

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board
2007-2009 Report
to the Premier and the Public

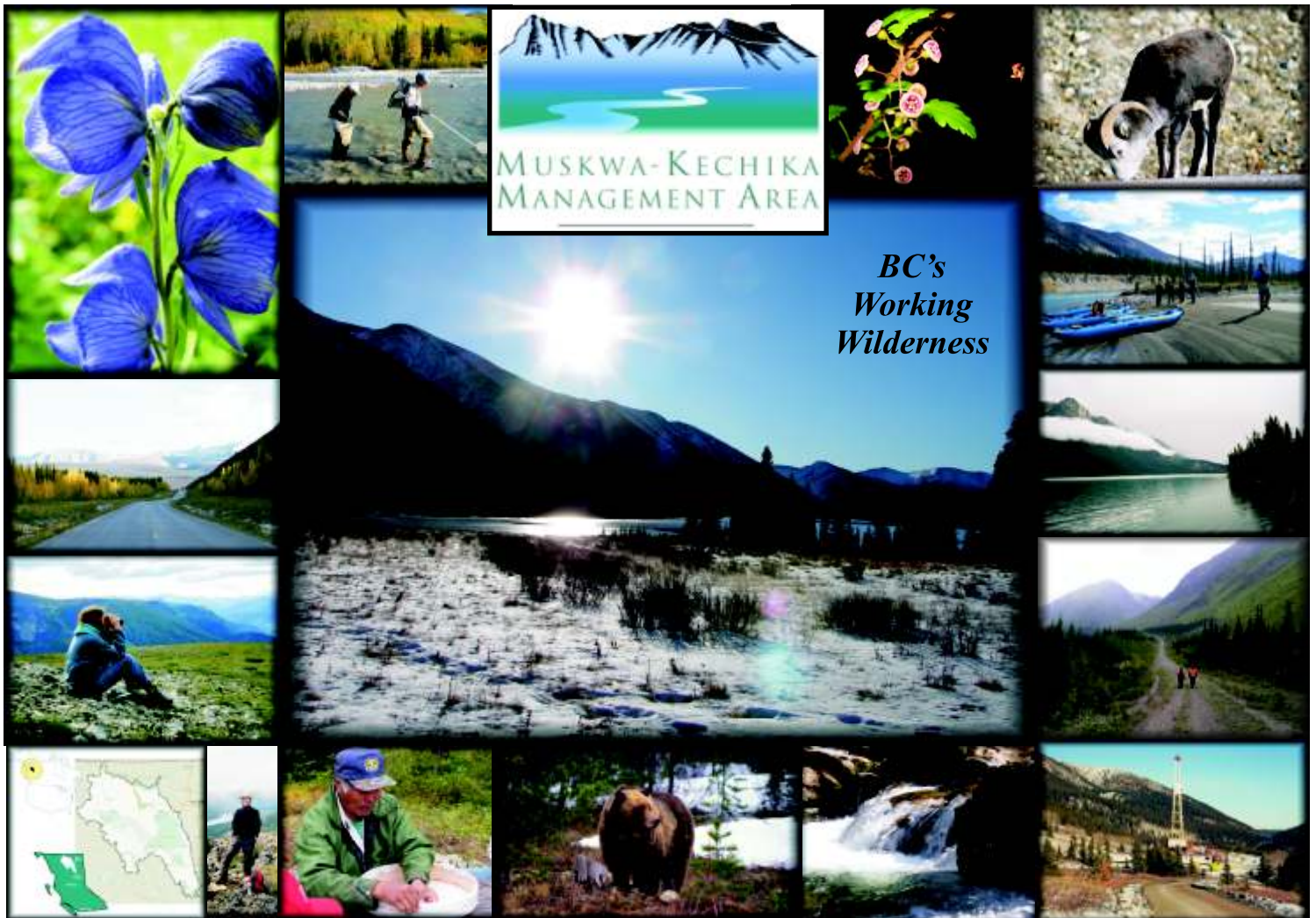


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K.Vince

Message from the M-KAB Chair

As you will note, this report is covering two years from 2007 to the end of 2009. This is due to the fact that the provincial government, as it worked through numerous changes internally, provided a report to the Advisory Board in November of 2009 covering the previous two years.

It is imperative for our Advisory Board to have this government report in order for us to report out responsibly and accurately to both the Premier, government and the public.

It is our sincere desire to maintain a positive working relationship with government and its various ministries and manager groups so that we can provide the best advice to them on the future management of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area. We trust that the provincial government through the Interagency Directors Committee and the two northern Sub Regional Manager groups, will provide this Advisory Board with timely activity reports in the future.



This report highlights several of the key accomplishments of this Advisory Board over the past two years. We look forward to seeing many further successes and accomplishments, in cooperation with the provincial government and land users within the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, that will ensure the vision and objectives for this area met for future generations.

It is with this background that I am pleased to submit this M-KAB Annual Report, which covers the period of 2007 to 2009, to the Premier of British Columbia, the respective cabinet Ministers and the public of British Columbia who I trust will continue to learn about the M-KMA and its important role it plays on behalf of all British Columbians.

Tom Briggs
Chair
Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

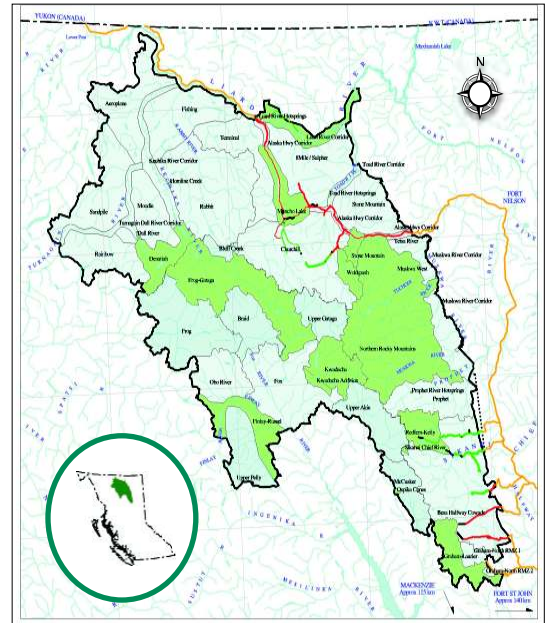
Background : Muskwa-Kechika Management Area

Rich in wildlife, minerals, gas, forests and recreational resources, the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, located in northeastern British Columbia, is a vast area of land, 6.4-million hectares.

The M-KMA has been legally established to conserve wilderness, wildlife and cultural values in perpetuity.

To note:

- 75 per cent of the area is open for industrial resource extraction.
- 25 per cent of the area has been designated as protected areas and provincial park
- The Advisory Board is working to increase awareness of natural resource opportunities so they can be fully realized for the benefit of the province as a whole.
- The Advisory Board is also working to increase awareness that resource development in the M-KMA is subject to a highest form of environmental standards that conserve wilderness, wildlife and cultural values.



The unique wilderness and natural resources of the M-KMA transcends its borders and it is integral to the lives of the First Nations people, their communities, and other residents who live in and around the area.

The experiences in the M-KMA provide lessons that are of benefit to all British Columbians. First, it is a model in land-use planning, which clearly shows the benefits of consensus-based decision making. Second, it demonstrates that resource development, wilderness, wildlife, and cultural values can co-exist. These experiences are invaluable as we move forward and could be applied elsewhere.



Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

M-KAB Mission

“Provide respected and trusted advice that ensures the dynamic ecosystems, wilderness, wildlife and cultural diversity of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area are maintained in perpetuity”

Membership:

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan regulation states:

“The Premier will appoint up to 17 members to the Advisory Board, including a Board Chair, such that the Advisory Board represents a broad range of interests. These would include, but not be limited to, First Nations, environmental groups, business, labour and Fort Nelson and Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plan participants. Kaska Dena representatives would be appointed in accordance with the Letter of Understanding between the Kaska Dena Council and the Province of British Columbia, signed September 24, 1997.”

The list of members in 2007-09 and a brief biography is in Appendix 1.

Responsibilities of the M-KAB:

- conducting semi-annual reviews of the issuance of tenures and approval of operational activities to examine the achievement of management plan objectives through local strategic planning and operational activities;
- reporting, at least annually, to the public and the Premier on the results of the Board's semi-annual reviews and any other issues related to the management of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area;
- providing advice to the Inter-Agency Management Committee on corporate priorities for and coordination of local strategic planning in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area;
- facilitating provincial, national and international exposure of the values and management of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area;
- supporting the initiation of local strategic plans for the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, to achieve the management plan objectives;
- ensuring adequate public consultation in the preparation and approval of local strategic plans, amendments to the Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan, any other significant policy issue for the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, or as requested by the Inter-Agency Management Committee;
- providing recommendations to the Environment and Land Use Committee on any proposed amendments to the Management Plan.

For the purposes of this report, it is noted that the M-KAB has been provided contracted support services that assists them to:

- maintain a public information office located in Fort St John
- maintain and update a website for public information regarding the M-KMA and also provides a secure web page for Advisory Board members to keep up to date with all Advisory Board business
- provide administration support services for all the logistics for meetings and teleconferences and an interface with the public
- professional services support to initiate project work, formulating advice to government, internal Board operation policies and procedures and maintain contact with government agencies on behalf of the Advisory Board.

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

The M-KAB Strategic Plan and Business Plan Direction document provides details on the operation of the Advisory Board. This document is posted on our website.

The M-KAB meets twice annually and if needed three times. Meetings rotated in 2007-08 between the communities of Mackenzie, Fort St John and Fort Nelson.

The Executive Committee of the Advisory Board meets monthly to ensure ongoing Advisory Board business is tracked and followed through on.

The following briefly highlights the responsibilities of the 5 program areas of the M-KAB. Each committee usually meets monthly to follow through on their projects and initiatives and they report out at each Advisory Board meeting.

Knowledge and Understanding

- Collecting, disseminating and understanding information, data and knowledge used in decision-making within the M-KMA

Resource Management

- Developing and implementing decision-making processes and practices regarding the maintenance of the wilderness, wildlife, ecological, cultural values within the M-KMA and the management of renewable and non-renewable socio-economic resources and activities in the M-KMA

Monitoring and Reporting

- Measuring progress toward the Vision for the M-KMA

Awareness and Support

- Building a constituency of advocates for the M-KMA

Organizational Development

- Strengthening the institutional and administrative structures supporting Advisory Board work



M-KAB Advice to the Provincial Government

The M-KAB continues to provide advice to the provincial government in terms of finalizing the required local strategic plans listed in the *Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan Regulation*.

Over the past two years, the M-KAB has been collaborating with the BC Government and its respective Ministries on various issues facing the M-KMA.

To note, the local strategic plans for the Parks and Protected Area and a Recreation Plan for the M-KMA are required to be completed. The M-KAB has been working with BC Parks on several park plans and desire to see these finalized. There has been no movement from government on the Recreational Management Plan. It is important to note that a signed off Recreation Plan was in place prior to the Mackenzie addition to the M-KMA. The requirement now is to ensure that the issues and concerns from the Mackenzie addition are known and that this area be included in one recreation plan for the M-KMA to guide recreation activities in the future.

Still outstanding is the requirement to upgrade the Upper Sikanni Management Plan to a Pre Tenure Plan that will be consistent with the oil and gas local strategic plans for the M-KMA.

The M-KAB welcomed the sign off of the M-K Wildlife Management Plan strategy and the accompanying Technical manual for wildlife management in the M-KMA. The Advisory Board is most anxious to see this strategy implemented and will continue to collaborate with the Ministry on the implementation to ensure wildlife values are managed well in the M-KMA.

A further outstanding issue for the M-KAB is with wind power development. There is no strategic plan or objectives for wind power development in the M-KMA. The Advisory Board has provided advice to the provincial government on this matter and is waiting for a response to their concerns.



Projects and Achievements

Sulphur 8 Mile Stone's sheep research:

The Sulphur / 8 Mile Stone's Sheep Project, Northern British Columbia; a multi year and multi-stakeholder research and planning initiative in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area is nearing completion of Phase 1 which focused on determining baseline Stone's sheep population status (including demographics, habitat use, and survival) in the S8M project area.

The outcomes of this final project will provide the oil and gas industry with scientifically defensible management options to support the sustainability of both Stone's sheep populations and resource development opportunities.

This work is part of a multi-stakeholder collaborative project which aims to contribute to long term Stone's sheep management for north-eastern BC.



Brian Churchill

To keep abreast of this project and the outcomes which are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2010, please visit the website: www.synergyecology.ca/S8Msheep

M-KMA Environmental Youth Camp:

The 2008 Youth Camp was special as it celebrated the ten-years of the Youth Camp in the M-KMA. The camp is hosted alternatively between Treaty 8 Tribal Association and the Kaska Dena Council.

T8TA had the honour of hosting and coordinating the Muskwa-Kechika Environmental Youth Camp August 14-23, 2008. This initiative was in collaboration with, encouraged and supported by the Council of Treaty 8 Chiefs.

The location of the camp was 20 miles southeast of Mile 442 of the Alaska Highway on Moose Lake. The camp is owned by the MacDonald family and traditionally used by First Nations people. The camp was equipped with a cook's cabin, outhouses, tents, two fire pits, hiking trails, fishing spots, as well as three quads and two boats used for transportation and educational purposes.



T8TA celebrated ten consecutive years in nurturing the development of our youth with traditional and wilderness living. The camp offered those attending an opportunity to experience First Nation traditions and ceremony. These youth had a chance to discover their heritage, strengthen their culture and increase their knowledge.

The overall goal of the Muskwa-Kechika Environmental Youth Camp is to offer youth a two-week wilderness experience. They will be afforded the opportunity to develop their skills and gain knowledge in traditional and contemporary land use in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area. The 2008 camp hosted by Treaty 8 Tribal Association did meet these project goals!

Check out the full 2008 Youth Camp report on the Muskwa-Kechika website: (Soon to be posted will be the 2009 Youth Camp report hosted by the Kaska Dena) www.muskwa-kechika.com

UNBC Partnership Agreement with the M-KAB

For the first 8 years of this partnership agreement, much has been accomplished in terms of research work in the M-KMA.

With the expiration of the M-K Trust fund monies in 2006 there has been a limited amount of further research work and graduate student work specifically targeted on the partnership agreement in the M-KMA.

Ongoing discussion with UNBC and the M-KAB are now focusing on establishment of a M-KMA course at UNBC. It is only at the preliminary stage of discussions and will be followed through in 2010. As well, UNBC has a student doing a project on the effects of prescribed burning in the Besa area of the M-KMA. The findings of this project will be provided to the M-KAB and will be available to the public when completed.

An M-KMA Endowment fund had been set up with UNBC at the beginning of this partnership agreement. The intent was to work to have the endowment fund reach \$1 million prior to utilizing funds for projects in the M-KMA. Ongoing discussions between UNBC and the M-KAB will see that this endowment fund will assist in meeting the long term objectives of the M-KMA.

M-KAB Financial Report

Operational Funding for M-KAB

In March of 2009, the Integrated Land Management Bureau provided a \$400,000 grant to the M-KAB.

This funding was provided for the operation of the M-KAB. It was incumbent for the Advisory Board to find a third party that would hold these funds and provide the financial administration to dispense funding.

An agreement was reached between the M-KAB and Resources North Association in Prince George and the funds were in place for April 2009.

These funds are directed by the M-KAB for delivery upon its mandate and include: travel costs for Advisory Board members undertaking Advisory Board business, an honorarium for the Chair of M-KAB, leasing of a small office in Fort St. John along with phones, internet and office materials and the services of a Secretariat to support day to day needs of the Advisory Board.

Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund Account:

The Provincial government has directed the M-KAB to utilize the remaining funds in the M-K Trust account which in 2008 had approximately \$525,000.

The M-KAB provided the Honorable Steve Thomson, Minister Responsible for the M-KAB an Expenditure Plan in July of 2009 for utilizing these remaining funds.

The Minister has approved and signed off the Expenditure Plan and the Advisory board is now implementing the projects in the approved plan.

A full report on these funds and the projects will be provided in the next annual report of the M-KAB.



Appendix 1: Board Member Biographies



Tom Briggs and his wife Karen moved to Mackenzie, BC in 1974 where they raised their two children. Tom is community-minded and was involved in municipal politics, beginning his political career in 1986 and ending in 2005. He served 7 years as a Councilor followed by 12 years as Mayor. During his political tenure, Tom served on many Boards and Committees including Director of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, Chair of the Northern Treaties Treaty Advisory Committee, Chair of the Northern Development Initiative Trust Prince George Regional Advisory Committee and Director of the North Central Municipal Association, to name a few. He continues to play an active role in the District of Mackenzie. Tom was appointed as the Chair of the M-KAB in May of 2007 and is also Chair of the M-K Awareness and Support Committee.



Bill Lux represents the Dease River First Nation. Bill is the Kaska Dena Council Executive Vice-Chair, Lands and Resources. As one of four Kaska Dena members on the M-K Advisory Board, Bill is dedicated to representing the Dease River First Nations perspective on land use and resource planning and management in the M-KMA.



Corrine Porter is a member of the Kaska Nation and employee for the past 10 years. Currently residing in Watson Lake and recently graduated with a Natural Resource Science Bachelors Degree from the University College of the Caribou. Corrine is the Executive Director of Dena Keyah Institute. She participates on the North Peace Stone's Sheep Steering Committee, the Yukon Forest Management Committee, the Boreal Leadership Council and the Northern Nations Alliance.



Stephanie Killam is Mayor of Mackenzie and a municipal council member for 9 years, has worked as the senior secretary at Mackenzie Secondary School since 1979. Married for 39 years, she and her husband Donald have raised two children. She has served on the Museum Society, Club 55 (seniors activities), the Chamber of Commerce, the Municipal Emergency Program, the Mackenzie and Area Health Advisory Committee, the Mackenzie and District Hospital Board, Community Health Council, Northern Interior Regional Health Board and Children's and Women's Health Centre as well as many others. Committed to the community and region and well versed in environmental issues, Stephanie works to strike a balance between conservation and economic development.



Wayne Sawchuk, an experienced backcountry horseman and nature photographer, brings a conservation perspective to the Advisory Board as well as extensive knowledge about forestry and oil and gas. Actively involved in the planning processes that led to the creation of the M-KMA, he is the winner of the 2006 Canadian Environment award. As a photographer he has captured a diverse wildlife and outdoor subjects with skill and artistry, and has donated many photographs for use in M-K publications including the M-K Annual Reports.



Barry Holland, a big game hunter, pilot and backcountry traveler, brings experience to petroleum and natural gas technology as well as occupational safety. Barry actively participated in the Fort St John LRMP process prior to being appointed to the M-K Advisory Board.



Andy Johnson is currently the Area Business leader for Spectra Energy. Previous to this, he worked as the Small Business Officer and Planning Officer for the Ministry of Forests. Mr. Johnson obtained a Bachelor of Science in Forestry at the University of British Columbia and he is currently a member of the Association of BC Professional Foresters.



Darrell Regimbald is a registered professional forester with over 20 years experience in the public and private sectors managing forest resources (timber, recreation, wildlife habitat, silviculture). Currently, he is a Strategic Planning Forester with Canadian Forest Products Ltd. Prior to this, Mr. Regimbald was a Silviculture Forester and Silviculture Audit/Stand Tending Forester with the BC Ministry of Forests. Mr. Regimbald has been active in ecosystem restoration activities in the Rocky Mountain trench. In the communities he has lived in, he is a member and President of the Fort Nelson Historical Society and was a volunteer Fireman for the Radium Hot Springs Fire Department. In addition, he was the Chair of the Fort Nelson Timber Supply Area Steering Committee and past Chair of the Invermere Forest District Joint Health and Safety Committee. In 2006, Mr. Regimbald was awarded the Fort Nelson Friend of the Forest award. He holds his Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Alberta and diploma in advanced silviculture from the University of BC.



Johnny Mikes started working river rafting trips in northern BC as a boy with his father in the early 1970's. He has guided wilderness river, hiking and natural history trips for over 30 years and is very familiar with many remote areas of northern BC including much of the Muskwa-Kechika as well as portions of the Yukon and Canadian Arctic.

Appendix 1: Board Member Biographies

Tim Trapp is a member of Kwadacha First Nation and have lived in northern British Columbia all of his life, with the last 6 years in and around Kwadacha. I have worked on both sides of forestry, as a grader operator for logging companies, and more recently with education in forest resource technology, helping with planning, silviculture and program development for Kwadacha Natural resource Agency in Kwadacha. His recreational activities coincide with daily needs of sustenance, hunting and fishing, and hiking. His interest in this M-KMA is for the people of Kwadacha and myself and my family and future generations of people in Kwadacha to help protect and preserve it.

Peter Stone is a member of the Kaska Dena Nation of Liard River and represents the Muncho area & Kwadacha First Nation. Peter is involved in the oil and gas industry, providing consultation services that link the aboriginal community and petroleum businesses together. He was born and raised in the M-KMA, and has worked in a variety of occupations including forestry, mining, trapping and assistant game guiding.

Jason Lee is currently employed as a wildlife biologist with the Treaty 8 Tribal Association. The Treaty 8 Tribal Association represents six of the BC Treaty 8 First Nation communities. He is a graduate of the University of Northern British Columbia and Malaspina University College. With a diverse background in natural resource management, he has worked in wildlife and fisheries research, as a Park Ranger (South Peace and South Tweedsmuir Provincial Parks), in the forestry and mining exploration industry, and as a search and rescue technician with the Canadian Coast Guard.

Laureen Whyte, is Vice President, Policy and Sustainability with the Association for Mineral Exploration BC Prior joining AME BC, Ms. Whyte was the Principal of Arbutus Consulting where she provided strategic planning, community/aboriginal relations, and project management services to various organizations. She led a professional staff to assist in establishment of Spectra Energy. She has taught organizational development and strategic planning courses at the BC Institute of Technology and is the author of “Making the Grade - A Guide to Success in Corporate AboriginalPartnerships”. She is an advisor to the Community Development Education Program of the Social Planning and Research Council for Aboriginal Business, and former Chair of the Aboriginal Relations Committee if the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association. Laureen holds her Master of Arts in Public Policy from the University of Calgary.

James (Leif) Olsen, is the owner and manager of Circle F Cattle Company and Stone Mountain Safaris Ltd. He is a member of the Guide Outfitters of BC.

Roslyn Mary Pokiak, is the Land Management Administrator with the Halfway River First Nation. She has served in a variety of roles with the Halfway River First Nation and was the Community Liason with Westcoast Energy.

Notes

Lined area for notes.

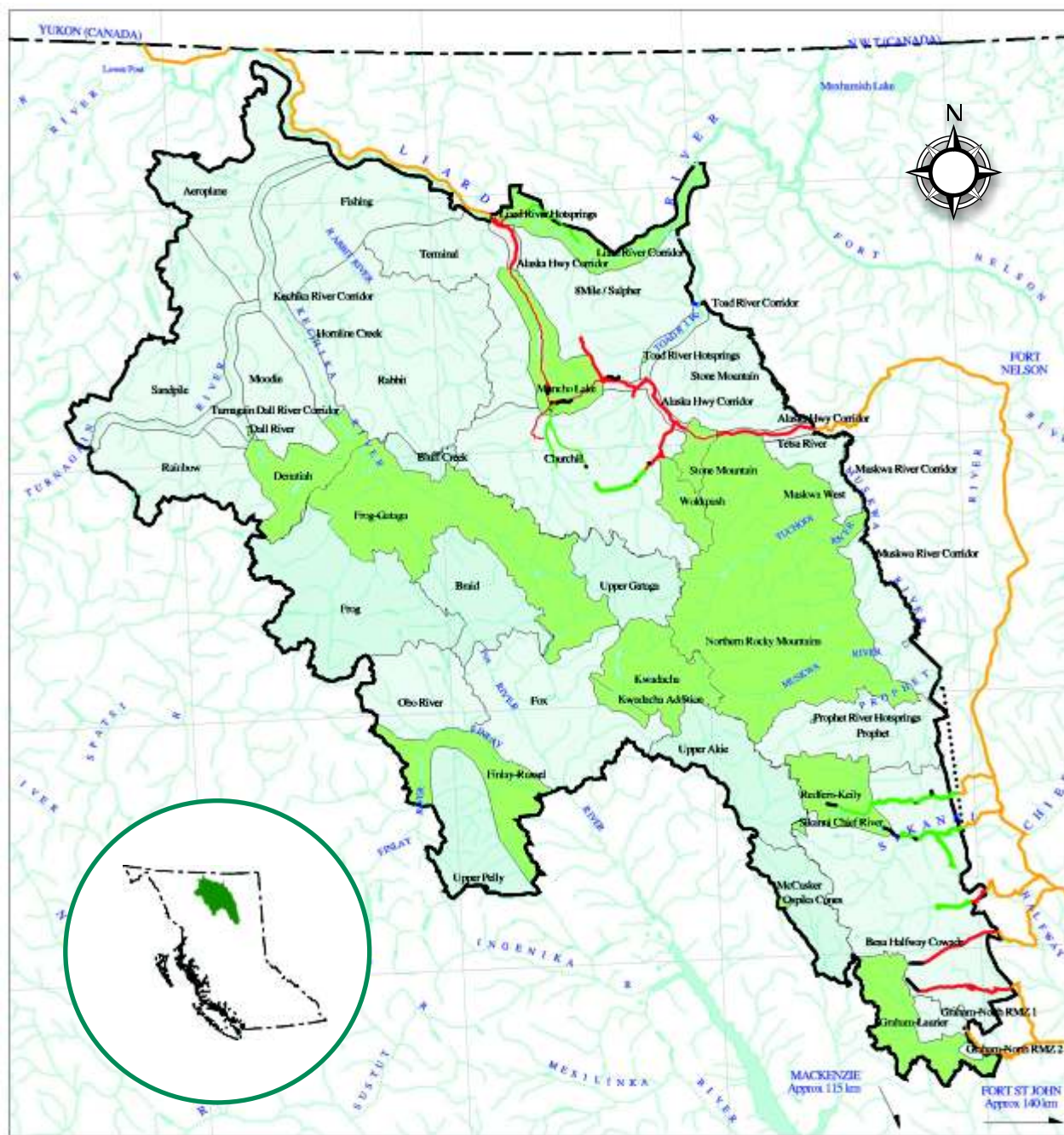
Notes

Lined area for notes.



MUSKWA-KECHIKA
MANAGEMENT AREA
www.muskwa-kechika.com

*One of North America's true wilderness
areas south of the 60th parallel.*



A vast mosaic of protected areas and special management zones.

Total area: 6.4 million hectares

Protected Areas: 1.64 million hectares

Special Management Zones: 3.63 million hectares

Special Wildland Zones: 0.92 million hectares



MUSKWA-KECHIKA
MANAGEMENT AREA

Produced by Geoff Bateson
Muskwa-Kechika
Peace Region GIS Section
August 28, 2001



- Protected Area/Proposed Protected Area/Ecological Reserve
- Enhanced Resource Development
- Special Management
- Special Wildland
- Travel is restricted to within 400m of route (Restricted to Alaska Highway right-of-way through Muncho Lake, Stone Mountain, Northern Rocky Mountains Provincial Parks/Protected areas)
- Travel is restricted to within 10m of route
- Travel is restricted to within 400m of route (vehicles under 500kg only)
- Travel is restricted to within 10m of route (vehicles under 500kg only)
- Closed to all motor vehicle travel (snowmobiles exempt)
- Roads and trails not within Muskwa-Kechika Management area

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