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**Tree Farm Licence 1
Skeena Cellulose Inc.**

Study Area Map

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Study Area Map

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Information received from resource agencies, recreation groups and organizations, (gathered during the recreation and visual landscape inventories) contributed to development of the analysis, and is gratefully acknowledged.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The format for the Recreation Analysis and Management Strategy Report for Tree Farm Licence 1 is based on guidelines outlined in the Recreation Analysis and Management Strategy Report, Vancouver Forest Region Guide. A copy of this guide is found in Appendix 7.

The first draft of this report was prepared in April 1997. A second draft was prepared in May 1997 in response to detailed comments from Skeena Cellulose staff. The final report was prepared in July 1997. Extensive revisions were made in February 1998 in response to a review done by the Kalum Forest District.

RECREATION ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT REPORT - FORMAT

The Recreation Analysis and Management strategy Report is organized into seven sections.

Section 1

Introduces the report as a background document and planning tool for the TFL 1 Management Plan No. 9. Background information regarding the size and location of TFL 1, local communities and adjoining tenures is provided as well as a summary of established recreation sites and facilities.

Recreation Management Units (RMU's) are introduced as the framework used to describe the distribution of recreation resources and related management issues and strategies. There are nine RMU's in TFL 1 and they are developed on the basis of having similar features or settings, e.g. sub-alpine and alpine, valley bottoms, day use areas and travel corridors.

Section 1 also provides an overview of biogeoclimatic and cultural features, access conditions and recreation activities.

A summary of recreation and landscape issues pertaining to TFL 1 is provided.

Section 2

Outlines how the report was developed. A summary of the statistical data used in the report is provided.

Section 3

Describes key recreation features by Resource Planning Units (RPU's). This are different from RMU's mentioned earlier, in that RPU's describe geographic locations in TFL 1.

This section provides summaries of:

- the distribution of ROS settings
- existing and potential recreation use of areas in TFL 1
- recreation issues organized by RMU
- recreation facilities in and adjoining TFL 1
- Park and commercial facilities
- Visual landscape resources and the extend of the inventory in TFL 1

Section 3 also provides a description of wilderness settings in TFL 1, and illustrates the distribution of ROS Classes on Map 3 on page .

The effects of forest development areas identified in the current Development Plan on ROS settings are summarized.

Section 4

Provides extensive statistics relating to vehicle use, hunting and angling activity. Wildlife data is described in terms of Wildlife Management Units, (WMU's) which are illustrated in Map 5 on page 38.

TFL 1 recreation survey data is summarized, including the distribution of participation in different recreation activities (camping, angling and hunting are the top three). Trends in recreation activities are reviewed and measures of the intrinsic value of recreation opportunities are provided.

Recreation and landscape resource gaps in TFL 1 are reviewed in the context of the Kalum Forest District and the Prince Rupert Forest Region. An overview of recreation suppliers, e.g. BC Parks, the Nisga'a, Kalum Forest District completes this section of the report.

Section 5

Develops the management strategies for recreation features, visual landscape resources and ROS setting in TFL 1.

This is an extensive section, presented in table form, highlighting recreation features in TFL 1 having the High (B) and Very High (A) Feature Significance rating. The related management strategies are described for each feature or group of features.

Section 6

Summarizes the recreation, visual landscape and ROS management objectives for each RMU.

Section 7

Outlines the sequence of management actions required to manage recreation, visual landscape and ROS resources in TFL 1.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The Recreation Analysis and Management Strategy Report has been prepared as a planning tool and background document for the TFL 1 Management Plan. Analysis options and scenarios from this report will be used to develop recreation strategies in Management Plan 9 which is currently being prepared for TFL 1. The Management Plan will outline what the licensee will do with recreation resources during the life of the Plan.

The recreation analysis report draws together the key biophysical recreation features and landscape data contained in the Landscape and Recreation Inventory reports and maps (November 1996) for TFL 1.

This recreation analysis compares the regional and provincial supply of recreation opportunities (features, activities, settings) in the TFL with existing use and demand for recreation.

Recreation resources within and bordering on the TFL are assessed on a local and regional basis in terms of current and future demand, activity trends and the availability of resources to meet these demands.

The recreation analysis report is comprised of six main sections:

Sections 1 and 2	Establishes the project's terms of reference.
Section 3	Provides a description of existing recreation and landscape resource values.
Section 4	Describes recreation use values and activity demands.
Section 5	Develops recreation and visual landscape management strategies and management options for specific recreation/landscape features.
Section 6	Recommends management objectives for each Recreation Management Unit (RMU).
Section 7	Outlines the sequential steps necessary to achieve recreation, visual landscape and ROS setting objectives in TFL 1.

A copy of the Ministry of Forests Recreation Analysis and Management Strategy Report Guidelines, can be found in Appendix 7.

1.2 Background Information

TFL 1 is located within the Kalum Forest District in the Prince Rupert Forest Region. The study area map found at the beginning of this report indicates the location and boundaries of TFL 1. An overlay onto the study area map illustrates the location of the Resource Planning Units (RPU's), which are used to describe the distribution of recreation and landscape resources in the TFL.

The communities located in the vicinity of the TFL include Terrace, New Aiyansh, Greenville, and Canyon City. Terrace has a population of 11,000 and is located at the junction of Highway 16 and Highway 37 along the Skeena River. New Aiyansh is located along the Nisga'a Highway adjacent to the Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Provincial Park. Greenville and Canyon City are small communities both located on the west side of the Nass River.

TFL 1 borders directly onto TFL 41, the Kalum TSA, Nass TSA, the Morice FD, Buckley FD, Kispiox FD, the North Coast FD, private lots, the Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park, Khutzeymateen Provincial Park and Gitnadoix River Recreation Area. These adjoining tenures are illustrated on Map 6 on page 65.

Established Recreation Sites and Facilities

There are two recreation sites located at Dragon Lake (900-0654), 110 km north of Terrace. A picnic area and campsite is located on the west side of the lake and is managed by Skeena Cellulose Inc. (SCI) and the Ministry of Forests. The east side of the lake has a day use area and which offers a cartop boat launch and picnic area. This site is managed by SCI and the Nisga'a Tribal Council. Activities in the area include angling, motorboating, canoeing, swimming, picnicking and camping.

Pine Lake, another Forest Service Recreation Site (900-3525) offers small, forested sites with hiking and canoeing opportunities. It is located 12 km north of Terrace along the West Kalum Forest Service Road. The Pine Lake Recreation Trail (900-3505) is an established recreation trail. These sites are cooperatively managed by SCI and the Ministry of Forests.

The Glory Hole (900-0603) is a day use Forest Service Recreation Site. This small lake has a wharf and is a popular swimming hole in the summer. It is located 11 km from Terrace via the West Kalum Forest Service Road. This site is cooperatively managed by SCI and the Ministry of Forests.

There is a small campsite/picnic area at the Fossil Beds on the Copper River. It is located 45 km along the Copper River Forest Service Road. This recreation site is managed solely by SCI.

The Forest Service Sleeping Beauty Recreation Trail (900-0645) is located 17.5 km northeast of Terrace along the West Kalum Forest Service Road and Erlandson Road.

Recreation Management Units

For the purposes of this analysis report, TFL 1 has been divided into nine Recreation Management Units (RMU's), which form the framework for developing recreation management objectives in the TFL. Recreation and landscape resource management objectives are summarized in Section 5.3.

Recreation Feature Significance

The biophysical features in TFL 1 can be grouped into two general categories:

- 1) developed river valleys and lower slopes;
- 2) undeveloped areas located at the upper reaches and heads of valleys, e.g., sub-alpine, alpine and non-forested areas.

Terrain

The topography of TFL 1 is dominated by mountains which are separated by deep, narrow valleys. The mountains are modest in height rising to an average height of 1800-2200 m.

Above the valley bottom, there is dense, conifer, forest cover extending up to the alpine. Upland areas are steep, with sub-alpine and alpine vegetation at higher levels. Upland areas are generally quite rugged and require strenuous hiking to cover any distances.

Biogeoclimatic zones

The forests of TFL 1 lie largely within the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. Northern parts of the TFL encompass the Interior Cedar Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. At higher elevations the Mountain Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone is present.

In the river valleys of the Skeena and Nass, extensive stands of cottonwood grow in the rich, alluvial soils.

Cultural

TFL 1 is located within the Tsimshian, Nisga'a and Gitksan Territories, the boundaries of which overlap one another. The Nisga'a inhabit the Nass basin, the Gitksan live up the Skeena River, and the Tsimshian live around the mouth of the Skeena River where it meets the sea (Ashwell 1977). Originally heavily dependent on the natural resources of the area, these groups are developing interpretation programs and facilities based on their rich cultural history.

The Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park encompasses a lava flow which is 18 km in length and 3 km in width. The Lava Beds date from 1650 to 1750. A series of 12 interpretative sites are located along the Nisga'a Highway which traverses the park. A detailed brochure is available from BC Parks which provides an overview of the history and of the resources found within the park.

The area also has historic significance relating to early European settlements and mineral exploration. Various trails were built with government assistance, to encourage prospecting and mineral exploration during the settlement of the area. While many of these early trails are long overgrown, some remain and make access to prime alpine areas a practical proposition. The Treasure Mountain trail is all that is left of an extensive historic, trail network that linked the Kleanza, Copper, and Chindemash valleys. (Blix 1989).

Access

There is excellent road access through extensive portions of TFL 1. There is float plane access to more remote areas such as Amoth Lake.

The three main travel corridors are the Nisga'a Highway, the Nass Forest Service Road and Highway 16. The main logging roads within TFL 1 are located along river drainage's and include the Copper River FSR, the Kalum FSR, and the Kleanza/Nogold Mainline. These mainlines provide access to other logging roads and access to alpine areas for hiking.

Climate

The southern portion of the TFL generally has a wetter, more coastal-like climate while the northern section, which includes the Nass Valley, has a drier, more interior-like climate.

Recreation Activities

A detailed summary of existing and potential recreation activities is provided in Section 3.3.

Recreation activities occur either at low elevation along the rivers and valley bottoms, or at sub-alpine and alpine elevations, alpine meadows and basins. Valley bottoms which are not roaded tend to be heavily forested or have dense vegetation which makes travel on foot slow and difficult.

Recreation activities take place year round. The majority of activities take place during the summer and fall.

A wide range of recreation activities are supported by TFL 1. Approximately 26 different recreation activities occur in the TFL. These are listed in Section 3.3.

Recreation Issues

Recreation issues that exist in the TFL include:

- Access to key recreation features outside of valley bottom areas;
- Lack of facilities, particularly in semi-primitive areas;
- Maintenance of landscape quality along roaded corridors, as well as along water corridors, and in association with landforms viewed from important recreation areas;
- Conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreation users;
- Coordination/cooperation between recreation providers and managers in implementing recreation management strategies developed for the Kalum Forest District have not been formalized;
- Maintaining historical resources have no formalized plan;
- Management of recreation settings in the different ROS classes is unstructured.

These issues are described in more detail in Section 3.4 and contribute to development of the recreation management objectives and strategies described in Sections 5.0, 6.0 and 7.0.

Landscape Values

A detailed landscape inventory was completed for TFL 1 in November 1996. Landscape polygons were mapped from three major road travel corridors, the Nisga'a Highway, the Nass Forest Service Road, and Highway 16.

The majority of the forest landscapes rated from these travel corridors have a recommended Visual Quality Objective (VQO) of Partial Retention.

The landscape inventory was limited to highway travel corridors. No landscape inventory was developed for the West Kalum FSR, or for the Copper FSR. These roads are regularly used by the public and have high recreation and associated landscape values. Other candidates for landscape inventory or planning include the Skeena River, the Copper River and the Beaver River. These rivers have well established recreation use which can be expected to continue to increase, creating a growing demand for landscape quality.

2.0 METHODOLOGY/PROCEDURES

Background information for this recreation analysis was obtained from the TFL 1 recreation and landscape inventories, and through recreation surveys for the TFL.

Several other references were used in developing the TFL 1 Recreation Analysis. These include:

- The Kalum/Nass Outdoor Recreation Use and Demand Survey (November 1995). The findings of the Kalum/Nass survey are generally consistent with the findings of the TFL 1 Recreation Survey (June 1996). Applicable information from these surveys is used in Section 4.0.
- Recreation use statistics were obtained from the Kalum Forest District. Data for the Recreation User Days (RUDS) for 1996 and 1997 for the Dragon Lake, Pine Lake and Glory Hole Recreation Sites were used. Only two years of data were available. This data is discussed in Section 4.2.
- Hunting and fishing statistics were obtained from the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. Detailed information on species hunted and steelhead fishing have been used in Section 4.0.
- Ministry of Forests Outdoor Recreation Survey 1989/90. Regional recreation statistics, gathered through a province wide survey have been incorporated into the TFL 1 Recreation Analysis. Measures of intrinsic values of recreation activities and ROS Class, based on willingness to pay for these activities have been included in Section 4.0 of the analysis for TFL 1.
- The Ministry of Forests Forest, Range and Recreation Resource Analysis, Chapters 5 and 7, 1994. Data from this report is used in Sections 3.0, 4.0 and 5.0.
- The Prince Rupert Forest Region Forest Recreation Strategy (March 1996) provides a broad overview of the Regional Forest Recreation Strategy for the Prince Rupert Forest Region. Relevant strategies, particularly from the Skeena River and Nass River Recreation Character Zones, were incorporated into the TFL 1 analysis.
- The Draft Kalum Forest District Recreation Management Strategy (December 1996) provides a detailed recreation strategy which was used in the preparation of the TFL 1 analysis. Sections of this strategy pertaining to the Central Kalum sub-zone had the most applicability to TFL 1.

2.1 Public, Agency and Licensee Input

Local, regional and provincial recreation user groups, associations and individuals were contacted as part of the recreation inventory for TFL 1. A partial list of TFL 1 Recreation Users and Managers is found in Appendix 1 on page 47. A more detailed list of contacts, (containing 276 names and address) from the 1996 Recreation Inventory Project is contained in the public input binder which accompanies the TFL 1 Recreation, Landscape and ROS Inventory reports. This list is available from Skeena Cellulose Inc. in Terrace (Telephone (250)-638-5700).

Information from the recreation surveys has helped determine the areas of recreational use, the activities pursued, the recreation issues, the duration of visits and the locations of routes and key features.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING RECREATION RESOURCE VALUES

3.1 Key Features of TFL 1 by RPU

The key recreation features and associated activities are summarized by Resource Planning Unit's (RPU's). A map showing the location of each RPU is presented as a overlay on the study area map. The RPU's are as follows:

Beaver/Mayo

The wilderness characteristics of the Upper Kitsumkalum River are recognized as a Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) Goal 1 Study Area (16,300 ha). Recreation, Use and Appreciation Values are rated medium. It has valley bottom recreation settings, river and associated wetlands in the upper Kitsumkalum watershed. It also has mountaineering access.

North of Kitsumkalum Lake is a PAS Goal 2 Study area (200 ha). This area is identified as having very high values for recreation. The wetlands at the mouths of the Kitsumkalum and Cedar Rivers are of great importance to wintering/migratory waterfowl and trumpeter swans (The Prince Rupert Region PAS Report, April 1996).

The main waterway corridor in this RPU is the Kitsumkalum River. This corridor uses both motorized and non-motorized transport including jet boats, motorboats, canoes and kayaks. Major drainage's are the Upper Kitsumkalum River (locally known as the Beaver River) and Mayo Creek. The Nisga'a Highway traverses the east side of the RPU in a north-south direction.

Timber harvesting is currently concentrated on the eastern edge of the RPU and along the lower regions of the two main drainages.

The main recreational activities are centered around the Beaver River and the surrounding wetlands. Hunting and jetboating are the most popular activities. Other activities include fishing, hiking, camping, canoeing and wildlife viewing. There are a number of cabins located along the river. The lower 30 km of the Beaver River is accessible by jet boat which is where most of the hunting activity takes place. Grizzly and black bears are also found in the area. The ridge on the south side of the Beaver River offers excellent moose viewing during rutting season.

Cedar/Meadow

The main roaded travel corridor is the Nisga'a Highway, which dissects the RPU in a northwest-southeast direction.

Timber harvesting has occurred throughout this RPU with the exception of the western side.

The Big Cedar River offers excellent fishing for steelhead, chinook, coho, and trout and has an important early chinook run.

Sand Lake offers rainbow trout fishing, motorized boating, canoeing and camping activities.

Snowmobiling is a major attraction to this area, particularly around Sterling Creek. The Skeena Valley Snowmobilers have numerous trails and two cabins in the area.

Paul's Peak (1745 m) and Oscar Peak (2304 m) offer challenging mountaineering experiences. The ridge between the Little Cedar River and the Beaver River is used for hiking, camping, and scenic viewing. The ridge at the north end of the RPU offers access into the alpine for hiking, snowmobiling and viewing activities.

Clore

The Clore River is one of the main recreation features in this RPU. It is popular with kayakers who put in below the lower canyon and pull out at the Copper River. Mountain goats can be seen on the rock walls of the lower canyon. It is also a popular fishing river.

The gentle, open ridges on the east side of the RPU are suitable for hiking, wildlife viewing, scenic viewing and ski touring in the winter.

Pillar Peak (2133 m) is found on the southeast side of the RPU. The steep, glacier covered mountains in this region provide a challenge to mountaineers.

Hoodoo

The main roaded travel corridor through this RPU is the Nass FSR which traverses the center of the RPU in a northeast-southwest direction.

The main recreation feature of this RPU is Dragon Lake which is 258 ha in size. The lake is found in a broad, open valley surrounded by mixed forest. There is a picnic site on the east side of the lake and a campsite on the west side of the lake. Recreational activities include canoeing, picnicking, hiking, swimming, fishing, and camping.

The northwest side of this RPU has been extensively logged.

There are many small lakes and ponds in this area with the largest being Hoodoo Lake. During hunting season, hunting camps are set up along the west side of Hoodoo Lake.

Another key recreation activity taking place in this RPU is pine mushroom picking. Other activities taking place in this area are horseback riding and mountain biking through the many trails.

The Kiteen River has potential for kayaking and canoeing with some portages. Fishing values are high on the lower Kiteen from the Kiteen Bridge down to Cranberry Junction, throughout the year.

There is a small portion of the Nass River within the TFL. The main channel is used extensively for motorboating, fishing, photography, kayaking and has rafting potential. The side channels offer fishing, kayaking, scenic viewing and canoeing opportunities. Recreational activities taking place in the Nass Valley include wildlife viewing, bear hunting, ATV use, photography, and driving for pleasure.

Ishkheenickh

The key recreation features of this RPU are the Ishkheenickh River and Amoth Lake and the wilderness setting of the upper headwaters.

The Nisga'a Amoth Commercial Backcountry Recreation (CBR) Project is a draft management plan put out by the Nisga'a Tribal Council. The project will provide a mix of wilderness and indigenous cultural experiences. Guided alpine hiking, wildlife viewing, canoeing and backcountry exploration of the Amoth Lake area are proposed. An access trail to Amoth Lake and a trail connecting Little Amoth Lake with Amoth Lake are planned as well as alpine cabins along the shores of Amoth Lake and Amoth Headwater Lake. The proposal estimates that the number of client days in the first year to be 3,500 and projects that number to increase to 11,970 client days in the 10th year of operation (Nisga'a Amoth CBR Project, May 1997).

The Ishkheenickh River provides an excellent setting for steelhead, chinook, and coho fishing due to the clarity of the water and the large boulders in the river channel. Most of the river is accessible only by helicopter or ATV, as the road has been deactivated close to the valley entrance. Other activities in this area include hiking and mountain biking.

Amoth Lake is accessible only by air and is surrounded by spectacular steep, granite walls. The lake supports rainbow trout fishing, camping and day use activities.

There is a small portion of the Nass River located in the northwestern section of the RPU and it has similar recreational features to those found in the Hoodoo RPU.

Kiteen River

Most of the Kiteen River is accessible via the Big Cedar/Kiteen Mainline at the upper end and via the Nass Mainline at the lower end. The Kiteen has potential for kayaking and canoeing. Fishing values are highest on the lower Kiteen from the Kiteen Bridge down to Cranberry Junction.

The gentle, open ridges in the area have potential for hiking and scenic viewing. The low elevation wetland pass between the Big Cedar and the Kiteen Rivers is popular for snowmobiling and cross country use.

Primitive and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized areas having wilderness characteristics are located along the east side of the RPU. Backcountry wilderness experiences could be supported in this area.

Kitnayakwa

The main roaded travel corridor through this RPU is the Copper River FSR.

The lower half of the Kitnayakwa River provides opportunities for whitewater kayaking and camping. There is little fishing on the river due to high turbidity.

One key feature of this RPU is the Copper River Fossil Beds, which have been renamed the Kitnayakwa Recreation Site. There is a rustic recreation site here with space for two parties located near the Copper River and the Fossil Beds. Recreation activities in this area include nature study, camping, hiking, scenic viewing into the Copper River Valley, fossil viewing, picnicking, and fishing.

There could be more use at this site if a small trail was cut through to the river and a few more camping areas were developed. At present, although there are two sites, only one is really suitable for use. The second site is overgrown.

The second key feature of this RPU is the Howson Range including Howson Peak. These rugged mountains offer a challenge to the experienced mountaineer. Most serious mountaineering expeditions to this range are based on float plane access from North Burnie Lake and a forward base camp at Sandpiper Lake.

Lava Lake

The main roaded travel corridor through this RPU is the Nisga'a Highway, which travels directly through the lava bed.

The main attractions of this RPU are Lava Lake, the Tseax River, and the Lava Beds. All of these features are within the Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park, but are surrounded by and accessed through TFL 1.

Lava Lake supports canoeing, motorized boating, picnicking, beach activities, scenic viewing, hiking, snowshoeing and scuba diving. Fishing values are poor due to low nutrient levels in the lake. Canoeing on the lake is the best way to view the petroglyphs on the surrounding cliffs. An informal campsite and a BC Parks picnic site are located at the north end of the lake.

The Tseax River has excellent fishing opportunities for steelhead, chinook and coho. This river, along with the Kalum and Copper Rivers, has the highest recreational fishery use in TFL 1. The most popular fishing location is adjacent to the highway bridge near New Aiyansh. Hiking, nature study, camping, canoeing, and photography are some of the recreation activities that occur on and around the Tseax River. Additional trails are planned for the Tseax River valley and alpine ridge on the east side of the valley (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park Master Plan, March 1995).

Activities around the Lava Beds include historic interpretation, nature study, sightseeing, driving for pleasure and picnicking.

Oscar Peak (2304 m) is located at the south end of the RPU and offers challenging experiences for the mountaineer.

Lower Nass

The main waterway travel corridor through this RPU is the Nass River although it is a small section that is within the TFL. The main channel is used extensively for motorboating, fishing, photography, kayaking and has rafting and jetboating potential. The side channels offer fishing, kayaking, scenic viewing and canoeing opportunities. Recreational activities taking place in the Nass Valley include wildlife viewing, bear hunting, ATV use, photography, and driving for pleasure.

The Ansedagen Hotsprings is a natural undeveloped hotspring, located in this RPU.

Nogold

The main roaded travel corridor in this RPU is the Kleanza/Nogold Mainline. The mainline parallels the west side of the Copper River. The key recreation features are the Copper River, the Telkwa Pass and Treasure Mountain.

The Copper River is internationally known for its winter steelhead fishing. It is a PAS Goal 2 Study Area (1,400 ha), being one of only five rivers in B.C. with Class 1 status for recreational steelhead fishing (Prince Rupert Region PAS Report, April 1996). This river, along with the Kalum and Tseax Rivers, have the highest recreational fishery use in TFL 1. Other activities include kayaking and camping.

Telkwa Pass is a narrow, relatively low elevation corridor through high, rugged mountains. The three lakes within the pass, Top Lake, Tauw Lake and another unnamed alpine lake, all drain westward into Limonite Creek. Top and Tauw Lakes both have attractive, blue-green coloured water. All three lakes support Dolly Varden. A trail from Top Lake leads into the Howson Range.

A rough dirt road along Limonite Creek through the Telkwa Pass to Smithers was built to service the powerline. Recently, a gas pipeline has been put through the Pass. The road is a popular recreation corridor. Trail bikes, ATV's or snowmobiles are the easiest modes of transportation along the road. Additional recreation activities include ski touring, mountain bike riding, and hiking.

Treasure Mountain (1900m) is located at the eastern end of the OK Range and is a hiking destination on the west side of the SBFEP area. A trail leads up from the north and is out of TFL 1. The Treasure Mountain trail is all that is left of an extensive historic trail network that linked the Kleanza, Copper, and Chindemash valleys. Treasure Mountain also offers expansive views of the Copper River valley.

West Copper

The main roaded travel corridor through this RPU is the Copper River FSR which is well maintained and parallels the south side of the Copper River. This road offers access into more remote areas and facilitates access into the alpine for hiking. The main waterway is the Copper River where both motorized and non-motorized activities take place.

The Copper River is internationally known for its winter steelhead fishing. It is a PAS Goal 2 Study Area (1,400 ha), being one of only five rivers in B.C. with Class 1 status for recreational steelhead fishing (The Prince Rupert Region PAS Report, April 1996). This river, along with the Kalum and Tseax Rivers, have the highest recreational fishery use in TFL 1. Other activities include kayaking and camping.

The OK Range runs along the northern border of the RPU. It is popular for hiking and viewing activities as it offers easy to moderate terrain for hiking.

Trapline Mountain is accessible by 4WD truck (except winter) along a gravel road. The road is maintained by BC Hydro to access a microwave repeater station at the top. There is a cabin at the summit which is maintained by snowmobilers. Recreation activities that take place here include snowmobiling, cross country skiing, hiking, ATV riding, picnicking, cabin use and scenic viewing.

West Kalum

The Kalum River, along with the Copper and Tseax Rivers, has the highest recreational fishery use in TFL 1. The Kalum River flows from Kitsumkalum Lake to the Skeena River. The river is internationally known for its high recreational fishing values. The river also supports activities such as jetboating, motor boating, canoeing, camping, picnicking, hiking, and whitewater kayaking.

The main roaded travel corridor through this RPU is the West Kalum FSR. Due to the close proximity of this RPU to Terrace it is a popular recreation destination.

Kitsumkalum Lake covers 1875 ha. The Hart Farm, a Forest Service Recreation site, the Red Sand Lake Demonstration Forest and the undeveloped Kitsumkalum Provincial Park are located at the south end of the lake (all are located outside of TFL 1). Recreation activities on and around the lake include canoeing, camping, scenic viewing, and picnicking.

Pine Lake covers 38 ha. The lake is located along the West Kalum Forest Service Road close to Terrace. This managed recreation site (900-3525) offers an easy, 6 km level trail (900-3505) that circles the lake. The average hiking time around the lake is about 3 hours. Other activities on and around Pine Lake include camping, canoeing, fishing, picnicking, swimming, camping, mountain biking, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing.

Sleeping Beauty Mountain (1850 m) is located on the southern border of the West Kalum RPU. A popular hiking trail runs up the east side of the mountain. The Sleeping Beauty Trail (900-0645) features a panoramic view of Terrace and Kitsumkalum Lake and crosses sub-alpine meadows with numerous small ponds. The first part of the trail is well marked. From the end of the marked trail it is 7 km to the summit of Sleeping Beauty Mountain.

Deactivated logging roads and the powerline road are used for cross country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling.

The Glory Hole located along the West Kalum Forest Service Road, south of Pine Lake, is a formally managed day use Recreation Site (900-0603). This lake has a small dock. Swimming and picnicking are popular activities at this lake.

A potential recreation route in the West Kalum RPU is the Kenney Loop. This mountaineering route goes from Sleeping Beauty Mountain, to Mt. Kenney, up to Alice Peak and Mt. Treston and back along Alice Ridge.

The rugged Kitimat Ranges on the west side of the West Kalum RPU offer spectacular mountain and glacier scenery for experienced mountaineers. The William Brown Icefields are a popular destination for heli-hikers on day trips. Ski mountaineering, backcountry hiking, and heli-skiing are potential activities for this area.

The trails in the area provide opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, mountain bike riding and other activities. Much of the area on the east side of the RPU is second growth forest. Logged areas offer potential hunting and the logging roads facilitate access into backcountry alpine areas. Opportunities exist for cross country skiing, snowmobiling, ATV riding, trail bike riding and hunting for moose, bear and grouse.

Whitebottom

The Skeena River is the main water travel corridor through this RPU. The main roaded travel corridor is Highway 16 which parallels the north side of the Skeena River.

The Skeena River is renowned for its excellent year round sport fishing. The Skeena has one of the largest runs of wild steelhead, chinook, and coho salmon. In addition to fishing, other recreational activities include motorboating, jet boating, kayaking, camping, scenic viewing, hunting and canoeing. Moose and bear are hunted on the islands of the Skeena River.

Along the eastern side of the RPU is the Lakelse River, a popular fishing and kayaking river. The river is very productive and has excellent habitat for sockeye, pink, steelhead, coho, chinook, Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout. Other activities on and around Lakelse River are canoeing, swimming, snowmobiling and hunting.

The valleys south of the Skeena River, particularly the Dasque Creek valley, have excellent grizzly bear habitat. Mountain goat are also hunted throughout the Whitebottom RPU.

3.2 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum - ROS

The following table provides a summary of the current distribution of area by ROS Class in TFL 1.

TABLE 1: RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM DISTRIBUTION (NOVEMBER 1996)

ROS CLASS - CURRENT DISTRIBUTION - 1996		
PRIMITIVE	136,000 ha	22%
SEMI-PRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED	254,000 ha	42%
SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED	13,000 ha	2%
NATURAL ROADED	12,000 ha	2%
MODIFIED ROADED	182,000 ha	30%
RURAL	12,000 ha	2%
Total Area	609,000 ha	100%

The above table reflects the November 1996 distribution of ROS Classes and Management Classes within TFL 1. Changes to the ROS Class distribution as a result of ongoing forest harvesting and recovery, will develop over time in operable forest areas in the TFL.

The area measures are based on digital planimeter measures of a 1:600,000 scale map. The total area may vary from other TFL area measures due to slight errors in area measurements, line widths etc.

The spatial distribution of current ROS Classes is illustrated on Map 1 on page 20 of this report. The ROS Classes are described in Appendix 4 at the back of this report.

The location of ROS polygons is also illustrated with several photographs in Appendix 3. These photographs with the ROS polygon lines drawn on them, illustrate how the ROS inventory maps fit with the features in TFL 1.

Map 1: Distribution of ROS Classes

3.3 Existing and Potential Activities

The majority of TFL 1 (64%) is in Primitive and Semi Primitive Non-Motorized ROS categories and therefore has a broad base for supporting non-motorized recreation activity.

Non-motorized recreation forms the core of recreation activities within TFL 1. Once recreation destinations are reached, recreation activities in TFL 1 are largely non-motorized e.g. hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, mountaineering, wildlife viewing.

The location of recreation polygons is illustrated with several photographs in Appendix 3. These photographs with recreation polygon lines drawn on them illustrate how the recreation inventory maps fit with the features in TFL 1.

Key potential and existing recreation activities are summarized in table format below. The key recreation activities are illustrated on Map 2 on page 23.

TABLE 2: EXISTING AND POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

ACTIVITY	EXISTING AREAS FOR ACTIVITIES	POTENTIAL AREAS FOR ACTIVITIES
Angling	Skeena River, Nass River, Copper River, Kitsumkalum River and Lake, Kalum River, Tseax River, Cedar River, Kiteen River, Lakelse River, Pine Lake, Dragon Lake, Amoth Lake, Ishkheenickh River, Nelson River, Clore River	Kitnayakwa River, Limonite Creek
ATV	Telkwa Pass, Nass Valley, Cedar River valley, Trapline Mountain, Limonite Creek area	Logging roads, semi-deactivated roads
Beach activities	Kitsumkalum Lake, Pine Lake, Lava Lake, Dragon Lake, Glory Hole, Sand Lake	Copper, Skeena, Nass and Kalum Rivers
Boating	Skeena River, Nass River, Kitsumkalum River and Lake, Dragon Lake, Nelson River, Kalum River	Copper River
Camping/ picnicking	Pine Lake, Dragon Lake, Copper River Fossil Beds, Lava Lake, Kitsumkalum Lake, Sand Lake	Copper, Nass, Kitsumkalum, Kalum, Tseax, Cedar, Skeena, Ishkheenickh Rivers. Top Lake, Tauw Lake, Cranberry Junction, Amoth Lake
Canoeing	Pine Lake, Kitsumkalum Lake, Dragon Lake, Skeena River, Nass River, Beaver River, Lava Lake, Sand Lake	Amoth Lake, Amoth Creek, Ishkheenickh River
Cross-country skiing	Pine Lake, Erlandson Creek valley, north side of the Copper River, the Kalum valley, Sterling Creek area and around Jack's Lake, Trapline Mountain	Wilderness areas
Four wheel driving	Logging roads, semi-deactivated roads	Logging roads

TABLE 2: EXISTING AND POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES SUMMARY (CONT'D)

ACTIVITY	EXISTING AREAS FOR ACTIVITIES	POTENTIAL AREAS FOR ACTIVITIES
Hiking	Sleeping Beauty Mountain Trail, Treasure Mountain, Pine Lake Trail, ridge between the Clore and Kitnayakwa	Hiking throughout the TFL. Access to the alpine via logging roads. Potential hiking routes identified on trail maps
Horseback riding	Dragon Lake area	West Kalum area
Hunting	Hunting throughout the TFL according to hunting regulations	
Icefishing	Top Lake and Tauw Lake	Amoth Lake
Kayaking/rafting	Clore River, Copper River, Big Cedar River, Kitnayakwa River	Kiteen River, Ishkheenickh River
Mountain biking	Ishkheenickh valley, Telkwa Pass, Pine Lake, Copper River valley	Logging roads
Mountaineering	Mountaineering throughout the Howson Range, along the Kenney Loop, and the Mt. William Brown Icefields	Potential mountaineering routes identified on trail maps, Pillar Peak, Mt. Henderson, Oscar Peak
Mushroom picking	Nass Valley and Lava Lake area	
Nature study	Upper Kitsumkalum River, Lava Lake area, Copper River Fossil Beds, Sand Lake and swamps by the Kiteen and Sand Lake, Tseax River	Throughout much of the TFL
Scenic viewing	Lava Lake area, Sleeping Beauty Mountain Trail, mountaineering routes and hiking trails offer spectacular scenery	Throughout much of the TFL.
Scuba/skin diving	Lava Lake	
Snowmobiling	Telkwa Pass, Nass Valley, Copper River valley, Sterling Creek area and around Jack's Lake, the Cedar River and Trapline Mountain	
Snowshoeing	Limonite Creek area, Lava Lake area, Kalum River valley, Pine Lake	
Swimming	Pine Lake, Dragon Lake, Glory Hole	
Trail bike riding	Telkwa Pass	Along deactivated logging roads
Wildlife viewing	Kitsumkalum River valley, Nass Valley, Cedar River valley, Skeena River, Sand Lake	Throughout much of TFL 1

Map 2: Key Recreation Activities

3.4 Recreation Issues

Areas where recreation and landscape values will potentially have an impact on the management of timber resources are identified in the recreation and landscape inventories recently completed for TFL 1. The Feature Significance and Management Class codes used in the recreation inventory and the Visual Quality Objectives (VQO's) used in the landscape inventory act as guides for management of these non-timber resources. The features have been grouped into the Recreation Management Units (RMU's). Table 3 describes the recreation issues in each RMU in TFL 1.

Map 3 showing the location of each RMU can be found on page 26. Descriptions of general recreation management objectives with sample photos for each RMU follow the map.

TABLE 3: RECREATION ISSUES WITHIN THE RECREATION MANAGEMENT UNITS

RECREATION MANAGEMENT UNIT	ISSUES
RMU 1 (Day Use & Travel Corridors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities - lack of developed facilities for recreation in this area. Conflicts - potential conflicts may arise between recreation users e.g. motorboats vs. canoes on Kitsumkalum River. Landscape - viewscape is important for the recreation experience.
RMU 2 (Working Forest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities - lack of developed facilities for recreation in this area. Conflicts - potential conflicts between recreation users and timber harvesting. Landscape - viewscape is important for the recreation experience.
RMU 3 (Sub-Alpine/Alpine Ridges)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access - forest development which affects access to backcountry recreation areas has no strategic plan. Facilities - lack of shelters/huts for overnight or emergency purposes. Landscape - high recreation features sensitive to development. Conflicts - potential conflicts between recreation users e.g. snowmobilers & cross country skiers. ROS settings - Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Primitive areas sensitive to development.
RMU 4 (High Elevation Alpine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access - limited and significantly dependent on forest development. Facilities - lack of emergency shelters and huts for overnight trips. Landscape - low timber values. Conflicts - possible conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users. ROS settings - primitive areas sensitive to development.
RMU 5 (Dragon Lake Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities - limited campsites. No established trails. Landscape - high recreation use area. Historical - identification & assessment of old trading trails. Conflicts - potential between mushroom pickers and timber harvesting. Cooperation - Nisga'a sensitivity to recreation development and use.

TABLE 3: RECREATION ISSUES WITHIN THE RECREATION MANAGEMENT UNITS CONT.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT UNIT	ISSUES
RMU 6 (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Park)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access - trails around crater will provide views into TFL 1 and potentially may require landscape assessment. • Landscape - Unique area with sensitive recreation features. • Cooperation - between Nisga'a, BC Parks and SCI for management of recreation and forestry resources.
RMU 7 (Telkwa Pass/Limonite Creek)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access - not an issue at present levels. • Facilities - lack of facilities. • Landscape - high quality recreation features sensitive to development. • Conflict/Safety - potential for accidents and conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreation users.
RMU 8 (Skeena/Nass River & Hwy.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access - road access is not an issue. • Facilities - lack of facilities, e.g. boat launches for the river. • Landscape - viewscape is important for the recreation experience. • Conflict - potential conflict between motorized and non-motorized users.
RMU 9 (Ishkheenickh River/Amoth Lake)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access - road access is limited to the lower Ishkheenickh River. • Facilities - lack of facilities. • Landscape - high quality wilderness characteristics sensitive to development. • Conflict - between motorized and non-motorized users. • Cooperation - negotiation ongoing between Nisga'a and SCI. • ROS setting - primitive, semi-primitive motorized/non-motorized sensitive to development.

Map 3: Locations of Recreation Management Units

3.5 Forest Service/ Licensee Recreation Sites and Trails

Formally managed Recreation Sites and Trails in the TFL are listed in the table below.

TABLE 4: EXISTING RECREATION SITES AND TRAILS IN AND ADJOINING TFL 1

RECREATION SITES AND TRAILS	GENERAL DESCRIPTION
Dragon Lake	Picnic area and campsite is located on the west side of the lake and has capacity for approximately 10-15 vehicles. The day use area on the east side of the lake offers a cartop boat launch and picnic site.
Pine Lake	Picnic and campsite. There are 2-3 campsites each with the capacity for approximately 2-3 vehicles. Potential for expansion of camping sites. There are canoeing opportunities on the lake.
Pine Lake Trail	The trail is a 6.1 km loop around the lake. The trail takes approximately 3 hours to walk.
Sleeping Beauty Trail	6 hours round trip hike to lower meadows. Peak is a further 7 km. Excellent views of Terrace and Kitsumkalum Lake. Opportunities for extensive hikes to adjoining peaks and ranges.
Copper Fossil Beds	Two semi-open campsites (one is overgrown). Potential for expansion to include more campsites and a trail down to the river. Jurassic Age fossils. 45km from Highway 16 along the Copper River FSR.
Glory Hole	Small lake with wharf which is popular for swimming in the summer. Located approximately 11 km from Terrace via the West Kalum Forest Service Road.
Red Sand Lake and Hart Farm Demo Forest and Recreation Site	Borders onto TFL 1. Attractive, well maintained campsites with facilities and interpretative trails. Includes a campsite for the physically challenged.
Maroon Mountain Trail	Outside of TFL 1. Located on the east side of Kitsumkalum Lake, 4 km off the Nisga'a Highway. Three hour round trip hike.
Bornite Mountain Trail	Outside of TFL 1. Located off the Kleanza Forest Service Road. Six hour round trip hike.

TABLE 5: EXISTING INFORMAL RECREATION SITES AND TRAILS IN AND ADJOINING TFL 1

RECREATION SITES AND TRAILS	GENERAL DESCRIPTION
Kiteen River	Lower Kiteen River. "Baker Shale" Area. Informal picnic sites and campsites. Popular fishing area.
South end of Kitsumkalum Lake	Undeveloped Provincial Park. Popular for overnight use and long term camping.
Sand Lake	Undeveloped. Short access roads off Nisga'a Highway. Day use.
Junction of the Cranberry and Kiteen Rivers	Popular fishing area. Informal picnic sites and campsites.
Treston Lake (locally known as Mud Lake)	Rough cartop boat launch. Small informal campsite. Rustic toilet.
Kalum River	Numerous access roads lead to river. Rough trails along both sides of river. Trails to beach at "Steelhead Alley." Informal day use sites at fishing holes.
Trapline Mountain	BC Hydro road access. Cabin maintained by snowmobile club. Open, sub-alpine terrain.
Treasure Mountain Trail	Located off Kleanza Forest Service Road. Trail is in poor condition (Blix). Five hour round trip hike.
Sterling Creek and Big Cedar River snowmobile trails.	21 km snowmobile trails. 16 km maintained.
Thornhill Mountain Trail	Located east of Terrace off Old Lakelse Road. 5 km long trail leads to old forest fire lookout south of Copper River.
Top and Tauw Lakes	Informal campsites at the top of the Telkwa Pass. Route on south side to Howson Range.

3.6 Parks and Commercial Recreation Facilities

There are two provincial parks and one recreation area bordering onto TFL 1: the Khutzeymateen Provincial Park, the Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park and the Gitnadoix River Recreation Area.

The 45,000 ha Khutzeymateen Valley was set aside as Canada's first grizzly bear sanctuary and a Class A Provincial Park in August 1994. People are not encouraged to visit the area in order to protect the integrity of the sanctuary. Any recreational use is limited to wildlife viewing tours conducted on the estuary and lower Khutzeymateen River in May and early June.

The Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park encompasses a lava flow which is 18 km in length and 3 km in width. The Lava Beds formed between the years 1650 and 1750. Petroglyphs on the surrounding cliffs are best viewed by canoeing on Lava Lake.

A picnic site is located at the north end of Lava Lake. Sport fishing is currently the most popular recreational activity in the park (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park Master Plan, March 1995). This unique area also offers opportunities for hiking into the upper Crater Creek valley and onto the alpine ridge leading to Mt. Hoefft, canoeing on Lava Lake, nature study and photography. An interpretative program in the form of a self-guided auto tour explains volcanic features and the park's spiritual significance to the Nisga'a people. The park is adjacent to the small communities of New Aiyansh and Canyon City.

The Gitnadoix River Recreation Area is a wilderness area with no services. It covers 58,000 hectares. This recreation area protects the entire Gitnadoix drainage. The lower reaches of the Gitnadoix River can be explored by canoe or boat.

Currently there are no commercial recreation facilities within TFL 1. This may well change as Commercial Backcountry Recreation (CBR) applications are approved.

Commercial recreation activity in TFL 1 is currently limited. Fishing guides concentrate their use on the Skeena, Kalum and Copper Rivers.

The Nisga'a Amoth CBR Project Draft Management Plan (May 1997) has been approved in principle by the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Land Administration Section, Skeena Region. This application will be approved by the end of 1998 (Ian Smythe, Sr. Land Officer, pers comm. Feb 25, 1998). The Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park Master Plan (March 1995) outlines a range of commercial recreation and cultural tourism programs throughout the Nisga'a territory.

Commercial operations planned for the Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park and Nisga'a Amoth CBR area include guided services for power boating, rafting and traditional Nisga'a canoeing on the Nass River, guided sports fishing on the Tseax River, guided hikes to the cone area, campground operation, canoeing on Amoth Lake, backcountry cabins on Amoth Lake, guided alpine hiking, wildlife viewing and backcountry exploration in the Amoth Lake area.

One mountaineering guiding company operates trips into the Howson Range and one commercial heli-hiking company operates heli hiking trips onto the Mt. William Brown Glacier.

There is excellent potential for expansion of commercial tourism, particularly in the backcountry areas where prime conditions exist for hunting, wilderness camping and hiking. Furthermore, the rivers in the area offer internationally known fishing experiences. A demand (internationally and nationally) for backcountry wilderness experiences and excellent fishing and river recreation opportunities indicate that TFL 1 has many of the key elements of a "recreation destination".

3.7 Visual Quality/Scenic Resources

The main travel corridors in TFL 1 are summarized in Section 1.2. The spatial distribution of these corridors and the corresponding Recommended Visual Quality Classes are illustrated on Map 4 at the end of this section. Management of these areas will be governed in part by MoF cover constraints based on Visual Quality Objectives or Known Scenic Area objectives.

Cover constraints frequently coincide with recreation, wildlife, fishery and slope stability values. In addition, provisions in the Forest Practices Code Act pertaining to river, stream and riparian management zones will frequently coincide with recreation and visual landscape objectives.

The format of the visual landscape polygons are illustrated with photographs in Appendix 3. These photographs with landscape polygons drawn on them illustrate how the landscape inventory mapping "fits" with features in TFL 1.

The list below highlights visually sensitive landforms which have been identified in TFL 1:

- Nisga'a Highway
- Highway 16/Skeena River
- Terrace Viewshed
- Star and Alice Creek
- Dragon Lake Recreation Sites
- Nass Camp
- New Aiyansh
- Canyon City
- Greenville

Map 4: Recommended Visual Quality Objectives