



MUSKWA-KECHIKA MANAGEMENT AREA

Advisory Board Meeting December 5, 2024

Update regarding Access Management work from:
Northeast Fish and Wildlife Team
Conservation Officer Service

Presentation by Ken Sehn and Ellen Pedersen



Presentation Agenda

- Upgrades to Map Products
- Halfway Trail Field Day
- Sikanni Trail Field Day
- Questions and Discussion



The Muskwa Kechika Access Management Area



- 5.3 million ha of protected land
- Ensures the future integrity of
 - ecosystems
 - watersheds
 - visual quality
 - wildlife corridors
 - First Nation heritage
 - wilderness experience
- Designated in Legislation in 1998

Some of the problems:

- Mapping upgrades
 - Changing trails
 - Designated camps (?)
 - Updated information to the public
- Addressing “historical camps”
- Addressing and enforcing illegal/new trails
- Increase voluntary compliance
- Updating the signage on the trails



An example of an
illegal trail on the Red
Fern Trail



An example
of an illegal
trail on the
Halfway
Trail



Map Improvements

Create a series of maps that include the following components:

- Trails with names and restrictions identified
- Downloadable and trackable maps for the public's use
- Wildlife Management Units (MUs) outlined and labelled
- Limited Entry Hunting Zones (LEH) outlined and labelled
- Significant geographic features labelled.
- Six maps were created.
- Latest version is the 4th draft.
- Map production and review was interrupted by the demands on staff from the fall hunting season.

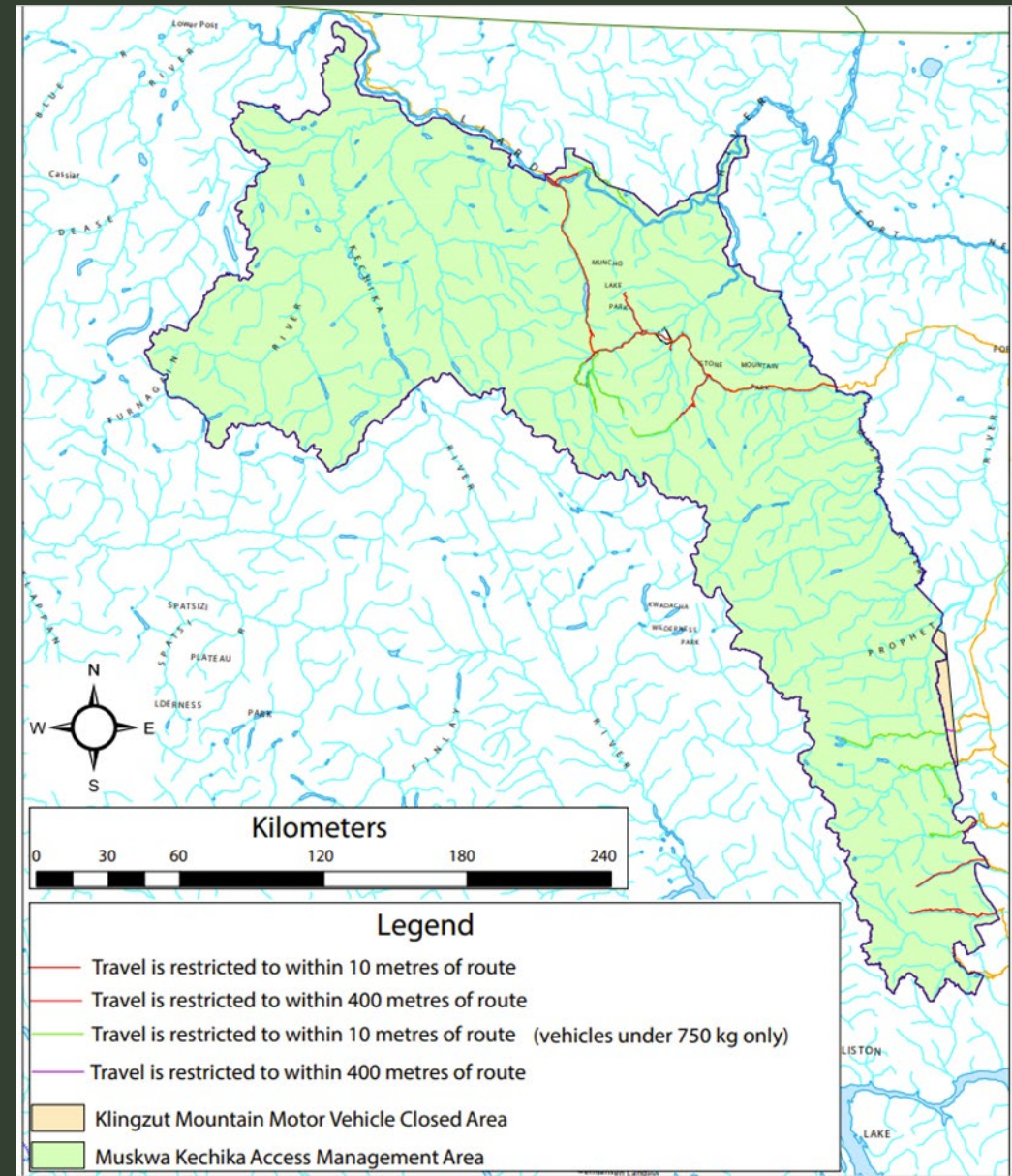


Examples of Past Maps



2018 MK MA Map

- Shows MK MA with trails and access restrictions
- Good overview of the MK MA
- Missing the key geography labels for lakes, streams and mountains
- Also missing are the Hunting MU boundaries.



2008 Rec Sites and Trails Map

- Entire MK MA is depicted
- Shows the trails and camping locations
- Some key geography features are present
- Trail restrictions are not indicated.

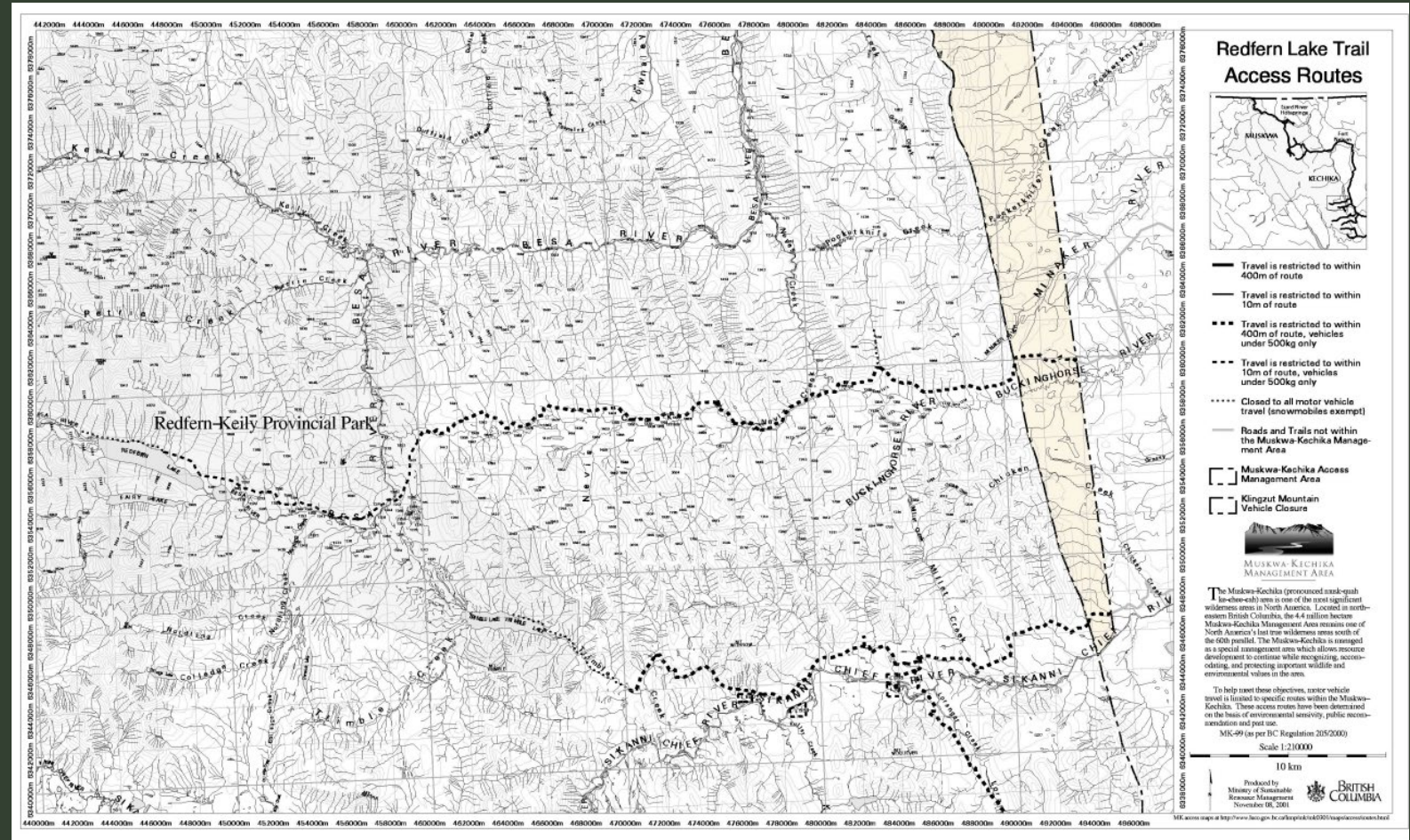
PEACE/FORT NELSON RECREATION DISTRICT

- TRAILS
- ▲ SITES
- ▭ Peace/Fort Nelson District
- Rivers selection
- ▭ BC PARKS selection
- ▭ Muskwa Ketchika



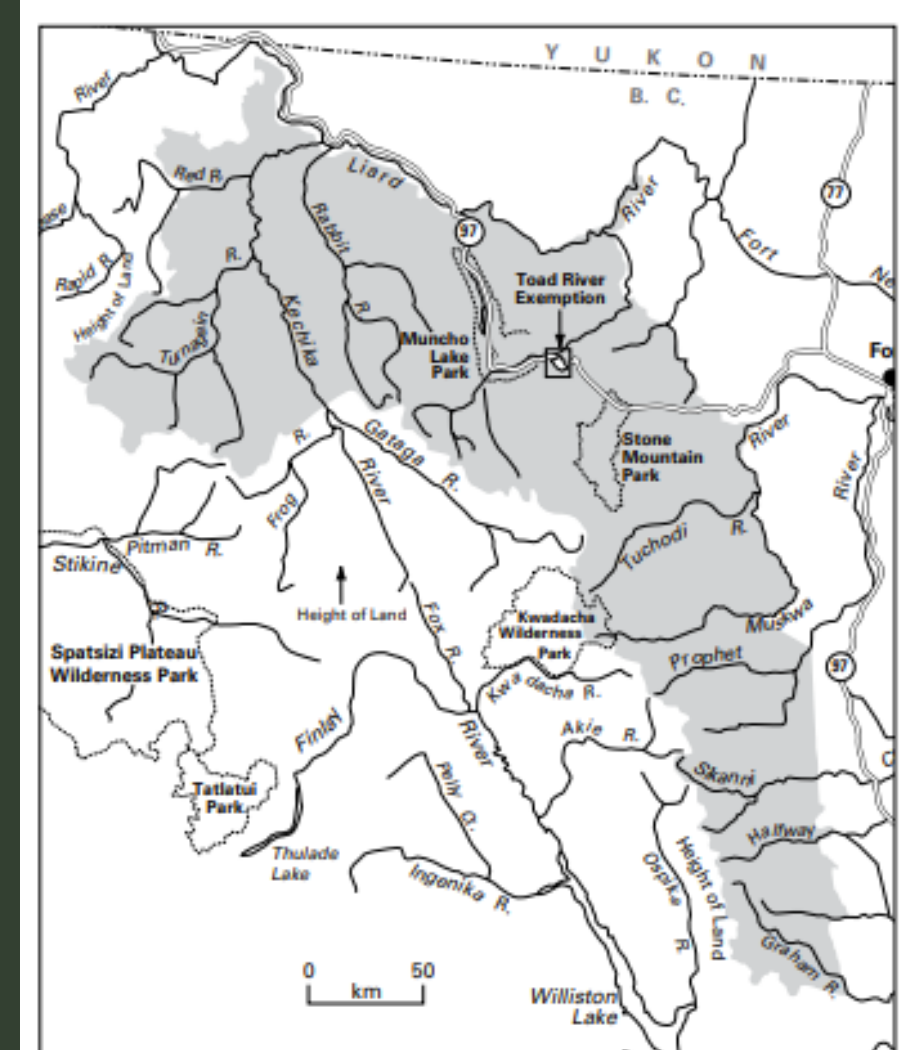
MK MA Redfern Trail Map

- Good detail
- UTM coordinates
- Streams well depicted
- Elevation contours included
- Trails clearly defined with restriction definitions
- Trail restrictions are outdated
- Created November 08, 2001
- Posted May 25, 2015

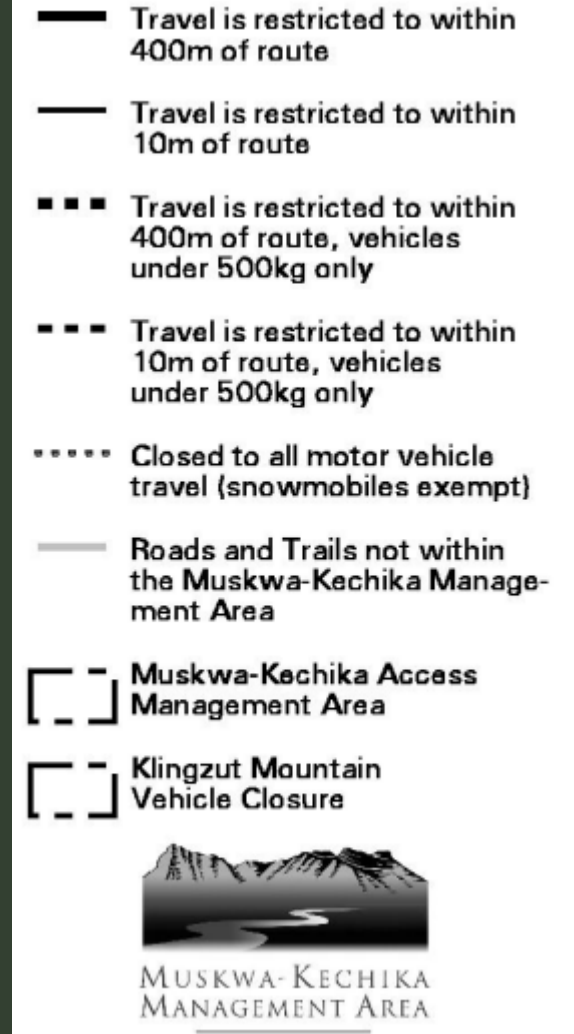
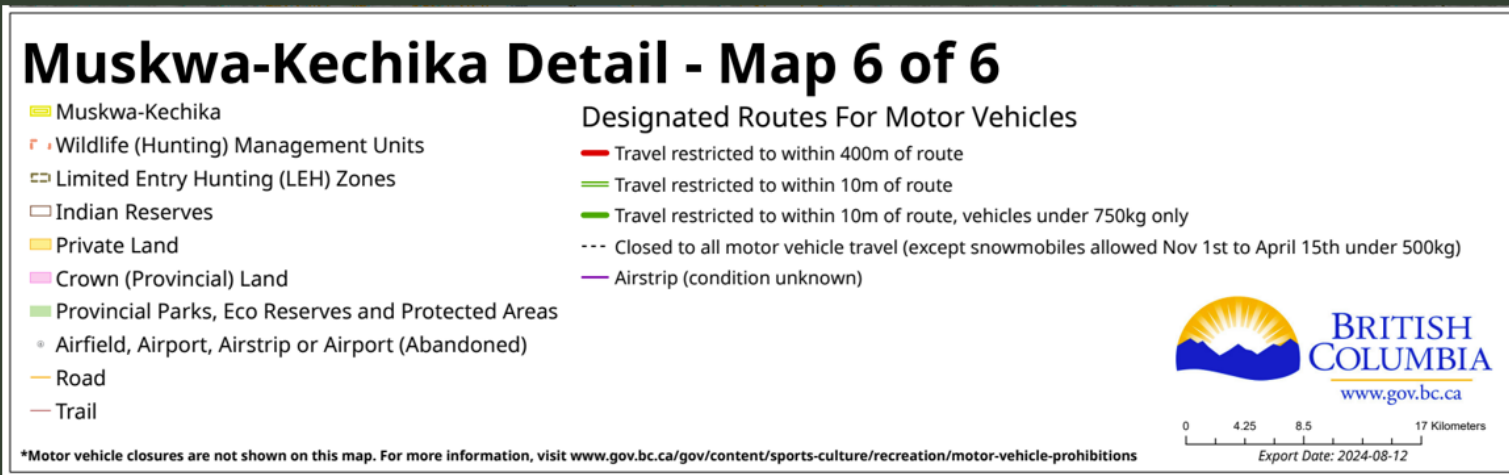


Hunting Regulation Synopsis 2024-2026

Map H25 Muskwa-Kechika Access Management Area (MUs 7-36, 7-42, 7-43, 7-50, 7-51, 7-52, 7-54, 7-57) and Klingzut Mountain Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 7-42). Maps showing boundaries and motor vehicle routes within the Muskwa-Kechika AMA can be viewed in the Ministry offices in Fort Nelson, or in Fort St John (250) 787-3225 and <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/regulations-synopsis>. Larger scale maps can be purchased from McElhanney Associates in Fort St. John (250) 787-0356. There are several trails where travel is restricted to within 10 m of the route and only vehicles under 750 kg are permitted.



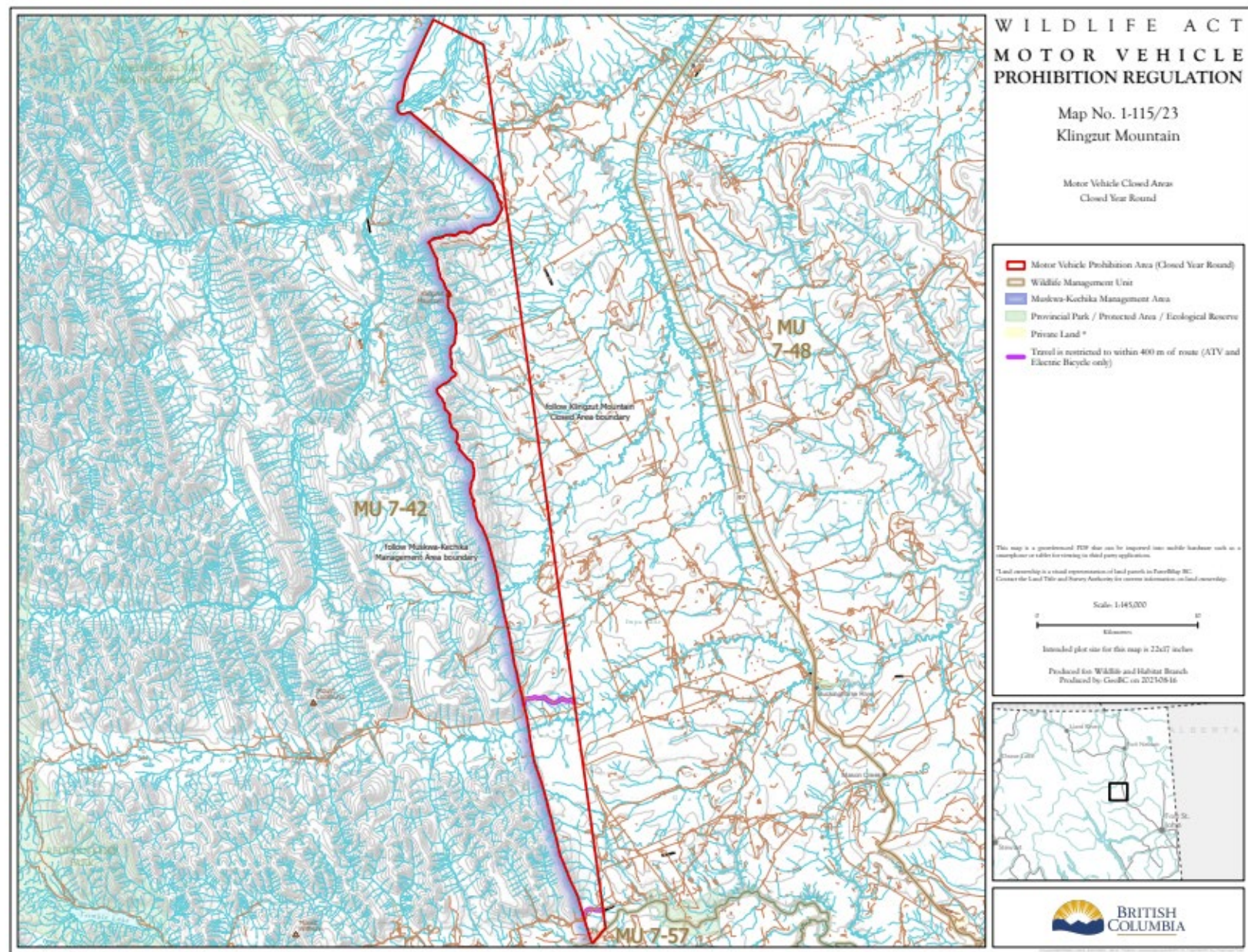
MK MA Access Restrictions and Conflicting Information



MK 2023 Map



Klingzut Closure Map 2023













The New Maps








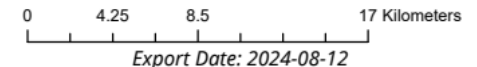
Map Legend

Muskwa-Kechika Detail - Map 6 of 6

-  Muskwa-Kechika
-  Wildlife (Hunting) Management Units
-  Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) Zones
-  Indian Reserves
-  Private Land
-  Crown (Provincial) Land
-  Provincial Parks, Eco Reserves and Protected Areas
-  Airfield, Airport, Airstrip or Airport (Abandoned)
-  Road
-  Trail

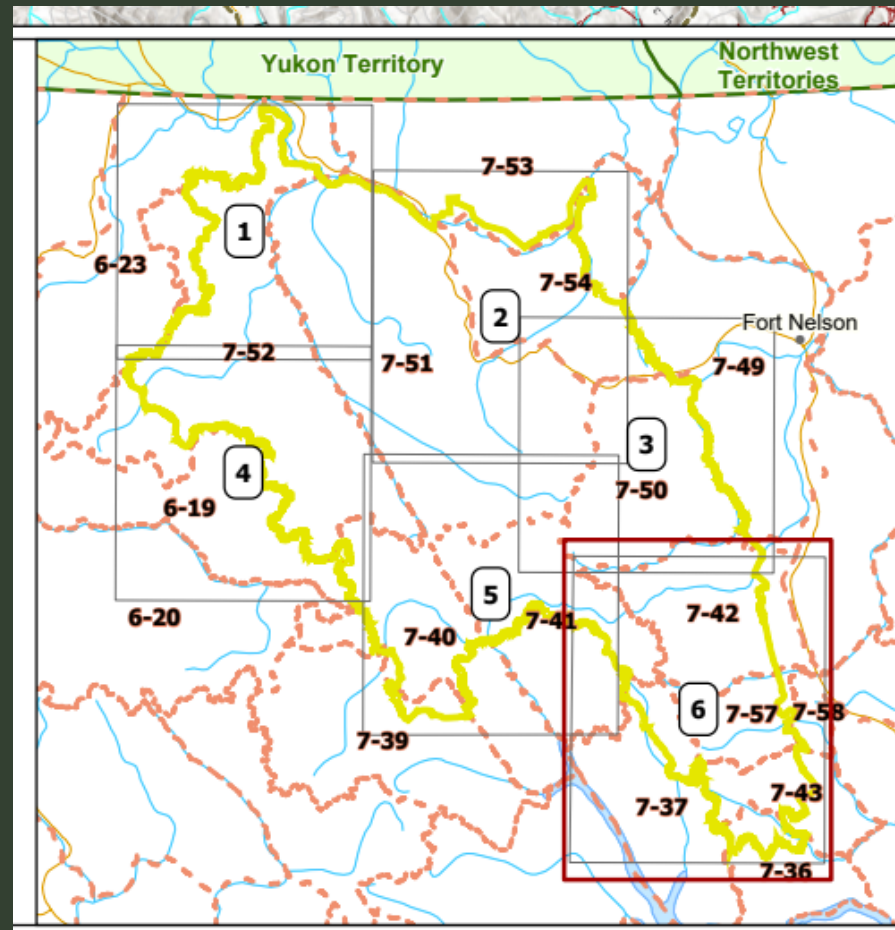
Designated Routes For Motor Vehicles

-  Travel restricted to within 400m of route
-  Travel restricted to within 10m of route
-  Travel restricted to within 10m of route, vehicles under 750kg only
-  Closed to all motor vehicle travel (except snowmobiles allowed Nov 1st to April 15th under 500kg)
-  Airstrip (condition unknown)



*Motor vehicle closures are not shown on this map. For more information, visit www.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/motor-vehicle-prohibitions

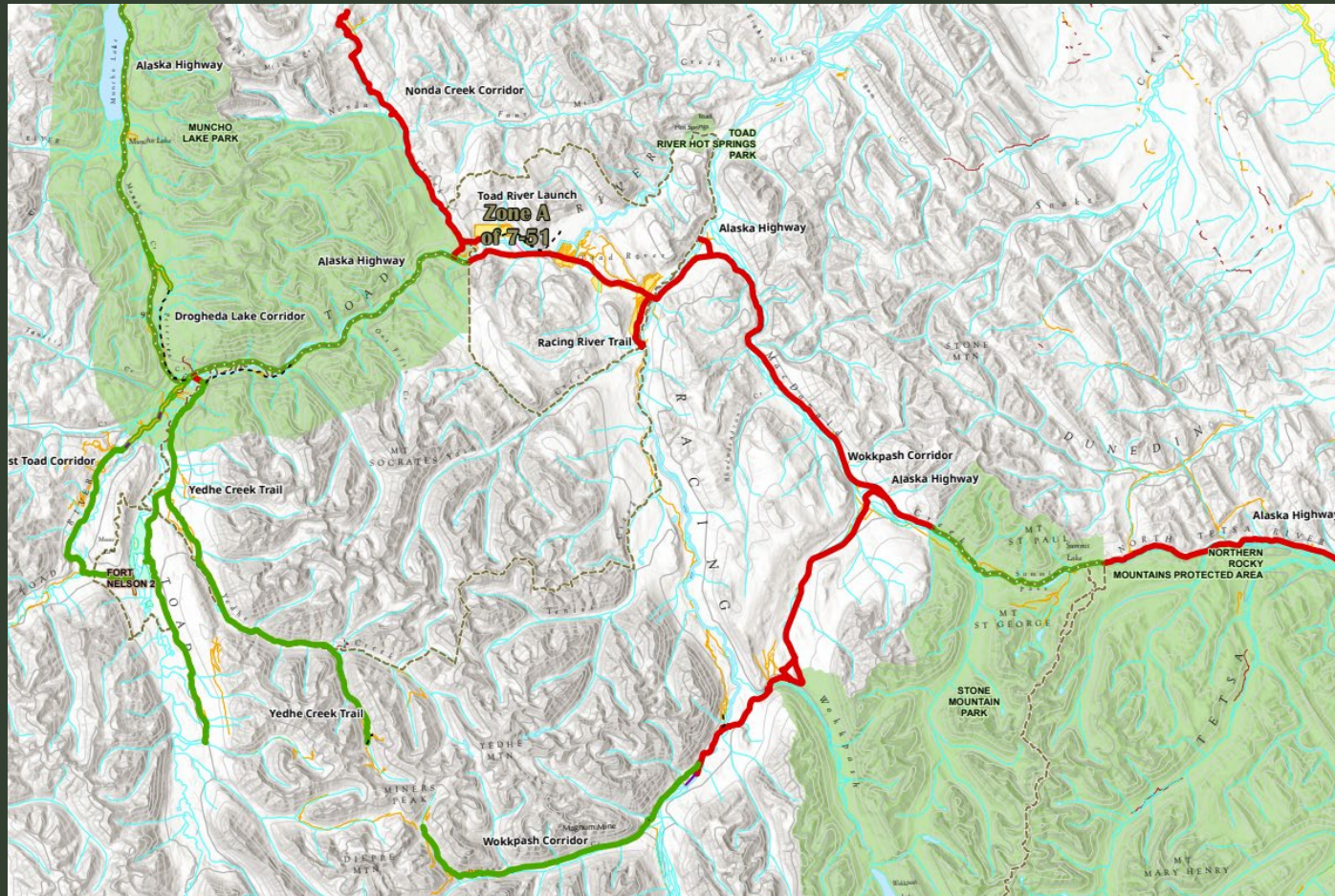
Map Legend continued



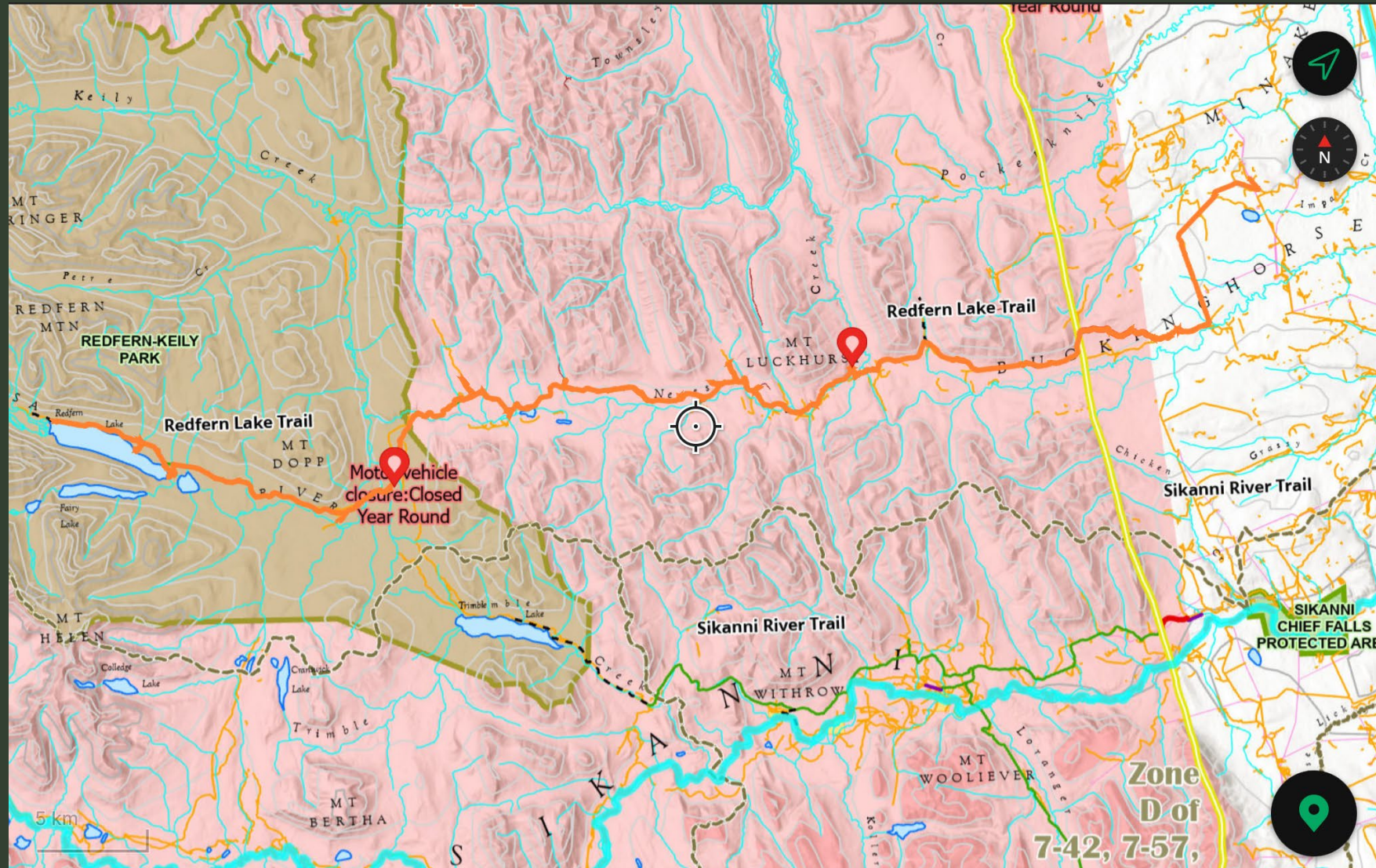
A portion of Map 6 with Redfern, Sikanni and Halfway Trails displayed. Also, MU7-58, LEH Zone C of 7-45, 7-57 and Zone D of 7-42, 7-57, 7-58.



A portion of Map 2 with Alaska Highway displayed. Also, MU7-51, LEH Zone A of 7-51.



Map 6 with tracking capabilities



Halfway River Trail Field Day

- Reconnaissance of Halfway River Trail on July 8, 2024
- Determine if trail signs are functional or require replacement.
- Some signs were replaced, and few new signs were installed
- Field team consisted of personnel from the Conservation Officer Service, NE Fish and Wildlife, Rec Sites and Trails, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and Blueberry River First Nation.



Halfway River Trail Field Day – The field crew



Halfway River Trail Field Day – Reconnaissance Information



Halfway River Trail Field Day

- We chose to go through Pink Mountain Ranch as the trail around the ranch was determined to be non-traversable.
- The remainder of the trail was in generally good shape with a few compromised sections as depicted in the photo.



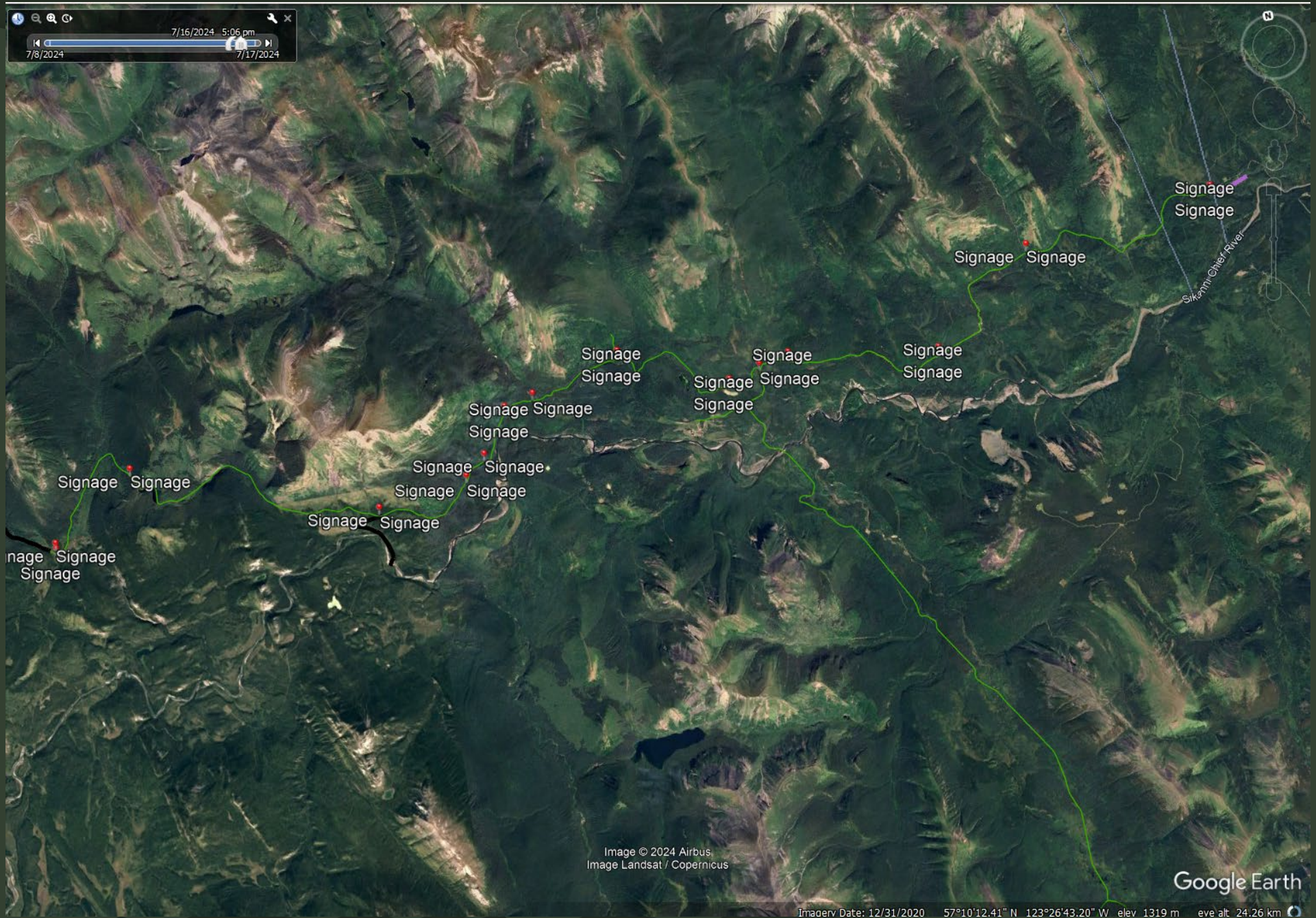
A couple more trail photos



Sikanni River Trail Field Day

- Reconnaissance of Sikanni River Trail
 - Note, the Marion Lake Trail was not completed
- Determine if trail signs are functional or require replacement.
- Some signs were replaced, and few new signs were installed
- Field team consisted of personnel from the Conservation Officer Service and Rec Sites and Trails.





7/16/2024 5:06 pm
7/8/2024 7/17/2024

Image © 2024 Airbus
Image Landsat / Copernicus

Google Earth

Imagery Date: 12/31/2020 57°10'12.41" N 123°26'43.20" W elev 1319 m eve alt 24.26 km



Sign Replacement



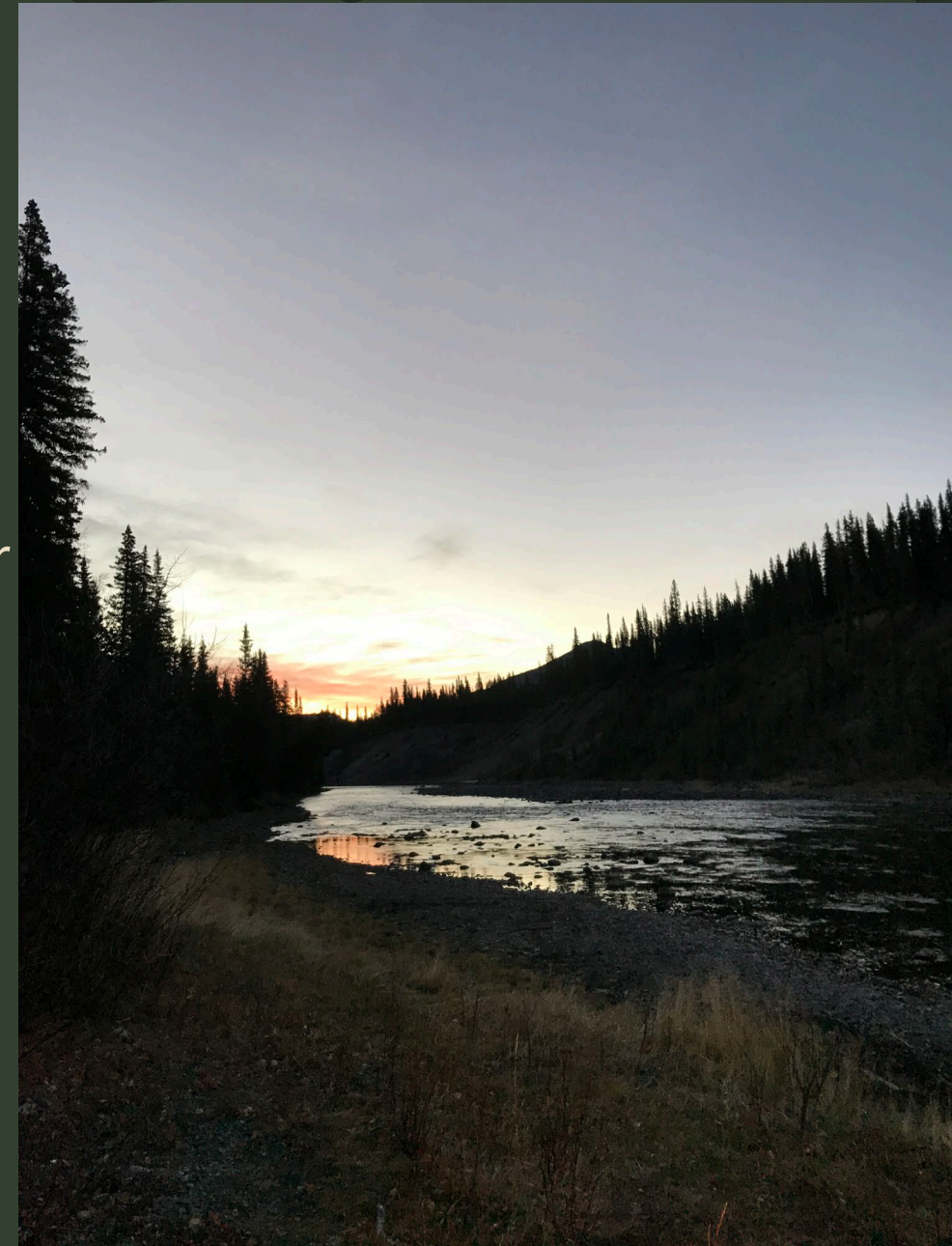
New Signage is Working!

- Evidence of ATV's turning around at sign locations
- Snowmobile and some ATV sign going around the signs
- Easier to enforce/defend in court



Future Initiatives

- Complete the mapping project and release to the public
- Update trails to reflect accuracy on the map
- Potential reconnaissance and sign upgrades for additional trails.
 - Re-signing two trails per year
- Collaboration with other agencies
- Potential for action items as suggested by Muskwa – Kechika Advisory Board



Thank you

