



Ministry of
Water, Land and
Resource Stewardship

Muskwa-Kechika Management Area
Advisory Board Meeting
November 7, 2023
Hotel Grand Pacific - Victoria, BC

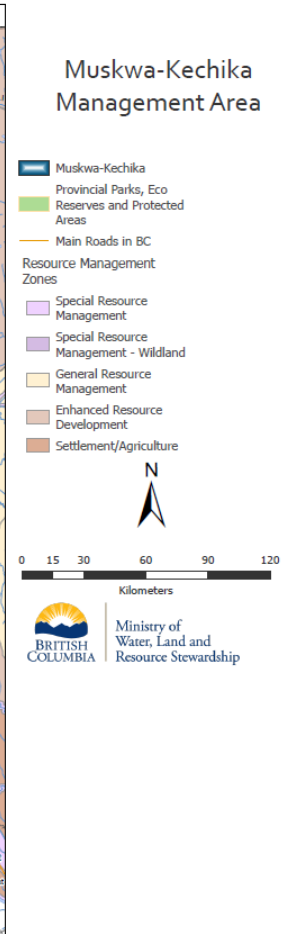
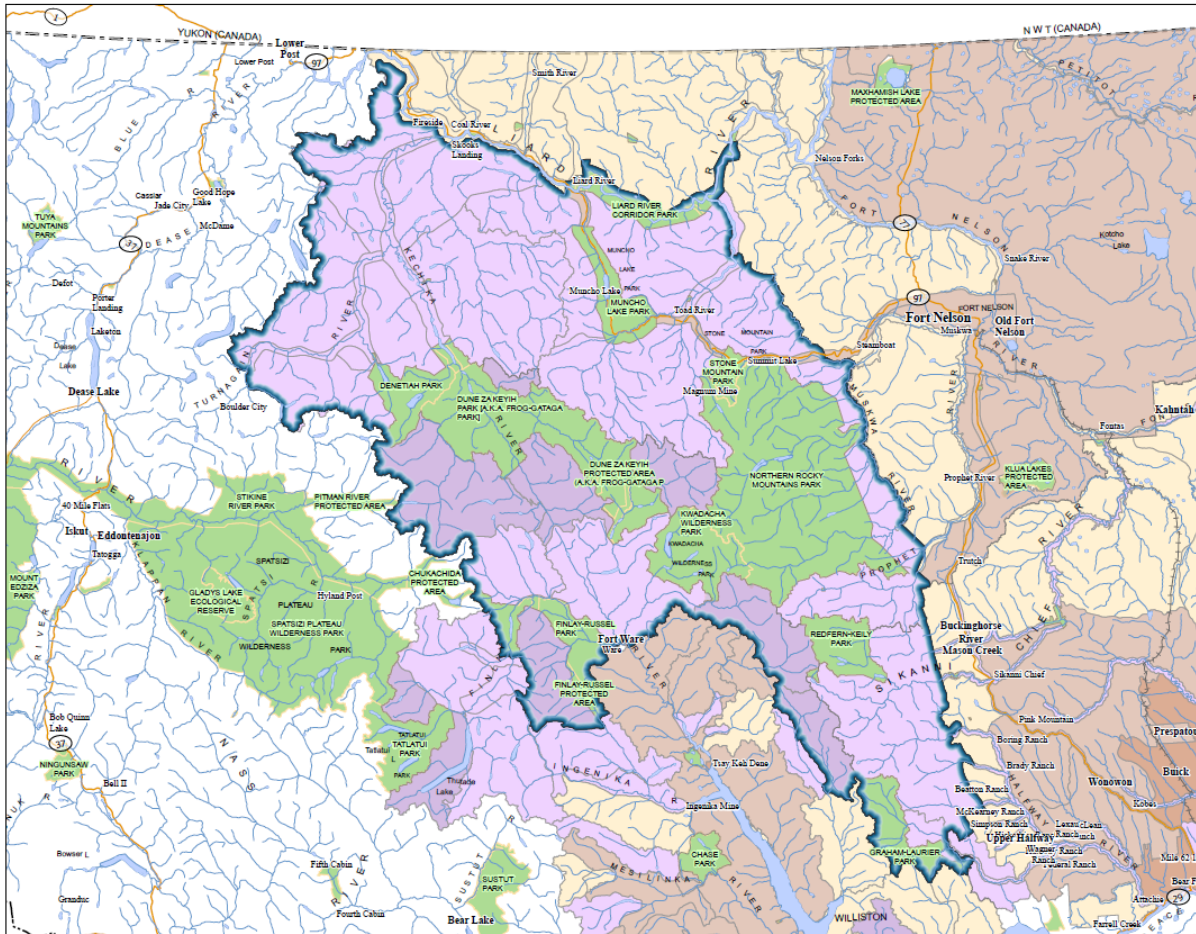
Theme for Today: Change...and opportunity

Prepared by:
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Nov 7, 2023

Agenda

- **Background**
- **Ministry Level Changes: WLRs Update related to MKMA**
- **Regional Management Committee Revitalization & Provincial Coordination**
- **Land Use Planning Complexity – Liard Collaborative Stewardship Forum**
- **Forest Carbon Offset Projects & Planning**
- **Aligning Board and Provincial Strategic Direction**

Background



- The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (MKMA) is 6,380,000 ha
- There are 458 Mineral Tenures* that intersect with the MKMA
- 15 First Nations areas of interest overlap the MKMA
 - 73% of Kwadacha, 48% of FNFN and 42% of PRFN
 - Range from 0.1% to 73%

* note: *Gitxala v. British Columbia (Chief Gold Commissioner)*, 2023 BCSC 1680

Ministry Level Changes: WLRS Update related to MKMA

- October 19th public announcement on ‘Transfer of natural resource ministerial responsibilities’
 - Staff remain in their current units; no layoffs
 - New draft Org Charts in December
 - Copies of the WLRS/FOR ‘placemat’ available
- Building capacity to respond to increasing complexity in wildlife management:
 - Wildlife management - increasingly complex (e.g., climate change impacts)
 - Partnership with First Nations - sustainability of the resource and broader ecosystems.
 - Consolidating fish and wildlife allocation & implementing ‘Together for Wildlife’, etc.
- Summary:
 - WLRS - decisions for land, water, hunting and fishing
 - FOR - decisions for forestry, range and archaeology

FOR/WLRS Restructuring Oct 2023

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Existing Functions and Responsibilities:

- Provincial water leadership:
 - Watershed Security Strategy & Fund; Coastal Marine Strategy; Wild Salmon Strategy
 - Water sustainability planning
 - Lead coordination on government's strategy on source to tap, including drinking water
 - Water quality objective setting
 - Marine use policy and planning
- ✓ Integrated land management frameworks to guide land use decisions in B.C., modernized land use policy and planning and land base objective setting
- ✓ Provincial cumulative effects regime
- ✓ Strengthen partnerships, collaboration, and engagement with Indigenous Peoples on the management of natural resources and the land base (e.g., Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Forums)
- ✓ Development of a co-management/shared decision-making regime with First Nations
- Consultation and accommodation policy, including the Area Based Approach & First Nations Consultation System
- Fish and wildlife leadership:
 - habitat/ecosystems; fisheries, aquaculture & wild salmon strategic policy
- **BC/CAN Nature Agreement**
- Integrated, science-based land, aquatic, terrestrial, resource data/information, and geographic/geospatial data, systems and analysis
- Strategic marine, land and resource management policies to support the effective operationalization of DRIPA in the natural resource sector
- Permitting Solutions Office
- Support for governance, organizational effectiveness, performance monitoring and reporting on progress
- Corporate Services for the Natural Resource ministries
- Natural Resource Information & Digital Services
- Crowns, Agencies, Board and Commissions:
 - Wildlife Advisory Council
 - Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board
 - Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission
 - Mackenzie River Basin Board

NEW From FOR

Water Management Functions:

- Full suite of authorities for managing water use, authorizations and orders for drought (e.g., Water Comptroller)
- River Forecast Centre & Flood Safety
- Flood strategy, policy and management
- Dams, Dam Safety and Utility Regulation (e.g., BC Hydro)
- Dikes, drainage and ditches
- Water allocation
- Source water protection

Fish and Wildlife Functions

- Fish and wildlife policy, research, allocations and authorizations
- Fisheries licensing
- Fish stock assessments
- Rivers and lakes management
- Data and reporting
- Wildlife and aquatic specialists
- Provincial wildlife veterinarian

Land Functions:

- Full suite of authorities and for lands authorizations (and related permitting support functions, including business transformation and First Nations engagement).
- FrontCounter BC
- Crown Land Opportunities and Restoration (including Contaminated Sites)
- Land programs
- Policy (Crown land and strategic)
- Land returns

NEW Crown Responsibilities (From FOR):

- Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority
- Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC
- Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
- Association of BC Land Surveyors
- Integrated Cadastral Information Society
- *BC Land Title and Survey Authority to FIN

Ministry Level
Changes: WLRS
Update related
to MKMA



Regional Management Committee (RMC) Revitalization & Provincial Coordination

RMC Revitalization – cross sector improvements & NRS support.

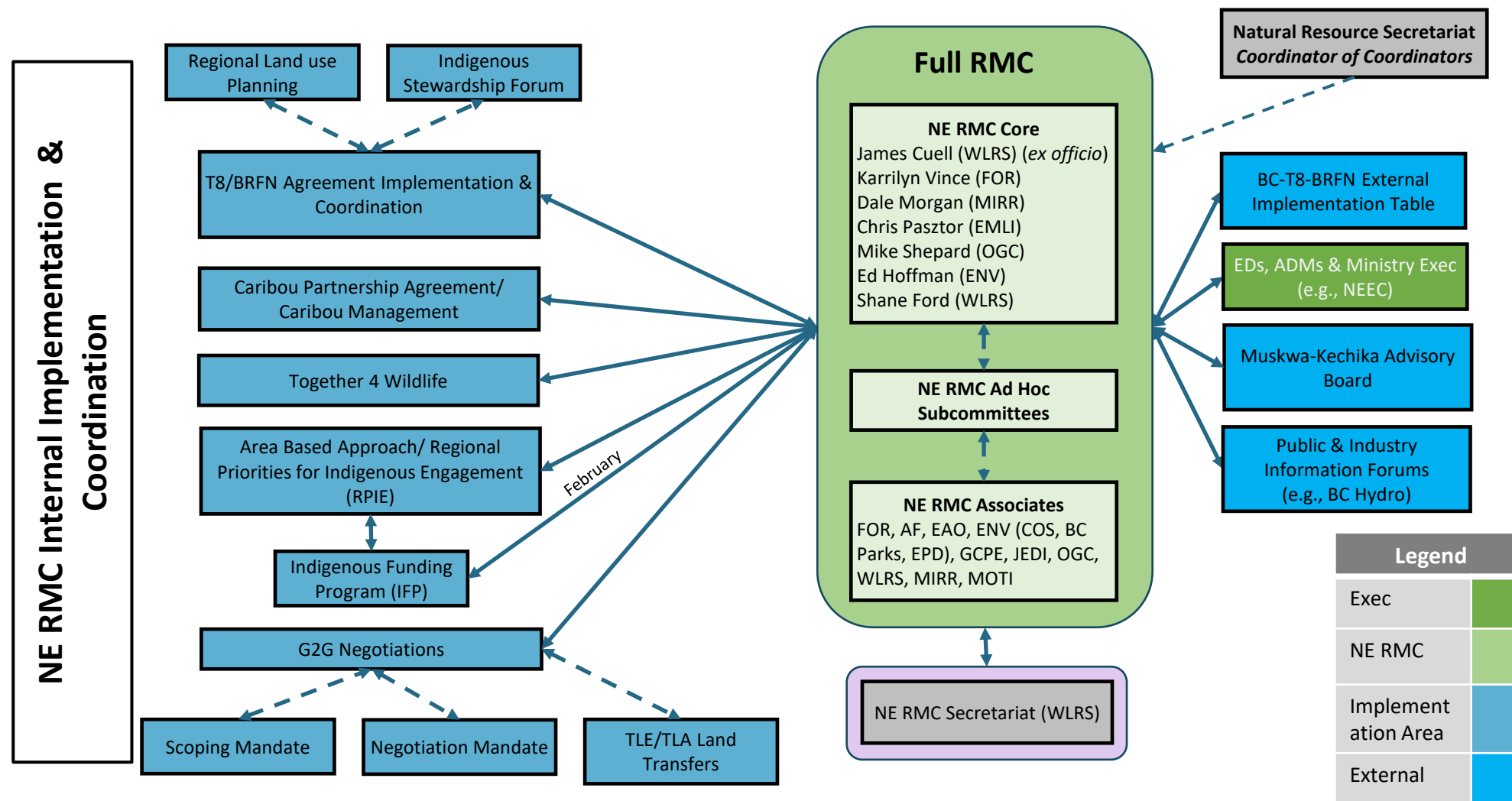
- Focus resources on the highest priorities of the NRS as a whole;
 - Align policy and programs with Indigenous priorities and regional reconciliation strategies (RPIE);
- Support NRS ministries to develop agreements with First Nations (G2Gs);
 - Agreement delivery (Consensus, BRFN IA); and
- Ensure cumulative effects are properly assessed and managed across all NRS ministries.

BC RMC Network


Quarterly Board-RMC Meetings



Regional Management Committee Revitalization & Provincial Coordination



Forest Carbon Offset Projects & Planning



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BRIEFING NOTE

TO: First Nations in BC;
FROM: Patricia Rojas, BCAFN Regional Climate Change Coordinator, Michelle Connolly, Ecotrust Canada
DATE: April 14, 2022
RE: BCAFN First Nations Carbon Discussion Paper

PURPOSE
To summarize key elements of the [BCAFN First Nations Carbon Discussion Paper](#) and provide follow-up recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS
The rights of First Nations in BC are land-based Aboriginal rights, and it is First Nations communities that have the right to the carbon stored and absorbed across their lands and the potential revenues related to such carbon. Section 35 of the *Constitution Act* and the implementation of both the Canadian and BC legislation on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples may be an opportunity for First Nations to:

Assert jurisdiction:

- Assert territorial jurisdiction over forests and areas that can be managed and conserved in a way that is compatible with recognizing the existence of carbon rights that underlie carbon offsets. Returning lands to First Nations will support carbon storage and absorption.
- Claim ownership to carbon as a resource that was not ceded by First Nations to the crown, and thus ownership and rights of use are still retained by First Nations.
- Assert your Aboriginal and Treaty Rights to the conservation of the environment and the productive capacity of your territories and resources that would result in the ability to own and sell carbon offsets.
- Include carbon rights as a component of Aboriginal rights in your negotiated treaty or a reconciliation agreement.
- If your community does not already have a Community Forest Agreement or a First Nation Woodland Licenses, push for the creation of a tenure or a transfer of tenure from another licensee in order to enable a carbon project.

Advocate for legislation, regulation and policy reforms:

- Support collective action to advance First Nations' carbon rights, facilitate discussion on the benefits and limitations of carbon offset projects and propose mechanisms to ensure Indigenous rights and priorities are upheld during every phase of the carbon offset system.
- Push for reforming legislation, regulations, policies and procedures at multiple scales (e.g., international, federal and provincial) that are limiting First Nations in pursuing land-based carbon offsets and conservation projects in their territories.

#honouringourancesfor
bcfn

- Forest carbon offsets - discussed at land use planning tables as a non-extractive revenue source.
- Revenue to First Nations & funding of conservation and management areas in BC.
- Approximately seventy First Nations have expressed interest in developing carbon offset projects.
- Trend represents a shift of revenue from forest operations to revenue from carbon offsets
 - Reduces the potential cumulative effects of extraction activities.

Forest Carbon Offset Projects & Planning



BRINKMAN CLIMATE ecotrust canada

Cheakamus Community Forest Carbon Offsets



\$25/tonne

Introduction / The Cheakamus Community Forest Offset Project was developed by the Cheakamus Community Forest Society in partnership with Brinkman Group and Ecotrust Canada. This Improved Forest Management project is situated on a 33,018 hectare crown forest tenure around Whistler, on the traditional territories of the Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation, a landscape enjoyed by millions of locals, British Columbians, and international visitors each year.

Offsets On Offer / 10,000 carbon offsets are available from Brinkman Climate at \$25/tonne. Large purchases must be committed by May 31st, 2015. A small block of offsets will be held beyond that date, allowing smaller corporate and personal purchases to continue into the summer. Offsets are from the project's first verification period (2009-2013), issued in Spring 2015. They are verified to the BC Emission Offsets Regulation using the BC Forest Carbon Offset Protocol.

CCF Forest Photo credit: Bob Brett

- Forest carbon offset projects require:
 - 'Exclusive' right to the atmospheric benefits - ABA
 - Project 'additionality' - carbon retention/increase that would not have happened without the project (e.g., why BC Parks are ineligible)
 - A defined zone and objective that validates the project
- Land use planning processes and forest tenure opportunities are increasingly having to address this non-extractive approach.