



File: 17550-02/Kisp

November 1, 2005

<<Kispiox Licensee Address>>

Dear <<licensee representative>>

Re: Clarification regarding Kispiox Land and Resource Management Plan, Higher Level Plan Order, dated

Section 2(a) of the Kispiox Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) Higher Level Plan Order (HLPO), dated April 25, 1996, establishes the LRMP objectives that are applicable to operational plans as legal objectives.

The shift in forest legislation from the *Forest Practices Code Act of BC* to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* requires that results and strategies be developed in a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) for each land use objective. To ensure the full suite of land use objectives from the LRMP are considered under the context of this new legislation, the Integrated Land Management Bureau and the Ministry of Forests are clarifying which objectives from the LRMP apply to FSPs, Forest Development Plans, and Range Use Plans. A summary of applicable objectives follow. Also, please find attached, appendix 1 which is a summary of all the Kispiox LRMP objectives, plus a brief rationale as to why particular objectives **have not been** included in the following list.

Note: We expect that the Kispiox FRPA process currently underway will update the objectives for biodiversity, visual quality, and wildlife.

Biodiversity

- To maintain or enhance biodiversity over the planning area
- To maintain the present variety of plant and animal species for each of the major ecosystems at the landscape level
- To maintain rare or threatened plant and animal species and communities
- To maintain rare ecosystems and environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands (e.g. upper Shelagyote valley), floodplains and riparian areas.
- To maintain deciduous ecosystems

- To retain the structural diversity of managed forests

Water

- To maintain water quality and quantity for domestic, recreational, agricultural and industrial use, and for wildlife and fisheries
- To protect the hydrological integrity of watersheds

Fisheries

- To protect the following sensitive fish habitat:
 - a) lakes with small populations of large rainbow trout;
 - b) stream reaches with identified populations of bull trout;
 - c) important spawning and rearing areas; and
 - d) Class I and II angling waters and their tributaries

Roads

- To provide appropriate road development within the planning area.

Riparian Areas

- To maintain riparian areas:
 - a) to protect rivers, streams, and wetlands, and associated recreation cultural heritage, aboriginal, tourism and wildlife values;
 - b) to protect sources of large organic debris;
 - c) to ensure bank stability
 - d) to protect water quality
 - e) to maintain important fish and wildlife habitat

Cultural Heritage Resources

- To maintain cultural heritage resources including archaeological sites, traditional use sites and trails, and structural features. A specific objective is to protect features at Kispiox, Hazelton/Hagwilget, Kitwancool, Cedarvale, Kitsegucla, Kisgegas and Kuldo.
- To protect historic features associated with river boat traffic on the Skeena River, the Dominion Telegraph Trail and early mineral exploration.
- To recognize the significance of house territories and associated resources to First Nations.

Range

- To protect and conserve range resources.
- To maintain the health and productivity of range resources by providing protection from fire, insects and diseases.
- To maintain and enhance use of Crown land, water and range resources by domestic livestock.

- To maintain and enhance agricultural use of Crown land within the ALR consistent with the *Agricultural Land Commission Act*.
- To preserve and maintain soil quality within the ALR.

Recreation

- To maintain recreational values and opportunities (i.e., landscapes, rivers, lakes, trails, recreation sites).
- To maintain public access to recreational opportunities and established recreational features.
- To protect the following important recreational features:
 - a) Kispiox, Babine, Bulkley, Suskwa, Kitseguecla and Skeena river corridors for fishing and boating;
 - b) Upper Skeena River for rafting;
 - c) Hagwilget and Bulkley Canyons on the Bulkley River;
 - d) Dominion Telegraph Trail; and
 - e) Babine River valley.

Scenic Areas

- To maintain visual quality in scenic areas including:
 - a) Highways 16 and 37 corridors
 - b) Babine River
 - c) Seven Sisters area
 - d) Kispiox River valley
 - e) Skeena River valley
 - f) Swan Lake area
 - g) Hazelton area
 - h) adjacent to Ross Lake and Seeley Lake Provincial Parks
 - i) B.C. Forest Service recreation sites and trails and important recreational fishing areas.

Timber

- To maintain the health and productivity of forest resources by providing protection from fire, insects and diseases, and through reforestation.

Wildlife

- To maintain natural ecosystems and habitat to sustain viable populations of all native wildlife within their natural ranges.
- To protect or enhance populations and habitat of rare or endangered and regionally significant species.

Botanical Forest Products

- To maintain and use botanical forest products including wild berries.
- To maintain mushroom resources and provide opportunities for sustainable harvesting of mushrooms.
- To maintain sites that are important for production of traditional medicinal plants (e.g., lily roots, devil's club).

Special Management – East Kispiox/Kuldo

- To maintain provincially significant scenic resources, backcountry recreation opportunities and habitat for grizzly bears and mountain goats.

Special Management – Atna/Shelagyote

- To maintain provincially significant scenic resources, backcountry recreation opportunities, grizzly bear denning habitat, mountain goat habitat and extensive wetlands in the upper Sicintine and Shelagyote valleys.

Special Management - Rocher Deboule

- To maintain provincially significant scenic resources, backcountry recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat.

Special Management – Babine River

- To protect and buffer river-based resource values within the Babine River wilderness corridor (i.e., protected area).

Special Management – Community Watersheds

- To maintain water quality and flow regime (quantity and timing) to ensure adequate potable water is available for domestic use

Special Management – Andimaul Lookout

- To maintain a rocky mountain juniper community, deciduous forest and a recreation trail.

Special Management – Upper Kispiox

- Manage so that important grizzly bear habitat receives special emphasis.
- Manage so that important wildlife habitat and important connective corridors receive special emphasis.
- Maintain biological diversity and natural ecosystem functions.
- Maintain natural water quality regimes.
- Maintain important fish habitat.
- Protect cultural sites and protect heritage sites and trails.
- Maintain specified, small-scale areas for the non-commercial harvest of traditionally used plants (i.e. devil's club, berry patches) by Gitksan house groups.

- Maintain the Swan Lake Plan retention VQOs.
- Manage access to:
 1. minimize human-bear interactions;
 2. minimize road density;
 3. minimize total road foot print/impact; and
 4. minimize road access to alpine areas.

GRD – Price Boulder

- To maintain visual quality as seen from Highway 16 and 37, Sedan Creek recreation site and Cedarvale back road.
- To maintain access to traditional use, including recreation day use, trapping, hunting, fishing and camping.
- To provide for continued industrial resource development, primarily timber harvesting in an area with above average timber quality.

GRD – Coyote-Hells Bells

- To maintain visual quality as seen from Highway 16 and 37, Sedan Creek recreation site and Cedarvale back road.
- To minimize disturbance to the migration patterns of mountain goats that use the higher elevation areas to move between northern and southern ranges.
- To maintain access to traditional use areas, including recreation day use, trapping, hunting, fishing and camping.

We hope this summary simplifies FSP develop. We recognize that many of these objectives are interrelated and some may be met with FRPA defaults.

Sincerely

Barry Smith
 District Manager
 Skeena/Stikine Forest District
 Ministry of Forests

Eamon O’Donoghue
 Planning Manager
 Skeena Region
 Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Appendix 1. Rationale

Section	LRMP Objective	HLP Objective: 'applicable' to an Operational Plan ¹ ?	Rationale ²
Biodiversity	To maintain or enhance biodiversity over the planning area	Yes	
Biodiversity	To maintain the present variety of plant and animal species for each of the major ecosystems at the landscape level	Yes	
Biodiversity	To maintain rare or threatened plant and animal species and communities	Yes	
Biodiversity	To maintain rare ecosystems and environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands (e.g. upper Shelagoyote valley), floodplains and riparian areas.	Yes	
Biodiversity	To maintain deciduous ecosystems	Yes	
Biodiversity	To retain the structural diversity of managed forests	Yes	
Water	To maintain water quality and quantity for domestic, recreational, agricultural and industrial use, and for wildlife and fisheries	Yes	
Water	To protect the hydrological integrity of watersheds	Yes	
Fisheries	To maintain or increase wild indigenous fish populations including salmon, steelhead, trout, Dolly Varden char, bull trout and Rocky Mountain Whitefish	No	Outside scope of OP. Other objectives deal directly with Fish habitat protection
Fisheries	To maintain, restore and enhance fish habitat. A specific objective is to achieve a net gain in productive capacity of habitat and anadromous salmon	No	Outside scope of OP. Other objectives deal directly with Fish habitat protection
Fisheries	To protect the following sensitive fish populations and habitat: a) lakes with small populations of large rainbow trout; b) stream reaches with identified populations of bull trout; c) important spawning and rearing areas; and d) Class I and II angling waters and their	Yes to Habitat No to populations	GAR allows WLAP to establish fishery sensitive watersheds and temperature sensitive streams

¹ As per order dated April 25, 1996

² Assumes Forest Development Plan, Range Use Plan and FSP = Operational Plan (OP)

Section	LRMP Objective	HLP Objective: 'applicable' to an Operational Plan¹?	Rationale²
	tributaries		
Fisheries	To provide for aboriginal, commercial, tourism and recreational use of fisheries. Specific objectives are a) to maintain and or enhance opportunities for sport fishing in a wilderness setting; b) to maintain a viable angling guide industry; c) to maintain aboriginal fishing sites for aboriginal use	No	Outside scope of OP. Wilderness opportunities provided for in Parks and SMZs, remaining objectives relate to resource allocation
Riparian Areas	To maintain riparian areas: a) to protect rivers, streams, and wetlands, and associated recreation cultural heritage, aboriginal, tourism and wildlife values; b) to protect sources of large organic debris; c) to ensure bank stability d) to protect water quality e) to maintain important fish and wildlife habitat	Yes	
Roads	To provide appropriate road development within the planning area.	Yes	

Section	LRMP Objective	HLP Objective: 'applicable' to an Operational Plan¹?	Rationale²
Cultural Heritage Resources	To maintain cultural heritage resources including archaeological sites, traditional use sites and trails, and structural features. A specific objective is to protect features at Kispiox, Hazelton/Hagwilget, Kitwancool, Cedarvale, Kitsequecla, Kisgegas and Kuldo.	Yes	Kispiox CHARI for Gitksan Territories Gitanyow Process for Gitanyow Territories Gitksan process in the Gitsequecla
Cultural Heritage Resources	To recognize the significance of house territories and associated resources to First Nations.	No to House Territories Yes to associated resources identified in FRPA	House territories outside scope of OP. however, important in consultation. More of a procedural objective rather than an operational plan objective.
Cultural Heritage Resources	To protect historic features associated with river boat traffic on the Skeena River, the Dominion Telegraph Trail and early mineral exploration.	Yes	Has implications on harvesting around the Telegraph Trail and old mining trails.
Range and Agriculture	To protect and conserve range resources.	Yes	Specific to a range use plan
Range and Agriculture	To maintain the health and productivity of range resources by providing protection from fire, insects and diseases.	Yes	Specific to a range use plan
Range and Agriculture	To maintain and enhance use of Crown land, water and range resources by domestic livestock.	Yes	Specific to a range use plan
Range and Agriculture	To maintain and enhance agricultural use of Crown land within the ALR consistent with the <i>Agricultural Land Commission Act</i> .	Yes	Specific to a range use plan
Range and Agriculture	To preserve and maintain soil quality within the ALR.	Yes	Specific to a range use plan
Recreation	To maintain recreational values and opportunities (i.e., landscapes, rivers, lakes, trails, recreation sites).	Yes	

Section	LRMP Objective	HLP Objective: 'applicable' to an Operational Plan¹?	Rationale²
Recreation	To maintain public access to recreational opportunities and established recreational features.	Yes	Results and strategies will be conditional, applying only where Licensees have direct responsibility
Recreation	To maintain primitive, semi-primitive and wilderness recreational opportunities.	No	Strategic level direction.
Recreation	To maintain backcountry recreation opportunities in the East Kispiox/Kuldo, Atna/Shelagyote and Rocher Deboule areas.	No	Recreation Access Management Plan.
Recreation	To protect the following important recreational features: a) Kispiox, Babine, Bulkley, Suskwa, Kitsequecla and Skeena river corridors for fishing and boating; b) Upper Skeena River for rafting; c) Hagwilget and Bulkley Canyons on the Bulkley River; d) Dominion Telegraph Trail; and e) Babine River valley.	Yes	Results and strategies will be conditional, applying only where Licensees have direct responsibility
Scenic Areas	To maintain visual quality in scenic areas including: a) Highways 16 and 37 corridors b) Babine River c) Seven Sisters area d) Kispiox River valley e) Skeena River valley f) Swan Lake area g) Hazelton area h) adjacent to Ross Lake and Seeley Lake Provincial Parks i) B.C. Forest Service recreation sites and trails and j) important recreational fishing areas.	Yes	
Timber	To maintain the economic viability of timber harvesting.	No	Outside scope of OP.
Timber	To maintain the health and productivity of forest resources by providing protection from fire, insects and diseases, and through reforestation.	Yes	

Section	LRMP Objective	HLP Objective: 'applicable' to an Operational Plan¹?	Rationale²
Timber	To provide a secure forest land base and a sustainable supply of timber to ensure the long term viability of the timber industry.	No	Outside scope of OP. Strategic decision. related to the land use decisions.
Timber	To maximize recovery of high quality wood.	No	Outside scope of OP.
Tourism	To maintain tourism opportunities based on recreation, wilderness, scenery, fish, wildlife and cultural heritage resources.	No	Outside scope of OP. Strategic direction (e.g. SMZ's from LRMP). Product of the land use decisions. This and the following one are contradictory. Access is the issue.
Tourism	To provide a wilderness environment for fishing, boating, hiking, hunting, camping and wildlife viewing.	No	Outside scope of FSP. Strategic direction provided in land use decisions
Tourism	To foster a sustainable tourism industry.	No	Outside scope of FSP.
Wildlife	To maintain natural ecosystems and habitat to sustain viable populations of all native wildlife within their natural ranges.	Yes	
Wildlife	To protect or enhance populations and habitat of rare or endangered and regionally significant species.	Yes	
Wildlife	To provide for sustainable harvest of big game species (i.e., moose, mule deer, white-tailed deer, mountain goat, black bear and grizzly bear) and furbearers.	No	Outside scope of FSP
Wildlife	To provide for aboriginal use of wildlife resources.	No	Outside scope of FSP.
Wildlife	To maintain viable guiding and trapping industries.	No	Outside scope of FSP However, biodiversity objectives contribute
Wildlife	To provide and promote opportunities for viewing, study and appreciation of wildlife in their habitat.	No	Outside scope of FSP.

Section	LRMP Objective	HLP Objective: ‘applicable’ to an Operational Plan¹?	Rationale²
Minerals	To encourage new mining opportunities and development that provide local employment and investment.	No	Outside scope of FSP.
Minerals	To strive for a diversified and enhanced mineral industry.	No	Outside FRPA.
Minerals	To maintain or enhance access to Crown land for mineral exploration and development.	No	Outside scope of OP.
Minerals	To maintain opportunities for sand and gravel mining.	No	Outside scope of OP.
Minerals	To encourage geoscience inventories to support mineral investment and land use decisions.	No	Outside scope of OP.
Oil and NG	To encourage oil and gas opportunities and development that provide local employment and investment.	No	Outside scope of OP.
Oil and NG	To maintain or enhance access to Crown land for oil and gas exploration and development.	No	Outside scope of OP.
Oil and NG	To encourage geoscience inventories to support oil and gas investment and land use decisions.	No	Outside scope of OP.
BFP	To maintain and use botanical forest products including wild berries.	Yes	
BFP	To maintain mushroom resources and provide opportunities for sustainable harvesting of mushrooms.	Yes	
BFP	To maintain sites that are important for production of traditional medicinal plants (e.g., lily roots, devil’s club).	Yes	
Protection			
Special – General	To maintain specified resource values such as scenery, recreation opportunities, community watersheds and wildlife habitat.	No	Outside scope of OP. Strategic land use decision
Special – East Kispiox/Kuld o	To maintain provincially significant scenic resources, backcountry recreation opportunities and habitat for grizzly bears and mountain goats.	Yes	
Special – Atna/Shelagy ote	To maintain provincially significant scenic resources, backcountry recreation opportunities, grizzly bear denning habitat, mountain goat habitat and extensive wetlands in the upper Sicintine and Shelagyote valleys.	Yes	

Section	LRMP Objective	HLP Objective: 'applicable' to an Operational Plan¹?	Rationale²
Special - Rocher Deboile	To maintain provincially significant scenic resources, backcountry recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat.	Yes	
Special – Babine River	To protect and buffer river-based resource values within the Babine River wilderness corridor (i.e., protected area).	Yes	
Special – Community Watersheds	To maintain water quality and flow regime (quantity and timing) to ensure adequate potable water is available for domestic use	Yes	
Special – Andimaul Lookout	To maintain a rocky mountain juniper community, deciduous forest and a recreation trail.	Yes	
Special – Upper Kispiox			
Special – Upper Kispiox	Manage so that important grizzly bear habitat receives special emphasis.	Yes	
Special – Upper Kispiox	Manage so that important wildlife habitat and important connective corridors receive special emphasis.	Yes	
Special – Upper Kispiox	Maintain biological diversity and natural ecosystem functions.	Yes	
Special – Upper Kispiox	Maintain natural water quality regimes.	Yes	
Special – Upper Kispiox	Maintain important fish habitat.	Yes	
Special – Upper Kispiox	Protect cultural sites and protect heritage sites and trails.	Yes	
Special – Upper Kispiox	Maintain specified, small scale areas for the non commercial harvest of traditionally used plants (i.e. devil's club, berry patches) by Gitksan house groups.	Yes	
Special – Upper Kispiox	Allow harvesting of cedar trees for cultural purposes.	No	Outside scope of OP
Special – Upper Kispiox	Maintain the Swan Lake Plan retention VQOs.	Yes	

Section	LRMP Objective	HLP Objective: 'applicable' to an Operational Plan¹?	Rationale²
Special – Upper Kispiox	Allow a sustainable flow of timber.	No	Outside scope of OP – TSR decision
Special – Upper Kispiox	Allow for exploration and development of subsurface and energy resources.	No	Outside scope of OP – Strategic land use issue
Special – Upper Kispiox	Manage access to: 1) minimize human-bear interactions; 2) minimize road density; 3) minimize total road foot print/impact; and 4) minimize road access to alpine areas.	Yes	
Special – Upper Kispiox	Allow for the maintenance of existing trails.	No	Outside scope of OP
GRD - Kispiox	To maintain a wide range of resource uses, including forestry, agriculture and mineral exploration and development.	No	Outside scope of OP. Strategic land use decisions
GRD – Price Boulder	To provide for continued industrial resource development, primarily timber harvesting in an area with above average timber quality.	Yes	To the limit of the licensee responsibility
GRD – Price Boulder	To maintain visual quality as seen from Highway 16 and 37, Sedan Creek recreation site and Cedarvale back road.	Yes	
GRD – Price Boulder	To maintain access to traditional use, including recreation day use, trapping, hunting, fishing and camping.	Yes	
GRD – Coyote-Hells Bells	To provide for timber harvesting activities.	No	Outside scope of FSP. Strategic land use decision
GRD – Coyote-Hells Bells	To recognize and manage for non-industrial values and uses.	No	Duplicates objectives for biodiversity, wildlife, water, etc.
GRD – Coyote-Hells Bells	To maintain visual quality as seen from Highway 16 and 37, Sedan Creek recreation site and Cedarvale back road.	Yes	
GRD – Coyote-Hells Bells	To allow for continued mineral exploration and development.	No	Outside scope of OP. Strategic land use decision
GRD – Coyote-Hells Bells	To protect the integrity of the adjacent protected area strategy zone from encroachment of mineral access development.	No	Outside scope of OP. Strategic land use decision

Section	LRMP Objective	HLP Objective: 'applicable' to an Operational Plan¹?	Rationale²
GRD – Coyote-Hells Bells	To minimize disturbance to the migration patterns of mountain goats that use the higher elevation areas to move between northern and southern ranges.	Yes	
GRD – Coyote-Hells Bells	To maintain access to traditional use areas, including recreation day use, trapping, hunting, fishing and camping.	Yes	To the limit of the licensee responsibility