K'ih tsaa?dze – A Sacred Place



K'ih <u>ts</u>aa?<u>dz</u>e <u>Tribal Park</u> (pronounced *kih tsad zey*) is a place of profound cultural, ecological, and spiritual significance. Located approximately 40 kilometres northeast of Fort St. John, BC, K'ih <u>ts</u>aa?<u>dz</u>e spans the border between British Columbia and Alberta.

For generations, the landscapes of K'ih <u>ts</u>aa?<u>dz</u>e have sustained **Doig River First Nation** (DRFN) by providing food, medicine, shelter, and spiritual renewal. It has provided us with the ability to practice our traditional ways without interference. Rich in cultural significance, these lands remain essential to preserving our way of life, culture, and identity.

Since 2005, Doig River First Nation has undertaken substantial work in K'ih <u>ts</u>aa?<u>dz</u>e to secure long-term protection and conservation of approximately 97,115 hectares of land. K'ih <u>ts</u>aa?<u>dz</u>e Tribal Park was declared in 2011 and an Ecosystem Based Management Plan was drafted at that time as a first step towards conservation planning.

Our Vision for K'ih tsaa?dze Tribal Park

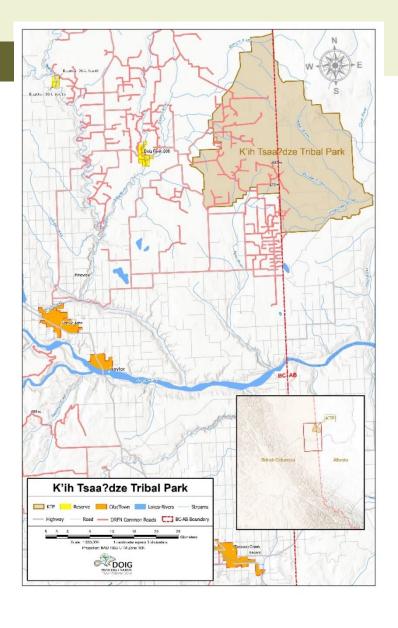
Nan wúújq t'aa dâah'aa?, the DRFN Land Use Plan, identifies K'ih tsaa?dze as a high-priority conservation area for Doig River First Nation. In addition to K'ih tsaa?dze, the Land Use Plan establishes a vision for both protected and specially managed landscapes.

Through our conservation planning we aim to strengthen:

- Ecological function and integrity, and biological diversity of the land.
- Traditional and contemporary cultural uses of K'ih tsaa?dze by DRFN members.
- Treaty rights of our people through clear policies and tools.

Protecting and restoring K'ih tsaa?dze contributes toward British Columbia and Canada's commitments to protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030 while also creating economic growth and opportunity in the region.

The boundaries for K'ih \underline{ts} aa? \underline{dz} e Tribal Park were designed to protect places of importance to DRFN members and to keep those places healthy and functioning as part of a larger ecosystem insulated from the effects of natural and humancaused disturbances.



Healing the Land, Healing Ourselves

Unfortunately, the lands within K'ih tsaa?dze have been significantly impacted by industrial activities over many years. There are numerous seismic lines, roads and well sites within K'ih tsaa?dze. In addition to industrial degradation, significant fires, drought and floods have further altered the landscape of K'ih tsaa?dze.

To address these impacts, Doig River First Nation is undertaking eco-cultural restoration in the planning area to recover areas for the practice of Treaty Rights, starting with K'ih tsaa?dze. The commitment to restoring these landscapes presents a significant economic, environmental, and cultural opportunity that can help diversify and sustain the local economy, which is especially important in areas where resources are depleted like K'ih tsaa?dze.

A Shared Responsibility

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We have work to do, together.

The Path Forward

Here's how we're moving forward:



Understanding the Land:

Updating knowledge with a combination of Western science and Indigenous wisdom.

Restoration:

Addressing legacy impacts to rejuvenate the ecosystems that sustain healthy forests, wetlands and water.

Engagement:

Collaborating with local First Nations, communities, industry and other stakeholders.

Prioritizing habitat preservation for important local species.

Wildlife **Land Protection Management:**

Ensuring measures align with DRFN's community vision and ecosystem-based management.

Measures:

Co-

Management: Working with the governments of BC and Alberta to align conservation

objectives.

Our work is moving forward in 3 Phases -



Listening & Information Gathering (Now)



Planning (2025)



Recommendations & Implementation (2026)

Join Us

Together, we can protect K'ih tsaa?dze for future generations. Sign up to receive updates and learn how you can support our work.

Sign up here to stay informed:

