces River). In 1952, the land is relatively undisturbed. In 2023, cultivated fields, resource roads, pipelines, well sites, and cutblocks are clearly visible. An increase in vegetation cover is also evident due to decades of suppressing ecological and cultural burning.

Climate Change

DRFN is faced with climate change impacts and is working on a climate change adaptation plan. Our members have already started to experience some alarming changes such as warmer, wetter winters with less snow, and longer, hotter summers. Some other key impacts associated with climate change include:

- ✦ Large, unpredictable forest fires appear to be happening more frequently. This has been attributed to a combination of climate change and decades of fire suppression. DRFN members know of places in *K'ih tsaa?dze* that are said to never have burned. Considerable portions of these areas burned in the 2016 Siphon Creek fire.
- ✦ Permafrost changes and ice conditions that are less predictable.
- ✦ Changes to forest composition and better conditions for pests. For example, warmer winters no longer keeping insects like spruce beetles in balance.
- ✦ Changes in the timing and intensity of the spring freshet and summer drought. Climate change is expected to intensify the hydrological cycle globally through heating of the atmosphere and oceans. As a result, precipitation across the study area is likely to become more variable and increase on an annual basis. Even though we may see more precipitation overall, it is likely to come as rain in select events. Summers could get even dryer given the increase in air temperature.
- ✦ Changes in climate make the work of ecological restoration more unpredictable.

As climate change progresses, climate refugia will be increasingly critical. Climate refugia are areas that remain relatively buffered from climate impacts or are rich with environmental resources to help us adapt to some of these changes, such as long-term water sources. The headwaters of river systems in the DRFN Planning Area have been identified as important areas.



PART 3: FINDING KE MAAH



Image: Doig Elder Mabel Harding sharing
harvesting knowledge with Doig youth

PART 3 FINDING KĚ MAAH

KĚ Maah is a concept of wellbeing in our *Dane-zâa Záágé* that is central to the Land Use Plan. It means “a good, unspoiled place in nature.” *KĚ Maah* is about coming together and living healthy lifestyles as a connected community. It exists when our people are living in balance with nature and are healthy. We find *KĚ Maah* when our members can peacefully enjoy unspoiled land and our relationship to it. If we can do this, we can trust that the land and our people have the best chance at healing and well-being.

There are many things that can impact and influence our ability to find *KĚ Maah*. Four interconnected elements are identified as foundational themes in our CCP as set out below. Our land use planning themes (also listed below) are directly tied to the land and build upon our CCP themes. Each Land Use Plan theme is interconnected and has a direct impact on our ability to achieve *KĚ Maah*.

CCP THEMES

- Cultural Resiliency
- Nation Building
- Member Well-being
- Community Development

LAND USE PLANNING THEMES

- **Cultural Resiliency** (*Dane-zâa k'édzĕ? dane ěhdĕtl'ane ts'ĕlĕ*)
- **Healthy Wildlife** (*Ghadii ehsĕ wúújĕ ghadaa*)
- **Healthy Water** (*Chuu wúújĕ*)
- **Healthy Land** (*Úújĕ jii nan áanáa wĕdleh ěsĕ*)
- **Prosperity** (*Yiideh dzĕ? Wĕlii aa?waah ě*)

Baseline vs. Reference Conditions

Baseline conditions represent the target DRFN is trying to achieve. The goal is to restore the DRFN Planning Area to a condition that resembles the baseline conditions (late 1960's) within 50 years.

Reference conditions for land use analysis and planning are 1984. This is the earliest that important data like satellite imagery is readily available. The landscape was already severely impacted in 1984.



1899

Treaty 8 and the promise that traditional ways of life will be protected

1940 - 1950

Large scale resource development begins and our most important gathering place - the former Montney Reserve - is taken from us.



1970 - 1980

The landscape becomes degraded and members no longer trust the water

We are trying to heal the land and get back to a point where DRFN members can practice their traditional ways of in a meaningful way. In terms of baseline conditions, the 1960's and 1970's have been identified as a realistic target to work towards through the implementation of this land use plan and successful restoration efforts.

1950 - 1960

We are alienated from significant portions of our Territory and our seasonal round is becoming difficult, but we are still able to live off the land



1960 - 1970

Our members experience deep trauma from the actions of local Indian agents, federal day schools and the Sixties' Scoop



1980 - 2020

Resource development continues at a staggering pace. However, our people build their capacity and successfully fight for their rights.

2021 - Current

Highly impacted and fragmented landscape. Court rulings create a mandate to address impacts of Treaty Rights cumulative effects of resource development.

Future - heal the land, our people and ensure the Treaty promises are honoured

“

In the 60s this was just *KĚ Maah Clean*. *KĚ Maah* means never been touched. Clean place, clean water...



- Gerry Attachie

We're way behind... we need to be here in the 60s with the elders-maybe we'll stop you guys at the time. But now? It's already done. And we come back and then we try to talk about it. It's to me... it's a little too late. And it's gonna go through anyways.



Image: Doig River (Hanás Saahgé?)

“

*Even this river [Doig River]
I remember when I was a
little girl, they used to catch
fish, but after I don't know
what year, there's nothing...
must have been in the early
70s...*

- Barb Davis



3.1 Cultural Resiliency

Dane-zâa k'édzê? dane ɛhdétl'ane ts'ële

Our culture is inextricably connected to the land and the resources we depend on. Being culturally resilient means our ways of being, knowing, and seeing – that are central to our identity as *Tsáá? Çhé Ne Dane* – are alive and well. Cultural resiliency includes:

✿ **Maintaining abundance**

Traditional resources that are valuable to us must remain healthy, abundant, and productive.

✿ **Visibility**

Land use and planning shall not decrease our visibility in the planning area. Being visible and active on the land can include but is not limited to signage, language, art installations, and cultural infrastructure.

✿ **Maintaining access and being active on the land**

Access to traditional resources and culturally significant sites throughout our broader territory must be maintained, and especially in the DRFN Planning area. This means land use, development, and restoration should not limit our ability to access important hunting, trapping, and gathering areas. Protecting cultural infrastructure like trails and cabins is critically important.

✿ **Preserving and protecting cultural and sacred sites**

Significant cultural landscapes and infrastructure must be protected. Some important features and landscapes include dreamer and story sites, burial sites, and places on the land where our members and ancestors were born or died.

✿ **Coming together and gathering**

Our ability to gather and connect with one another is central to our culture and the health of our members. The places where we do this and the integrity of the landscape surrounding those places are critically important and must have formal protections. For example, the location of current and historic tea dancing grounds like *Suunéch'ii Kéch'iige* and Sweeney Creek.

✿ **Speaking our language**

Our *Dane-zâa Záágé* is deeply rooted in the land and needs to be included in engagement and project material. It is not only a method of communication, but also an extensive and complex system of Knowledge that has developed over millennia. It is central to our identity, the preservation of our culture, and is an expression of self-determination.



Image: DRFN member Shirley Acko Howatt making dry meat



Image: Hadaa (Moose)



“

Long time ago...because there [was] not activities around, just bush...the [animals] were fat, lots of big moose, lots of big bulls. But now, it's a little bit different because there's too much activities going on... so it's different, and they [the animals] are not like they used to be.

- Madeline Davis & Maggie Davis

3.2 Healthy Wildlife

Ghadii ehse wúújō ghadaa

Our people traditionally relied on many wildlife species for sustenance and other cultural purposes. The health and abundance of each of the species listed in the table to the right is important for our ability to achieve *Kē maah*. However, *hadaa* (moose) and *madziih* (caribou) have been identified by DRFN members as being especially important. They are cultural keystone species and indicators of overall ecosystem health. If their populations are healthy, other species population are likely healthy as well. Healthy populations of moose and caribou means:

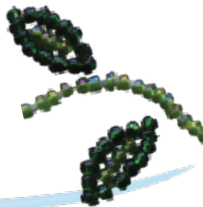
- Habitat**
Quality habitat needs to be represented adequately in each of the planning units in the DRFN Planning area. A starting point for evaluating population health is evaluating the quantity and quality of habitat that is available. This means evaluating the full range of habitat used throughout the seasons – including spring (calving season), summer (fattening season), fall (rutting season), and winter (survival season). Mineral licks and winter habitat when snow loads make foraging challenging are particularly important. Linear disturbances (e.g., seismic lines and roads) can create unnatural access and sightlines for predators. These types of impacts need to be considered when evaluating habitat quality.
- Abundance**
Abundance is a simple, but important, measure for population health and we need to ensure the abundance and health of the species listed in the table to the right. Sometimes there is suitable habitat, but no wildlife. This can indicate (amongst other things) over-harvesting. DRFN members should expect to find abundant wildlife in areas with adequate habitat.
- Condition**
We need to ensure that populations of the wildlife listed to the right, and others, are in healthy condition. In recent years, our members have noticed more moose in poor condition (e.g., undersized, skinny, and infested with pests). There have also been concerns about toxins from the environment accumulating in animals and contaminating meat. These are important indicators of population health.

We have observed declines in animal populations, shifts in where animals used to occur, and higher incidences of sick and unhealthy animals. Much of what our members have seen suggests that the lands and waters are out of balance. Many of the observations about the changes in wildlife populations appear to coincide with changes on the land and in the water (e.g., cumulative effects) that began in the 1970s and are still occurring. As part of the path to wildlife recovery, we have generated habitat maps that delineate seasonally important areas for moose and caribou throughout the DRFN Planning Area based on western and Indigenous Knowledge. DRFN Guardians are also monitoring wildlife that we understand to be cultural indicators for the change. We have observed a decline in sounds of frogs in the spring and summer months. The presence of amphibians and frog sounds are sensitive wildlife indicators that are now being monitored.

PLANTS	ANIMALS	BIRDS
Medicine plants (wild rose and rosehip, etc.)	Moose	Gray Jay
Mint (tea)	Beaver	American Robin
Labrador (tea)	Muskrat	Chicken (grouse)
Food plant	Caribou	Ptarmigan
Cow parsnip	Deer	Swan
Pasture sage, wormwoodBerries (cranberries, raspberries, huckleberries, strawberries, thunder berries, dog berries, muskeg berries, blueberries, soap berries, saskatoon berries, whisky jack berries, mountain ash berries, choke cherries, goose berries, etc.)	Elk	Goose
	Bison (Buffalo)	Duck
	Trapping (all fur-bearers: rabbit, beaver, muskrat, lynx, marten, etc.)	Sandhill crane
	Black bear	Eagle
	Grizzly bear	Eggs
	Wolf	FISH
Dye plant	Cougar	Pike (jackfish)
Tobacco plant	Porcupine	Walleye (pickerel)
Sap/Syrup	Squirrel	Grayling
Tree bark	Groundhog	Rainbow Trout
Moss	Rabbit	Dolly Varden
Fungus and lichen	Fox	Whitefish
Hay meadow	Lynx	Ling (burbot)
Earth material	Wolverine	Sucker
	Marten	
SPECIALTY WOOD	Otter	
Firewood	Weasel	
Logs for rafts and cabins	Bees	
Poplar and alders (sap, bark)	Flying squirrel	
Birchbark (baskets, canoes)	Fisher	
Rare plants (diamond willow)		



Important Note → The categories of species listed above have been identified in Traditional Use Studies by DRFN members over the years.



“

Have concerns about moose, we know, years ago moose is fat in summer. Now in September, moose still isn't fat. Don't know why that has happened

- Sam Acko



Image: Making dry meat at camp



Image: Lake and muskeg



In the summer, moose hang out in the little lakes and have their babies there because wolves can't get them, but it's drying up and forest fires are burning muskeg.

- Jack Askoty



3.3 Healthy Water

Chuu wúújǫ

Chuu (water) is life, and without it, there is no *Kę Maah*. Water is a fundamental resource, and it connects everything. Healthy water means all phases of the water cycle are healthy – from the rain and snow that fall on the land, to the muskeg and aquifers where it is stored, to the network of lakes and streams that eventually carry it to the sea. Our members have expressed concern for water resources, stating they no longer trust the water is clean or will be available. This change in trust can largely be attributed to a change in land use and climate. DRFN Guardians are now monitoring conditions using a variety of cultural indicators (e.g. tea tests).

Healthy Muskeg

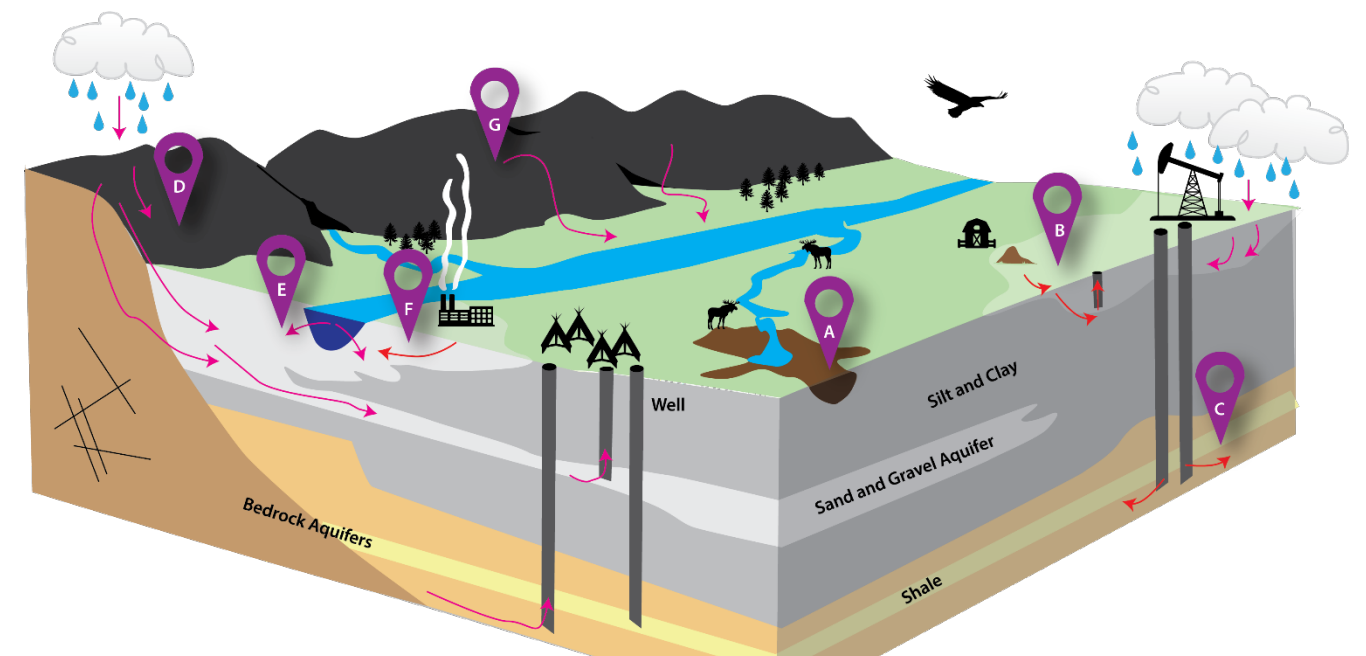
Muskeg is an important part of the water cycle in the DRFN Water Stewardship Area and we are working to minimize disturbance and maintain moisture levels in the muskeg. It acts like a sponge and stores water following heavy rain events and then slowly releases it later. This prevents flash flooding during freshet and storm events and ensures steady flows during the dry summer months. In recent years, our members have observed muskeg drying, and plants nearby retaining less water and producing fewer berries. Roads and other linear disturbances associated with resource development (e.g., pipelines) can have a significant, but not always obvious, impact. Fill is often trucked in and compacted many feet into the soft muskeg to provide stability for heavy equipment. These walls of compacted soil act like dams and disrupt the way water is absorbed and slowly flows through our complex muskeg systems. Large portions of muskeg, often many kilometers away, can be cut off from the seeping water as a result. The diverted water then flows overland, eroding the landscape and picking up sediment, instead of slowly filtering through the muskeg.

Healthy Lakes and Streams

Stream flows and lake levels are amongst the simplest, but most visible, indicators of water quantity and health, and we are working to maintain or improve surface water quantity, quality and surrounding riparian habitat. Climate change, resource development, and withdrawals for agricultural and industrial uses have led to extremely low and unprecedented stream flows and lake levels during the summer months in recent years. Minimum acceptable stream flows must enable healthy fish and wildlife populations and consider climate change trends from a precautionary principle. Water quality is fundamental to water health. In recent years, our members have observed changes in water clarity (e.g., increased sediment) and water temperature (e.g., warmer water in the summer). There are also concerns about toxins and other substances that are not always visible entering our lakes and streams. This includes road salts, herbicides, chemicals from oil and gas development and agricultural runoff (e.g., fertilizers and animal waste). Rivers, streams and lakes can be buffered from the effects of human disturbance by the vegetation that surrounds them. Healthy, intact vegetation in these riparian areas helps reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from the surrounding landscape, prevents bank erosion and provides shade to reduce water temperature. It also provides food, shelter and habitat for aquatic organisms.

Healthy Aquifers

An aquifer is a body of porous rock or sediment saturated with groundwater where groundwater can enter as precipitation and slowly seep through the soil and cracks in the bedrock. We are working to minimize disturbances to aquifers and areas where groundwater emerges as a spring. Water can move through the aquifer and resurface through springs and wells. Aquifers act like sponges, slowly absorbing water and eventually recharging surface water. Today, most people in the DRFN Water Stewardship Area get their daily drinking water from aquifers, however, they are one of the least documented and studied parts of the water cycle in the DRFN Water Stewardship Area. There is concern that agricultural and domestic use may be depleting sensitive aquifers, as well as concern about the impacts of drilling, fracking and the injection of toxic substances into aquifers. Groundwater often resurfaces at springs through the DRFN Water Stewardship Area, which are very special places and sources of exceptionally clean water and rich minerals. They are often spiritual places associated with cleansing and healing and are also important oases for animals like moose. In recent years, our members have observed reduced flows at some of the springs in the DRFN Water Stewardship Area.



- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Muskeg | E. Exchange between groundwater and river |
| B. Contamination of the shallow aquifer from agricultural activity | F. Contamination from industry |
| C. Fracking and disposing wastewater | G. Surface runoff directly into streams |
| D. Surface recharge of bedrock and sediment aquifers | |

DRFN's Chuu (Water) Declaration

For Tsáá? ché ne dane (DRFN or Dane-zaa peoples), chuu (water) is life. We take care of our water and because of water we are alive.

Protecting chuu is part of protecting our Treaty rights, including our way of life as Tsáá? ché ne dane, for all our children and grandchildren.

We are working to bring chuu, including streams, lakes, springs, rain, snow, ice and muskegs, back to the same health, quality, abundance, and freedom of flow as before signing Treaty 8.

DRFN's Foundational Chuu (Water) Threshold

All Dane-zaa families are able to access water in a reliable quantity and adequate quality for drinking and cultural practice in all seasons, in their preferred places while living and practicing rights on the land. In particular, preferred muskeg and surface drinking water sources should be of adequate quality so that all DRFN members can rely on the land in a way that allows DRFN members people to live fully off the land and waters. DRFN members must have full confidence in the health of the water such that use of the lands and waters is not barred by fears of consumption.



“

Milligan creek, there used to be lots of lake, [but] all the lake dried up. They all dried up because they drill too much, too much oil all over.

- William (Billy) Attachie



Image: Healthy caribou near McMillan Creek restoration project
Photo Credit: Shawn Harding



“

We used to just go out there any place, you could make tea, and there was running water. You go out there, even now, the mineral licks along this river there's two mineral licks that's right by the river. It's dried up because of these ditches they make, and they're running into the creeks instead of going down into the ground and come out by the river. Now the mineral licks are all dried up, and that's 7-10 years ago, and moose don't go in there anymore. All over the place it is happening now...

- Jack Askoty



Image: Tsáá? ché ne dane territory

3.4 Healthy Land

Úújō jii nan áanáa wódleh ésé

We will heal the land and water to secure Wúújō yídeh (healthy future) for our children, grandchildren, and all Tsáá? ché ne dane. By supporting our Nan gha?ejii ghadil (our laws of the land) and our inherent rights and responsibilities to protecting our territory, we can secure abundant, resilient resources and prosperity for our future generations.

Protecting nan is part of protecting our Treaty rights. We are working to bring nan back to the same health, quality, abundance, stability, and accessibility as before signing Treaty 8 so we can be resilient in an uncertain future. As outlined in previous sections of the Land Use Plan, our land and people have been highly impacted by historic use and resource development:

- ✦ Our sacred places have been desecrated.
- ✦ We have been alienated from the land.
- ✦ We can no longer practice a seasonal round and exercise our Treaty Rights.
- ✦ Important wildlife populations have declined significantly (e.g., moose and caribou).
- ✦ Our members no longer trust the water.

Large expanses of unspoiled wilderness, open space, and undisturbed nature that we can peacefully enjoy are now very difficult to find in the DRFN Planning Area. There are only a few pockets of healthy and relatively undisturbed land left. Healing the land is imperative, and fortunately, the Supreme Court of B.C. has recognized this. As we move forward, we will continue to assess what this means in terms of ecosystem functionality, biodiversity and connectivity, and the following:

- ✦ **Limiting New Disturbance**
This means protecting what is left and directing new land uses and resource developments to areas that have already been disturbed. This includes protecting larger areas that – while impacted – are still able to function at an ecosystem level. It also includes protecting at-risk watersheds and important habitat corridors that connect larger, unfragmented areas that are still able to function at an ecosystem level.
- ✦ **Eco-Cultural Restoration**
This means repairing places that have been degraded or destroyed. However, it also means moving beyond simple mitigation and rehabilitation. Ecosystems need to function as intended, healthy wildlife needs to return, and our members need to be able to practice their Treaty Rights in a meaningful way (cultural restoration). Ecological restoration returns a degraded ecosystem to its historic trajectory, not necessarily its historic condition, since a degraded ecosystem might not be able to fully recover. For example, global climate change might cause a recovering ecosystem to develop along an altered trajectory. History plays an important role in restoration, but current conditions also need to be taken into consideration.

Undisturbed Land

This refers to land that remains in a healthy state reflective of its pre-1900 (pre-treaty signing) condition. This means free from external interference, industrial development, or environmental degradation. It embodies a deep connection to the land, which is viewed not just as a resource but as a living entity with spiritual, cultural, and ecological significance. For DRFN, undisturbed land is essential for maintaining ways of life. It is land that sustains our people.

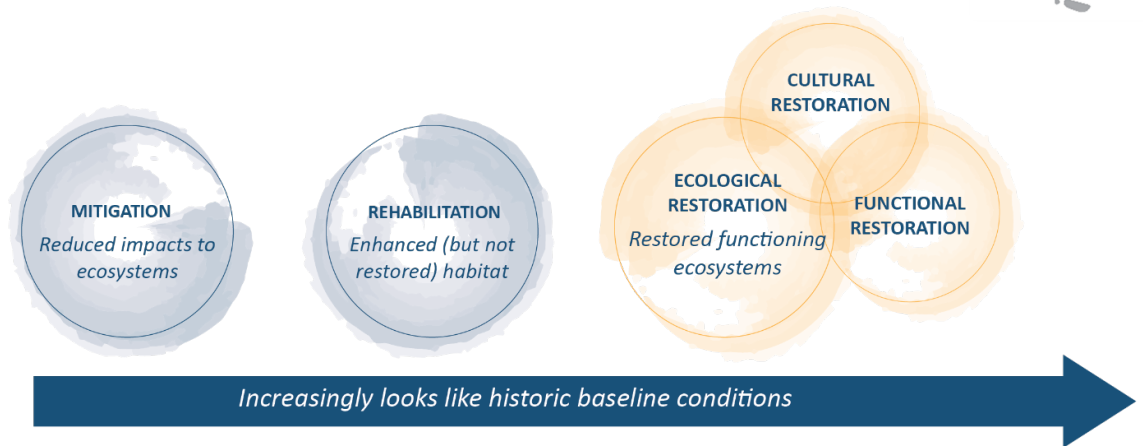


Image: Seismic line disturbance near McMillan Creek

“

We always have concerns about our land. We have to think about our future generations and try and save as much forest, land we have left.



Annie Acko



Image: K'ih tsaa?dze

“

*And even the animals are affected
cause there's so much cut blocks,
and they don't have anywhere to
hide anymore.*

- Shirley Acko Howatt



Image: Doig Knowledge Keeper
Shirley Acko Howatt making dry
meat at camp

DRFN's Nan (Land) Declaration

For Tsáá? ché ne dane (DRFN or Dane-zaa peoples), jii nan wúújǫ ghadaah (healthy land) is of the outmost importance for maintaining wúújǫ yídeh (healthy future).

Protecting nan is part of protecting our Treaty rights, including our way of life as Tsáá? ché ne dane, for all our children and grandchildren. This is supported by Nan gha?ejii ghadîl (our laws of the land) and our commitment to úújǫ jii nan áanáa wǫdleh ése (healing the land).

We are working to bring nan back to the same health, quality, abundance, and stability as before signing Treaty 8 so we can be resilient in an uncertain future.

DRFN's Foundational Nan (Land) Threshold

All Dane-zaa families are able to access and rely on the land that comprises their territory for subsistence and cultural practices in all seasons, in their preferred places while living and practicing their rights. In particular, land based ecosystems contain sufficient and adequate habitat for culturally key species including porcupine, beaver, and moose. Land-based ecosystems also support biodiversity integral to the integrity of DRFN's territory. DRFN members can rely on the land in a way that allows DRFN members to live fully off the land and waters. DRFN members have full confidence in the health of the land such that use of the lands and waters is not barred by fears of consumption.



3.5 Prosperity

Yiideh dzę? Wq̄lii aa?waah ę

The health and well-being of our people and our ability to thrive and prosper is directly connected to the condition of the land. We will only support development that results in direct social and economic benefits for our people and does not impede our ability to live healthy lifestyles in balance with nature.

Definition of Prosperity

Prosperity means:

✦ **Healthy and fulfilled members**

As outlined in Part 3.0 of this Plan, *Kę Maah* exists when people are living in balance with nature and are healthy in the following ways:

- ✦ Physically

✦ Mentally

✦ Emotionally

✦ Socially

✦ Culturally
- ✦ Spiritually

✦ Environmentally

✦ Intellectually

✦ Financially

Our members’ income and employment levels are improving; however, they are still well below provincial and federal averages. This is not acceptable, considering the wealth that has been generated from our lands. Improving income and employment levels is an important indicator of prosperity. Our members’ ability to participate in the current and future economy largely depends on education and training. The number of members receiving education and training, and the levels of attainment are important indicators for economic prosperity. Many of our members are highly entrepreneurial and have established successful businesses on their own. Many of these businesses are either leading, or providing service to, resource development within the DRFN Planning Area. The amount (and continued success) of member-owned businesses operating in the DRFN Planning Area is an important indicator of prosperity.

✦ **Meaningful benefits for our members**

Úújq̄ Developments Limited Partnership is 100% owned by Doig River First Nation. It was created with a vision to generate direct economic benefits to the Nation that are in balance with our traditional practices and culture along with environmental stewardship. Part of our strategy to achieve this is to become owners of well-managed companies in a diverse range of sectors operating in the DRFN Planning Area that align with our values. Úújq̄ retains some of its profits to re-invest back into the company to ensure sustainable growth. All remaining profits are distributed to the Nation.

Achieving Prosperity

Prosperity can be achieved by working with the Crown and industry proponents to ensure:

- ✦ Any new impacts to the land are consistent with this Land Use Plan and consent has been provided by DRFN.

✦ Improved resource revenue sharing agreements.

✦ Financial compensation for infringement of Treaty Rights (past and present).

✦ Opportunities for equity ownership in resource development projects.

✦ Contributions to community initiatives and infrastructure.

✦ Employment, training, and education opportunities for members.

✦ Functioning health and social support systems.

✦ Contracting opportunities for our members and band-owned businesses.

✦ **Important Note**

→ *Economic rent should be considered when measuring revenue generation from resource development, not simply royalties collected by the Crown, and revenue sharing from resource development should be fair relative to revenue generated.*

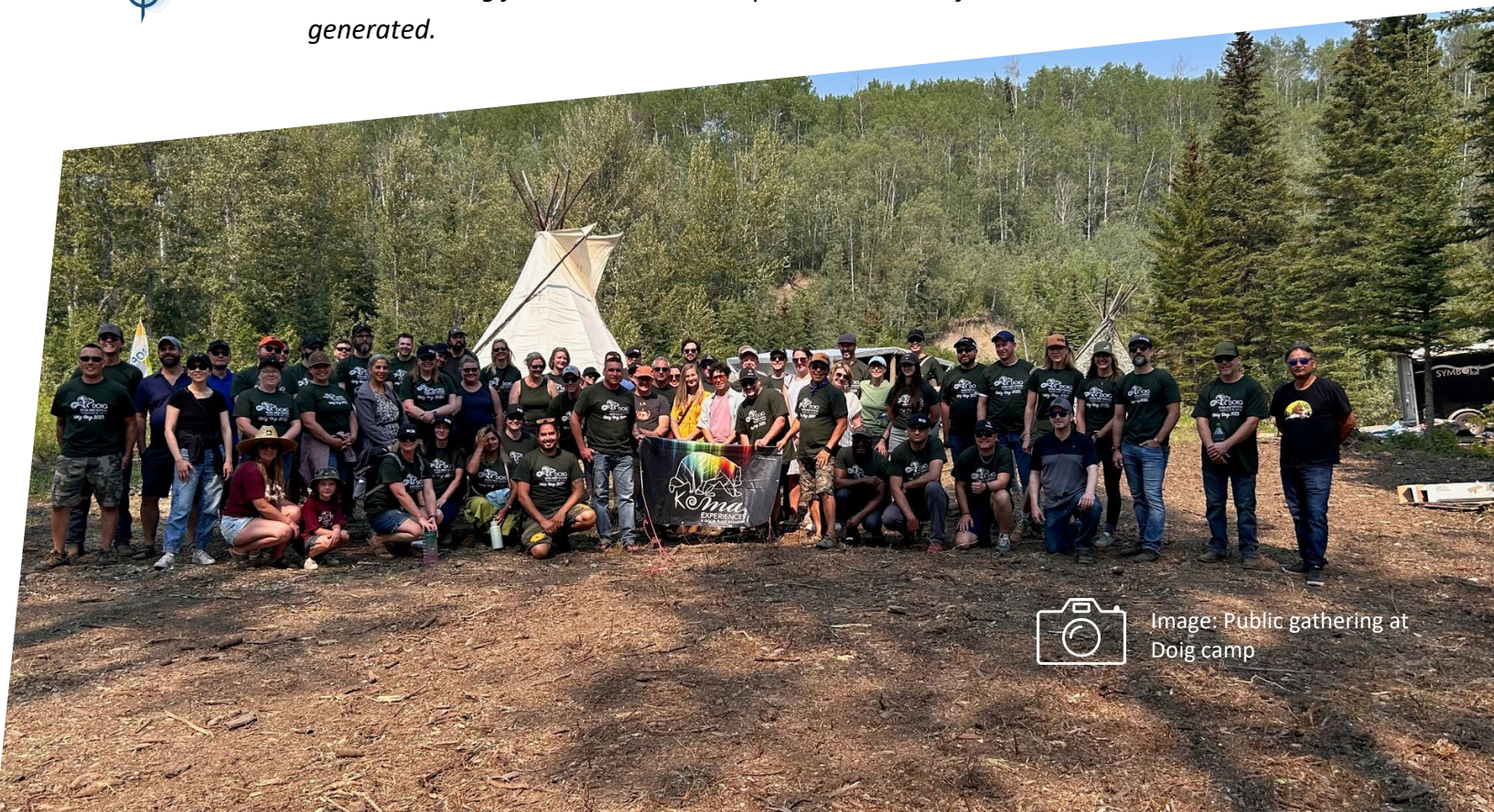


Image: Public gathering at Doig camp



“

[Discussing pollutants entering rivers from tributaries] Yah you can, we came across old pipelines that were put in years ago that were destroyed when the creek rises in the spring, it's moving all this old stuff, it's an old pipeline, old pipe just sitting on the side there, and you can see that the plants and stuff had green slime on it. We found one place about a month ago, and that was reported, but i'm pretty sure there's another one that went across a couple of creeks at Petersen Crossing, 400-500 meters from the rivers, there's another creek that joins in up the river, they had a pipeline that was just capped, they cut it, and then they capped it with cement, that's all they did, they didn't take it out...a lot to do with this is pipeline, pipeline breaks, that's a big issue...they do fail...do they monitor it? Right, is the industry monitoring these things? I don't know...the old ones are still there, they're not going to remove them.

- Larry Davis



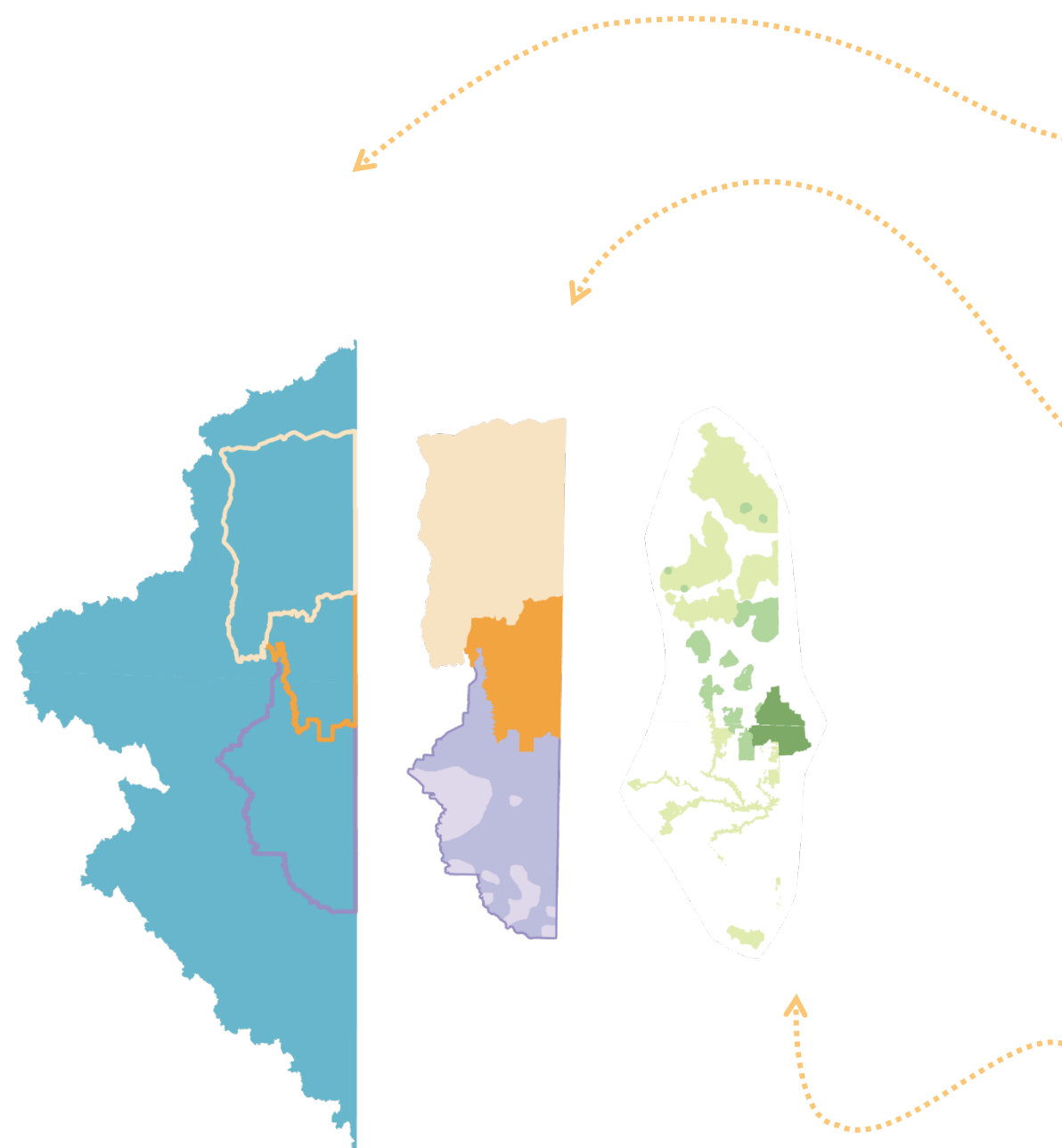
PART 4: THE TRAIL FORWARD



Image: Doig Elder Gary Oker with youth on the land

PART 4 THE TRAIL FORWARD

The Trail Forward provides the specific direction required to manage the different parts of our territory responsibly and effectively.



DRFN Water Stewardship Area

Foundational Goals

The DRFN Water Stewardship Area consists of key watersheds that are directly linked to the DRFN Planning Area. Land use and resource development in the outer parts of this area can result in downstream impacts to the DRFN Planning Area. Because of this, we are monitoring conditions throughout the full extent of the DRFN Water Stewardship Area. We have established a set of foundational goals that new land uses and resource developments in this area must clearly align with.

DRFN Planning Area

Management Objectives and Management Zones

We have strong, intergenerational ties to this area and chose to focus our land and resource management and decision-making jurisdiction within these boundaries. We have established management objectives with corresponding policies and management directives that apply throughout the DRFN Planning Area. We have also established three Management Zones within the DRFN Planning Area. Each Management Zone contains:

- ✦ A management vision.
- ✦ Planning targets (e.g., restoration efforts).
- ✦ Disturbance thresholds (e.g., key management tools).
- ✦ Management responses (e.g., offsetting requirements).

These zone-specific items are designed to work in tandem with the Land Use Plan's overarching management objectives, policies, and management directives.

Enhanced Planning Areas

Management Visions, Planning Targets, Key Management Tools, and Management Responses

We have established a network of Enhanced Planning Areas (EPA) throughout our DRFN Planning Area. These are special areas of cultural and ecological significance that have been identified by our land users and members over many years of time on the land. Each EPA has been assigned a priority level that will guide protection, restoration, and subsequent planning efforts. Each EPA will have a vision, planning targets, key management tools, and management responses that take precedence over and go above and beyond what is established at a management zone level.

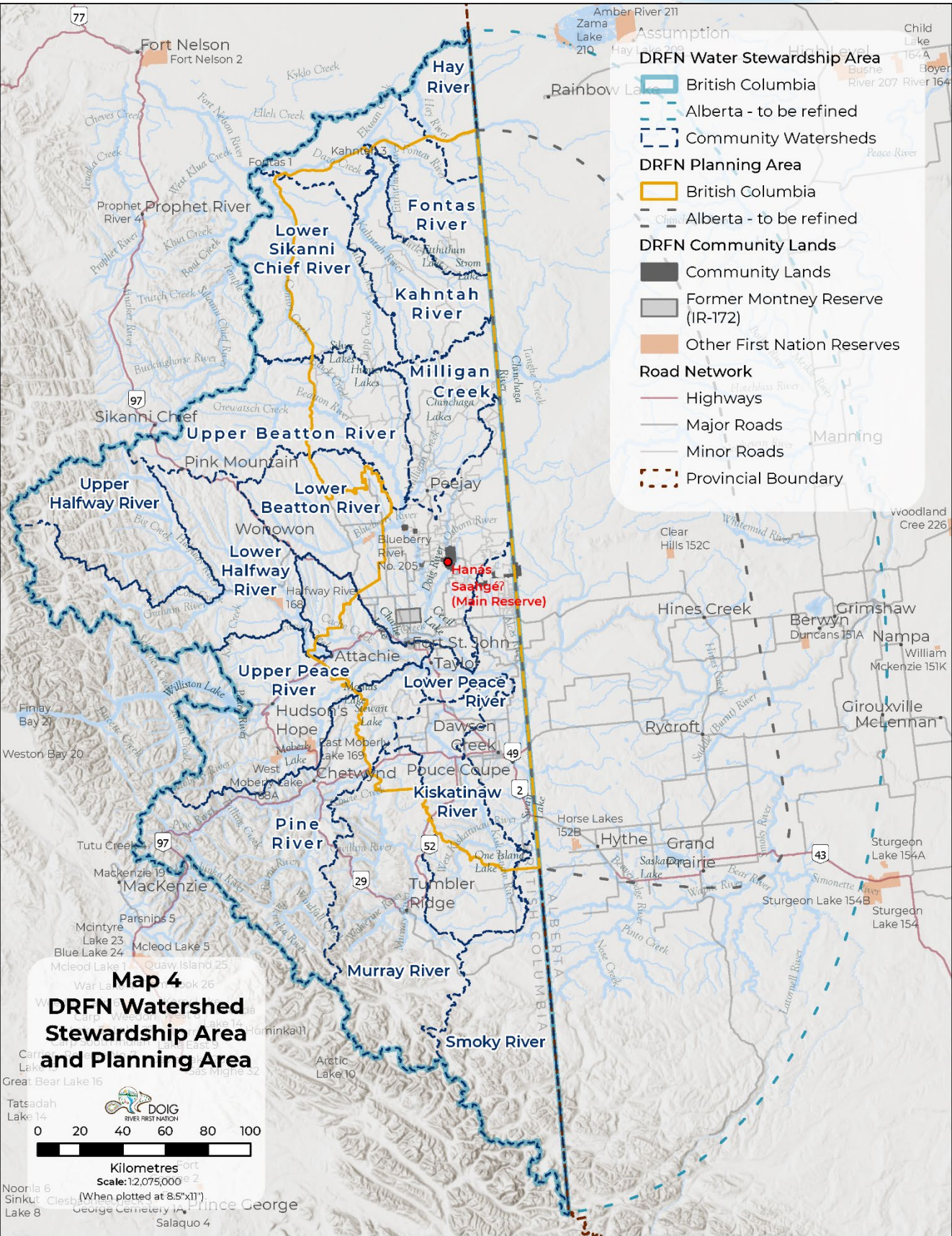
*Less detail and
less restrictive*

*More detail and
more restrictive*

4.1 DRFN Water Stewardship Area

Through consultation processes with the Crown, DRFN considers applications for a wide range of land uses and resource development that fall within the DRFN Water Stewardship Area (see **Map 4** to the right). We have established a set of planning themes and foundational goals with which all land use and resource development must align within the DRFN Water Stewardship Area as set out in the table below. We are working with regulators to improve consultation processes by developing appropriate application categories and protocols, as well as assessment criteria to help manage our foundational goals.

PLANNING THEMES	FOUNDATIONAL GOALS
CULTURAL RESILIENCE	Maintaining abundance of traditional resources.
	Maintaining access and activity on the land.
	Being visible on the land.
	Preserving and protecting cultural and sacred sites.
	Ability to come together and gather on the land.
HEALTHY WILDLIFE	Honouring culture, language, and history.
	Healthy wildlife populations (e.g., abundance, distribution, and condition).
HEALTHY WATER	Healthy wildlife habitat (e.g., abundance, distribution, functionality, and condition).
	Muskeg and wetlands.
	Healthy lakes and streams.
	Healthy groundwater.
HEALTHY LAND	Limit new disturbance.
	Reverse cumulative effects to a healthy, functioning baseline condition.
	Advance eco-cultural restoration.
	Manage for a changing climate.
PROSPERITY	Meaningful benefits to DRFN members.
	Healthy and fulfilled DRFN members.



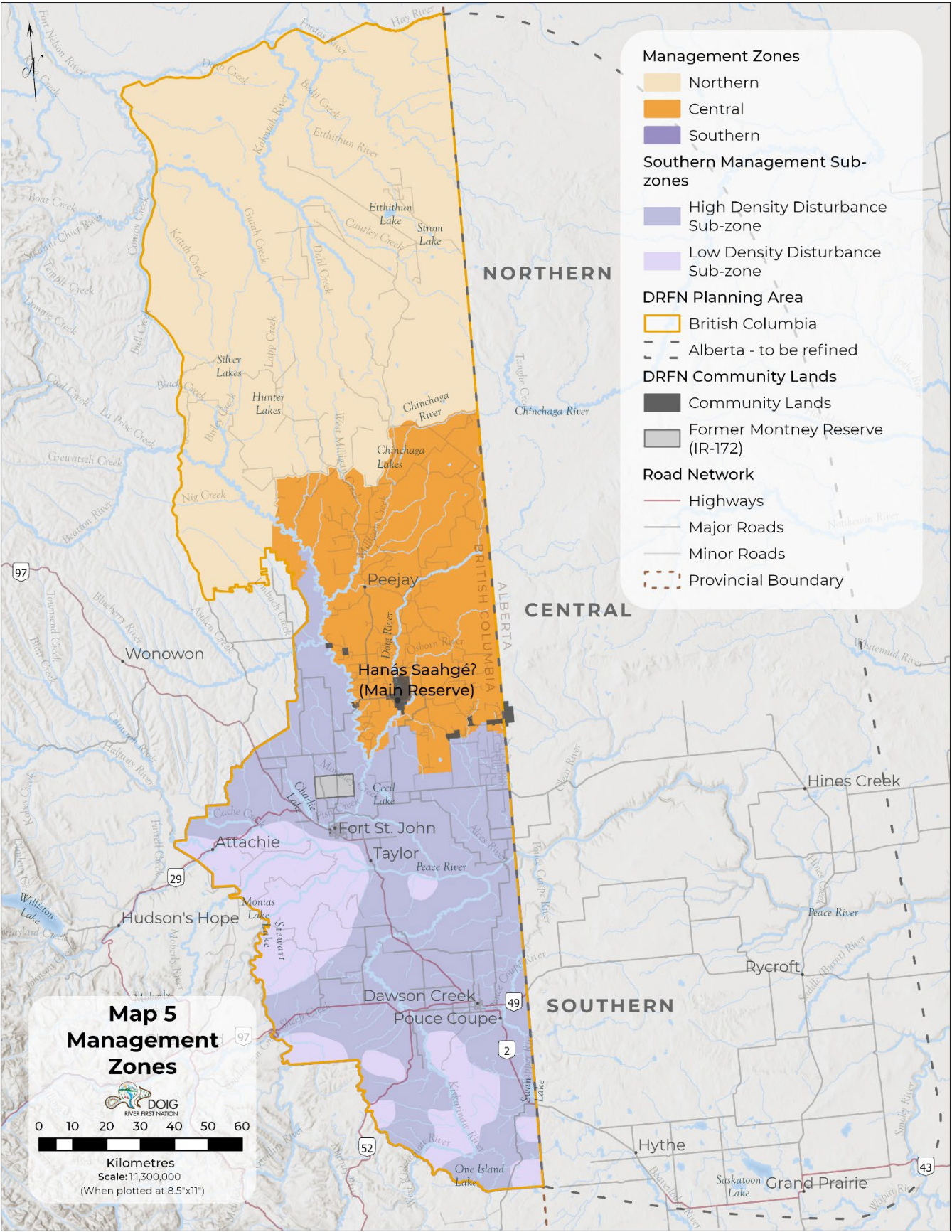
4.2 DRFN Planning Area

The DRFN Planning Area is the area within which DRFN is focusing its land use planning and is within the DRFN Water Stewardship Area, so the planning themes and foundational goals described above all apply here as well. We have established management objectives (listed on the following page), each with corresponding policies and management directives that apply throughout the DRFN Planning Area to achieve those foundational goals. We have also established three Management Zones within the DRFN Planning Area (see **Map 5** to the right). The Zones were crafted to reflect the varying conditions, constraints and opportunities that are found throughout the Planning Area (e.g., land tenure, land cover, land use activities and disturbance levels), and to manage them accordingly. Each Management Zone contains:

- ✦ A management vision.
- ✦ Planning targets (e.g., restoration goals).
- ✦ Disturbance thresholds (e.g., key management tools).
- ✦ Management responses (e.g., offsetting requirements).

These zone-specific items are designed to work in tandem with the Land Use Plan’s overarching management objectives, policies, and management directives.

Important Note → *The Southern Management Zone includes a Low-Density Disturbance Sub-Zone. Areas within this sub-zone represent the few the remaining pockets of land still capable of functioning at an ecosystem level and support relatively healthy wildlife populations. Protecting these areas from further impacts is critically important. The High-Density Disturbance Sub-Zone represents areas that have been heavily impacted, and where DRFN members are largely alienated from.*



Management Zones – Overview and Vision for the Future

NORTHERN
MANAGEMENT
ZONE



This is the least disturbed part of the DRFN Planning Area, despite active forestry operations and oil and gas development. DRFN’s trail system links the community lands to this northern area, where there are traplines, cabins, and other cultural use areas. Roads are relatively sparse here and access to some areas is limited. Enhanced Planning Areas within this management zone (see Part 4.3) have been established to protect cultural and ecologically important areas.

***Vision for
the Future***

- Remote wilderness found in the Northern part of our territory has remained isolated and unspoiled.
- Diverse, intact and abundant habitats have allowed wildlife to thrive, especially in our preferred areas.
- Our network of gathering places, trapping cabins, and trapline trails supports our ability to practice our traditional ways.
- Well-functioning and biodiverse ecosystems ensure the land is resilient to natural disturbance and climate change.

CENTRAL
MANAGEMENT
ZONE



This area contains a diverse mix of land uses. Parts of this area are still relectively intact while others are highly disturbed. It contains some of the highest densities of documented community use. All of our community lands, including our reserves and other land holdings, are found here – within a mosaic of private and public tenures. *K'ih tsaa?dze* Tribal Park is also located here and some of our most important cultural sites. The Central Management Zone requires careful land use planning and management.

***Vision for
the Future***

- This zone is healed from impacts, allowing our members to practice their rights and culture close to home, year-round.
- Our members have regained their trust in resources and can once again rely on the land and all it provides.
- Gathering places and cabins have been established throughout the zone.
- Our highly valued places have been formally protected from land use impacts.
- Our network of cultural trails and access corridors lead us to our important areas.
- Our wildlife is thriving and present in the areas our members prefer to hunt.
- Our culture is celebrated and visible throughout this zone.

SOUTHERN
MANAGEMENT
ZONE



The area is highly impacted as it is dominated by private land tenures, agricultural production, and urban centres. On the north side of the Peace River, only narrow corridors along rivers are still forested and support concentrations of wildlife. Along and on the south side of the Peace River, some crown land and forest exist along waterways and in the foothills of the mountains to the south and west. To account for these areas of lower disturbance, this zone has been split into High- and Low-Density Disturbance Sub-Zones. Most of this management zone is covered in oil and gas tenures and wells linked together by a dense network of pipelines. Historically, this area was an integral part of DRFN’s seasonal round. There are still trails that link the community lands far south of the Peace River. However, land users have been largely displaced to other areas.

***Vision for
the Future***

- Our position as First People of the Peace, and our historic and current use is respected and honored.
- Economic activity is vibrant, providing opportunity for our Nation and its members, contributing to our future.
- We have achieved greater balance between cultural and ecological values, and resource development.
- Improved policies and stewardship have protected and restored important areas and addressed our planning themes.
- Our effort to layer impacts has reduced encroachment of resource development and land use into intact areas.
- Designated connectivity areas have enhanced the condition and abundance of values.

Planning Targets, Disturbance Thresholds, and Management Responses

DRFN has established the following for each zone:



Planning Targets (e.g. restoration targets)



- Disturbance Thresholds** (e.g. key management tools)
- Linear Disturbance Density (LDD) Threshold
 - Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) Threshold
 - High-Value Forest (HVF) Threshold
 - Capable Summer Habitat (CSH) Threshold
 - Capable Winter Habitat (CWH) Threshold



Management Responses (e.g. offsetting requirements)



Proposals for new land use and resource development must identify potential impacts during engagement and consultation with DRFN in accordance with DRFN’s Impact Assessment Policy (see Appendix H).

Important Note(s) → This means verifying existing levels of disturbance in the applicable planning units and clearly demonstrating how the proposal will impact the disturbance thresholds established in this document.



Management responses are required if any of the disturbance thresholds established in this Land Use Plan (e.g. the Key Management Tools identified in the following tables) cannot be met in the applicable planning units.

Important Note(s) → The starting point for a management response will be offsetting the proposed disturbance in as per the ratios outlined in this Land Use Plan and in accordance with the DRFN Offsetting Implementation Plan.



- In some situations, alternative management responses may be required in accordance with DRFN policies (see Appendices A, D, F and H).
- The management responses required will be determined at DRFN’s discretion following initial engagement and consultation.

				PLANNING TARGETS	DISTURBANCE THRESHOLDS ¹²					STANDARD MANAGEMENT RESPONSES ¹³
Management Zone	Total Area	Reference Condition <i>disturbance in 1984</i>	Current Condition <i>disturbance in 2023</i>	Restorable Area ¹⁴ <i>portion of ‘current condition’ that could be restored</i>	Linear Disturbance Density (LDD) Threshold <i>Maximum combined LDD allowed in the Total Area</i>	Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) Threshold <i>Maximum % of Total Area that is ECA</i>	High-Value Forest (HVF) Threshold <i>Minimum % of Total Area that is HVF</i>	Suitable Summer Habitat (SSH) Threshold <i>Minimum area that is SSH</i>	Suitable Winter Habitat (SWH) Threshold <i>Minimum area that is SWH</i>	Offsetting Requirements <i>Minimum offsetting ratio that is required if any disturbance thresholds are not being met.¹⁵</i>
Northern	1,185,955 ha	Total = 117,153 ha <i>Human Caused = 8,495 ha Natural = 108,658 ha</i>	Total = 491,935 ha <i>Human Caused = 68,483 ha Natural = 423,452 ha</i>	Total = 366,864 ha <i>Human Caused = 24,009 ha Natural = 342,855 ha</i>	Threshold = 0.6 km/km ² <i>Current = 4.31 km/km² Reference = TBD</i>	Threshold = 30% <i>Current = 32% Reference = 7.5%</i>	Threshold = 20% <i>Current = 3.0% Reference = 1.2%</i>	Threshold = 763,437 ha ¹⁶ <i>Current = 419,230 ha Reference = TBD</i>	Threshold = 642,946 ha ^E <i>Current = 73,752 ha Reference = TBD</i>	4:1 for a project within an existing disturbance footprint. 6:1 for a project <u>not</u> within an existing disturbance footprint.
Central	473,217 ha	Total = 346,993 ha <i>Human Caused = 33,495 ha Natural = 313,498 ha</i>	Total = 140,693 ha <i>Human Caused = 64,773 ha Natural = 75,920 ha</i>	Total = 70,653 ha <i>Human Caused = 16,242 ha Natural = 54,411 ha</i>	Threshold = 0.6 km/km ² <i>Current = 7.41 km/km² Reference = TBD</i>	Threshold = 30% <i>Current = 30% Reference = 57%</i>	Threshold = 16% <i>Current = 1.8% Reference = 1.4%</i>	Threshold = 304,147 ha ¹⁷ <i>Current = 78,425 ha Reference = TBD</i>	Threshold = 285,769 ha ^F <i>Current = 21,306 ha Reference = TBD</i>	6:1 for a project within an existing disturbance footprint. 8:1 for a project <u>not</u> within an existing disturbance footprint.
Southern <i>High-Density Disturbance Sub-Zone</i>	748,027 ha	Total = 458,530 ha <i>Human Caused = 351,401 ha Natural = 107,129 ha</i>	Total = 405,486 ha <i>Human Caused = 355,601 ha Natural = 49,885 ha</i>	Total = 54,797 ha <i>Human Caused = 31,520 ha Natural = 23,277 ha</i>	Threshold = 1.5 km/km ² <i>Current = 7.60 km/km² Reference = TBD</i>	Threshold = 35% <i>Current = 57% Reference = 57%</i>	Threshold = 18% <i>Current = 4.9% Reference = 0.9%</i>	Threshold = 61,604 ha ¹⁸ <i>Current = 9,635 ha Reference = TBD</i>	Threshold = 74,014 ha ^G <i>Current = 15,397 ha Reference = TBD</i>	2:1 for a project within an existing disturbance footprint. 3:1 for a project <u>not</u> within an existing disturbance footprint.
Southern <i>Low-Density Disturbance Sub-Zone</i>	249,875 ha	Total = 71,519 ha <i>Human Caused = 15,648 ha Natural = 55,871 ha</i>	Total = 100,973 ha <i>Human Caused = 65,584 ha Natural = 35,389 ha</i>	Total = 35,302 ha <i>Human Caused = 26,576 ha Natural = 8,726 ha</i>	Threshold = 0.6 km/km ² <i>Current = 8.90km/km² Reference = TBD</i>	Threshold = 30% <i>Current = 31% Reference = 22%</i>	Threshold = 30% <i>Current = 18.9% Reference = 2.9%</i>	Threshold = 31,136 ha ¹⁹ <i>Current = 11,999 ha Reference = TBD</i>	Threshold = 42,352 ha ^H <i>Current = 27,299 ha Reference = TBD</i>	3:1 for a project within an existing disturbance footprint. 4:1 for a project <u>not</u> within an existing disturbance footprint.

 **Important Note →** Disturbance Thresholds and Standard Management responses may change in the future based on consultation with industry proponents and testing through pilot projects.

¹² Disturbance thresholds assume both human and natural disturbance. Natural disturbance includes areas impacted by forest fires and other natural occurrences like insect infestations. Over time these areas can recover to support healthy functioning ecosystems. When this happens, these areas are no longer considered ‘disturbed’.

Disturbance thresholds identified in **RED TEXT** are not being met.

¹³ The offsetting requirements established in this table are a standard management response and the assumed starting point. Additional and/or alternative management responses may be considered in accordance with DRFN’s Impact Assessment Polity (see Appendix H). Different offsetting requirements apply within EPA’s (see Section 4.3)

¹⁴ Restorable human disturbance is the area covered by non-permanent disturbances such as forestry cutblocks and well sites. Non-restorable human disturbances are things unlikely to change over time like roads, railways, urban areas, and private land.

¹⁵ Projects footprints must fall completely within an existing disturbance footprint for the lower of the two offsetting ratios to apply.

¹⁶ SSH and SWH thresholds in the Northern Zone are based on **65%** of ‘capable’ habitat being ‘suitable’.

¹⁷ SSH and SWH thresholds in the Central Zone are based on **70%** of ‘capable’ habitat being ‘suitable’.

¹⁸ SSH and SWH thresholds in the Southern High-Density Sub-Zone are based on **35%** of ‘capable’ habitat being ‘suitable’.

¹⁹ SSH and SWH thresholds in the Southern Low-Density Sub-Zone are based on **65%** of ‘capable’ habitat being ‘suitable’.

Management Objectives and Policies

DRFN has also established several Management Objectives that apply throughout the DRFN Planning Area. These Management Objectives are consistent with the Foundational Goals established in Section 4.1 and are supported by a series of policies. As the table below indicates, these policies are included at the back of this plan in a series of appendices.

FINDING KĒ MAAH – LAND USE PLANNING THEMES, MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

CULTURAL RESILIENCE	HEALTHY WILDLIFE	HEALTHY WATER	HEALTHY LAND	PROSPERITY
<p>Management Objectives and Policies</p> <p><i>Note: management objectives are listed below with relevant policies for implementation. See the appendices identified below for full details and specific management directives.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and enhance DRFN members ability to practice Treaty Rights and enjoy being active on the land (Appendix A). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails and Cultural Infrastructure Policy Access Management Policy High-Value Forest (HVF) Policy Cultural Experience Policy Preserve and protect sacred and culturally significant places (Appendix B). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sacred Places Policy Cultural and Heritage Resources Policy Honour and celebrate DRFN’s history as Tsáá? ché ne dane – the original “First People” of the Peace River region (Appendix C). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility Policy Cultural Awareness Policy 	<p>Management Objectives and Policies</p> <p><i>Note: management objectives are listed below with relevant policies for implementation. See the appendices identified below for full details and specific management directives.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Protect remaining habitat that can support wildlife that is culturally and ecologically significant (Appendix D). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat and Biodiversity Policy Restore healthy, abundant, and widely distributed populations of wildlife that are culturally and ecologically significant (Appendix E). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife Population Policy 	<p>Management Objectives and Policies</p> <p><i>Note: management objectives are listed below with relevant policies for implementation. See the appendices identified below for full details and specific management directives.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure there is a wide distribution of abundant and clean surface water that can support healthy ecosystems and important cultural uses (Appendix F). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muskeg and Wetlands Policy Lakes and Streams Policy Artificial Waterbodies Policy Protect important sources of groundwater – especially those with close links to surface water – from contamination and depletion (Appendix G). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquifer Policy Spring Policy 	<p>Management Objectives and Policies</p> <p><i>Note: management objectives are listed below with relevant policies for implementation. See the appendices identified below for full details and specific management directives.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reverse cumulative effects and restore the landscape to a healthy and functioning baseline condition within 50 years (Appendix H). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact Assessment Policy Disturbance, Fragmentation and Connectivity Policy Eco-Cultural Restoration Policy Minimize and adapt to climate change impact (Appendix I). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Policy Ensure a full range of healthy and functioning ecosystem types (Appendix J). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native and Invasive Species Policy Fire Policy 	<p>Management Objectives and Policies</p> <p><i>Note: management objectives are listed below with relevant policies for implementation. See the appendices identified below for full details and specific management directives.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support a diversified and sustainable local economy (Appendix K). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Policy Forestry Policy Petroleum and Natural Gas Policy Renewable Energy and Transmission Policy Minerals and Mining Policy Agriculture Policy Private Ownership and Rural Development Policy Urban Development Policy Ensure land use and ongoing resource development results in meaningful benefits to DRFN (Appendix L). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation and Benefits Policy Generate own source revenue for DRFN (Appendix M). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atmospheric Benefits Policy

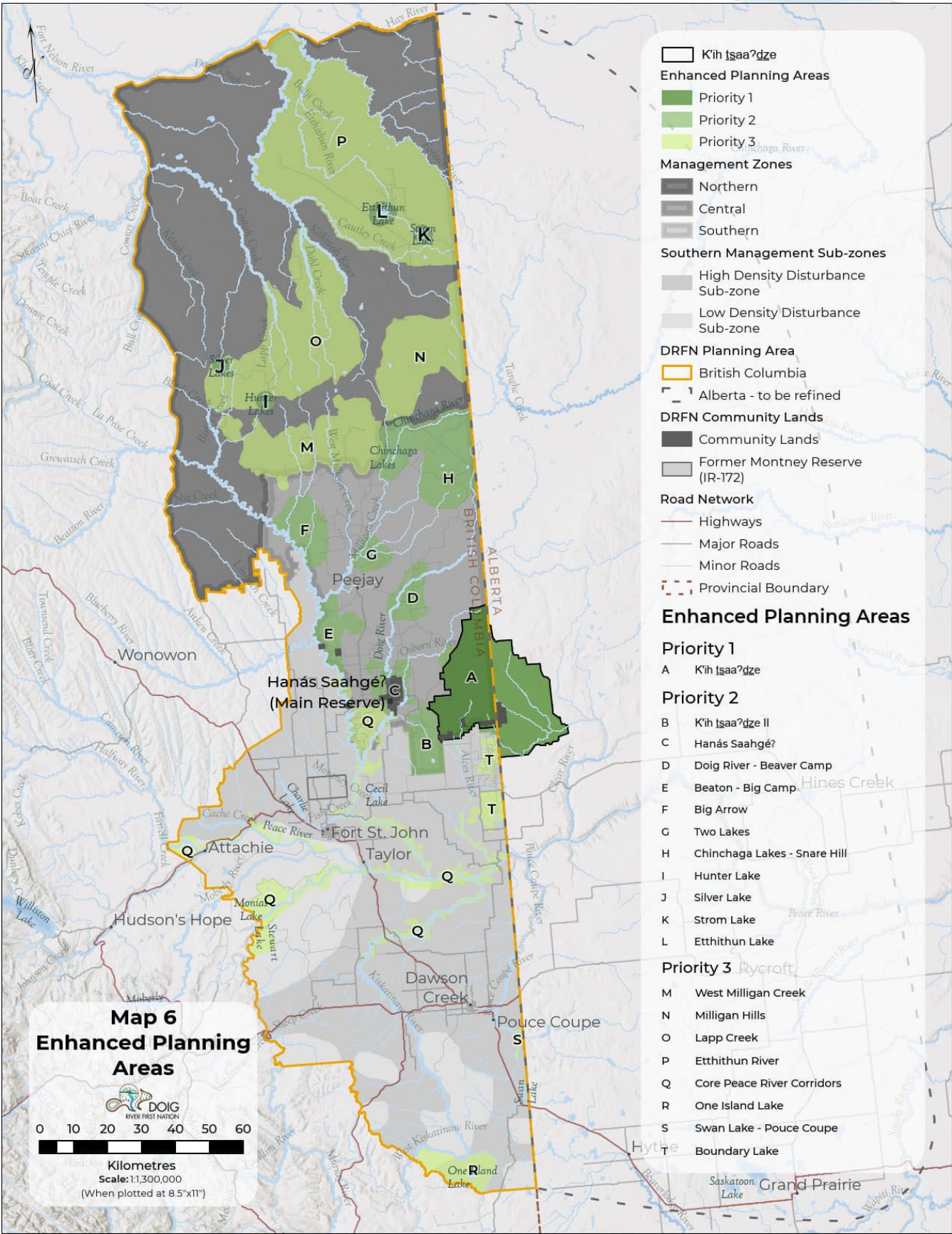
4.3 Enhanced Planning Areas

The DRFN Land Use Plan establishes Enhanced Planning Areas within the DRFN Planning Area (see **Map 6** to the right). These are special areas that DRFN members have identified that have high ecological and cultural significance. They must be in a healthy condition and largely undisturbed for DRFN members to be able to practice their Treaty Rights in a meaningful way. This will require a combination of:

- Protecting what is left from new development.
- Addressing historic impacts through eco-cultural restoration.
- Development and implementation of sub-level operational plans.

There are three categories of Enhanced Planning Areas:

PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3
<p>Overview:</p> <p>Our highest priority Enhanced Planning Area is <i>K'ih tsaa?dze</i> Tribal Park, which is at the centre of our cultural homeland and contains many important cultural sites, camps and use areas.</p>	<p>Overview:</p> <p>Core community use areas and culturally significant areas identified by DRFN members many years ago. DRFN members have a long history of active use and stewardship here.</p>	<p>Overview:</p> <p>Ecologically and culturally important areas. These boundaries are based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member knowledge and input, traditional use information. Analyses of values. The best ecological and land use tenure data available.
<p>Vision for the Future:</p> <p>Full eco-cultural restoration and formal, permanent protections.</p>	<p>Vision for the Future:</p> <p>Full eco-cultural restoration and formal protections.</p>	<p>Vision for the Future:</p> <p>Strategic eco-cultural restoration and a combination of protection measures, management objectives, and policies.</p>
<p>Additional Note:</p> <p>First priority for sub-level operational planning.</p>	<p>Additional Note:</p> <p>Second priority for sub-level operational planning.</p>	<p>Additional Note:</p> <p>Third priority for sub-level operational planning.</p>



Priority 1 and 2 EPA’s - Planning Targets, Disturbance Thresholds, and Standard Management Responses

DRFN members have a long history of active use and stewardship in our Priority 1 and 2 Enhanced Planning Areas. Full eco-cultural restoration and formal protections, including immediate interim protections in these areas are required in our Priority 1 and 2 Enhanced Planning Areas. In addition, sub-level operational and management plans that establish long-term protection mechanisms to prevent unwanted impacts from all industries are required.

Map Reference Letter	Enhanced Planning Areas 1 & 2	Total Area	Reference Condition	Current Condition	PLANNING TARGETS
			disturbance in 1984	disturbance in 2023	Restorable Disturbance portion of ‘current condition’ that could be restored
A	K'ih tsaa?dze	97,113 ha	Total = 7,978 ha Human Caused = 1,978 ha Natural = 6,000 ha	Total = 65,599 ha Human Caused = 8,038 ha Natural =57,561 ha	Total = 51,258 ha Human Caused = 9,983 ha Natural = 41,275 ha
B	K'ih tsaa?dze II	18,865 ha	Total = 14,009 ha Human Caused = 3,364 ha Natural = 10,645 ha	Total = 11,211 ha Human Caused =4,822 ha Natural = 6,389 ha	Total = 6,169 ha Human Caused = 1,227 ha Natural =4,942 ha
C	Hanás Saahgé? (Main Reserve)	13,466 ha	Total = 2,279 ha Human Caused = 537 ha Natural =1,742 ha	Total = 2,463 ha Human Caused = 1,323 ha Natural = 1,140 ha	Total = 1,005 ha Human Caused = 442 ha Natural = 563 ha
D	Doig River – Beaver Camp	12,207 ha	Total = 12,079 ha Human Caused = 194 ha Natural = 11,885 ha	Total = 1,570 ha Human Caused = 1,150 ha Natural =60 ha	Total = 574 ha Human Caused = 552 ha Natural = 22 ha
E	Beaton – Big Camp	16,074 ha	Total = 15,744 ha Human Caused = 1 ha Natural = 15,743 ha	Total =1,196 ha Human Caused = 916 ha Natural = 280 ha	Total = 583 ha Human Caused = 352 ha Natural = 231 ha
F	Big Arrow	21,297 ha	Total = 17,355 ha Human Caused = 2 ha Natural = 17,353 ha	Total = 1,922 ha Human Caused = 1,447 ha Natural = 475 ha	Total = 1,037 ha Human Caused = 732 ha Natural = 305 ha
G	Two Lakes	8,211 ha	Total = 8,107 ha Human Caused = 29 ha Natural = 8,078 ha	Total = 1,241 ha Human Caused = 918 ha Natural = 323 ha	Total = 660 ha Human Caused = 466 ha Natural = 194 ha
H	Chinchaga Lakes – Snare Hill	56,033 ha	Total = 53,461 ha Human Caused = 2 ha Natural = 53,459 ha	Total = 6,180 ha Human Caused = 4,454 ha Natural = 1,726 ha	Total = 2,958 ha Human Caused = 1,526 ha Natural = 1,432 ha
I	Hunter Lake	2,224 ha	Total = 342 ha Human Caused = 0 ha Natural = 342 ha	Total =1,751 ha Human Caused = 163 ha Natural = 1,588 ha	Total = 1,111 ha Human Caused = 74 ha Natural = 1,037 ha
J	Silver Lake	1,731 ha	Total = 0 ha Human Caused = 0 ha Natural = 0 ha	Total = 1,620 ha Human Caused = 89 ha Natural = 1,531	Total = 1,125 ha Human Caused = 20 ha Natural = 1,105 ha
K	Strom Lake	2,220 ha	Total = 961 ha Human Caused = 185 ha Natural = 776 ha	Total = 1,422 ha Human Caused = 598 ha Natural = 824 ha	Total = 66 ha Human Caused = 66 ha Natural = 0
L	Etthithun Lake	4,014 ha	Total = 0 ha Human Caused = 0 ha Natural = 0 ha	Total = 200 ha Human Caused = 195 ha Natural = 5 ha	Total = 62 ha Human Caused = 58 ha Natural = 4 ha


DISTURBANCE THRESHOLDS AND RESPONSES

We do not anticipate new development occurring in these areas. Disturbance that is necessary to meet our planning objectives must follow enhanced management tools that will be determined on a case-by-case basis in collaboration with DRFN.

INTERM MEASURES AND OPERATIONAL PLANS

For each EPA listed to the left – and in the table on the next page – the following will be implemented:

- Initial interim measures that allow for protection, management of cumulative effects, and progress on restoration.
Note: eventually detailed “sub-level” management plans will be developed for each EPA.
- Wind down existing industrial resource development operations (if applicable).
- Buy back/cancel existing tenures or let them expire.
- Formal and permanent protection measures.
- Area specific restoration plans with committed funding for implementation in a timely manner.

 **Important Note** → Disturbance Thresholds and Standard Management responses may change in the future based on consultation with industry proponents and testing through pilot projects.

*Offsetting N/A for Priority 1 and 2 EPAs

Priority #3 EPA’s – Planning Targets, Disturbance Thresholds, and Standard Management Responses

Sub-level operational and management plans that establish long-term protection mechanisms to prevent unwanted surface impacts from all industries are required – and will be developed in the future – for Priority 3 EPA’s. These plans will build upon and refine the planning targets, disturbance thresholds, and management responses outlined in the table(s) below.

Map Reference Letter	Enhanced Planning Area	Total Area	Reference Condition disturbance in 1984	Current Condition disturbance in 2023	PLANNING TARGETS	DISTURBANCE THRESHOLDS ²⁰					STANDARD MANAGEMENT RESPONSES ²¹
					Restorable Disturbance ²² portion of ‘current condition’ that could be restored	Linear Disturbance Density (LDD) Threshold Maximum combined LDD allowed in the Total Area	Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) Threshold Maximum % of Total Area that is ECA	High-Value Forest (HVF) Minimum % of Total Area that is HVF	Suitable Summer Habitat (SSH) Threshold Minimum area that is SSH	Suitable Winter Habitat (SWH) Threshold Minimum area that is SWH	Offsetting Requirements Minimum offsetting ratio that is required if any disturbance thresholds are not being met. ²³
M	West Milligan Creek	66,431 ha	Total = 7,706 ha Human Caused = 14 ha Natural = 7,692 ha	Total = 19,262 ha Human Caused = 4,357 ha Natural = 14,905 ha	Total = 12,507 ha Human Caused = 2,006 ha Natural = 10,501 ha	Threshold = 0.6 km/km ² Current = 8.09 km/km ² Reference = TBD	Threshold = 20% Current = 22% Reference = 8.7%	Threshold = 30% Current = 0% Reference = 0%	Threshold = 52,947 ha ²⁴ Current = 13,986 ha Reference = TBD	Threshold = 41,156 ha ^E Current = 1,350 ha Reference = TBD	6:1 for a project within an existing disturbance footprint. 8:1 for a project <u>not</u> within an existing disturbance footprint.
N	Milligan Hills	57,452 ha	Total = 16,419 ha Human Caused = 340 ha Natural = 16,079 ha	Total = 24,976 ha Human Caused = 2,437 ha Natural = 22,539 ha	Total = 20,986 ha Human Caused = 937 ha Natural = 20,049 ha	Threshold = 0.6 km/km ² Current = 3.87 km/km ² Reference = TBD	Threshold = 20% Current = 36% Reference = 22%	Threshold = 30% Current = 2.5% Reference = 1.1%	Threshold = 45,622 ha ²⁶ Current = 17,215 ha Reference = TBD	Threshold = 34,006 ha ^F Current = 1,311 ha Reference = TBD	6:1 for a project within an existing disturbance footprint. 8:1 for a project <u>not</u> within an existing disturbance footprint.
O	Lapp Creek	120,633 ha	Total = 853 ha Human Caused = 12 ha Natural = 841 ha	Total = 86,189 ha Human Caused = 5,030 ha Natural = 81,159 ha	Total = 73,261 ha Human Caused = 1,778 ha Natural = 71,483 ha	Threshold = 0.6 km/km ² Current = 4.24 km/km ² Reference = TBD	Threshold = 20% Current = 54% Reference = 0.5%	Threshold = 30% Current = 2.2% Reference = 0.4%	Threshold = 95,672 ha ²⁸ Current = 28,407 ha Reference = TBD	Threshold = 81,815 ha ^G Current = 3,301 ha Reference = TBD	6:1 for a project within an existing disturbance footprint. 8:1 for a project <u>not</u> within an existing disturbance footprint.
P	Etthithun River	224,103 ha	Total = 13,415 ha Human Caused = 720 ha Natural = 12,695 ha	Total = 69,147 ha Human Caused = 9,741 ha Natural = 59,406 ha	Total = 47,570 ha Human Caused = 3,503 ha Natural = 44,067 ha	Threshold = 0.6 km/km ² Current = 3.38 km/km ² Reference = TBD	Threshold = 20% Current = 22% Reference = 4.5%	Threshold = 30% Current = 3.3% Reference = 2.1%	Threshold = 178,240 ha ³⁰ Current = 105,763 ha Reference = TBD	Threshold = 164,891 ha ^H Current = 15,987 ha Reference = TBD	6:1 for a project within an existing disturbance footprint. 8:1 for a project <u>not</u> within an existing disturbance footprint.

 **Important Note →** Disturbance Thresholds and Standard Management responses may change in the future based on consultation with industry proponents and testing through pilot projects.

²⁰Disturbance thresholds assume both human and natural disturbance. Natural disturbance includes areas impacted by forest fires and other natural occurrences like insect infestations. Over time these areas can recover to support healthy functioning ecosystems. When this happens, these areas are no longer considered ‘disturbed’.

Disturbance thresholds identified in RED TEXT are not being met currently.

²¹ The offsetting requirements established in this table are a standard management response and the assumed starting point. Additional and/or alternative management responses may be considered in accordance with DRFN’s Impact Assessment Polity (see Appendix H).

²² Restorable human disturbance is the area covered by non-permanent disturbances such as forestry cutblocks and well sites. Non-restorable human disturbances are things unlikely to change over time like roads, railways, urban areas, and private land.

²³ Projects footprints must fall completely within an existing disturbance footprint for the lower of the two offsetting ratios to apply.

²⁴ SSH and SWH thresholds in the West Milligan Creek EPA are based on 80% of ‘capable’ habitat being ‘suitable’.

²⁶ SSH and SWH thresholds in the Milligan Hills EPA are based on 80% of ‘capable’ habitat being ‘suitable’.

²⁸ SSH and SWH thresholds in the Lapp Creek EPA are based on 80% of ‘capable’ habitat being ‘suitable’.

³⁰ SSH and SWH thresholds in the Etthithun River EPA are based on 80% of ‘capable’ habitat being ‘suitable’.

Map Reference Letter	Enhanced Planning Area	Total Area	Reference Condition disturbance in 1984	Current Condition disturbance in 2023	PLANNING TARGETS	DISTURBANCE THRESHOLDS ²⁰					STANDARD MANAGEMENT RESPONSES ²¹
					Restorable Disturbance ²² portion of 'current condition' that could be restored	Linear Disturbance Density (LDD) Threshold Maximum combined LDD allowed in the Total Area	Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) Threshold Maximum % of Total Area that is ECA	High-Value Forest (HVF) Minimum % of Total Area that is HVF	Suitable Summer Habitat (SSH) Threshold Minimum area that is SSH	Suitable Winter Habitat (SWH) Threshold Minimum area that is SWH	Offsetting Requirements Minimum offsetting ratio that is required if any disturbance thresholds are not being met. ²³
	Q	Core Peace River Corridors	83,112 ha	Total = 25,284 ha Human Caused = 4,224 ha Natural = 21,060 ha	Total = 21,671 ha Human Caused = 12,763 ha Natural = 8,908 ha	Total = 4,669 ha Human Caused = 4,271 ha Natural = 398	Threshold = 0.3 km/km ² Current = 4.66 km/km ² Reference = TBD	Threshold = 20% Current = 19% Reference = 23%	Threshold = 30% Current = 14.7% Reference = 2.0%	Threshold = 23,157 ha ³³ Current = 3,312 ha Reference = TBD	Threshold = 28,581 ha ^l Current = 7,161 ha Reference = TBD
	R	One Island Lake	18,934 ha	Total = 1,976 ha Human Caused = 77 ha Natural = 1,899 ha	Total = 12,045 ha Human Caused = 4,159 ha Natural = 7,886 ha	Total = 7,657 ha Human Caused = 2,093 ha Natural = 5,564 ha	Threshold = 0.6 km/km ² Current = 9.41 km/km ² Reference = TBD	Threshold = 20% Current = 48% Reference = 7.9%	Threshold = 30% Current = 7.0% Reference = 3.1%	Threshold = 1,172 ha ³⁵ Current = 517 ha Reference = TBD	Threshold = 1,848 ha ^l Current = 1,749 ha Reference = TBD
	S	Swan Lake – Pouce Coupe	1,468 ha	Total = 130 ha Human Caused = 120 ha Natural = 10 ha	Total = 276 ha Human Caused = 239 ha Natural = 37 ha	Total = 28 ha Human Caused = 26 ha Natural = 2 ha	Threshold = 0.6 km/km ² Current = 6.12 km/km ² Reference = TBD	Threshold = 20% Current = 16% Reference = 8.7%	Threshold = 30% Current = 42.6% Reference = 0%	Threshold = 213 ha ³⁷ Current = 0 ha Reference = TBD	Threshold = 424 ha ^k Current = 62 ha Reference = TBD
	T	Boundary Lake	13,066 ha	Total = 3,898 ha Human Caused = 374 ha Natural = 3,524 ha	Total = 6,322 ha Human Caused = 2,721 ha Natural = 3,601 ha	Total = 3,253 ha Human Caused = 1,052 ha Natural = 2,201 ha	Threshold = 0.3 km/km ² Current = 10.26 km/km ² Reference = TBD	Threshold = 20% Current = 40% Reference = 23%	Threshold = 30% Current = 1.3% Reference = 0.2%	Threshold = 7,783 ha ³⁹ Current = 851 ha Reference = TBD	Threshold = 7,260 ha ^l Current = 84 ha Reference = TBD

³³ SSH and SWH thresholds in the Core Peace River Corridors EPA are based on 65% of 'capable' habitat being 'suitable'.
³⁵ SSH and SWH thresholds in the One Island Lake EPA are based on 65% of 'capable' habitat being 'suitable'.
³⁷ SSH and SWH thresholds in the Swan Lake – Pouce Coupe EPA are based on 65% of 'capable' habitat being 'suitable'.
³⁹ SSH and SWH thresholds in Boundary Lake EPA are based on 65% of 'capable' habitat being 'suitable'.

PART 5: IMPLEMENTATION



Image: The next generation of Tsáá? ché ne dane

PART 5 IMPLEMENTATION

This section outlines the processes and procedures that we will follow to ensure accountability for implementing the Land Use Plan. It includes a framework for monitoring, reviewing, and amending.

5.1 Ensuring Consistency with the Land Use Plan

As DRFN creates more plans and documents and develops more policies, bylaws, and proposals, the inclusion of a “Land Use Plan Statement” will be necessary. A Land Use Plan Statement is used to confirm the consistency of any new item with this document. If the new item is not consistent with the Land Use Plan, either a revision of the new item must be made or an amendment to the Land Use Plan must occur, following the procedure outlined in Part 5.3 (below).

5.2 Data Sharing and Use

DRFN expects that the established principles of data ownership, control, access, and possession (OCAP⁴⁰) will guide work required to ensure conformance with the Land Use Plan. DRFN will provide or verify data required to apply management tools, identify important habitat and forest, assess the disturbance footprint and cumulative impacts, and conduct project-specific planning requiring the mobilization of consistent, high-quality data. DRFN will remain the owner of all Land Use Plan data distributed for these and other purposes, and that data may only be distributed by DRFN, not by recipients. If DRFN is not providing the data being used for these purposes and for Land Use Plan implementation and conformance, data sources must be provided by the user(s), and consent given by DRFN.

5.3 Adaptive Management

The approach to land planning and management will adapt to new monitoring, research, and assessment data as it becomes available. DRFN Land Guardians are actively monitoring their lands and waters through community-based monitoring methods. As we monitor conditions over time, additional management responses may be implemented that could include limits to disturbance or disturbance caps applied to all or part of a zone, and other new planning targets, management tools, and responses. The DRFN Land Guardians are expected to play an active role in adaptive management through Land Use Plan implementation and project monitoring.

⁴⁰ The First Nations Principles of OCAP® - The First Nations Information Governance Centre (fnigc.ca), last accessed April 2024

5.4 Future Work and Pilot Projects

Policies have been included at the back of this plan in a series of appendices. They have been included to show the direction DRFN plans on taking to implement its management objectives. However, future work is required to fully implement some of these policies. Future work required is highlighted for each policy. DRFN will initially work to implement these policies through established consultation processes. It will also work with industry proponents to test the effectiveness and feasibility of policies through a series of pilot projects. We do not anticipate any major changes in direction; however, specific directives will likely be refined in the future as a result.

5.5 Reviewing the Land Use Plan

The Land Use Plan is a living document that will need to be monitored and reviewed regularly. The following is a process for these reviews:

🌿 Technical Review (annual)

Once a year a meeting will be held with Chief and Council and key staff to review the Land Use Plan. The purpose of the meeting will be to evaluate the effectiveness of the Land Use Plan in implementing existing priorities and dealing with conflicts that may have arisen.

🌿 Community Review (annual)

Once a year a community meeting will be held to review the Land Use Plan. The purpose of the community meeting is to determine if community priorities have changed and if the Land Use Plan should be updated to reflect those changes. For efficiency reasons, the community meeting could take place in conjunction with another meeting (e.g., a regularly scheduled community meeting).

It will be the responsibility of our Lands Manager to schedule the reviews.



Image: DRFN members Jack Askoty and Lori Lineham

5.6 Amendments to the Land Use Plan

From time to time, amendments will need to be made to the Land Use Plan. All amendments, whether arising from an annual technical meeting or an annual community review held under Part 5.4, the following process will be followed:

Step 1: Staff Review

Lands Manager will consider a potential amendment to the Land Use Plan (e.g., a policy or boundary change) to:

- ✦ Determine whether the proposed amendment maintains the strategic objectives and “spirit and intent” of this document.
- ✦ Identify any concerns with the proposed amendment.

After the review is completed, the Lands Manager will write a “Summary Report” to Chief and Council outlining the proposed amendment and key considerations.

Important Note → *It is within the authority of the Lands Manager to seek out professional advice (e.g., legal counsel, planning and engineering advice, etc.), if necessary. The Lands Manager may also ask the applicant for additional documentation (e.g., impact study, development plan).*



Step 2: Presentation to Chief and Council

Chief and Council will review the “Summary Report” and will formally decide through a Band Council Resolution (BCR) process whether to move forward with the proposed amendment. If a decision is made to move forward:

- ✦ A community meeting will be scheduled by the Lands Manager.
- ✦ At a minimum, the community meeting will be advertised on the DRFN website and posted at the Band office.

Step 3: Community Meeting

At the community meeting the following must occur:

- ✦ A detailed explanation of the proposed amendment.
- ✦ The Lands Manager or staff acting on their behalf must be present.
- ✦ Opportunity for community feedback and comment must be made.

Step 4: Final Decision by Chief and Council

The Chief and Council will vote on a BCR to formally “Approve” the proposed changes. If the changes are “Approved,” the Lands Manager will notify members on the DRFN website and post a notice at the Band office.

Step 5: Revise Document

The Lands Manager will amend the Land Use Plan within 60 Days.

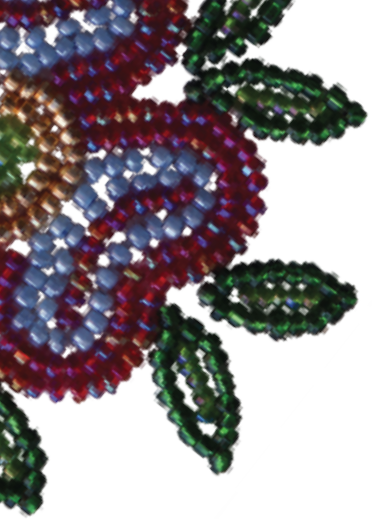
Important Note → *Minor amendments can be made by DRFN staff without triggering all the steps listed above. However, Chief and Council must be informed. A minor amendment is something that provide clarity, but don’t change direction. For example, elaborating on a policy to ensure the intended outcome is achieved.*



Image: DRFN youth camp







Appendix A

Cultural Resilience

Management Objective #1

Maintain and Enhance DRFN Members' Ability to Practice Treaty Rights and Enjoy Being Active on the Land

Policies:

Trails and Cultural Infrastructure Policy

Access Policy

High-Value Forest Policy

Cultural Experience Policy

Operational Management Tools:

Schedule A-1 – High-Value Forest

Trails and Cultural Infrastructure Policy

Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes: confidential mapping of DRFN trails and cultural infrastructure may be made available upon request and will be subject to a strict Non-Disclosure Agreement.

Date of Last Revision: June 11, 2024

Purpose of Policy:

- To protect and maintain DRFN’s network of trails and cultural sites and infrastructure.

Planning Context:

DRFN has commissioned and completed many studies that document its members connection to the land within the DRFN Planning Area. Through these studies, DRFN has identified and mapped important cultural infrastructure including (but not limited to) the following:

- Cabins.
- Camp sites.
- Historic and current trail network (including trapline trails).
- Village sites.

High concentrations of cultural infrastructure are found within the Enhanced Planning Areas. However, cultural infrastructure also exists beyond these areas.

Future Work:

The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support the implementation of this policy:

- Ongoing traditional use and mapping studies.
- Ongoing trail construction and maintenance, including installing DRFN trail signs.
- Re-establishing important trails in accordance with DRFN’s Trails Framework and Implementation Plan.
- Work with BC Government on understanding permitting requirements for cultural trails and streamlining any required permitting process.
- Designate each trail in the DRFN Trail Network and identify a refined list of approved uses and users.

Other Important Notes:

Trails are a particularly important indicator of Indigenous and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. They are critical for DRFN members’ ability to practice Treaty Rights and they maintain a connection to the land and important places. DRFN has developed a *Trails Framework and Implementation Plan* that is complementary to, but separate from, the DRFN Land Use Plan.

Not all parts of the DRFN Planning Area have been thoroughly studied, documented, and mapped.

Management Directives:

- New land use and resource developments that propose to directly impact or come within 5km of DRFN trails or cultural infrastructure requires a deep and meaningful level of engagement and consultation.

Note: Where trails and cultural infrastructure mapping has been shared by DRFN for the purpose of project planning, it is to remain confidential and subject to a strict Non-Disclosure Agreement with the Nation. DRFN’s trails and cultural infrastructure cannot be shown on external maps.

- The following are initial minimum default setbacks that must be applied until collaboration with the DRFN Lands Department is complete and a site-specific setback is identified.
 - 500 m from trails
 - 1 km from all other cultural infrastructure

Note: Final development setbacks from DRFN trails and cultural infrastructure are to be determined by the DRFN Lands Department and will consider what is being impacted and the activity that is being proposed.

- Proposals for new land uses and resource developments within 5km of trails or cultural infrastructure must be in alignment with the management directives outlined in DRFN’s *Cultural Experience Policy* (see Appendix A).
- Any field verification of mapped trails and/or cultural infrastructure must be done with participation from DRFN.
- Trails will be made accessible following a disturbance such as road construction or logging (e.g., they should be cleared of debris and made accessible).
- Trail use must be consistent with DRFN’s system of trail designation and approved uses as outlined below:

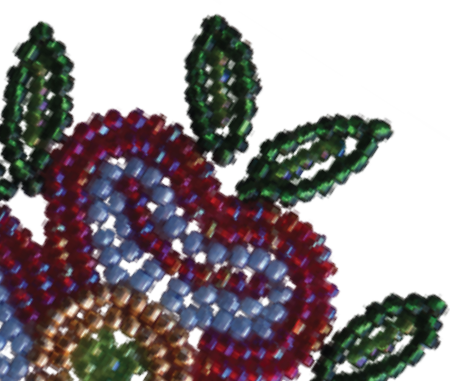
Trail Designation	Approved Use(s)
a. Community Cultural Trails	Limited to use by DRFN members only
b. Cultural Tourism Trails	Use by DRFN members and cultural tourism use
c. Public Trails	Recreational use by the public.

Note: Cultural tourism use must be in alignment with other policies and management directives outlined in DRFN’s Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Policy (see Appendix K)

- Proponents who propose a new resource development or land use must indicate how their project may contribute to increased fire risk around cultural infrastructure and how that risk will be mitigated during and after development or land use change.

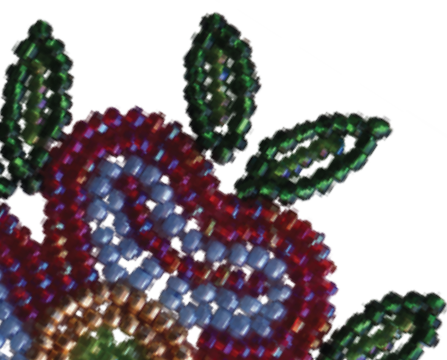
Access Management Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: June 11, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure restricted access areas are upheld during planning.2. Work with the BC Government and industry to ensure roads and trails that are critical to the practice of Treaty Rights are maintained and are not included in restoration planning.3. Ensure new proposed land use and resource development does not impact members’ ability to access the areas where they prefer to practice their Treaty Rights and culture.4. New access routes that become unnecessary after initial construction or development or are not essential for operations and maintenance will be restored immediately following construction.5. New or existing access routes that will not be regularly used during operations and maintenance will be deactivated.6. New access routes must be built to the standard most appropriate to meet the LUP vision for that zone.7. Right-of-way widths and surfaced road widths must be minimized to the extent possible.8. For forestry activities, permanent access should be a maximum of 4% of the merchantable cutblock area in all DRFN land use planning zones.9. New land uses or proposed development cannot limit access of DRFN members to lands beyond the proposed new project Location.10. Debris that creates a barrier for access must be cleared from trails and roads post construction.11. Any plans to roll-back, restore or deactivate roads must be reviewed with the DRFN Lands Department.12. Avoid designing new roads to locations where access already exists. Prioritize a lower footprint over shorter travel routes.
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To maintain DRFN members ability to access areas where they practice their Treaty Rights.• To reduce or restrict access into key cultural areas used for the practice of Treaty Rights.• To reduce the cumulative footprint of roads and access corridors.		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>Access Corridors and the human access they provide, are arguably the most substantial environmental effects of natural resource development. Impacts such as landslides, siltation, alteration of natural drainage patterns, fragmentation, increased accessibility and anthropogenic use, and the degradation of many important cultural and environmental values can be attributed to access corridors. At the same time, DRFN members need to maintain access to traditional resources and culturally significant sites throughout the broader territory, but especially in the DRFN Planning Area. Balance is required. Land use, resource development and restoration should not increase competition for use, degrade the condition of the planning area and the values within it, or limit member’s access to important hunting, trapping, and gathering areas.</p>		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support the implementation of this policy moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing traditional use and mapping studies.• Expand this policy to include areas of restricted access in areas of EPA 1, 2, and 3 that are culturally important or ecologically sensitive.• Work with the BC Government to develop strategies for improved road planning and stewardship including coordinated multi-sector access planning, improved as-built road data and inventory, establishment of minimum standards of maintenance and access, and a plan to reduce the footprint of legacy access within the DRFN planning area.		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>Not all parts of the DRFN Planning Area have been thoroughly studied, documented, and mapped.</p>		



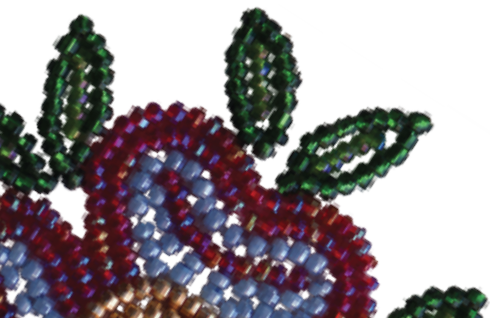
High-Value Forest (HVF) Policy

Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes: High-Value Forest areas (see Schedule A-1)</i>	Date of Last Revision: January 13, 2025	Management Directives: 1. Proposals for new land uses and resource developments must clearly identify potential impacts to HVF and thresholds in applicable planning units in accordance with DRFN’s <i>Impact Assessment Policy</i> (see Appendix H). <i>Note: The definition HVF is established in Schedule D-1 of this Appendix. HVF thresholds for various planning units are established as ‘Key Management Tools’ in Part 4 of the DRFN Land Use Plan.</i> 2. Impacts to HVF should be avoided wherever possible when planning new land uses and resource developments. 3. New land uses and resource developments are subject to minimum offsetting requirements if: a. HVF thresholds cannot be met in an applicable planning unit. b. The proposed project is located with an Enhanced Planning Area. <i>Note: minimum offsetting requirements are established as a ‘Management Response’ in Part 4 of the DRFN Land Use Plan and in accordance with the DRFN Offsetting Implementation Plan.</i> 4. Alternative management responses will be required where direct impacts to HVF cannot be avoided. This may include: a. Additional offsetting. b. Disturbance fees. c. Additional studies and assessment work before a project begins. d. Additional monitoring and research during through the life of a project. e. Commitments to adaptive management. f. Additional protections and measures in other areas (e.g. enhanced setbacks and retention areas). g. Implementing new and innovative techniques to minimize impacts. h. Commitments for timely clean-up. i. Enhanced ecocultural restoration. j. Surrendering tenures in other areas and land transfers. k. Enhanced efforts to layer disturbances (e.g. utilizing existing road networks even when inconvenient) <i>Note: Additional management responses will be determined by the DRFN Lands Department following initial engagement.</i> 5. HVF sensitivity analysis must be included in any Timber Supply Review done in the DRFN Planning Area.
Purpose of Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">To increase the abundance and distribution of high-value forest (HVF) across the planning areaTo retain a minimum amount of HVF across the DRFN planning units.		
Planning Context: <p>HVF is a forest type – defined by DRFN – that is preferred for the practice of Treaty Rights and a traditional way of life. This forest type also provides important habitat for wildlife. Functional forests of this preferred type and condition need to be present across the DRFN Planning Area to support ecological, social, cultural, and economic health.</p>		
Future Work: <p>The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support the implementation of this policy moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify HVF recruitment criteria.Create thresholds and associated land use directives for HVF recruitment areas to help ensure HVF thresholds can be met over time.Explore additional management tools and thresholds or policies for biodiversity and functionality as they relate to high value forest.Field verification of HVF mapping		
Other Important Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Map A-1 (next page) show the approximate extent of HVF throughout the DRFN Planning Area.Field work by proponents can be used to confirm the presence of HVF. However, field work that disputes the presence of HVF needs to be verified by DRFN.		



Cultural Experience Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: June 11, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Proposals for new land uses and resource developments must clearly identify potential impacts to on DRFN members’ ability to exercise their treaty rights and enjoy a quality cultural experience in accordance with DRFN’s <i>Impact Assessment Policy</i> (see Appendix H).Sensory disturbances should be minimized wherever possible when planning new land uses and resource developments. This means:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Ensuring functional visual screens are maintained along roads and travel routes to reduce impacts to visual quality from new land uses and resource developments.Engineered solutions to reduce disturbances including – but not necessarily limited to – traffic, noise, emissions, odor, dust, and light pollution.Construction and fieldwork that is considered disruptive should be timed to avoid overlapping with:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Key cultural use periods (e.g., August and September).Areas listed above in Management Directive #3.New land uses and resource developments in, or near, the culturally sensitive areas listed below must be consistent DRFN policies (also listed below):<ol style="list-style-type: none">Priority 1 and 2 Enhanced Planning Areas (see Part 4 <i>of the DRFN Land Use Plan</i>).DRFN Trails and Cultural Infrastructure (see <i>Trails and Cultural Infrastructure Policy</i> in Appendix A).Connectivity Corridors (see <i>Disturbance, Fragmentation and Connectivity Policy</i> in Appendix H).<p><i>Note: Proposals for land uses and resource developments in these areas, must give special consideration to the items items listed under Management Directives #2 and #3 in this policy.</i></p>
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">To reduce and mitigate the negative impact of land uses and resource developments on DRFN members’ ability to exercise their treaty rights and enjoy a quality cultural experience.		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>DRFN members’ ability to find Kę Maah (see Part 3 of the DRFN Land Use Plan) depends on the continued access to largely undisturbed lands. This is negatively influenced by the amount of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Noise.Odor.Visual quality.Light pollution.Dust pollution.Emissions.Traffic.Overcrowding and interactions with other land users.Lands, waters, and wildlife being in poor condition. <p>These issues are increasingly having adverse impacts on the ability of DRFN members to exercise their treaty rights and enjoy a quality cultural experience.</p>		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>Not Applicable.</p>		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>Not Applicable.</p>		



Schedule A-1 – High-Value Forest

Background:

High Value Forests (HVF) are defined as mature to old upland forested stands. The criteria for HVF were established using a combination of both community research and western science and goes beyond typical old forest protection methodologies. This has been done to ensure other forest types that are valued by DRFN members are represented across the landscape. DRFN members identify mature to old upland forested stands as being of particular importance for wildlife, and are frequently visited by DRFN members hunting, trapping, camping, harvesting traditional plants and medicines, and coming together to be on the land. Important wildlife species like moose use these forest types for food sources, predator evasion, and escape from inclement weather, among other uses. HVF have a varied stand structure (i.e. different tree sizes, a mix of live and dead trees, and gaps that allow for shrubs and early seral species establishment) that supports high biodiversity and functionality.

The landscape in our Territory is highly variable, and as a result HVF are distributed unevenly throughout the DRFN Planning Area. Their distribution by Management Zone is summarized here:

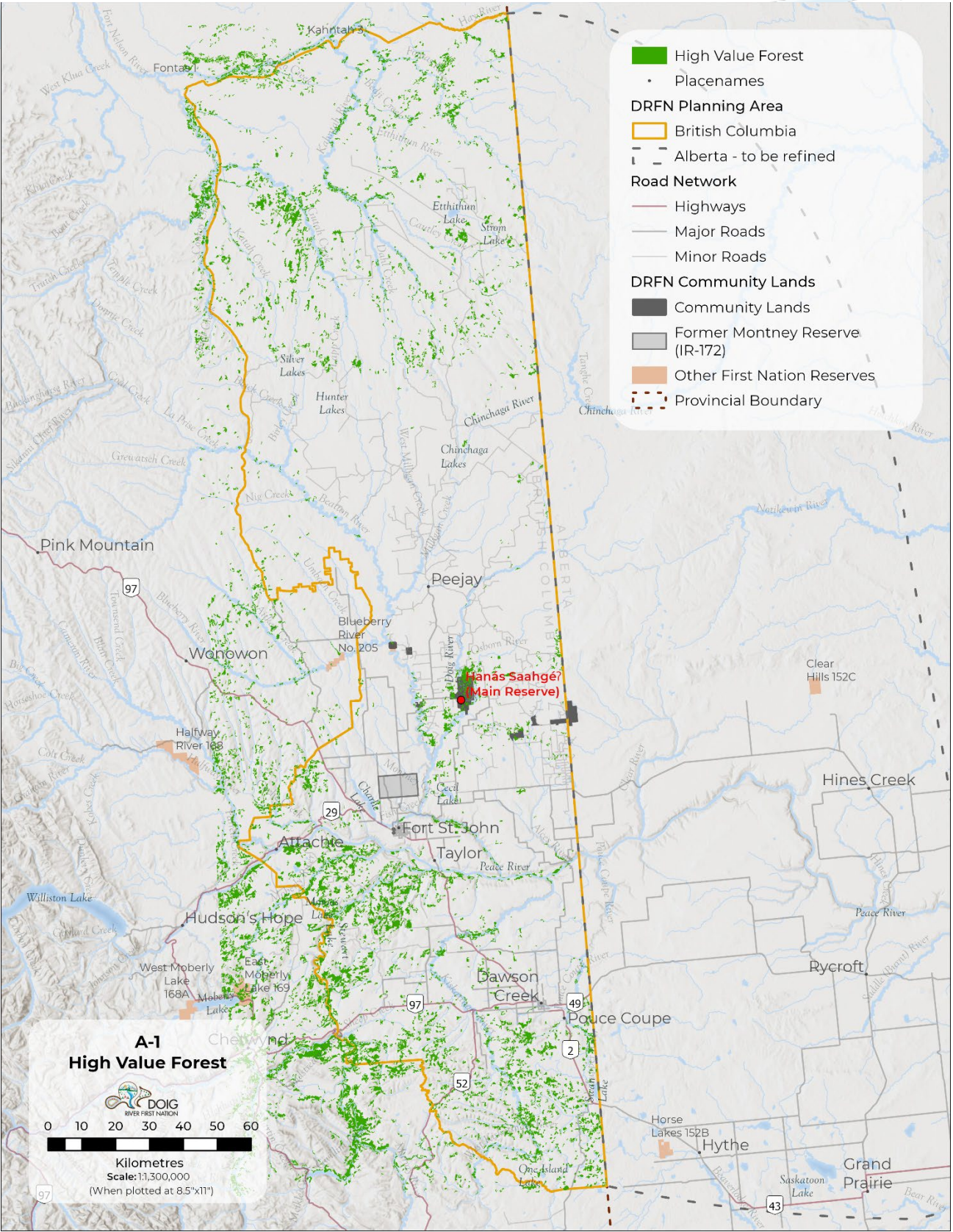
- In the North Management Zone, HVF occur more frequently north of Milligan Hills, in areas where slight elevation changes create favourable conditions for HVF growth. Here HVF are often associated with wetlands, streams, and rivers and are important connectivity corridors between these various riparian features. Note: approximately 30% of the Northern Management Zone was burned in 2023 wildfires, significantly reducing the amount of HVF in this zone.
- In the Central Management Zone, HVF are primarily found around the Doig and Beaton Rivers, reflective of the occurrence of both private land and low-lying wetland ecosystems that take up the bulk of this zone.
- In the South High Density Management Zone, HVF are scattered in between private land parcels and are associated with riparian features such as streams, rivers, and lakes.
- In the South Low Density Management Zone, HVF occur more frequently and in larger patches of continuous HVF types than the other management zones, because of less private land occurrence and pre-existing Old Growth Management Areas.

Thresholds:

Thresholds for HVF are set in consideration of the Natural Range of Variation and to ensure the future forest condition trends towards the reference condition and eventually the baseline condition with respect to forest types. The thresholds also ensure that there is an adequate amount of HVF distributed across the DRFN Planning Area, measured at a scale that is relevant to DRFN members’ ability to practice Treaty Rights.

Methodology for Analysis:

The current condition of HVF was determined using a VRI query where minimum of 10ha polygons of deciduous-leading stands aged 100+ with a site index of 15 or greater, coniferous-leading stands aged 120+ with a site index of 15 or greater, and wetland coniferous-leading stands aged 140+ with a site index of 15 or greater. Site index was used as an identifier of upland or mid-to-upper slope, higher productivity stands that DRFN members identify as High Value.





Appendix B

Cultural Resilience

Management Objective #2

Preserve and protect sacred and culturally significant places.

Policies:

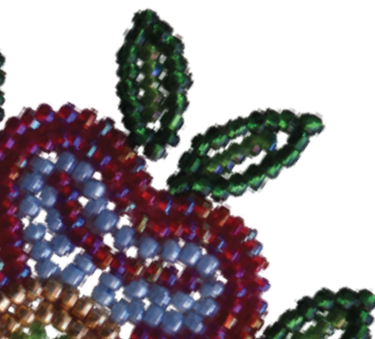
Sacred Places Policy

Cultural and Heritage Resources Policy



Sacred Places Policy

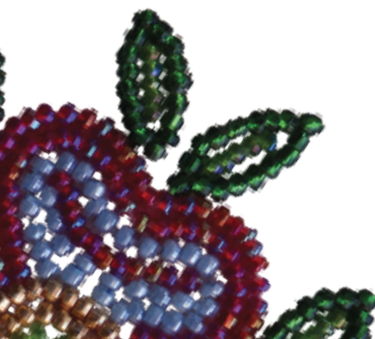
<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Confidential mapping of DRFN’s sacred places may be made available upon request and subject to a strict Non-Disclosure Agreement.</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: January 13, 2025</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Establish formal protections for Priority 1 and 2 Enhanced Planning Areas identified under Section 4.3 of the DRFN Land Use Plan.2. New land uses and resource developments <u>will not</u> be permitted near places that are sacred to DRFN members – including (but not limited to) the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Birth sites.b. Death sites.c. Burial sites.d. Story sites.e. Places associated with our <i>Nááchęne</i> (dreamers).f. Ceremony grounds. <p><i>Note: When sacred places mapping is shared by DRFN for the purpose of project planning, it is to remain confidential and subject to a strict Non-Disclosure Agreement with the Nation. DRFN’s sacred places cannot be shown on external maps.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. New land use and resource developments that come within 5km of Sacred Places requires a deep and meaningful level of engagement and consultation.4. An initial minimum default setback of 1 km from sacred places must be applied until collaboration with the DRFN Lands Department is complete and a site-specific setback is identified. <p><i>Note: Final development setbacks from DRFN’s Sacred Places are to be determined by the DRFN Lands Department and will consider the type of feature and the activity being proposed.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Ensure the integrity of sacred sites are protected and DRFN members can access these places for ceremonial and spiritual purposes.6. Any field verification of mapped Sacred Places must be done with participation from DRFN.7. Ensure cultural protocols are followed when sacred places are encountered in the DRFN Planning Area.
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To preserve and protect the integrity of places that are sacred and culturally significant to DRFN members.		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>DRFN has commissioned and completed many studies that have documented and mapped places that are sacred to its members. These include (but are not limited to) the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birth sites.• Death sites.• Burial sites.• Story sites.• Places associated with our <i>Nááchęne</i> (dreamers).• Ceremony grounds. <p>There are high concentrations of sacred placed within the Priority 1 and 2 Enhanced Planning Areas established under Section 4.3 of the DRFN Land Use Plan. However, there are also many sacred places beyond these areas – including on private land.</p>		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this strategy moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing traditional use and mapping studies.• Document cultural protocols for sacred places that can be shared with land users.		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not all parts of the DRFN Planning Area have been thoroughly studied, documented, and mapped.• Proponents may be required to conduct additional studies to determine potential impacts to sacred places if DRFN identifies concerns.		





Cultural and Heritage Resources Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Confidential mapping of DRFN’s Traditional Knowledge and use is available upon request and subject to a strict Non-Disclosure Agreement.</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: June 11, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Proponents and Land Users or their representatives must proactively seek to understand DRFN’s Traditional Ecological Knowledge, use, interests, and values during development planning.New land uses and resource developments must proactively seek to inventory and mitigate impacts to the following during development planning:Archaeological features.Cultural heritage features. <p><i>Note: Traditional knowledge and use information (including mapping) may be shared by DRFN for the purpose of project planning, but it is to remain confidential and is subject to a strict Non-Disclosure Agreement with the Nation. This information cannot be shown on external maps.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">New land use and resource developments that come within 5km of known cultural heritage and archaeological requires a deep and meaningful level of engagement and consultation.Where data gaps exist, proponents must provide capacity for DRFN to conduct a cultural heritage or Traditional Use Study.Field verification of cultural heritage features that overlap the proposed land use and resource development is strongly encouraged. <p><i>Note: This can be done collaboratively with DRFN members or capacity can be provided to the Nation to conduct the assessment and the results can be shared with the proponent.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">All Archaeological Impact Assessments undertaken in the DRFN Planning Area must involve DRFN members.All new land uses and resource developments where sub-surface impacts are proposed, must conduct Archaeological Impact Assessments – not just simple overview assessments.Archaeological work in the DRFN Planning Area should be undertaken by DRFN’s preferred contractors.Artifacts found in the DRFN Planning Area should be housed at a repository of DRFNs choosing.An initial minimum default setback of 500m from cultural heritage and archaeological features must be applied until collaboration with the DRFN Lands Department is complete and a site-specific setback is identified. <p><i>Note: Final development setbacks from DRFN’s cultural heritage and archaeological features are to be determined by the DRFN Lands Department and will consider the type of feature and the activity being proposed.</i></p>
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">To ensure Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and traditional use is understood, valued and applied in land use and resource development planning.To protect cultural heritage and archaeological resources in the DRFN Planning area. <p><i>Note: cultural heritage resources include the items listed below under “planning context”.</i></p>		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>DRFN has commissioned and completed many studies that have documented Traditional Knowledge and Use. Some of the features mapped during these studies include (but are not limited to) the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Food harvesting areas, including hunting and fishing areas and kill sites.Plant harvesting sites, including food, medicinal and ceremonial plants.Collection areas for earth and woody materials used for firewood, construction, and the manufacture of cultural items.Sources of drinking water.Areas important for cultural continuity and knowledge transfer.Sites with <i>Dane-ᓐᓐ ᓐᓐᓐ</i> placenames.Traditional Ecological Knowledge.Wildlife habitat features, and wildlife observations including animal signs and dens.Avoidance areas where cultural practices are no longer possible.		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this strategy moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ongoing Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Traditional Use Studies and mapping.		
<p>Important Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Not all parts of the DRFN Planning Area have been thoroughly studied, documented, and mapped.Proponents may be required to conduct additional studies if DRFN identifies concerns and data gaps.		





Appendix C

Cultural Resilience

Management Objective #3

Honour and celebrate DRFN's history as Tsáá? ché ne dane – the original “First People” of the Peace River region.

Policies:

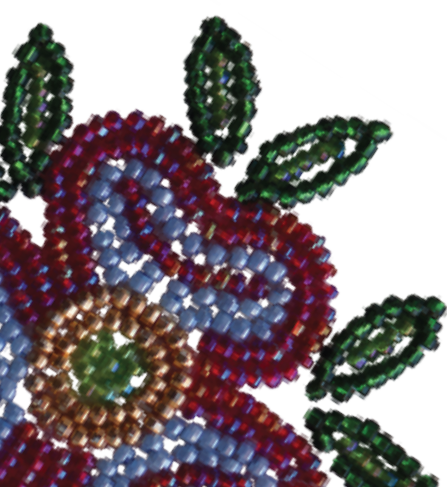
Visibility Policy

Cultural Awareness Policy



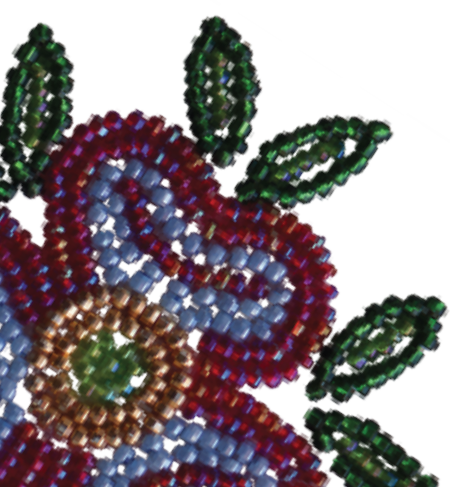
Visibility Policy

Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.	Date of Last Revision: July 11, 2024	Management Directives: <div><div>1.</div><div>Ensure <i>Dane-zaa Záágé?</i> (Beaver language) and important cultural landmarks are incorporated into materials such as maps and reports provided to the Lands Department.</div></div> <div><div>2.</div><div>Represent <i>Dane-zaa Záágé?</i> (Beaver language) into industry and Government signage found in the DRFN Planning Area.</div></div> <div><div>3.</div><div>Prioritize installation of signage and other commemorative items across the DRFN planning Area that improves awareness of DRFN’s cultural protocols and land management priorities.</div></div>
Purpose of Policy: <div><div>•</div><div>To ensure <i>Dane-zaa Záágé?</i> (Beaver language) and expressions of DRFN culture are visible and prominent throughout the DRFN Planning Area.</div></div>		
Planning Context: Being visible and active on the land is a top priority identified in DRFN’s Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP).		
Future Work: Not Applicable.		
Important Notes: Not Applicable.		





Cultural Awareness Policy		
Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.	Date of Last Revision: July 11, 2024	Management Directives: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure language, traditional knowledge and historic and contemporary land use practices are understood and incorporated into land and resource management.2. Facilitate installation of cultural education materials, such as Interpretative trails, signage, monuments, etc. across the DRFN Planning Area that improve awareness of culture and the land user experience.3. Proponents and regulators working in the Planning Area must have cross cultural training specific to Beaver Culture.
Purpose of Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ensure DRFN’s history as the <i>Tsááʔ ché ne dane</i> – the original “First People” of the Peace River region – is:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Clearly and widely understood.○ Acknowledged and respected.○ Celebrated where possible.		
Planning Context: Being visible and active on the land is a top priority identified in DRFN’s Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP).		
Future Work: Not Applicable.		
Important Notes: Not Applicable.		





Appendix E

Healthy Wildlife

Management Objective #5

Restore healthy, abundant, and widely distributed populations of wildlife that are culturally and ecologically significant.

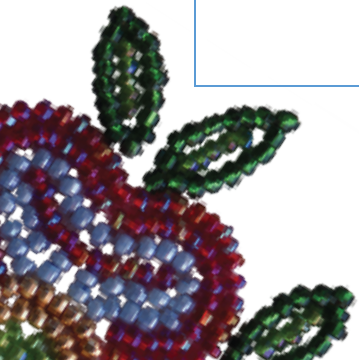
Policies:

Wildlife Population Policy



Wildlife Populations Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: June 11, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Proposals for new land uses and resource developments must clearly demonstrate alignment with DRFN’s <i>Wildlife Management Plan</i> during engagement and consultation with DRFN.Keystone species (e.g., moose and caribou) must be managed in tandem with other culturally important species to ensure balance and avoid conflicts. <i>Note: The table in Section 3.2 of the DRFN land use plan identifies culturally important species.</i>Predator control measures must be employed if deemed necessary by the DRFN Lands Department to stabilize wildlife populations in the short-term. <i>Note: To be effective, predator control must be paired with eco-cultural restoration (see Appendix H).</i>Hunting regulations must prioritise Treaty Rights and ensure DRFN members are fed before licenced non-Indigenous hunters and non-Treaty 8 Indigenous hunters. <i>Note: For example, members wish caribou to return to a level that supports a harvesting level of two caribou per family per year for fresh and dry meat and for hide and would allow for ongoing subsistence and cultural use.</i>DRFN Guardians will actively monitor, track, and report out on health and condition of wildlife.DRFN guardians have the jurisdiction and authority to monitor hunting activity, and in collaboration with the BC Conservation Officer Service, enforce regulations. <i>Note: This applies to licensed non-Indigenous hunters and Indigenous hunters from outside DRFN (including under sheltering agreements).</i>
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improve wildlife research and monitoring.Improve wildlife management and ensure DRFN values and Traditional and Ecological Knowledge are considered.Recover healthy, abundant, self-sustaining, and widely distributed populations of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keystone species (e.g., moose and caribou).Other culturally important species (e.g., porcupine). <p>} <i>indicators of overall ecosystem function and balance.</i></p>		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>Moose (<i>hadaa</i>) and Caribou (<i>madziih</i>) are cultural keystone species and indicators of overall ecosystem health. If their populations are healthy, other species populations are likely healthy as well. As the summary below highlights, wildlife populations have been in decline for some time. Conservation and restoration are urgently required to stop and reverse this trend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>Moose</u> DRFN members report that moose populations began to rapidly decline around the 1980s. While DRFN members still sometimes see cows with calves, they report seeing fewer than they did historically. In the past, DRFN members would hunt moose until they got enough to feed their families. That is no longer the case. It has become increasingly difficult to find moose and members are increasingly relying on external food sources.<u>Caribou</u> DRFN members report that caribou numbers are declining, and have been since at least the 1990s, based on frequency of sightings and observations of herd size. Several factors are contributing to this decline across DRFN hunting territory, including the cumulative impacts of industrial development, particularly contamination and habitat fragmentation and the ensuing increased levels of predation, as well as climate change. These impacts are directly impeding DRFN harvesting practices and are threatening an important traditional food animal and a substantial body of DRFN Traditional Knowledge and practice. Members are not hunting caribou today out of hope that populations will recover. Many DRFN members have affirmed that the community would hunt caribou again when it can be done sustainably.<u>Other Culturally Important Species</u> Similar patterns have been observed for other species. Porcupine and hare have not been seen with any regularity or abundance since the 1980’s, apparent furbearer declines are making trapping efforts difficult and often unsuccessful, and waterfowl are absent from wetlands where they have normally been seen regularly.		





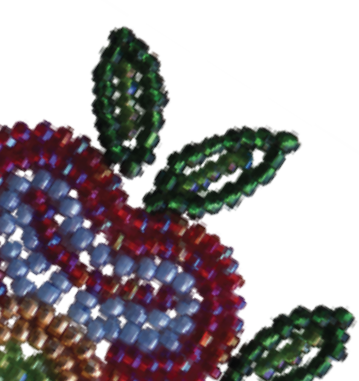
Future Work:

The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this strategy moving forward:

- Additional studies and habitat mapping within the DRFN Planning Area on a regular and ongoing basis to monitor changes over time – including:
 - Abundance.
 - Survival.
 - Recruitment.
 - Cow and calf ratios (for moose and caribou).
 - Distribution.
 - Habitat use.
 - Movement patterns.
- Work with DRFN hunters to complete body condition surveys to collect samples to evaluate wildlife health.
- Complete DRFN’s *Wildlife Management Plan*, which will include – but is not limited – to the following:
 - Assessment on fish biodiversity, abundance, condition, and distribution.
 - Assessment on the status of furbearers, and recommendations for their recovery.
 - Assessment on the status of porcupine and hare, and recommendations for their recovery.
 - Assessment on the status of black and grizzly bears, and recommendations for their management.
 - Assessment on the status of ungulate species other than moose, caribou, and bison.
 - Recommendations for revisions to provincial hunting regulations and management approaches.
- Secure stable long-term funding for the DRFN Guardian Program that provides flexibility to monitor areas DRFN sees necessary (not just resource development project areas). For example, the establishment of DRFN Guardian Trust Fund that industry and government contribute too.
- Develop a process for issuing Sheltering Agreements.
- Incorporate both western and cultural indicators of wildlife health into the DRFN LUP and broader DRFN Planning Framework.

Other Important Notes:

- DRFN’s *Wildlife Management Plan* (when complete) will be complementary too, but separate from, the DRFN Land Use Plan.





Appendix D

Healthy Wildlife

Management Objective #4

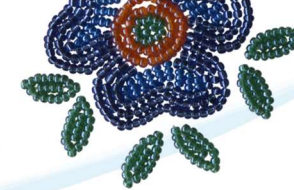
Protect remaining habitat that can support wildlife that is culturally and ecologically significant.

Policies:

Habitat and Biodiversity Policy

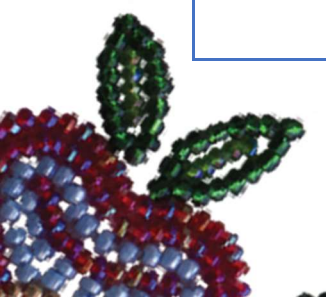
Operational Management Tools:

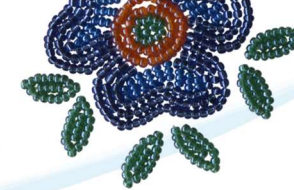
Schedule D-1 – Preferred Summer and Winter Habitat



Habitat and Biodiversity Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Preferred Summer and Winter Habitat (see Schedule D-1)</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: January 13, 2025</p>
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Return the land to a balanced and functional ecological state capable of sustaining a wide diversity of healthy wildlife populations.Establish, maintain, restore and improve large contiguous areas of habitat required to sustain populations of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keystone species (e.g., moose and caribou).Other culturally important species (e.g., porcupine). <p><i>indicators of overall ecosystem function and balance.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduce negative impacts from land uses and resource developments to preferred habitats.	
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>Moose (<i>hadaa</i>) and Caribou (<i>madziih</i>) are cultural keystone species and indicators of overall ecosystem health. If their populations are healthy, other species population are likely healthy as well. A starting point for evaluating population health is evaluating the quantity and quality of habitat that is available. This means evaluating the full range of habitat used throughout the seasons – including spring (calving season), summer (fattening season), fall (rutting season), and winter (survival season). As the summary below suggests, moose and caribou populations require large tracts of intact land, which benefit a wide range of other species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>Moose Habitat</u> Moose habitat includes a mosaic of mostly low-lying habitat types within the boreal black and white spruce biogeoclimatic zone. Much of this landscape is shrubby or treed wetland, while upland areas provide drier areas with larger timber. Small lakes and rivers provide other important habitat features, including tall shrubby areas that are important during the winter, and a refuge from bugs and heat in the summer. According to DRFN Knowledge holders, this mosaic of habitat is important to moose, as they move through their seasonal round.<u>Caribou Habitat</u> Boreal caribou require large range areas comprised of continuous tracts of undisturbed habitat. In general, boreal caribou prefer habitat consisting of mature to old-growth coniferous forest (e.g., jack pine, black spruce with abundant lichens, or muskegs and peat lands intermixed with upland or hilly areas. Large range areas reduce the risk of predation by allowing boreal caribou to maintain low population densities throughout the range and by allowing them to avoid areas of high predation risk, such as areas with high densities of alternate prey species (e.g., moose and deer) and predators (e.g., wolf and bear). <p>Habitat disturbance is increasing across the boreal forest, and habitat restoration is urgently needed to re-establish ecosystem function. Conservation efforts for threatened species like caribou are increasingly looking beyond single species, recognizing that threatened species are not separate from the ecosystem they inhabit, and that conservation efforts focused on one species may have unintended consequences for interacting species.</p>	
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this policy moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional habitat mapping within the DRFN Planning Area.Complete DRFN’s <i>Wildlife Management Plan</i>, which will include – but is not limited – to the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessment on fish biodiversity, abundance, and distribution.Assessment on the status of furbearers, and recommendations for their recovery.Assessment on the status of porcupine and hare, and recommendations for their recovery.Assessment on the status of black and grizzly bears, and recommendations for their management.Assessment on the status of ungulate species other than moose, caribou, and bison.Recommendations for revisions to provincial hunting regulations and management approaches.	





- Secure stable long-term funding for the DRFN Guardian Program that provides flexibility to monitor areas DRFN sees necessary (not just resource development project areas). For example, the establishment of DRFN Guardian Trust Fund that industry and government contribute too.

Other Important Notes:

- Maps D-1 and D-2 (see Scheule D-1) show the approximate extent of preferred (winter and summer) habitat throughout the DRFN Planning Area.
- Field work by proponents can be used to prove, or disprove, the existence of preferred (winter and summer) habitat.
- DRFN’s *Wildlife Management Plan* (when complete) will be complementary too, but separate from, the DRFN Land Use Plan.

Management Directives:

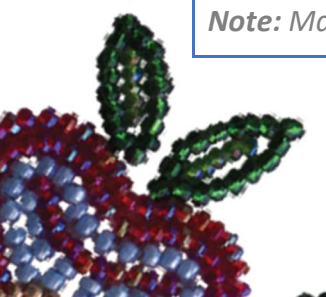
1. New land uses and resource developments must be consistent with DRFN’s *Wildlife Management Plan* and *Resource Development Guidelines* (see Schedule H-3 to Appendix H).
2. Proposals for new land uses and resource developments must clearly identify potential impacts to preferred (winter and summer) habitat and thresholds in applicable planning units in accordance with DRFN’s *Impact Assessment Policy* (see Appendix H):

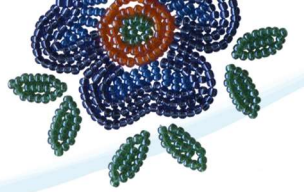
Note: The definition of preferred (winter and summer) habitat is established in Schedule D-1. Habitat thresholds are established as ‘Key Management Tools’ in Part 4 of the DRFN Land Use Plan.
3. Impacts to preferred (winter and summer) habitat areas should be avoided wherever possible when planning new land uses and resource developments.
4. New land uses and resource developments are subject to minimum offsetting requirements if:
 - a. Suitable (winter and summer) habitat thresholds cannot be met in an applicable planning unit.
 - b. The proposed project is located with an Enhanced Planning Area.
Note: minimum offsetting requirements are established as a ‘Management Response’ in Part 4 of the DRFN Land Use Plan and in accordance with the DRFN Offsetting Implementation Plan.
5. Additional management responses will be required if direct impacts to preferred (winter and summer) habitat cannot be avoided. This may include:
 - a. Additional offsetting.
 - b. Disturbance fees.
 - c. Additional studies and assessment work before a project begins.
 - d. Additional monitoring and research during through the life of a project.
 - e. Commitments to adaptive management.
 - f. Additional protections and measures in other areas (e.g. enhanced setbacks and retention areas).
 - g. Implementing new and innovative techniques to minimize impacts.
 - h. Commitments for timely clean-up.
 - i. Enhanced ecocultural restoration.
 - j. Surrendering tenures in other areas and land transfers.
 - k. Enhanced efforts to layer disturbances (e.g. utilizing existing road networks even when inconvenient).
Note: Additional management responses will be determined by the DRFN Lands Department following initial engagement.
6. New land uses and resource developments must leave undisturbed corridors of land that connect capable (winter and summer) habitat areas.

Note: The size of the corridors required will be determined by the DRFN Lands Department based on a review of ecological considerations. The goal is to ensure wildlife can easily move between important seasonal habitat areas. These may be in addition to the ‘connectivity corridors’ identified in Appendix H.
7. Prioritize habitat restoration in areas with ‘high capability’ (i.e. potential) but ‘low suitability’ (i.e. not currently functioning) as follows:
 - a. Both winter and summer habitat.
 - b. Winter habitat only.
 - c. Summer habitat only.

Lower Priority

Note: Maps D-3 and D-4 in Schedule D-1 of this Appendix identifies the approximate extent of priority habitat restoration areas.



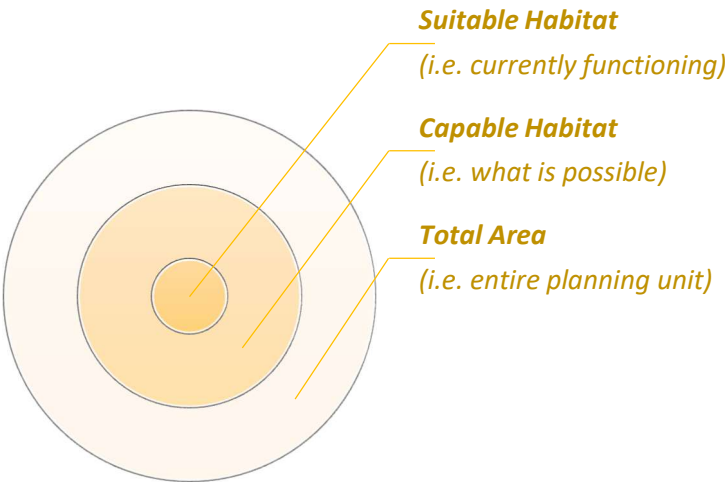


Schedule H-1 – Preferred Summer and Winter Habitat

Background:

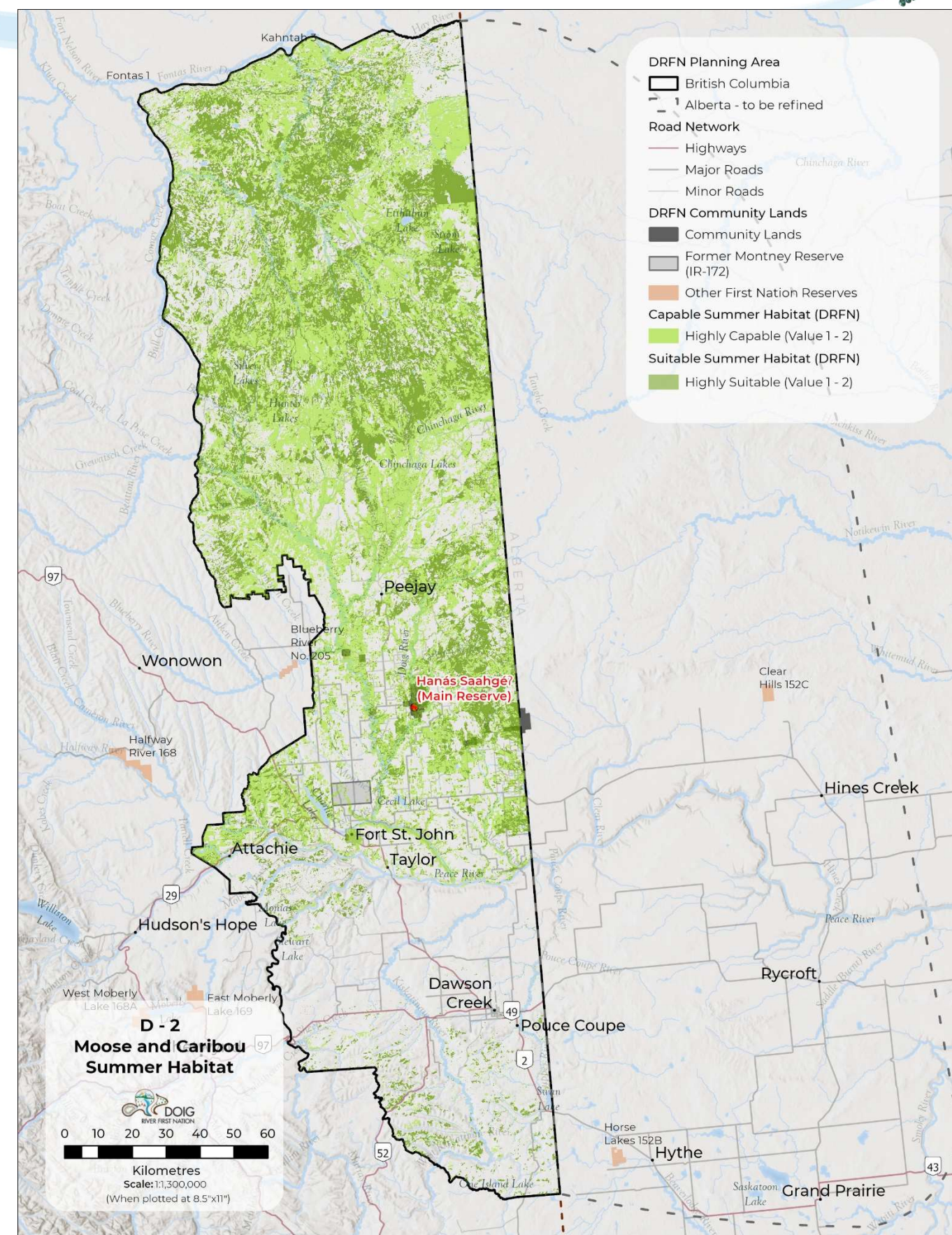
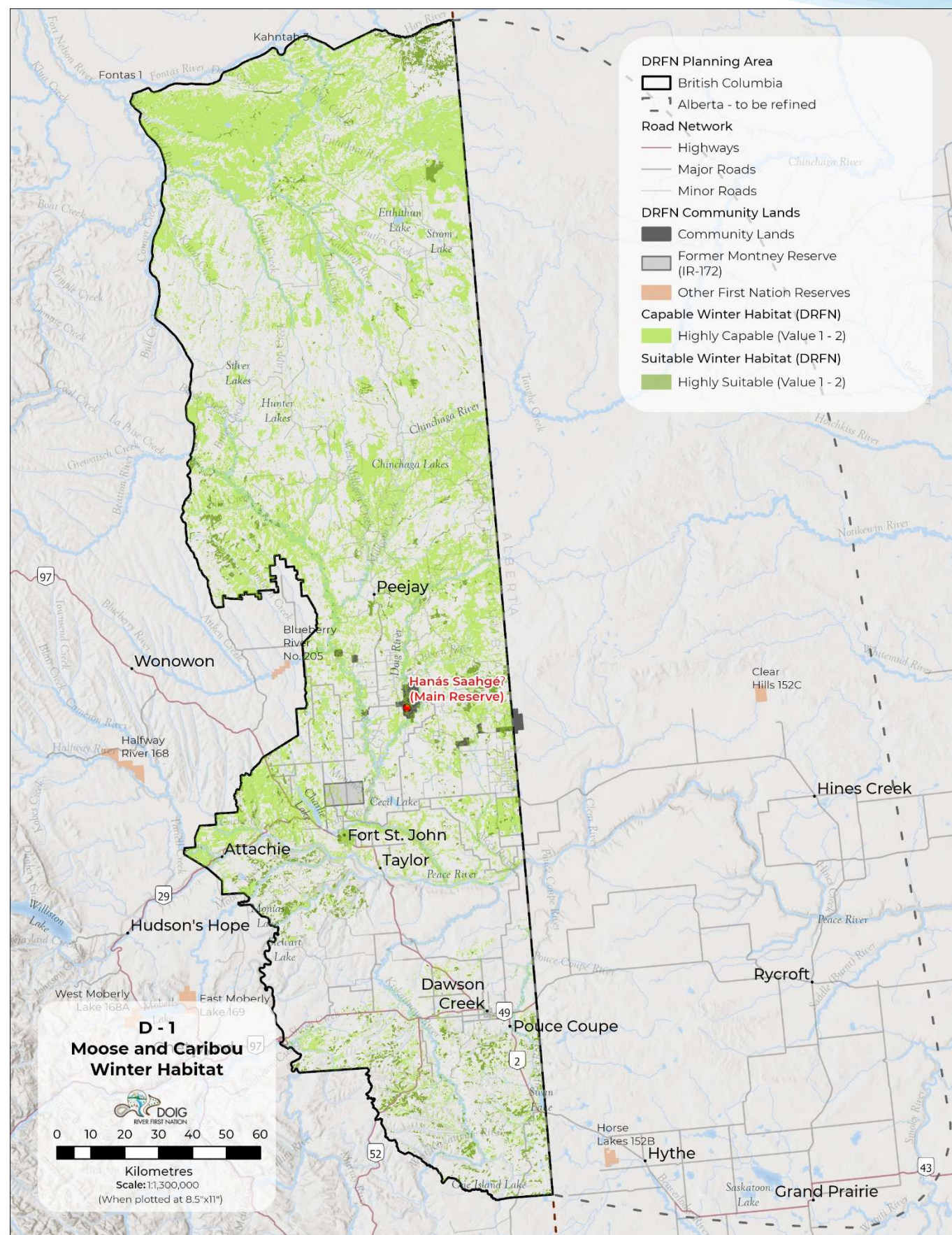
Moose (*hadaa*) and Caribou (*madziih*) are cultural keystone species and indicators of overall ecosystem health. If their populations are healthy, other species population are likely healthy as well. A starting point for evaluating population health is evaluating the quantity and quality of habitat that is available. DRFN has identified important (winter and summer) habitat areas for moose and caribou and combined those areas to create preferred habitat mapping. Preferred habitat areas include both of the following:

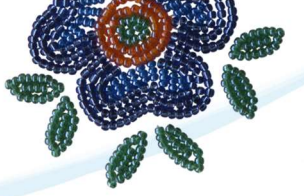
- Capable Habitat
A site is considered ‘capable’ if it has the potential to one day effectively function as wildlife habitat. Capability is a reference to what is possible – not necessarily the current situation.
- Suitable Habitat
Suitable habitat falls within what is possible. It represents how the habitat functions today and is reflection of current vegetation seral stage and disturbance.



Thresholds:

Thresholds for suitable (summer and winter) habitat are established for the various planning units identified in Part 4 of the DRFN Land Use Plan planning unit. The thresholds for suitable (summer and winter) habitat are based on a minimum percentage of capable habitat (i.e. what is possible) being suitable (i.e. actually functioning).





Methodology for Analysis:

Preferred (winter and summer) habitat is classified on a 6-class system consistent with BC RISC (1999) habitat mapping methodology, where 1 is the best habitat and 6 is nil value. Areas classified as 1 or 2 are preferred. This system considers disturbance. Habitat suitability is downgraded in areas occurring within 500 m of roads or other disturbance. Areas occurring directly within a disturbance footprint are downgraded by 3 while areas occurring within a 500 m disturbance buffer are downgraded by 2, down to a minimum of 6. The preferred (summer and winter) habitat areas shown on Map D-1 and Map D-2 were determined based on a combination of:

- Preferred Caribou Habitat

Caribou habitat has been modeled using existing Predictive Ecosystem Mapping (PEM) products available as part of Terrestrial Ecosystem Information (TEI) Data Distribution packages. Habitat attributes are based on those described in the *Woodlands Caribou/Boreal Caribou Recovery Plan* (ECCC 2012) for the Taiga Plain and Boreal Plain ecozones, previous Traditional Knowledge studies (2016), and recent engagements (2020-2023) with DRFN elders and hunters. Habitat use is divided by season given the different habitat requirements for each life requisite.

Summer Habitat Assumptions

- Can provide abundant shrub and herb forage. These sites included nutrient rich and moist sites as well as wetlands (bogs, swamps, fens etc.) that had good growing potential, supported a diversity of shrubs, herbs, sedges and grasses. The highest suitable sites are the shrub and herb successional stage (structural stage 2 and 3).
- Can provide thermal and security cover particularly mature and intermediate conifer and mixed conifer stands. Sites that were moist to mesic moisture regimes and had rich to medium nutrient regimes are assumed to have the greatest potential to support these forests. The most suitable areas in mature and old growth succession (structural stage 6 and 7 for conifer and 5 for broadleaf).

Winter Habitat Assumptions

- Can provide abundant arboreal and terrestrial lichen forage while also providing thermal and security cover. Plant communities that support mature conifer forest with an abundance of arboreal or terrestrial lichens are considered to have the greatest winter habitat value for caribou. The specific assumptions for mapping highly suitable and capable caribou winter habitat include:
 - Lodgepole pine and jack pine dominated sites that were drier and had mesic to poor nutrient regime that provided a high potential to support terrestrial and arboreal lichen. Mature and old forest sites (structural stage 6 and 7) are higher value.
 - Black spruce and mixed black spruce and pine sites including mesic moisture and poor nutrient sites with mature and old forest (structural stage 6 and 7) as well as fen and bog wetlands with shrub to old growth structural stage (3 to 7) are rated higher.
 - Mature and old growth, closed canopy conifer that provided thermal/snow interception cover as well as arboreal lichen potential. These included white spruce dominated sites, typically mesic nutrient and medium to moist moisture regime. The structural stage 6 and 7 stands are given higher ratings.

- Preferred Moose Habitat

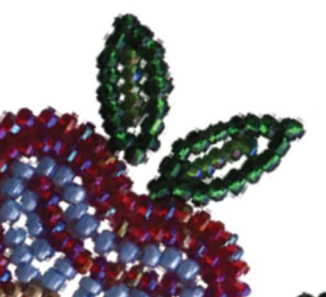
Habitat mapping for moose utilizes similar approaches and data sources as for caribou, including a Traditional Knowledge study conducted in 2016 and recent engagements with elders and hunters (2020-2023). Habitat use is divided by season given the different habitat requirements for each life requisite.

Winter Habitat Assumptions:

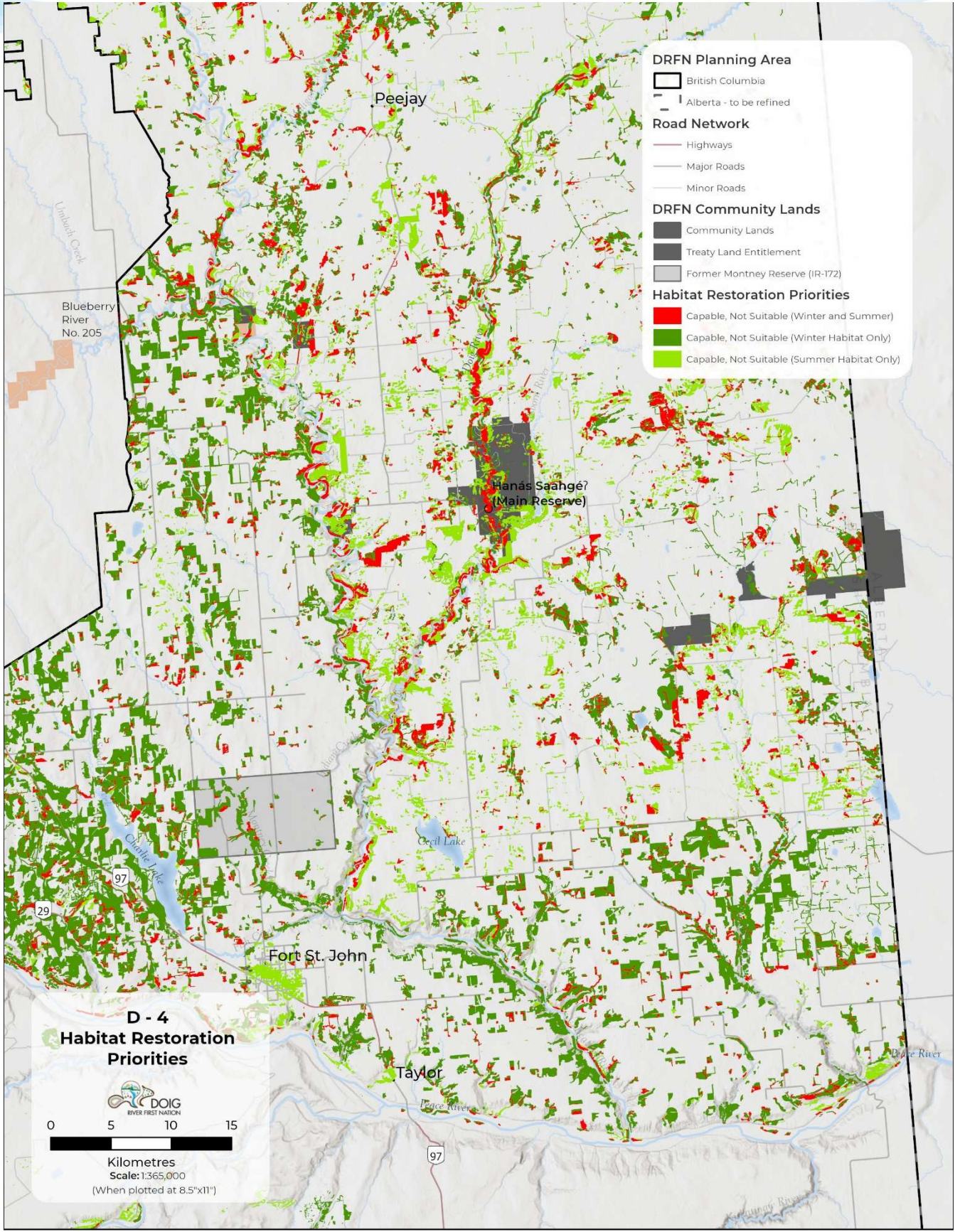
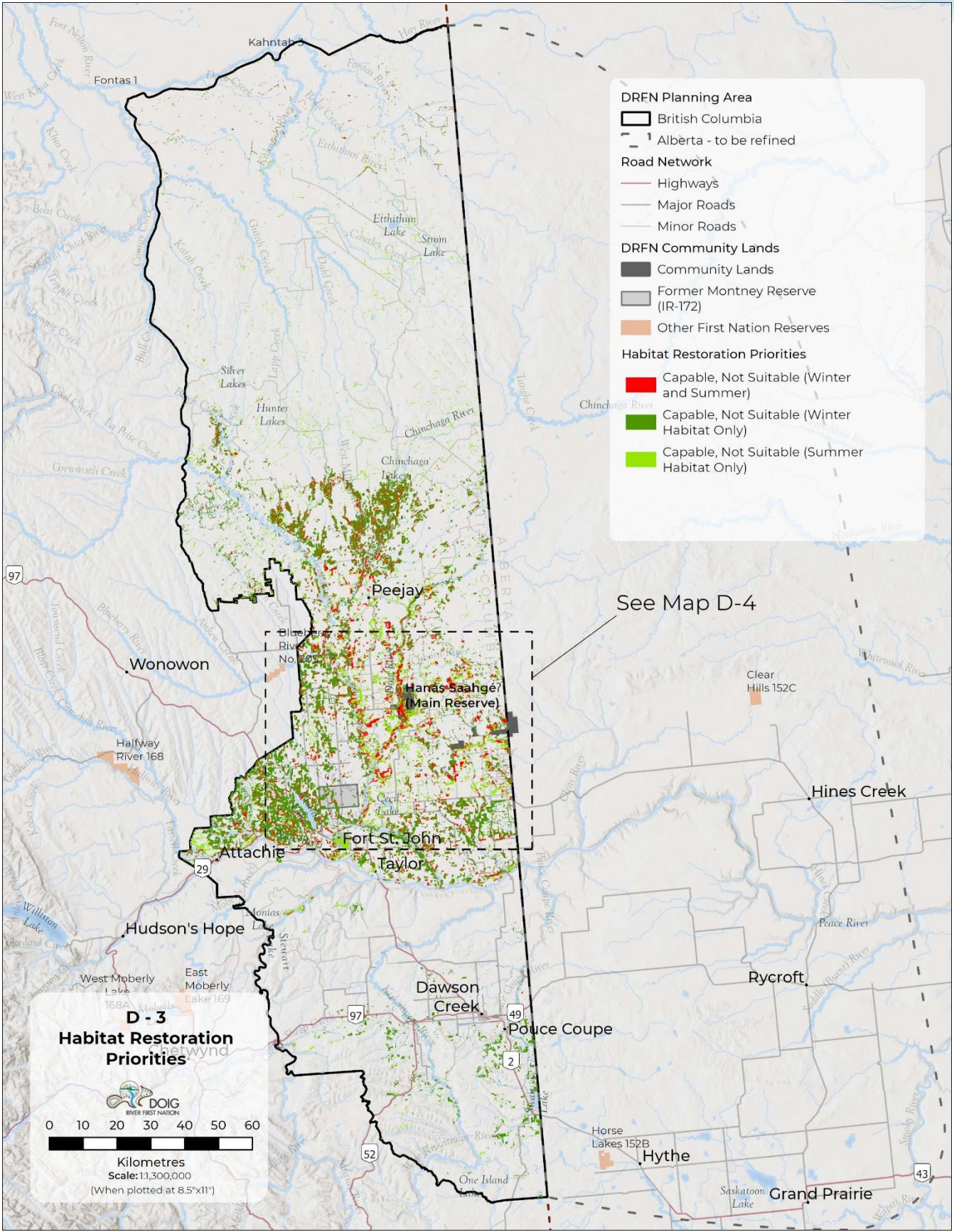
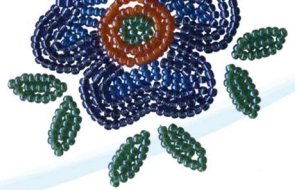
- Winter capable topography with less than 40% slopes and elevations less than 1,000 m.
- Vegetation that produced abundant woody browse including moist and wet sites with richer nutrient regimes, as well as wetlands such as swamps, bogs and fens that could support a diversity of shrubs such as willow, birch and aspen. Ecosites with potential for high shrub species diversity and preferred winter species including willow, red osier dogwood, birch, aspen and poplar are rated highest. Highest suitability was given to the shrub successional stage (structural stage 3).
- Older conifer forests or mixed forests that provide snow interception cover, this includes conifer dominated stands with closed canopy potential indicated by sites with mesic and moist moisture regimes and medium and rich nutrient regimes. Highest suitability was assumed to be mature and old growth forest (structural stage 6 and 7).
- Through possessing the potential for high snow loads, deciduous forest of later successional stages (i.e. older than 4) is assumed to have high shrub forage value from observations of moose foraging on of stem bark.
- The following areas are modeled and have been upgraded for suitability and capability value:
 - Riparian areas including 200 m buffer on either side of river/stream.
 - Rivers within 100 m upland of dense coniferous and mixed forests.
 - Shrub areas within 100 m of upland dense coniferous and mixed forests.
 - Upland forest within 100 m of productive winterfeeding sites.

Summer Habitat Assumptions:

- Ecosites that potentially produce abundant herb and shrub browse have the greatest habitat value.
- Upland ecosites with diverse vegetation potential, mesic to wet and medium to rich sites are also considered to have high habitat value. The highest suitability was for shrub and herb stage succession (structural stage 2 and 3) value of open canopy, older stands (seral stage greater than 4) are also considered.
- Forested vegetation communities are given value for their security and thermal cover attributes. Ecosites, including broad-leaved units, are given higher suitability for late succession vegetation (structural stage 6 and 7 and 5 for broad-leaved).
- Lakes and wetlands, particularly those with open water that may submerge a moose, are given high habitat values for their thermoregulating potential.
- The following areas are modeled and have been upgraded for suitability and capability value:
 - Wetlands and lakes within 100 m of productive feeding sites.
 - Upland forest within 100 m of productive feeding sites.



Maps D-3 and D-4 (below) show areas that are highly capable of supporting wildlife, but have been degraded and are not functioning right now (i.e. low suitability). The represent the best opportunities for a high return on investment when it comes to restoration efforts.





Appendix F

Healthy Water

Management Objective #6

Ensure there is a wide distribution of abundant and clean surface water that can support healthy ecosystems and important cultural uses.

Policies:

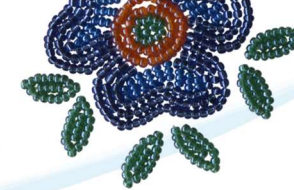
Muskeg and Wetlands Policy

Lakes and Streams Policy


Artificial Waterbodies Policy

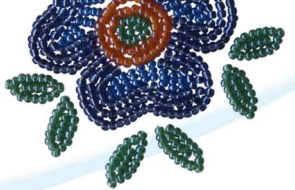
Operational Management Tools:

Schedule F-1 – Watershed Planning Units and Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA)



Muskeg and Wetland Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Not applicable.</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: January 13, 2025</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Proposals for new land uses and resource developments must clearly identify potential impacts to muskeg and wetlands in accordance with DRFN’s <i>Impact Assessment Policy</i> (see Appendix H).Additional impacts to muskeg and wetland landscapes should be avoided wherever possible when planning new land uses and resource developments across the DRFN Planning Area. <p><i>Note: If this cannot be avoided, proponents must clearly demonstrate that land use and resource development will not interfere with the hydrological functioning of muskeg (e.g., connectivity and the ability to absorb and slowly discharge water).</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Whenever, possible, route linear features, such as roads and pipelines around muskeg and wetland landscapes instead of cutting through them.Important islands of upland forest in muskeg and wetland ecosystems must be protected and remain undisturbed.Ensure riparian areas surrounding muskeg and wetland landscapes are retained. Riparian zones around muskeg and wetlands should be ecologically appropriate. Use the wider of the Provincial standard or the ecological extent of the riparian area.Monitor and manage contaminants in muskeg and wetland ecosystems with support from DRFN Guardians and staff using DRFN community-based indicators of muskeg and wetland health.
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure there is a wide distribution of abundant, unaltered, and clean surface and near-surface water that can support healthy muskeg and wetland ecosystems and important cultural uses.Reduce negative impacts associated with land use and resource development on the storage, movement and distribution of surface and near-surface water in muskeg and wetland ecosystems.Recover the natural condition of muskeg and wetlands and the health of aquatic ecosystems.		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>The importance of muskeg to <i>Tsáá? ché ne dane</i> people cannot be overstated and many Doig members were traditionally known as the “muskeg people.” Muskeg and wetland ecosystems are critically important parts of the water cycle in the DRFN Water Stewardship Area. They are key habitat for moose and a wide range of culturally important plant species. They act like a sponges and store water and release water, sustaining late season water supply. In recent years, DRFN members have observed muskeg drying and plants nearby retaining less water and producing fewer berries. Water withdrawal directly affect the amount of water flowing through muskeg and wetland ecosystems. Roads and other linear disturbances associated with resource development (e.g., pipelines) can also have a large, but not always obvious, impact. Fill is often trucked in and compacted many feet into the soft muskeg to provide stability for heavy equipment. These walls of compacted soil act like dams and disrupt the way water is absorbed and slowly flows through our complex muskeg systems. Large portions of muskeg, often many kilometers away, can be cut off from the seeping water as a result. The diverted water then flows overland eroding the landscape and picking up sediment, instead of slowly filtering through the muskeg. This alteration of hydrological and ecological functioning has negative implications for Doig community members as muskeg and wetland systems become less reliable.</p>		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this policy moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A detailed understanding of the effect of changing muskeg and wetland connectivity is required.Further incorporate findings of <i>Chuu Ghadaah</i> research in the Muskeg and Wetland Policy.Incorporate both western and cultural indicators of muskeg and wetland health into the DRFN LUP and broader DRFN Planning Framework.Revisit approach to minimum setbacks for new land use and resource development near riparian areas.		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>Not Applicable.</p>		<div><p><i>Muskeg ecosystems dominate the northern portions of the Northern Management Zone. Within these ecosystems, there are small islands of forest (often black spruce).</i></p><p><i>These islands of forest are critically important. They are refuges that service a much broader landscape.</i></p><p><i>On the surface, impacts to these islands might seem small. But, if they are damaged, a much larger surrounding landscape will collapse.</i></p></div> <div></div>



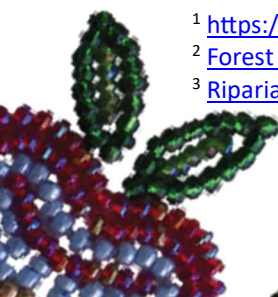
Lakes and Streams Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes: Watershed Planning Units and Equivalent Clearcut Area Calculations (see Schedule F-1)</i></p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: April 16, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Proposals for new land uses and resource developments must clearly identify potential impacts to lakes and streams in accordance with DRFN’s <i>Impact Assessment Policy</i> (see Appendix H).Impacts to lakes, streams and riparian areas should be avoided wherever possible when planning new land uses and resource developments. <p><i>Note: New land use and resource development must adhere to riparian reserve implementation as per the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and Riparian Management Area Guidebook.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">New land uses and resource developments are subject to minimum offsetting requirements if:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Minimum ECA thresholds cannot be met in an applicable planning unit.The proposed project is located with an Enhanced Planning Area. <p><i>Note: Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) is a standard measure of hydrologic function (see Scheule F-1). Minimum thresholds have been established in Part 4 of the DRFN Land Use Plan with minimum offsetting requirements in accordance with the DRFN Offsetting Implementation Plan.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Alternative management responses will be required if direct impacts to lakes, streams and riparian areas cannot be avoided. This may include:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Additional offsetting.Disturbance fees.Additional studies and assessment work before a project begins.Additional monitoring and research during through the life of a project.Commitments to adaptive management.Additional protections and measures in other areas (e.g. enhanced setbacks and retention areas).Implementing new and innovative techniques to minimize impacts.Commitments for timely clean-up.Enhanced ecocultural restoration.Surrendering tenures in other areas and land transfers.Enhanced efforts to layer disturbances (e.g. utilizing existing road networks even when inconvenient) <p><i>Note: Additional management responses will be determined by the DRFN Lands Department.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">In the Northern and Central Management zones, permits issued under Section 9 or 10 of the Water Sustainability Act <u>must not</u> be issued unless:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Environmental Flow Needs¹ are sufficiently quantified and met; and/or
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduce negative impacts to lakes, streams and riparian areas from impacts associated with land use and resource development.Ensure there is a wide distribution of abundant, unaltered, and clean surface water that can support wildlife and important cultural uses.Support the protection and recovery of riparian areas and aquatic ecosystems by going beyond the standard set for the relevant sector (e.g., <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i>² and the <i>Riparian Area Management Guidebook</i>³).		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>Stream flows and lake levels are amongst the simplest, but most visible, indicators of water quantity and health. Climate change, resource development, and withdrawals for agricultural and industrial uses have led to extremely low and unprecedented stream flows and lake levels during the summer months in recent years. In recent years, our members have also observed changes in water clarity (e.g., increased turbidity) and water temperature (e.g., warmer water in the summer). There are also concerns about toxins and other substances, that are not always visible, entering our lakes and streams. This includes road slats, herbicides, chemicals from oil and gas development and agricultural runoff (e.g., fertilizers and animal waste). Over the past decades, surface water has oftentimes become oily, and in tributaries there have been considerable changes to algal growth. The oily sheen that is visible on much of the standing water in DRFN territory is understood to come from oil contamination and spills, while the algal growth comes from agricultural runoff and nutrient loading. Rivers, streams, and lakes can be buffered from the effects of human disturbance by the riparian vegetation that surrounds them. Healthy, intact vegetation in these riparian areas helps reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from the surrounding landscape, prevents bank erosion and provides shade to reduce water temperature. It also provides food, shelter, and habitat for aquatic organisms.</p>		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this policy moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop more refined hydrological recovery curves for the Water Stewardship Area to use in ECA calculations.Incorporate the work of <i>Chuu Ghaddah</i> and add both western and cultural indicators of healthy lakes and streams into the DRFN LUP and broader DRFN Planning Framework.Revisit approach to minimum setbacks for new land use and resource development near riparian areas.		

¹ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/water-licensing-and-rights/efn_policy_jan-2022_signed.pdf, last accessed January 2025

² [Forest and Range Practices Act \(gov.bc.ca\)](#), last accessed March, 2024

³ [Riparian management area guidebook - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#), last accessed March, 2024

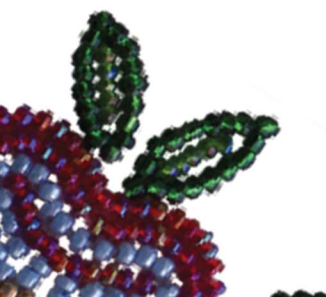




Other Important Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Map F-1 (see Scheule F-1) shows current Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) for all Watershed Planning UnitsMap F-2 (see Scheule F-2) shows current Linear Disturbance Density (LDD) for all Watershed Planning UnitsField work by proponents can be used to confirm or challenge current ECA Estimates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">b. Cumulative effects are sufficiently addressed through planning, mitigation and permit conditions where necessary. <p>6. Monitor and manage contaminants in Lakes and Streams.</p>
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Artificial Waterbodies Policy

Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.	Date of Last Revision: June 11, 2024	Management Directives: <div><div>1.</div><div>Ensure artificial water bodies are not negatively affecting surface or groundwater resources in terms of water supply or water quality.</div></div> <div><div>2.</div><div>Decommission and restore areas that contain artificial lakes, streams and riparian areas that are no longer serving a proper functioning hydrological purpose.</div></div>
Purpose of Policy: <div><div>•</div><div>Ensure artificial water bodies such as dugouts and borrow pits are managed and monitored appropriately and do not disrupt natural hydrological processes.</div></div>		
Planning Context: Dugouts and borrow pits are used to supply water for agricultural and industrial use throughout the DRFN Water Stewardship Area. These uses are poorly understood, and locations are not well documented. It is unclear how the natural hydrological processes are being altered or what the water quality implications are in relation to these artificial waterbodies. A better understanding and proper management are required.		
Future Work: The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this policy moving forward: <div><div>•</div><div>Initial mapping of dugouts and pits is required as well as gaining an understanding of water use. Further work is required to understand the impact of artificial waterbodies on water supply and quality.</div></div>		
Other Important Notes: Not Applicable.		



Schedule F-1 – Watershed Planning Units and Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA)

Background

Equivalent clearcut area (ECA) is a standard measure of the relative loss and recovery of hydrologic function for a forest canopy.

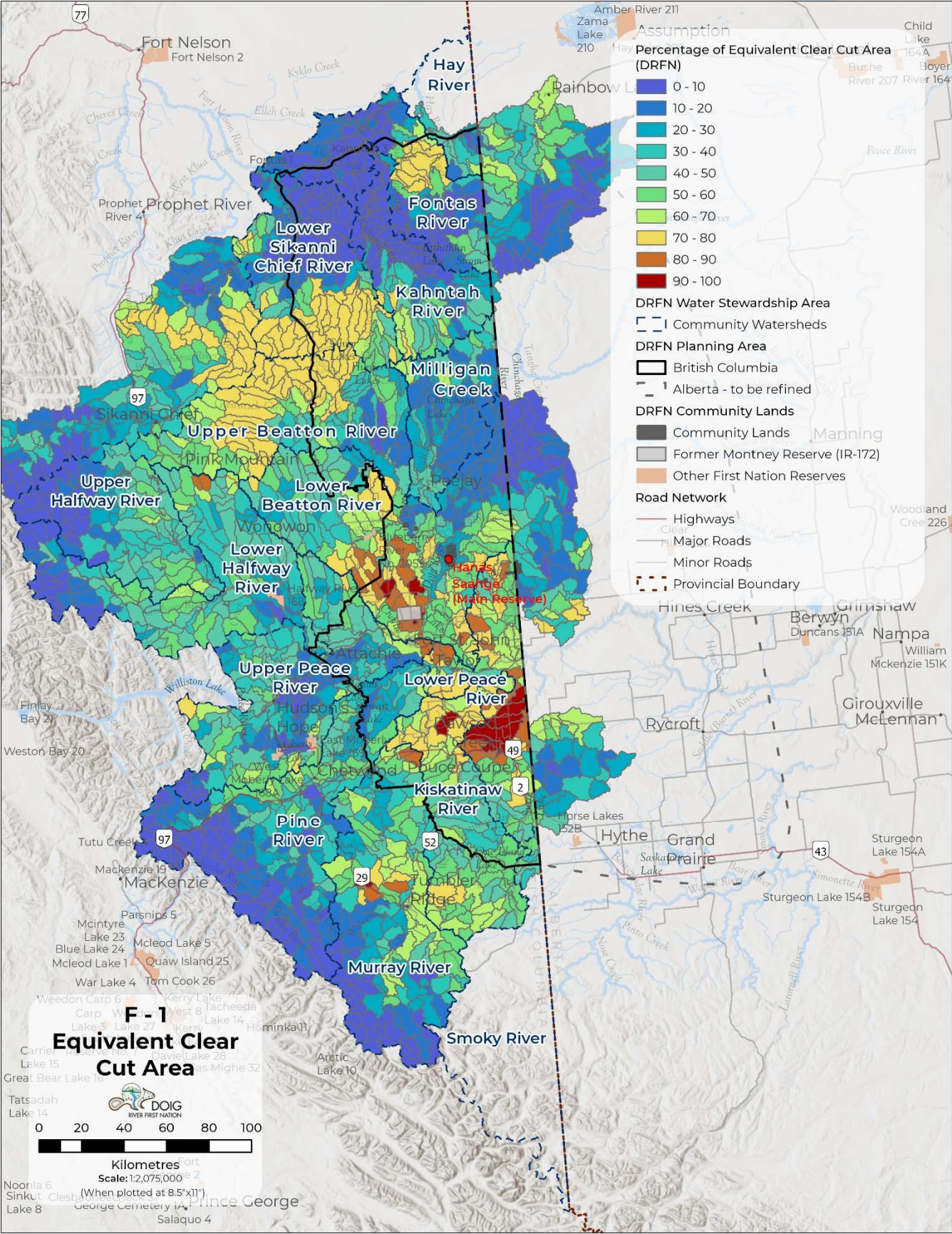
The hydrologic changes that result from disturbance are primarily related to forest canopy loss and changes in soil processes. Changes in hydrologic processes following disturbance like snowmelt and surface runoff are influenced by conditions such as elevation, slope, aspect, amount of alpine area, canopy closure and drainage density.

Forest cover directly influences the amount of precipitation that is stored in the canopy, and how much reaches the forest floor. Water storage and the diversion of flows into the subsurface in turn influence the amount of surface water runoff that is available for streamflow. Less variable slope, aspect and elevation synchronizes runoff generation, which can result in increased peak flows and the magnitude of flood events.

Forest disturbance can also affect other water quality parameters like stream temperature, nutrients, dissolved solids, and dissolved oxygen, and can increase the amount of sediment generated and delivered to streams. Roads, for example, can also lead to gullies developing and increased sedimentation from impacted or channeled overland flows.

Thresholds

Thresholds were developed so that no single Assessment Watershed exceeds an ECA value of 20%, 30%, or 35%, depending on Enhanced Planning Area.



Schedule F-2 – Watershed Planning Units and Linear Disturbance Density

Background

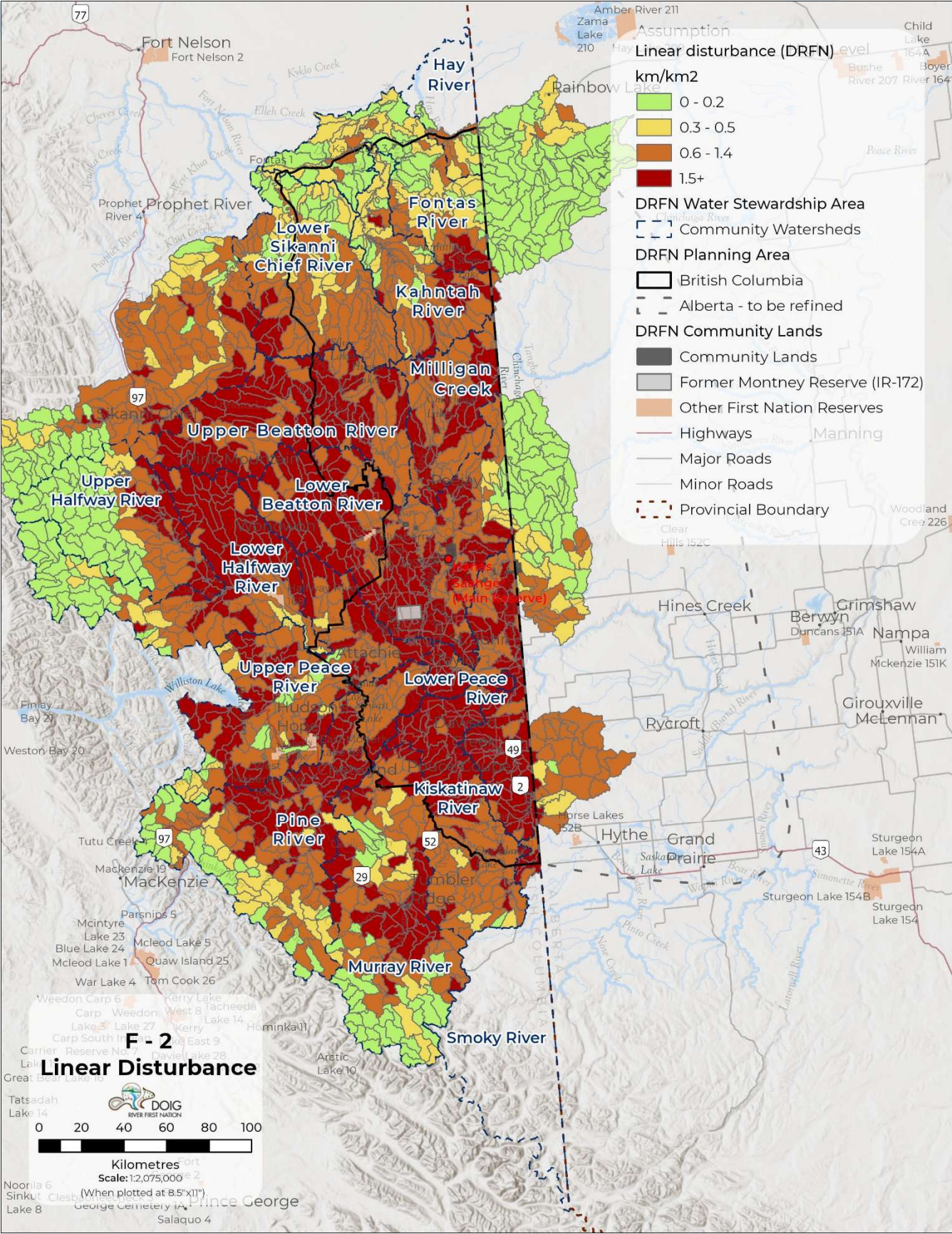
Linear disturbance density (LDD) is a standard measure of surface disturbance levels for a given area and can be helpful in assessing cumulative effects.

Roads and other linear disturbances associated with resource development (e.g., pipelines) pose a threat to water quality and can compact soil and muskeg, leading to disruptions in water absorption and flows. This can cut off some areas, and divert water to other areas, leading to drying out historically wet areas in some cases, and erosion and inundation in other areas. This alteration of hydrological and ecological functioning has negative implications for Doig community members as muskeg and wetland systems become less reliable.

Linear feature networks formed by seismic lines, pipelines and industrial access roads contribute to forest fragmentation and a shift towards early-seral vegetation, both of which affect how wildlife use the boreal forest landscape. The increase in early-seral vegetation on linear features provides browse for moose, deer and elk, resulting in enhanced apparent competition between these species and caribou. Linear features also form corridors that facilitate predator movement, increasing hunting efficiency for wolves and bears and exacerbating risk for their ungulate prey.

Thresholds

Thresholds were developed for that no single Assessment Watershed exceeds an LDD value of 0.3, 0.6 or 1.5 km/km², depending on the Management Zone or Enhanced Planning Area.





Appendix G

Healthy Water

Management Objective #7

Protect important sources of groundwater – especially those with close links to surface water – from contamination and depletion.

Policies:

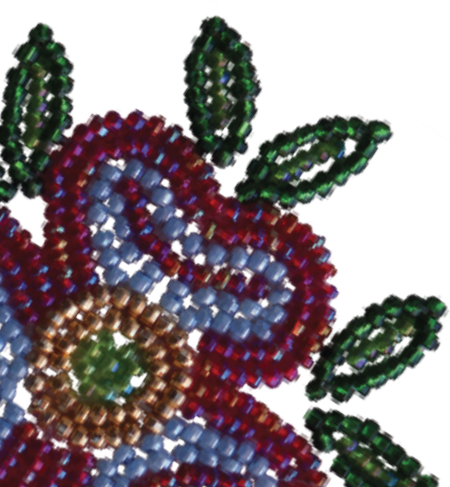
Aquifer Policy

Springs Policy



Aquifer Policy

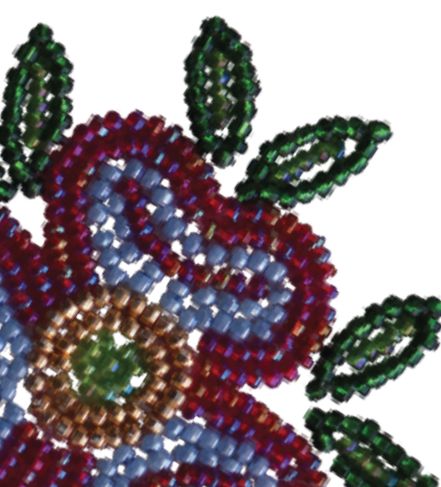
Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable	Date of Last Revision: January 13, 2025	Management Directives: <div><div>1.</div><div>Development and use of groundwater resources must not result in negative impacts to aquifers (e.g., must not deplete or contaminate them).</div></div> <div><div>2.</div><div>New land use and resource development must not alter connectivity between groundwater and surface water.</div></div> <div><div>3.</div><div>New land uses and resource developments within 20kms of the reserve must adhere to the DRFN Aquafer Protection Policy.</div></div> <div><div>4.</div><div>Assessments completed by a subject matter expert must be completed to demonstrate directives 1 and 2, above.</div></div>
Purpose of Policy: <div><div>•</div><div>To protect aquifers, with close links to surface water, from impacts associated with land use and resource development.</div></div>		
Planning Context: An aquifer is a body of porous rock or sediment saturated with groundwater where groundwater can enter as precipitation and slowly seep through the soil and cracks in the bedrock. Water can move through the aquifer and resurface through springs and wells drilled into the aquifer. Shallow unconfined aquifers act like sponges, slowly absorbing water and eventually discharging to surface water. Today, many people in the DRFN Planning Area get their daily drinking water from aquifers; however, aquifers are one of the least documented and studied parts of the water cycle in the DRFN Water Stewardship Area. There is concern that agricultural and domestic use may be depleting sensitive aquifers, as well as concern about the impacts of drilling, fracking, and the injection of toxic substances into aquifers.		
Future Work: The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support the implementation of this policy: <div><div>•</div><div>Defining and mapping of sensitive aquifers.</div></div> <div><div>•</div><div>Monitoring and reporting of aquifer conditions in sensitive aquifers depending on conductivity, connectivity, and potential for contamination.</div></div> <div><div>•</div><div>Restore aquifer areas and riparian areas associated with them that have been disturbed by industrial or agricultural activities.</div></div>		
Other Important Notes: Not Applicable.		





Springs Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> confidential mapping of spring locations documented by DRFN members may be made available upon request and will be subject to a strict Non-Disclosure Agreement.</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: January 13, 2025</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. New land uses and resource developments planned within the source area of a spring require an assessment of potential impacts.<i>Note: This assessment should include DRFN staff and knowledge.</i>2. New land uses and developments are not permitted in an assessment determines that there may be negative impacts on spring.3. Vegetation around springs must be treated the same as riparian areas with adequate buffers maintained for their protection.4. No sources of contaminants will be permitted within the source area of springs.5. No grazing will be permitted in the source area of culturally significant springs.
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To protect springs from impacts associated with land use and resource development.		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>Groundwater often resurfaces at springs throughout the DRFN Water Stewardship Area. These are very special places and sources of exceptionally clean water and rich minerals. They are often spiritual places associated with cleansing and healing and are also important oases for animals like moose. They provide opportunities for increased ungulate activity where DRFN members can use the knowledge of a spring location to hunt animals such as moose to then sustain families over the winter. Oftentimes these springs are also connected to important cabin sites. In the past, they have provided reliable, clear drinking water for DRFN members. This water has been used in central DRFN practices like making tea on the land. In recent years, our members have observed reduced flows at some of these springs.</p>		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>Continued mapping of springs across the Water Stewardship Area, which can be provided as a spatial layer for land managers.</p>		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>Not Applicable.</p>		





Appendix H

Healthy Land

Management Objective #8

Reverse cumulative effects and restore the landscape to a healthy and functioning baseline condition within 50 years.

Policies:

Impact Assessment Policy

Disturbance, Fragmentation and Connectivity Policy

Eco-Cultural Restoration Policy

Operational Management Tools:

Schedule H-1 – Connectivity Corridors

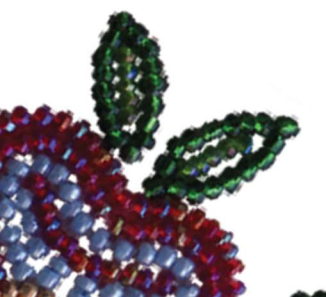
Schedule H-2 – Linear Disturbance Thresholds

Schedule H-3 – Resource Development Guidelines



Impact Assessment Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: April 16, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <div><div>1. Proposals for new land uses and resource developments need to clearly demonstrate the following, during engagement and consultation with DRFN:</div><div><div>a. Alignment with the following elements of DRFN’s Land Use Plan:</div><div><div>i. DRFN’s management objectives and policies (e.g. sacred sites and cultural experience)</div><div>ii. Understanding of DRFN’s planning targets (e.g. restoration goals).</div><div>iii. DRFN’s Resource Development Guidelines</div><div>iv. DRFN’s key supporting documents (e.g. Wildlife Management Plan).</div></div><div>b. Whether ‘Disturbance Thresholds’ (e.g. key Management Tools) identified in Part 4 of the DRFN Land Use Plan are being met in the applicable planning unit(s). This includes:</div><div><div>i. Linear Disturbance Density (LDD) threshold</div><div>ii. High-Value Forest (HVF) threshold</div><div>iii. Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) threshold</div><div>iv. Suitable Summer Habitat (SSH) threshold</div><div>v. Suitable Winter Habitat (SWH) threshold</div></div><div>c. How the proposal will impact:</div><div><div>i. Thresholds associated with ‘Disturbance Thresholds’ (e.g. key management tools) in the applicable planning unit(s).</div><div>ii. How the proposal will impact future conditions related to the ‘Disturbance Thresholds’ (e.g., recruitment areas for HVF).</div></div><div>d. Potential requirements for modelling, field work and assessment requirements with the inclusion of DRFN Guardians.</div><div>e. Proposed management responses:</div><div><div>i. Commitment to minimum offsetting and beyond.</div><div>ii. Any strategies to minimize, avoid or control the impacts from the proposal.</div><div>iii. Any proposed mitigation or accommodation to address the impacts.</div></div><div><p><i>Note: DRFN is developing a pre-engagement checklist, project assessment, and consent-based decision-making processes for the planning, management and authorization requests for projects and other activities in the DRFN Planning Area. These tools will support decision making to determine whether DRFN’s consent can be given in response to an authorization request.</i></p></div></div><div>2. Industry plans should be developed in collaboration with DRFN, ideally according to the terms of a Relationship Agreement.</div></div>
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Guide the assessment of impacts to the ecosystem, the health and wellbeing of our people, and our Treaty and inherent rights.Inform proponents and government agencies of the procedures and standards that guide our engagement and assessment of proposed projects in the context of consent-base decision making.		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>Federal and provincial project assessment application guidelines and processes have long failed to adequately consider DRFN’s Treaty Rights and cumulative effects. Meaningful engagement will identify these limitations and gaps on a project-by-project basis.</p> <p>The only way to reverse cumulative effects is to accurately quantify development impacts, reduce and mitigate those impacts, and to undertake habitat and cultural restoration activities within the DRFN Planning Area as part of an offsets approach that is protective of Treaty Rights as a core principle.</p>		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>Finalize the following DRFN documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Pre-Engagement Checklist</i><i>Consent-Based Decision-Making Framework</i><i>Environmental Assessment Protocol</i> and associated policies, including the DRFN <i>Offset Policy</i>.		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>Not Applicable.</p>		

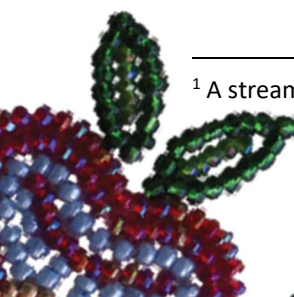


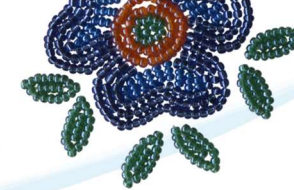


Disturbance, Fragmentation and Connectivity Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Connectivity Corridors (see Scheule Map H-1)</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: April 16, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Impacts should be avoided wherever possible in the following areas when planning new land uses and resource developments:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Enhanced Planning AreasSouthern Low-Density Disturbance Sub-Zone.Mapped areas of discrete intact functional forest ecosystemsConnectivity corridors (see Management Directive #4 below)Proposals for new land uses and resource developments need to clearly demonstrate the following, during engagement and consultation with DRFN:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Whether disturbance thresholds are currently being met in the relevant planning unit(s).How the proposal will impact the disturbance thresholds in the relevant planning unit(s).Alignment with DRFN’s resource development guidelines (see Schedule H-3 of this Appendix).<p><i>Note: several disturbance thresholds are established as ‘Key Management Tools’ in Part 4 of the DRFN Land Use Plan. This included a linear disturbance threshold defined in Schedule H-2 of this Appendix.</i></p>New land uses and resource developments are subject to the minimum offsetting requirements if:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Disturbance thresholds cannot be met; and/or,The proposed project is located with an Enhanced Planning Area.<p><i>Note: minimum offsets requirements are established as a ‘Management Response’ Part of the DRFN Land Use Plan and in accordance with the DRFN Offsetting Implementation Plan.</i></p>New land uses and resource developments <u>will not</u> be permitted within the Connectivity Corridors identified in Schedule H-1 (next page) – except for the following cases, and with consent from DRFN:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Key infrastructure crossing these corridors if it will result in an overall reduction in disturbance footprint associated with the project – this includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Roads and Rail.Utility (e.g., water, sewer, fibreoptic).Powerlines.Oil & Gas pipelines.Cultural infrastructure (e.g., DRFN cabins and trails)Cleared and cultivated farmland.<p><i>Note: Until better mapping exists, the size of the development setbacks required along Connectivity Corridors will be determined by the DRFN Lands Department based on a review of both cultural and ecological considerations. Additional corridors may be identified and required by the Land department in accordance with DRFN’s Habitat and Biodiversity Policy (see Appendix D)</i></p>
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <p>Reverse cumulative effects and restore the landscape to a healthy and functioning baseline condition.</p>		
<p>Key Management Objective:</p> <p>Ensure there is no increase to fragmentation in the Connectivity Corridors shown in Map H-1, and that forest ecosystems within these Corridors are established, intact, function ecologically and enhance cultural resiliency within 50 years.</p> <p>Ensure there is no increase in the fragmentation shown in Map H-2 by planning unit, and the density of linear disturbance in planning units throughout the DRFN Planning Area do not exceed thresholds established in the DRFN Land Use Plan Part 3.</p>		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>The DRFN Planning area has been heavily impacted and degraded by the cumulative effects of resource use and settlement since Treaty 8 was signed (initially in 1899). See the following parts of the DRFN Land Use Plan for context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Part 2 (Planning Context)Part 3 (Finding Kę Maah) ← see timeline on First Page and Section 3.4. <p>Protecting the few relatively undisturbed areas that remain is now of critical importance. Many of these areas fall within Enhanced Planning Areas (see Section 4.3). A network of connectivity corridors links these areas. These are thin linear areas that also remain relatively undisturbed and provide important ecological and culture connections. They are primarily located along major watercourses (see Scheule H-1).</p>		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this strategy moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Refine connectivity corridor mapping to be ecologically relevant (see Map H-1 on next page and note below).Identify discrete areas of intact functional forest ecosystems that need special management to limit further disturbance.		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>Connectivity corridors have initially been established based a 1 km buffer along major watercourses. Major water courses have been identified based Stream Order¹, as indicated in the BC Freshwater Atlas. Any watercourse with a stream order of 4 or greater falls within a connectivity corridor. In the future, the boundaries of connectivity corridors will be refined to better reflect cultural and ecological considerations.</p>		

¹ A stream’s Order is based on a its position in the connected hierarchy of tributaries. This is different from stream Class, which classifies streams based on presence of fish, occurrence in a community watershed and average channel width.





Eco-Cultural Restoration Policy

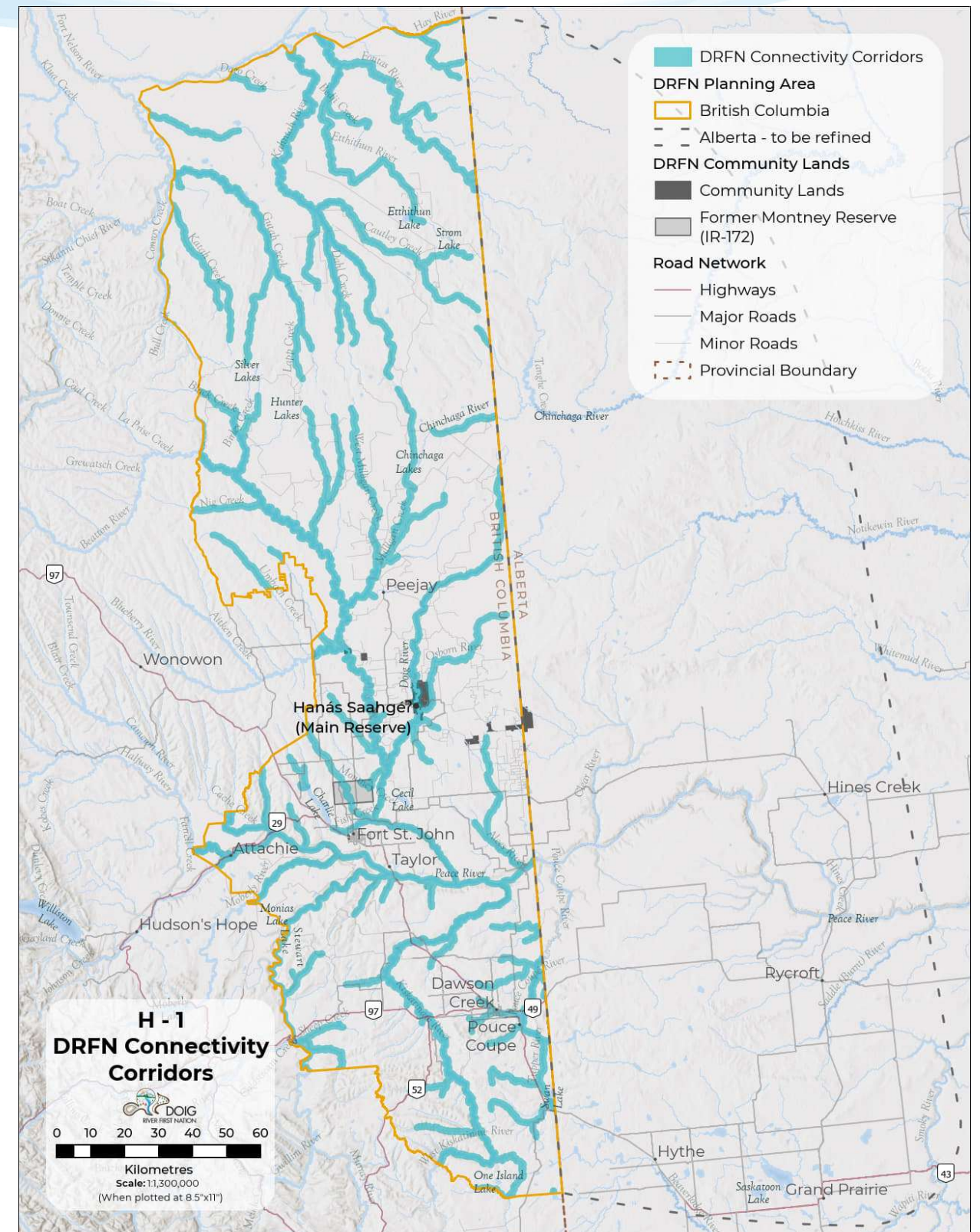
<div>Any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</div> <div>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div>If yes: Enhanced Planning Areas (Map 7)</div>	<div>Date of Last Revision: January 13, 2025</div>	<div>Management Directives:</div> <div><div><div>1. A commitment to undertake eco-cultural restoration is required before any new land uses and resource developments are authorized to proceed.</div><div>Note: The commitment can be made by a proponent, the crown, or both.</div></div><div><div>2. New land uses and resource developments are subject to offsetting requirements, according to the ratios established in Part 4 of the DRFN Land Use Plan.</div></div><div><div>3. All restoration planning and activity must be consistent with the DRFN Restoration Framework comprised of:<div><div>a. DRFN Restoration Strategic Plan</div><div>b. DRFN Restoration Plan</div><div>c. DRFN Restoration Operational Manual</div><div>d. DRFN Restoration Development Plan</div></div></div></div><div><div>4. DRFN priorities for restoration are found in the DRFN Restoration Framework, but are generally as follows:<div><div>a. Sites within Enhanced Planning Areas<div><div>Priority 1 and 2.</div><div>Priority 3.</div></div></div><div>b. Sites within areas identified on Map D-3 in Appendix D.</div><div>c. Sites outside Enhanced Planning Areas<div><div>Central Management Zone.</div><div>Northern and Southern Management Zones.</div></div></div></div></div><div><div></div><div>Higher Priority</div><div></div><div>Lower Priority</div></div></div></div>
<div>Purpose of Policy:</div> <div>Reverse cumulative effects and restore the landscape to a healthy and functioning baseline condition, as a means to restore the cultural practices.</div>		
<div>Key Management Objective:</div> <div>To conduct eco-cultural restoration activities and recover the DRFN Planning Area such that within 50 years:<div><div>The DRFN Planning Area better resembles the baseline condition (i.e. the late 1960’s) in a priority sequence.</div><div>The DRFN Planning Area better resembles the baseline condition (i.e. the late 1960’s) in a priority sequence.</div><div>The DRFN Planning Area optimizes DRFN members’ ability to practice their Treaty Rights in preferred areas, prioritizing the Enhanced Planning Areas.</div></div></div>		
<div>Planning Context:</div> <div>Eco-cultural restoration is essential for reducing the footprint of industry and reversing cumulative effects. See the following parts of the DRFN Land Use Plan for context:<div><div>Part 2 (Planning Context).</div><div>Part 3 (Finding Kę Maah) ← see timeline on First Page and Section 3.4.</div></div></div>		
<div>Future Work:</div> <div>The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this policy moving forward:<div><div>Establish a regulation that is equivalent to the Dormancy and Shutdown Regulation for addressing cumulative impacts of other sectors active in the Northeast Region to reduce the footprint industry.</div><div>Develop indicators using work from the DRFN Land Guardian program and DRFN’s Chuú úú Nan work to measure the success of restoration across the DRFN Planning Area.</div></div></div>		
<div>Other Important Notes:</div> <div>Additional details on eco-cultural restoration and specific DRFN priorities can be found in the following documents that are separate from, but support, the DRFN Land Use Plan:<div><div>DRFN Restoration Strategic Plan.</div><div>DRFN Restoration Plan</div><div>DRFN Restoration Operational Manual</div><div>DRFN Restoration Development Plan</div><div>DRFN Restoration Tracking Tool</div></div></div>		

Schedule H-1 – DRFN Connectivity Corridors

Methodology for Analysis

DRFN has identified a network of Connectivity Corridors that extend throughout the DRFN Planning Area. These provide connectivity between important areas. The watercourses that fall within these corridors have been identified based on Stream Order², as indicated in the BC Freshwater Atlas³, which is a measure of the size and complexity of a watercourse. Setback requirements apply for new development near watercourses with a Stream Order of 4 or greater (see map to the right).

Note: Until better mapping exists, the size of the development setbacks required along Connectivity Corridors will be determined by the DRFN Lands Department based on a review of both cultural and ecological considerations.



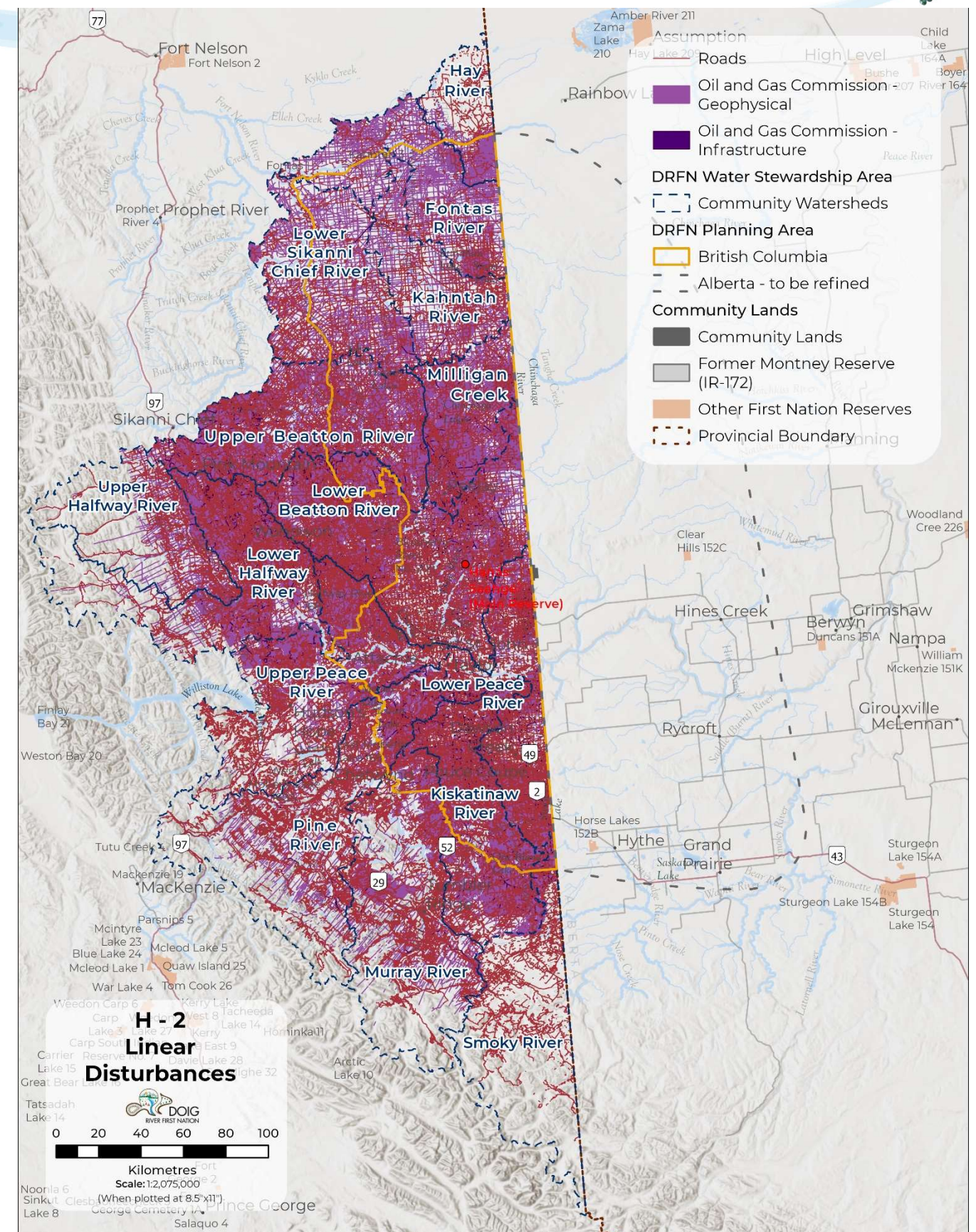
² A stream's Order is based on its position in the connected hierarchy of tributaries. This is different from stream Class, which classifies streams based on presence of fish, occurrence in a community watershed and average channel width.

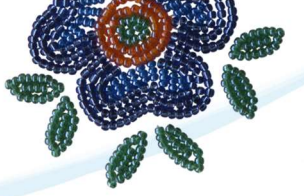
³ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/data/geographic/topography/fwa/fwa_user_guide.pdf, last accessed July, 2023

Schedule H-2 – Linear Disturbance

Methodology for Analysis

Linear density (km/km²) was calculated using the BC CEF Disturbance Groups OGC Infrastructure and Geophysical and Integrated roads datasets (2021). Roads, trails, pipelines, transmission lines, seismic lines, and railways were included. Line features were used where available. Polygonal features were divided by an average width of 7 m to derive lengths. Understanding past and current conditions and designing a future landscape that enables both the exercise of treaty rights as contemplated under the treaty and promoting sustainable economic development relies on both science and Traditional Knowledge. DRFN will regularly assess the current condition of linear disturbance by zone using both scientific approaches (e.g., GIS and remote sensing) and Traditional Knowledge. Strategic applications of functional and eco-cultural restoration will be applied to meet community-based objectives for landscape condition which combined with natural recovery will reduce the linear disturbance over time. Monitoring and evaluation of restoration success will rely on both scientific (e.g., population surveys, before-after style designs, camera monitoring, etc.) and traditional (e.g., stewardship and guardianship activities) approaches.





Schedule H-3 – Resource Development Guidelines

Directives to protect wildlife habitat during Construction and Operations

Proponents will engage with DRFN to understand the biodiversity of wildlife and habitat that may be impacted by the project and determine the final suite of mitigation measures. The basis for these measures will be obtained by scientific inventory methods and through engagement with DRFN Knowledge holders. These measures to protect and manage risks to wildlife habitat, mortality, movements, and condition will include, but are not limited to the following:

Location, access to and timing of new disturbances

- Utilize existing disturbance. To the extent possible, new infrastructure, including but not limited to roads, pipelines and Right-of-Ways, will overlap or utilize existing disturbance rather than just being parallel or adjacent to disturbance. This may require engaging with neighboring disposition holders to enable such overlap to occur.
- Align Right-of-Ways and access roads, and locate well pads, camps and other infrastructure, in areas that avoid important wildlife habitats and features.
- Work with DRFN to establish appropriate site-specific setback distances for cultural and environmental features such as game trails, nests, dens, mineral licks, and other important wildlife features. See Appendices A and B for default setbacks to be applied until site-specific setbacks are established.
- Limit construction to non-sensitive periods.
- Manage access to Right-of-Way and access roads and immediately decommission access roads and camps that are no longer required, unless advised by DRFN.

Right-of-Ways and crossings

- Apply line of site measures every 500m along cleared Right-of-Ways and engage with neighboring disposition holders to apply line of site measures across the entire joint ROW.

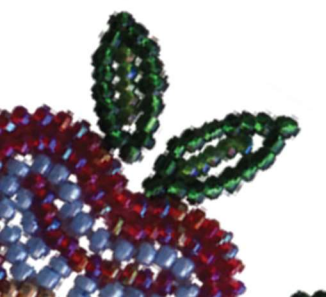
- Reduce the operational width of a Right-of-Way to 10m, either by restoration or leave-to-grow, as directed by DRFN.
- Utilize trenchless crossing methods for water crossings and to traverse designated riparian corridors.

Offsetting

- Proponents will engage with DRFN on the development of the offset plan, which will include:
 - Offset ratio.
 - Values to be offset based on historical determinations of equivalency.
 - Offset locations.
 - Restoration techniques.

Guardians, monitoring and safety

- Pre-construction surveys will occur with DRFN guardians and monitors.
- Engage with DRFN to collaboratively develop a monitoring and adaptive management plan during construction, operations, and offsetting activities.
- Construction shutdowns when wildlife observed in an area and maintain wildlife sighting logs; report to DRFN quarterly, or on request.
- Manage vehicle speed limits.
- Maintain construction vehicles and spill response plans.
- Develop and implement invasive species management plans.
- Maintain clean camps and waste management procedures to avoid habituated wildlife.
- Provide bear aware training for all personnel and contractors.





Appendix I

Healthy Land

Management Objective #9

Minimize and adapt to climate change impact.

Policies:

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Policy

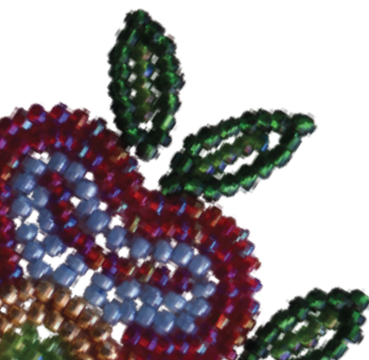
Operational Management Tools:

Schedule I-1 – Climate Refugia and Potential for Carbon Storage Areas

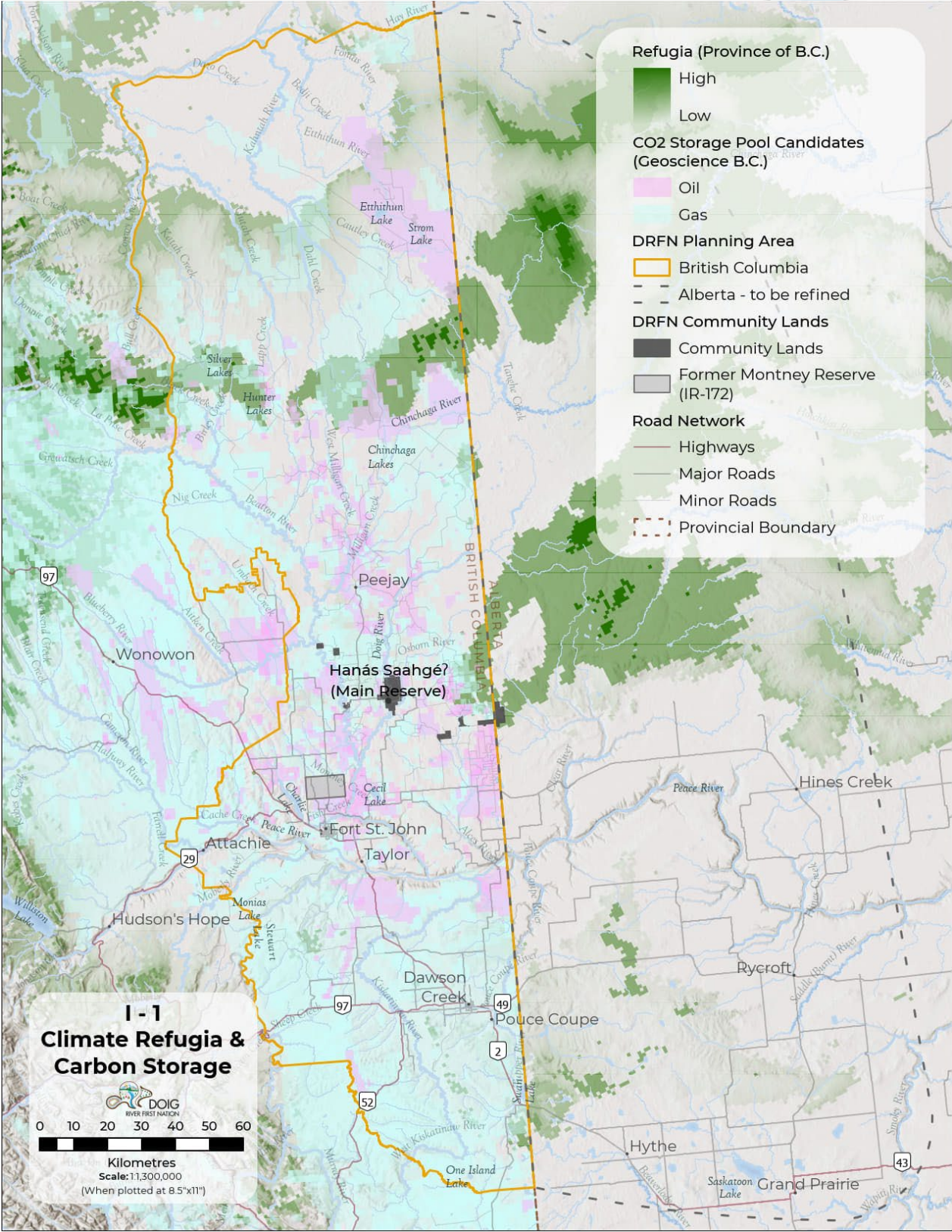


Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Climate Refugia Areas and Potential Carbon Storage Areas (see Schedule I-1).</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: January 13, 2025</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. New land uses and resource developments will only be permitted when it is demonstrated that climate change impacts, and potential variability in environmental conditions arising from climate change, have been considered in the design of proposed project.2. Ensure new land uses and resource developments are consistent with DRFN’s Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan(s).3. Wherever possible, avoid new land uses and resource developments in areas identified as having potential to act as Climate Refugia in the future (see Map I-1 on the next page).4. Wherever possible, avoid new land uses and resource developments, except restoration, in areas that act as natural carbon sinks – including (but not limited to) the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Muskeg and wetlands.b. Peatlands.c. Mature forests.5. Support methane reduction initiatives and projects that address emissions.6. Include Fire Risk reduction plans and fire preparedness plans in new land use and resource development proposals.7. Provided there is alignment with other DRFN Strategies, prioritize support for new land uses and resource developments – especially oil and gas development – in areas identified as CO₂ Storage Pool Candidates. <p><i>Note: The amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the atmosphere can be reduced by storing carbon dioxide emissions underground in deep saline aquifers and depleted gas pools. Map I-1 (on the next page) shows areas in the DRFN Planning Area where carbon dioxide gases and fluids (carbon dioxide is a “supercritical” fluid at high temperatures and pressures) could potentially be stored.</i></p>
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <p>Improve DRFN’s resilience to climate change impacts and mitigate the extent and severity of those impacts.</p>		
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect areas of climate refugia, ecological diversity and intact ecosystems that become increasingly important as climate changes.• Identify opportunities to adapt to climate impacts, and to contribute to mitigation.• Require the designs of infrastructure such as roads, bridges and other servicing to consider climate change risks.		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>DRFN members have started to experience some alarming climate changes such as warmer, wetter winters with less snow, and longer, hotter summers. Large fires appear to be happening more frequently and water and ice conditions are less predictable. Climate projections also indicate expected changes to permafrost, forest composition and pests, and the timing and intensity of the spring freshet and summer drought. It is expected that precipitation across the DRFN Planning Area will continue to become more variable and increase on an annual basis. As variability increases, even though we may see more precipitation overall, more of it is likely to come as rain, and summers could get dryer given the increase in air temperature. Climate refugia areas that remain relatively buffered from climate impacts or are rich with environmental resources to help us adapt to some of these changes, such as long-term water sources. The headwaters of river systems in the DRFN Planning Area have been identified as important areas. These areas will become increasingly important in the future and can help to buffer our people from climate vulnerabilities such as drought, when sufficient clean water will be scarcer</p>		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this policy moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete a detailed climate change adaptation and mitigation plan for the DRFN Planning Area.• Develop and implement a Carbon Footprint Reduction Plan.• Develop and implement climate monitoring methods under the DRFN Guardian program.		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>Many of the Enhanced Planning Areas established in the Northern and Central Management Zone are Climate Refugia.</p>		



Schedule I-1 – Climate Refugia and with Potential for Carbon Storage





Appendix J

Healthy Land

Management Objective #10

Ensure a full range of healthy and functioning ecosystem types.

Policies:

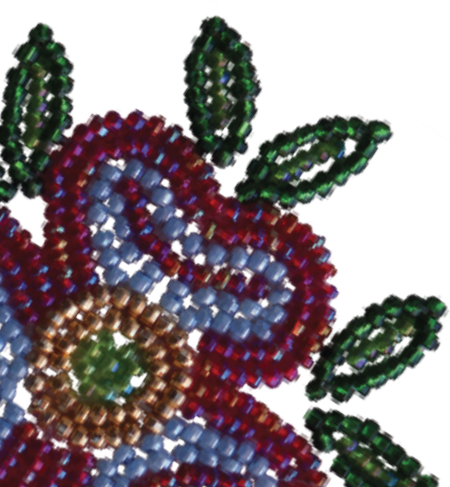
Native and Invasive Species Policy

Fire Policy



Native and Invasive Species Policy

Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.	Date of Last Revision: January 13, 2025	Management Directives: <div><div>1.</div><div>All new land uses and resource developments must review their project area using the Provincial Invasives BC mapping program. Where there is a known location of an invasive or alien plant within 500m of the new land use or resource development, a plan must be prepared to prevent spread.</div></div> <div><div>2.</div><div>All new land uses and resource developments must have a plan to prevent introduction of invasive species through early detection and rapid response.</div></div> <div><div>3.</div><div>All new land uses and resource developments must be consistent with Provincial Guidance for management of Invasive Plants.</div></div> <div><div>4.</div><div>Control of invasive plants should be done using manual/mechanical or biological control in favor of chemical control.</div></div> <div><div>5.</div><div>All invasive species locations must be reported to the DRFN Lands Department</div></div> <div><div>6.</div><div>All seed mixes used in the Planning Area, must:<div><div>a.</div><div>Contain only seed that is listed on the DRFN Approved Seed Mix Species List.</div></div><div><div>b.</div><div>Meet or exceed the standards for varietal purity established by the Canadian Seed Growers Association for seed of that species.</div></div><div><div>c.</div><div>Be certified against the noxious and invasive species found in the Canada Weed Seed Order <u>and</u> Schedule A of the BC Weed Control Regulation.</div></div></div></div> <div><div>7.</div><div>The areas seeded must be monitored for three growing seasons after initial treatment and reapplied if necessary to ensure establishment.</div></div>
Purpose of Policy: <div><div>•</div><div>Protection of DRFN species, resources, places, and practices with a special focus on key DRFN values (things like moose and caribou):</div></div> <div><div>•</div><div>Maintain the ecological health and biodiversity of DRFN lands and waters:</div></div> <div><div>•</div><div>Food security for DRFN members especially as it relates to berries and game:</div></div> <div><div>•</div><div>Develop ways to slow the spread of invasive species in the face of a changing climate: and</div></div> <div><div>•</div><div>Manage the spread of invasives as they relate to new developments in DRFN territory.</div></div>		
Planning Context: Invasive species and plants are having negative impacts on cultural and ecological values important to DRFN.		
Future Work: <div><div>•</div><div>Develop the DRFN Approved Seed Mix Species List, that incorporates native species based on DRFN traditional knowledge and expertise.</div></div> <div><div>•</div><div>Research to better understand the extent of invasive species presence and the main vectors that bring invasive species into the DRFN Planning Area.</div></div>		
Other Important Notes: Not Applicable.		





Fire Policy

Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes: Not Applicable.

Date of Last Revision: January 13, 2025

Land Use Directives:

1. Ensure wildfire responses are consistent with DRFN's Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.
2. Support the intentional use of fire through cultural burning and prescribed burns of small-scale areas like south facing slopes in the spring time.

Purpose of Policy:

To intentionally use fire at a broad scale to:

- reduce the intensity of naturally occurring wildfires.
- eradicate pests and diseases (e.g. spruce beetle infestations).
- enhance culturally and ecologically significant habitat.

Planning Context:

Fire is a natural, normal process within the DRFN Planning Area and is necessary to maintain a healthy forest and the diversity of plant and animal life. In the past, Dane Zaa People used to actively monitor fires as they burned to ensure that they did not reach a level beyond which they would cause harm. Present day fires are understood to be of an extreme intensity, which makes this practice difficult. The history of aggressive and highly effective wildfire suppression has resulted in:

- Significant build-up of forest fuels.
- Greater tree encroachment on grasslands.
- 'In-filling' of once open, dry forests.

This has both increased the risk of devastating wildfires and negatively impacted biodiversity and forest health. This, along with climate change, will likely increase the unpredictability, severity, and frequency of fires in the DRFN Planning Area. DRFM members have already started to observe this. There are places in *K'ih tsaa?dze* that were said to have never burned, then a considerable portion of them burned in the 2016 Siphon Creek Fire.

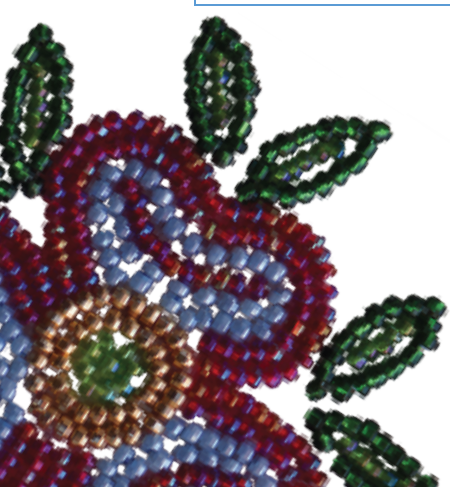
Future Work:

The following has been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this strategy moving forward:

- Updating the DRFN Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan to include cabins, key campsites and gathering areas.
- Establishing and implementing plans for cultural burning and prescribed burns.

Other Important Notes:

Not Applicable.





Appendix K

Prosperity

Management Objective #11

Support a diversified and sustainable local economy.

Policies:

Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Policy

Forestry Policy

Petroleum and Natural Gas Policy

Renewable Energy and Transmission Policy

Minerals and Mining Policy

Agriculture Policy

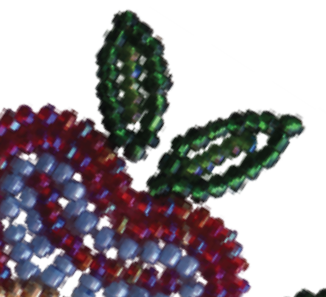
Private Ownership and Rural Development Policy

Urban Development Policy



Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: April 16, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. DRFN to acquire Provincial guide outfitting and trapline tenures when they come up for renewal.2. Support the development of new infrastructure and facilities to accommodate visitors, share DRFN culture and language provided there is alignment with other Land Use Directives.3. Tourism businesses operating with the DRFN Planning Area should be owned – or operated in partnership with – DRFN or its members.4. Support for different types of tourism outdoor recreation activities will be prioritized in in accordance with the table below: <table><thead><tr><th>Planning Units</th><th>Consumptive Uses <i>hunting, fishing, berry picking... etc.</i></th><th>Non-Consumptive Uses <i>quadding, trail rides, wildlife viewing... etc.</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>a. Priority 1 and 2 EPA's</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>b. Priority 3 EPA's</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>c. Northern Management Zone</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>d. Central Management Zone</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>e. Southern Management Zone</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr></tbody></table> <p><i>Note: A scale of 1 to 5 is used above to indicate a general level of support. 1 = the lowest level of support and 5 represents the highest level of support</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. The use of trails for Cultural and Eco-Tourism activities must be consistent with DRFN's <i>Trails and Cultural Infrastructure Strategy</i> (see Appendix A).6. Ensure all tourism and outdoor recreation activities follow proper cultural protocols (e.g., to not desecrate sacred sites) and seek permission for use of land from DRFN Council.7. Other First Nations, and their members, <u>are not</u> permitted to undertake cultural tourism activities within our DRFN Planning Area without express permission from DRFN Council to do so.	Planning Units	Consumptive Uses <i>hunting, fishing, berry picking... etc.</i>	Non-Consumptive Uses <i>quadding, trail rides, wildlife viewing... etc.</i>	a. Priority 1 and 2 EPA's	1	1	b. Priority 3 EPA's	2	3	c. Northern Management Zone	3	4	d. Central Management Zone	2	3	e. Southern Management Zone	4	5
Planning Units	Consumptive Uses <i>hunting, fishing, berry picking... etc.</i>		Non-Consumptive Uses <i>quadding, trail rides, wildlife viewing... etc.</i>																	
a. Priority 1 and 2 EPA's	1		1																	
b. Priority 3 EPA's	2		3																	
c. Northern Management Zone	3		4																	
d. Central Management Zone	2	3																		
e. Southern Management Zone	4	5																		
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To play a lead role in establishing a flourishing cultural and eco-tourism economy.• To ensure areas where tourism and recreation occur are supported by DRFN and don't conflict with the practice of Treaty Rights or culture.																				
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>Tourism and recreation such as hunting and guiding operations are bringing increasing numbers of visitors to the region. Several large commercial recreation and guide outfitting tenures are found in the Northern and Southern Management Zones. It is a priority for DRFN to take a leadership role in this sector.</p>																				
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this policy moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a more detailed list of planning units and tourism and outdoor recreation activities that will be supported.• Create a permitting and approval structure that guides tourism activities to follow proper cultural protocols (e.g., to not desecrate sacred sites).• Working with regulators to improve consultation processes by developing appropriate application categories and protocols, as well as assessment criteria to help manage our foundational goals.																				
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>This strategy interacts with all other strategies. It is recommended to review all strategies before pursuing tourism planning.</p>																				





Forestry Policy

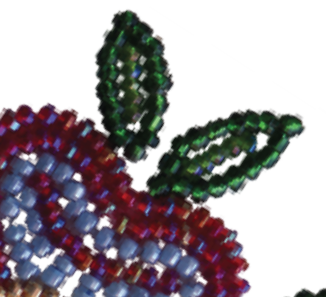
<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: April 16, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All plans, policies and associated approvals produced for or by the forest sector that overlap the DRFN Planning Area must be consistent with the DRFN Land Use Plan.2. Forest sector plans and forestry operations will only be permitted when the following is demonstrated:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Alignment with DRFN planning targets.b. Compliance with relevant management tools (i.e. disturbance thresholds) and management responses (i.e. offsetting requirements).c. Compliance with the operational requirements outlined in Appendix H.d. Mitigation of risks like insects, disease, fire and windthrow within the context of climate change and an assessment of proposed mitigation measures.e. Input from pre-application engagement with DRFN.<p><i>Note: in Part 4 of the DRFN Land Use Plan, disturbance thresholds are established as ‘Key Management Tools’. Minimum offsetting requirements are also established as a ‘Management Response’ if disturbance thresholds are not met or when located within an Enhanced Planning Area.</i></p>3. All strategic and operational forest sector plans must be developed in collaboration with DRFN and address the priorities listed under Management Directive #4.<p><i>Note: DRFN must be involved early in the planning process and must formally sign off and approve the document. It also means forest sector plans must clearly outline where and how issues will be addressed.</i></p>4. Prioritize support for forest sector plans and forestry operations that address the following priorities:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Are small scale, community based and contribute to local jobs.b. Provide opportunities for DRFN involvement.c. Provide access to timber for community needs (e.g. firewood, cabin logs and lumber).d. Minimize new disturbances and infrastructure required (e.g. utilize existing roads).e. Coordinate with other sectors to optimize fibre utilization, access, restoration and timing.f. Do not impact cultural resources and important wildlife habitat and populations.g. Do not negatively impact DRFN members’ ability to access and use the land.h. Maintain appropriate an amount and distribution of forest types.i. Provide opportunities to restore forest ecosystems toward the former baseline conditions.j. Result in improved revenue sharing and community benefits.<p><i>Note: Forest sector plans and proposed operations should clearly demonstrate alignment with other strategies in the DRFN Land Use Plan as well as the priorities listed above.</i></p>5. Forestry planning and operational activities <u>are not</u> permitted in the following areas:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Priority 1 Enhanced Planning Areas (EPA’s).b. Priority 2 Enhanced Planning Areas (EPA’s).6. Harvested volume cannot exceed limits identified in the geographic partition for the planning units.7. All merchantable timber harvested must be delivered to manufacturing facilities or otherwise utilized.
<p>Key Management Objective:</p> <p>Support a diversified and sustainable local economy.</p>		
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To shift to a small-scale, diversified, community-based forest sector with a sustainable level of cut.• To maintain access to commercially viable stands of timber while minimizing adverse impacts associated with forestry planning and development.		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>Forestry is a driving force in the local economy and is a key source of employment and contracting for the region. This sector has heavy influence on the condition of DRFN’s land use planning themes. A concentration of harvesting activity was one of the factors that led to the recent land management and cumulative effects court case (<i>Yahey v. British Columbia</i>). Amongst other things, the British Columbia Supreme Court decision identified that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impacts associated with forestry have contributed to significant adverse effects on Treaty Rights.• The current Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) is insufficient.• The current regulatory and consultation processes related to forestry operations are inadequate.		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this strategy moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct research into restoration of High-Value forests, Old Forests and other valuable types of forest ecosystems.• Establish an equivalent forestry regulation to the <i>Dormancy and Shutdown Regulation</i> for addressing cumulative impacts of the forest sector and reducing the footprint of the forest industry.• Establish a sustainable level of cut for the DRFN Planning Area.• Establish a geographic partition in the part of the DRFN Planning area that overlaps the South and North Peace Timber Supply Area. <p><i>Note: Geographic partition will limit volume of timber harvested from a geographical area.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop additional forest management indicators to evaluate the forest ecosystem condition.		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>This strategy interacts with all other strategies. It is recommended to review all strategies.</p>		





Petroleum and Natural Gas Policy

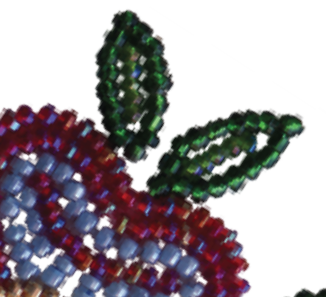
Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.	Date of Last Revision: April 16, 2024	Management Directives: <div><div>1. New oil and gas permits and tenures <u>are not</u> permitted in the following areas:<div><div>a. Priority 1 Enhanced Planning Areas (EPAs).</div><div>b. Priority 2 Enhanced Planning Areas (EPAs).</div></div></div><div>2. Existing oil and gas operations within EPAs must wind down their operations within 20 years. <i>Note: Inactive tenures will be reviewed for cancellation opportunities in 2024-25.</i></div><div>3. Plans, authorization requests and operations within DRFN’s Planning area must be consistent with this Land Use Plan and are subject to the following:<div><div>a. Demonstrated alignment with our planning objectives, including avoidance of areas designated for enhanced protection and/or where the proposed activities would exceed disturbance or cumulative effects thresholds.</div><div>b. Compliance with Key Management Tools and Management Responses found in Part 4 of this Land Use Plan.</div></div></div><div>4. Land and/or water altering activities related to industrial developments must undergo DRFN’s assessment of cumulative effects and treaty rights, in addition to other governmental assessments.</div><div>5. PNG industry plans must be developed in collaboration with DRFN, ideally according to the terms of a Relationship Agreement, and will be assessed for alignment with this Land Use Plan. Proponents should demonstrate that their plans:<div><div>a. Minimize new disturbances and infrastructure required. Siting is encouraged on lands that have limited value for conservation or other productive uses.</div><div>b. Pursue stacking of functions for greater land-use efficiency and reduced impact on the primary function of the land.</div><div>c. Minimize temporary impacts from access, construction, operations and decommissioning.</div><div>d. Coordinate with other sectors to optimize access, restoration, and timing.</div><div>e. Protect DRFN access to resources, wildlife, plants and areas of cultural significance for personal, family or community use.</div><div>f. Identify where and how restoration will be completed.</div></div></div><div>6. Create meaningful socio-economic opportunities and benefits through formal agreements and other initiatives that provide a selection of employment, business development, community development, revenue sharing and equity participation on favourable terms.</div><div>7. Oil and gas companies that are no longer actively developing resources associated with their tenures must commit to initiating eco-cultural restoration activities in a timely manner.</div></div>
Key Management Objective: Support a diversified and sustainable local economy.		
Purpose of Policy: <div><div><div>To have a diversified and sustainable oil and gas sector that is committed to addressing reconciliation through eco-cultural restoration.</div></div></div>		
Planning Context: Petroleum and Natural Gas (PNG) development is a driving force in the local economy and is a key source of employment and contracting for the region. This sector significantly influences the condition of the land, water and resources, and socio-economic values that are important to DRFN. Past PNG development has left an unprecedented legacy of pipelines, seismic lines, well sites, processing facilities; abandoned, dormant, and orphaned wells and contamination with inadequate accountability for remediation and restoration. Part of this Land Use Plan involves actions to regenerate and restore areas that could form healthy ecosystems suitable for the practice of our treaty rights. Demand for oil and gas in northeast BC remains strong and pressure to develop oil and gas resources in the Planning Area is expected to continue. The province is supporting growth of fossil (blue) hydrogen development in the Planning Area and across northeast BC with policies and incentives to attract investment in the production of blue hydrogen. As it generates greenhouse gas emissions, blue hydrogen production must be paired with carbon capture and storage, either at or near the source or shipped via pipeline, to achieve carbon reduction. This activity could increase land disturbance significantly if not managed.		
Future Work: Work with the Petroleum and Natural Gas industry to research and improve restoration practices for abandoned, dormant, and orphaned wells and pipeline corridors.		
Other Important Notes: This strategy interacts with all other strategies. It is recommended to review all strategies.		





Renewable Energy and Transmission Policy

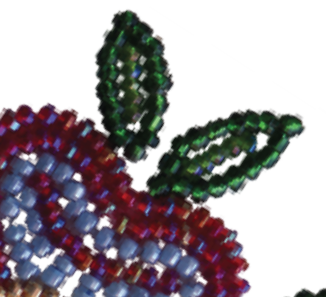
<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: April 16, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. New renewable energy and transmission licenses and tenues <u>are not</u> permitted in the following areas:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Priority 1 Enhanced Planning Areas (EPA’s).b. Priority 2 Enhanced Planning Areas (EPA’s).2. Plans, authorization requests and operations within DRFN’s Planning area must be consistent with this Land Use Plan and are subject to the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Demonstrated alignment with our planning objectives, including avoidance of areas designated for enhanced protection and/or where the proposed activities would exceed disturbance or cumulative effects thresholds.b. Compliance with Key Management Tools and Management Responses found in Part 4 of this Land Use Plan.3. Land and/or water altering activities related to industrial developments must undergo DRFN’s assessment of cumulative effects and treaty rights, in addition to other governmental assessments.4. Electricity industry plans must be developed in collaboration with DRFN, ideally according to the terms of a Relationship Agreement, and will be assessed for alignment with this Land Use Plan. Proponents should demonstrate that their plans:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Minimize new disturbances and infrastructure required. Siting is encouraged on lands that have limited value for conservation or other productive uses.b. Minimize temporary impacts from access, construction, operations, and decommissioning.c. Pursue stacking of functions for greater land-use efficiency and reduced impact on the primary function of the land. Use existing linear corridors with minimal expansion of the right-of-way. Co-locate compatible facilities such as wind and agriculture.d. Coordinate with other sectors to optimize access, restoration, and timing.e. Protect DRFN access to resources, wildlife, plants and areas of cultural significance for personal, family or community use.f. Identify where and how restoration will be completed.g. Create meaningful socio-economic opportunities and benefits through formal agreements and other initiatives that provide a selection of employment, business development, community development, revenue sharing and equity participation on favourable terms.5. Renewable energy and transmission project proponents must establish a respectful relationship with DRFN through the negotiation of Relationship Agreements and other arrangements. <p><i>Note: This will help to ensure that we are provided with the information and resources necessary to assess project proposals on our own terms, and secure appropriate benefits from development activities.</i></p>
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To become energy independent and play the lead role in developing clean renewable energy resources within the DRFN Planning Area.		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>The DRFN Planning Area includes part of the river system that has seen significant hydroelectric developments over the decades by BC Hydro. The construction and operation of these projects result in significant impacts to treaty and Indigenous rights and interests. DRFN’s recent experience with the Site C Hydroelectric Project again demonstrated the cost of large hydro to the ecosystem, treaty rights and the health of the people. We expect future electricity needs of the province to be provided through deployment of other technologies that pose minimal risk to these values. Run-of-river hydro, wind and solar resources are prevalent and considered commercially viable within the Planning Area. Of these, wind is the preferred technology due to favourable wind conditions and low cost. Although the industry has been only marginally active over the past 15 years, recent provincial climate action policies such as CleanBC have shifted public policy to incentivize increased use of electricity and build out more demand for electricity (energy and capacity). BC Hydro’s current power acquisition policy is focused primarily wind, followed by solar – both of which have seen dramatic cost reductions and are far cheaper than other technologies such as run-of-river and geothermal. The Provincial Government and BC Hydro also plan to significantly expand transmission and other electricity infrastructure throughout the province. In the DRFN Planning Area, the priorities for transmission are to connect new power generation and to electrify PNG industrial facilities (fuel switching and new equipment) to decarbonize industry. Green hydrogen is emerging as an alternative to blue hydrogen, but does not currently receive provincial government policy or other incentives to develop at a faster pace. Overall, the buildout of power generation and transmission infrastructure will achieve a substantial reduction greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. However, significant project development will have commensurate adverse effects on the landscape and must be managed to minimize disturbance. The potential for creation of multiple utility corridors for transmission lines is a concern for DRFN, particularly with regard to increased access for recreational vehicles, impact on wildlife, secondary impacts from vegetation management, and the loss of viewsapes.</p>		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>Not Applicable.</p>		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>This strategy interacts with all other strategies. It is recommended to review all strategies.</p>		





Mineral and Mining Policy

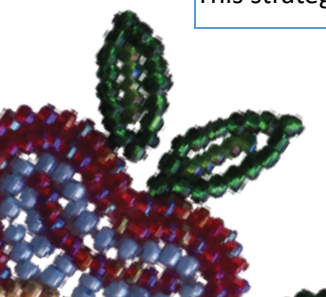
<div>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</div> <div>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div>If yes: Not Applicable.</div>	<div>Date of Last Revision: April 16, 2024</div>	<div>Management Directives:</div> <div><div>1. DRFN will work to acquire all provincially held sand and gravel tenures within the DRFN Planning Area.</div><div>2. Mining and quarrying <u>are not</u> permitted in the following areas:<div><div>a. Priority 1 Enhanced Planning Areas (EPA’s).</div><div>b. Priority 2 Enhanced Planning Areas (EPA’s).</div></div></div><div>3. Plans, authorization requests and operations within DRFN’s Planning area must be consistent with this Land Use Plan and are subject to the following:<div><div>a. Demonstrated alignment with our planning objectives, including avoidance of areas designated for enhanced protection and/or where the proposed activities would exceed disturbance or cumulative effects thresholds.</div><div>b. Compliance with Key Management Tools and Management Responses found in Part 4 of this Land Use Plan.</div></div></div><div>4. Land and/or water altering activities related to industrial developments must undergo DRFN’s assessment of cumulative effects and treaty rights, in addition to other governmental assessments.</div><div>5. DRFN has pre-engagement, project assessment, and consent-based decision-making processes for planning, management, and authorization requests of minerals and mining projects in the Planning Area. We are co-developing these processes with other levels of government to appropriately recognize DRFN’s jurisdiction and management authority for resource development.</div><div>6. Minerals and mining industry plans must be developed in collaboration with DRFN, ideally according to the terms of a Relationship Agreement, and will be assessed for alignment with this Land Use Plan. Proponents should demonstrate that their plans:<div><div>a. Minimize new disturbances and infrastructure required. Siting is encouraged on lands that have limited value for conservation or other productive uses.</div><div>b. Minimize temporary impacts from access, construction, operations, and decommissioning.</div><div>c. Pursue stacking of functions for greater land-use efficiency and reduced impact on the primary function of the land. Use existing linear corridors with minimal expansion of the right-of-way.</div><div>d. Coordinate with other sectors to optimize access, restoration, and timing.</div><div>e. Protect DRFN access to resources, wildlife, plants, and areas of cultural significance for personal, family or community use.</div><div>f. Identify where and how restoration will be completed.</div><div>g. Create meaningful socio-economic opportunities and benefits through formal agreements and other initiatives that provide a selection of employment, business development, community development, revenue sharing and equity participation on favourable terms.</div></div></div></div>
<div>Purpose of Policy:</div> <div>To ensure a sustainable mining and quarrying sector that is committed to reconciliation. Reconciliation means acknowledging and addressing practices that have had negative impacts throughout our Territory.</div>		
<div>Planning Context:</div> <div>Mining and quarrying potential within the Planning Area is found in sparsely distributed crown sand and gravel tenures in the Northern and Central Management Zones and there is a small number of mineral tenures and claims in the Central and the Southern Management Zones.</div>		
<div>Future Work:</div> <div>Work with the Mining industry to research and improve restoration practices for abandoned and dormant mine sites and mine access roads</div>		
<div>Other Important Notes:</div> <div>This strategy interacts with all other strategies. It is recommended to review all strategies.</div>		





Agriculture Policy

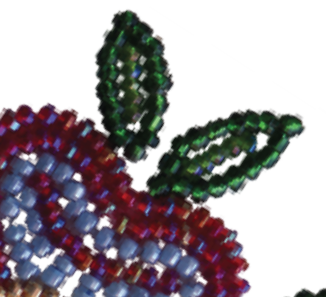
<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: April 16, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Work with the Crown and private landowners to raise awareness and create incentives to limit the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Cultivation of land close to streams and water bodies.b. The use of pesticides and herbicides.c. Agricultural runoff affecting water quality.d. Excessive water withdrawals.e. Invasive plants.2. Prioritize support for operations that use native plants and animals that are adapted to our landscape (e.g. bison farms vs. cattle farms).3. The creation of new fencing is discouraged unless it is deemed necessary.4. Underutilized and unused agriculture tenures on Crown land must be relinquished or the land restored to improve access (i.e. the removal of fences).5. New agriculture tenures <u>are not</u> permitted, and existing ones will not be renewed, in the following areas:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. The ‘Central Management Zone’ (see Section 4.2).b. All ‘Enhanced Planning Areas’ (see Section 4.3).6. Grazing license tenures (which determine allowable land uses and activities) must be considered in tandem with range use plans, which determine how a grazing license tenure holder will operate.7. All ranching and grazing plans must be developed in collaboration with DRFN to address issues like (but not limited to) the following ones:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Agricultural runoff.b. Water allocation.c. Overgrazing in riparian areas.d. Range supply inventory.e. Use of fencing and cattle guards.f. Invasive species.g. Cultural and heritage resources.h. fire management for controlled burns.i. Monitoring and assessment of potential impacts.<p><i>Note: This means DRFN must be involved early in the planning process and must formally sign off and approve the document.</i></p>8. Crown leases for grazing must not be renewed in the Central Management Zone without DRFN consent.
<p>Key Management Objective:</p> <p>Support a diversified and sustainable local economy.</p>		
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To encourage local food production and transition to more culturally and ecologically friendly ranching and farming practices.		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>Agriculture is an important sector of the local economy that – when done right – creates local jobs and provides a sustainable and healthy source of food. However, in the past, poor agriculture practises have led to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Damage to important riparian areas.• The excessive use of pesticides and herbicides.• Agricultural runoff affecting water quality.• Excessive water withdrawals.• The introduction of invasive plants and animals. <p>Agriculture was among earliest forms of landscape disturbance to affect the DRFN Planning Area. See the following parts of the DRFN Land Use Plan for context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part 2 (Impacts on the Land) ← see part on former Montney Reserve (I.R.#172).• Part 3 (Finding Kę Maah) ← see timeline at the beginning. <p>Today, agriculture is the most widespread form of land cover change in the Central and Southern Management Zones. Perhaps the most significant impact has been a loss of access and alienation from culturally important areas and recourses. The Provincial government has established several large community pastures (grazing leases) are found near DRFN’s main community lands (<i>Hanás Saahgé?</i>). This is better than conversion to private (fee simple) land. However, portions of these areas are also fenced and difficult for DRFN member to access.</p>		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>Research and improve restoration practices for disturbed or contaminated riparian areas and agricultural access roads.</p>		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>This strategy interacts with all other strategies. It is recommended to review all strategies.</p>		





Private Ownership and Rural Development Policy

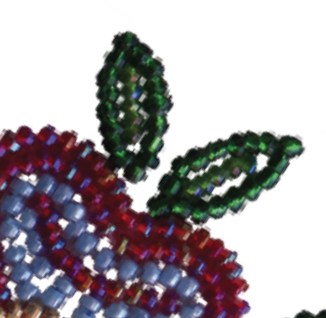
<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: April 16, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The creation of new fences is discouraged unless necessary – especially on Crown Land.2. Additional land within the DRFN Planning Area must not be converted to private (fee simple) status by the Crown, without DRFN consent.3. Work with the Provincial and Local governments, to limit shoreline development on private (fee simple) land in riparian areas.4. Require developments to have proper wastewater disposal systems that do not have negative impacts on the environment.5. All regional and local planning documents (e.g. Official Community Plans) must be consistent with this plan.6. Require the Provincial, and Local governments, to include DRFN in their processes for reviewing and approving the following types of applications:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. creating new Provincial tenuresb. renewing existing Provincial tenuresc. permitting development applications7. All private landowners must comply with DRFN’s “cultural and heritage resources policies”. <i>Note: DRFN intends on developing detailed policies and procedures that private landowners must following if important cultural and heritage resources are encountered by private landowners. This includes gravesites and other archaeological resources. DRFN will require that Provincial and Local Governments incorporate these DRFN policies into their approval and permitting systems.</i>8. Work with the Crown and private landowners to ensure DRFN has an opportunity to exercise “Right of First Refusal” for the re-acquisition of lands within our former Montney Reserve.
<p>Key Management Objective:</p> <p>Support a diversified and sustainable local economy.</p>		
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ensure important culture and heritage resources are protected on private (fee simple) lands.• To improve planning for major projects that can have an impact on private landowners.• To strategically re-acquire important lands.		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>Land privatization and rural development has been one of the most significant things adversely impacting DRFN. Most of the Northern Management Zone is still Crown Land; however, the Central and Southern Management Zones are now largely private and inaccessible to DRFN Members. See the following parts of the DRFN Land Use Plan for context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part 2 (Impacts on the Land) ← see part on former Montney Reserve (I.R.#172).• Part 3 (Finding Kę Maah) ← see timeline at the beginning.		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this strategy moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DRFN establishing cultural and heritage resources policy and incorporating into Provincial and Local government approval and permitting systems.• Land Acquisition in the former Montney Reserve.		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>This strategy interacts with all other strategies. It is recommended to review all strategies.</p>		





Urban Development Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes:</i> Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: April 16, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Establish Memorandum-of-Understanding (MoU) documents with all municipalities in the DRFN Planning Area regarding to the potential for DRFN to acquire and develop land within municipal boundaries.2. Collaborate with local governments to ensure streamlined development approval processes for projects on our DRFN Community Lands.3. Ensure the Provincial government and municipalities like the City of Fort St. John understand and recognize our position as the <i>Tsáá? ché ne dane</i> – the original “First People” of the area. <i>Note: This means prioritizing relationship building with DRFN and the advancement of shared interests and initiatives.</i>4. Ensure compact forms of development prevent urban sprawl that can take up land within out DRFN Management Area.5. Work with municipalities to ensure our history, language, and culture in incorporated into urban design and place making initiatives.
<p>Key Management Objective:</p> <p>Support a diversified and sustainable local economy.</p>		
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To achieve sustainable and efficient development patterns in communities throughout our Territory.• To acquire and develop “DRFN Community Lands” in urban centres.		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>Population centres like Fort St. John, Taylor, Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe are found throughout Central and Southern Management Zones. These Urban areas continue to grow and impact lands and resources important to DRFN. Having said this, they also present opportunities for reconciliation through economic inclusion, community development and the celebration of DRFN culture and history.</p>		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>The following have been identified as priority initiatives to support implementation of this strategy moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish Memorandum-of-Understanding (MoU) documents with municipalities.• Establishing Municipal Servicing Agreements (MSA) with municipalities where applicable.• Establishing streamlined development approval processes where applicable.		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>This strategy interacts with all other strategies. It is recommended to review all strategies.</p> <p>A MoU and MSA has already been established with the City of Fort St. John.</p>		





Appendix L

Prosperity

Management Objective #12

Ensure land use and ongoing resource development results in meaningful benefits to DRFN.

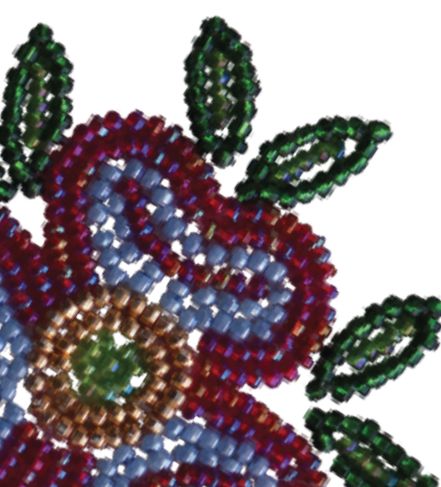
Policies:

Accommodation and Benefits Policy



Accommodation and Benefits Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes: Not Applicable.</i></p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: April 16, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <p><u>Engagement, Relationship Agreements</u></p> <p>1. Through the project development phase, proponents are expected to establish a respectful relationship with DRFN through the negotiation of Relationship Agreements and other arrangements which support the consultation and decision making required for projects.</p> <p><i>Note: This helps proponents understand opportunities and constraints on the landscape, provides space for collaborative engagement on plans, and ensures that we are provided with the information and resources necessary to assess project proposals for cumulative effects and treaty rights.</i></p> <p>2. Proponents must provide opportunities for its members to participate in studies for assessments, including research, physical works and engagement.</p> <p><u>Impact Benefit Agreements, Resource Revenue Sharing, Equity Opportunities</u></p> <p>3. Successful project proposals will create meaningful socio-economic opportunities and benefits through Impact Benefit agreements and other arrangements that provide DRFN with a selection of the following on favorable terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Employment.b. Business development.c. Community development.d. Revenue sharing.e. Equity participation. <p>4. Benefits may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Setting DRFN employment targets.b. Establishing preferential hiring policies and training programs.c. Implementing priority bidding opportunities for DRFN businesses.d. Establishing programs for culture and language in the workplace.e. Supporting community initiatives.f. Including environmental provisions – including well-defined reclamation plans, beyond those required by the environmental assessment or permitting processes.
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">To ensure DRFN benefits from land use and resource development occurring within the DRFN Planning Area.		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>Accommodation and benefits agreements are already an established part of doing business.</p>		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>Work with regulators to improve consultation processes by developing appropriate application categories and protocols, as well as assessment criteria to help manage our foundational goals.</p>		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>Not Applicable.</p>		





Appendix M

Prosperity

Management Objective #13

Generate own source revenue for DRFN.

Policies:

Atmospheric Benefits Policy



Atmospheric Benefits Policy

<p>Are there any unique spatial considerations beyond DRFN Management Zones and Enhanced Planning Areas?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes: HVF has been modelled in the DRFN Planning Area. See Land Use Directives for how to use the information.</i></p>	<p>Date of Last Revision: April 16, 2024</p>	<p>Management Directives:</p> <p>1. Prioritize support for land uses and resource developments that demonstrate alignment with DRFN’s <i>Carbon Strategy</i>.</p>
<p>Purpose of Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure DRFN can participate in and generate revenue through an emerging carbon economy.		
<p>Planning Context:</p> <p>DRFN is scoping and developing opportunities to develop projects designed to reduce GHG concentrations within the Plan Area by increasing the removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere, and/or reducing or preventing the emissions of CO₂ to the atmosphere.</p>		
<p>Future Work:</p> <p>DRFN intends to enter an Atmospheric Benefit Sharing Agreements (ABSA) with the province to secure our exclusive entitlement to the offset credits.</p>		
<p>Other Important Notes:</p> <p>Not Applicable.</p>		

