

Sustainable Resource Management Planning brings local certainty, conserves environmental and cultural values

The Dease-Liard planning area lies within the Dease-Liard Timber Supply Block of the Cassiar Timber Supply Area. It is one of the few areas in the province where a land use plan has not been completed.

No timber tenures (such as forest licences) exist in the area. Consultations with the local communities must be carried out, and strategies for timber developed, before a timber tenure could be awarded.

In 1999, the Kaska Dena First Nation, which forms the majority of the population in the plan area, expressed an interest in a tenure opportunity as a

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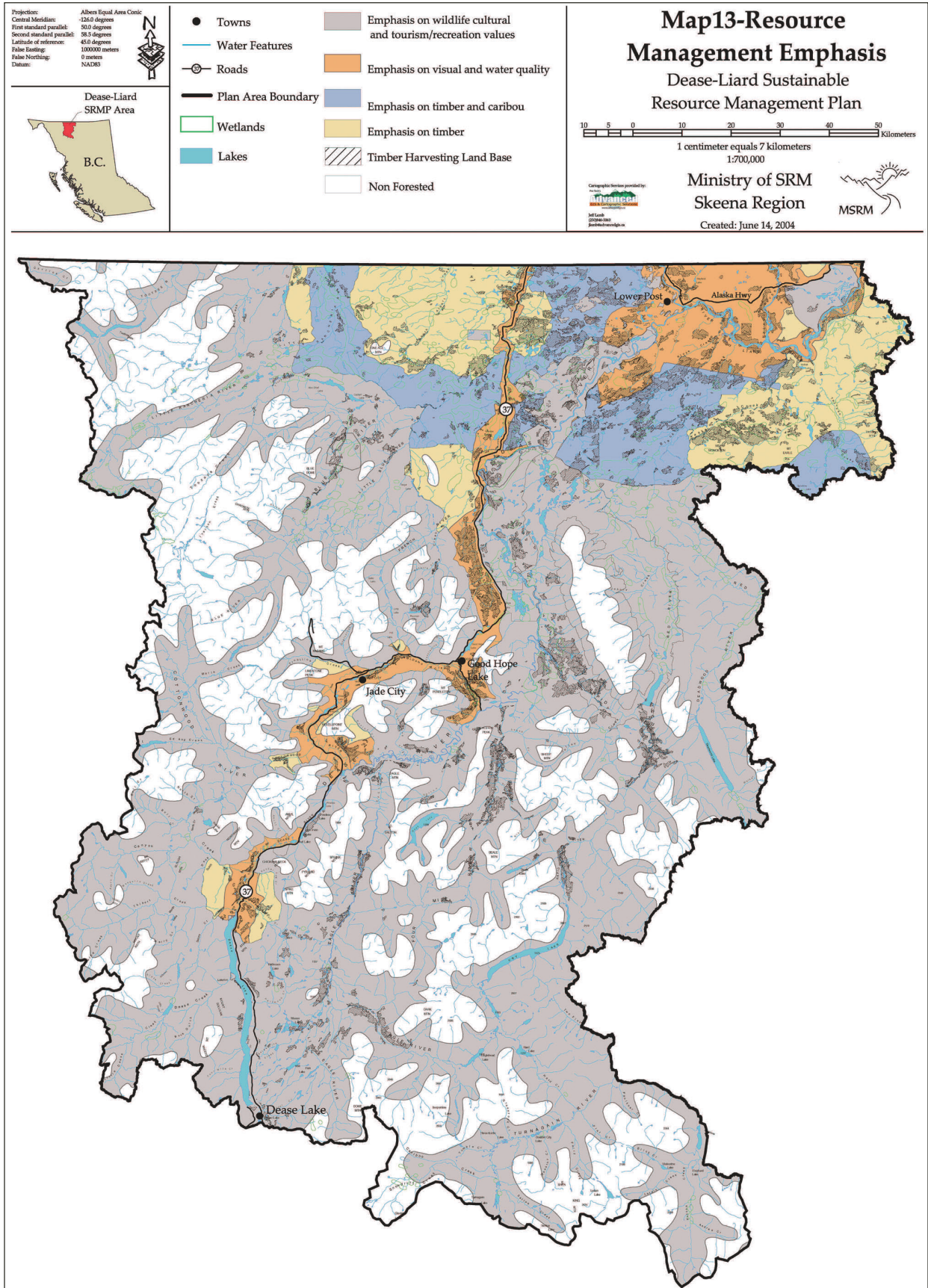


The Dease-Liard planning area covers approximately 2.4 million hectares; it extends from the upper Turnagain watershed to the Yukon border, and west to east from the Little Rancheria watershed to Tatisno Mountain and Tatisno Creek.

The planning area contains three communities: Lower Post, Dease Lake and Good Hope Lake.

What is Sustainable Resource Management Planning?

- Sustainable Resource Management Planning is a technical process, and is not a consensus-seeking process. Public involvement is carried out through open houses and direct consultation with affected stakeholders.
- The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) forms partnerships where government and prospective partners (such as First Nations) share, in varying degrees, the responsibility for and the work of planning. MSRM and the partners prepare the plan and consult with First Nations and other parties that may have an interest in the area.
- Sustainable Resource Management Planning is a flexible process that can address any one or several different resource values in a plan area: forestry, biodiversity, water, recreation, etc. In most cases, a plan will deal with the highest priority issues, and other "chapters" can be integrated into the plan in the future.
- An SRMP produces site-specific objectives that explain the condition of the resource values (such as wildlife, cultural, etc.). The plan also contains some of the strategies that can be used to meet the objectives.



Resource values in planning area

Management direction in the plan is driven by the values in the area.

These include:

- wildlife (particularly caribou, grizzly bear, moose, fur-bearers and mountain ungulates)
- biodiversity
- visual quality
- cultural heritage
- timber
- water quality
- tourism and recreation

Hunting rights

Hunting and fishing are recognized activities in the SRMP area and are not affected by this plan. Some objectives in the plan will guide what future roaded and motorized access can be used when hunting.

Timber harvesting within the Dease-Liard planning area

The level of harvesting will vary throughout the plan area depending on the values present (see Map 13 opposite).

Areas managed for wildlife, cultural and tourism/recreation values

- Timber values are low.
- Wildlife values are high (caribou, grizzly bear and mountain ungulates).
- Backcountry/wilderness recreation values are high.
- Cultural and historical values are high.
- No commercial logging or road building will occur (some limited exceptions may apply).

Areas managed for visual and water quality values

- Visual and water quality values are high.
- Forest harvesting must

consider the visual impact and aesthetics along Highway 37 and the Alaska Highway; Wheeler Lake; the communities of Good Hope Lake, Dease Lake and Lower Post; and the Liard, Highland and Dease rivers.

- Quality and potability of community water supplies must be maintained within sensitive watersheds (areas around the Lower Post and Good Hope Lake communities).
- Logging and road building are carefully managed in these areas.

Areas managed for timber and caribou

- These areas have the highest timber values and dispersed areas of high-value caribou

habitat.

- Commercial harvesting must be consistent with the Forest and Range Practices Act and associated regulations, and management direction for caribou and other resource values in the area.
- Harvesting will be avoided in areas that contain high-value caribou habitats.

Areas managed for timber

- These areas have the highest timber values.
- Commercial harvesting must be consistent with the Forest and Range Practices Act and associated regulations, and management directions for resource values in the area such as biodiversity.

Participation by the Kaska Dena First Nation

- The plan area is important to the Kaska Dena First Nation.
- The Kaska Nation includes the Dease River Band Council, Kwadacha Band (Fort Ware) and Daylu Dena Council (formerly the Lower Post First Nation).
- The Dease-Liard SRMP has been developed in partnership with the Kaska, who had representatives involved in all stages of the plan development.
- The Kaska traditional knowledge of the area was used in combination with the existing inventories to develop the plan.

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Values not addressed

- The Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan was primarily created to direct the management of forestry activities.
- The plan will not deal with the establishment of protected areas; however, the plan proposes large "no harvest zones" in recognition of the very low (or nil) timber values, and the high values for tourism, wildlife and Kaska culture and history in parts of the plan area.
- The plan will not direct exploration and development activities of the mineral and energy sector. However, the plan's objectives and strategies will be considered during the permitting and approval process for relevant mine- and energy-related projects.

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Kaska Dena participation

- The Kaska Dena Council, Liard First Nation and Ross River Dena Council are negotiating together at the Kaska Nation treaty negotiation table. This is a transboundary negotiation table, representing the Kaska traditional territories in the Yukon and British Columbia. The plan will assist in Kaska Dena treaty negotiations.

Other First Nations involvement

- The plan area is also important to the Tahltan and Teslin Tlingit First Nations.
- The Tahltan and Teslin did not actively participate in the planning process.
- They were informed of the process and were invited to identify their interest in the area. In addition, they had an opportunity to provide comments on all drafts of the plan.
- MSRM will continue consultations with the Tahltan and Teslin First Nations with respect to the portions of the plan that fall within their traditional territories.

Where can I see the plan?

On the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management website at
<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/ske/srmp/index.htm>

Upon request from the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. Please contact:

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Protected areas

Four protected areas currently exist in the Dease-Liard planning area:

- Boya Lake Provincial Park
- Hyland River Provincial Park
- The Blue/Dease Rivers ecological reserve
- Chicken's Neck Mountain ecological reserve

Management within the protected areas is provided under separate management direction statements prepared by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and are not affected by the Dease-Liard SRMP.

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Sustainable resource planning

potential means of improving the local economy.

This led to the Dease-Liard Area Assessment process, undertaken by the Kaska Dena First Nation, the Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (presently Water, Land and Air Protection).

This process formed the basis for the development of a Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP).

The plan has several goals:

- to manage important environmental, social, cultural and economic values in the plan area;
- to manage caribou habitat to ensure permanent caribou winter range occupancy;
- to provide certainty for forestry, tourism and other economic opportunities;
- to allow the Minister of Forests to proceed with awarding a long-promised tenure to the Kaska-Dena First Nation.

Looking ahead

- Following completion of the SRMP, the Minister of Forests will have sufficient information to consider a forest tenure for the Kaska.
- Other economic development opportunities (i.e. commercial recreation and tourism) may be identified in the future.
- The Kaska and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) have a protocol agreement to cooperate on land use, economic development and their mutual goal of creating a park in the Horse Ranch Range.