

Dawson Creek Land and Resource Management Plan

SUMMARY

March, 1999



The Dawson Creek Land and Resource Management Plan provides broad direction for the sustainable use of Crown land and resources. Now that it has been approved by government, the Dawson Creek LRMP will be implemented by government agencies including the provincial ministries of Forests; Environment, Lands and Parks; and Energy and Mines. The approved plan will guide a wide variety of resource management programs and activities, such as forest development planning under the Forest Practices Code.

The Planning Area

The Dawson Creek LRMP planning area covers 2.9 million hectares and includes Crown lands within the Dawson Creek Forest District, excluding the Kakwa recreation area. About 30,000 people live in the communities within the planning area including: Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd and Hudson's Hope, as well as in First Nation communities such as West Moberly First Nations, the Saulteau First Nations and the Kelly Lake Metis community.

The Planning Table

The Dawson Creek LRMP is the result of the hard work and dedication of a group of public and government representatives who have worked together over six years to develop a common vision of future land use for the area. Respect and recognition of different viewpoints have been key operating principles at the planning table. This co-operative approach will extend to an open annual review which will monitor and report on implementation of the plan.



Plan Highlights

The Dawson Creek LRMP provides objectives and strategies for the management of:

- access
- agriculture and range
- air quality
- archaeology and palaeontology resources
- biodiversity
- coal and minerals
- communications, transportation and utilities
- energy, including oil and gas
- First Nations' interests
- fish and wildlife
- forestry
- heritage and culture
- jobs, community stability and quality of life
- protected areas
- recreation and tourism
- soil conservation
- trapping and guiding
- visual quality
- water

Oil and Gas Considerations

Existing tenures within protected areas will be grandparented with all rights that existed prior to an area becoming protected. Once a tenure expires, the area will continue to protected area status. New oil and gas tenures will not be available in these areas, unless an area is listed as a candidate for directional drilling, in which case new tenures will be issued with a condition of no surface disturbance.

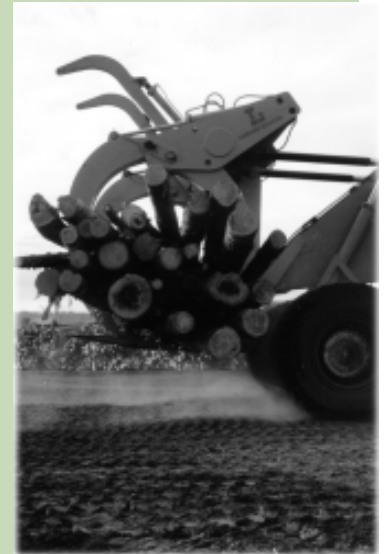
Forestry Considerations

Forest resource development is to be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Forest Practices Code of BC Act and its regulations (the code). The code and other applicable legislation (eg. the Forest Act, Range Act) contain management provisions to direct resource managers in the management and conservation of forest and range resource values in the planing area.

Dawson Creek Working Group

The working group included participation from the following sectors:

- Ranching/Agriculture
- Tourism/Economic Development
- Trapping
- Environment
- Recreation
- Guide Outfitters
- Oil and Gas
- Mining
- Forest Sector
- Small Business
- Organized Labour
- Local Government
- First Nations
- Utilities and Transmission
- General Public



First Nations

There was some involvement at the LRMP table by First Nations; however the majority of local First Nations declined to participate. First Nations were apprised of the LRMP progress through personal contacts, formal communications and LRMP updates. Although not all First Nations were formally represented at the LRMP table, aboriginal archaeological, cultural and heritage values were strongly endorsed by all of the LRMP participants. As well, the recommendations of the Twin Sisters Special Management Committee, which included a recommendation for the creation of the Klin-se-za protected area, were endorsed by the LRMP table.

Local Government

Local government and Regional District officials participated in the LRMP development. They are in broad support of the plan vision for sustainable communities and stable economic development linked to the natural resources of the plan area.

New Protected Areas

Protected Areas

Under the Dawson Creek LRMP, sixteen new protected areas have been created, protecting more than 180,000 hectares. These new areas include:

Peace River/Boudreau (6,750 ha)
Pine LeMoray (33,105 ha)
Wapiti Lake (16,920 ha)
Klin-se-za (2,680 ha)
Butler Ridge (6,675 ha)
Bearhole Lake (17,810 ha)
Kakwa North (31,760 ha)
Elephant Ridge (23,225 ha)
Kiskatinaw River (165 ha)
Pine River Breaks (595 ha)
Peace Corridor River Sites (330 ha)
Bocock Peak (1,130 ha)
Dunlevy Recreation Site (110 ha)
Hole-in-the-Wall (130 ha)
Monkman Connector (185 ha)
Rolla Site (45 ha)



Protected Area Highlights

Pine LeMoray — This area includes the Link and Mountain Creek watersheds and provides important habitat for many fish and wildlife species, including Arctic grayling, caribou, moose and wolverine.

Peace River/Boudreau — This new protected area provides habitat for a number of wildlife species including trumpeter swan nesting sites around Boudreau Lake. The area also contains a number of cultural heritage sites, including the first site of European settlement on mainland B.C. at Rocky Mountain Fort, and a historic travel corridor for First Nations, early European explorers and fur traders.

Wapiti Lake — This protected area contains internationally significant fossils and fossil beds. An existing trail provides access to excellent backcountry recreation opportunities.

Klin-se-za — Klin-se-za, also known as the Twin Sisters, is a twin peaked mountain of profound spiritual significance and traditional use value to the First Nations people of northeastern B.C.

Elephant Ridge — This remote area supports a thriving mountain goat population, and important elk and grizzly bear habitat.



Dawson Creek Land and Resource Management Plan

Legend	
Resource Management Zones	
	New Protected Areas
	Existing Protected Areas
	Sensitive Area
	Special Resource Management
	General Resource Management
	Enhanced Resource Management
	Settlement/Agriculture
	Indian Reserves



The Plan Area

The plan area has been divided into 12 resource management zones (RMZ). Each RMZ contains specific resource values and management objectives which set out the types of activities (e.g. recreation, timber harvesting, trapping, etc.) and level of intensity permitted in individual zones. In general, there are five types of zones in the plan.

Settlement/Agriculture RMZ (13 per cent of the planning area) — Manages Crown lands consistently with the historic pattern of settlement and agriculture (primarily private lands).

General RMZ (45 per cent of the planning area) — Manages with specific strategies to integrate a wide array of resource values.

Enhanced Resource Development Zones (22 per cent of the planning area) — Manages for development of resources such as timber, minerals and oil and gas, while minimizing impact on other resource values.

Special RMZ (13 per cent of the planning area) — Manages for the conservation of one or more resource values such as habitat, scenery and recreation, while still enabling resource development activities.

Protected Areas (6.75 per cent of the planning area) — Protects key natural, cultural, heritage or recreational values.

For Further Information

Copies of the Dawson Creek LRMP will be available at:

Ministry of Forests
Dawson Creek Forest District
9000-17th Street
Dawson Creek BC V1G 4A4
phone: (250) 784-1200

Land Use Coordination Office
836 Yates St., 2nd Floor
Victoria, BC V8W 1X4
phone: (250) 953-3471

For further information, please refer to the LUCO web site: <http://www.luco.gov.bc.ca>

