

## **M-K-2004-2005-21: Environmental Cleanup Project Final Report**

Prepared for: The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board  
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## **M-KMA Barrel/Refuse Clean-up 2004/05 Summary**

### **Background**

In the 1970s, parts of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA) were available for exploration and development of new mining opportunities. To support exploration activities, large quantities of hydrocarbon products were flown into remote areas. Fuel depots were established for the storage and staging of fuel barrels. Many of these staging areas were located on lakes where large fixed wing aircraft could drop fuel barrels, later to be slung by helicopter to the rugged remote exploration sites. Site remediation was not considered at the time.

Through natural corrosion and vandalism, these barrels, many of which continue to leak their contents, are now a threat to the environment and impose unacceptable views to the many recreational users of this area.

In 1990, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (MELP), formed a partnership with the Fort St. John Rod and Gun Club, the BC Wildlife Federation, and Ross Peck Outfitters Ltd., to begin removing barrels from the Tuchodi Lake area.

In the years following the Ministry continued to receive complaints about barrels in other locations through out areas of what is now the MK. During this period there were no programs or funding available to initiate a clean up project.

In 1998, the M-K Advisory Board agreed to assist MELP to identify, recover and properly dispose of abandoned fuel drums from previous industrial activities as well as clean up identified sites of illegal and unsightly refuse from recreation and other activities in the M-KMA. Clean up activities have been undertaken each year since with the amount of materials recovered and disposed of varying depending on the level of funding that was available for that fiscal year.

### **2004 Activity Summary**

The MKMA made available \$10,000.00 base funding for the continuation of the clean up project with an additional \$10,000.00 available based on matching private contributions. The Northeastern BC Wildlife Committee donated \$10,000.00 to the MKMA which enabled the project to proceed with a total funding agreement of \$30,000.00.

The project got underway in mid August with the clean up of the abandoned Windamir Mine site in the Upper Gataga headwaters. Peace Northern Services of Toad River, BC was contracted to complete the clean up activities. Between August 17 and the 21<sup>st</sup> the crew was mobilized to the mine site by helicopter.



10 full drums of diesel slung back out during empty return ferry trips. The base camp equipment was then flown in with a Twin Otter. 7 full drums of fuel were then loaded into the Otter for removal to the Muncho lake airstrip. (these drums were subsequently hauled back to the Toad River airstrip. 187 empty drums and an additional 20 full or partly full drums were slung from the mine site down to the Upper Gataga airstrip. All garbage at the mine site was collected and slung down to the Upper Gataga airstrip. All wooden debris was collected piled and burned.



A partially full 10,000 gallon fuel tank abandoned at the site was emptied into drums with the fuel also being slung down to the Upper Gataga airstrip. This tank was then placed beside 2 other tanks into a slip/depression where they will cover over with sloughing shales in the future. All other material left on site (large metal debris, drilling rod, piping, and the tanks) is not considered a threat to the environment & was left on site as it was too heavy to sling and funding was insufficient to facilitate its removal. This material could be removed at a later date should it be considered necessary and funds made available.

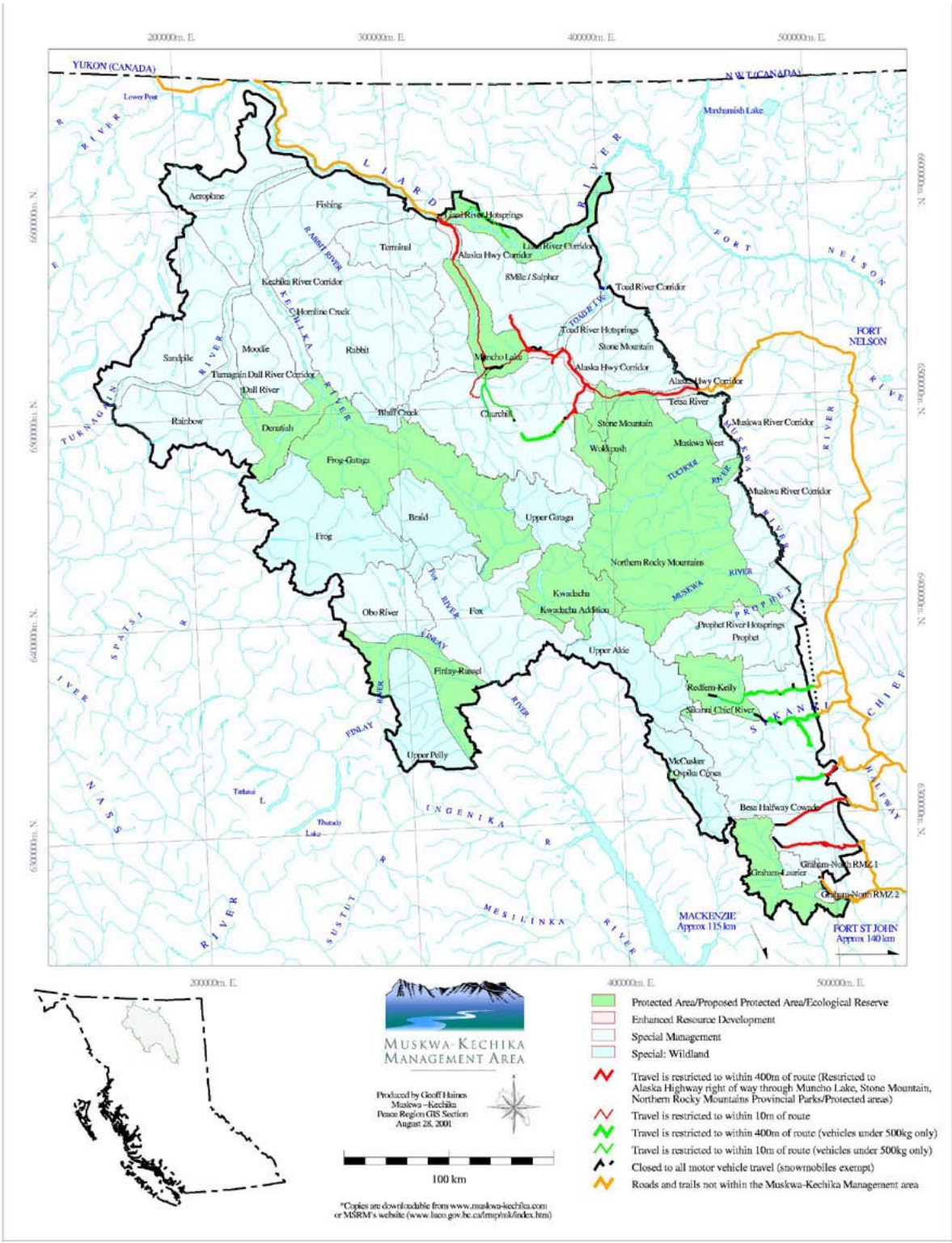


Quest helicopters from Fort Nelson provided the helicopter services and Liard Air from Muncho Lake provided the Twin Otter services.

On August 11, 2004 I was informed by Howard Madill, Sustainable Economic Development Manger, Peace Region, that 2 more drums had been discovered on the Mayfield Lakes. I found out that the Parks Branch was planning a river patrol on the Gataga for later that month and was able to fly in with the staff, and collect the drums on an adjacent lake. Upon arrival at the site 3 drums were discovered, 2 empty and 1 full of Jet B fuel. All 3 drums and the fuel was recovered and flown back to Muncho lake for disposal. There was no cost to the clean up program for this recovery.

The Environmental Protection Regional office was able to secure an additional \$20,000.00 funding for the clean up project in the second quarter of the fiscal. As a result the drums, refuse and abandoned fuel that was moved from the mine site near the top of the mountain and down to the Upper Gataga airstrip for recovery at a later date could now be flown out using Liard Air's Twin Otter aircraft. Flights were arranged and all the material was flown out and stockpiled at the Muncho lake airstrip by the end of October, 2005.





\*Copies are downloadable from [www.muskwa-kechika.com](http://www.muskwa-kechika.com) or MSRM's website ([www.lucn.gov.bc.ca/mp/ntsk/index.htm](http://www.lucn.gov.bc.ca/mp/ntsk/index.htm))

Widesky Disposals of Fort Nelson was contracted to pick up and dispose of all recovered barrels and refuse from the Muncho Lake and Toad River airstrips. The barrels and scrap metal recovered was added to Widesky's metal recycling stockpile and was shipped to Edmonton for recycling. No disposal fees were charged by Widesky. Only the cost associated with the travel, loading and transport of the materials from the two northern airstrips was charged.

A total of \$50,000.00 total funding was available for the 2004/05 project. Total expenditure was \$45,191.68.

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**Muskwa Kechika Trust Fund**  
**Funding Year 2004/2005**  
**Project Progress and Financial Report**

PROJECT NAME: MK Barrel/refuse clean-up

**PROJECT NUMBER : MK-2004-2005-21**

**APPROVED ALLOCATION: \$ 30,000.00** total (\$10,000.00 base, \$10,000.00 donation and \$10,000.00 MK Matching funds) + \$20,000.00 allocation from Omenica Peace Regional Environmental Protection Branch, Prince George.  
Total funds available = \$50,000.00

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**1. Use bullets to briefly describe the project.**

- Identification, recovery and proper disposal of abandoned fuel drums from mining exploration activities and clean up of identified sites of illegal and unsightly refuse from recreation and other activities.

Reporting Period:  
(please circle or underline one)

Sept 30, 2004

December 31, 2004

March 31, 2005

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SECTION ONE: ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- 1. Use bullets to briefly describe what has been completed/accomplished this past quarter (e.g. staff hired, contractor selected, research or specific fieldwork completed, people trained, papers or reports written, etc.).**
- Project as proposed completed

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Project Manager)

Date Report Completed: 2005/03/30



**SECTION TWO: CONFIRMATION OF WORK PLAN**

1. Use bullets to briefly identify any deviations from the original work plan approved by the SRM Manager
2. Clearly indicate any proposed amendments (Remember, these need to be approved by the SRM Manager).
  - The only deviation from the original work plan was that additional funds from the Regional Environmental Protection office were made available to complete further work on this project. \$20,000.00 of additional funding was authorized which allowed for the recovered, stockpiled barrels at the Gataga Airstrip to be flown out and removed for disposal.

**SECTION THREE: FINANCIAL REPORT (A detailed listing of expenditures for the reporting period must be attached.)**

	<b>2004/2005 Project Budget (a)</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures to date (b)</b>	<b>Remaining Commitment s (c)</b>	<b>Forecast Expenditures (described in Section 4) (d)</b>	<b>Total (e)</b>	<b>Variance (f)</b>
					<b>(b)+(c)+(d)</b>	<b>(a)-(e)</b>
<b>Please fill in expenditure amounts</b>	<b>\$30,000.00 + \$20,000.00 (EP funded)</b>	<b>\$45,191.68</b>			<b>\$45,191.68</b>	<b>- \$15,151.68 (covered by additional \$20,000.00 allocated by EP) or + \$4,808.32 total funding</b>

**SECTION FOUR: FORECAST TO END OF FISCAL YEAR**

- All the barrels and refuse have been recovered and recycled or disposed of.