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

Sustainable Resource Management Planning (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.
Wood 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.

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.
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.

Sustainable resource planning
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.

Where can I see the plan?

Upon request from the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. Please contact:
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Box 5000
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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.

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.