



OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

Hà t_átgi hà khustìyxh sítì

*Taku River Tlingit First Nation Vision and
Management Direction for Land and Resources*



Atlin Lake

Doug Milek

Front Cover Photos: Taku River Landscapes, Kim Heinemeyer and
Raymond Ward (Crow Clan/Dog Salmon House), Doug Milek
Back Cover Photos: Chief Taku Jack (Wolf Clan), Atlin Museum

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Governing Principles from the

TRTFN Constitution

The following is an excerpt of the guiding principles approved in the (1993) *TRTFN Constitution Act*.¹ These principles convey the special relationship that has existed between the Taku River Tlingit people and their land spanning over countless generations. The guiding principles outline a set of values and beliefs that form the foundation of an environmental and cultural value system that is uniquely Tlingit. This system has been passed from ancestors to elders and from elders to the current day generation—all of whom care for their natural environment—and stems from a deep rooted understanding of a reciprocal interdependency that we have with all life forms.

- The TRTFN Constitution, including the governing principles, represents the TRTFN paramount laws which apply to all Taku River Tlingits and TRTFN governing bodies.
- It is the land from which we came that connects all life. Our land is our lifeblood. Our land looks after us, and we look after our land. Anything that happens to Tlingit land affects us and our culture.

- As Tlingit, we accept that we are a part of and responsible to our land. Everything that is a part of the land has life and spirit. Thus, we respect, protect and preserve all life and land.

- As Tlingit, we do not recognize the borders imposed by any other governments because we know where we come from and only we can define our traditional territory. We know that we come from this land and we are rooted in this place. It is this place, our traditional territory, that makes us Tlingit.

- We are Tlingit because we know that this place, this land, is our traditional territory. We have an eternal spiritual relationship with this land, this place.

- The history of our relationship with the land is sacred and we shall always protect the spiritual places that help us to be Tlingit. We have no where else to go; this is our homeland.

- Historically, our people had laws and customs through which they successfully governed our traditional territory and protected it for future generations. Now we are the caretakers for those yet to come. We are thankful and shall only take from our traditional territory what we need to ensure our well being and self-determination as Tlingit.

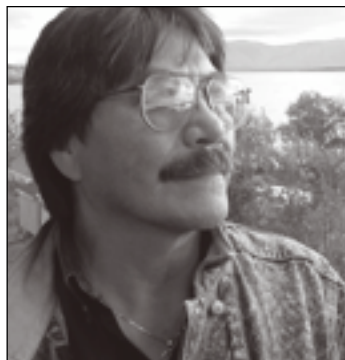
- It is our responsibility to pass on healthy land so that the Tlingit remain healthy and survive forever. Therefore, we have a responsibility to pass Tlingit Laws which shall protect our traditional territory and way of life.

- Each Tlingit is responsible for protecting, preserving, and promoting Tlingit land, laws, culture and spirituality.

- Our Elders show us that, to live as Tlingit, the life breath of our culture comes from each of us through our heart, mind, body and spirit. Therefore, as Tlingit, we have a spiritual, emotional, physical and intellectual relationship with ourselves, and all other life.

- Strength and balance in all relationships requires us each to respect, trust, care and share. As Tlingit, we stand together in a circle and, in this way, we are connected to each other and all life.

¹ TRTFN 1993 TRTFN Constitution Act, ratified by TRTFN clan members on March 30, 1993, articles 2.1-2.12

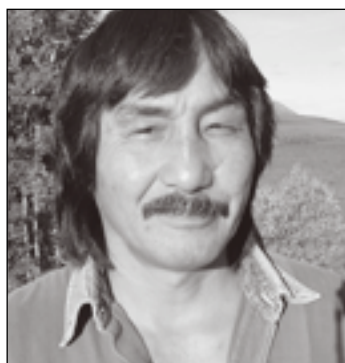


Thomas J. Esquiro
Crow Clan Director

Michael Snyoboda



John D. Ward
TRTFN Spokesperson



Bryan Jack
Wolf Clan Director

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Taku River Tlingit First Nation



June 20, 2003

On behalf of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation, we are pleased to present to you *Hà t_átti hà khustiyxh sítí* (Our Land is Our Future): Taku River Tlingit First Nation Vision and Management Direction for Land and Resources. This document articulates our peoples' vision for our traditional territory and describes how our land and resources are to be used, managed and protected for the benefit of present and future generations.

This document was approved by our Nation on May 24th, 2003 through our most formal decision making forum, a Joint Clan Meeting. The completion of this document represents a significant milestone for our Nation. It represents the culmination of many decades of discussion, studies, and hard work, including extensive discussions within our community, interviews with our Elders, hunters and citizens, community meetings, clan meetings, and open houses. This document reflects the most cherished values of our Nation and our desires for how the territory will be cared for and used. The voice of our people is reflected not only in the main text of this document, but also in the many quotes that are included throughout the following pages.

The Taku River Tlingit First Nation affirms our aboriginal title to the lands and waters that constitute our Nation's traditional territory, as well as our rights to the resources of these lands and waters, and our inherent right to self-determination. The Vision and Management Direction for Land and Resources document represents one way in which we are exercising our responsibilities and jurisdiction as a Nation. We will implement and adhere to the directions outlined in our Vision and Management Direction document and not take actions that are fundamentally inconsistent with this document.

This document also provides guidance for others who may be interested in operating in our territory. The TRTFN therefore directs other governments as well as private interests and development proponents to incorporate the management direction contained within this document into any future proposals for the development of lands and resources within our territory.

The TRTFN is also determined to further develop the vision and management directions in this document. This would be done most effectively through co-operative, government-to-government working relationships with the Federal Government of Canada and the Provincial Government of British Columbia, as both have responsibilities and jurisdictions that overlap with those of the TRTFN. We will continue to invite governments to work jointly with us to further develop this plan. In the interim—until other governments are prepared to work jointly with us to protect and properly develop the resources of our territory necessary to preserve our way of life—we will continue to take the steps necessary and effective to achieve those objectives.

We hope you enjoy this document, and invite you to our territory to work with us to realize our vision for our land.
Signed:

John D. Ward
TRTFN Spokesperson

Bryan Jack
Wolf Clan Director

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Jackie Williams, Wolf Clan Leader



Vernon Williams, Crow Clan Leader



Taku River Tlingit First Nation



CLAN DIRECTIVE

PLACE: Atlin, BC
DATE: Tuesday, July 15, 2003
Re: Vision and Management Direction Document JCM

Whereas:

At the Joint Clan Meeting on May 24, 2003, Rat sgti ha khustiyah
siti (Our Land is our Future): TTFW Vision and Management
Direction for Land and Resources, May 2003 was approved for use.

Whereas:

Resolution #20030524 outlining the use of Rat sgti ha khustiyah
siti (Our Land is our Future): TTFW Vision and Management
Direction for Land and Resources, May 2003 was passed by
consensus.

Therefore:

Be it resolved that the Taku River Tlingit First Nation
Government implement the spirit and commitments outlined in
resolution #20030524.

[Signature]
John D. Ward
Spokesperson

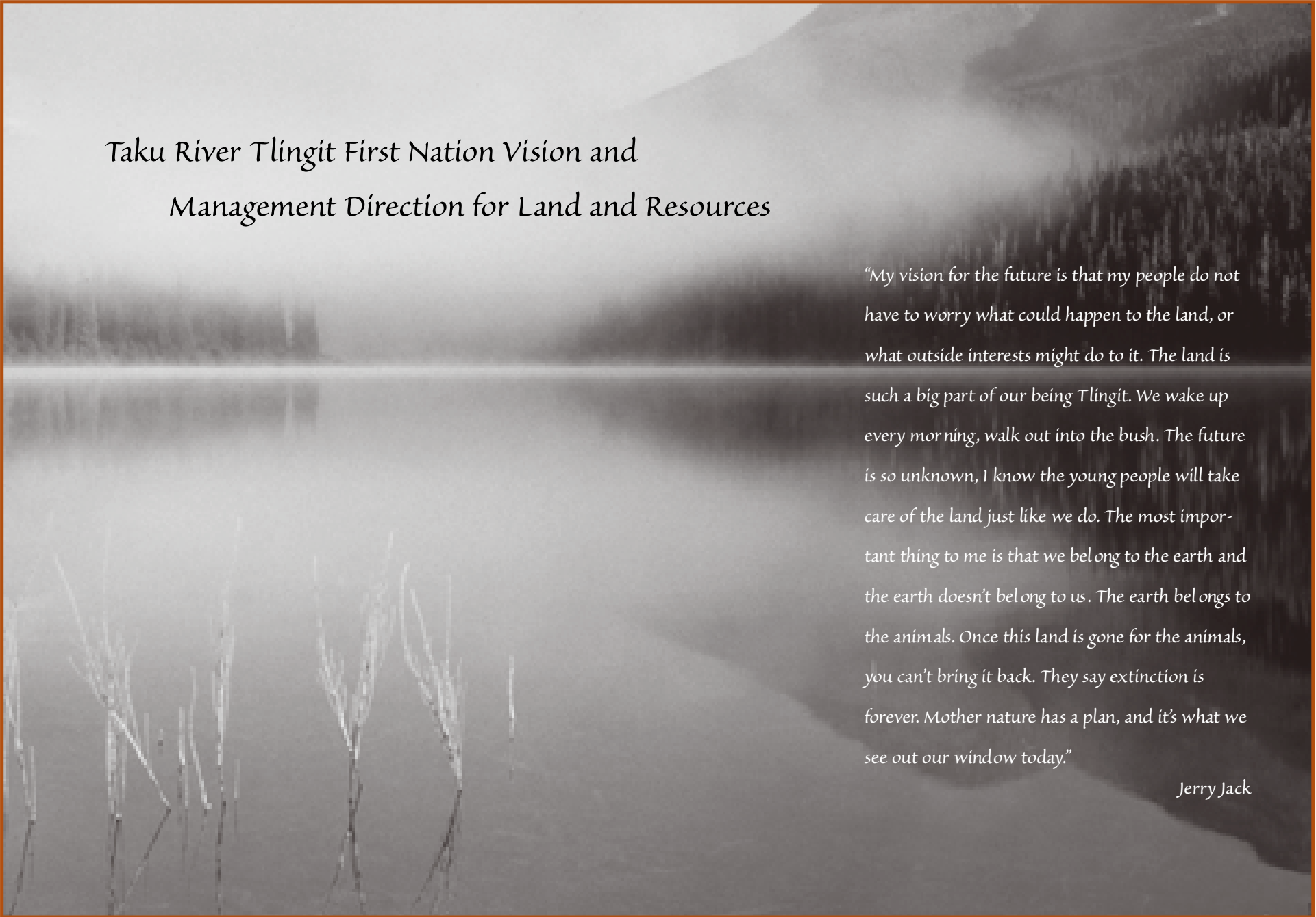
[Signature]
Fina Brooks
Interim Crow Clan Director

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Clan Directive # 0746037 CD2
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ORIGINAL

copy 2 of 3



Taku River Tlingit First Nation Vision and Management Direction for Land and Resources

"My vision for the future is that my people do not have to worry what could happen to the land, or what outside interests might do to it. The land is such a big part of our being Tlingit. We wake up every morning, walk out into the bush. The future is so unknown, I know the young people will take care of the land just like we do. The most important thing to me is that we belong to the earth and the earth doesn't belong to us. The earth belongs to the animals. Once this land is gone for the animals, you can't bring it back. They say extinction is forever. Mother nature has a plan, and it's what we see out our window today."

Jerry Jack

Douglas Midek

King Salmon Lake



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1. Introduction

"It is simple for me. We need to continue our struggle to gain recognition of our ownership, sovereignty, and jurisdiction of our land and resources. We need to be careful we don't make any agreements that will reduce our ability to achieve that goal. We need to build our capacity and make personal and group sacrifices so that we can work together to achieve these goals. At some point, now or in the future, we need to develop government structures with neighboring Tlingit people in Teslin, Carcross, Tagish, and those in Alaska so that ultimately we have a Tlingit nation that includes us all."

Peter Kirby



Crow and Wolf crests: Artist, Wayne Carlick

This document presents the Taku River Tlingit First Nation's (TRTFN) Vision and Management Direction for Land and Resources for our territory. This document is an interim planning product, with a more complete TRT Land Plan anticipated in the future.

1.1 Affirmation of Rights and Title

We, the people of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation, affirm our aboriginal title to these lands and waters that constitute our Nation's traditional territory, as well as our rights to the resources of the traditional lands and waters, and our inherent right to self-determination.

Our Nation is participating in the treaty process to reach agreement regarding the constitutional protection afforded to Taku River Tlingit aboriginal rights and title in accord with Section 35 of the Constitution Act of 1982, which recognizes and affirms aboriginal and treaty rights.



Astin Museum

1.2 Purpose of this Document

As a Tlingit nation, we have come to understand the risks of allowing proponent-driven projects to determine how our territory gets developed. Such experiences have provided the Nation with a collective motivation to plan for our own future, including how we will care properly for our natural environment.

The purpose of the Vision and Management Direction document is to articulate our vision for the future of our traditional territory. This document describes how we intend to see our land and resources used, managed and protected for the benefit of present and future generations. In large part, this involves rethinking how people manage themselves in our territory.

This document also provides the basis for appropriate economic development and for capacity building.

"I have great hopes that this Land Planning will be utilized to protect the land with the understanding we are doing this for future generations to ensure that our land and resources will be protected for them."

Lucille Jack

1.3 Scope of this Document

This Vision and Management Direction document is not intended to demonstrate the

extent of our historic or current use and occupation of our territory for the purpose of establishing aboriginal or other legal rights and title. Pre-contact to present day occupation has been thoroughly documented through other studies, reports, submissions, and oral stories. All readers should understand that this document has a specific and limited scope and subject matter, and is not intended to prove aboriginal rights or title.

"I think that partly what the land plan is about too is how much it takes to sustain Tlingit over time considering all the different visitors, all the different impacts—making sure we have places to pick berries, places to pick medicines, places for someone to teach my son about hunting, places to put up salmon. To someone who is really development-minded I imagine that sounds excessive that we need all these things and we need all these things forever, but I think that's the reality."

Susan M. Carlick

We acknowledge the extensive work done to prepare this document which represents a new undertaking by our Nation to communicate our values, interests and perspectives about our land and resources within our community and to broader audiences. A great deal of care and effort has gone into its development, however, it remains a work in progress and will be refined over time. It is but one step in a larger, on-going

process unfolding over many generations to understand and work toward the long term guardianship of our land and resources.

As with all such strategic land use planning products, this Vision and Management Direction document reflects a high level of generality. This document calls for more detailed planning at a larger scale to address specific issues over smaller planning areas within our territory (e.g., preparation of a recreation and tourism strategy for part or all of the territory, development of management guidelines for key habitat areas). An issue may also arise that could cause a part of our territory to be evaluated in more detail to address specific issues (e.g., impact assessment triggered by a development proposal). As a result, parts of this document may need to be revised to reflect new knowledge that arises as these issues are addressed.

This Vision and Management Direction document provides strategic-level direction for the management of all people's interactions and how they relate to the Taku River Tlingit's land and resources that lie within the borders of British Columbia only. Lands included in the TRTFN's traditional territory that lie within what is designated as the Yukon Territory and Alaska are not addressed in this document (see Figure 1).

This document also presents information regarding lands that are shared with the Teslin Tlingit First Nation (within the Teslin River, Swift River, and Jennings River watersheds). Management direction provided for these lands is subject to further review and discussion.

Taku River Tlingit First Nation

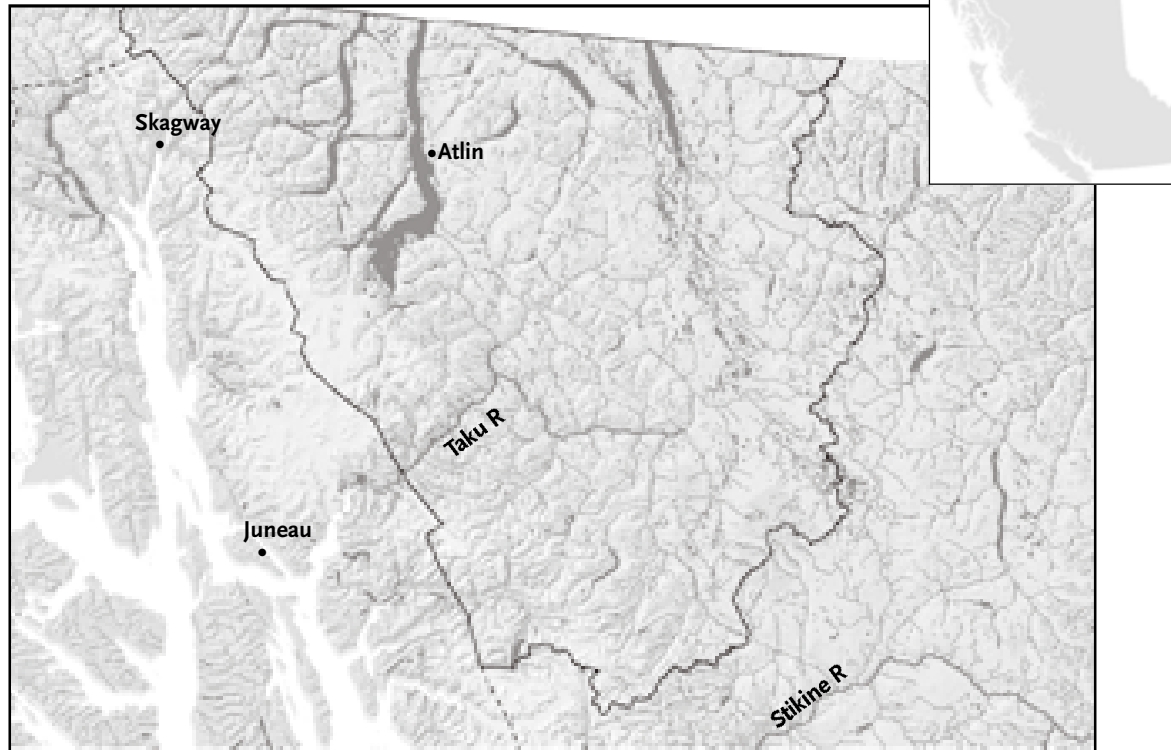


Figure 1: Traditional territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation in British Columbia

"I'd like it [the traditional territory] to stay exactly the same! If and when there are changes, I'd like it to be managed by our qualified citizens. That to me is very important. It is not a thing I say lightly. It's so important when someone comes up and speaks to somebody in an authority position that they articulate properly and say what they mean: that the territory's ours. The bottom line is that it's ours."

TRTFN citizen

1.4 Definition of Key Terms

Definitions of key terms are provided throughout each section of this document. A detailed glossary is also provided in the Appendices.

1.5 Planning Framework

This Vision and Management Direction document provides broad direction for the management of land and resources through resource management goals, objectives and strategies (see Section 8). It also includes a proposed framework for land use zones (see Section 9).

1.5.1 Resource Management Goals, Objectives and Strategies

The TRTFN Vision and Management Direction document provides strategic direction for management of land and resources through resource management goals, objectives and strategies:

- Resource management goals describe the future vision for particular aspects of land or resources. Goals are broad aims and usually apply to the entire territory.
- Resource management objectives outline specific end results that will help to achieve the goals. Objectives are usually measurable and apply to particular areas or resource values.
- Strategies are specific actions designed to achieve a resource management objective.

This document contains resource management goals, objectives and strategies for a wide range of resource values—for example, wildlife and biodiversity, tourism, fisheries, heritage and culture, and so on (see Section 8).

1.5.2 Land Use Zones

The TRTFN is also working towards the identification of land use zones for our territory. Land use zones are divisions of land distinguished by biophysical characteristics, resource management issues, or management direction. Within each zone, specific guidance is provided regarding permissible resource development activities. Land use zones thus determine what can happen where. Further analysis is required before such zones can be delineated. However, a framework

for such zones has been proposed and is included in this document (see Section 9). It is anticipated that such zones would follow watershed or other ecological boundaries.

Ultimately, the TRTFN will prepare a complete TRT Land Plan incorporating both management objectives and strategies as well as land use zones delineated for the territory. Such a document will be developed after discussions with other First Nations, who share the use of some of the lands within our territory. Furthermore, in light of complex issues of overlapping jurisdictions, we recognize that we will need to undertake this subsequent phase of our land planning in collaboration with Provincial and Federal Governments, both of which have responsibilities and authorities related to land use and resource management.

"I would like to see wildlife managed by having a Taku River Tlingit member; and we've had this before, a conservation manager that knows the land, the respect that we show to the land, so that they could then work with the conservation officer uptown, so that they could work together to manage the wildlife, so that we won't develop in areas where the wildlife are. They would do the counts of how many animals there are and how many are killed."

Deborah Yeomans

TRT Perspectives on Land Planning

We, the Taku River Tlingit, are moving forward as responsible stewards of the lands and waters within our territory. Our territory covers approximately 40,000 km² and includes areas of what is now known as British Columbia, Alaska and Yukon. Our territory contains high mountains, expansive forests rich with wildlife and salmon-filled wild rivers. As responsible stewards, we are embarking on a course necessary to ensure the preservation of our lands and the conservation of its wildlife and fisheries. This will assist us in ensuring the preservation of what is Tlingit.

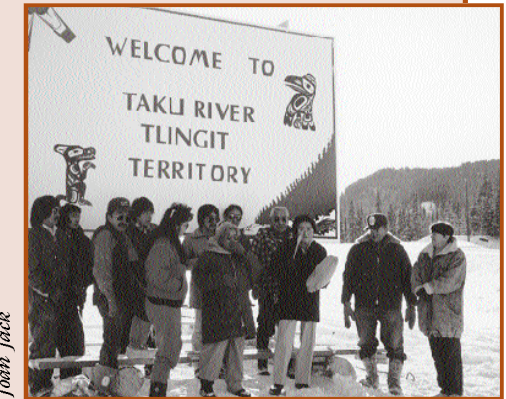
Our ancestors named the Taku River and still today we identify ourselves with this life sustaining river. Over many millennia, our way of life has become intertwined with our lands and waters, so that we are now inseparable from these very same lands and waters. Just as some identify themselves with a place they call home, we identify ourselves through our territory. This is the place we call home. This is our homeland. Other people may come and go, but we have always been here and we will continue our lives here forever. Tlingit people will always be here!

Through time, our people have ensured that our land, with its animals, fish and plants was sustained as a healthy place. These lands have in turn provided for our survival as a people and as a Nation. This stewardship we have carried on for centuries, even though others have not always acknowledged this. It is now time for the Taku River Tlingit to reclaim our historical responsibility as stewards of our territory, and for us to provide an opportunity for others to share our responsibility.

—Excerpted from Hl Tlatgi Ha Kustiye: Our Land, Our Way of Life

An approach [to land planning] grounded in culture and sense of place requires that thinking about the future in a comprehensive way must be done, and must be predicated upon the ability of our children and children's children to flourish in this territory as Tlingit. This implies a continuity in our relationship with the land, and a set of rules by how we all must interact with it, that can only be brought to bear through a formal planning process. Too much is at stake, and too many long-term values at risk, for a decision of this magnitude [the Tulsequah mine] to remain in the hands of regional government administrators without a long-term, comprehensive vision of where they are going.

TRTFN, 1995. What We Need to Know: Information Requirements for Redfern Resources' Project Report for Tulsequah Chief Mine. p. 5-6.



Joan Jack
Commemoration Ceremony of TRTFN's Welcome Sign at Como Lake Reserve

1.6 Organization of this Document

Each section of this document deals with a specific issue, as identified below. Quotes from TRT citizens have been used in this document to provide contextual information and to clarify the intent of management direction through the voice of our people.

The specific sections are:

- Section 2 provides a brief profile of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation, summarizes the extensive use and occupancy of the territory by the TRTFN, and provides a summary of governance structures and recent involvement with the treaty process.
- Section 3 presents a vision statement for the TRTFN and guiding principles for the management and protection of our territory.
- Section 4 provides a brief physical profile of our territory.
- The process used to develop the Vision and Management Direction document is presented in Section 5.
- Section 6 summarizes community concerns and perspectives on resource values, inherent Tlingit values, and uses. This material has been derived from community interviews as well as past studies and reports.
- Section 7 affirms TRTFN authority to develop and implement the Vision and Management Direction document.
- Section 8 presents management directions for each resource value, in the form of goals, management objectives, and management strategies.

- Section 9 presents a proposed framework for land use zones to be developed by the TRTFN in the future.

- Section 10 identifies management directions for TRT spiritual grounds and historical landmarks.

- Section 11 summarizes next steps anticipated in the preparation of a regional economic development strategy.

- Various Appendices are included at the end of this document.

1.7 Amendments and Revisions

As noted above, this Vision and Management Direction document is subject to refinement over time as research continues and new information becomes available. The process for amendment and revisions of this document are as follows:

- Major revisions: Changes to the vision, guiding principles, and management goals or objectives require formal approval by the TRTFN membership via a Joint Clan Meeting (JCM). Provisional minor amendments shall also be formally approved at the time of major revision of this document.
- Minor amendments: Refinements to the strategies to be used to achieve management objectives may be made at any time, upon the approval of the three Leaders, and with the input of the Citizens Treaty and Land Plan Caucus. Adequate opportunities for input from all TRTFN members will also be provided prior to such refinements being approved. All such refinements are to be considered provisional pending formal revision of the Vision and Management Direction document.

It is anticipated that the Vision and Management Direction document shall be superseded by a complete TRTFN Land Plan in the future.

1.8 Acknowledgements

This document has been prepared on behalf of all citizens of the Taku River Tlingit under the direction of the TRTFN Leaders and staff with on-going advice and guidance from the TRTFN Citizens Treaty and Land Plan Caucus (the “Caucus”), whose current members are:

- Deborah Yeomans
- Gretta Thorlakson
- Marion O’Shea
- Maxine Francoeur (Alternate)
- Raymond Ward
- Richard Carlick
- Sandra Jack; and
- Shirley Reeves (Alternate)

The terms of reference for the Caucus require that membership be renewed or changed on an annual basis. The Caucus is an advisory body to the current Leadership of the TRTFN: John Ward (External Spokesperson), TJ Esquiro (Crow Clan Director), and Bryan Jack (Wolf Clan Director).

The TRTFN has been involved in an ongoing land planning process for many years and thus pays tribute to our highly respected Leaders and departed elders: Henry Taku Jack, Sylvester Jack Sr. and Edward Jack for building a solid foundation for this current document. We are very

grateful to other former elders including Helen Lindsay, Gloria (Reed) Jack, Elizabeth Nyman, Evelyn Jack, Susan Carlick Sr., James and Elizabeth Ward who exercised the wisdom to continually assert Tlingit rights within our ancestral lands in order to keep a physical and cultural place of belonging for the future generations. Our heartfelt gratitude is also given to Antonio Jack, Jackie Williams, Andrew Williams, Harry Carlick, William Campbell, Richard Johnson, Mary Anderson, George Esquiro Sr., Melvin Jack, Joan Jack, Lee Francouer, Louise Gordon, Ali Carlick, Jenny Jack, Peter Kirby, Susan Carlick Jr., Herb Hammond, Tony Pearse, Art Pape and many others for building a land planning framework that secures provision for the human and cultural needs of the Tlingit people. The TRTFN Vision and Management Direction document could not have been produced without the participation of many citizens that enthusiastically share the old teachings about hunting and gathering while keeping harmony with the land and resources in our territory. We appreciate the invaluable knowledge you provided that tailored this document to fit the current and future needs of the Tlingit Nation.

Technical assistance, fundraising support and project management for the development of the this document has been provided by Round River Conservation Studies, Dovetail Consulting Inc., Convergence Communications, Round River Canada, Nature Conservancy Canada, Westcoast CED, and others. Deep and meaningful relationships have evolved as these individuals have respectfully listened to our people describe their intimate relationships with their land and

“Respect was taught at an early age to everybody. Many times we’ve heard parents telling their children, when they are looking at a moose, or looking at a lynx, or lookin’ at beaver, or lookin’ at a caribou, or a grizzly bear, talk to them, wish them “good day,” wish them “good luck.” Tell them that you don’t mean no harm to them. And throughout my life, anyways, I’ve learned that, when I’m talking to that animal, I know it’s coming from within me, within my heart, that I truly wish that animal the best. I truly wish that mountain the best, that stream, because, after all, that’s what makes our life. That’s respect for me. Respect is to accord other species a rightful place, and to accept and acknowledge their rightful place in the cycle of life.”

Andrew Williams

resources. TRTFN will remain cognizant of your generous contribution that will forever support the fruition of an opportunity to breath life into our Vision and Management Direction document which portrays our unique relationship with all life forms in our ancestral territory. Gunalchich!

The TRTFN also gratefully acknowledge the financial support provided by our supporters to assist with the development of the Vision and Management Direction document.



Melvin Jack

Elders, Elizabeth Ward, Jimmy Ward, Johnny Taku Jack and Melvin Jack in a TRTFN Treaty Meeting

2. The Taku River Tlingit First Nation

"I think in the Tlingit way, [hunting] is already managed. In the plants, animals, culture it all ties into the clan system. If I do something outside of the law, not only me pays for it, but the entire clan. If you shoot something just for the sake of shooting it is wrong, and so in that sense it is wrong. I've never heard of any Band members shooting something for the sake of shooting it. All of these questions are already under the management of Tlingit laws. We already had our laws in place before the White man came. We need to pass it on to the younger generations. If we follow our Tlingit laws, that is all we need. ...The Tlingit laws are all about respect for everything, and that is what it is all about."

Douglas Jack



Evelyn Jack, Elizabeth Ward and Helen Lindsay demonstrating to children how to prepare groundhog.

We the Taku Quan, meaning the people of the T'akhu (Taku River), are the original people occupying the T'akhu, the surrounding lands, waters and extensive network of trails to the interior of our traditional territory in northwestern British Columbia and southern Yukon. Long ago, our ancient Tlingit ancestors gave the T'akhu its name and for thousands of years these lands have sustained us. Our Clan ancestors have identified themselves with this river, the T'akhu, and today we continue to respectfully identify our people and our First Nation with its name.

Taku Quan



Elders, Johnny Taku Jack, Elizabeth Nyman, James Ward and Antonio Jack at TRTFN Treaty Meeting

All people are unique according to geographic location, and the environment in which they live eventually shapes who they become as a people. Through time the land and the people conform to each other, and become inseparable. To the Tlingit, the land is full of spirit. We respect it. The land and the forces of nature that shape the land are real, alive and interconnected with human life. From past to present, we draw the deepest sense of spirituality through various landscapes, waterways and animals, and we

adhere to rules of conduct that have guided the motivations and actions of our people as we live respectfully within the natural environment.

Historically, all people have an innate need, beyond food and shelter, to know their mothers and families as well as to have a sense of belonging to a place. To us, the Taku River Tlingit, home is the land which provided for our ancient tribal peoples and this area is also defined in this Vision and Management Direction document with the anticipation that it will provide for the needs of current and future generations. Home has never



Youth Practicing Tlingit Dancing

Taku Expedition

been on tiny pockets of reservation land in a small section amidst our vast homeland territory.

Our Tlingit Elders tell us that one of the most important things for people to know is who we are and where we came from. “If you don’t know your own history, where you came from, who your mother is, and where she came from, you have no place to begin. The more you know about your family history, the more you know who you are. If you don’t know who you are, you are lost!”, they have told us.

Just as ancestral roots in Europe identify Europeans, our ancestral roots in the T’akhu and surrounding areas will always identify our people as Taku Quan . The Taku River Tlingit are the direct descendants of the Taku Quan and we continue to identify ourselves with the land, waters and resources of our traditional territory. Even though the Taku Quan have experienced

"I have such a big vision. Just dreams. I see the T'akhu (Taku River) where the TRT has full control over our land. We have people checking other people coming into our land to see why they are here and what they want to do. I see our people having control so that we can let them come and go. Control of the hunting. Also, if those people misrepresent the land our people can restrict them from coming onto our land."

Phil Williams

Historical Knowledge of Taku River People

A yíkh ûsh kè iyawduwaxhâ wé T'àkhú kha yâ idakát át x'úx kàdé yà àkakghishaxî.

(If only you were taken by boat along the Taku River, you could write the whole story down in a book.)

It is a story the river knows before we [got] sic there, written and rewritten on its banks by the footsteps, voices, and visions of the ancestors who traveled it long before we were born. What the river knows is wâ sáyú ikawdayâyi 'what happened to you in your past.' And if you travel the river with someone...who knows how to read what is written there, you can hear that story and become that story. The river is wé àxh I shagûn khuwdzitiyi yé 'the place where your history came into being.' This river, this watershed, this valley, with its landforms and its animals, knows who you are, and if you permit it to do so, it will tell you....Culture is precisely that....It is all parts of ourselves that we carry externally – on our backs and in our hands and in our minds – instead of in our genes. That is why it is given to things like rivers for safekeeping. But history reminds us that it isn't safe, even with the river, unless it is continuously listened for, reread, rehearsed, retold....Stories are orphaned as easily as people in such a world. But stories seek people out because they need people to tell them. And people need stories to tell, as truly as they need shoes, knives and fire. We need them because stories are maps of the world; they are concentrated summaries of reality. People who have no stories to tell, like stories that have no people to tell them, don't survive.

Excerpted from Gagiwdul.at: Brought Forth to Reconifirm The Legacy of a Taku River Tlingit Clan, 1993:8-9

forceful removal and the severing of family and cultural ties to our homeland, through various attempts by the government at assimilating children into mainstream Canadian society, we continue to maintain a strong sense of place and Tlingit identity tied to our homeland.

Generations of Tlingit have endured trauma brought on by a series of attempts to uproot us from our own culture and to plant us into new, foreign cultures. After many years of breaking

various cycles of abuse, we are now prepared to rebuild our lives according to the principles and values of Tlingit culture that have stood the test of time and continue to shape our lives today. We believe that our homeland is an inheritance from our forefathers and mothers and truth and honor will prevail in restoring our legacy to us in a just and timely manner. The legacy of our homeland and cultural belonging has never been surrendered in any treaty, war or negotiation process.

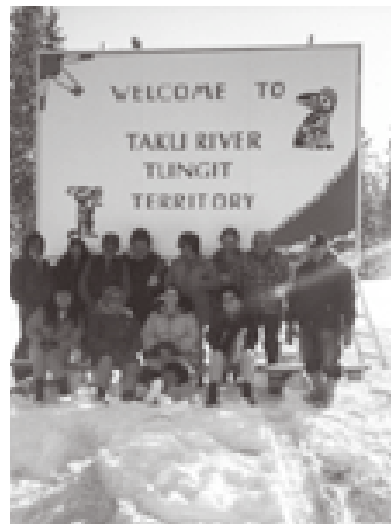
"My vision is to have unity first. I can envision working towards that, so that we're feeling so close together again that we camp with one another again, so that we get back to our traditional values of sharing and caring for one another. I think that's where it will all start. Right now it just seems like it's all divided. I am praying for unity, because it's the only way we'll make it. I can't see us going back to the old ways exactly, I think we could learn to walk together with the non-native people and strive for the best interests of all of us."

June Jack

2.1 Current Governance Structures for Taku River Tlingit

The distribution of law making powers, decision-making authority, and roles and responsibilities of various governing bodies and individuals for the TRTFN are stated in the Taku River Tlingit Constitution Act (1993). This act affirms the TRTFN as a self-governing people, and perpetuates the clan system of governance under the traditional laws of the Taku River Tlingit.

Both the Crow (Kùkhhitàn, Ishkitàn, Dèshitàn) and Wolf (Yanyèdí) Clans and houses are equally important to the survival of the Tlingit. Both Crow and Wolf Clans participate in Joint Clan Meetings, to provide direction to TRTFN Governing Bodies.



Joan Jack

Past, current and future Tlingit Leaders gather in front of TRTFN welcome sign in 1991.



Ali Carlick

Canoe Rock Pictograph

2.2 Taku River Tlingit Use and Occupancy of the Territory

Taku River Tlingits have cared for this unspoiled environment for thousands of years. Trapping, hunting, fishing, fur trading and an intimate knowledge of habitat ensure an abundance of wealth. Laws and social structure are based on a sophisticated code of ethics and respect for natural law. Their way of life evolved and brought forth a powerful nation with well developed commerce and trading evolved.

Archeological findings suggest that occupation of the overall region may go back tens of thousands of years. The Tlingit lived along the lower Taku river in summer, fishing and gathering berries. In the winter some families traveled further inland to the upper Nakina travel routes and north to the Atlin and Teslin areas and into the Yukon using an extensive network of trails.

Historically, the Taku River Tlingit people established seasonal village sites on the T'akhu (Taku



Henry T. Jack Wood Camp

River), the Nàkina â Hín (Nakina River) and Á Tlèn (Atlin Lake), along with numerous other sites throughout their territory, with principal settlements at the confluence of the Inklin and Nakina Rivers (known as Hín Tlèn), the confluence of the Silver Salmon and Nakina Rivers, the confluence of the Nakina and Sloko Rivers (also known as ‘Canoe Landing’), further up the Nakina, and at Porter Lake, and Nahlin. Additionally, family homes were sited at several locations along the Hinklin and Sheslay Rivers with several permanent seasonal fishing camps at other locations along the Nakina, Silver Salmon, and other rivers. There were also several permanent seasonal fishing camps at other locations along the Nàkina â (Nakina), Silver Salmon, and other rivers. There are important cultural and heritage sites throughout our territory, including remains of cabins, semi-underground dwellings, grave houses, hearths and drying racks, food cache pits, and bridges across narrow canyons.

By 1875, some Tlingit families living in the Upper Taku began to settle year round in Atlin. Oral history, archival and archeological evidence convey that the Tlingit settled and camped on the current site of the Wenah (Atlin Townsite). There were many smoke houses near the shore-line as well as an established camp (Smith and Dickenson, 1997). Findings of projectile points, detritus, bone utensils, stone tools, fire pits and caribou fences on and around Á Tlèn (Atlin Lake), Pine Creek, Surprise Lake, Gladys Lake, McKee Creek, Ya à yi Hín Ghiyi (Warm Bay) and trailways between Á Tlèn and the T’akhu represent pre-contact hunting and habitation. Culturally modified trees, some altered by stone axe in the Á Tlèn - T’akhu area indicate harvesting of traditional food and medicine (French).

The whole of our territory has been and continues to be extensively used by the Taku River Tlingit as part of a land-based way of life. This is well documented in several studies, most recently in work done as part of the environmental assessment of the Tulsequah Chief Project report. Preceding this work in the 1970’s, the TRTFN undertook one of the first traditional land use studies ever done in B.C.

The TRTFN developed and maintained trails throughout our territory, connecting the T’akhu with headwaters and interior areas of our territory, including northward into what is now the Yukon, and eastward into our territory of the Teslin Tlingit. According to Rescan, “From the Nakina River, there are trails through the valleys to various destinations, including Atlin, Gladys Lake, and Teslin Lake. The Tulsequah Chief Mine Project describes two main aboriginal trails

connecting the Nakina River with the Atlin area. The first follows the Silver Salmon river to Kuthai Lake and from there to Atlin. The second follows the Sloko River to the south end of Kuthai Lake. Another aboriginal trail provided access to the upper Silver Salmon and Nakina Rivers and Paddy Lake” (1997). Patterns of trade with inland First Nations were well established prior to contact with European settlers.

Presently, the economy of the TRTFN communities depends on both ‘traditional use harvesting’ (e.g., hunting, fishing, trapping, berry picking) and a cash economy (through wage earning and income from other sources)². TRT citizens work in government jobs (TRTFN, federal and provin-



Sign to protect a Spirit House at Nàkina â

Ali Carlisle

TRT Perspective on The Traditional Territory

When TRTFN members examine [maps showing patterns of traditional use], they can readily point to any discrete set of lines which map out a particular land use and associate the area it crosses or circumscribes with a family or family individual. Collectively, these areas of family use as well as shared use represent the traditional territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation. The effect of breaking it up or apart for analytical or resource management and planning purposes, or to alienate one area at the expenses of another, is to fragment the social order and organization on which it is based. The effect of focusing on select traditional use sites to the exclusion of the larger territory is to ignore how all of the territory and its component hunting and fishing areas function as a system to support the traditional economy of the broader TRTFN community and are a reflection of the political system of governance that supports it.

The viability of TRT land use and its associated economy, the relative abundance of the resources utilized, and the hunting and fishing strategies that are employed to optimize production for TRTFN households—all of these considerations and calculations make rational sense only on the basis of the concept of traditional territory. It is partially on this basis, and partially on the basis of traditional use and occupancy of this area, that Taku Tlingit [Elders] assert their ownership to their traditional territory as an indivisible whole in social, political, cultural and economic terms: Hà Tl'aTKi áwé — “This is our land.”

Excerpted from Determining the Impact of the Tulsequah Chief Mine Project on the Traditional Land Use of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation, 1997

cial), guiding, outfitting, carpentry, mining, and casual labouring. The TRTFN also holds 8 commercial fishing licenses which provide the basis for their active involvement in the salmon fishery on the Taku River each year. Many of the Tlingit families spend two to three months out of the year on the T'akhu and at Nàkina á (Nakina Village site) to harvest and gather fish, meat, berries and medicinal plants as well as to participate in spiritual and cultural activities. After returning from the T'akhu, some of these people spend another week or two hunting, fishing, berry and medicinal plant picking in the Á Tlèn area. Several people do these types of activities year around, meaning that they hunt and ice fish and these types of traditional activities continue to be an integral part of the economic, social and cultural fabric of TRTFN citizens living within their territory.

2.3 Taku River Tlingit First Nation Involvement with Treaty Process

Prior to 1915 the Tlingit had neither signed a Treaty with the Crown nor been granted reserve lands. In June of that year, however, the Tlingit people of Atlin were met by J.A.J. McKenna of the McKenna-McBride Commission which had been appointed by the Dominion Government to ‘investigate the welfare of’ the province’s aboriginal people. The Commission sought to ‘regularize’ the relationship of the Dominion Government with the Tlingit by recommending the establishment of a number of reserves in the area, but in doing so totally misunderstood the relationship between the Tlingit and the land. Speaking before the McKenna-McBride

Commission in 1915, Chief Taku Jack did not express regret about the arrival of whites to Tlingit territory, stating before the Commission “...we are just like brothers.” He did not however recognize the authority of the Commission in determining the nature, extent or location of any ‘reserve’ lands of the Taku River Tlingit. As Taku Jack said at the time: “You(‘ve) got no land to give me – this land belongs to me... If you give us people a piece of the land, we are not free. This is my country and I want to keep it.”

The TRTFN submitted an application to the Federal Government under the comprehensive claim process in 1984 and their claim was accepted for negotiation. Negotiations were not initiated however prior to the launch of the British Columbia Treaty Commission (BCTC) in the early 1990’s. The Taku River Tlingit commenced their ‘modern day’ Treaty negotiations in December, 1993 under the BCTC process. In 1997, the four First Nations of the region—TRT, Carcross Tagish First Nation (CTFN), Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC), and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN)—formed the Northern Regional Negotiations Table. Following the withdrawal of the CAFN, the remaining Tlingit First Nations resolved in good faith to continue negotiation towards the conclusion of Final Agreements.

The TRTFN, CTFN and TTC plan to provide Canada and British Columbia with maps and evidence that would clearly depict historic and current use and occupation of all land and resources defined within the Land Treaty area. Pre-contact to present day occupation has been



Melvin Jack.

TRTFN Treaty negotiations on the T'akhu River: John Ward, Mary Anderson, Jenny Jack and Jackie Williams (L-R).

well documented, and the collective evidence indicates TRTFN's sovereignty and occupancy of said lands. Through the Land Treaty process, the TRTFN intends to assert its inherent right to self-govern and oversee the governance of the 12,000 square mile area defined in the TRTFN claim. The TRTFN government intends on being inclusive and considerate of the other individuals and societies which now reside in this territory.

This Vision and Management Direction document does not replace the treaty process, nor is it dependent upon the treaty process. This document is an exercise of governance by the Taku River Tlingit over our traditional territory. The Vision and Management Direction document provides direction regarding current and future land uses. The results of this document are without prejudice to negotiations under the treaty process or any legal determinations of Taku River Tlingit rights or title and do not constitute an abrogation or derogation from Taku River Tlingit aboriginal rights or title.



Melvin Jack.

Elder, Johnny Taku Jack explains historical and current activities on TRTFN traditional territory map

"The Taku River Tlingit need to research and evaluate all of their natural resources within their territory, and do an inventory of all those resources. Educate all of the TRT citizens on what resources are there, and consult with the TRT citizens about goals to develop a strategy to maximize the returns to the First Nation while minimizing the impact on the lands, while protecting their legal interests. Important factors include capacity building, working toward treaties and interim measures, open dialogue with nonnative commercial interests and working with other First Nations."

Lee Fancoeuer

3. Vision and Guiding Principles for the Management and Protection of Our Land

“My vision for the future of TRTFN is to work cooperatively with all interested parties in the land so that we don’t have to fight over it. I was raised in the way that God gave the land to you and me, and if people weren’t trying to say my land, and used the word our land there would be less conflict. I would like to see less fighting and more friendship, but I guess that’s hard because there are a lot of different views. For my son, who’s 2, I don’t want him to grow up having to fight.”

Deborah Yeomans



Melvin Jack.

Campfire talk at 5-Mile with Elders, Edward Jack, Richard Johnson, Johnny Taku Jack, Antonio Jack and Elizabeth Nyman

3.1 Taku River Tlingit Vision Statement

As people of the TRTFN, we embrace an inter-generational responsibility to care for our land, resources and people. We are fortunate, for many reasons, but most of all because our homeland

has not been subject to large scale development and is not overflowing with people. We want to continue to welcome people to our territory but to do so, we must ensure that people understand how to co-habit with all forms of life—the land, animals, plant life, water and air.

We have an opportunity to formalize a land and resource management plan that will exemplify a holistic perspective and guide management practices that support co-existence amongst people and natural resources.

The following vision and guiding principles will assist in the implementation of our Vision and Management Direction document and in maintaining the integrity of our homeland territory without compromising the fish, wildlife and habitats and while respecting traditional harvesting and gathering needs of TRTFN citizens.

“Protecting our culture is knowing where the heart of the Taku is, that’s the heart of our culture. Talk to our elders that are here because few are around.”

Vernon William

“My vision for the TRT Lands and Resources is to leave everything in its natural state for our children. And for TRT to get involved with renewable resources.”

Ali Carlick

Our vision for the future of Hà t_átgi hà khustìyxh (“our land and way of life”) and for how others coming to our territory will work with us for the future, includes the following:

- We are a strong and capable Nation, exercising ownership, sovereignty and jurisdiction over our territory by living up to our sacred responsibility to govern our own actions as citizens and affect control over the actions of others within our territory.

- We are a confident people who welcome others to our territory, secure in the knowledge that visitors will respect the laws of our land and culture, and that we are willing to accept new ideas that will strengthen our ability and commitment to sustain our resources and people.

- We are a people grounded in our knowledge and respect for our Taku River Tlingit culture and values Hà khustìyxh (“our way of life”), rooted in Hà t_átgi (“our land”), actively engaged in working together, and guided clearly by our Constitution, by the knowledge of our Elders, and by our respected leaders.

- We are a people who are healing from the damage from past injustice, committed to sharing and caring, who enjoy the respect, friendship and cooperation of others, confident and creative in managing our territory for the benefit of present and future generations.

- Many individuals spend time on the land, are familiar with its peaks, rivers, forests, valleys, special places, and sacred values, and that travel its trails and rivers unimpeded.

- There is a productive natural environment with diverse and abundant animal, fish and plant populations, that reflects the rhythm of natural ecological cycles and change, and that provides opportunities for harvesting and gathering and other activities that we have depended upon for countless generations.

- Our territory is managed so that Taku River Tlingit sacred places and cultural heritage sites are revered and protected, and so that the traditions of our ancestors are continued for our children and grandchildren for ever.

- Use of our territory respect Tlingit land ethics and ensure wild areas and other special places remain rich, intact and un-fragmented.

- There is a supportive, secure and healthy community enjoying the peace and beauty of its natural surroundings and a sustainable quality of life within our territory.

- There is diverse and vibrant economic activity, that is led by capable Tlingits, and that respects our land and its bountiful gifts, and provides creative and enduring opportunities for employment while ensuring ecological and social sustainability.

- There is protection and support for traditional lifestyles based on historical culture and methods.



Bryan Evans

In September 2002, presentation of the Vision & Management Direction Initiative to British Columbia Provincial Government Minister Hagen, Deputy Minister O'Riordan, and Minister Neufeld in preparation for possible joint TRTFN/BC land planning process for the Atlin-T'akhu area

“I could liken it to a ship traveling across the ocean, with a bunch of people in it. If you don’t take care of that ship, you’re going to sink. And that’s what’s happening in this land. If we don’t take care of the land, we’re going to sink. There will be no more Tlingit. Our very constitution speaks to that: we don’t own the land, we are part of it. If we don’t take care of that host, it will abandon us. It’s going to die and leave us to die too... not only us, but the predominant society as well. That is why I say any plan we want to implement has to be holistic in nature; it has to include everybody.”

Andrew Williams

“Live on the land. Keep our resources for our children, and keep it going and alive. We’ve already lost so much. I believe that the next generations deserve as much as we have had. There is much that is coming alive now.”

Kaushee Williams

3.2 Guiding Principles for Land Planning and Management

- All land use planning and management shall be guided by the paramount laws enacted in the TRTFN Constitution Governing Principles.
- As TRTFN, we shall exercise our authority as a self-determining people over land use and resource management in our traditional territory.



Louise Gordon, Antonio Jack and Maxine Francoeur participate in recent land planning meeting

RRCS

- TRT citizens will be trained in contemporary resource management and work to incorporate traditional knowledge passed down from our elders and ancestors.
- Land planning and resource management activities shall enable TRT citizens to practice Hà khustiyxh (their ‘way of life’/traditional ways).
- Land planning and resource management activities shall provide opportunities for capacity building for TRT citizens.
- Land use planning and management shall be grounded in Tlingit concepts, values and understandings, and should be infused with Tlingit language.
- Management of our territory shall adopt a holistic, ecosystem-based approach that considers the entire ecosystem in determining use of specific areas and setting harvest levels, and that focuses on what to leave behind, rather than what to take.
- The khustiyxh of our ancestors can be seen everywhere within our traditional territory and we who live here today must protect and continue to identify the evidence that our ancestors lived with this land.

“I was brought up to manage: as a young kid I went out with my dad in the morning or evening and we got what we wanted, and lived off that until we needed the next. But you can’t over harvest by taking more than you need.”

Jason Williams

- Only the resources that are needed shall be harvested from the land, and only if taking them does not threaten the sustainability of the resource. Animals and plants harvested from the land shall be shared with others and not wasted.
- Management of our territory shall sustain diverse and abundant wildlife and ecosystems in perpetuity, while providing for cultural, social and economic activities that support a healthy, secure and sustainable quality of life.
- Land planning and management shall pay special attention to species that are at risk or are declining so that biodiversity across the landscape is maintained.
- Land planning and management shall embrace both the knowledge of our Elders as well as the contribution offered from modern Tlingit and western science.
- A precautionary approach shall be adopted for land planning and management, so that decisions err on the side of caution when information is limited.
- Development activities shall only proceed when the risks of impacts on our territory are well understood and accepted by the TRT.
- The condition of the land and resources across our territory shall be monitored over time, and knowledge of changes incorporated into management decision-making.

TRT Perspectives on Hà t_átgi– Our Land

For the Taku River Tlingit, responsible, stewardship requires us to exercise our leadership in all aspects of caring for our lands. This is very important because our social well being and sustainable livelihood, as well as those of our neighbours, are inseparable from the health of our lands and waters and from the decisions about how we all live on and use these lands. We would be abandoning our responsibilities: to our ancestors, to our children, and to those who live here now, if we did not actively exercise our responsibility in the area of conservation and land use planning that must include responsible development.

Just as without our land we cannot exist as Tlingit, without healthy land we cannot be a healthy people. We must act to ensure our land remains healthy for countless generations to come.

Because of our past responsible and wise stewardship, our lands and waters are healthy today. Our Elders, through their ancestors, have provided us with traditional knowledge of how to care for our land. This knowledge and responsibility originates from countless generations of using, managing, and living respectfully in our territory. We must ensure this knowledge directs all decisions about how we, and others, relate responsibly to our land, water and priceless resources.

Our Elders' wisdom has taught us, and scientific wisdom has confirmed, that we must understand clearly how the land and its natural processes work before we consider an activity that may cause disruption. We must also understand, well in advance, what it is that we need to survive, and be very clear that we take only what is necessary. This is why monitoring of wildlife populations and careful land planning are crucial parts of our actions as stewards to choose, in an informed way, appropriate development activities.

“Like in the spring, when the blue grouse start hooting, that first hunt you give away all that you get, so it’s food on the one hand and a cultural practice on the other. When I take young people with me hunting, I tell them you have to give the first to an Elder, because that’s our cultural practice.”

John Ward

“The model for management is taking what you need for your family and not wasting.

Resources aren’t as plentiful now as they used to be. You have to look after what is there.”

Tina Jack



Louise Gordon

Elders Elizabeth Ward and Antonio Jack conducting a fish cleaning demonstration at Tlingit Culture Days at 5-Mile Point

4. Physical Profile of the Territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation



Taku River Expedition

Elder, Elizabeth Nyman at camp on the T'akhu

Our ancestors have provided us with a beautiful and healthy territory, encompassing high mountains, vast glaciers, salmon filled rivers, and expansive forests rich with wildlife. Over many millennia, our way of life has become intertwined with these lands and waters. Our people have ensured that our land, with its animals, fish and plants, was sustained as a healthy place. These lands have, in turn, taken care of us, providing for our survival as a people and a Nation. We are inseparable from this place we call home and intend to be good stewards of these lands forever.

Our traditional territory covers an area of approximately 40,000 square kilometres, reaching from British Columbia into Alaska and the Yukon. Our traditional territory includes drainages flowing into the Pacific, and north into the Arctic. Major watersheds include the T'akhu (Taku River), Whiting River, Sheslay River, Nahlin River, Nàkina â Hîn (Nakina River), and Teslin River. Our territory also includes several large lakes and rivers that form part of the southern end of the Yukon River watershed, including Â Tlèn (Atlin Lake), Teslin Lake, Gladys Lake, Tagish Lake and Tutshi Lake. Our territory also includes a large interior region in the Yukon extending as far as the lands claimed by the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Carcross-Tagish First Nation – two other inland Tlingit First Nations. The area covered by this Vision and Management Direction document includes only the British Columbia portions of our traditional territory.

Our lands are internationally recognized for the abundance of high quality fish and wildlife habitat, as well as the outstanding scenic values of our mountain, lakes and forested landscapes. Over 95% of our territory is unroaded wilderness. These vast natural landscapes represent 7 of the 14 major ecosystem types of British Columbia and are home to many wildlife species, including salmon, grizzly bear, caribou, moose, black bear, wolf, and many, many others. The richness of our wildlife heritage is described in more detail in the Biodiversity and



Naomi Michum

Elder, Antonio Jack warming her drum at Ya à yi Hîn Ghiyi (Warm Bay)

Wildlife section (see Section 8.2.1), and Fish and Aquatic Habitat section (see Section 8.4.1) of this plan. A more complete description of forest types is provided in the Forestry section (see Section 8.8.1).

Our territory includes the entire Taku Watershed. Our ancestors named the T'akhu (Taku River) and we will always identify ourselves with this life-sustaining river. At 4.5 million acres, the Taku is one of the largest undeveloped watersheds in the world, with rich wildlife and fish biodiversity. Home to grizzly bear, wolf and many other species, the Taku is the only Pacific drainage with nearly 100% wild salmon stocks and contains approximately 28 species of fish of both Arctic and Pacific origin.

5. Process for the Development of the Vision and Management Direction Document

“The biggest concern I have, I know we have designated areas picked out like winter grounds, calving grounds, etc., my concern is, I’ve approached them on corridors between those areas, so that if we have calving grounds here and wintering grounds over there, there should be a corridor where there’s no development to allow animals to go back and forth.”

Thomas Esquiro



Louise Gordon

Group photo at Culture Days at 5-Mile Point: Chief, Sylvester Jack Sr., Carol Hall, Suzannah Carlick, Josephine Muff, Antonio Jack (holding drum), Elizabeth Nyman, Anna Hyrck and Rose Williams.

5.1 Mandate from Taku River Tlingit Citizenship

Direction from the citizenship of the TRTFN to develop and implement a Land Plan was issued to the Leaders at a JCM on January 31, 1999.

5.2 Compilation of Past Studies

We have undertaken several studies in the past to assess the condition of our traditional territory and to identify opportunities for appropriate management, use and protection of our land and resources. One of the first steps in the development of this document was the compilation and synthesis of these various studies and reports.³

5.3 Conservation Area Design

In 1999, we partnered with Round River Conservation Studies to undertake wildlife studies and research leading toward the development of a Conservation Area Design (CAD).

³ The product of this work was an internal document, Wushxh wudu wati: An Assessment of Documentation in Support of Strategic Land Planning and the Preliminary Identification of Selection Lands for the Taku River Tlingit First Nation. Prepared for the TRTFN by Dovetail Consulting Inc., November 2001

5.3.1 What is a CAD?

A Conservation Area Design is a science-based modeling and mapping tool for identifying and prioritizing areas for sustainable conservation based on biological value, threats, and opportunity for implementation. A CAD assists in conservation planning and management decision-making by delineating habitats across the landscape that are necessary to sustain healthy populations of fish and wildlife. Typically, a CAD includes:

- *Focal species analysis and habitat modeling*: predicted high quality habitats for a set of key wildlife and fish species; these habitats provide the basis for identification of a network of conservation areas;
- *Coarse scale representation analysis*: ensures that the diversity of different habitats and ecological communities are represented within the conservation area network;
- *Special elements analysis*: ensures that sites of special ecological importance are encompassed within the conservation area network; these sites are typically area-limited and include such things as the location of nesting areas, spawning sites, and rare communities;
- *Threats and opportunities identifications*: allows special consideration of habitats or regions that may be particularly threatened due to past or planned development activities, and also allows the consideration of existing protected or special management areas or other existing opportunities for conservation in meeting CAD goals; and,

- *Spatial optimization analyses*: combines and evaluates the above elements of the conservation area design to select the landscape areas that best meet the goals and objectives of the CAD while minimizing the landscape area needed to do so.

5.3.2 How was the CAD Developed?

There is generally little scientific data available for our territory on which to base landscape-level modeling. Round River worked closely with us to complete a series of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) interviews, with knowledgeable people in our community, including elders, hunters and others, addressing many aspects of Tlingit knowledge of wildlife and their habitat, and the initiation of various wildlife studies to supplement existing information. On the basis of the TEK information, together with available scientific data (e.g., documented habitat relations from similar areas), habitat suitability models were developed for a suite of focal species, including grizzly bear, mountain sheep, moose, northern woodland caribou, mountain goat, and fisheries values. In addition, we compiled data on salmon distribution across our territory, and on sites of special management concern for fish and wildlife (e.g., special elements such as osprey nests, whitefish spawning areas, etc). These habitat models and data were incorporated into a spatial optimization procedure to develop a portfolio of sites across our territory with high fish and wildlife values. The portfolio used in the land planning was based on the selection of all of the stream reaches with identified salmon, and at least 50% of the modeled habitat value for each of the wildlife focal species. Least-cost path modeling is a type of movement and connectivity modeling that allows the prediction of potential corridors across landscapes using habitat values,

topographic characteristics and user-defined movement behaviors. We used this approach to evaluate potential movement corridors between existing sheep populations, winter habitat areas for caribou, and landscape-level movements of grizzly bears. Additionally, we made predictions



Jackie Williams doing a Land Planning interview

Doug Melik

of connectivity between the selected portfolio sites based on overall habitat values across the range of focal species.

5.3.3 How will the CAD be used?

While all of the TRTFN territory is important for the fish and wildlife, the Conservation Area Design assists planners and managers by identifying those regions of our territory that should receive the highest levels of conservation protection. The CAD is thus a reference tool for land planners, providing spatially-explicit recommendations about conservation priorities. A copy of the summary CAD map is depicted on the back inside cover of this document, which shows a variety of habitat areas:

- *Core Areas:* The core areas of the CAD are those areas that have high value habitat for many wildlife and fish species, based on our own traditional and indigenous knowledge combined with other data and rigorous scientific analyses. All the lands of the territory must be managed in ways that are sensitive to the plants and animals that live there. However, protecting the habitats in the core areas identified in the CAD in particular helps ensure that we are conserving of the wildlife and fisheries values of our territory for future generations.

- *Connectivity Areas:* While the core areas are fairly large, it is still necessary to make sure that the animals can move between these areas to ensure population persistence in the long-term. Thus, the CAD has also identified corridors that connect core areas across our territory.

- *Special habitats:* Finally, while the core areas select habitats that have high value for many species, certain species require special habitat protection. These include species such as mountain sheep, and key habitats such as the wintering habitats for our caribou. Some of these important areas are also identified on the CAD map, to assist us planning for the management of these special fish and wildlife values.

The resulting CAD provides a dynamic modeling toolkit to support science-based planning and management in the future by prioritizing regions across the landscape by their biodiversity values. The CAD toolkit can be used in a variety of ways to help maintain long-term ecological integrity of our territory:

- *Identification of core conservation and connectivity areas:* The CAD uses focal species habitat requirements to identify core conservation areas across the territory that are key for the long-term maintenance of biodiversity. Additionally, connectivity linkage regions between core conservation areas are identified.

- *Identification of key habitats:* The CAD has assisted in the identification of an initial suite of key habitat areas for specific fisheries or wildlife values which require particular management attention:

Salmon areas;
Sheep habitat;
Caribou winter habitat;
Wetland areas; and,
Fisheries areas.

- *Informing land use zones:* A framework has been proposed for land use zones to be developed in a TRTFN Land Plan (see Section 9). Together with other information on values, the CAD will be used to inform the delineation of these zones.

- *Informing management guidelines:* The CAD analyses will be used to inform the development of detailed management guidelines for key habitats and land use zones, so as to support wildlife habitat conservation and maintain habitat connectivity.

- *Scenario analysis:* The CAD too can also be used to assess alternative portfolios, including those increasing or decreasing conservation risk, establishment of alternative protected areas, or designation of economic development zones. In this way, the CAD can support on-going land use

planning and management decision-making by predicting how long term ecological integrity may be affected by proposed land use zones, developments, disturbance or protection.

A Technical Appendix has been prepared to provide more detailed information on the methodology used to develop the CAD products. This document is available upon request.

“Wintering grounds are very important. The females of almost every species are carrying their young ones through the winter. If we go chasing them around with skidoos or helicopters they’re not going to like it, they’re going to move maybe. To leave them undisturbed, or as natural as we can I think. Protection is the most important.”

Gretta Thorlakson



Playful Bear on the Nakina River

Kim Heinemeyer



RRCS

TRTFN elders participate in a land planning meeting

“What I’d like to see is the land and resources to one day be managed totally by TRTFN and the youth. It’s our duty to make sure that the younger generation knows what we are trying to do. It’s not for us, it’s for our future. To keep it in a natural state, but manage it so we can be self-sustainable. I think we’ll have a better future.”

Raymond Ward

5.4 Community Engagement

TRT citizens were engaged through a variety of means at each step in the development of the Vision and Management Direction document. A chronology of the planning process is included in the Appendices.

5.4.1 Citizens Caucus

At the TRTFN JCM of January 24, 1999, direction was provided by the citizens of the TRTFN to establish a Citizens Caucus. The eight-member Caucus is an advisory body that provides input to treaty discussions and the development of land planning products based on their consultation with TRTFN citizens. In conjunction with the TRTFN Leaders, the Caucus has played a lead role in the development of the Vision and Management Direction document, and was responsible for on-going consultation and dialogue within the Nation as the planning proceeded. All Caucus meetings are open to TRTFN citizens to attend.

5.4.2 Technical Support Team

A team of technical consultants was engaged to assist with the development of this document, particularly with regard to:

- project management, strategic planning and facilitation;
- fundraising and communications;
- assessment and synthesis of existing information sources;
- design and management of workshops, interviews and other forms of community engagement;
- a human resource inventory and other assessments related to economic development and capacity building;
- advice on structure and format of strategic land use plans; and,
- preparing of Vision and Management Direction document.

“Sometimes in our busy lives we wish we had more time for other things, but just sitting here taking the time to do this [land plan] interview is important and worth it to me because when I go out to our traditional hunting areas like on Surprise Lake and see how much the mines have ruined things it hurts. Up on one side of the lake it is all green and beautiful, and on the other it is just all rocks and creeks that used to be there and now are barely dribbling away. There are days I feel my soul weep because it is so sad, and I’m hoping being here today and doing things like this interview is going to help so I won’t feel my soul being so sad. It is part of making us feel better as people so that we can get out there as a people and enjoy the land. I dream of going out to the land with our grandkids someday, and they are teaching their kids the same things our Elders taught us.”

Lucille Jack



TRT leaders: Bryan Jack, Wolf Clan Director; Tina Brooks, Interim Crow Clan Director; and John Ward, Spokesperson applaud the approval of the TRTFN Vision and Management Direction for Land and Resources at the Joint Clan Meeting.

5.4.3 Workshop, Community Meetings and Open Houses

Regular community meetings and open houses were held to keep TRT citizens informed regarding the purpose, scope, and progress of land planning, and to present interim products. (See chronology in appendices). Workshops were also held with TRTFN staff and technical consultants to develop appropriate management direction for various resource values.

5.4.4 Land Plan Interviews

The Caucus arranged for and conducted 51 interviews with TRTFN citizens during the summer of 2002 to solicit views on various

aspects the management of land and resources in our territory. (A list of interviewees is included in the Appendices.). A comprehensive interview template was prepared, and interviews were semi-structured, conducted by Caucus members, with both audio recording and manual transcripts prepared by support staff. Both open and closed-ended questions were used. Interviews were conducted in Atlin, Whitehorse and Vancouver. The results of the interviews were extensively used in the preparation of the Vision and Management Direction document. A statistical summary of the results from closed-ended questions is included in the Appendices.

6. Tlingit Concerns and Perspectives



Elders at Nákina á: Lena Sydney, Teslin Elder, Elizabeth Nyman, Margaret Joe and Lucy Wren

The following sections present a summary of citizens' concerns and perspectives on land and resource management in Tlingit territory. This summary is based on a collation of information in previous TRTFN studies, the results of 10 TEK interviews, and 51 community interviews undertaken as part of the land planning process.

Ali Carlisle

"We need to make sure we have enough fish and berries and food and we're conserving areas and fixing up places that are ruined. I don't even think about it as protecting land for me anymore because I have kids and I see it as protecting it for them and for my grandchildren."

Tina Jack

6.1 Access Management

- *Management authority:* The Taku River Tlingit First Nation must assert its right and responsibility to manage access in its traditional territory in a manner that will sustain the Tlingit way of life and provide appropriate and sustainable opportunities for economic development.
- *New road development:* We oppose extensive new road development in the territory due to concerns over:
 - impacts from roads on wildlife and habitat, and on areas of special importance (e.g., Kuthai, Nakina and Taku River);
 - impacts on water and air quality;
 - uncontrollable access to traditional use areas by non-Tlingit foresters, hunters, fishers and tourists causing significant impacts on Tlingit traplines, harvesting areas, and trails, as well as wildlife, fish and other environmental values.
- *Tulsequah Chief access road:* TRT citizens have expressed opposition to extensive new road development in the traditional territory, because of the impact on fish, wildlife and the Tlingits' land-based economy and culture. In October 1998,

“That’s why I was against that road coming from Taku river, because when they built the road from Jake’s Corner here to Atlin, every time we drive through we see moose, coyote, lynx, caribou. One time we were driving through we saw six moose running beside the road, and now you drive from here to Whitehorse you don’t even see one moose. That’s how much the animals get to know about the cars going by, because they can shoot at them, so they move away from the road. That’s what’s going to happen if they build the road through Blue Canyon. There’s not going to be caribou, moose, sheep, bears there. There’s going to be nothing there. All those animals are going to move away from there if they build the road through there. And the road that we’re talking about is going to go right through Pattie’s Lake, south of O’Donnell River, and that’s where there’s lots of fish.”

Antonia Jack

TRTFN filed a Judicial Review Application, challenging the BC government’s decision to issue a project approval certificate to allow Redfern to reopen the Tulsequah Chief Mine, because the proposed 160 km. access road would open up the heartland of the territory, undermining the sustainability of the Tlingits’ land-based economy, and compromising land use planning and treaty negotiations. The BC Supreme Court ruled that the Certificate was issued in breach of the Environmental Assessment Act and the government’s fiduciary obligations to TRTFN, and quashed the certificate. An appeal was launched by the BC Government. The BC Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, leaving the Certificate invalid, and directed the government to reconsider its decision on the basis that it owed a fiduciary obligation to address the concerns raised by TRTFN. The Province appealed that decision, and that appeal will now be heard in the Supreme Court of Canada in the fall of 2003.

- *Access and traditional trails:* We support protecting and maintaining traditional trails and access routes in the territory, and limiting mechanized access to avoid impacts on environmental and cultural values.
- *Access management for commercial recreation and tourism:* We believe that commercial recreation and tourism activities should be encouraged in areas which are used currently for these purposes (e.g., Atlin area, current areas used for guided commercial activities), with gradual expansion into other areas, proceeding only if environmental impacts can be minimized to a level that supports healthy populations of wildlife, aquatic life and habitat. Areas where TRT traditional use is already high should be considered off limits for commercial

recreation and tourism (e.g., fishing sites on Nakina River). We support limiting the expansion of mechanized access for commercial recreation purposes (e.g., heli-skiing, heli-fishing, ATV access, and snowmobiling), especially if there is evidence that motorized access is leading to disturbance of fish, wildlife or habitat areas.

- *Access management for forestry:* We support the creation of access for ecologically-based, high value timber harvesting but only in those areas where conflicts with other resource values and land uses can be minimized. All forestry development must be guided by an access management plan approved by the TRTFN.
- *Access management for wildlife and hunting:* We support limitations on access in certain areas if required to maintain animal populations at healthy levels, and on a permanent or rotational basis as required. There should be wildlife movement corridors identified to link critical habitat such as wintering grounds and calving grounds, with restricted access to, and through, these areas. Habitat fragmentation by roads should be avoided. Among our citizens, there are also concerns over:
 - fence lines restricting animal movement;
 - impacts from hunting in areas adjacent to roads; and,
 - impacts from mechanized access for hunting purposes.
- *Visual quality:* We support measures to protect the outstanding scenic attributes and visual quality of the traditional territory from roads or other developments, particularly near Atlin Lake, Gladys Lake, and the Taku River.

“What good is having nice scenery if it’s too noisy and polluted? Even if it looks nice, if there’s large tourist groups setting up shop, and there’s noisy planes going all over, and your little camping spot is taken over by tourists. There is a balancing act when it comes to these things. It seems like we’re forced to prioritize, because this is the way the B.C. government looks at things. Because their land use is different than ours. We could go select log, and it doesn’t affect the scenery that much. But the way they [government] use land, they clear cut and build roads all over the place that you can see for miles away. So the way they look at it, there’s a certain place for mining, certain places to leave alone. So the challenge is that we have to prioritize. If you pick scenery, people pay good money to float down the river to enjoy the scenery, but if you got power boats zipping up and down that disturbs their scenery. So the challenge is to balance the management. We don’t want to stop using powerboats just for a few rafters. So who’s going to protect it? For who, and for what purposes? You’ve got to answer these two questions.”

John Ward



Amun and mother Barb Dawson picking berries at Torres Channel

Ali S. Carlisle

6.2 Biodiversity and Wildlife

- *Management authority:* The TRTFN must assert its right and responsibility to manage wildlife in its traditional territory through a TRT Wildlife Department, with trained and certified staff as TRT Conservation Officers. Our management approaches should incorporate the knowledge of the Elders.
- *Baseline information:* We support a wildlife management approach that includes accurate information on animal populations, and are gravely concerned over the lack of such numerical data for wildlife in the territory.⁴ We therefore

support establishing a comprehensive wildlife population monitoring program, incorporating information from Elders on the historical abundance of caribou and moose to provide a baseline comparison with current populations.

- *Declines in animal populations:* We are gravely concerned over the decline in animal populations due to over-hunting and inadequate provincial enforcement of regulations. Traditional knowledge transmitted from our Elders to youth indicates that there have been declines in bull moose, caribou, grizzly bear, goats, sheep, and beaver; as well as species such as gophers, and ptarmigan.⁵ We are particularly concerned about

"I'm very concerned about the recreational use of ATV's, and the implications for wildlife, the migratory routes of different wildlife: the caribou, moose, sheep, grizzly bear, goats, all of it... I remember a time when we used to travel to Whitehorse and we'd see a dozen moose easy, and now you'd be hard pressed to see a moose in a dozen months. That's an indication of change, the species are moving further back into the backcountry, forcing them to adjust to difficult terrain, especially for moose. You'd be hard pressed to see a bull moose in the Taku valley. Why? The provincial government allows the hunting of prime stock. See, there's no sustainability there."

Andrew Williams

species particularly vulnerable to disturbance or overharvest, such as mountain goats and grizzly bears, caribou, sheep and moose.

- *Habitat protection:* We support measures to protect wildlife and habitats, especially for threatened and sensitive species. We are particularly concerned about habitat for species such as grizzly bear, bald eagle, salmon, deer, and furbearing animals. We support protection for habitats such as calving grounds, wintering grounds, salt licks and critical salmon habitats, with information on the location of such sites managed confidentially to avoid encouraging further impacts. There should also be corridors identified to allow unfettered animal movement between critical habitats, such as wintering grounds and calving grounds.

- *Habitat restoration:* We support the restoration of habitats in areas where population numbers of particular wildlife species are steadily declining (e.g., Blue Canyon). Habitat in areas degraded from past industrial activities or roaded access should also be restored, including areas around Atlin impacted from placer mining, and habitat affected by environmental impacts from hard rock mining in the Tulsequah Chief area. Further analysis may be needed to identify priority locations where restoration is required.

- *Capacity building and training:* We support training, capacity building and employment for wildlife and wildlife habitat management. Our Elders should be encouraged to teach our citizens, and remind them of traditional rules and protocols for wildlife.



Ali S. Carlick

Jackie and Phillip Williams enjoying scenery at Rose Creek

"I don't believe we have done enough study of the animals in our territory or their habitats. We need to have an annual program allowing us to cover whatever science or Traditional Knowledge determines how often we need to monitor habitats and animals so that we always have good information."

Peter Kirby

“Our people knew sustainability a long time ago. You know, they didn’t hunt in one general area for 20 years. They hunted two years here, they hunted two years there, and maybe four over here, and whatever. And it wasn’t in one general area. And I see that with the outfitters nowadays, that they do that a lot, hunt in one general area, and we’re talking 20 or 25 years, one hunter after the other, and even though you know, the person says, “Well, we’ve only been here for say, five years”, well the person before them has hunted the area for 10, and the one before that has hunted for another 10.”

Bryan Jack



Mapper Keith Carlick producing map of trapline areas in TRTFN traditional territory

Theresa Sydney

6.3 Hunting, Trapping and Guide Outfitting

- *Management authority:* The TRTFN must exert greater management authority over hunting and trapping by visitors in our territory. This should include developing guidelines and a permitting system to manage hunting and trapping by non-TRT citizens. Such a permitting system should address access as well as levels of hunting effort through hunting seasons, limited entry, quotas, or other means. License fees or other royalties should be used to support wildlife conservation or training programs. This management system should include severe penalties for infractions.

- *Maintaining traditional use opportunities:* We support maintaining traditional hunting and trapping opportunities in the territory. These activities are critical for maintaining our cultural values, social relationships, and economic self-sufficiency. Commercial and recreational hunting or trapping must not undermine our traditional use.

- *Managing TRT hunting and trapping:* We support the revitalization of our traditional management systems for hunting and trapping that is based on self-regulation where traditional values are to respect animals, to share, and make use of the entire harvest (i.e., no wastage). Information on land use and occupancy for each family should be compiled to assist with these efforts. We also support appropriate restrictions on TRT harvesters, in a form consistent with our traditional system, and where necessary to ensure the long-term health of animal populations and fair allocation. Any such management controls on our citizens should be developed by the TRTFN with advice from the Elders, and could include:

- measures to monitor the condition of populations in our territory and share this information with citizens
- improved reporting by our citizens on their hunting and trapping activity;
- establishment of ‘Elder only’ hunting areas near Atlin so that Elders will have easier access to moose; and/or
- temporary or permanent hunting restrictions for TRT in specific areas but only where required to ensure the health of animal populations whose numbers are down.

“When you go out and get a couple of moose you should report in that you got a couple. For big game it should be reported, but little game, there is a lot out there. Like rabbits they cycle. But big game could be managed by TRT by telling the office what you got. So we should at least track it and get a rough idea of how many moose are in the area.”

TRTFN Citizen

“It depends on what’s out there, what area you’re trapping in, the abundance of what you’re trapping. To me that’s real crucial, you don’t go out and start trapping everything, you have to target certain things. I know what’s in my area, and what my limits are, what I can trap and shouldn’t trap. I think it’s very important that every trapper knows this before he goes out—native and non-native. I remember people used to say there were a lot of animals in a certain trapping area and there’s hardly any today, because it was over killed.”

Antonia Jack

• *Managing hunting by others:* We are concerned over increases in hunting pressures by non-Tlingit people and the effect these people are having on wildlife populations and the habitat preferences of hunted species, particularly in areas close to Atlin that are traditionally used for hunting by our citizens. We support measures to manage the hunting activities of non-Tlingit residents and visitors in a more cautious manner, and where necessary limit hunting effort, for example through:

- reductions in the provincial hunting quota for our territory;
- limitations on industrial development in certain areas;
- limitations on the types of access used for hunting (e.g., mechanized access); and/or
- establishment of permanent or temporary ‘no-hunting’ areas, or ‘TRT-only hunting areas.’

“We should limit the number of hunters in moose habitat.”

Richard Johnson

• *Trophy hunting:* The TRTFN opposes trophy hunting as it is inconsistent with TRT cultural values, and we encourage a shift toward wildlife viewing and tourism as an alternative source of jobs and revenue. We are particularly concerned about the hunting of grizzly bears and species at risk, and are considering limitations on the hunting of these species in certain areas or throughout the territory. We support some

guided hunting for other species if such activity is conducted appropriately, for example:

- in certain areas of the territory designated for this purpose;
- providing this activity does not target prime or breeding animals;
- there is no waste of the animal products;
- only using TRT guides;
- only with the approval of the TRTFN under a TRT permitting system; and
- providing this activity does not compromise traditional use.

“You have got to have a bull in order to have moose the following year. The prime bulls anyhow should not be hunted.”

Vernon Williams

• *Baseline information:* There is a long history of conflict with provincial managers over the accuracy and reliability of data on the levels of hunting and on animal populations. We support greater and more consistent efforts to determine population levels for hunted species, and hunting effort by visitors to our territory.

“We live off the land. There should be a person on the land that knows how much is on the land, and we should control how much is taken.”

Shirley Reeves

- *Monitoring and enforcement:* We support increased monitoring of hunting and trapping activity, and greater enforcement including the establishment of a TRT Conservation Officer. We are considering the establishment of an information center to provide orientation for visiting hunters and for the reporting of completed hunts.

- *Capacity building:* We support increasing knowledge and expertise among our citizens so that they can participate more fully and effectively in managing hunting and trapping within our territory. Opportunities should be provided for our Elders to teach TRT youth about appropriate ways to hunt and trap animals, and to handle and share the meat and other products.

"We need to harvest our resources in a way such that we always have some left for future generations. Taking care of your resources is making sure the habitat is good, and that sort of thing. I hunt, and live off the land and gather, utilizing the land; and this is important to me, and if we don't have this we may lose our culture."

Lucille Jack



Lorraine Dawson netting salmon on the T'akhu

Gretta Thorlakson

"The TRTFN should have more control. It is our mandate to help protect the wildlife habitat and the fish. We should never have economic development over the health of the fish. If we ever think the fish are in danger because of commercial fishing, then we will stop the fishing."

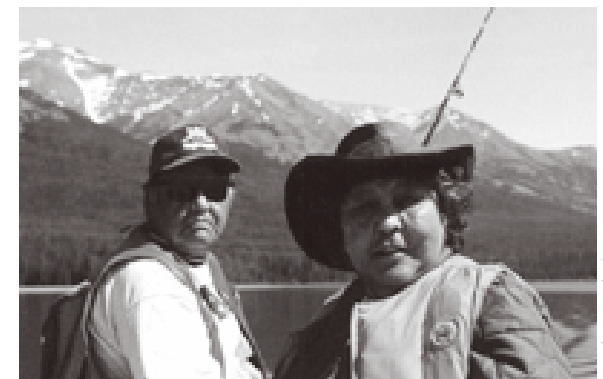
Louise Parker

6.4 Fish and Aquatic Habitat

- *Management authority:* The TRTFN should exert its authority and have a more prominent and influential role in the management of fish and aquatic habitat in the territory. We support the establishment of a TRT-controlled licensing and permitting for commercial and sport fishing within our territory.

- *Subsistence fishing opportunities:* We must maintain fishing opportunities for our citizens for food, social or ceremonial needs. We support more detailed reporting of subsistence harvesting, so that a more complete picture can be developed of the use of each stock or conservation unit. Some of the management options under consideration include:

- the use of traditional or alternative fishing methods, such as weirs and fish wheels, to minimize damage to fish; and,
- greater support for the TRTFN for its fisher people, including possible provision of boats.



Harry and Suzannah Carlick fishing on Atlin Lake

Ali Carlick

- *Economic development:* Our commercial fishing licenses demonstrate the significant stake we already have in the salmon fishery on the Taku River. We support maintaining commercial and sport fishing as key components of economic activity in our territory and deriving TRT employment opportunities from this activity. However, there are a number of concerns related to monitoring and enforcement for sport fishing, potential impacts from sport fishing on commercial opportunities or subsistence use, and the cultural acceptability of catch and release. We support limiting sport fishing to specific locations, or a series of locations that can be used on a rotational basis, to avoid impacting stocks or habitat and to prevent conflicts with other users.

- *Declining stocks and over-fishing:* We are concerned about stock declines for a number of many fish species when comparing to historic levels, particularly for Fall chum, and sockeye. We believe that declining Taku stocks are largely attributable to over-harvesting, especially in the US fishery which benefits from the majority of the commercial allocation. To show appropriate respect for the river and fish, the TRTFN has called for reductions of harvest levels in the US fishery. We are also considering other strategies to address declining stocks and over-fishing, such as:

- reducing harvest levels on the Canadian side of the border for all license holders—including our TRT citizens;
- relieving the localized pressure on Taku River fishing in the immediate vicinity of the Canadian border, possibly through the establishment of fishing areas for exclusive use by TRT fisher people; and,
- more intensive monitoring and stock assessment.

- *Habitat information:* We support the collection of more detailed information on availability and condition of fish and aquatic habitat (spawning habitat, rearing areas, over wintering areas) in our territory.

- *Stock assessment:* We believe that stock assessment and habitat data for a broader range of species (and stocks within populations) is needed to support a more holistic approach to management. The current focus of TRT fisheries work in the Taku Watershed is stock assessment by species usually with a view to estimating system-wide escapement, run strength and productivity of commercially important salmon species. We support greater efforts to document the diversity within Taku fish populations, the variety of habitat areas they utilize and related ecosystem functions. We support greater efforts being made to address these information gaps, particularly for species that may be rare, threatened or endangered, so that informed management decision-making can be assured.

- *Stock-by-stock management:* The TRTFN has formally confirmed our intent to pursue a stock-specific approach (i.e., managing individual stocks to maintain genetic variability and promote long term population health), and we also support a broader focus within the fisheries management regime that both recognizes ecosystem processes and integrates traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). We believe that this shift from managing catch levels to management by conservation unit will allow us to achieve longer term conservation. Current escapement (spawning) goals for Taku salmon are based on the concept of maximum sustainable yield. We believe that this manage-

ment approach works well for maximum short-term economic gain but poorly for long-term conservation. In particular, because escapement goals are currently set for commercial species system-wide, the conservation of individual stocks and their genetic diversity is not being adequately addressed. We support taking action that will help to maintain and increase the level of escapement for all salmon species, thereby improving long term population health and decreasing the risk of future decline.



Trevor Williams conducting random check at Kuthai salmon weir

Ali Carlick

- *Monitoring, reporting and enforcement:* We support higher levels of monitoring and enforcement of commercial and sport fishing activity in our territory, and the appointment of a trained TRT Fisheries Officer with enforcement authority on par with federal officials. We are also considering requirements for monitoring and reporting of subsistence fishing by TRT citizens, so that more accurate information on harvest levels can be maintained.

- *Habitat enhancement:* We support small scale habitat enhancement, particularly where needed to address past impacts, and encourage community involvement in these activities. We oppose large scale habitat enhancement due to fears that large scale habitat modification would compromise other values or overall ecosystem integrity (for example, through the spread of disease, genetic drift, or because of the loss of natural spawning habitat).

- *Hatchery enhancement:* We do not support hatchery-related salmon enhancement activities due to:

- concerns among our Elders that such activity is not consistent with our traditional ways, and belief among our citizens that fish should not be taken from their natural environment and that there are risks or dangers in doing so; and,
- the past track record of the limited hatchery activities that have been underway in our territory.⁶

- *Pollution:* We support more stringent regulatory control to prevent pollution of water bodies, for example from the dumping of sewage from houseboats on Atlin Lake, and particularly from acid mine drainage.

"I just want to make sure that no one gets sick from the water."

Marian Jack

Habitat and water quality impacts from placer mining: We support stricter regulatory controls for placer mining activities and believe that those responsible for impacts should be held accountable for the costs of remediation and restoration. We continue to have concerns over the impacts on fish spawning habitat and water quality from past and present placer mining activities through direct riparian habitat loss, siltation and pollution, and particularly in deregulated streams. We have lost at least one traditional food fishery—in Otter Creek—through placer mining impacts. Effluent from placer creeks periodically extends into Atlin Lake and Surprise Lake, despite the fact that these lakes are not de-regulated.

"We need to protect our streams and lakes and rivers because everything lives off of it. The animals drink the water; we drink the water and eat the fish; you can't separate the air from the water."

Gretta Thorlakson



A thoughtful moment for Elder, Sylvester Jack Sr.



Rice, Kento and BreAnne Kirby playing at Nàkina á

Ali S. Carlick

6.5 Culture and Heritage

- *Management authority:* The TRTFN must exert greater authority over the management of heritage and cultural resources in our traditional territory.

- *Erosion of culture:* Tlingit citizens still hunt and fish and gather plants for medicines and other uses, and pursue many of the same traditional practices that have sustained us for generations. Our Tlingit *kustiyi* ('way of life') continued to be vibrant and alive, but it faces many threats. These threats are from numerous western influences, including the imposition of residential schools and the Indian Act, the erosion of social and political systems, the decline of our Tlingit language, and the destruction of Tlingit infrastructure such as Clan houses, gravehouses, smokehouses, and sweatlodges, and the legal alienation of our land.

- There are few remaining individuals in the community that speak the Tlingit language and who are able to remember and share oral history and traditional knowledge. The Tlingit stories and history need to be shared more among the generations. There should

⁶ For approximately 10 years sockeye enhancement has been conducted at Tatsamenie Lake. Results have been very poor, and our citizens are concerned about infections being spread from hatcheries into the wild stocks, the erosion of genetic diversity, and problems with mixed stock fishing. In most cases, we contend that greater production would have been realized from natural spawning and rearing. Notwithstanding these concerns, the Tatsamenie project has continued with extensive research being done in an effort to determine what is limiting enhancement production. This initiative continues to receive support through Pacific Salmon Treaty funding and the other fisheries agencies. There are indications that federal agencies are looking at potential new Taku areas for hatchery enhancement activities.

be Tlingit language and cultural programs out on the land for adults and children to help keep the language and culture alive.

Countless ceremonial objects and artifacts have been destroyed and removed. Many Tlingit sacred places are now ‘parks.’ Other sites of significance may be vulnerable to impacts from development.

- There are too few opportunities for us to learn and experience our own cultural practices. Healing circles and sweats need to be set up to help our people heal. Traditional singing and dancing needs to be revived and encouraged.
- We support the building of cabins in selected, key locations throughout our territory, to help citizens get out onto the land and continue traditional practices.



Ali S. Carlick

Elder William Campbell hiking to sacred Cleansing Pool on Monarch Mountain

- *Information compilation and identification of special sites:* We are concerned that TRT cultural and heritage values have not been identified comprehensively, and although many historic and sacred sites have been documented, many others may have been overlooked. Where information does exist, it may need to be organized and made accessible so that we can use it more effectively.

“I think it’s important for us to get back to what healed us as Indian people....Especially families growing up in Atlin, they haven’t gotten the healing they need and nobody is coming in to set up Sweats or hold a Healing Circle, where you smudge, and you talk or cry or maybe you laugh, or whatever you have to bring to the Healing Circle. The Sweat Master or Pipe Carriers specifically trained for that need to be helping us.... I also think our language is very important. I imagine it would make your senses more aware. It’s not only to understand what that person is saying but to hear the sounds that they make. There is some spiritual beauty in the way the words make you feel. I think that’s also another way that we could heal.”

Gretta Thorlakson

Protection and management of heritage and cultural sites: We support the restoration and protection of Tlingit heritage and cultural sites (e.g., gravesites, traditional village sites, places for traditional gatherings and dances, traditional trails), and the development of comprehensive management policies and guidelines. We support measures to limit or exclude development activities in or adjacent to heritage and cultural sites. Our heritage and cultural sites should be respected, and not used as tourism destinations.

- *Capacity building:* We support training for TRT citizens who can undertake activities related to the management of cultural and heritage resources. Our Elders should be consulted on all matters involving sacred and historic sites. We also encourage activities by our members out on the land so that we can regularly check our cultural sites.

“Restoration of heritage sites is difficult to think about because so many things are linked to places instead of in the soul. People aren’t going to them anymore, so they aren’t connected to their hearts anymore, and that troubles me. It goes back to keeping things in museums and forgetting why you used them. That’s a hard one to think about just protecting places on the land that people aren’t using. I know for our land claim those places need to be documented, but just as important and more important is getting people back out active at those places, otherwise it’s like somebody else’s dream instead of what we do, how we live.”

Susan M. Carlick



Richard Sidney and John Ward on Nakina. Tlingit Tribal Council Kha Ahade Hani



Louise Gordon

Evelyn Jack, from Yan Yéidi House displays her ceremonial button blanket

“The medicines are so valuable to our people, and the thing is it works. Like when dad had that stroke and he was getting the blood clot on his brain. Mom gave him treatments before he went to Vancouver, and when he went the doctors could no longer find the blood clot. That’s the kind of medicine native people know. We’ll have to start learning as soon as possible from our Elders who are no longer around a lot of them. They all carry a lot of knowledge on the proper gathering and traditions around the medicine, the plants, and the food. Doing it at a certain time of year, how to do it. I’m more in tune with the gathering of food. I do know of some medicines, but I don’t know when the prime time to be picking those. The Elders would know when the medicine is at it’s strongest, what full moon to pick on.”

Terry Jack

6.6 Plants for Food, Medicine, Spiritual and Cultural Uses

- *Management authority:* The TRTFN must affirm our legally and constitutionally-protected aboriginal right to gather plants for food, medicines, spiritual and cultural uses.
- *Management of gathering areas:* We support the protection and management of areas used for traditional gathering, including:
 - restrictions on activities that may impact traditional gathering areas;
 - the protection of specific plants that are used for traditional purposes; and,
 - the restoration of gathering areas impacted from placer mining, access roads or other past development activity.
- *Management of TRT gathering:* For our own citizens, we support an approach for managing traditional gathering that is grounded in the core value of ‘take what you need for your family and do not waste anything.’ Any TRT management approach for traditional gathering should be guided by our Elders and other knowledgeable citizens.
- *Information on gathering areas:* Except for those situations where plants are being gathered for personal use, we support keeping records of the plants that are being collected and for what purpose, both as a means to monitor the use of resources and as a basis for teaching youth about traditional medicine gathering.



Ali S. Carlick

Culturally modified tree – cambium was harvested for medicine and nutrition

“It’s very important for us because all our generation always collected plants for our medicine. You can’t put it to the band, it’s got to be somebody who knows the plants, all the Indian medicine. We’ve got to teach the kids where it is, and what time of year. Take the kids out for a week, like this time of year and show them where to look for balsam root.”

Louie Carlick

6.7 Recreation and Tourism

- *Management authority:* The TRTFN must exert greater authority over the management of commercial recreation and tourism in our territory. We are concerned over the increasing number of businesses owned and operated by non-Tlingit over which we have no control and we encourage greater cooperation between the commercial recreation operators and our First Nation.⁷ We also support the introduction of a TRT permit system for commercial recreation and tourism operations,

including measures that require commercial operators to make a financial contribution to our First Nation through royalties. Revenue from such sources can then be used to support our efforts to monitor and manage the impacts of tourism and commercial recreation activity.

- *Economic development:* We support responsible economic development through commercial recreation and tourism providing that such activities do not impede the Tlingit way of life (Hà t átgi hà khustìyxh) nor compromise the sustainability of the territory. We look forward to securing economic benefits from such activity ourselves, including employment for our citizens. Among our citizens, there is stronger support for non-consumptive and non-motorized forms of tourism and commercial recreation (e.g., hiking and wildlife viewing) than for vehicle-based activities. There is also support among our members for the development of local tourist sites, such as a resort or marina, and various lakeside locations in the vicinity of Atlin have been suggested. We



Melvin Jack staying cool in Nakina River

Ali S. Carlisle

look forward to close cooperation with the community of Atlin and with neighbouring First Nations to pursue tourism opportunities, and encourage joint ventures with other partners.

- *Research and feasibility assessments:* We are concerned that the number of tourists visiting our territory may not be sufficient to sustain viable commercial recreation enterprises at present. The feasibility of commercial enterprises needs to be carefully assessed. We are considering further research to identify how best to identify and develop tourism opportunities in our territory.

- *Impacts:* We are concerned over impacts from current and future tourism and commercial recreation in our territory, particularly impacts on wildlife, habitat and other values resulting from mechanized recreation access for activities such as heli-skiing, heli-fishing, ATV use and snowmobiling. We are concerned that the large numbers of guided and recreational hunters from outside of our territory are negatively affecting opportunities for traditional and sustenance hunting by TRT citizens and local residents. Similar concerns exist among our citizens regarding fisheries resources.

“We would have to be careful about commercial recreation. This must be limited and controlled. Wildlife viewing, photography, some kayaking, canoeing, river rafting, grizzly viewing, trapping. Using our Elders to educate people about who we are. How we smoke salmon, prepare moose, dry meat. A lot of initiatives can be undertaken.”

Louise Parker

- *Managing tourism and commercial recreation:* We support the introduction of TRT guidelines for the management of tourism and commercial recreation, and the establishment of severe penalties for those who fail to comply. Such guidelines may include:

- focusing intensive recreation and tourism development (e.g., hotels) in those areas which have road access in the vicinity of Atlin, at least for the present;
- careful review of proposed activities, and strict controls to avoid impacts on values and ensure compatibility/avoid conflicts with other resource users;
- the protection of views and scenery;
- the location and intensity of use of campsites, as well as waste management;
- access controls (particularly for the Taku watershed), including for example no-fly zones, and restrictions on the type/intensity/timing of usage of roads created for forestry, mining or other purposes.

- *Visitor orientation and cultural awareness:* We support initiatives that can provide orientation for visitors to our territory, show visitors the connection between our people and the land, and assist in the respectful promotion of Tlingit culture and values. A TRT Visitor/Cultural Centre could serve as a focus for such programs. We are considering TRT guided tours to observe salmon and bears at weirs, or to see native artists at work, although there are concerns among our citizens over the use of historic or cultural sites as tourist attractions.

"I think over-hunting [is the reason for decline in goats] , and I also think that really, they're disturbed, like with heli-skiing with that going now, and that sort of thing. I don't think that they would put up with that for too long, it's not something they're going to ignore, or desensitize themselves from. I think it would just eventually get to them, and they would move."

Gretta Thorlakson

- *Monitoring and enforcement:* We support the monitoring of commercial recreation and tourism activities in our territory, including the appointment of a TRT Officer with enforcement authority. A TRT permit system would enable closer monitoring of levels and types of use, and would allow us to direct backcountry activities away from sensitive areas on a permanent or seasonal basis.

- *Capacity building:* We support capacity building and training initiatives so that our citizens can participate in seasonal or permanent tourism and commercial recreation employment opportunities. As part of tourism development, we encourage sharing between our Elders and youth so that young people can learn about the history of our territory, Tlingit place names, and cultural values or practices.



Nakonake River

"I would like to record a concern: forestry could be very important, but before that can happen we need to have land claims and resolve legal concerns first. Not until we have jurisdiction over forestry resources do I think this is really important. So right now, [forestry] is not very important, because we have postage-stamp size areas that could only harm us now if we were to begin logging them."

Lee Francoeuer

6.8 Forestry

- *Management authority:* We must exert authority over forest management, and forest tenures must only be issued in our territory with the consent of the TRTFN. Furthermore, forest development should not proceed unless approved or managed by the TRTFN, alone or cooperatively with other Tlingit First Nations or other partners. The TRTFN should derive royalties from timber harvesting in our territory. Any forestry activity in the territory should be monitored by a TRT Forestry Department.

- *Support for forestry:* We support commercial forestry in some specific areas of our territory but only if it is small scale, consistent with the principles and practices of ecosystem-based management, and protects TRT cultural values and traditional uses. Forestry activities must also generate jobs and economic benefits for TRT people and the local community, for example through small scale local value added enterprises, such as profiled log homes.

- *Forest planning and practices:* Forest development should not occur in the absence of an ecosystem-based forest plan that ensures the protection of important environmental and cultural values (e.g., streams and riparian areas, cultural sites, viewscapes), and includes the use of ecologically-appropriate harvesting methods. Older forests that are important for wildlife and cultural values should be identified and carefully protected at the landscape level as part of any forest plan in the traditional territory. We are also considering:

- limiting forestry development to certain areas where existing roads provide access;
- potential opportunities for the harvesting of insect-infected trees; and,
- innovative forestry practices that reduce impacts, such as aerial harvesting methods using helicopter or balloons.
- Training and capacity building: Capacity building, training, and jobs for TRT citizens must be part of any forest development plan in the traditional territory.

“Select logging and very controlled by the TRTFN. In the Land Plan when you support the science with the help from the Traditional Ecological Knowledge you can successfully do sustainable forestry”

Louise Parker



Impacts of placer mining near Atlin

Kim Heimsher

6.9 Mineral and Energy Resources

Management authority: We must affirm ownership and authority over mineral and energy resources in our territory. We are concerned that third parties have continued to stake claims over large parts of our territory.

“Other types of mining may be more possible to have more restoration possibilities. I don’t want to close the door to economic activity unless it can be shown to be unsustainable and harmful to the environment.”

Peter Kirby

- *Acceptability of mining:* The majority of TRT citizens are opposed to mining in our territory based on concerns over environmental impacts on water, wildlife habitat and other values. Based on the track record of mining activities to date, impacts are significant and reclamation is non-existent. However, the TRTFN may accept mining if there are strict environmental controls and full and timely restoration. If mining does proceed in our territory, it should:

- be limited to certain areas where the impacts from industrial activity on wildlife and other environmental values can be minimized and/or mitigated successfully;
- only be permitted after the completion and TRT approval of impact assessments for development sites and access routes 8; and,

- provide significant long term benefits for our citizens through jobs, training and capacity building. To date, we believe that we have derived minimal economic benefit from mining activities within our territory.

- *Deregulated streams:* We believe that stringent requirements should be in place for placer mining operations on all streams in our territory, particularly those that have been deregulated. This reflects our concerns over irreversible impacts from past placer mining activities that have left streamside areas denuded of vegetative cover, and have impacted water quality and spawning habitats in our lakes and streams.

- *Restoration:* We strongly support full restoration and remediation of impacts from past mining activities.

“Placer leases are contributing to the contamination of Atlin lake—the deregulation of mining is a problem. The assessment process and management process doesn’t have enough follow up. There’s authority and jurisdiction that’s supposed to come with that, without it it’s just words.”

Bryan Jack

7. Taku River Tlingit Management Authority



Jenny Jack, Wayne Carlick (sign artist) and Elder, Antonio Jack erecting grave site sign at Nàkina á

"I believe we should be managing our own land and animals."

Nicole Gordon

This Vision and Management Direction document represents one way in which we are exercising our responsibilities and jurisdiction as a Nation. It is intended to be consistent with, and be one means to implement, the principles that have been stated in our land treaty negotiations, as follows:⁹

- Taku River Tlingit control and retention of Taku River Tlingit culture—which includes the integrated pattern of human behavior that includes thought, speech, actions and artifacts and depends on human capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations;
- Protection of TRTFN cultural sites and TRTFN's unrestricted access to these sites in the future;
- Taku River Tlingit primacy over the creation and maintenance of cultural institutions within TRTFN territory;
- The right of the Taku River Tlingit to pass, administer and exercise leadership over all of our institutions or government;
- Recognition of TRTFN ownership and management of all renewable and non-renewable resources within our land claim area;
- Recognition of our right and responsibility to care for our land and people by ensuring that our citizens share in any revenues realized from economic development in our area;

- An endorsement of TRTFN's leadership in reconciling residual philosophical differences within our area both during and following treaty negotiations;
- A trust in TRTFN leadership providing certainty, economic and otherwise, for both Tlingit people and non-Tlingit people within our traditional territory;
- The facilitation of a healing process required between TRTFN citizens and other Canadian citizens;
- Exclusive control over management and administration of TRTFN aboriginal or treaty rights;
- Authority over all activities conducted within TRTFN territory;
- TRTFN's intention to consider the conservation and protection of wildlife and wildlife habitats and water quality within TRTFN territory as a primary focus of self-government;
- TRTFN's citizen's ability to move freely within our territories, including Alaska, Yukon and British Columbia; and,
- A fostering of inter-governmental relationships within our territory, province and country.

The TRTFN intend to implement and adhere to the directions outlined in our Vision and Management Direction document and not take actions which are fundamentally inconsistent with this document. TRTFN is determined to further develop the vision and management directions in this document, by the development of a full land use plan for our territory. This could be done most effectively through a co-operative, government-to-

government working relationship with the federal and provincial governments, because they both have responsibilities and jurisdictions that overlap those of the TRTFN. We therefore intend to continue to invite governments to work jointly with us to develop that plan. In the interim, until the governments are prepared to work jointly with us to protect the resources of the territory and our way of life, we will continue to take the steps we consider necessary and effective to achieve those objectives.

There are various mechanisms through which the TRTFN intends to engage with other parties to implement the objectives and strategies outlined in the following sections of this document. These include:

- agreements with the provincial and/or federal government to implement our Vision and Management Direction document generally, and/or undertake joint land use planning, and/or other specific goals, objectives and strategies;
- negotiated provisions within treaty;
- agreements with third parties, such as business operators and licensees; and,
- legal actions.

It may be necessary, as was the case with our court challenge to Redfern Resources proposed development of the Tulsequah mine, to engage in litigation to protect our interests and advance the strategic directions outlined in our Vision and Management Direction document.

The environmental assessment process triggered by the proposed Tulsequah development is also an example of our efforts to work collaboratively



Elder, Harry Carlick visiting with a tree at T'akhu

Lorraine Dawson

"I would like to see our people be educated in all aspects of our land – forestry, water, mining, oil, etc. This is our land, let's start governing."

TRTFN Citizen

to study land and resource management issues as they arise in our territory. We hope that this Vision and Management Direction document will be an important reference tool for all those involved in existing and proposed developments in our territory.

8. Taku River Tlingit Management Direction for Resource Values

"I would like to see more TRTFN Band members trained in all areas of our traditional land. More involvement with the TRT citizens. And more education."

TRTFN Citizen

The use, management and protection of our land and resources must be intricately balanced with our cultural, social and economic well-being. We must take immediate responsibility to ensure the sustainability of our people. We have already witnessed how various uses of our homeland erode our cultural values, beliefs and practices. To achieve a holistic balance, TRTFN will work with sustainable economic opportunities within the territory that support the Tlingit way of life. As caretakers of the land and culture, TRTFN must establish management practices to ensure our children have a meaningful land based future in their traditional territory.



Ali S. Carlick

TRTFN Youth: Jon, Doug Jr., and Gloria Rae Jack at Nàkina á

The management direction outlined in this section of the Vision and Management Direction document lists reasons and opportunities to create self sufficiency for our children and grandchildren while embracing their Tlingit heritage and culture of life in their homeland territory. To meet the unique needs of our current population and future generations, the following section outlines a series of management objectives and strategies that compliment potential business ventures and protect renewable resources.

The management direction in the following sections explicitly affirms Taku River Tlingit



Three generations of Yan Yéidi teachers: William Campbell, Louise Gordon and Elizabeth Nyman

Louise Parker



TRTFN fishery technician Harry Carlick at Kuthai Fish Weir

Ali S. Carlick

authority and responsibility to manage the land and resources throughout the Taku River Tlingit traditional territory. This management direction applies to all those who use and whose actions affect land and resources in TRT traditional territory.

8.1 Access Management

8.1.1 Background

Road networks in the traditional territory are limited in extent, and largely confined to the east side of Á Tlèn (Atlin Lake), accessing the town of Wenah (Atlin) and points south as far as the O'Donnel watershed from the Alaska highway

along Highway 37. More localized road networks are found in the vicinity of Á Tlèn, accessing residential areas and mineral claims and developments in the adjacent watersheds. Extensive areas of the traditional territory, including virtually the entire Taku drainage, remain roadless. The lack of roads in the Taku River Tlingit traditional territory makes this area rare in a North American and global context.

Taku River Tlingit traditional trails access remote areas of our traditional territory and are as important today as they were for the Taku River Tlingit ancestors. The ancestral trails that connect the T'akhu (Taku River) to the territory's interior

follow the same routes used by Tlingit people for centuries. Maintaining and protecting these ancestral trails has become both a means of linking the past with the present, and also a way to provide access to more remote areas of the traditional territory for traditional uses.

"I don't want to see vehicles on our trails, I don't want to make a roadway out of our trails. I would want to be really careful that we don't get over-run. ... Trail walks, like the Nakina trail are an excellent opportunity to start to appreciate the land."

Gretta Thorlakson

Impacts of Roads

The ecological effects of roads on wildlife and wildlife habitat are one of the most important factors contributing to ecosystem fragmentation and degradation. Roads have a profound impact, fundamentally altering patterns of behaviour of wildlife and ecological processes, and the uses of land and resources by hunters and a wide range of other users. Roads associated with resource developments – such as logging, mining, and oil and gas exploration—often have greater long-term impact than the site development itself because these roads provide opportunities for subsequent use and other development. Roads and mechanized access also fundamentally alter people's perspectives relationship to the land. Impacts from roads include:

- increased ease of access, leading to increased wildlife hunting and competition with non-resident hunters;
- disturbance of wildlife populations and habitat;
- degradation of habitat quality, including direct and indirect habitat loss;
- road kills, and direct interference with harvesting activities and damage to property.

Numerous studies substantiate the importance of large hunting territories for traditional land users. Having these type of extensive traditional hunting areas provides First Nation harvesters with the flexibility to meet their traditional food requirements and provides for the option to rotate hunting activities from one area to another. Such a practice gives time and space for recently hunted populations and habitats to recover, and this management strategy has proven to sustain the land, resources and the Taku River Tlingit through the centuries.

Hunting from roads can cause severe declines in local wildlife populations. TRT Elders and hunters note with concern the substantial decline in populations of hunted species adjacent to the Atlin road, Blue Canyon, and in other road-accessible areas. The proliferation of off-road vehicles, including All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and high-clearance four-wheel drive vehicles has made even the most rugged low grade roads readily accessible. Greatly increased snowmobile use also has increased access, hunting pressure, and wildlife disturbance.

Taku River Tlingit concerns about the impacts of road development on their land use, traditional harvesting and gathering, and way of life (Hà

khustiyxh) are substantial and well documented.¹⁰ Grave concern about the proposed 160 kilometre access road to the Tulsequah Chief mine—through the heart of the Taku – is evidenced through the Taku River Tlingit First Nation's participation in the environmental review of the proposed Tulsequah Chief mine project. Our willingness to safeguard our land and resources from a flawed environmental assessment process resulted in the BC Court of Appeal judgement articulating that TRT aboriginal rights and title must be taken into account by the Province's

"Control access to certain areas, and close certain areas down. There should be limits. Here's an example. I learned this from one of our people in Carcross: he said a long time ago our people used to have large trap lines, but they would only trap parts of it. They'd trap one area and then move to another area to allow the first to spring back. When the White man come they say you are being too greedy, you own too much. They started splitting our trap lines in half and sometimes into threes and gave them away to somebody else, and they just cleaned the whole thing out. We need to give time for certain areas to recuperate. Control the access. The other thing is the young people need to get out of town to hunt, and leave the close areas for the Elders to hunt."

John Ward



Taku River Expedition

Elder, Elizabeth Nyman and Tlingit linguist, Bessie Cooley on Taku River Expedition in 1999

ministerial decision-makers before decisions are made for major industrial development within Tlingit traditional territory. Furthermore, the Courts declared that the BC Province has a fiduciary obligation to address the First Nation's concerns about the threats imposed on the Tlingit land base and way of life from the proposed road and mining developments.

The Taku River Tlingit are fortunate to be in a position to be able plan for the future before significant environmental degradation (occurs) due to development occurs, and before roads, forestry and other activities open up the traditional territory to widespread access. This situation is unlike virtually every other location in North America, where many First Nations have been forced to plan for their territory while development pressures continue unabated all around them.

8.1.2 Access Management Goals

- Provide access for sustainable economic development while minimizing short and long-term ecological and social impacts of existing and new roads through careful access management.
- Maintain large, unroaded areas to sustain opportunities for sustainable traditional harvesting activities, healthy wildlife populations across our territory, and the wilderness quality and visual aesthetic of the traditional territory.
- Control access in areas where traditional harvesting activities occur by Taku River Tlingit citizens, particularly those areas used by Elders.

Perspectives on Road Development in the Territory

"[T]he proposed [Tulsequah] road bisecting the traditional territory can be viewed as the most significant incursion since the gold rush, exacerbating a strong ongoing collective sense that, in spite of assertions of land ownership, their traditional lands continue to be alienated without TRTFN consent or control. Historically, this has produced a profound sense of powerlessness and frustration, and a strong desire to reassert control over land in their traditional territory.

Potential direct and indirect impacts in specific cultural sites, prayer sites, trails, traplines and hunting and fishing camps will contribute to a sense of loss and the undermining of social, cultural and spiritual values at a time when many within the TRTFN are attempting to reaffirm and reassert their TRTFN identity as something that is grounded in their traditional ownership and use of land.

Any proposals for cash compensation for losses or damages to these sites and to property, and proposals for relocating of these sites as alternatives to mitigation of potential impacts, will fail to recognize fully the significance and importance of the sites to the maintenance of these values. In each instance, the potential impact may seem incremental and insignificant to the outsider, but in the context of a long history of land alienation, such impacts assume a much more profound significance precisely because they have become cumulative over time."

Excerpted from Determining the Impact of the Tulsequah Chief Mine Project on the Traditional Land Use of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation: Addendum on Impacts, 1997:49.

8.1.3 Access Management Objectives and Strategies

Access Management

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
Ensure that the Taku River Tlingit have meaningful authority over the management of access in the traditional territory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and require TRT approval of access management plans prior to the development of any road or linear development, issuance of a tenure, or issuance of a resource development permit.
Manage resource development access to eliminate or minimize impacts on traditional use, cultural and heritage, wildlife and other values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit new road development in Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas. • Develop detailed access management plans for watershed planning units, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - access control points (e.g. gated access) to conserve identified resource values; - limited motorized access (e.g. helicopters/planes, ATVs, 4x4s, and snowmobiles); - limited access to cultural sites and traditional use areas, traditional trails, sensitive environmental areas (riparian areas, wetlands), and areas with sensitive wildlife populations and habitats; - guidelines for the development and management of trails; - road deactivation. • Require the use of existing roads or non-road methods of access for all resource development unless otherwise permitted in an approved access management plan. • Establish flight guidelines to address aerial impacts on sensitive wildlife habitats. • Require helicopter access for early stage mineral exploration, especially in alpine areas, or the use of existing roads where permitted under an approved access management plan (see also Section 8.9). • Require an environmental assessment of all proposed roads or linear developments, including measures to eliminate or mitigate impacts. Where roads are proposed, require proponents to demonstrate that non-road access options have been fully evaluated (see also Section 8.9). • Communicate access management guidelines and restrictions to resident and non-resident hunters, guide outfitters and commercial recreation and tourism operators. • Increase public education on access management and how TRT interests are affected by access development.
Retain visual quality and maintain a range of commercial recreation opportunities in our territory through access management.	<p>Provide and sustain a range of recreation opportunities through access management plans.</p> <p>Locate roads, camps, and infrastructure away from areas of high visual quality.</p>

8.2 Biodiversity and Wildlife



Shustahini Mountain

“Any wildlife species whose numbers are down should be protected. I think there should be large portions of the territory left untouched.”

Taku Thorlakson

8.2.1 Background

The TRT’s traditional territory supports a rich diversity of habitats that have received very few impacts from industrial human activities. The landscapes and the rich wildlife and fisheries populations of our territory have supported the Taku River Tlingit for time-immemorial. These landscapes remain healthy and continue to support us, even today. In fact, our territory

contains some of the most intact northern temperate and boreal ecosystems of British Columbia, and these landscapes are internationally recognized for their abundance of high quality fish and wildlife, as well as stunning aesthetic values. Over 95% of our territory is unroaded wilderness, including the Taku Watershed. At 4.5 million hectares, or 18,000 square kilometres, the Taku is one of the largest undeveloped watersheds in the world. Across our territory, habitats range from lush coastal rainforests to boreal forests and mountains. Our territory supports 7 of the 14 major ecosystem types present in British Columbia (see Section 4).

Some of the most important fish and wildlife habitats in our territory include the extensive wetland and aquatic habitats associated with the Taku, Yukon, Teslin, and Whiting Rivers. Not only do these habitats support our critically important fish populations, but they also support many wildlife species. Numerous waterfowl species use our territory during migratory periods for feeding and resting, and some species, such as Trumpeter swan, bald eagle, osprey, merganser, and arctic tern choose to nest and raise their young here. These systems also provide rich, year-around habitat critical for moose, grizzly bear, black bear, wolf, mountain goat, mountain sheep, and a wide diversity of other species of mammals, birds and amphibians (frog and its relatives). The Whiting and Taku rivers are particularly important due to the seasonal abundance of salmon.



Grizzly Bear feeding on berries

The coastal influence and steep, high mountains of the coast range along the western borders of our territory create highly diverse and rich habitats for many wildlife species, including grizzly bear, black bear, mountain goat, and moose. More interior habitats transition into vast expanses of boreal forests and alpine tundra, interspersed by numerous lakes, streams and wetlands. These boreal and alpine systems are relatively pristine, with natural disturbance regimes (predominately fire) creating a rich diversity of habitats, from open, shrubby habitats rich in berries to old pine stands critical for caribou during the winter. These inland habitats are essential for key wildlife species, including northern woodland caribou, moose, stone sheep, wolf, Canadian lynx, and wolverine.

Species of Concern

Approximately 20 species found in our territory are considered to be of special management concern in BC, due to declining Provincial-wide populations (red or blue-listed species at risk). The provincial government has recommended that the habitat needs of three of these species at risk—grizzly bear, fisher and trumpeter swan—be specifically addressed at the strategic planning level in the Atlin-Taku Planning Area (which includes our territory). The fisher are blue-listed in the Province, and are known to be in our territory in a few of drainages of the Taku River including Yeth Creek and the Nakina River, as documented by our members and by local trappers. Even in these few areas, fishers are quite rare, there are few records of female fisher being trapped, and there are no recent reports of fisher presence. These areas in our territory may be the northern limit of fisher distribution in British Columbia. Because female fishers have rarely been seen, it is not known whether the fishers found in the Taku River represents a viable breeding population. Trumpeter swans, blue-listed, use a number of lakes and wetland areas distributed throughout our territory as migratory stopovers and as spring and fall rendezvous sites. Additionally, swans breed in notable numbers along the wetland habitats of the Taku River, as we have documented in our wildlife research activities. Other key species that are considered at risk and are found in our territory (Table 1) include wolverine (blue-listed), Dall's sheep (blue-listed), gyrfalcon (blue-listed).

Grizzly bears are provincially blue-listed, and are found across our territory, though their abundance varies, depending upon the types of habitats. The Taku River is internationally recognized for its salmon-grizzly bear ecosystem that has historically supported high numbers of grizzly bears. There is significant concern among our citizens and other long-term local residents familiar with the Taku ecosystem that the grizzly bear population in the watershed has undergone dramatic declines over the last few decades. The underlying causes for these declines are unknown, but may include trophy hunting, increased life and property defense killings, and/or declines in salmon returns, particularly chum salmon (see Section 8.4). Grizzly bears occur in naturally lower population densities in the northern portions of our territory where access to salmon is limited or non-existent. It is believed that some grizzly bears travel from regions such as the northern territory to the Taku River watershed to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of salmon. The wide-ranging habits of grizzly bears, their diverse seasonal habitat requirements, and their social importance at local, provincial and international levels require that they receive special management attention.

The northern woodland caribou has always been a species of high importance for the Taku River Tlingit, and historically was a key food source, as well an important source of other materials. The ranges of three caribou herds overlap our territory the Level-Kawdy, the Atlin, and the Carcross/Squanga herds. The Atlin and Carcross/Squanga herds, along with the Ibex

Table 1: Mammals and birds at risk that are reported within the TRTFN territory.

SPECIES	BC RANKING
Grizzly Bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>)	Blue
Fisher (<i>Martes pennanti</i>)	Blue
Wolverine, luscus subspecies (<i>Gulo Gulo luscus</i>)	Blue
Dall's Sheep (<i>Ovis Dalli Dalli</i>)	Blue
Tundra shrew (<i>Sorex tundrensis</i>)	Red
Glacier bear (<i>Ursus Americanus emmonisii</i>)	Blue
Meadow jumping mouse, alascensis subspecies (<i>Zapus hudsonius alascensis</i>)	Blue
Short-eared owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)	Blue
Upland sandpiper (<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>)	Red
Smith's longspur (<i>Calcarius pictus</i>)	Blue
Oldsquaw (<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>)	Blue
Trumpeter swan (<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>)	Blue
American Peregrine Falcon, anatum subspecies (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>)	Red
Peregrine falcon, pealei subspecies (<i>Falco peregrinus pealei</i>)	Blue
Gyr falcon (<i>Falco rusticolus</i>)	Blue
Wandering Tattler (<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>)	Blue
Short-Billed Dowitcher (<i>Limondromus griseus</i>)	Blue
Hudsonian godwit (<i>Limosa haemastica</i>)	Red
Red-necked phalarope (<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>)	Blue
American golden-plover (<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>)	Blue

"This whole Taku river system is so important to protect for wildlife, especially grizzly bear. Our people lived amongst the grizzly bear before, and we didn't need to shoot them, except when someone became a warrior they were expected to kill a bear with a spear. But now there's so few grizzlies left. When the hunters each take one or two, it leaves a big dent. I used to count up to ten grizzlies in one area when the salmon were spawning."

Allan Carlick

"I'm a hunter and the more I see the wildlife decline in my lifetime, I feel bad about it. The Elders say they used to go out expecting 45 inch rams, and to day we're bragging if we can get a 42. Same with the caribou, the grizzly. Eleven foot bears were just an average bear to get, as common as a 6 foot is now. Old Williams used to just sit right down by the grizzly trail in moonlight with Uncle Jackie when he was a boy. And the trail they were sitting behind the footprints were 2 feet deep—that's how many grizzlies there were back then. And that's why it's important to find ways to restore our wildlife and really watch over our prime breeders."

Terry Jack

herd in the Yukon, are known as the Southern Lakes caribou population. Widespread declines in the population prompted a recovery program for these herds in 1992 by First Nations and the Yukon and BC governments. The cause of the declines in the herds is uncertain, but is likely a mixture of increased mortality from hunting (associated with more vehicle and ATV access) combined with habitat loss and fragmentation, particularly within their limited winter habitats. The goal of the recovery program is to increase the population of the herds to historic levels, which would be in the order of thousands of animals. The Taku River Tlingit have voluntarily stopped hunting caribou in support of this initiative. The Province continues to issue hunting licenses for caribou despite acknowledged concerns over the health of caribou populations and the TRT voluntary hunting ban.

Moose are a principal source of meat for many TRT citizens (see Section 8.3) and there is widespread concern among our members and other local residents about declining moose populations in the vicinity of Atlin, due to hunting pressure from multiple sources in areas with vehicle access. Widespread declines of moose through the Southern Lakes region of the Yukon and British Columbia has resulted in the recent establishment of the Southern Lakes Moose Recovery Effort, a First Nation and Yukon Territory Government partnership.

The TRTFN territory supports Stone sheep (*Ovis dalli stonei*) and Dall sheep (*Ovis dalli dalli*), as well as Fannin sheep, a type of stone sheep with a wide diversity of color variations. Fannin sheep are considered an intergrade between Dall and

Stone sheep, showing color characteristics of both subspecies; Fannin sheep are found only in this region of BC and extending north into the Yukon Territory. Our members, as well as other local community members, have expressed concern about sheep populations in region, due to dramatic population declines over the last few decades. These declines may be due to increased hunting pressure on these prized trophy animals. Stone sheep are patchily distributed in suitable habitats from the southeastern portion of our territory, integrating into the Fannin sheep varieties through the Atlin area and to the north. Dall sheep (blue-listed) are found in the north-western portion of our territory, representing the southwestern extent of Dall sheep distribution, which is primarily within the Yukon and Alaska.

Mountain goats (*Oreamnos americanus*) are found distributed throughout our territory in suitable habitats, with the most abundant habitat found in the more western, more rugged portions of our territory. There appears to be little present concern about mountain goat populations in the territory, though some populations may be experiencing declines due to guide-outfitting or local hunting pressure. Mountain goats have been shown to be highly susceptible to population declines with increasing human access, hunting, disturbance and habitat impacts, and thus need to be monitored in any regions where these activities occur.

Other species of management interest include bald eagle, osprey, and amphibian species, all which are found in close association with wetland and aquatic habitats of our territory. These species, and the habitats upon which they

depend, require management and protection if they are to be maintained in areas receiving development pressure.

“Conservation is the idea...to limit the kill. There are a lot of people who don’t respect that, you know. They take more than they can use, and a lot of them, especially the hunters, just go for the racks and waste the rest of it.”

Richard Carlick.



Osprey nest at Seagull Island

Ali S. Carlick

Taku River Tlingit Relationship to Wildlife

It is the fundamental right and responsibility of the Taku River Tlingit to ensure the long term health and viability of all wildlife populations and their habitats. Wildlife—particularly moose, salmon, and other fish—are a vital food source for many of our members and an essential part of Hà t_átgi hà khustìyhxh, the Tlingit way of life. Numerous studies have stressed the importance that the Taku River Tlingit attach to maintaining healthy and abundant wildlife populations. Our Tlingit customs and laws reflect a deep respect for wildlife. TRT hunters take only what is needed, waste nothing, and give thanks for the provisions of the land. Where populations are declining or threatened, our citizens and leadership have shown a willingness to reduce hunting pressure to allow declining wildlife populations to recover.

TRT resource management is strongly based on the knowledge of the Elders, who convey their knowledge to hunters and young people. The culture and values of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation are integral to their own system of wildlife management, are inseparable from traditional land use, and are vital to sustaining it and conveying the values which support it.

Beginning in 1999, TRTFN partnered with Round River Conservation Studies to document our traditional and indigenous ecological knowledge (TEK) on a variety of key fish and wildlife species in our territory through a series of interviews with elders and hunters. These intensive interviews documented both oral and spatial (mapped) knowledge to provide a rich data base



Sandra Jack

Jason and Brandon Williams checking winter fish net set on Atlin Lake

on the historical and present distribution, abundance, traditional management and uses of fish and wildlife across our territory. This information became the basis for the development of habitat suitability models on a suite of focal species for the development of the Conservation Area Design for our territory.

The history of TRT and provincial and federal government systems of fish and wildlife management is largely one of conflict. For example, there have been on-going disagreements about the population abundance and management of our moose and caribou populations. Many such conflicts persist today, along with confusion about the practical effect of First Nations' hunting rights, distrust of population data and harvest statistics, and concern regarding management practices. An overarching concern to many Taku River Tlingit is the inability of government

agencies to closely monitor wildlife populations and hunting activity – particularly trophy hunting – due in part to the remoteness of the Atlin area from regional, provincial, and federal fish and wildlife management offices.

To begin to collect baseline data on key indicator species across our territory, TRTFN partnered with RRCS to initiate several wildlife research projects. These wildlife field studies focused on species which are of management interest because of their sensitivity to potential development impacts, and for which there is little existing information and monitoring effort. These wildlife field studies include:

- Grizzly bear DNA population study;
- Trumpeter swan productivity surveys;
- Amphibian population censuses;
- Caribou winter habitat use; and,
- Winter carnivore and prey surveys.

These research efforts will continue to develop baseline data and long-term monitoring programs on these and other wildlife species with the establishment of the TRTFN Wildlife Conservation Department (see Objectives and Strategies, in Section 8.2.4. below).

“They’ve just got to kill what they need, they can’t overharvest, like the grizzly and caribou in this area. Surprise lake and Blue canyon, there used to be caribou and moose, and even goat up there. But it’s really over-hunted now, because the area’s so close by.”

Harry Carlick



Elder, Jackie Williams

Doug Mulek

Taku River Tlingit Wildlife Traditional and Indigenous Ecological Knowledge

The information about the distribution, ecology, habitat use, present and historical uses and management of a variety of wildlife and fish species were gathered through a series of audio-taped interviews with TRTFN elders and hunters beginning in the winter and spring of 2000/2001. Interviews covered 61 standardized questions for each of 9 key wildlife species (grizzly bear, black bear, wolf, wolverine, lynx, moose, woodland caribou, mountain sheep, mountain goat). To date, a total of 10 elders and hunters have completed interviews. Work with maps during the interviews was encouraged to identify key areas and distributional extents of each species. Maps were digitized into ArcView shape files, and audio-tapes were transcribed into text files. These interviews provide a rich information source on wildlife in the TRTFN territory.

One of the key uses of the TIEK is in the development of the CAD and associated wildlife habitat suitability models. These habitat suitability models were developed primarily based upon the verbal descriptions of the seasonal habitat use of each of 5 focal species (grizzly bear, moose, caribou, mountain sheep, mountain goat) obtained during the interviews. The TIEK information was collaborated with other existing information on each species, including studies in other regions and limited scientific data available on the species in the TRTFN territory. The CAD uses these TIEK-based habitat suitability models, combined with standard scientific methods, including conservation science theoretical understandings, spatial modeling techniques and analyses methods. As a result, the habitat models and the CAD represent a powerful combination of these 2 forms of ecological knowledge.

"In past history, where a First Nation person has hunted in one year, the next year he would move to a different area; he had four or five specific areas that he moved to so that when he came back to the first spot that he hunted or trapped all the animals were back. I think that sort of hunting and trapping is something that should be put into regulations to address traditional ways."

Bryan Jack

Taku River Tlingit Wildlife Research and Field Studies

Field efforts to collect baseline ecological information were initiated by RRCS and TRTFN in 1999, and expanded to a broad suite of wildlife field research efforts in the summer 2000. This research is focused on gathering information on key species for which there are critical information gaps. The species selected for study include those that will provide indicators of the ecological health and integrity of the territory. The development and implementation of long-term monitoring regimes on these and other ecological indicators will provide measures of successful conservation and management, as well as guide potential development activities. In addition to long-term ecological monitoring, many of the research efforts provide immediate utility for CAD validation and for land-planning and project development. The on-going field efforts include:

- *Grizzly bear population and movements.* One of the most intensive of the field efforts, the population study on grizzly bears focuses on non-invasive sampling and "marking" of individuals through the collection of hair follicle DNA. Sampling stations have been established across the Taku River watershed and northern portions of the territory and monitored for 2 summer/fall seasons (2000 and 2001). This work has "marked" 100 grizzly bears in the region, several of which have been identified in both years. Identification of individuals allows us to document seasonal habitat use and movements of individuals, with a focus on documenting the use of high quality habitats, particularly salmon spawning areas. With additional data collection, we will be able to estimate relative population densities across the territory,

and potentially, numbers. As part of this work, we also collect black bear hair samples, and have the opportunity to expand the work to this species, for which we have already identified 45 individuals. Our work consults with and utilizes a well-established BC DNA laboratory for the fingerprinting of the DNA.

- *Winter wildlife population monitoring.* We have established winter snowtrack surveys to document the relative abundance of key wildlife species, including Canada lynx, wolverine, marten, wolf, caribou, moose and a diversity of smaller prey species such as snowshoe hare, squirrel and ptarmigan. This program is aimed at providing long-term measures of relative abundance of species across the landscape, as well as providing habitat-specific information for the development of habitat management guidelines.

- *Swan productivity surveys.* We have initiated annual trumpeter swan productivity surveys that document the use of key wetland habitats for nesting swans in the territory. Additionally, this effort allows us to collect information on the annual reproductive success of this rare and sensitive species. Trumpeter swans represent a key indicator species for the status and health of wetland systems. Our surveys to date have documented swan nesting through the wetland habitats of the mainstem Taku River, as well as some headwater lake wetland systems. Our preliminary data suggests that the Taku supports a very productive population of swans that has been previously unrecognized. We have worked in collaboration with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, who conduct extensive swan productivity surveys in adjacent Alaska systems.

- *Amphibian population surveys.* Amphibians provide another key indicator of the health and integrity of wetland systems. Prior to our survey efforts, there had not been standardized surveys of amphibian presence and distribution in the Taku River watershed. We have documented the presence of sensitive species such as the spotted frog and long-toed salamander. Indeed, our finding of long-toed salamanders as far inland as the Nakina River extends the known distribution of this amphibian substantially north and east of prior documented locations. Our efforts have collaborated with Yukon and BC amphibian ecologists who have conducted surveys in the northern portions of the territory.

- *Woodland caribou winter ecology:* ice mineral licks. Caribou habitat use during winter has been identified as a key concern for the long-term recovery of this species. The Atlin herd is recognized a part of the southern lakes population; concerns for the widespread decline of the herd sparked the development of the Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery Effort. We have monitored the distribution of caribou during winter wildlife surveys. Additionally, we are examining the importance of select frozen lakes that are extensively used by the caribou. We have found these lakes, which provide key predator refugia for caribou, also provide potentially critical sources of trace minerals. We are sampling the use of “ice mineral licks” by caribou, and hope to be able to pursue analyses and modeling that will allow us to identify and predict lakes that may provide these potentially limiting resources.

- *Local ecological knowledge interviews.* In addition to interviews with TRTFN citizens, interviews of other wildlife knowledgeable Atlin

residents were initiated during the winter of 2001/02. These standardized interviews are similar to the TIEK interviews, though narrower in scope. The local ecological knowledge has been used to collaborate the TIEK, and has been incorporated into the habitat mapping efforts. Additionally, these one-on-one efforts are valuable in extending the local support and education of key Atlin community members.

8.2.2 Goals for the Management of Wildlife and Biodiversity

TRT goals for the management of wildlife were articulated in a joint proposal (DAX KA Tlingit Nation, 1988) to the Province, made in association with the Teslin Tlingit and Carcross-Tagish First Nations. These goals were intended to support establishment of joint wildlife management arrangements with the Province that would meet the needs of inland Tlingit First Nations. The proposal was intended to establish an integrated approach to wildlife management, which would improve management in TRT traditional territory by overcoming differences and conflicts between Tlingit and provincial management systems. The following represent the Taku River Tlingit goals for wildlife management:

- The productivity and diversity of all plants and animals found in our territory must be maintained or restored.
- The Tlingit must be allowed to hunt, fish and trap in accord with their customary laws and institutions.
- The domestic and cultural needs of the Tlingit, as defined by their people, must always be met.
- The TRT must have and sustain the capacity for effective wildlife management.

“Issuing licenses for hunting, and the guiding as well. Have a habitat steward to look over the territory. That’s what we need out there is a guardian to get the proof that people have their licenses for whatever in general.”

Andy Carlick

8.2.3 Guiding Principles for Wildlife Management

The TRT are committed to the following guiding principles for wildlife management:¹¹

- Focus on entire ecosystems and not simply on harvested species.
- Utilize the individual current and traditional knowledge of harvesters and the collective knowledge of the community.
- Base management decisions on where, when and what to harvest, with the conservation requirements of each TRT house or clan.
- Base restrictions on TRT harvesters on self-regulation where the traditional values of sharing resources, respect for animals and the effective utilization of the harvest (no wastage) are what guides traditional land use practices.
- Recognize that the rights of access of TRT wildlife harvesters and non-natives are different.
- Integrate wildlife and habitat management.
- Recognize that traditional land use is the economic basis of Tlingit society, the basis for the Tlingit system of wildlife management and the basis of Tlingit identity.

8.2.4 Objectives and Strategies for the Management of Wildlife and Biodiversity

Management Authority

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
Ensure that the Taku River Tlingit have meaningful authority over the management of wildlife and wildlife habitat	Establish with TRT approval of wildlife and habitat management guidelines, addressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - location, timing and extent of commercial, industrial or other resource development activities, and associated monitoring and restoration requirements; - protection and/or restoration of rare, sensitive or declining wildlife species or populations and habitats; - restoration of habitats degraded from past disturbance; - monitoring of ecological conditions; - monitoring of relative population abundance and distribution for harvested species and harvesting activities (i.e., trapping, hunting) (see Section 8.3).

Species of Management Concern

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
Maintain or restore healthy and widely distributed populations of harvested species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish harvest guidelines as required in Section 8.3.3. • Establish methods to designate no-hunting, seasonal hunting closures and licensing procedures for populations of concern. • Establish a mechanism (e.g., Taku River Conservancy, joint TRT-provincial government) to support monitoring and management of harvested wildlife populations. • Compile and maintain traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) information from Elders and other TRT citizens on harvested species.
Maintain, protect or restore rare, sensitive or declining wildlife or wildlife species or populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish methodologies to identify and monitor rare, sensitive or declining species and their critical habitats. • Establish a mechanism (i.e., Conservancy, joint TRT-provincial government) to support monitoring and research of these species of concern. • Compile and maintain traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) information from Elders and other TRT citizens on rare, sensitive or declining species.

Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas & Tlingit Interests and Special Management Areas

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Protect key landscapes large enough to sustain major ecological functions, including predator-prey dynamics, disturbance regimes, robust and viable populations of key focal species, and evolutionary processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a system of Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas based on CAD recommendations and community values. The primary goals for the management of Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas should be to protect the ecological integrity and naturalness of these areas, and to sustain Tlingit traditional uses. • Prohibit industrial development in Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas including new road development, forestry, mining, hydro electric development, and intensive tourism development. • Require the identification and designation of Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas, as well as compliance with a TRT management plan for these areas, prior to approval or issuance of a resource development plan or use permit, in the traditional territory.
Maintain the distribution and diversity of ecosystem types, successional stages and disturbance regimes within the natural range of variation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a system of Tlingit Interests and Special Management Areas 1 (Wildlife Habitat) based on the TRT CAD. The management intent of these areas is to protect important core wildlife habitats and TRT traditional use opportunities, while permitting compatible resource development activities. • Establish methodologies to identify additional Tlingit Interests and Special Management Areas 1 (Wildlife Habitat), as needed. • Access development within Tlingit Interests and Special Management Areas 1 (Wildlife Habitat) will follow TRT access guidelines (see Section 8.1); additional access restrictions may be identified within the wildlife and habitat management guidelines.
Maintain landscape connectivity between Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas and TRT SMAs across the TRT traditional territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a system of Tlingit Interests and Special Management Areas 2 (Connectivity) based on the TRT CAD to maintain landscape connectivity between Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas and Tlingit Interests and Special Management Areas 1 (Wildlife Habitat) across the TRT traditional territory. • Establish methodologies to identify additional Tlingit Interests and Special Management Areas 2 (Connectivity), as needed. • Access development within Tlingit Interests and Special Management Areas 2 (Connectivity) will follow TRT access guidelines (see Section 8.1); additional access restrictions may be identified within the wildlife and habitat management guidelines.
Monitor and research ecological conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a long term research program, including research and monitoring priorities, facilities, funding opportunities, and training programs. • Establish a mechanism (e.g., Taku River Conservancy) to support research and monitoring of identified habitat and wildlife priorities.

Wildlife Habitats

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
Maintain naturally distributed critical wildlife habitats (e.g., winter range, calving areas, security habitat, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish methodologies to identify critical wildlife habitats (e.g., moose calving habitat, goat winter habitat), and validate locations and conditions of proposed or existing habitats. An initial suite of critical wildlife habitat areas has been identified through the TRT CAD and associated habitat suitability models. Access development within key wildlife habitats will follow TRT access guidelines (see Section 8.1); additional access restrictions may be identified within the wildlife and habitat management guidelines.
Maintain and protect identified site-specific habitats and wildlife structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish methodologies to identify special plant and wildlife elements (e.g., mineral licks, rare plant locations, bald eagle nests, grizzly bear den sites), and validate locations and conditions of proposed or existing habitats and structures. An initial suite of special elements has been identified through the TRT CAD. Access development in the vicinity of these habitats or structures will follow TRT access guidelines (see Section 8.1.4.); additional access restrictions may be identified within the site-specific habitat and wildlife structure management guidelines.
Protect rare and/or high value habitats (e.g., wetlands, riparian forest, karst habitats, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish methodologies to identify high value habitats (e.g., wetlands), and validate locations and conditions of proposed or existing habitats. An initial suite of high value habitats has been identified through the TRT CAD. Access development in the vicinity of these habitats will follow TRT access guidelines (see Section 8.1.4); additional access restrictions may be identified within the wildlife and habitat management guidelines.
Restore habitats degraded due to past industrial disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish methodologies to identify degraded habitats and to prioritize the restoration of these areas. (see also Section 8.9) Establish a mechanism (e.g., Taku River Conservancy) to support restoration activities Explore opportunities to secure funding for the restoration of degraded habitats from abandoned or past developments from new development proposals in TRT territory.

Capacity Building and Economic Development

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
Build and sustain TRT capacity for wildlife management and resource use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a TRT Wildlife Conservation Department to provide for management, monitoring, research, and enforcement activities, including compliance with appropriate landscape level plans and relevant wildlife and habitat management guidelines. Establish a mechanism (i.e., Taku River Conservancy) to support the establishment and maintenance of the TRT Wildlife Conservation Department, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TRT conservation officer; - TRT wildlife biologist; - Seasonal field technicians; - Training and capacity-building in wildlife management for TRT wildlife staff; and, - Wildlife and habitat monitoring and research activities. Promote TRT guides for all commercial or recreational hunting by non-residents. Develop a TRT Wildlife Watch program, to engage TRT citizens in field-based wildlife and wildlife habitat monitoring.

"I do believe the TRT should manage it, but the way I think they should manage it is that the Elders manage it, not the TRT Band. That way the Elders can say "you guys are taking too much moose over here; go over there"

John Williams



Elder, Elizabeth Nyman teaches grandchildren Cecil Anderson and Marion O'Shea how to skin moose head

8.3 Wildlife Harvest

8.3.1 Background

Wildlife hunting and trapping are essential to the culture and way of life for the Taku River Tlingit. Harvesting moose and other animals is far more than a source of food or other materials, it represents maintenance of respectful relationships with the land itself. Hunting activities and the preparation or preservation of meat are part of our belief system, and have great economic, cultural and spiritual significance. Moreover, as not all households have hunters, the practice of sharing meat from hunting activities closely knits our community together.

Traditionally, the Taku River Tlingit relied on caribou as their main dietary source of meat. As caribou numbers have declined, moose are now the preferred staple. Species such as mountain sheep, mountain goats, black bear, pheasants, snowshoe rabbits, gophers and grouse are also taken for food and other household or ceremonial uses.

Hunting for food has considerable economic importance for TRT citizens. Recent estimates suggest that on average, each TRT person consumes between 100-200 kg of moose meat per person each year. This represents a dollar replacement value of traditional foods (particularly meat and fish) gathered at between \$2,664 and \$4,441 a year on average by household (or between 11-18% of household income).¹²

Trapping is an important activity for TRT citizens, and provides an important opportunity to be out on the land. In addition to the benefits from furs used for both family use and for occasional sale, trapping also served to keep TRT citizens informed of changing conditions on the land and fluctuations in the number and locations of animals across our territory. This information was then used in deciding how hunting or trapping activities should be altered so as to ensure that populations of species or specific areas were not overused. Parents and Elders also used seasonal trapping rounds as an opportunity to teach children about wildlife patterns on the land, and about Tlingit cultural values and beliefs related to animals, or particular areas of our territory.

Although interest in trapping has not declined, TRT citizens report that trapping activity has

"That's what makes us Tlingit. We eat everything. When I say this, it is always in respect for the animal. There is always this great respect for animals, even when you hunt for food. You say prayers before you go. There is a spiritual connection when hunting for food. Our Elders have always said that we must make sure not to deplete the resources. Never take what you don't need. Our Elders and hunters know to keep track of animals over time. We have done it here with deer and caribou."

Louise Parker

decreased in recent years both as a result of lower fur prices, and also due to declining populations of harvest species.

Areas identified as being particularly important for trapping include: Warm Springs; Gladys Lake, Eva Lake and other areas in the Gladys River Valley; Fox Farm; Atlin Lake; Kuthai Lake and Pike River Valley; Horse Creek and other areas around Surprise Lake; and, the Hitchcock area.

"[Trapping] is important because it retains some of our culture. To me trapping is basically an education on our wildlife habitat, learning where we come from. I don't know if trapping is the right word, it's just part of our education on the land taught by our Elders."

Allan Carlick

¹² Figures are derived from Staples and Poushinsky, 1997:28.

“The Elders have hunted and trapped for a long time and they know the area. So I think the best thing is to fall back on them because they know, and have that passed down to the youth.”

Raymond Ward

“It would be good just to have the rules there, like only take one moose and if you see another give it away to a family who doesn’t have one yet. It’s all traditional knowledge, but it’s still good to keep track just to know the numbers.”

Jerry Jack

Taku River Tlingit Traditional Management System for Hunting and Trapping

Hunting areas are organized around family and clan use and ownership, and there are protocols governing rights of access to specific hunting grounds. This knowledge is passed down from the Elders to Tlingit community members, and creates a system of access controls under which the use of certain areas is restricted to certain individuals or families. (Although the TRT control their own use of our territory in this way—as well as access to their territory by neighbours, and vice versa—under provincial law the TRT have no recognized authority to control access by non-Native hunters within their territory.) Although all of our territory has been used for hunting, some of the most commonly used hunting areas which the TRT believe require special management attention or protection include:¹³

- Blue Canyon;
- Hitchcock area;
- Gladys River Valley;
- Nakina River;
- O’Donnell River Valley;
- Kuthai Lake; and,
- Silver Salmon River.

The TRT also have clear rules for appropriate conduct for hunting, and prohibitions against the killing of pregnant cows, consistent targeting of dominant animals, and hunting more than is

required to satisfy the needs of the household or community. “Waste nothing,” “take only what you need,” “show respect for animals,” and “share what you hunt,” are clearly understood imperatives for all TRT citizens, and there are many protocols to ensure that appropriate respect is shown to each animal. These rules, set in the context of clan and family systems of accountability through which sanctions were applied if rules were not followed, provide for effective self-regulation. Furthermore, direct experience of the land from hunters and trappers and almost constant monitoring of changing population levels and composition, habitat preferences, migratory patterns and other changing conditions creates a highly responsive management system. The continued use of this traditional management system is inseparable from the TRT’s way of life and traditional patterns of land use, and is crucial to the sustainability of their territory and the values within it.

The TRT traditional management system differs substantially from the prevailing provincial regime, which relies on seasonal controls, and there has been both confusion and conflict as a result. In the past, the TRT have made efforts to overcome the difficulties that arise these competing management systems. For example, in 1988, the DAX KA Tlingit Nation prepared and submitted a proposal to establish joint management arrangements with the Province. (See also Section 8.2 on Wildlife and Biodiversity)

“The way to respect the animals is to protect the prime bulls, and the prime animals. That’s one kind of respect. And another respect is to look after the meat in the right away. If you can’t handle the meat for yourself, you got too much for yourself, share it around to other people, that’s the respect.”

Jackie Williams

Commercial and Recreational Hunting

There are 10 commercial guide outfitting areas within the TRT’s territory, catering to local residents as well as foreign visitors.

The TRT are concerned over the number of non-resident hunters visiting their territory, and the impact increased hunting effort is having on populations and availability of animals. The TRT are also greatly concerned over the waste of meat, the lack of respect, and the targeting of prime animals that occurs from trophy hunting. There is very strong opposition to trophy hunting in our territory, particularly for sheep, goats and grizzly bears. There is moderate support for guided hunting for food.

Commercial Trapping

There are 44 registered traplines in our territory, each with one or more registered trappers. Under the provincial management regime, trapping activity is only reported based on royalties from sales, and as furs can be sold some time after the animals were caught, actual trapping activity at any time is not well known. Animals caught for

traditional or ceremonial purposes are also rarely reported. Currently, fur prices are low and commercial trapping activity is low. Almost all trapping is for personal rather than commercial purposes at the present time.

Marten is the most heavily trapped species, along with beaver, squirrels, lynx, weasel and mink. Other trapped species include coyote, fisher, fox, muskrat, river otter, wolf and wolverine.

8.3.2 Goals for the Management of Wildlife Harvest and Non-Consumptive Uses of Wildlife

- Maintain opportunities for hunting and trapping by TRT citizens in accordance with Tlingit customary laws and institutions.
- Restore and maintain in perpetuity healthy populations of all hunted and trapped animals.
- Manage commercial and recreational hunting for food, and non-consumptive uses in our territory to ensure environmental sustainability, and maintain opportunities to hunt for food, and for recreational, social or ceremonial purposes in perpetuity.

“Anybody that’s been in the bush long enough knows you don’t need a thorough assessment, it’s just a fact [that animal populations are declining]. The number of outfitters have been hunting the areas, have done a pretty thorough job, I think. And there’s no system tied to any kind of protection and sustainability, to sustain goat stocks or moose stocks or bear stocks or sheep stocks. There’s nothing tied to it.”

Bryan Jack

“Because trapping is important for our tradition and it is important to make sure we continue to do these things that make us Tlingit. I’d like to see it managed sustainably, and take a look at where the populations are distributed; like too many wolves or beavers in an area, and some of them can be taken out. . . . Trapping must be monitored closely because it can be used in a way that money becomes too much of an issue, and sustainability becomes less important than money.”

Lucille Jack

Capacity Building

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Build TRT capacity to enable full participation in the management of hunting and trapping in our territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve Elders in training programs for TRT citizens on appropriate conduct and protocols for hunting and trapping, and the handling of meat and other products. • Provide training opportunities to Taku River Tlingit youth in wildlife management, traditional style harvesting.

8.3.3 Objectives and Strategies for the Management of Wildlife Harvest

Management of Wildlife Harvest

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Ensure that the Taku River Tlingit have meaningful authority over the management of non-TRT wildlife harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and require TRT approval of wildlife harvest guidelines for both commercial and recreational hunting by non-TRT citizens within the traditional territory including licensing, royalties, and allocation. These guidelines are to be based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - present, historic and desired population levels and distributions; - existing or expected habitat conditions (e.g., as influenced by other human activities and recent disturbances); access conditions and options; and, - any resource management objectives or special management area designations established for that watershed or planning unit; (see also Section 8.2.3.) • Improve communication and liaison between the TRT and provincial agencies on issues related to wildlife harvest.
Ensure and promote aboriginal rights to wildlife harvest in all harvest management decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage harvest to achieve the following, in order of priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - meet TRT conservation objectives; - provide hunting opportunities to meet traditional food requirements; and, - provide opportunities for commercial and recreational hunting.
Re-establish TRT traditional wildlife harvest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an Advisory Committee comprised of Elders and TRT hunters to clarify and confirm the traditional management system and protocols for wildlife harvest, and provide guidance on appropriate controls necessary to ensure the health of animal populations and appropriate conduct, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - allocation system; - TRT Elders-only hunting areas; - TRT-only hunting areas; and, - no-hunting areas. • Establish and implement a reporting system for all TRT harvest activity.
Ensure commercial and recreational hunting is conducted in accordance with Tlingit customs and values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit—and in some areas prohibit—harvesting of grizzly bears in our territory. Establish penalties for non-compliance. • Prohibit the waste of all animal products from hunting. • Encourage a shift toward wildlife viewing rather than harvest by non-residents. Limit hunting for the sole purpose of trophy collection in our territory and the targeting of breeding females.
Ensure that harvesting and associated activities and infrastructure are adequately supported and maintained in landscape level or resource development plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize impacts on guide-outfitting and trapping territories, as well as associated campsites, cabins, trails and other infrastructure, in landscape level or resource development planning. • Protect visual quality, remoteness and other aspects of the wilderness experience that are highly valued for commercial and recreational hunters. • Identify areas suitable for grazing by guide outfitters, and establish guidelines for the use of these areas.

"Well, if you've got a family, only one moose.
Because some of them get more than one moose."
Henry Jack

"I don't want non-residents hunting in the territory unless they have permission from the Taku River Tlingits or have lived there for a long time. So permission is key."
Joanne Williams

"I think they should stop the hunting for five years. Everybody— not just one race, everybody. So that the wildlife could come back. I remember when we'd see moose and calves all over. There's too much hunting I think."

Lillian Esquiro

8.4 Fish and Aquatic Habitat

8.4.1 Background

"If the TRT does engage [in enhancement], then start out with small scale enhancement, and then go from there. No to large scale and hatchery enhancement for now."

Jason Williams

Description of Fish and Aquatic Habitat

Our territory is home to a rich diversity of fish and aquatic habitat. Aquatic habitat and fish species distribution are influenced not only by the coastal-interior geography of our territory, but also by complex ecosystem processes such as glacial activity, tectonic uplift and lake buffering. This creates a complex and dynamic system with a wide variety of fish habitat types including main-stem, off channel, tributaries and lakes/wetlands. In addition to coastal species such as sockeye, coho, pink, Chinook, steelhead, chum, Dolly Varden, cutthroat and rainbow trout, interior species in our territory include lake trout, bull trout, grayling, pike, round whitefish, lake whitefish, broad whitefish, slimy sculpin and longnose sucker, as well as others. In many cases abundance and distribution of fish species and habitats including spawning areas, is not well documented.

The Taku drainage basin contains a high diversity of fish species (approx. 28) of both Pacific and Arctic origin. High fisheries values are found in the mainstem of the Taku River, and associated side channels and wetlands of the Lower Taku



Ali S. Carlisle

Wetland in traditional territory



SalmonCrest by Wayne Carlick

“The fish to our people is one of our lifelines. And not only that it’s so sacred to our people. It’s a food that represents us as Tlingits. It’s one of our signs. When I think of the Taku fish, I think of it as coming from the heart of the Tlingit country. Fish is something I take great pride in. It represents being proud and strong, and I would like to keep it that way. We should take care of them and watch over them with our lives. To restore and bring those fish back in their natural form. Not to tinker with it in any way. There’s very few places left in the world where you can find that quality of inland salmon.”

Terry Jack

and the Lower Nakina rivers among others, and in some of the larger lakes throughout the watershed that provide sockeye spawning habitat. The importance of smaller tributaries and non-natal streams has not been assessed. Significant fisheries values are also found in the glacial, coastal headwater and arctic streams in clear water side-channels and lakes.¹⁴

The northern portion of our territory is part of the Yukon drainage basin. Approximately 16 species are present and it is the only major basin in BC without introduced species. Two fish species that occur here—broad whitefish and pygmy whitefish—are found nowhere else in BC. Three large headwater lakes—Atlin, Teslin and Tagish—are the prominent features and form the headwaters of the Yukon River. Atlin Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in BC.

The Alaskan portion of the Lower Taku River represents less than 10% of the total Taku drainage, but includes biologically and critical areas including the estuary and important salmonid rearing habitats.

Ecological and Cultural Significance of Salmon

As with many other aspects of the land and resources within their territory, fish represent a critical component of the culture and way of life for the Taku River Tlingit. Fish are far more than simply a source of food, they represent a belief system that includes legends, stories, songs, and dance, of creative survival and mortality of the Tlingit race.

In earlier times, salmon caught in the Taku River system by the Tlingit were used fresh or stored,

either near the settlements on the Lower Taku River, or inland where drying was easier. Supplies of salmon caught in summer was one of the mainstays of the winter food supply, but freshwater fish from lakes and streams were caught and used year round. For example, whitefish were one of the first fish available in the spring each year, often caught in Nisutlin Bay, near the Teslin town site. Such patterns of use affected how and where Tlingit lived at different times of the year.

Fish and fish habitat values in our territory are also significant in the regional or global context due to their rarity and sensitivity:

- The Taku watershed is the only Pacific drainage with nearly 100% wild salmon stocks (enhanced stocks from Tatsemenie Lake represent less than 1% of the total).
- The aquatic landscape of the northern (Yukon River drainage) portion of our territory is dominated by lakes including Atlin, Tagish, Teslin lakes that form the headwaters of the Yukon River drainage. Most of the larger lakes are oligotrophic (deep, cold, relatively unproductive) supporting a fish community dominated by lake trout and various whitefish species, with longnose sucker, burbot, cisco and grayling. Lake trout tend to be susceptible to exploitation due to the fact they are slow growing, have a low reproductive rate and mature late (may not reach maturity for 10 years). Lake trout also tend to be susceptible to capture.
- The Teslin Lake drainage differs from Atlin and Tagish lakes in that several large rivers including the Jennings, Swift, upper Teslin and Gladys

rivers feed it. The delta feature at the south end of the lake is significant for its wetlands, and other habitat values. The Teslin system also supports species that are not found in other Atlin/Tagish Lakes, including chum, bull trout, and pygmy whitefish.

- Several species have been identified by the provincial government as being at risk and/or endangered in the Cassiar region, including broad whitefish (red listed), least cisco, cutthroat trout (clarki subspecies) bull trout, Dolly Varden and inconnu.¹⁵ The status of the squanga whitefish is currently under investigation.

"I think it's very important, especially when we're in those areas because I know if I cross boundaries in the land I'm ruining plants. I think streams should be restored because fish use certain streams to get to fish spawning areas, and if we ruin those streams we are ruining our future harvest and food. To manage that is to work cooperatively with any interested parties, if groups are interested in being in our traditional territories they should follow our rules."

Deborah Yeomans



Yvonne Jack drying fish at Nàkina à camp

Taku River Tlingit Commitment to Fisheries Management and Planning

Fisheries in our territory are currently managed under the authority of Canadian federal, provincial or territorial governments and in the case of the Lower Taku River, through transboundary arrangements under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS) has provided limited authority to the TRT in the past but does not provide a foundation for true co-management.

Despite this, the TRT are demonstrating a significant commitment to fisheries management throughout our territory, and are actively working with other partners:

- The TRT has initiated a Watershed-based Fish Sustainability Planning process for the Taku watershed. The basis of this strategic planning process was to develop a broader focus within the management regime, one that would recognize ecosystem processes and help to reduce the risk of future decline of fish populations or loss of fish habitat. The process was also designed to assist in land planning initiatives by providing consolidated information and methods for making informed decisions regarding fisheries conservation. The process activities can be summarized by the following steps:
 - Biological data was organized and utilized in profiling the existing information.
 - Overview documents were prepared that included information relating to political policies, First Nation priorities, community concerns and potential impacts.
 - Profiling and overview documents were reviewed from an ecological perspective, in order to select several planning priorities (or projects) and further pursue these initiatives.
- With Fisheries Renewal BC project funding, the TRT helped to establish the Taku and Atlin Area Community Fisheries Working Group in 1999. This group supervised a variety of projects in the last few years, including for example, a community-based Biological Monitoring Program for Atlin Lake to monitor lake trout which involved:

- a small mesh gillnet assessment;
 - an angler harvest survey;
 - contaminant sampling of fish;
 - osprey surveys;
 - otolith collection /aging;
 - genetic sampling;
 - limnological studies;
 - Atlin River snorkel survey;
 - lake trout spawning assessment;
 - public awareness and education initiatives; and,
 - collection of existing information including Traditional Knowledge.
- The TRTFN has worked with the DFO-appointed Habitat Steward and has initiated an assessment of the distribution of fish and fish habitat in the Taku River drainage based on existing data sources, collected Traditional and local knowledge, air photo interpretation, and field study. Information was compiled in a biophysical profile (prepared as part of the Taku WFSP) and was also utilized in the CAD. Further application of this work took the form of a TRTFN pilot project. The purpose of which was to develop a habitat model suitable for application as a decision-support tool for planning and management at the watershed scale.
 - The TRTFN and Habitat Stewards also worked with DIAND to implement a local watershed monitoring program to assess water quality in Atlin Lake and placer creeks.

- Relatively high toxaphene levels were found in the livers of Atlin Lake Burbot during a study completed in the 1990's. This indicated the possibility of point source contamination, from past road construction or other development activities. The TRT are awaiting the results of more recent surveys and is also conducting a community-based biomonitoring project to gather further information on such issues.

- The TRTFN is working to develop an MOU with the BC and Yukon governments for co-management of Atlin Lake.

- The TRTFN also maintains active working relationships with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Stock Assessment, Habitat Conservation and Protection, and Aboriginal Fisheries Branches), Alaska Fish and Game Department (Commercial Fish, Sport Fish, and Habitat), Douglas Island Pink and Chum Inc., and Round River Conservation Studies.

8.4.2 Goals for Management of Fish and Aquatic Habitat

- Restore and maintain the diversity and abundance of wild populations of all native fish species in perpetuity.
- Restore and maintain the structure, function, diversity and natural productive capacity of aquatic habitats throughout our territory.
- Sustain the cultural and sustenance benefits of fisheries, fish, and other aquatic organisms for TRT people.

- Provide sustainable economic opportunities in fishing for TRT people and others, for example by maintaining and building interest in sustainable commercial fisheries.

- Ensure TRT capacity to manage fish and aquatic habitat in perpetuity from an ecosystem-based management perspective.

“Right now there is crisis with fish. If every second year we didn't fish until things begin to correct themselves that would be good. Maybe only harvest use on those off years and not commercial fish. Everybody, whoever it is, cannot fish except for food. When we used to fish down there everyone had their own spots, and the fish were plentiful, but now it has really changed. Everyone is at the border doing their drifts. To me, I wonder how many fish get by. How do we expect to do this 20 years from now. It scares me the way it is going now. When we fished, people stayed in their own places, which means to me that some fish were still getting by. I think if it's managed, the TRT need to fix things, and be the voice with the US to fix things as well.”

Yvonne Jack

8.4.3 Objectives and Strategies for the Management of Fish and Aquatic Habitat

Management Authority

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Ensure that the Taku River Tlingit have meaningful authority over the management of fisheries, fish and aquatic habitat in the traditional territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and require TRT approval of a licensing and management regime for commercial and sport fishing in our territory.

Aquatic Habitat Classification and Risk Assessment

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Establish a comprehensive spatially-referenced inventory of fish and aquatic habitat throughout the TRTFN territory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect traditional fisheries knowledge from Elders and TRTFN citizens.• Assemble all additional technical information available from agencies or third parties on fish and fish habitat. Continue collection of additional data.• Ground truth fish and aquatic habitat information according to priorities identified in the Watershed-Based Fish Sustainability Planning process.• Standardize all data sets to ensure accessibility for TRT citizens and others, as well as utility/ transferability for a wide range of users, and compile within a GIS system.
Develop and implement a decision-support tool capable of risk assessment for fish and aquatic habitat throughout our territory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a standard habitat classification system for the Taku watershed. Identify and map habitat classes for the Taku watershed.• Confirm use of habitat types by species of fish and other selected organisms. Confirm habitat use by each stock or conservation unit as data is available.• Expand the classification system to encompass remaining fish-bearing watersheds of the TRTFN territory.• Develop a standardized framework for assessment of risk from potential impacts, and delineate areas based on both habitat class and their susceptibility/vulnerability to disturbance, development or harvest based on this framework.• Develop and implement TRT management guidelines for all riparian/aquatic habitat areas based on the risk assessment, including protective reserves.• Develop and implement monitoring regimes capable of maintaining up-to-date information on fish and aquatic habitat conditions to support management decision-making and long-term conservation.

Fish Habitat Protection

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Ensure long term conservation of fish and aquatic habitat across the TRTFN territory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work cooperatively with TRT citizens, government fisheries agencies, other First Nations, and stakeholders such as stewardship groups and commercial fishermen, to identify regional priorities for fish and fish habitat management. • Develop and implement watershed plans for priority fish-bearing watersheds. • Require site level assessments prior to any development activity that has the potential to impact fish or aquatic habitat.
Maintain the structural and functional integrity of streams, stream channels, lakes, riparian areas, and other aquatic habitat areas across the TRTFN territory in perpetuity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit development or disturbance in any area adjacent to or within fish habitats unless impacts on fish or habitat values are eliminated, or substantially mitigated. • Establish protective reserves around all fish bearing streams and critical habitats as determined through the TRT habitat classification and risk assessment methodology.

Fish Habitat Restoration

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Restore the natural productivity of spawning streams and other aquatic habitat areas where past impacts have occurred.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and map spawning streams and other habitats that require restoration due to past habitat degradation. • Establish workplans to restore the productivity of degraded areas according to priorities established in the Watershed-Based Fish Sustainability Planning process.

Enhancement

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Maintain or increase the natural productivity of spawning streams and fish habitat areas through small scale enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement small-scale habitat enhancement measures to increase productivity of spawning environments according to priorities established in the Watershed-Based Fish Sustainability Planning process. • Require responsible agencies to undertake a detailed assessment to determine the cost-effectiveness and impacts of past hatchery activities on fish and aquatic habitat values in our territory, and to assess potential risks associated with such activity. • Prohibit hatchery enhancement in our territory.

Conservation of Biodiversity and Stock-by-Stock Management

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Ensure the long term conservation of fish biodiversity within our territory by developing and implementing a stock-by-stock (conservation unit) management regime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt an ecosystem-based management approach for all planning and management of fish and aquatic habitat. • Consolidate information on stock-specific management approaches. • Develop and implement a protocol with other jurisdictions enabling the introduction of a stock-by-stock management regime. • Undertake a detailed stock assessment for all species by conservation unit to determine current and historic population abundance and distribution. Priority should be given to exploited species and those that are vulnerable (blue-listed), or threatened or endangered (red-listed). Coordinate stock-specific data collection initiatives with other project activities. • Define conservation units, populations, limit reference points and target reference points for each conservation unit within our territory. • Develop, refine and implement a risk-assessment management approach based on conservation units. • Develop management strategies for red or blue listed fish species and ensure these strategies are addressed in landscape level or resource development plans

Harvest Management and Allocation

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Ensure that escapement goals for all exploited species are set conservatively so as to maintain the health and viability of all conservation units in perpetuity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish annual escapement goals for all exploited species based on target and limit reference points for each conservation unit. • Prohibit fishing of depleted or threatened stocks/conservation units. • Develop a recovery plan for restoring depleted or threatened stocks/conservation units. • Develop and implement catch monitoring regimes for commercial, sport and subsistence fisheries adapted to a conservation unit management approach.
Ensure that subsistence harvesting opportunities are afforded to TRT citizens and distributed among them equitably	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain priority access to fisheries for TRT food, social, or ceremonial use. • Develop and implement a reporting system for TRT subsistence fishing.
Ensure that commercial harvesting opportunities are afforded to the TRT citizens and distributed among TRT citizens equitably.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue appropriate allocation of quota for the TRT from commercially exploited fisheries. • In consultation with the Elders, develop and implement a TRT allocation framework to ensure the equitable distribution of opportunity for commercial fishing among TRT citizens.

Sport Fishing

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Develop and maintain a mosaic of sport fishing opportunities within a management approach that protects ecosystem values and avoids conflicts with subsistence or commercial fisheries in our territory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a TRT permitting system for all sport fishing guides operating in our territory. • Develop and implement through landscape level planning a management regime providing a mosaic of sport fishing opportunities. Limit sport fishing to designated areas as delineated through the Watershed-Based Fish Sustainability Planning process and/or the TRT risk assessment framework, so that conflicts with subsistence use, commercial fishing, commercial recreation, or other users is minimized. • In consultation with the Elders, develop detailed guidelines for catch and release in sport fisheries.

Traditional Fishing Camps and Locations

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Identify traditional fishing sites and maintain their social, cultural and economic values in perpetuity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and map traditional fishing camps and locations at the appropriate scale. • Establish TRT-only fishing areas for commercial and subsistence use. • Develop and implement guidelines for the management of traditional fishing sites. • Prohibit development activities which threaten the integrity or continued use of traditional fishing camps or locations.

Capacity Building and Enforcement

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Increase the capacity of TRT citizens to a level sufficient to assume responsibility for all activities in our territory related to the management of fish and aquatic habitat, and commercial, sport and subsistence fisheries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish training programs for TRT youth to build capacity and capabilities for fisheries management. Involve the Elders in all such training. • Appoint a qualified TRT Fisheries Officer to undertake monitoring and enforcement duties within our territory. Maintain active presence during periods of fishing activity.

Water Quality, Quantity and Flow Regimes

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
<p>Maintain water quality, quantity and natural flow regimes or restore, where necessary.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate existing water quality information for our territory. • Establish an initial ranking of areas of concern within our territory for water quality. • Continue water quality sampling, water hydrology analysis and other biomonitoring projects for Atlin Lake. Implement similar projects for other lakes and watercourses throughout our territory based on priorities identified through the Watershed-Based Fish Sustainability Planning process and/or potential threats as determined under the TRT risk assessment framework. • Develop and implement guidelines for upstream and upslope development activities to prevent siltation, temperature, and hydrological problems in watersheds supporting fish. These guidelines should require higher standards of precaution, greater accountability for proponents for impacts, and more significant penalties for infractions. Monitor compliance with and effectiveness of these guidelines. • Require sediment control measures for all development activities that have the potential to impact water quality. • Develop and implement guidelines for boat use on all lakes in our territory, including waste disposal measures. • Prohibit the introduction of any deleterious substance into fish-bearing watercourses. • Prohibit sewage dumping by houseboats into Atlin Lake. • Ensure adequate instream flows to maintain fish stocks.

"If there is going to be sport fishing, I'd like to see our people out there as the guides. We need to have a person out there in uniform to see what is caught. I don't support sport fishing very much, but if it's going to happen we need to know what's going on and be a part of it."

Cecil Anderson

"I would like to see my generation and the younger generation learn stories, more history of the Tlingit history, and more gatherings: more sharing."

Linda Johnson



Taku Expedition

Jackie Williams at the site of the Old Russian Fort

8.5 Culture and Heritage

8.5.1 Background

Cultural and heritage sites are very important to the Taku River Tlingit, however, heritage and cultural values are not limited to specific sites, features or “artifacts” as they are often understood by non-aboriginal audiences.

The significance of the land extends well beyond the archaeological and traditional use sites where physical evidence of use and occupation can be found. The whole of the Taku River Tlingit traditional territory holds a legacy of history, language, tradition, legend, spirituality and use that closely links the Taku River Tlingit people to the land. The whole territory is therepository of the Nation’s stories, mythology and oral history. The sites of oral tradition are equally important to sites with historical evidence of use and occupation.

The use of our territory for activities such as hunting, fishing, berry-picking, gathering of medicinal plants, and cultural and spiritual activities continues to be an integral part of the cultural, social and economic fabric of the TRT community.

The Taku River Tlingit have stated repeatedly that Hā khustiyxh —our way of life—requires a continuing and strong relationship to the land. The TRT depend on the continued health of the environment – including land, water, wildlife, salmon and other fish, as well as the plentiful food, berries and medicinal plants—in order to practice the Tlingit khustiyxh.

There are also many specific sites and features of historical and cultural significance, reflecting both traditional occupation and the more recent history of settlement. Patterns of TRT land use – such as campsites, trails, gathering areas, villages, gravesites, spiritual places, and so forth – correspond closely with prime fish and wildlife habitat areas. The TRT have done considerable work to document and map this information, and a set of map biographies and archive files exist to support land and resource management planning for the Taku River Tlingit traditional territory.

The TRT have repeatedly stated their commitment to protect trails, camps, villages, wildlife habitats, and the many other special places that embody their spiritual connection to the land and their creator. The majority of Taku River Tlingit citizens have indicated that they support restricting development to protect their traditional way of life and specific areas of cultural or environmental significance.

Archaeology

There has been little archaeological research in the traditional territory by the provincial or federal governments. An overview assessment was conducted in the 1970s for the entire territory. Some site specific assessments have been conducted in connection with specific project proposals. Most archaeological research has focused on the Taku

and Nakina drainages and around Atlin Lake. An assessment of archaeological and cultural heritage values was conducted as part of the application for the Tulsequah Chief mine. The Tulsequah Chief Project Report provides a summary of known traditional trails and settlement areas and describes archaeological features identified in the Taku River drainage.¹⁶

Prior to European contact, village sites were located along the rivers and at the confluence of, for example, the Taku, Inklin, and Nakina rivers (known as Hīn Tlèn), the confluence of the Nakina and Sloko Rivers (known as Canoe Landing) and further up the Nakina River. There also may have been large fish camps at the confluence of the Nakina and Silver Salmon Rivers as well as a number of fishing camps on the lower Taku River.

Known archaeological remains from the Taku River drainage and Atlin Lake area include the remains of cabins and semi-underground dwellings, grave houses, hearths and drying racks, food cache pits, pictographs and bridges across narrow canyons. The Hīn Tlèn and Canoe Landing sites have habitation sites with associated caches and grave houses. There have been no traditional use studies funded by the Province in the traditional territory. However, areas of traditional use have been identified as part of the Tulsequah Chief project assessment.¹⁷ A Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) study was undertaken in 2000 as part of this land planning project.

Trails

There are a number of important traditional trails in the traditional territory that date back to the extensive network of trade routes that connected the coast of what is now Alaska with the northern

interior. The Tlingit lived along the lower Taku River in the summer, fishing and gathering berries. In the winter, some families travelled further inland to the upper Nakina River to hunt and spend the winter. Trading took the families along these travel routes and north to the Atlin and Teslin areas and into the Yukon.

The main travel route from the coast to the interior is the Nakina Trail. From the Nakina River there are trails through the valleys to various destinations, including Atlin Lake, Gladys Lake, and Teslin Lake. One major route follows the Silver Salmon River to Kuthai Lake and from there to Atlin. A second major route follows the Sloko River to the south end of Kuthai Lake. Kuthai Lake was, and continues to be, an important stopover camp for travellers in our territory.

Another Tlingit trail provided access to the upper Silver Salmon and Nakina Rivers and Paddy Lake. This trail became part of the Telegraph Trail, running from Hazelton to the Yukon via Telegraph Creek and Atlin. Other major trails include the Monarch Mountain Trail and Glacier Bay Trail.

1994 Heritage Strategy

A detailed Heritage Strategy was prepared in 1994 by the TRT that provides a foundation for the management of heritage and cultural sites, features and values in the traditional territory.¹⁸ The Heritage Strategy was based on a series of community workshops and included vision statements, a situation analysis, and a set of proposed programs for heritage management. The comprehensive planning approach laid out in the Heritage Strategy has yet to be implemented.

The following sections build upon the Heritage Strategy, supplemented with work undertaken by the TRT since 1994 including information gathered during interviews as part of this land planning process.

8.5.2 Goals for the Management of Heritage and Cultural Values

- Preserve and protect traditional use areas, cultural heritage sites, sacred sites, and other

features and values with heritage and cultural significance to the Taku River Tlingit.

- Reaffirm and revitalize TRT traditional uses of the land, cultural practices and learning.
- Ensure that Tlingit language and traditional knowledge is understood and broadly used in land and resource management.

8.5.3 Objectives and Strategies for the Management of Heritage and Cultural Values Planning and Assessment

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
Ensure that the Taku River Tlingit have meaningful authority over the management of heritage and cultural resources including traditional trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and require TRT approval of a management plan for heritage and cultural resources in our territory. • Establish a TRT permitting system for any proposed archaeological research or searching for artifacts of aboriginal origin within the traditional territory.
Ensure that archaeological and traditional use sites are properly identified and recorded in an inventory maintained by the TRT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile and update existing information on the location, Tlingit names, and significance of all archaeological and traditional use sites, features or values within the TRTFN territory including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - traditional use and occupancy of areas by clans and families; - harvesting and gathering areas; - travel routes and TRT trails; - historic settlements; - burial sites, gravehouses, and cemeteries; and, - sacred sites. • Develop and maintain an information management system for archaeological and traditional use information. • Conduct additional land use and occupancy mapping as needed to address information gaps. • Conduct an assessment of each identified heritage site, trail, feature or value to determine protection and/or restoration measures required. • Document Tlingit stories and legends associated with land use and specific sites, features or values.

18 Taku River Tlingit First Nation, 1994.

Management of Heritage and Cultural Values

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
Protect and where necessary restore archaeological and traditional use sites, trails and features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and designate specific areas of the traditional territory where traditional use activities and protection of heritage and cultural sites and values will take precedence over other uses (i.e., TRT Spiritual Grounds, Historical Landmarks, and Special; Features; see Section 10) • Prohibit development activities that would have an unacceptable impact on traditional uses and heritage/cultural values. • Require an archaeological impact assessment (AIA) prior to development in areas with high archaeological potential to include all High and Medium Potential areas identified in an Archaeological Overview Assessment (AOA) for the traditional territory, or otherwise identified by the TRT. • Require a TRT permit before any archaeological research or resource development can occur on TRT-designated heritage sites or heritage trails, to include conditions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TRT approval of the Terms of Reference and/or study design for any archaeological study prior to the commencement of work; - selection of the study leader to be undertake jointly with the TRTFN; and, - a copy of all data and analyses to be submitted to the TRTFN. • Identify heritage trails, or portions of trails, and secure protection under relevant provincial legislation and regulations. Require TRT approval of any Management Plan for heritage trails required as party of provincial heritage designations. • Develop priorities for protection/restoration of identified sites, features or values. • Develop and implement protection and/or restoration plans for identified sites, features or values based on priorities.
Increase awareness and use of Tlingit language, culture and heritage values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that Tlingit names are consistently adopted in all documentation for archaeological and traditional use sites, values and features and geographic areas within the TRT territory. • Provide education to Tlingit citizens and others on important places within the traditional territory, the significance of Tlingit place names, and appropriate measures to respect and protect these values. • Use plaques and other forms of communication to educate TRT citizens and others about the cultural importance of special TRT places (where confidentiality is not an issue).
Provide opportunities for TRT citizens to be out on the land and continue traditional practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build cabins at key locations in our territory, subject to TRT landscape level plans and related management guidelines.

Compliance and Enforcement

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
Monitor the status of heritage and cultural sites in the traditional territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information for all visitors to our territory on the history, culture, and values of the Taku River Tlingit, and guidelines for environmentally and culturally appropriate behaviour. • Establish a TRT Officer position with enforcement authority to monitor compliance with guidelines for the management of heritage and cultural resources. • Maintain an active enforcement and compliance presence. • Encourage and where necessary enforce compliance with guidelines and codes of conduct.

“I believe camps where people, tourists and First Nations, can be taken out and be educated in our tradition like sew, dry fish, other crafts. As long as it is traditional.”

Kaushee Williams

Capacity Building and Economic Development

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
Provide on-going opportunities for TRTFN citizens to experience and learn about their land and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and implement land-based cultural activities and educational initiatives, including cultural camps, and the construction and use of sweatlodges and smokehouses. • Develop curriculum materials related to TRT land and way of life (Hà t_átgi hà khustiyxh), and introduce these materials in formal and informal educational settings.
Provide a permanent community cultural facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a development plan for the design, financing, and construction of a TRTFN Heritage Centre, to serve as a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a gathering place to learn, teach and practice Tlingit culture and heritage; - store heritage information and artifacts; - support renewal of community spirit; and - provide a focus for the revitalization of TRTFN culture and heritage. • Develop and implement appropriate infrastructure and management capacity for the ongoing management and use of the Heritage Centre. • Ensure that the Heritage Centre is regularly used for activities, ceremonies and events to revitalize Tlingit culture such as potlatches, dances, tanning animal hides, beading, sewing, and carving.



Ali S. Carlisle

Cranberries on shore of Atlin Lake

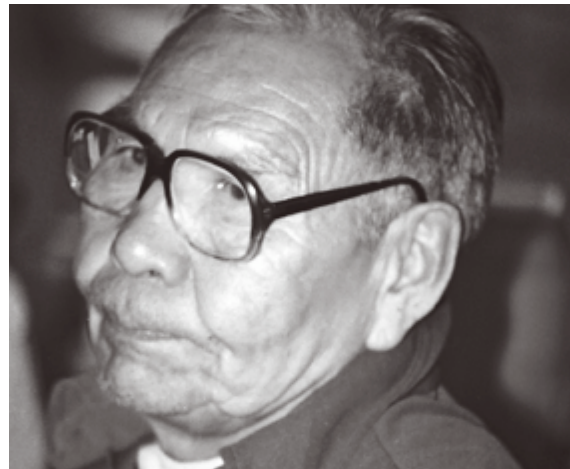
8.6 Plants for Food, Medicine, Spiritual and Cultural Uses

8.6.1 Background

TRT 'traditional' uses of the land are an integral part of the TRT economy, supplementing the cash economy to a significant degree. Participation levels, consumption patterns, harvest patterns and the value of what is produced are well documented and indicate that traditional use is a crucial component of Taku River Tlingit household health and well-being, as well as community social and economic stability. Recent conservative estimates place the dollar replacement value of traditional foods (particularly meat and fish) gathered at between \$2,664 and \$4,441 a year on average by household (or between 11-18% of household income).

Gathering is far more than an economic activity however, and the collection, processing, distribution and sharing of traditionally-harvested products is woven into the fabric of the culture and social relationships of the Taku River Tlingit community. Many families pick several varieties of vitamin rich berries in the Taku-Atlin area and

preserve the extra supply for the winter months. Medicines are gathered at certain times of year and are either dried or frozen to use as a remedy for people experiencing different form of illnesses. Gathering medicines is a ceremonial event with plants being picked in particular ways, giving offerings and disposing of the medicinal plants in a respectful manner. Surveys conducted for the TRTFN in 1984 and 1994 indicate a wide range of berries and plants gathered for food or other uses.



Metvin Jack

James Ward, Tlingit snowshoe maker

Traditional harvesting, or 'bush activities,' occur simultaneously with wage-paying activities, even for those with full time employment. Bush activities peak in the summer and fall when salmon, trout, berries and moose are most accessible. Gathering is shared among all age levels, and there is active interest and support in learning traditional ways from the Elders.

Recent mapping of traditional use areas by the TRTFN (1997) indicates that large areas of our territory are used for gathering activities.

"I believe that could be taught at the home level by grandparents, family. Somebody might not have anyone in their family who knows about the plants, so their aunt or their uncle, I'm sure there will be at least one person who will know how to gather plants. And that should be implemented for younger children with the Elders as teachers, for all the young people, even myself, because even though you think you know, there's always more to learn, like don't mix up your plant medicines."

June Jack

Importance of Traditional Practices for the TRTFN

For the Taku River Tlingit, use of the land within their traditional territory is much more than a set of activities. At the heart of their land use is a system of social and economic relationships, values and ideas that define them as a people and that are recognized in their constitution. The traditional land use activities of hunting, trapping, fishing and collecting plants are not ends in themselves, but the means by which their social and economic system, and the values and ideas associated with it, are sustained and renewed. In this respect they are basic to the very organization and viability of their community.

Determining the Impact of the Tulsequah Chief Mine Project on the Traditional Land Use of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation. p.9.

8.6.2 Goals for the Management of Plants for Food, Medicine, Spiritual and Cultural Uses

- Ensure continued opportunities for traditional gathering by TRT citizens.
- Restore and maintain the integrity of traditional gathering areas.
- Encourage the sharing of traditional knowledge regarding the gathering and use of plants and berries among TRT citizens.

"I think the younger people should be more informed on what kinds of plants and foods that are growing off the land. Some of the younger kids don't even know what caribou leaves look like. They don't even know that balsam bark is good for colds. Just running for the drugstore, that's about it. I would like to see the older people teach the younger people how to look for medicine."

Robert Ward

8.7 Recreation and Tourism

8.6.3 Objectives and Strategies for the Management of Plants for Food, Medicine, Spiritual and Cultural Uses

Management of Traditional Gathering

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
Ensure that the Taku River Tlingit have management authority over traditional gathering activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit the commercial gathering of traditional plants or berries by non-TRT citizens. • Prohibit bio-prospecting or any commercialization of indigenous medicinal plants within the TRTFN territory until appropriate control mechanisms are in place to protect traditional use.
Maintain opportunities for traditional gathering activities by the TRT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and map the location and current condition of known traditional gathering areas. • Prohibit development activities that may degrade the quality of traditional gathering areas or prevent access by TRT citizens. • Establish priorities and strategies for the restoration of traditional gathering areas impacted by past resource development activities. Undertake restoration of traditional gathering areas according to the priorities identified. (See Section 8.2). • Recognize the importance of traditional gathering areas in all landscape level or resource development plans for our territory.
Maintain information on the condition and availability of traditional plants in our territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Except where collection is for personal use, require reporting of traditional gathering activities as a means to monitor the use of these resources and as a basis for teaching youth about traditional gathering activities.
Ensure the continuity of traditional knowledge and appropriate practices for gathering of plants and berries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an inventory of traditional gathering activities. • Encourage teaching by the Elders to inform TRT citizens regarding appropriate practices for the gathering and use of plants and berries.

"When I am on the land walking, I feel by myself, peaceful. I feel healthy when I am using game and berries from the land. I use some medicines. When you use things from the land it is so much different than buying it."

TRTFN member



Joey Huggard, chopping wood for camp

“With tourism we don’t have to destroy or wreck the land. It is something we should develop more, because it is renewable. We don’t have to destroy land for tourism.”

Richard Carlick

8.7.1 Background

The Taku River Tlingit territory offers potential wilderness recreation and tourism opportunities that are almost unparalleled in North America with spectacular scenery, historic trails, boating and rafting opportunities, and wildlife viewing opportunities. The area also boasts a rich cultural history from the TRTFN, as well as historical appeal for tourists as a result of more recent settlement and exploration associated with the Klondike Gold Rush. Hunting and guide-outfitting opportunities are also significant (see Appendix VI).



Taku River Valley

The White Pass railway, built during the Klondike gold rush, provided access to the area until the 1930s, augmented by boat travel on Tagish and Atlin lakes. However, the relative isolation of the area combined with highly seasonal tourism and limited marketing have hindered the development of recreation and tourism markets to date. Many summer visitors make a detour to Atlin en route to other destinations in the Yukon and Alaska.

Most tourist activity is in the summer (e.g., guided hunting and fishing, houseboating, hiking), with some winter activities such as skiing, heli-skiing, dog-sledding, cross-country skiing

and snowmobiling. Atlin has a spectacular setting, and provides lakefront access for boating and other water activities. The Taku watershed is used extensively for rafting, commercial hunting and guided fishing.

There is one area within our territory that has been designated as provincial park—Atlin Park—which covers the Llewellyn Glacier and Sloko Lake. Commercial permits are in place for guided hikes, canoe and kayak trips, houseboat tours, snowmobile and cross-country tours, angling trips, day boat tours and sightseeing flights in the park, staged out of Atlin. BC Parks Service figures estimate that there were over 1700 visitors to the park in 2000 on commercially guided trips. There are also seven recreation sites in our territory, maintained by the BC Forest Service.

8.7.2 Goals for the Management of Recreation and Tourism

- In recognition of the outstanding values of the area, develop viable and responsible commercial recreation and tourism in our territory.
- Capitalize upon opportunities for the TRTFN to participate in the development of recreation and tourism opportunities throughout our territory.
- Ensure that tourism and recreation activities respect the traditional use of the area by TRTFN citizens, and their cultural values.

Ensure that the level of tourism and recreation activity does not adversely impact the ecological and other natural values (e.g., visual) of our territory.

- Ensure that the development of tourism and recreation is planned and coordinated so that conflicts among competing uses are avoided.

8.7.3 Objectives and Strategies for the Management of Recreation and Tourism

“Controlled recreation, family-oriented, not just hunting. Recreation that is good for the environment – less boats, ATVs, etc. There are thousands of people all over the world who want to be part of this kind of tourism, not just zooming all over the lake in boats.”

Joanne Williams

Planning and Assessment

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Ensure that the Taku River Tlingit have management authority over recreation & tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require TRT approval of any permits for commercial recreation or tourism in the traditional territory, including appropriate royalties.
Maintain an inventory of recreational opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, survey, and map high value recreational features. • Integrate local knowledge into recreational inventories, with appropriate confidentiality for Taku River Tlingit traditional knowledge. • Assess current levels of commercial and non-commercial recreational and tourism use • Conduct visual quality inventories for recreation and tourism areas. • Develop and maintain a recreation inventory for our territory delineating current and potential front-country and back-country tourism and recreational use.
Identify areas available for commercial recreation and tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly delineate zones (see Section 9.2, Table 2) where commercial recreation or tourism is permitted, by season, subject to requirements as set out below. • In addition to the above, prohibit commercial recreation or tourism activities in specific areas where the significance or susceptibility to disturbance of wildlife, cultural or other values are such that they are incompatible with these activities. • Delineate areas available for various forms of seasonal motorized access (e.g., snowmobile, ATV) for commercial recreation and tourism activities, through access management plans (see Section 8.1.4.).
Maintain opportunities for a diverse range of commercial and non-commercial recreation and tourism uses in our territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Recreation and Tourism Strategy for our territory for the short and long term that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - addresses both economic development and social impact issues; - identifies and addresses potential conflicts among commercial recreation users, and between recreation and other resource use; and, - identifies optimum developments and infrastructure to enhance or maintain public recreational opportunities while maintaining the integrity of conservation values.
Manage the expansion of commercial activities to avoid impacts on environmental or other values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine carrying capacities by area and type of recreational use. • Restrict recreational activities in areas where levels, type or seasonal intensity of use exceed carrying capacity. • Require impact assessments for all TRT commercial recreation tenure applications. Develop a standard framework to ensure consistency in the scope of such assessments.

Management of Commercial Recreation and Tourism

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Minimize impacts from recreational use in our territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidelines for commercial recreation and tourism use in our territory. Ensure that guidelines are readily available and clearly communicated to all operators, users and user groups. • Control levels and types of recreational use on a seasonal basis to maintain the quality of the recreational experience and to ensure the conservation of views, ecological and cultural values. • Recognize the importance of aesthetic values and undeveloped, wilderness areas for recreational quality experience. • Promote non-motorized forms of access for recreational users in our territory. • Avoid encroachment by ATVs, snowmobiles or other vehicular traffic into areas designated for non-motorized recreation or other uses. • Avoid the proliferation of trail networks and where practicable, concentrate access along a single trail. • Design and locate tourism/recreation facilities (e.g., campsites, trails) to avoid impacts on sensitive ecosystems, cultural/heritage sites and other values.
Maintain or enhance ecological integrity in areas subject to resource impacts from recreational use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop site level guidelines and practices for specific sites or features vulnerable to impacts from recreational use. Consult user groups in the development of these guidelines. • Manage specific sites or features vulnerable to impacts from recreational use.
Coordinate levels and types of recreation use across our territory and with other resource users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage greater communication and cooperation among commercial operators in our territory, and between these operators and the TRTFN, other governments, non-commercial user groups, and local communities. • Integrate tourism and recreational values into other resource planning and approval processes within our territory. Ensure that landscape level plans address identified high value recreation features. • Ensure that road development or other forms of access created for other resource uses in areas used for recreation are designed to avoid impacts on recreation opportunities (see Section 8.1.4).

“We have to teach our people, our children and other people, how to survive off the land traditionally and through modern economic opportunities, such as tourism – it can be done without raping the land.”

TRTFN member

Management of Non-consumptive Uses of Wildlife

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Ensure non-consumptive uses do not impact wildlife populations and habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish guidelines for the non-consumptive use of wildlife in the traditional territory. (see Section 8. 7). These guidelines may include:-permitting of commercial non-consumptive operators; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seasonal limits; - area limits (e.g., avoid calving habitats); - visitor days or use intensity; and, - limits on access development and use. Education program for commercial operators and recreational users on appropriate behaviors and conduct.
Enhance non-consumptive wildlife use opportunities and appreciation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the non-consumptive wildlife management guidelines or other guidelines to enhance non-consumptive uses where appropriate, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establishing of no-harvest zones; - ensuring appropriate population and habitat management; and, - protecting visual quality, remoteness and other aspects of wilderness. Promote TRT guides for all commercial non-consumptive operations. Communicate cultural connections, traditional uses, oral history and legends (see Section 8.5).

Compliance and Enforcement

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Promote culturally and environmentally sensitive tourism and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Visitor Centre as a focal point for information and orientation of tourists and recreational users. Provide information for all visitors to our territory on the history, culture, and values of the Taku River Tlingit (see Section 8.5.4.) . Establish a TRT ‘visitors pass’ system as a mechanism to communicate recreation guidelines, monitor use, and facilitate compliance and enforcement. Encourage cooperative initiatives with local user groups.
Monitor all commercial recreation and tourism activity in our territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement indicators to track changes in quality of recreational experience for users in our territory. Establish a TRT Officer position with enforcement authority to monitor compliance with guidelines for commercial recreation and tourism. Maintain an active enforcement and compliance presence. Encourage and where necessary enforce compliance with guidelines and codes of conduct.
Ensure public safety among recreational users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote public recreation stewardship and safety responsibilities through dissemination of information and direct liaison with operators, users and user groups.

Capacity Building and Economic Development

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Promote environmentally and culturally sensitive recreation and tourism enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with the direction of the Recreation and Tourism Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conduct feasibility studies to determine viability of commercial recreation initiatives; - promote investments in commercial and non-commercial recreation infrastructure within our territory; and - plan and promote the development of front-country attractions and infrastructure (e.g., viewing sites, interpretive sites and trails, lakefront service center or marina) • Pursue joint ventures with commercial recreation operators in our territory. • Emphasize local employment and business creation as criteria for awarding TRT commercial recreation permits/tenures. • Provide security of landbase to encourage investments in appropriate commercial recreation and tourism enterprise.
Increase TRT engagement in commercial recreation and tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine training and capacity building needs to enable TRTFN citizens to participate more fully in current and future commercial recreation and tourism activities. • Identify and capitalize on training and capacity building opportunities related to commercial recreation and tourism for TRT citizens and others. • Ensure that TRT citizens gain access to employment opportunities from commercial recreation and tourism in our territory.

“We have to teach our people, our children, and other people how to survive off the land traditionally and through modern economic opportunities . . . I do not want to see large scale logging or mining. Selective logging for local use. For now we must monitor and police our fish and wildlife use by regulations and law.”

TRTFN citizen



Forrested hillside on the Sloko River

8.8 Forestry

Our territory can be divided into three broad forest zones – boreal, subboreal, and coastal. These zones are briefly described below.

8.8.1 Boreal Forest Zones

About two-thirds of our territory is boreal forest –covering the land on the interior side of the Coast Mountains, from the O’Donnel Valley north around Atlin Lake, Tagish Lake, and westward, as well as Teslin Lake and eastward. These forests are characterized by long, very cold winters, low amounts of precipitation, short-growing seasons, and cold soils. At lower elevations up to 1050 metres, boreal forests are classified as the Boreal Black and White Spruce (BWBS) zone. The upper elevation forest is classified as the Spruce Willow Birch (SWB) zone.

Boreal Black and White Spruce (BWBS) Zone

The BWBS is the most widespread biogeoclimatic zone in Canada, occurring from the Yukon Territory across all provinces. In our traditional territory, the BWBS zone is limited in extent to the lower elevation valley bottoms of the major rivers. White spruce, trembling aspen, lodgepole pine, black spruce, balsam poplar, tamarack, subalpine fir, common paper birch, and Alaska paper birch are the major tree species of forested portions of the BWBS zone. Fires are frequent throughout the zone, maintaining most of the forests in various successional stages. Conifers are often slow to establish after fire and deciduous forests of aspen and willow are commonplace and persistent. Mixed forests of trembling aspen, lodgepole pine, and white-spruce are the most characteristic and widespread upland habitats in the BWBS.

Relatively open pine-lichen forests occur on the driest sites, which are usually on rapidly drained outwash deposits. Mixed pine and black spruce stands are common on level or gently sloping, north-facing slopes. Poorly drained lowlands are a mosaic of forest and wetland ecosystems. Dense black spruce-moss communities develop on poorly drained sites. The most productive forests of this zone occur on rich, well-drained alluvial sites. On these sites, white spruce and balsam poplar can reach heights of over 50 m and productivity can exceed 7 cubic metres per hectare per year.

Spruce-Willow-Birch (SWB) Zone

The lower elevations of the SWB zone are mostly forested. Older forests are primarily a mixture of

white spruce and subalpine fir. In many valley bottoms, the forest cover is made up of white spruce with variable amounts of lodgepole pine and trembling aspen. Higher on the slopes, subalpine fir dominates, forming nearly continuous stands on cold moist slopes with north and east exposures. Black spruce occurs frequently on nutrient poor sites at lower elevations.

It appears that wildfires have been less frequent and extensive in the SWB zone than in the adjacent Boreal Black and White Spruce Zone, and extensive seral stands of lodgepole pine are uncommon. Balsam poplar is uncommon, and Engelmann spruce, paper birch, and tamarack are absent from the SWB zone.

Shrub-dominated ecosystems are widespread, ranging from swamps and fens to dry colluvial scrub. On some of the driest, poorest sites, usually rapidly drained outwash deposits, an open woodland of lodgepole pine, scrub birch, and ground lichens occur. Aspen stands are fairly common on drier sites along major rivers.

At upper elevations of this zone, the landscape is mostly scrub/parkland dominated by fairly tall (1-4 metre) deciduous shrubs. These are primarily scrub birch and willows. Species include grey-leaved willow, Barclay's willow, tea-leaved willow, Barratt's willow, Alaska willow, and Woolly willow. In some areas, groves of stunted aspen and balsam poplar occur at the timberline usually on steep south slopes.

In some high wide valleys where cold air masses settle, a non-forested mosaic of shrub fields, fens and dry to moist grassland predominates on the valley floor and lowermost slopes. The lower

slopes have a 'skirt' of forest, and above the intermediate forest belts, shrubs dominate again. This 'double tree line' phenomenon is particularly well developed on the northern plateaus.

Wetlands in the SWB zone include white spruce and tall willow swamps, sedge fens and sedge marshes. Subalpine grasslands occur frequently in the SWB zone, although they are usually not extensive.

8.8.2 SubBoreal and Coastal Forest Zones

About one-sixth of our territory is subboreal (or transition) forests, covering the land along the Skoko River, Nakonake River, the lower Silver Salmon, the lower Nakina, and the Inklin, King Salmon, and Upper Sultahine rivers. At lower elevations (100 m to 800 m) subboreal forests are classified as Subboreal Spruce (SBS) zone. Above the SBS zone, is the Engelmann Spruce Subalpine Fir (ESSF) zone.

The remaining one-sixth of our territory is coastal forests, covering land in the lower Taku River and Tulsequah River watersheds. The lower elevation classification is the Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH) zone. The upper elevation forests are in the Mountain Hemlock (MH) zone.

8.8.3 Climate and Soils

The boreal forests of our territory are shaped by a climate pattern that is moderately warm with relatively abundant precipitation in summer, and very cold and dry in winter. Average temperatures are below freezing for five to seven months of the year, with significant variation from year to year. Average precipitation is 260-465 mm per

annum, with 25-55 % falling as snow. Mid-summer temperatures can be hot and dry. Around Atlin Lake and the broad flat plateaus, high winds are very drying in both summer and winter.

The cold climate affects soil formation in several ways. Deep frosts shatter and loosen rock material and cause frost heaving and the potential for slope failures. Overlaying soils are often broken and turned up and are considered young soils that have not yet stabilized.

Timber resources

The majority of the forests of our territory are without road access or have relatively low timber volumes. As a result, there has been limited forest development to date. Forests of the traditional territory are within the provincial government's 'Atlin Supply Block of the Cassiar Timber Supply Area (TSA)'. Effective January 1, 2002, the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) for the Atlin Supply Block was set at 32,000 cubic metres (m³) per year, which represents 10.5% of the Cassiar AAC of 305,000 m³ per year.

The area which the Ministry of Forests considers to be available for logging is called the Timber Harvesting Landbase (THLB). The THLB is currently limited to the forested portions of the northern part of the traditional territory, in the vicinity of Atlin Lake, Gladys Lake and Teslin Lake. Forest stands are considered merchantable by the Ministry of Forests if they have 150 m³ per hectare for boreal forests, and 220 m³ for coastal/transition forests.

Due to lack of access, there has not been forest development in the Taku River despite relatively

high timber volumes. In 1996, the TRT commissioned a study to examine the potential for forestry in three landscape units that were along the proposed road corridor to the Tulsequah Chief mine— for the O'Donnel, Sloko-Nakanake, and Tulsequah/Taku landscape units. Silva Ecosystem Consultants' concluded that the timber harvesting landbase under ecosystem based planning was approximately two-thirds less than the Ministry of Forests' estimates for subboreal and coastal landscapes. For boreal landscapes, the timber harvesting landbase and merchantable timber volumes were approximately 40% less than the MOF estimate.

Logging History

There are no major forest licensees in our territory or major timber processing facilities. There are two portable mills in the community that are not currently in use. Most forestry activity to date has occurred in road accessible areas near the town of Atlin and at the Atlin end of Graeme Inlet. Approximately 2,000 m³ per year was logged through timber sales under the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program (SBFEP) for the four year period from 1997 to 2000. Timber sales of up to 500 m³ are issued on demand as cash sale permits by the Bulkley/Cassiar Forest District through the Dease Lake Field Office. The current level of harvesting is not expected to change in the near future.

All existing forestry activity is small scale harvesting for local use, such as log house building, rough cut timber and mine development. Most of the timber harvested is dry black spruce and pine. Almost all logging to date has been by the

clearcut-with-reserves silvicultural system using ground skidding. Active, small scale logging is currently occurring south of Atlin, in the Pine Creek area, using selective harvesting methods.

"Only if it is selective logging. That would make it good for the land. Clearcutting is no good. You have to just be able to pick what you're going to use and leave the rest. No cutting should take place along the creeks."

George Esquiro Sr.

8.8.4 Goals for Forest Management

- Ensure that the TRT have meaningful management authority over all forest development in TRT traditional territory.
- Ensure that all forest development in TRT traditional territory is consistent with the principles and practice of ecosystem-based management and incorporates traditional ecological knowledge.
- Ensure that all forest development in TRT traditional territory is community-based, small-scale, and contributes to TRT jobs, economic development, and local value-added enterprise.
- Ensure that forest development does not impact on traditional land uses, cultural and heritage sites, or sensitive environmental values.

"It should be used at a local community level for cabins, and then managed through the land and resource corporation."

Louise Gordon

8.8.5 Objectives and Strategies for Forest Management

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
Ensure that the Taku River Tlingit have management authority over forest development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require development and TRT approval of an ecosystem-based forest plan prior to the issuance of any forest tenure in the TRT traditional territory, including a community-based consultation process. • Develop and implement a TRT policy on forest management certification.
Ensure that the highest standards of ecosystem-based forest management are practiced on TRT land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop ecosystem based forest management plans that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - require spatial timber supply modeling over ecological time frames as part of forest development planning, with explicit goals for retention of landscape and stand level forest attributes; - protect fish and aquatic habitat consistent with TRT guidelines (see Section 8.4); and, - protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, consistent with TRT guidelines (see Section 8.2). • Use ecologically appropriate silvicultural systems. Prohibit large scale clearcut logging and extensive new road developments in the traditional territory.
Identify important cultural and traditional values and conduct forest management in a manner that does not compromise these values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to approval of any forest development, require an assessment of TRT cultural and traditional use values within the planning unit, and specific measures to either exclude site specific areas or features from development, or modify forest practices to protect these values. • Prohibit logging of, and new forest road access to, traditional trails. • Require adequate buffers to protect the integrity of trails. • Identify, map, and protect important medicinal and botanical plants and gathering areas through (a) designation as TRT Spiritual Grounds, Historical Landmarks and Special Features (see Section 10), and (b) stand level retention. • Avoid adverse impacts to identified traditional use gathering areas from forestry activities.
Ensure that the TRT receives an equitable share of the economic opportunities and benefits from any logging in the traditional territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a revenue sharing agreement with the provincial government based on stumpage collected, and apply the resources to build TRT capacity for forest planning and monitoring. • Undertake a feasibility study to establish a Taku River Tlingit area-based forest tenure, based on ecosystem-based management principles. • Provide training for TRT citizens in technical, management and professional roles in forestry. • Consider joint-venture partnerships with private interests to pursue local value-added development opportunities, while retaining TRT control (i.e. 51% or more ownership control) as appropriate. • Make timber available for local needs, including firewood and building materials.

8.9 Mineral and Energy Resources

8.9.1 Background

"I wouldn't mind the TRT going out with the placer mines inspector to make sure they do their clean-up because there are mines from a long time ago that haven't been cleaned up."

Ali Carlick

Placer Mining

There is a long history of placer mining in our territory. Placer mining activity peaked in 1898, but has continued in several of the creeks that drain into Surprise, Gladys, or Atlin Lakes (e.g., McKee Creek, Burdett Creek, Wilson Creek, O'Donnell Creek, Birch Creek, Boulder Creek, Otter Creek, Ruby Creek, Wright Creek, Pine Creek, and Spruce Creek). Currently, levels of activity are low due to commodity prices, high operating costs, and limited availability of shallow 'paydirt.'

TRTFN citizens have serious concerns over the impacts from past placer mining activity. The lower Spruce Creek and several other creek systems are heavily silted, and there has been extensive degradation and destruction of riparian and fluvial habitat. Many TRT citizens point to the Pine creek and Spruce creek systems as textbook examples of the long-term effects of uncontrolled mining development in their territory, and the clear reason for some of the declines in wildlife populations and degraded habitat.

Permit provisions under the Waste Management Act regarding the discharge of process water do not apply for certain creeks in the Atlin area that have been 'de-regulated' under the Placer Mining Waste Control Regulation. Settling ponds are required, but are ineffective in practice if the material available for berms has been previously washed and is unsuitable for compaction.

Sites that have been identified as a clean up priority by the TRT include the abandoned Atlin Silver Mine, with discarded equipment, batteries, and drums about the site, and the extensive road system on Mt. Vaughn, which is degrading local habitat and subject to frequent washouts. Abandoned buildings and equipment from placer operations in Burdett creek have similar needs for environmental clean up and restoration—in an area where game was previously abundant

Hardrock Mining

After the decline in placer activity at the turn of the century, attention turned to quartz deposits where gold and other metals might be found. There were several small underground ore workings near Atlin and on Tagish Lake.

In 1951, Cominco opened a lead, zinc, copper, gold, and silver mine in the Taku estuary at Tulsequah. Approximately 500 short tonnes of mineral concentrates per day were shipped out by barge via the estuary. The mine was closed due to low metal prices in 1957. There is a great deal of concern over the condition in which this mine site was abandoned and controversy over responsibility for restoration and reparation for environmental cleanup and damages. The site was left unattended, and many dangerous chemicals were left on

site, to be removed by government agencies. Local residents recall the extensive decline in salmon populations and the death of trees along the river bank as a result of Cominco dumping the mine tailings directly into the Tulsequah River. It is generally thought that Flanigan's Slough suffered serious damage as a result of the mine. Tailings were left on the surface and are currently leaching into the river along with drainage from the old mine. Testing in 1993 indicated that the leaching is significant, with 85% of the leachate coming from the underground mine and 15% from the tailings on the surface.

The Tulsequah Chief property was purchased by Redfern Resources Ltd., in 1987. As barging ore down the Taku River was deemed financially unviable, the company proposed a 160km access road to reach the mine site through the pristine Taku watershed. In 1998, after a two-and-a-half year long environmental review, the British Columbia government issued a Project Approval Certificate for this development. The certificate was challenged by the Taku River Tlingit on the basis that the environmental assessment process was marked with striking deficiencies and irregularities, specifically that the process was neither "neutrally administered" nor designed to "promote sustainability" as per the Act. The TRTFN also argued that the government failed to respect their aboriginal right to hunting and fishing habitat, as protected under the Canadian Constitution Act, and recently affirmed in the Delgamuukw decision. The project certificate was overturned in a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in June 2000. This decision was upheld in the provincial Court of Appeal in 2001.

There is minimal active hard rock mining underway in our territory at present, although exploration has continued at varying levels of intensity over the years, driven in large part by commodity prices.

Oil and Gas Potential

The Geological Survey of Canada has undertaken a petroleum resource assessment and estimates that there may be significant accumulations of natural gas in our territory. No exploration wells have been drilled to date. Accessibility is likely to be a significant challenge for prospective development.

“There should be environmental assessments before projects are started, not after they are done. We need to have our own environmental assessment officer here. We do the application for the assessment backwards, and so we waste time because we didn’t do our environmental work beforehand.”

Louise Gordon

8.9.2 Goals for the Management of Energy or Mineral Resources

- Where environmental sustainability can be assured and where sanctioned by the TRT, allow responsible mineral and energy developments in our territory.
- Ensure that mining or energy related project activities achieve the highest standards of environmental management and provide significant economic benefits to the local community.

8.9.3 Objectives and Strategies for the Management of Energy or Mineral Resources

Planning and Assessment

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Ensure that the Taku River Tlingit have management authority over energy or mineral development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require TRT approval before any exploration or development activities occur in the traditional territory. • Ensures that the TRT receive appropriate royalties from development activities conducted in their territory.
Ensure that potential impacts from all proposed energy or mineral-related developments in our territory are assessed prior to development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require TRT approval of an appropriate environmental assessment for all energy or mineral-related projects as a condition of an access or development permit. Develop a standardized framework to clarify the scope for environmental assessments according to the size and scope of the development proposed. • Ensure opportunity for public participation in the review of proposed industrial developments where concerns are expressed. • Prohibit energy or mineral-related exploration or development which in the opinion of the TRT would result in unacceptable levels of impacts from access routes, site developments, or operational use.
Ensure that environmental and other values are protected during project construction and operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require TRT participation and joint decision-making in landscape level planning for mining access routes and developed sites.

Management of Exploration and Development Activities

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Avoid impacts during planning and operation of all phases of energy or mineral-related projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit energy or mineral-related exploration or development activities in Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas, and other areas as defined through landscape level plans. • Establish guidelines for energy or mineral related exploration and development in the territory governing issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - access; - environmental impacts, mitigation or compensation; - sites of special cultural or social significance; - coordination of access and operations with other users and values (e.g., seasonal wildlife habitat use); - reclamation; and, - health and safety. • Exploration activities shall be conducted on existing roads or by non-road means unless approval is granted by the TRT. Where new access is proposed, proponents must demonstrate that non-road access options have been fully evaluated (see Section 8.1). • Design access routes to minimize impacts on wildlife, cultural or other values.

Compliance and Enforcement

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Monitor and report on all exploration and development activities in our territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require continual monitoring of site operations and use of access routes for energy or mineral-related projects to ensure compliance with guidelines (e.g., siltation of streams, fuel storage, waste handling, measures to reduce disturbance to wildlife or other values, control of access, etc). • Require periodic reporting to ensure enforcement and compliance with TRT guidelines, particularly for those circumstances where road access restrictions make it difficult for the public to see the effects of development and associated resource management decisions. • Require performance bonds for all exploration, development and reclamation activities to a level sufficient to cover potential costs of mitigation from unintended impacts. • Establish a 'TRT Mines and Energy Project Inspector' position with authority sufficient to halt operations at mine sites or other related developments that are out of compliance with TRT guidelines.

Reclamation

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Ensure full restoration and reclamation of past impacts from mineral-related activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify un-reclaimed sites, exploration camps and exploration roads at abandoned or closed mines or other industrial sites. • Establish priorities for reclamation and road deactivation. Initial priority should be given to restoration and reclamation in Pine Creek, Spruce Creek and other areas used for hunting, gathering or other traditional use activities. • Complete reclamation and road deactivation in a timely manner.
Ensure full and timely restoration and reclamation for current developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require timely completion of all restoration and reclamation activities at each stage of project development, as set out under the TRT guidelines for mineral and energy projects. • Reinstate regulatory controls over placer mining operations on all creeks in our territory.

Capacity Building

OBJECTIVE:	STRATEGIES:
Encourage local capacity building for mineral and energy related local business and services	<p>Identify and capitalize on training and capacity building opportunities related to energy or mineral exploration and development for TRT citizens and others.</p> <p>Ensure that TRT citizens gain access to employment opportunities from mineral and energy-related projects in our territory.</p>

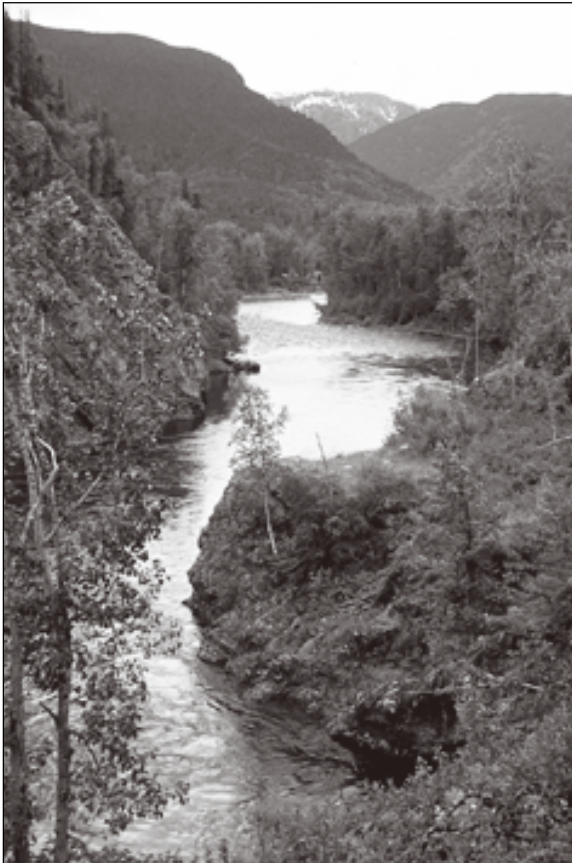
“We need to have some say in where they can dig and not dig. The hunting areas are all torn apart and they scare all the game away. We should have at least half of the mining in TRTFN hands. Whoever is willing and capable [among TRT citizens] should manage those operations.”

Ray Carlick

“Restoration is very important. Whoever is working there should be responsible for reclamation.”

Ray Carlick

9. Taku River Tlingit Land Use Zones



The Nakina River

The following sections present a set of definitions for resource development activities, and a proposed framework for a suite of land use zones to be applied across the territory. To ensure traditional uses for future generations and robust wildlife and fish populations, large areas containing a high diversity of habitats must be maintained in their natural conditions. Areas where resource development can occur must also be provided, so that sustainable economic activity can also proceed. By delineating what kinds of activities can occur where, TRT land use zones are one of the key vehicles to strike this balance.

Neither the establishment of TRT land use zones, nor anything in any agreement pertaining to their management, shall prejudice or otherwise limit the aboriginal rights of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation.

The following material is preliminary only, and it is anticipated that further detail regarding land use zones will be developed over time as additional information is compiled.

"I think, you know again, it boils down to that cooperative initiative that the three levels of government have to implement and you know, designating areas as recreational, designating areas as conservation, and designating areas of harvesting, and what-not. I think it's really incumbent to recognize that this earth is not here for human use only. The species ensure the continuity of it, and because the species ensure that, they got to have the same importance as humans have. And as much as we don't like it, we're going to have to curb our desires to label all areas as recreation. Or harvesting grounds. It's simple as that."

Andrew Williams

9.1 Definition of Resource Development Activities

To ensure clarity regarding the nature and scope of resource development activities that are permitted in different areas of our territory, the following definitions are suggested:

- *Traditional use*: means hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering for food, social or ceremonial purposes in accordance with the traditional practices of the TRTFN.
- *Low impact tourism and recreation*: means the use of land and water for non-extractive tourism and recreation activities such as hiking, wildlife viewing and rafting. Mechanized access such as plane, helicopter, snowmobiling or ATV may occur, subject to access management or other guidelines. Low impact tourism and recreation generally avoids the use of associated permanent structures unless specifically approved by the TRT, and does not include the development of roaded access.
- *Intensive tourism and recreation*: means the use of land and water for tourism and recreation activities that require roaded access or involve the creation of extensive infrastructure.
- *Industrial resource development*: means resource extractive activities such as forestry, mining or hydroelectric development and/or the creation of permanent structures or linear developments such as roads.
- *Roaded access*: means permanent linear developments for access purposes.

- *Commercial or sport fishing*: includes activities required for commercial or sport fisheries, including river access, and limited shoreline developments approved by the TRT.

A landscape level plan refers to a plan for a smaller area or watershed, such as an access management plan, recreation and tourism strategy, etc.

9.2 Proposed Framework of Taku River Tlingit Land Use Zones

Land use zones provide strategic direction regarding the types of activities that are permissible in various areas of the territory, and the priorities for management. In simple terms, these zones delineate:

- *what type* of activities can occur;
- *where* they can (or can not) occur; and,
- *how* such activities should be managed within these zones.

The proposed framework of land use zones outlined in Table 2 has been developed based on information compiled during the TEK and community interviews, field research, and community discussions undertaken to prepare this Vision and Management Direction document. In particular, the proposed framework of zones also reflects the results of the CAD and the specific priorities and values reflected in the community interviews.

"I'd like the hunting areas to be protected. That's where our food comes from. Also gathering areas are important to me. Protection of sacred places as well. People can have jobs on the land, in lots of places."

Rose Jack



Tlingit Fishers drifting net on T'abku

Lorraine Dawson

Table 2: Proposed Framework for TRT Land Use Zones

PROPOSED ZONE TYPE	MANAGEMENT INTENT	EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES PERMITTED IN THIS ZONE	PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES IN THIS ZONE
Tlingit Interests and Integrated Resource Management Areas	Provide diverse opportunities for resource development while maintaining opportunities for traditional use by the TRTFN and minimizing adverse impacts on natural and cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional use by the TRTFN, unless limited by TRTFN-approved landscape level plans • Industrial resource development activity, subject to landscape level plans and guidelines • Intensive tourism and recreation, subject to landscape level plans and guidelines • Commercial or sport fishing, subject to landscape level plans and guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities precluded by landscape level plans or guidelines
Tlingit Interests and Special Management Areas 1 (Wildlife Habitat)	Protect important core wildlife habitats and TRT traditional use opportunities, while permitting compatible resource development activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above
Tlingit Interests and Special Management Areas 2 (Connectivity)	Protect important wildlife connecting corridors and TRT traditional use opportunities while permitting compatible resource development activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above
Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas	<p>Maintain natural ecological conditions and processes over large landscapes to sustain biodiversity and TRT traditional uses.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for compatible, low-intensity developments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional use by the TRTFN, unless limited by a TRTFN-approved management plan for the Tlingit Interests and Conservation Area • Low impact tourism and recreation, subject to a TRTFN-approved management plan for the Tlingit Interests and Conservation Area • Commercial or sport fishing, subject to a TRTFN-approved management plan for the Tlingit Interests and Conservation Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New roaded access • Industrial resource development • Intensive tourism and recreation

Further analysis is required before these land use zones can be finalized, delineated and mapped across our territory. Such analysis will need to reconcile several factors:

- maximizing the availability of high quality wildlife habitats;
- maintaining the ecological diversity present in TRT territory;
- providing opportunities for resource development activities with varying degrees of anticipated impacts; and,
- ensuring consistency with the priorities and values of our TRT citizens.

The rights of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation to hunt, gather, fish, trap and continue activities for subsistence or cultural purposes are not limited by the delineation of any land use zones. The establishment of zones is intended to ensure that traditional activities are not adversely affected by development activity across the whole territory.

9.3 Tlingit Interests and Integrated Resource Management Areas

The management intent for this zone is to provide diverse opportunities for resource development while maintaining opportunities for traditional use by the TRTFN and minimizing adverse impacts on natural values.

Activities undertaken in this zone will be guided by management guidelines and landscape level plans as required by TRT management objectives and strategies outlined in Section 8. Industrial activities proposed within this zone will be subject to TRT approval.

9.4 Tlingit Interests and Special Management Areas

The management intent for Tlingit Interests and Special Management Areas is as follows:

- *Tlingit Interests and Special Management Area 1 (Wildlife Habitat)*: Protect important core wildlife habitats and TRT traditional use opportunities, while permitting compatible resource development activities.
- *Tlingit Interests and Special Management Area 2 (Connectivity)*: Protect important wildlife connecting corridors and TRT traditional use opportunities while permitting compatible resource development activities.

In addition to landscape level plans and management guidelines required (see Section 8), detailed management guidelines will be prepared specifically for Tlingit Interests and Special Management Areas. These guidelines are intended to ensure that the management intent for these zones can be achieved, while allowing opportunities for appropriate resource development activities.

9.5 Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas

The only provincial protected area designations in our territory—Atlin Provincial Park and the adjacent Atlin Recreation Area—cover only 205,000 ha, and fall far short of providing certainty for our future. The Atlin Provincial Park excludes industrial development while the Atlin Recreation Area permits mineral exploration and development. While aesthetically valuable, these

“I just wish that our people would work together to save our land, and all the areas on the map because its for our children’s children. And there are all these areas in our territory that are important and we need to save as much as we can now.”

Shirley Reeves



Vernon Williams taking care of Tlingit responsibilities on the T'akhu

Lorraine Dawson

protected areas do not represent the wide diversity of ecosystems in our territory, and contain less than 6% of the high value wildlife habitats identified in the Conservation Area Design (CAD) (see Tables 3 and 4). Additionally, these areas contain no measurable amounts of salmon habitat and important wetlands are very poorly represented.

Table 3: Ecosystem representation analyses for the existing Atlin Park and Recreation Area within the context of the TRT traditional territory. (Distribution of ecological communities is based on BC Provincial Biogeoclimatic Zones.)

ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY TYPE	HABITAT AVAILABLE (HA) IN TRT TRADITIONAL TERRITORY	% IN ATLIN PARK AND RECREATION AREA
Coastal Western Hemlock	61,612	0.0
Mountain Hemlock	122,821	0.0
Sub-boreal Spruce	188,031	8.5
Engelman Spruce-Sub-alpine Fir	218,676	7.1
Spruce Willow Birch	1,030,859	2.1
Boreal White and Black Spruce	1,037,716	5.9
Alpine Tundra	1,290,456	10.1

Table 4. High and moderate quality focal species habitats represented within the existing Atlin Park and Recreation Area. (Habitat distributions based on habitat suitability models developed for the TRT CAD for the 5 focal wildlife species. The distribution of salmon streams and adjacent buffer areas based on Fisheries Information Summary System data and TRT TEK interviews, and the area of wetland habitat was calculated based on BC MoF land cover maps.)

SPECIES	HABITAT AVAILABLE (HA) IN TRT TRADITIONAL TERRITORY	% IN ATLIN PARK AND RECREATION AREA
Caribou	1,710,602	5.6
Moose	2,429,579	4.0
Sheep	755,729	6.0
Goat	1,142,675	6.2
Grizzly Bear	1,572,433	5.9
Wetland	51,565	2.9
Salmon Stream	104,244	0.0

Tlingit Interests and Conservation areas are thus required to address the under-representation of ecosystem types, to ensure the long-term viability of wildlife populations, and to maintain opportunities for traditional use by the TRT into the future.

"I would much rather have places in their natural states. I don't want to go to places when they're all developed."

Lorraine Dawson

9.5.1 Management Intent

The management intent for Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas is to:

- maintain natural ecological conditions and processes over large landscapes to sustain biodiversity and TRT traditional uses; and,
- provide opportunities for compatible, low-intensity developments.

Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas will be managed to maintain natural conditions necessary for traditional use activities, such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering to continue, and to maintain representation of the diverse ecosystem types across the territory. Through the establishment of Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas, the Nation will provide for the continuity of the community's cultural connection to the land, while allowing for their use and enjoyment by visitors who respect and honor these areas.

Low impact recreation and tourism activities are permitted in these zones, subject to a management plan developed by the TRT for each area. New road access and industrial resource development, such as forestry and mining, are not permitted in the Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas.

Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas will be established:

- To maintain them for the benefit, education and enjoyment of present and future generations, and more specifically, to provide for the protection and preservation of the environment and Taku River Tlingit Kustiyi.
- To exclude extraction or harvesting by anyone of the resources of the lands in support of a commercial enterprise, without the express permission of the TRTFN, and consistent with Tlingit Interests and Conservation Area Management Plans.
- To provide for the continuation of Taku River Tlingit cultural activities and traditional renewable resource harvesting activities, including:
 - gathering traditional foods;
 - gathering plants used for medicinal and ceremonial purposes;
 - hunting, trapping, and fishing;
 - cutting selected trees for ceremonial or artistic purposes;
 - conducting, teaching or demonstrating ceremonies of traditional, spiritual or religious significance;

- seeking cultural or spiritual inspiration; and,
- construction and use of shelters (such as camps and cabins) essential to the pursuit of the above activities.

9.5.2 Management Plans for Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas

Following designation of these areas, the TRT will undertake a planning process to develop a management plan for each Tlingit Interests and Conservation Area. Resource management objectives and strategies identified in Section 8 of this plan that are appropriate to Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas will be incorporated into management plans.



Terry Jack and James Williams doing an annual Fall hunt at Blue Canyon

Ali S. Carlick

10. Taku River Tlingit Spiritual Grounds, Historical Landmarks and Special Features



King Salmon Lake

Doug Milet

In addition to the proposed broad land use zones identified in Section 9 above, a number of smaller areas of special natural, cultural and recreational significance need to be identified, mapped and protected. A preliminary inventory and associated maps of archeological sites have been compiled by

the TRT Land and Resources Department. Further work is needed, however, to update and complete a TRT special sites and features inventory, including further community consultation on candidate sites and features, building on the work that has been done to date. Once sites are fully

"It's fading away slowing, you can see it. You've got to restore this stuff, look after them [heritage sites]. Make them look like they used to. The way they are going now, they are broken and fallen down. Certain areas are like where the grizzlies are and the salmon. On the Taku river, Kuthai, it's got to be protected. We shouldn't allow any shooting there."

Harry Carlick

identified, and their unique values and features described and mapped, they should be given a protective designation as TRT Spiritual Grounds, Historical Landmarks and Special Features

Table 5 illustrates the types of special features that should be addressed through subsequent, detailed planning for TRT Spiritual Grounds, Historical Landmarks and Special Features. Many of these elements may be captured within the larger land use zones, however, a systematic identification of these features across our territory is required.

“There are so many places where there are camp sites, if people went out there and started looking they’d find tent poles and those things. I believe all those should be protected. In traveling up and down [between the lake and Taku] there could be graves that we don’t know about.”

TRTFN Citizen



Cecil Anderson and young relative at 5-Mile camp

“All the rock painting sites [need protection] - Anchor Rock (Warm Bay); Torres Inlet; Sheulgh Tey Shilght Shaw (Red Paint Mountain), Yeth Yedi (Crow Box).”

Jackie Williams

“I’m interested in cultural areas – canoeing, camping areas and so on. We need to have a site for our traditional dancing and build a place where we can feel safe there. That all of our children should learn to dance and sing and be exposed to our culture.”

Wayne Carlick

Table 5: Types of TRT Spiritual Grounds, Historical Landmarks and Special Features

FEATURE TYPE	ELEMENTS
Special Cultural Heritage Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cultural landscapes (river confluences, traditional trail routes) • structural features (e.g. rock cairns, fish weirs, features from legends) • traditional use sites (e.g. sacred sites, berry gathering areas, ritual bathing areas or springs, camping sites, picnicing areas) • sacred and archaeological sites (e.g. pictographs, burial sites, gravehouses) <p>Note: Many of these special cultural and heritage features will be identified through implementation of strategies in Sections 8.5.3 and 8.6.3.</p>
Special Natural Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rare elements (species, subspecies, populations, and habitats) • biologically exceptional sites (important seasonal or migratory breeding, feeding, resting or wintering concentrations of animals; sites of high species richness; sites with endemic species; highly productive habitats; micro-climate anomalies) • physically exceptional sites (unique landforms, physical features, hydrologic features, soils or geology) • palaeontological resources (fossils); and, • remnants of representative ecosystems that are too small or fragmented to be captured within Tlingit Interests and Conservation Areas. <p>Note: Many of these special natural features will be identified through implementation of strategies in Section 8.2.4</p>
Special Recreational Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rare, scarce or unique recreational features (e.g. high waterfalls, hotsprings) • areas with a variety or concentration of recreational features (lakes, waterfalls, rapids, abundant wildlife viewing opportunities) • areas that meet demand for natural environment recreation (e.g. beaches, islands, alpine lake chains) <p>Note: Many of these special recreational features will be identified through implementation of strategies in Section 8.7.3.</p>

11. Economic Development



Jason Williams

Cranberry Island Cabin - TRTFN Cabin on the T'akhu

"I'd like to see all the work in mining and forestry, commercial fishing, tourism, I'd like to see all that managed by the government of the TRTFN."

Ted Carlick

This *Vision and Management Direction* document is intended to provide the foundation for regional economic development in a manner that conserves the environmental and cultural values of the region. Economic opportunities are reflected in the many objectives and strategies presented (see Section 8).

The following sections describe the purpose and scope of the Economic Development Strategy for the region.

"I believe that with proper management and care, we can conduct economic resource activity. By that, I mean that we have to always consider pollution, proper waste management of mine tailings, severe controls to not over fish, over trap, over log, over mine, etc. We have natural beauty that can be developed towards tourism, such as wildlife viewing, trail walks, photography tours, canoe and kayak tours, small lodges, resorts, etc. The whole community has to get involved with protecting our resources... We cannot put a price on our future."

TRTFN citizen

11.1 Purpose of Economic Development Strategy

To capitalize on the economic opportunities, the TRT is considering an Economic Development Strategy for the region. The purpose of this strategy would be to stimulate and guide economic development in the region for the benefit of residents and other British Columbians in a manner consistent with the management directions presented. This document would provide a foundation and guidance to the proposed economic development strategy and would focus the range of opportunities explored.

11.2 Scope of Economic Development Strategy

“Every time we think about allowing an activity in an area we need to think about what the potential risks are, what the impacts will be, can we and the animals live with those things, how it will effect the water, all of that needs to be considered every time we consider allowing development.”

Susan M. Carlick

The strategy will include:

- an inventory of all existing economic activities in the territory by key economic sectors;
- a review of current employment potentials in the territory;
- a summary of the resources, both natural and man made available for economic development activities;
- a summary of the results of the human resource survey conducted by TRTFN;
- a sector by sector investigation of economic development opportunities;
- the development of enterprise selection criteria (derived from the Self Sufficiency Workshop held on February 25-26, 2001);
- pre-feasibility analyzes of the top opportunities;

- a step by step process for development of the required economic development structures and policies required for implementation of the strategy;
- a recommended staged process for including the community and its leaders in the gradual process of increasing economic decision making capacity; and,
- a recommended staged process for increasing the entrepreneurial and business management capacity of community members so that they can take advantage of the identified (and emerging) opportunities.

“If we can get into harvesting resources or gathering bottled water from our glaciers, trees from our land or minerals from the earth, that we get a share of it all, or that we get a business, and that it sustains our culture and our lives. If you have culture on one hand and a good job on the other hand, you do well. It seems to be that way.”

Wayne Carlick

11.3 Approach for Economic Development Strategy

As initial steps toward the preparation of the Economic Development Strategy, the TRTFN has undertaken several initiatives, including the following:

- a Community Economic Development (CED) Scoping Study;

- several economic ventures, including the launch of a smoked salmon product (Taku Wild Salmon) for domestic and international markets;
- feasibility assessments for additional local ventures;
- a human resource inventory;
- expanding TRTFN staffing levels for economic development to include a full time economic development officer; and,
- organizational development strategies to improve governance systems for community economic development.



Greta Thorlakson exhibiting Taku Wild Salmon before it goes to market

TRTFN is committed to developing a mixed economy where there are individually owned enterprises, corporately owned enterprises and community owned enterprises. The new ventures will be based on the values and goals for resource use as laid out in this land and resource plan. The opportunities in fishing, fish processing,

TRT Perspectives on Ha Kustiyi - Our Way of Life

As Taku River Tlingit, we recognize that all people need to belong to a place, a home, and to provide food and shelter for their family. There must be opportunities provided for all that live in our territory to earn a sustainable livelihood. A sustainable livelihood flows from working hard together in activities that provide benefits to our community without having detrimental impacts to our land, water and resources. A sustainable livelihood is not something that can be given or taken away by those from outside the territory, whether in boardrooms or government offices, but comes from within us who live here. As we strengthen ourselves, we increase our capacities to sustain livelihoods here in our territory and the certainty of livelihood for this generation and future generations of Tlingit and non-Tlingit alike.

As responsible stewards of our territory, we, the Taku River Tlingit, recognize and welcome those who have chosen to make our territory their home and who choose to maintain respectful relationships with the land and with the Taku River Tlingit as the stewards of these lands. With proper mutual understanding and care, it is possible for us to share and manage each of our actions so that resources from our territory will continue to allow us all, and all our future generations, to thrive as human beings.

small scale forestry, commercial guiding, wildlife viewing, and front country tourism activities will be pursued through the economic strategy development process.

Through a combination of learning from the existing enterprises, and developing new enterprises, a consistent venture development process will be established. This consistent established process will provide the foundation for expansion of the capacity to understand and undertake business ventures. This process is already underway and will expand rapidly through the community involvement processes during the strategy development steps. The expanded economic development capacity may also be mandated to provide business management assistance to existing and new TRTFN member enterprises.

The TRTFN is committed to exploring a joint economic development strategy for the region in partnership with other First Nation governments, the provincial and federal governments, the local community and stakeholders particularly after the economic development capacity foundation has been established. The connection between sustainable resource management, and sustainable utilization levels will be at the core of all ventures that are established. The economic development strategy process will get underway following the completion of the Vision and Management Direction document.

" I think we should provide business seminars for our people— I think it's key for TRT citizens to have their own businesses, but a lot of people are going to need help. I think we need to make information on our land and resources available to the people."

Taku Thorlakson

Appendix I: Glossary of Terms

TLINGIT TERMS

À Tlèn	Atlin Lake
<i>Hà khustìyxh</i>	Our way of life
<i>Hà t_átgi</i>	Our land
<i>Hín Tlèn</i>	Confluence of the Nakina and Inklin Rivers
<i>Kùkhhitàn, Ishkìtàn, Dèshitàn</i>	Names of the Crow clan and houses
<i>Nàkina á</i>	Village site on Nakina River
<i>Nàkina á Hín</i>	Nakina River
<i>T'akhu</i>	Taku River
<i>Taku Quan</i>	The people of the <i>T'akhu</i>
<i>Wenah</i>	Atlin village site
<i>Wushxh wudu wati</i>	Bringing it all together
<i>Ya à yi Hín Ghìyi</i>	Warm Bay
<i>Yanyèdi</i>	Name of the Wolf Clan

ENGLISH TERMS

Access corridor	A landscape element that enables movement between different areas.
Biological diversity (biodiversity)	The variety of life and its processes, including the variety in genes, species, ecosystems, and the ecological processes that connect everything in ecosystems.
Boreal forest zone	Forests of the northern hemisphere that are dominated by conifers.
Buffer zone	A zone that surrounds an area of interest and protects the area of interest from damage or degradation.
Coastal forest zone	Forest adjacent to, or influenced by, the marine environment.
Connectivity	Condition in which the spatial arrangement of land cover types allows organisms and ecological processes (such as fire) to move across the landscape.

Corridor	Landscape elements that connect similar patches through a dissimilar matrix or aggregation of patches.
Critical wildlife habitat	Part or all of the ecosystem occupied by a wildlife species or a population of such species that is recognized as essential for the maintenance and long-term survival of the population.
Deregulated streams	Streams that are not subject to provincial environmental regulations.
Ecological integrity	The soundness or wholeness of the processes or organisms composing an ecosystem.
Ecosystem-based management	An approach to land and resource planning and management that emphasizes the recognition and maintenance of functioning, self-sustaining ecosystems with characteristics similar to the original ones.
Escapement	An estimate of the number of adult fish returning to a stream to spawn.
Forest management certification	A voluntary, independent third-party verification of sustainable forest management.
Forest zone	Forest stands or cover types consisting of a plant community made up of trees and other woody vegetation.
Genetic diversity	Variation among and within species that is attributable to differences in hereditary material.
Habitat	The place where an organism lives and/or the conditions of that environment, including the soil, vegetation, water and food.
High value habitats	Habitats that are recognized to support a wide diversity of plant and animal species, and tend to be limited in their distribution. Examples of habitats that have a high value to many species includes wetlands, riparian forests, and karst habitats.

Industrial development	Development that involves the extraction and consumption of natural resources.	Restricted motorized access	An area in which mechanized transportation (cars, trucks, motor boats, planes, snowmobiles, ATVs) is controlled or limited.
Karst	Pertains to landforms and processes associated with dissolution of soluble rocks such as limestone, marble, dolomite, or gypsum: characterized by underground drainage, caves and sinkholes.	Riparian area	The land adjacent to the normal high water line in a stream, river, lake or pond extending to the portion of land that is influenced by the presence of the adjacent ponded or channeled water. Riparian areas typically exemplify a rich and diverse vegetative mosaic reflecting the influence of available surface water.
Lake buffering	The natural ability of lakes to neutralize or eliminate acidity entering the lake from external sources (e.g. air borne pollution).	Road deactivation	Measures taken to stabilize and close roads and logging trails during periods of inactivity.
Large-scale habitat enhancement	Human-caused changes to ecosystem conditions directed at improving habitat quality or quantity for selected species over large areas (e.g. prescribed burns).	Small scale enhancement	Human-caused changes to ecosystem conditions directed at improving habitat quality or quantity for selected species in specific sites (e.g. a salmon spawning channel).
Linear development	Development that progresses in a line, such as roads and seismic lines.	Spatial optimization	Achieving an objective with the most efficient use of space.
Maximum sustained yield	The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of various renewable resources without impairment of the productivity of the land.	Special plant and wildlife elements	A discrete feature of habitat or geomorphic feature that has a special function not provided by plant communities or successional stages alone and that is vital to the health and maintenance of one or a variety of species for a range of activities, such as nesting, denning, feeding, breeding, etc. (e.g., mineral licks, rare plant locations, bald eagle nests, grizzly bear den sites).
Non-Consumptive	Use or enjoyment that does not involve removal of resources.	Special sites and features	Relatively small areas that have special importance for their cultural, ecological or recreational attributes.
Precautionary approach	An approach to management that errs on the side of caution. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.	Sub-boreal forest zone	Southern temperate or deciduous forests that are adjacent to, or exhibit transitional attributes of, boreal forests.
Representation	The extent to which defined ecosystem types are represented within a land use category (e.g. protected areas).	Sustainability	The capability to be produced indefinitely. The principles of sustainability integrate three closely linked elements – the environment, the economy, and the social system – into a total system that can be maintained perpetually in a healthy state.
Resources	Ecosystem elements that are valued in human terms.		
Restricted access	An area in which human use is controlled or limited.		

Sustenance hunting and trapping rights	The rights of First Nations to harvest resources for food, social or ceremonial purposes.
Tectonic, tectonic uplift	Deformation of the earth's crust or structural changes caused thereby (e.g. mountain building)
Traditional gathering/harvesting	The gathering or harvesting of resources by First Nations people according to long-practiced methods.
Traditional territory	The extent of a Nation's historic use and occupancy of land and marine areas.
Validation	To prove or confirm something.



Bryan, John Henry, Lonnie, Shirley Jack and Steven Johnson at Nakina CALL Camp

APPENDIX II: STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF LAND PLAN INTERVIEW RESULTS

The following material is a summary of the closed ended questions included in the interviews undertaken as part of the preparation of this document. A total of 51 interviews were conducted, lasting between 1 and 4 hours in duration. This material represents only a subset of the full range of questions included in the interviews.

Support for Land Plan Process

To what degree do you support the Land Plan process? (50 responses)

Very strongly: 50%

Strongly: 28%

Somewhat: 16%

Not at all: 0%

Don't know: 6%

Would you like to be involved in the TRT's land planning process? (45 responses)

Yes: 84%

No: 16%

Current Concerns, Future Trends

Are there any land or resource development activities happening in your territory right now that concern you? (48 responses)

Don't know: 4%

No: 8%

Yes: 88%

Are there any new or proposed developments in your territory that you are concerned about? (47 responses)

Don't know: 9%

No: 11%

Yes: 81%

Jobs and Economic Development

How important is it that the TRTFN get jobs in commercial fishing? (50 responses)

Very important: 82%

Somewhat important: 14%

Not very important: 0%

Unimportant: 0%

Do not support job/activity: 4%

Don't know: 0 %

How important is it that the TRTFN get jobs from guided sport fishing? (50 responses)

Very important: 50%
Somewhat important: 28%
Not very important: 8%
Unimportant: 8%
Do not support job/activity: 2%
Don't know: 4 %

How important is it that the TRTFN get jobs from guided hunting? (50 responses)

Very important: 36%
Somewhat important: 20%
Not very important: 10%
Unimportant: 4%
Do not support job/activity: 28%
Don't know: 2 %

How important is it that the TRTFN get jobs from forestry? (51 responses)

Very important: 59%
Somewhat important: 12%
Not very important: 2%
Unimportant: 10%
Do not support job/activity: 14%
Don't know: 4 %

How important is it that the TRTFN get jobs from trapping? (50 responses)

Very important: 36%
Somewhat important: 20%
Not very important: 10%
Unimportant: 10%
Do not support job/activity: 18%
Don't know: 6 %

How important is it that the TRTFN get jobs from tourism and commercial recreation? (48 responses)

Very important: 79%
Somewhat important: 19%
Not very important: 2%
Unimportant: 0%
Do not support job/activity: 0%
Don't know: 0 %

How important is it that the TRTFN get jobs from the gathering or cultivation of plants to sell? (49 responses)

Very important: 27%
Somewhat important: 16%
Not very important: 4%
Unimportant: 6%
Do not support job/activity: 39%
Don't know: 8 %

How important is it that the TRTFN get jobs from wildlife management and habitat restoration? (49 responses)

Very important: 98%
Somewhat important: 2%
Not very important: 0%
Unimportant: 0%
Do not support job/activity: 0%
Don't know: 0%

How important is it that the TRTFN get jobs in placer mining? (49 responses)

Very important: 18%
Somewhat important: 12%
Not very important: 10%
Unimportant: 10%
Do not support activity: 45%

How important is it that the TRTFN get jobs in other types of mining? (49 responses)

Very important: 27%
Somewhat important: 10%
Not very important: 4%
Unimportant: 16%
Do not support activity: 41%

Subsistence, Social and Ceremonial Uses

How important is it that TRTFN members are able to gather plants for food and medicine? (51 responses)

Very important: 96%
Somewhat important: 2%
Not very important: 2%
Unimportant: 0%
Do not support activity/job: 0%
Don't know: 0%
Very important/Somewhat: 98%

How important is it that TRTFN members are able to gather plants for spiritual or cultural uses? (50 responses)

Very important: 78%
Somewhat important: 6%
Not very important: 10%
Unimportant: 0%
Do not support activity/job: 0%
Don't know: 6%
Very important/Somewhat important: 84%

How important is it that TRTFN members are able to hunt for food? (51 responses)

Very important: 100%
Somewhat important: 0%
Not very important: 0%
Unimportant: 0%
Do not support activity/job: 0%
Don't know: 0%

How important is it that TRTFN members are able to trap for personal use, not for money? (49 responses)

Very important: 45%
Somewhat important: 24% Very important/Somewhat important: 69%
Not very important: 8%
Unimportant: 8%
Do not support activity/job: 8%
Don't know: 6%

How important is it that TRTFN members are able to fish for food? (51 responses)

Very important: 96%
Somewhat important: 4% Very important/Somewhat important: 100%
Not very important: 0%
Unimportant: 0%
Do not support activity/job: 0%
Don't know: 0%

How important is it to protect cultural/heritage sites and features? (51 responses)

Very important: 96%
Somewhat important: 2% Very important/Somewhat important: 98%
Not very important: 0%
Unimportant: 0%
Do not support activity/job: 0%
Don't know: 2%

Environmental Values

How important is it that the TRTFN have clean water? (50 responses)

Very important: 100%
Quite important: 0%
Somewhat important: 0%
Not very important: 0%
Not important: 0%
Don't know: 0%

How important is it that the TRTFN have clean air? (49 responses)

Very important: 96%
Quite important: 2%
Somewhat important: 2%
Not very important: 0%
Not important: 2%
Don't know: 0%

How important is it that the TRTFN protect soils against erosion and pollution? (49 responses)

Very important: 94%
Quite important: 0%
Somewhat important: 0%
Not very important: 4%
Not important: 0%
Don't know: 2%

How important is it that the TRTFN protect scenery? (49 responses)

Very important: 94%
Quite important: 4%
Somewhat important: 0%
Not very important: 0%
Not important: 2%
Don't know: 0%

How important is it that the TRTFN protect and restore streams and fish habitat? (49 responses)

Very important: 100%
Quite important: 0%
Somewhat important: 0%
Not very important: 0%
Not important: 0%
Don't know: 0%

How important is it that the TRTFN protect and restore wildlife and wildlife habitat? (49 responses)

Very important: 96%
Quite important: 2%
Somewhat important: 0%
Not very important: 0%
Not important: 0%
Don't know: 2%

Do you support the identification and protection of important salmon and other fish habitats? (51 responses)

Don't know: 0%
Yes: 100%
No: 0%

What kinds of salmon enhancement should the TRT engage in?

Not at all: 10 members (20%)
Small scale habitat enhancement: 35 members (71%)
Large scale habitat modification/creation: Yes: 12 members (33%) No: 24 (66%)
Salmon hatchery enhancement: Yes: 7 members (19%) No: 30 (81%)

Wildlife Management and Hunting

Do you support the development of TRT guidelines for sustaining wildlife populations and habitats? (50 responses)

Don't know: 8%

Yes: 92%

No: 0%

Do you support identification and protection of important wildlife habitat (e.g. wintering grounds, calving grounds, salt licks, etc.)? (51 responses)

Don't know: 2%

Yes: 96%

No: 2%

Do you think the TRT should establish "no hunting" areas (e.g. as population sources, wildlife viewing areas, and protection of vulnerable species and habitats)? (51 responses)

Don't know: 4%

Yes: 96%

No: 0%

Do you think the TRT should limit or control hunting by non-TRT hunters in your territory? (50 responses)

Don't know: 2%

Yes: 98%

No: 0%

Do you think the TRT should manage hunting and trapping for food by TRT citizens (e.g. to control over harvest of animals and ensure fair allocation of resources within the community)? (49 responses)

Don't know: 2%

Yes: 92%

No: 6%

Do you support trophy hunting in your territory? (51 responses)

Don't know: 6%

Yes: 0%

No: 94%

If yes, should the TRT manage and control trophy hunting in your territory? (13)

Don't know: 15%

Yes: 85%

No: 0%

Mining

Do you support mining in our territory? (49 responses)

Don't know: 10%

Yes: 31%

No: 59%

Forestry

Do you support commercial forestry in your territory? (49 responses)

Don't know: 6%

Yes: 54%

No: 40%

Tourism and Commercial Recreation

Do you support tourism and commercial recreation in your territory? (50 responses)

Don't know: 4%

Yes: 94%

No: 2%

Protection and Restoration of Specific Features or Species

Are there particular things on the land that need to be protected or restored? (e.g. sacred sites, particular wildlife species or habitats, views, archaeological sites, etc.)? (49 responses)

Don't know: 2%

Yes: 96%

No: 0%

Protection of Natural Areas

Do you support keeping some areas of the traditional territory undeveloped and in their natural state for traditional uses, wildlife conservation, or other reasons? (50 responses)

Should not happen: 0%

Not important: 0%

Somewhat important: 0%

Important: 2%

Very important: 94%

Important/Very important: 98%

Don't know: 2%

APPENDIX III: LIST OF INTERVIEWEES

Anderson, Cecil	Jack, Antonia	Reeves, Shirley
Carlick, Ali	Jack, Bryan	Taylor, Bernie
Carlick, Allan	Jack, Doug	Thorlakson, Gretta
Carlick, Andy	Jack, Henry	Thorlakson, Taku
Carlick, Harry	Jack, Jerry	Ward, John
Carlick, Louie	Jack, June	Ward, Raymond
Carlick, Ray	Jack, Lucille	Ward, Robert
Carlick, Richard	Jack, Marian	Williams, Andrew
Carlick, Susan	Jack, Rose	Williams, Jackie
Carlick, Ted	Jack, Terry	Williams, Jason
Dawson, Lorraine	Jack, Tina	Williams, John
Esquiro, George Sr.	Jack, Yvonne	Williams, Kaushee
Esquiro, Lillian	Johnson, Linda	Williams, Phil
Esquiro, Thomas	Johnson, Richard	Williams, Vernon
Francoeur, Lee	Kirby, Peter	Yeomans, Deb
Gordon, Louise	Parker, Louise	Carlick, Wayne
Gordon, Nicole	Reeves, Gordon	Williams, Joanne

APPENDIX IV: CHRONOLOGY OF LAND PLANNING PROCESS

Early 1990's

Leaders and Elders recognize importance of a single document articulating the TRTFN's vision for the use, management and protection of their land and resources

1990's

Various studies undertake to identify resource values and clarify opportunities for appropriate use and protection, including:

- Hart, I. and P. Lucas. March 31, 1996. *The Taku River Tlingit First Nation's Environmental Audit. Final Report.* Prepared for the Taku River Tlingit First Nation.
- Jack, J., and L. Francoeur. August 24, 1994. *Preliminary Study of Development Impact throughout the Taku River Watershed.* Prepared for the Taku River Tlingit First Nation by Dibenindizomin Consulting, Atlin, BC. 36 pp. *Appendix I* (Survey Questionnaire, 8 pp). *Appendix II* (Survey Distribution List, 8 pp). *Appendix III* (Data Methodology and Analysis, 4 pp) *Appendix IV* (Data Collection, 44pp) *Appendix V* (General Review of Current Canadian Case Law Affecting the Exercise of Aboriginal Rights”:

- Silva Ecosystem Consultants. April 1996. . *Initial Analysis of TRT Land for the Taku River Tlingit Land Protection Project* Prepared for the Taku River Tlingit First Nation by Herb Hammond and Alix Flavelle. Winlaw, BC. 202 pp. Additional summary, 13 pp.
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- Taku River Tlingit First Nation, Land and Resources Department. May 19, 2000. *Ha tlatgi ha kustiyi: Protecting the Taku Tlingit Land-based Way of Life. Comments on Route Alternatives: Tulsequah Chief Mine Access Road SUP Application.* Submitted to the District Manager, Cassiar Forest District. Atlin, BC. 45 pp.
- Taku River Tlingit First Nation. November 20, 1996. *Ha Tlatki Ha Khustiyyi (Our Land, Our Way of Life): Taku River Tlingit Interest Paper on the Environment.* 6 pp.
- Taku River Tlingit First Nation and T.D. Pearse. September 29, 1995. *What We Need to Know: Information Requirements for Redfern Resources' Project Report for Tulsequah Chief Mine.* 16 pp.

1993

TRTFN Constitution Act passed, establishing clan system of governance

January 1999

JCM mandate to establish Citizens Caucus

1999

Partnership struck with Round River to prepare CAD

February 2001

Detailed discussions initiated to develop Land Plan incorporating the results of CAD. Dovetail Consulting engaged to provide technical assistance and facilitation support.

May, July 2001

Working sessions to develop framework for community-based land planning

November 2001

Compilation and synthesis of past documentation completed in form of *Wushgh wudu wati*

Community Meeting, progress report on CAD and Land Planning

Jan., Feb., Mar. 2002	Working sessions for Planning Team and Caucus Workshops to discuss management policies, objectives and/or strategies for various resource values
April 2002	Caucus and Leaders Planning Session, Whitehorse Community Meeting, progress report on CAD and Land Planning
May, June 2002	Working sessions for Planning Team and Caucus Interviews begin
August 2002	Working session for Planning Team and Caucus Interviews continue CAD completed
September 2002	Working sessions for Planning Team and Caucus; presentation of completed CAD Interviews completed, preliminary results presented to Caucus for initial review Community Open House
October 2002	Drafting of land plan products
November 2002	Family meetings to discuss land plan initiative
Nov.-Dec. 2002	Technical review of draft land plan products
December 2002	Presentation of internal draft of land plan products to TRTFN citizenship
January-February 2003	Further refinements and additions to land plan products based on community input and technical reviews
March 2003	Family meetings to discuss draft land plan products
April 2003	Presentation of land plan products to TRT citizens at TRT Open Houses in Atlin, Whitehorse and Vancouver
May 2003	Further revisions to incorporate comments from TRT citizens Community meeting to discuss first complete first draft of TRT <i>Vision and Management Direction</i> document JCM approves First Draft of TRT <i>Vision and Management Direction</i> document
Fall 2003	Ongoing discussions regarding development of landscape level plans and guidelines Further discussions regarding economic development planning

APPENDIX V: REFERENCES CITED

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APPENDIX VI: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROFILE OF TAKU RIVER TLINGIT TERRITORY

Recent Economic Activity

Current residents of the Atlin area tend to shop, bank, use services and enjoy social amenities in the larger centers to the North, particularly Whitehorse. As a result, there is considerable 'leakage' of dollars out of the community. The main economic drivers in the past 100 years, mining and tourism, are cyclical, which has led to significant fluctuations in the local economy.

Most of the year-round employment in Atlin is from government jobs (First Nations, provincial, federal) although local businesses also include home building, road construction, commercial fishing and guide outfitting. Winter unemployment is generally high.

Placer Mining

Mining has been one of the primary economic activities in the area, and many of the creeks around Atlin have had, or still have, placer mining operations along them. Placer mining usually occurs outside of the winter months, although winter is used to transport heavy equipment in an effort to minimize environmental impacts.

The Atlin area has reportedly yielded over \$23 million in gold since the initial discovery of placer deposits in 1898, and reportedly contributed as much as \$5 million to the local economy in 1994. It was estimated that placer mining employed 150 people in 1996, representing an income dependency of approximately 60% (1997). Approximately 320 kg of gold were produced from 14 mining operations in 1999, employing some 57 persons. Activity has slowed more recently due to low commodity prices, high operating costs and thick glacial and glaciofluvial overburden prohibiting easy access to the high-grade pre-glacial deposits.

Hardrock Mineral Development

Provincial geological mapping indicates that the region has good potential for the discovery of economic mineral deposits.

Following the decline of placer mining in the early 1900's, mining interest in the area turned toward quartz properties where gold or other metallic minerals might be found. Several small underground mines were developed in the early part of the century, and some have been reworked on several occasions since that time. The most of significant of these mines are the Atlin Ruffner mine, near Atlin, and the Engineer mine, on Tagish lake.

Beginning in the 1920's, the Tulsequah area began to draw attention. Access difficulties and commodity prices prevented significant mine development until 1938, when the Polaris Taku mine opened, followed later by Tulsequah Chief, and Big Bull. The town of Tulsequah was opened in 1930, to house mine workers and their families. Production ceased at all of these sites at the outbreak of war in 1939, although Tulsequah Chief reopened briefly before closing again finally in 1957.

Tourism

The traditional territory of the TRTFN boasts outstanding natural scenery, a rich culture and history, and opportunities for wilderness experience. Tourism is a long-standing contributor to the Atlin economy.

Following the Gold Rush in 1898, Atlin became a fashionable place to visit for American tourists on their Alaskan tour. Cruise ships brought passengers from Seattle or San Francisco to Skagway, and from travel was by rail via Carcross, and by paddle steamer via Tagish Lake to Atlin. It is reported that in the early 1900s at the peak of tourism for that period, 400 people per week made the journey to Atlin, and enjoyed tours of Atlin Lake aboard the MV Tarahne. Cruise ship visitors tailed off in the 1930's with the advent of air service to Atlin and with the closure of the White Pass rail link.

Economic activity in the Atlin area and population numbers dwindled dramatically during World War II. Although the road to the Alaska Highway was built in 1949-50, the town's population was below 100 in the early 1960's, but has grown to some 450 today with an additional 100-200 seasonal residents.

In recent years, heli-skiing, houseboat and other seasonal tourism operations also have started up. There are currently some 18 wilderness and guide outfitting businesses listed on the Atlin community website offering touring, boating and canoeing, backpacking, mountaineering, guided fishing and hunting. Most tourist activity is in the summer, with some winter activities such as skiing, dog-sledding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

In the past, mining has contributed to tourism development. In the early 1900's small communities were established around the Ben-My-Chree and Engineer mines on Tagish Lake, and small gardens and a tea shop was built for travelers arriving on the paddle steamers. Sites such as these continue to have some historical interest for tourists, and there have reportedly been efforts in recent years to establish a mining museum and develop placer mining tourism opportunities.

Commercial Fishing

There is a substantial commercial fishery on the Taku River. The River passes through British Columbia into Alaska, and fisheries on the river are managed under quotas and other arrangements determined through the Pacific Salmon Treaty between the United States and Canada.¹⁹ The chief target species for the commercial fishery is sockeye. Canadian fishers also target coho and chinook..

When the Canadian commercial fishery started in 1979, and again when the Aboriginal Fishery Strategy (AFS) was launched in 1992, the TRTFN took an active role in securing licenses and negotiating a contribution agreement to facilitate planning and fisheries management. Of the eighteen commercial gillnet licenses in the Canadian fishery on the Taku River, TRTFN holds eight. Six of these licenses are designated yearly to TRT members, and the remaining two are linked to the TRT Fisheries Management Program, and generate revenue to support these efforts.

The TRT has representation on the Transboundary Technical Committee and the Transboundary Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission, and are members of both the Taku Salmon Management Committee and the Taku Watershed-based Fish Sustainability planning Group

Sport Fishing

The territory offers fishing experiences for a variety of fish species in a wilderness setting. Most of the area is inaccessible except by air, foot, or boat.

Non-guided anglers are most often locals and other BC residents, and activity is concentrated mostly in those lakes that are readily accessible by roads and that have not been impacted by past placer mining activity. A number of other Canadians and foreign tourists also choose to fish unassisted, mostly on the accessible lakes near Atlin. However, due to a small population and the inaccessibility of much of the planning area, a significant portion of the anglers are guided.

Fifteen guides operated on the major rivers and lakes in the Atlin-Taku area in the 1998/99 fishing season. The majority of guiding occurred in the Taku River watershed, with a total of 1887 angler-days granted in the 1998/99 season divided between 11 guides (AGMS, 2000). Almost half the angler-days within the Taku watershed were allotted in the Nakina River. Other popular rivers included the Inklin, Taku, Sheslay and Nahlin. Salmon and steelhead are the biggest draws to this area. Kuthai Lake had guiding activity until the end of the 1996/97 season. Since this time, no angler days have been granted for this lake. Within the Tagish Lake watershed, Atlin Lake (646 angler-days) and Tagish Lake (155 angler-days) were the most popularly guided lakes, but guided fishing also occurs on Palmer and Surprise lakes. Four guides operated on

19 Under the comprehensive agreement signed in June 1999, the Canadian fishery was allocated a larger number of salmon for conservation and harvest. The harvest share of wild sockeye increased to 18% plus 20% of the projected river escapement over 100,000 fish (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 1999). The harvest share of coho was also increased. A Transboundary River Panel was also established to undertake abundance-based management of both American and Canadian fishery over the 10-year term of the agreement (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 1999)

these lakes. Char and trout species as well as grayling and northern pike are the sports fish in these lakes. Significant guiding activity also occurs in the Teslin drainage. In the 1998/99 season, 663 days were granted to seven guides in the major rivers and lakes. Gladys Lake and Jennings Lake were the most heavily used areas, with 86% of the allocated angler days.

Forestry

Most of the traditional territory has been classified as inoperable, and there is little current forestry activity. There are no major forest tenures in the area, and the combination of low volumes and inaccessibility serves as a deterrent to large scale timber development. To date, Crown timber has only been offered as short term sales under the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program and through the Forest Service Reserve. The average annual timber harvest in the operable areas ranges from 1500-2000 m³/yr, mostly used for local home building, mine timbers, and rough-cut timbers. Local estimates indicated that there are between 8-12 jobs in timber harvesting and silviculture activities.

Agriculture and Range

A number of people in our territory grow local produce for sale in Whitehorse and in Altin. There are a few agricultural leases and tenures for beef production, and guide outfitters in the area has range tenures for the grazing of packhorses.

Hunting and Guide Outfitting

In addition to recreational and subsistence hunting, big game is a significant commercial activity in our territory. There are 11 provincially-licensed guide-outfitting areas in our territory catering to BC residents and foreign visitors. Target species include moose and black bear, as well as mountain goat, caribou, Stones sheep, grizzly bears, Dall's sheep.

Resident hunting effort for moose averages some 1930 days per year, with average kills of 5.5/100 days for residents and 11.2/100 days for guide outfitters.

Commercial Trapping

There are a number of traplines in the area, some of which are not active. Trapping, particularly for marten, provides seasonal income for a number of local residents although current levels of activity are low due to low fur prices.

Subsistence Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Gathering

Many residents of the area engage in sustenance hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering. These activities are particularly significant for TRTFN citizens both for their economic value and also for their cultural and social significance.

Other Economic Activity

The community around Atlin also boasts a number of artisans and craft studios, and there is an art school and retreat center in the area. Several TRTFN citizens are recognized carvers and artists.

Road construction provides both seasonal and year-round employment, and a private construction company maintains local highways.

Communities

Taku River Tlingit Communities

Most of the homes for the Taku River Tlingit are at Five Mile reserve, 8km south of Atlin. Other TRTFN citizens live within Atlin on what was designated as Indian Reserve No 4 ('Townsite Reserve'), also known as *Wenah*.

Atlin

The town of Atlin ("from the Tlingit word "*Á Tlèn*" meaning "big waters") lies on the shores of Atlin Lake some 200 km south of Whitehorse (by road) and is the most northerly town in British Columbia. The town is unincorporated and local affairs are managed by voluntary organizations such as the Atlin Advisory Planning Commission (which deals with land use planning and application referrals) and the Atlin Board of Trade (which promotes economic development and social enhancement). Access to the town is by road, with local bus and van services to Whitehorse, and air via fixed wing planes, floatplanes, or helicopter. Atlin can also be reached by boat (or snowmobile in winter) from the town of Tagish along Tagish Lake in the Yukon.

Power for the community is provided by a diesel generation plant, with fuel trucked in via the Atlin road. Most of the drinking water for the community is drawn from Atlin Lake.

About the TRT Territory Conservation Area Design



Wolf Clan Director, Bryan Jack, points out important wildlife movement areas.

In 1999, we partnered with Round River Conservation Studies to assist us with the development of a Conservation Area Design for our territory. Round River is an international research and education organization that has completed other conservation designs in our province both for the British Columbia government and for non-governmental organizations.

A Conservation Area Design (CAD) is a science-based modeling and mapping tool for identifying and prioritizing areas for sustainable conservation based on biological value, threats, and

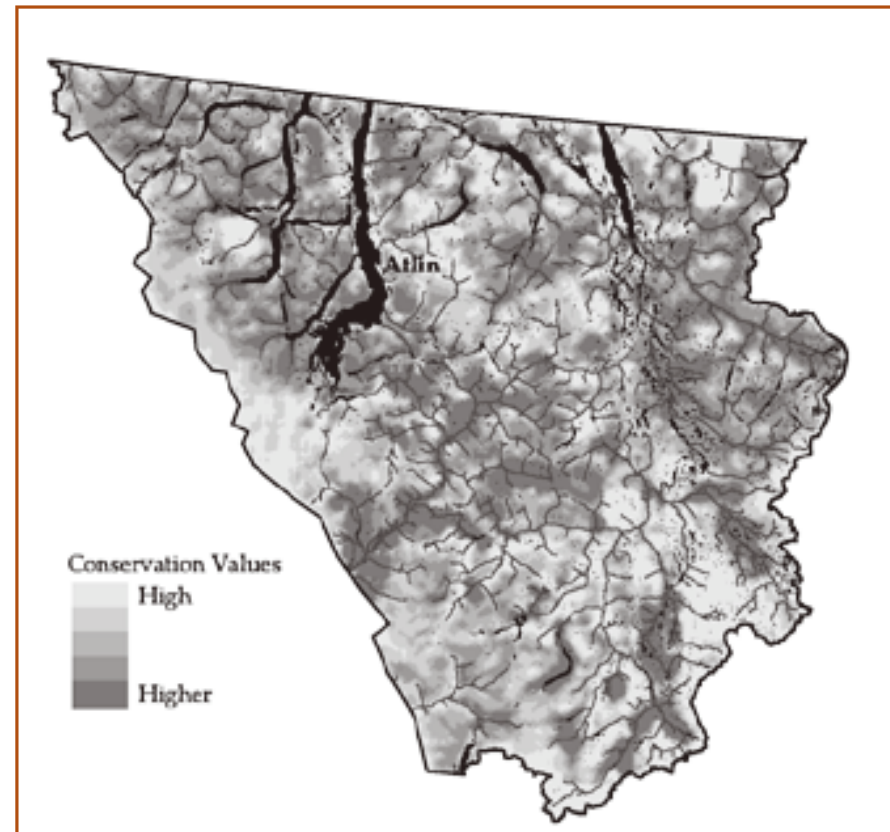
opportunity for implementation. A CAD assists in conservation planning and management decision-making by delineating habitats across a landscape that are necessary to sustain healthy populations of fish and wildlife.

The Taku River Tlingit Territory Conservation Areas Design (CAD) depicted on the following page represents a powerful combination of our indigenous ecological knowledge and the analyses methods and theoretical understandings of conservation science. The development of the CAD was motivated partly by the lack of any similar regional ecological assessments for our territory. Our territory has low human population numbers, limited industrial developments, and vast, relatively unaltered ecosystems. The intact nature of our territory, the wildlife and fisheries that it supports, and our values indicate that all lands within our territory should be managed carefully to ensure the maintenance of its ecological richness and integrity. With this understanding and to inform land-planning efforts, the CAD identifies areas across our territory that should be considered for the highest level of conservation planning. The Wildlife Priority/Conservation Core and Connectivity Areas represent areas that support high value wildlife and fisheries habitats, represent the diversity of ecological communities in our territory, and provide a connected ecological network of these key systems across our territory.

In addition to the Core and Connectivity Areas, the CAD map depicts some additional fisheries and wildlife habitats that should also receive special management considera-

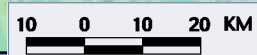
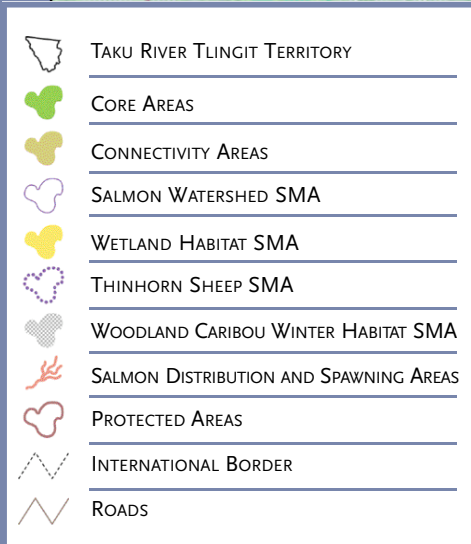
tion. These include known salmon spawning habitats, potential woodland caribou wintering habitats and Stone's or Fannin sheep habitats. As the identification of these areas are refined additional special management areas may need to be included as additional information becomes available.

A full description of the methods used to develop the CAD is available on request. We consider this work to be preliminary and in draft form. Additional research will be completed over the next two years to better refine this conservation design and to assist us in our land planning efforts.



Cartographer: Rick Tinney

Taku River Tlingit Conservation Area Design



"My vision for the future is that my people do not have to worry what could happen to the land, or what outside interests might do to it. The land is such a big part of our being Tlingit. We wake up every morning, walk out into the bush. The future is so unknown, I know the young people will take care of the land just like we do. The most important thing to me is that we belong to the earth and the earth doesn't belong to us. The earth belongs to the animals. Once this land is gone for the animals, you can't bring it back. They say extinction is forever. Mother nature has a plan, and it's what we see out our window to day."

Jerry Jack



Chief Taku Jack

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