

**2009 Chilko River Roundtable Meetings Summary
and an Overview of
Ecosystem Based Management Planning
and its Potential Benefits to Fish
in the
Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area**



Report Prepared For:
The Chilko River Roundtable
Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government
General Delivery
Nemiah Valley, BC
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LEGAL COVENANT FROM THE XENI GWET'IN GOVERNMENT

The Tsilhqot'in and Xeni Gwet'in assert aboriginal title and rights in the Brittany Triangle and Xeni Gwet'in trap line. These areas are within the Tsilhqot'in traditional territory of Xeni Gwet'in First Nation and are delineated in William v. B.C. et al B.C.S.C. – Victoria Registry, Action No. 9-0913. Nothing in this report shall abrogate or derogate from any aboriginal title or aboriginal rights of the Tsilhqot'in, the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation or any Tsilhqot'in or Xeni Gwet'in members.

Acknowledgments

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We would also like to extend our gratitude to the community members within the Cariboo/Chilcotin and those who reside in the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area for their participation in the Chilko River Roundtable process.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Xeni Gwet'in

Since time immemorial the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government, one of six Tsilhqot'in communities, has lived primarily in the Nemiah Valley/Chilko Lake area of the Chilcotin Region in British Columbia. They are resilient and unconquered and live close to the land that has sustained them for generation after generation. The Xeni Gwet'in has never signed a treaty with Canada or British Columbia, nor are they a participant of the BC Treaty Process. They have strongly indicated their independence and in 1989 provided the rest of the world the following declaration known as the ***Nemiah Aboriginal Wilderness Preserve***:

Let it be known that within the Nemiah Aboriginal Wilderness Preserve:

1. There shall be no commercial logging. Only local cutting of trees for our own needs, i.e. firewood, housing, fencing, native uses, etc.
2. There shall be no mining or mining explorations.
3. There shall be no commercial road building.
4. All-terrain vehicles and skidoos shall only be permitted for trapping purposes.
5. There shall be no flooding or dam construction on Chilko, Taseko, and Tatlayoko Lakes.
6. This is the spiritual and economic homeland of our people. We will continue in perpetuity: a) to have and exercise our traditional rights of hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and natural resources; b) to carry on our traditional ranching way of life; c) to practice our traditional native medicine, religion, sacred, and spiritual ways.
7. That we are prepared to SHARE our Nemiah Aboriginal Wilderness Preserve with non-natives in the following ways; a) with our permission visitors may come and view and photograph our beautiful land; b) we will issue permits, subject to our conservation rules, for hunting and fishing within our Preserve; c) the respectful use of our Preserve by canoeists, hikers, light campers, and other visitors is encouraged, subject to our system of permits.
8. We are prepared to enforce and defend our Aboriginal rights in any way we are able. (Xeni Gwet'in)

As a further statement to their independence and their resolve to manage the landscape that they are so reliant on, the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government protected the Brittany Triangle (the area between the Taseko and Chilko Rivers) with a roadblock at Henry's Crossing in 1992 to prevent logging in their traditional area without their approval. After several attempts at partnerships and negotiations with major licensees, the

logging plan for the Brittany Triangle was eventually turned down by the community and remains so to this day.

The Xeni Gwet'in also played a very large part in the development of the Ts'il'os Provincial Park. This 233,000 hectare park located on the shores of Chilko Lake was established in 1994 and protects vegetation, wildlife and fish habitats, cultural values, and special features. The Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government plays an active role in the co-management of this pristine wilderness area, yet they also recognize that human activities have a role to play in this preserve. The BC Parks website states "*Activities present in the area before the park's creation, and still permitted today, include hunting, trapping, and cattle grazing. The historical importance of these uses is recognized, and there is a commitment in the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land-Use Plan to ensuring that such activities continue at existing levels*" (BC Parks).

As additional proof to their resolve to manage the resources in their traditional area, an important court case that has been underway for almost two decades was provided a decision on November 21, 2007. In the *Roger William v the Queen in Right of the Province of British Columbia et al.* decision "*Justice David Vickers of the British Columbia Supreme Court ruled today that the Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) people have proven Aboriginal title to approximately 200,000 square hectares in and around the remote Nemaiah Valley, south and west of Williams Lake, British Columbia. Although Justice Vickers declined to make a declaration of title based on technical issues, he found that the tests for evidence of title were met in almost half the area claimed*" (FONV).

The media release found on the Friends of the Nemaiah Valley website and posted by the Xeni Gwet'in's legal firm Woodward and Company goes on to state: *Justice Vickers made a number of important findings that will impact future relations between the governments of Canada and British Columbia and First Nations, including:*

1. *The Tsilhqot'in people have aboriginal rights, including the right to trade furs to obtain a moderate livelihood, throughout the Claim Area.*
 2. *British Columbia's Forest Act does not apply within Aboriginal title lands.*
 3. *British Columbia has infringed the Aboriginal rights and title of the Tsilhqot'in people, and has no justification for doing so.*
 4. *Canada's Parliament has unacceptably denied and avoided its constitutional responsibility to protect Aboriginal lands and Aboriginal rights, pursuant to s. 91(24) of the Constitution.*
 5. *British Columbia has apparently been violating Aboriginal title in an unconstitutional and therefore illegal fashion ever since it joined Canada in 1871.*
- (FONV)

The decision by Judge Vickers is under appeal and the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government continues to wait for a decision.

In further support for the need of a new land and resource management structure for the Xeni Gwet'in is a 2008 research paper prepared by Maria Morellato for the National Centre for First Nations Governance. One of her comments on the Williams case is as follows: *"This decision has significant implications for the provincial and federal governments, given B.C.'s longstanding management of provincial natural resources. If the trial judge's decision is upheld on appeal, it will mean that the federal and Tsilhqot'in governments must work together to determine the use to which Tsilhqot'in aboriginal title lands may be put"* (Morellato).

Recently elected Xeni Gwet'in Chief Marilyn Baptiste also feels strongly about protecting their natural resources and their aboriginal rights and title, and as such has filed a writ in the BC Supreme Court on January 6, 2009. A press release from the Tsilhqot'in National Government on that date states: *"The Tsilhqot'in Nation filed a writ in B.C. Supreme Court today claiming an Aboriginal right to fish. The claim, if successful, will prevent Taseko Mines Ltd. from developing its proposed Prosperity Project, 125 km southwest of Williams Lake. The proposed mine pit, and the construction of the mine tailings and waste rock disposal areas, would completely destroy Teztan Biny (Fish Lake).*

The court action, brought by Chief Marilyn Baptiste of the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation on behalf of the Tsilhqot'in Nation, is seeking a declaration of an Aboriginal right to fish in Teztan Biny, a pristine mountain lake in the heart of Tsilhqot'in territory. For the Tsilhqot'in, the lake is sacred and its destruction unthinkable. The court action aims to permanently stop Taseko from using this natural lake as a disposal site for its toxic mine tailings, a controversial mining practice in Canada that threatens to leave a legacy of environmental contamination that will last for millennia" (TNG). This writ is still in the courts and no decision has been made at this time.

It is very apparent from the examples provided above that the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government is determined to have a greater say, and indeed an inclusive say in what happens to their Caretaker Area. It may be an opportune time for those with an interest in the area to work with the Xeni Gwet'in in management of this landscape through the implementation of an ecosystem based management plan or some version thereof.

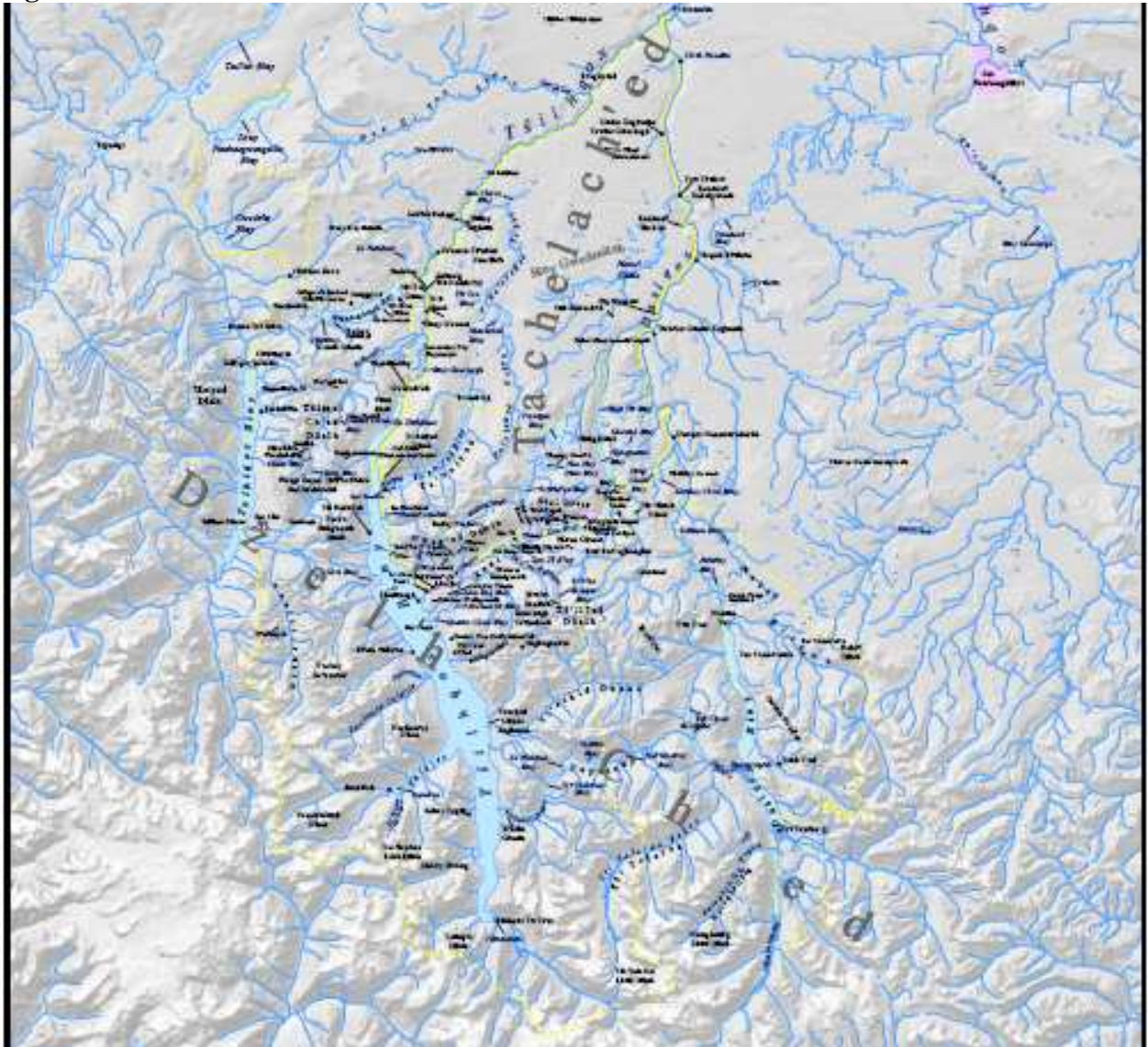
The government of British Columbia has been engaged in a similar management process for the Great Bear Rainforest located on the west coast of British Columbia, and an agreement was signed and co-funded by them on March 31, 2009. Of particular interest to the Xeni Gwet'in and their desire for a new management plan for the resources in their traditional territory is the positive impact an ecosystem based management plan may have on their fishery resource, of which they rely on to this day as a source of protein in their diet.

The premise of this report is to provide some analysis on what an ecosystem based management plan may mean to the fishery resource in the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area (XGCA), and to provide a summary of the Chilko River Roundtable meetings in 2009 and the group's intent to be actively managing the XGCA for fishery values.

1.2 The Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area

The Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area boundaries have yet to be firmly agreed upon, however for the purposes of this report the author has decided to present the map associated with the Roger William court case presided upon by Judge Vickers and currently under appeal. The following figure from the court decision provides a general view of the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area outlines in yellow that includes both the Chilko and Taseko River drainages and the Brittany Triangle south of the confluence of these two productive fishery systems.

Figure 1: The Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area.



(Courtesy of The Supreme Court of British Columbia)

1.3 Chilko River Watershed Roundtable

The Chilko River Watershed Roundtable was established by the Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government and the Chilko Resorts and Community Association in 2008. They have been successful in acquiring funding for their initiatives from organizations such as the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program.

The draft Mission Statement for the Xeni Chilko River Watershed Roundtable is as follows:

"The Chilko Watershed within the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area is a self-sustaining, wild environment and will remain a source of clean water, clean air and abundant fish and wildlife forever, providing an example of how people use and live respectfully with the land."

The intent of the Roundtable is to bring First Nations, community, business, ranchers, resort owners, land owners, and government together in a forum to discuss watershed issues. There is recognition from the group that healthy watersheds can mean healthy economies and healthy social structures all of which are keys to sustainable development. The aforementioned comment is not a new concept to the Xeni Gwet'in community as they have lived since time immemorial with sustainable development as their very goal for existence.

The Roundtable is in its infancy and has met on 4 occasions in each of 2008 and 2009. Steady progress is being made on watershed concerns and options to remedy the problems that have been put forward at the meetings, however many concerns are still outstanding. The Xeni Gwet'in are determined to move forward on fishery initiatives and the ongoing work of the Roundtable. In 2009-2010 the group has moved from their initial Watershed Based Fish Sustainability Plan to establishing a more recent model focused on Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) planning.

Appendix A attached to this report provides the reader with the meeting agendas, Appendix B provides the minutes from the meetings, and Appendix C provides the reader with the Roundtable's initial attempt at policy development to address watershed concerns. This table compares the local issue to similar issues faced by the Nisga'a in the development of their land use policies and also compares the issue to the newly developed EBM plan recently designed for the Great Bear Rainforest.

In review of this table in Appendix C the reader must be conscience of the difficulty in matching the Roundtable issue with something closely resembling a solution albeit for a different area and perhaps with only a very vague resemblance to the Roundtable issue. However the exercise provided confidence that local solutions can be found to local issues through a new watershed management plan that would be designed by the Xeni Gwet'in and members of the Chilko River Roundtable.

1.4 Xeni Gwet'in Fishery Initiatives

The Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government has been active for several years in acquiring funding and implementing fishery initiatives throughout their Caretaker Area. They recognized that aside from Fisheries and Oceans Canada's concentrated efforts (with the valued assistance of the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG)) on sockeye salmon in the Chilko River system, and some limited bull trout and rainbow trout surveys by the BC Ministry of Environment on a couple of streams in their territory, that very little current and up to date data collection was being undertaken.

Since 2006 the following projects were successfully completed by the Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government. The first project listed was undertaken in 2001 and funded by the Chilko Resorts and Community Association and is presented as an important document to the Xeni Gwet'in community. The author has managed all of these initiatives and has provided a list of the reports, a description of the project, and the recommendations presented in each of the related reports in the following table.

Table 1: Xeni Gwet'in Fishery Reports, Project Descriptions and Recommendations.

Project Name	Project Description	Project Recommendations
2001 The Chilko River Watershed. A View to Sustainability	A review of existing information, reports and watershed status.	A long-term sustainable vision of land use in the Chilko River watershed that satisfies all stakeholders is required. The vision must be equitable to all, including First Nations, local residents and businesses, industry and government. The vision must recognize that the three equal pillars of sustainability include a healthy economy, a healthy environment, and a healthy social structure. It is imperative that we leave the world a better place for the next generation; otherwise we have not lived up to the definitions of sustainable development.
2006 Fish and Fish Habitat Training Project on Nemaia Creek WSC 150-335700-98700	Training program for four community members utilizing RISC based fish and fish habitat surveys on Nemaia Creek	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stream restoration and fencing at selected sites on Nemaia Creek 2. Fish friendly culvert replacements on Nemaia Creek and its tributaries 3. Beaver dam and log jam removal at selected sites on Nemaia Creek coupled with beaver trapping 4. Enumeration of salmonid migrations resident in Nemaia Creek 5. Protection of the fishery resource through a change in fishing

Project Name	Project Description	Project Recommendations
		<p>regulations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. An in-depth fishery assessment of the proposed Klokon Creek hydro electric project 7. Sturgeon research in the Caretaker Area based on historic sightings and oral history 8. Terminal or in-stream fishery initiative for sockeye to produce a value added product
2007 Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area Fisheries Assessment and Enhancement Planning Project	<p>Building on the 2006 project, this training project for two community members assessed fish and fish habitat in numerous streams and lakes located in the Caretaker Area and identified restoration opportunities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued fish and fish habitat assessments in un-surveyed areas are recommended in this vast area 2. An assessment of the Taseko Mines Fish Lake proposed mining plan should be undertaken 3. Reconnect the diverted stream from flowing west to Tatlayoko Valley back into Choelquoit Lake 4. Restoration of two sites in the Onion Lake drainage 5. Assessment of a possible spawning stream associated with Big Lake 6. Development of off channel habitat at a selected site on the Taseko River 7. Development of stream connectivity between Chilko Lake and Abelachez Lake 8. Log jam and beaver dam clearance on selected sites within the Nemaia Creek drainage 9. Fencing and provision of dedicated watering sites for cattle on Nemaia Creek 10. Coho assessments of selected streams in the Caretaker Area
2007 Stream Crossing Assessment Report for the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation	<p>An assessment of 162 stream/road crossings was undertaken based on government protocols with recommendations provided as needed. All crossings were assessed for fish passage, maintenance issues and sedimentation concerns or any other impacts on fish habitat.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One forded crossing was considered to be causing significant impact on fish passage and habitat. Four culverts were rated as having a high priority for restoration and 11 culverts were rated as moderate to low priority. These culverts were scored using the Fish Passage Culvert Inspection (FPCI) matrix method developed by Parker (2000). <p>At all sites where issues were present, both fish presence and habitat quality were determined. The person, persons or organization responsible for crossing maintenance in each of the crossings where a fish barrier exists, or may exist, have been notified of their location and the concerns detailed in this report.</p>

Project Name	Project Description	Project Recommendations
2007 Quality Waters Summary Report for the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area	A watershed assessment detailing data gaps, initiatives, comparisons to other watershed initiatives, information on lakes and streams with recommendations for improving the watershed health	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A watershed roundtable should be developed 2. Closer scrutiny of water licence applications and allocations with adequate water for fish a priority 3. A sustainable freshwater food fishery should be allocated to the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation 4. A water quality sampling program has been initiated and these sites should be sampled on an ongoing basis 5. An angling management plan should be implemented and managed by the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation 6. Fish and fish habitat inventories be funded by the federal and provincial governments on an ongoing basis as it is difficult to manage a resource with data gaps such as found in the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area
2008 Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area Fisheries Enhancement Projects	Restoration projects undertaken based on the previous two years of field assessments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that the reconnected stream to Choelquoit Lake remains intact and assess for rainbow or kokanee spawners. Investigate a re-stocking program for kokanee 2. Assess off channel habitat access developed on the Taseko River. Monitor fry usage and maintain access 3. Maintain log jam and beaver dam clearance program on Nemaia Creek for bull trout and sockeye salmon access. Promote creek as a possible canoeing opportunity in cleared sections 4. Undertake the reconstruction of the berm access at Chilko Lake for connection to Abelachez Lake 5. Re-assess spawning creek and road crossing ford on tributary of Onion Lake 6. Assess the potential for an in-stream fishery with a value added product produced locally
2008-2009 Xeni Gwet'in Chilko Roundtable Watershed based Fish Sustainability Plan An Overview	A forum designed to bring interested parties together to discuss watershed concerns and to implement programs to alleviate watershed issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Roundtable should continue to act as a forum for watershed issues and seek continued funding and more active participation from government. 2. Fish and fish habitat surveys should continue in the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area. Many streams and lakes remain un-assessed in this area

Project Name	Project Description	Project Recommendations
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Implement a fry trapping program on streams deemed to be important to the Xeni Gwet'in as their needs are not necessarily the same as government agencies 4. Implement a fisheries guardian program for the XGCA similar to the Parks warden program currently in place 5. Co-management and sole management of the XGCA by the XG must be resolved based on the ruling by Judge Vickers in the Roger William case 6. Further assessment and development of an in-stream fishery for the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation for production of a value added product produced locally
2009 Chilko River Roundtable	A forum designed to bring interested parties together to discuss watershed concerns and to implement programs to alleviate watershed issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This report will be recommending that an ecosystem based management plan or some version thereof be implemented for watershed management of the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area
2009 Water Quality Analysis Report	The report provides a comparative analysis of water samples taken from the XGCA with Canadian Drinking Water Standards. Additionally the report provides a description of the water sample parameters and instruction on how to take drinking water samples.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommended that the water sampling program continue to provide a trend analysis of 30 drinking water sites available to the Xeni Gwet'in.
2009 The Impacts of Climate Change on the Water Quality and Fisheries Resource in the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area	The report has been prepared as part of a larger project undertaken to study the effects of climate change on the Xeni Gwet'in community	(in draft at this time)

As can be seen from the table above and the recommendations provided, a common theme is evolving. Essentially the Roundtable would like to see more meaningful participation from government and funding to assess, enhance where necessary and

monitor the valuable fishery resource in the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area that includes both the Taseko and Chilko River watersheds.

These 11 projects listed above have been initiated solely by the Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government with the assistance of their consultants. Since 2006, they have undertaken more fishery related projects in the XGCA than the BC Provincial government, and aside from Fisheries and Oceans Canada's focus on sockeye salmon, the Xeni Gwet'in have also undertaken more than this federal department.

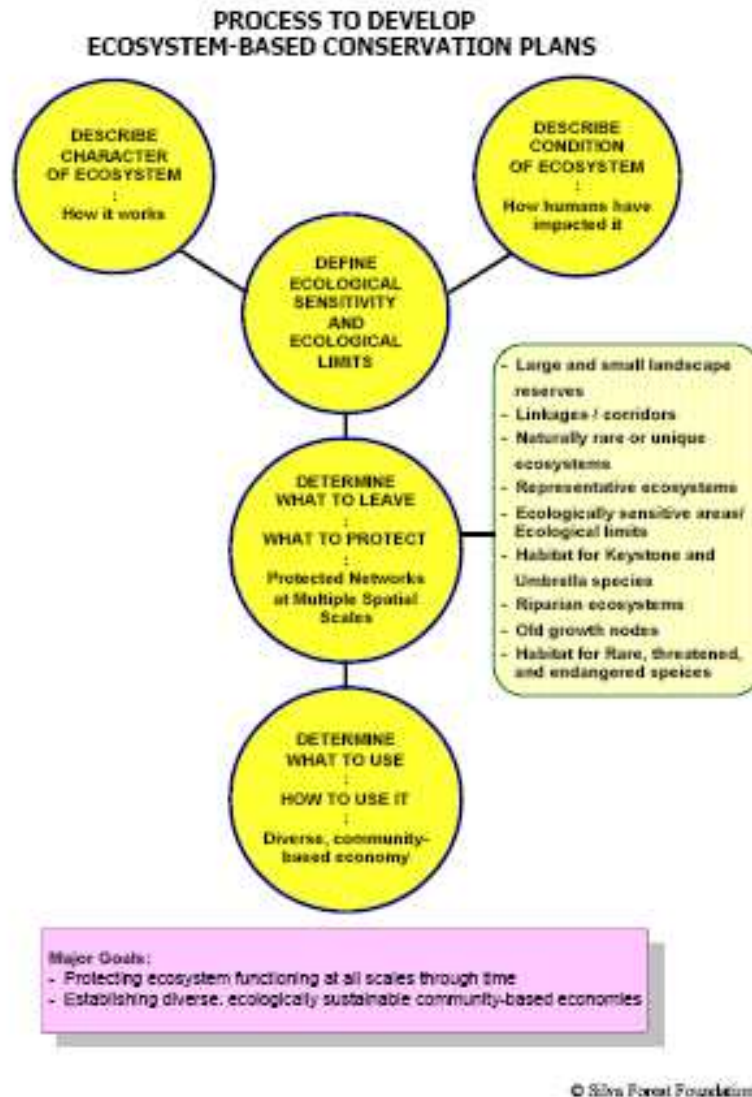
2.0 Ecosystem Based Management Planning

Ecosystem Based Management planning has many definitions, however the David Suzuki Foundation provides the following comment and perhaps sums it up best with:

"Ecosystem-based management (EBM) is a term used to describe a balanced way of managing resources while taking the surrounding ecosystem into account. There is no one definition of EBM, but this early definition has stood the test of time and is widely quoted:

"...ecosystem management is integrating scientific knowledge of ecological relationships within a complex sociopolitical and values framework toward the general goal of protecting native ecosystem integrity over the long term." (Grumbine, 1999)"
(David Suzuki Foundation).

Herb Hammond of the Silva Forest Foundation has undertaken projects with the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation for land and resource development in the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area. Mr. Hammond has been innovative in his approach to land management and has been a strong supporter of ecosystem based management for many years. The following Figure 2 from the Silva Foundation provides the reader with the conceptual process to implement ecosystem based conservation plans.

Figure 2: Process to Development Eco-system Based Conservation Plans.

The Ecosystem Based Planning Tools Network is a diverse alliance of organizations that include foundations, universities, private companies and NGOs to assist in the development of ecosystem based management planning for the marine and freshwater environment. The Network recommends 8 core elements to assist in moving the process forward from the conceptual phase to implementation (EBPTN).

These 8 core elements are worthy of review in this document and are as follows:

Core Element 1: Nature's Services

In ecosystem-based management (EBM), goals and success are defined in terms of sustaining nature's services such as fisheries, climate regulation, and recreational opportunities, including any that fall outside an organization's primary mission. Nature's services are called ecosystem services by scientists.

Core Element 2: Scientific Evidence

Natural and social sciences are used to understand processes that generate nature's services; changes in the ecosystem over time; values that people place on nature's services; effects of human activities on nature's services; and outcomes of management actions. Existing scientific information is used, and new research may be conducted. Scientific monitoring is used to measure progress toward EBM goals.

Core Element 3: Geographic Scales

EBM initiatives focus on specific geographic areas, small or large. Preferably, the boundaries are defined by nature, not politics. The geographic area is viewed both as a collection of smaller places and as a component of a larger geography. To bridge these geographic scales, EBM practitioners find ways to share information, align goals, and take complementary action with other organizations and individuals.

Core Element 4: Ecological Linkages

When any part of an ecosystem changes, such as a species, habitat, or natural process, it can directly or indirectly affect many other aspects of the ecosystem. People are part of the ecosystem, and they affect the ecosystem and are affected by it. EBM practitioners learn about these ecological linkages, based on scientific information.

Core Element 5: Cumulative Impacts

Ecological effects of human activities can be additive, and the cumulative impacts can cause a decline in nature's services—even when some of the activities seem harmless, the activities happen at different times or places, and the activities occur in different sectors of the economy. EBM practitioners develop and implement policies, management plans, regulations, and enforcement procedures that account for these cumulative impacts.

Core Element 6: Tradeoffs Among Human Activities

The ecosystem has a finite capacity to provide nature's services, and tradeoffs exist when human activities degrade nature's services. EBM practitioners identify these tradeoffs and quantify them based on scientific evidence. They weigh these tradeoffs explicitly when making decisions about human activities.

Core Element 7: Adaptive Management

EBM practitioners use scientific monitoring data to measure the effects of management decisions. As conditions change and information becomes available, they evaluate management strategies and adapt them as needed to reach EBM goals.

Core Element 8: Network of People and Information

EBM practitioners interact with the full spectrum of organizations and individuals with an interest in the geographic area. Collaboratively, they learn about people's values, define a vision for the place's future, agree on broad goals for nature's services, and work toward these goals. They support and participate actively in a communication network for sharing EBM information and ideas for the geographic area. They help create such a network, if it does not already exist.

As stated in Section 1.1 an important land management agreement for the Great Bear Rainforest located on British Columbia's west coast was signed on March 31, 2009. The agreement involved environmental groups, the BC government, industry and First Nations and provided a new land management model for 6.4 million hectares of diverse landscape.

Prior to this agreement being signed a great deal of work was implemented to reach this long sought after goal. In 2001 the Central Coast Land and Coastal Resource Management Plan (CCLCRMP) Phase 1 framework agreement was completed. In response to that document the Coast Information Team (CIT) was established *"to provide independent information and analyses for the development and implementation of ecosystem-based management in the north and central coastal region of British Columbia, including Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands"* (CIT).

This group of independent, multidisciplinary individuals was provided funding of \$3.3 million dollars to provide a management plan for the Great Bear Rainforest and completed their recommendations in March of 2004. The benefits of this process are described on the CIT website as follows:

The CIT brought independent science, informed by local and traditional knowledge, to British Columbia's standard strategic land use planning model. It improved land use planning and development processes by providing:

- **Regional context**

The CIT analyses and assessments provided a regional context for evaluating the ecological, cultural, or economic importance of particular areas, and helped inform subregional, landscape, and site-level decision making.

- **Ecosystem-based management**

The CIT developed an approach to EBM based on ecosystem and human wellbeing. The CIT provided clear principles, goals and objectives; ecological management targets; implementation tools (including an EBM planning handbook

and hydrospheric planning guide); and procedural steps to guide the implementation of EBM in coastal British Columbia.

- **Comprehensive, multidisciplinary analyses**
Cultural and economic spatial analyses were undertaken together with an ecosystem spatial analysis to identify priority areas for all of these value sets (cultural, economic development, and biodiversity conservation).
- **Wellbeing assessment**
A wellbeing assessment measured environmental and socio-economic conditions and trends in the region to provide context for land use decisions and a baseline for monitoring implementation.
- **Independence and international credibility**
Particular care was taken to undertake independent and internationally credible analyses and assessments. (CIT)

Ecosystem based management planning is now widely viewed as a desirable structure of land management and is endorsed by the senior levels of government. The model provided by the CIT could be implemented in the XGCA and provide benefits to the areas fishery resource now under threat from a multitude of negative influences.

3.0 Fisheries Status in the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area

The XGCA is known to have the following species of fish:

Table 2: Fish Species of the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area.

Common Name	Latin Name
Sockeye Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>
Chinook Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>
Coho Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>
Rainbow Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>
Bull Trout	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>
Dolly Varden	<i>Salvelinus malma</i>
Steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>
Kokanee	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>
Rocky Mountain Whitefish	<i>Prosopium williamsoni</i>
Longnose Dace	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>
Pacific Lamprey	<i>Lampetra tridentate</i>
Redside Shiner	<i>Richardsonius balteatus</i>
Suckers (general)	<i>Catostomus</i> sp.
Largescale Sucker	<i>Catostomus macrocheilus</i>
Longnose Sucker	<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>
Northern Pikeminnow	<i>Ptychocheilus oregonensis</i>

(Cariboo Envirotech Ltd.)

The species highlighted in bold are considered very important for food consumption by the Xeni Gwet'in community. Unfortunately many of these stocks are in decline and their status is of concern to the Roundtable and to the community at large.

The first three species on the list are anadromous fish, are managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and live part of their lives in the Pacific Ocean. The BC Ministry of Environment is tasked with managing the remainder of the non-anadromous fish in the list including steelhead which do migrate to the ocean.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada implements a very intensive annual adult sockeye monitoring program within the XGCA due to its importance provincially and nationally to the fishing industry. Their involvement in assessing Chinook and coho stocks is less intensive nevertheless they do undertake assessment programs on an annual basis. Recently, their monitoring programs have shown an alarming decline in escapement numbers to the Chilko River.

The following table with data provided by Fisheries and Oceans biologist Linda Stevens of Williams Lake shows sockeye and Chinook escapement data for the Chilko River. The trend is further evidence that these stocks are in decline. It should be noted that the 2009 chinook escapement is from the 2004 brood year that saw 16,287 adult Chinook return to spawn (this passage from Cariboo Envirotech Ltd. 2010 climate change report).

Table 3: Sockeye and Chinook escapement to the Chilko River 1993-2009.

Year	Sockeye	Chinook
1993	555226	6343
1994	450745	5665
1995	534559	10461
1996	974349	17000
1997	985827	16272
1998	879017	14549
1999	891922	8920
2000	758941	9171
2001	668783	10891
2002	382814	11027
2003	608321	21625
2004	91909	16287
2005	535967	7668
2006	468947	5201
2007	305853	4366
2008	249863	5186
2009	217572 (preliminary)	8548 (preliminary)

(Cariboo Envirotech Ltd. 2010)

Although requested, updated coho information from Fisheries and Oceans was unavailable at this time. Stock status information on the provincially managed non-

anadromous fish is extremely limited. Some recent monitoring had occurred for bull trout on an important spawning tributary of Chilko Lake and assessments of the Chilko River are undertaken (pers. comm. Dolighan), but aside from that very little recent assessment and monitoring occurs for non-anadromous fish residing in the XGCA.

Ecosystem based management planning incorporates the views and needs of the local populace. It would seem reasonable that the implementation of such a plan for the XGCA would consider the fishery needs of the Xeni Gwet'in community who are known to rely on fish for consumption at least twice per week.

As such, a more comprehensive fishery management plan that includes most if not all of the Xeni Gwet'in fishery sites for monitoring, assessment and enhancement would be required rather than the intensive efforts placed solely on anadromous species. The Xeni Gwet'in people rely not only on salmon stocks for their fishery needs, they rely on other species such as bull trout, rainbow trout, kokanee and Dolly Varden and these species require closer assessment and monitoring than is currently being provided. Additionally these species are considered desirable in the local sport fishery and local resorts would benefit from the additional data and management that ecosystem based management planning could provide.

4.0 Ecosystem Based Management Planning And Fish

Calls for ecosystem based management planning for areas such as the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area are becoming more common. In addition to the aforementioned plan for the Great Bear Rainforest completed by the Coast Information Team and endorsed by the BC Provincial government, numerous other initiatives are either underway or being recommended. Watersheds and the fish that inhabit the lakes, streams and rivers within all stand to benefit from this form of landscape management.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Science Branch released their 5 year research agenda for 2007-2012 and this document can be reviewed on the Internet (FOC). The following is an excerpt from their discussion on an Ecosystem Science Framework:

"Aquatic ecosystems are increasingly affected by human activities. Limiting possible impacts and making human activities more sustainable is the complex task of policy-makers and managers who, in turn, rely on scientists for advice on which to base their decisions.

Ecosystem science is the foundation for the science needed to support the integrated management of diverse human activities such as fishing, aquaculture, transportation, and oil & gas exploration that are regularly undertaken in the same area. Ecosystem science provides decision-makers managing fisheries, aquaculture, habitat, and oceans resources and the recovery of species-at-risk essential advice on how these activities interact with each other and affect aquatic ecosystems. Ecosystem science is needed to inform the Department's policies and management practices and determine the necessary features of our Science activities.

An ecosystem science approach also means changing the way DFO provides science support. Scientists have to provide decision-makers with comprehensive ecosystem advice about how human activities may interact with other activities being undertaken in the same aquatic ecosystem or take adequate account of major environmental drivers in the ecosystem. Implementing this new approach is far more than redistributing limited resources, it requires a philosophical and cultural shift and a change in the make up of the Science Program workforce. These important issues are being addressed in the Science Human Resources strategy currently under development.

In response to the SMB, DFO Science developed the “New Ecosystem Science Framework in Support of Integrated Management”. It provides a cost-effective and comprehensive approach for identifying, monitoring, and interpreting trends important to an ecosystem's sustainability and integrating existing knowledge about the effects of human activities on important ecosystem features.

As such, the Ecosystem Science Framework provides direction for moving the DFO research agenda to support integrated management of human activities.

(FOC)

Environment Canada's Georgia Basin Action Plan is a multi-agency initiative developed to provide sustainability in the Georgia Basin. Established in 1998, and renewed with a second five year term in 2003, the program undertakes research, plans, monitors and provides outreach and education in four key areas that are 1) Sustainable Communities, 2) Clean Air, 3) Habitat and Species, and 4) Clean Water.

On their “Highlights 2003-2008” website they provide some insight on their plans to develop eco-system based management for their area of concern, the Georgia Basin (GBAP). They state: *Sustainable land, aquatic and resource planning and management support the conservation, protection and restoration of the environment, enhance human wellbeing and contribute to a strengthened economy. Over the next five years, GBAP partners will support the development of integrated ecosystem-based management plans for coastal areas, the Georgia Basin–Puget Sound airshed, urbanized environments, inland watersheds and aquatic and terrestrial resource use. In this section, we highlight some projects that involve planning tools and approaches and sustainability management, and seek to understand socio-economic impacts”* (FBAP).

The BC Pacific Salmon Forum was established by the BC Provincial government on April 1, 2005 to undertake the following tasks:

- To protect and enhance the viability of wild salmon stocks and their economic, social and environmental benefits to British Columbians
- To increase public confidence in fisheries management generally, and aquaculture in particular, within the marine environment
- To enhance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of aquaculture for all coastal communities (BCPSF)

The seven member board completed their final report in January of 2009. As part of their recommendations to the Provincial government the board discussed the implementation of ecosystem based management (EBM) planning as an important tool in protecting and enhancing salmon stocks.

The BC Pacific Salmon Forum's website provided the following insight on EBM when asked the question "*What is ecosystem-based management and how does it differ from the present approach of government regulation?*".

Their response provides a very strong case for the need to implement ecosystem based management planning throughout British Columbia. They state in response "*At present, salmon habitats in watersheds and marine areas are managed by multiple government agencies – that make uncoordinated decisions. This lack of coordination means that the cumulative impacts of decisions are not addressed. In essence, no one agency is really responsible for ensuring that watersheds are healthy and able to support a range of uses including habitat for salmon.*

Therefore we need a systematic transformation of government, including:

- *Start managing watersheds holistically as ecosystems, increasing their resiliency to accommodate change. Decisions on resource uses can then be adapted to ensure that we stay within ecosystem capacities rather than exceeding them, as can now be the case.*
- *The creation of a single provincial Water and Land Agency responsible for making all water and land decisions in watersheds in accordance with ecosystem principles.*
- *Require all provincial land and water managers to understand what is required to keep streams healthy, taking into account the cumulative impacts of all decision-making.*
- *Require federal, provincial, First Nations and local governments to collaborate on watershed governance.*
- *Start putting a monetary value on 'ecosystem goods and services' such as carbon storage, moderating floods and droughts and water temperatures in order to give them proper weight in making government decisions. Right now they are treated as free (i.e. as having no value).*
- *Implement coordinated area management plans for salmon aquaculture to achieve recommended thresholds for sea lice on wild and farmed salmon as well as other environmental indicators.*
- *Encourage the provincial and federal governments to strengthen habitat restoration and enhancement projects to maintain, rebuild or restore natural biodiversity and abundance in wild salmon stocks.*

The message to government is very clear in the bulleted list above. All levels of government throughout Canada are now considering EBM planning to be the land management framework of the future. The difficulty now lies in bringing the concept into the watershed for implementation.

The Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area provides the protective landscape that embraces the Chilko and Taseko Rivers both famous as great salmon producing watersheds. In view of the 2009 sockeye salmon collapse, there is an urgent need for their protection within the XCGA. With climate change, over-fishing, global warming, loss of habitat, and the possible development of a copper/gold mine in the Taseko River watershed, these valuable salmon stocks deserve a much better land management plan than is currently being implemented.

An ecosystem based management plan is strongly recommended for land management within the XGCA. It is recommended that the local community through the Chilko River Watershed Roundtable engage the government in developing an EBM for their local area. The Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area is worthy of such an initiative and the local fishery resource would benefit greatly through the implementation of this locally developed management plan. Nobody protects a watershed better than the people who live in it.

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Appendix A

2009 Chilko River Roundtable Meeting Agendas



Cultural Tourism Partnership Program

***CHILKO ROUNDTABLE – QUALITY
WATERS***

AGENDA

LOCATION: Visitor Info Centre-Xeni Gwet'in First Nations

DATE & TIME: 10am-3pm Thursday, Sept 10, 2009

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Review Minutes
4. Review Working Doc (Mission and Vision)
5. Prioritize Concerns
6. Next Steps
7. Next Meeting
 - a. October 8, 2009 @ Karen McLean
 - b. November 12, 2009 @ Still to be decided
 - c. December 10, 2009 @ Still to be decided
8. Meeting adjourned



Cultural Tourism Partnership Program

***CHILKO ROUNDTABLE – QUALITY
WATERS***

AGENDA

LOCATION: Tsylos Lodge - Karen McLean

DATE & TIME: 10am-3pm Thursday, Oct 8, 2009

8. Call to Order
9. Introductions
10. Additional Agenda Items
11. Review Minutes
12. Jamie Doyle - Assessing Soil Ingestion in People following Traditional Lifestyles
13. UREP Strategy for Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area
14. Prioritize Concerns
15. Next Steps
16. Next Meeting
 - a. November 12, 2009 @ Still to be decided
 - b. December 10, 2009 @ Williams Lake
8. Meeting adjourned



Cultural Tourism Partnership Program

**CHILKO ROUNDTABLE – QUALITY
WATERS**

AGENDA

LOCATION: Taseko Lake Lodge - Sig & Kelly Reuter

DATE & TIME: 10am-3pm Thursday, Nov 12, 2009

17. Call to Order
18. Introductions
19. Additional Agenda Items
20. Glacier & Water Issue
21. Define Fishing Policies
22. Next Steps
23. Next Meeting
 - a. December 10, 2009 @ Williams Lake
 - b. December 11, 2009 @ Williams Lake (Chilko AGM)

8. Meeting adjourned



Cultural Tourism Partnership Program

**CHILKO ROUNDTABLE – QUALITY
WATERS**

AGENDA

LOCATION: Carrier-Chilcotin Tribal Council

59 South 1st Ave., Williams Lake, BC

DATE & TIME: 10am-3pm Thursday, Dec 10, 2009

24. Call to Order
25. Introductions
26. Presentation on H2O Sampling Program in XGCA
27. Eco-system Based Planning in Great Bear
28. Comparative Policy Review
29. Mushrooms - Scott Thompson
30. Next Steps
31. Meeting Adjourned

Appendix B

2009 Chilko River Roundtable Meeting Minutes



Chilko Roundtable - Quality Waters Management Plan

Participants:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
John Lerner	Ecolibrio
Rick Holmes	Cariboo Envirotech Ltd.
Jon Tanis	Snowy Mountain Outfit
Lois Williams	Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Gov't
Josh Reimer	Chilko Resorts
Karen McLean	Chilko Resorts
Sig Reuter	Taseko Lake Outfitters
Pam Quilt	Cultural Tourism Coordinator
Tracy Tanis	Snowy Mountain Outfit
Marilyn Baptiste	Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Gov't
Name of Guests/New Members	Organization
Doug Harris	Ministry of Tourism
Robin Hoffos	ILMB
Hattie Tanis	Snowy Mountain Outfit
Agathe Setah	Xeni Member
Francis Setah	Xeni Member

Date: September 10, 2009

Place: Xeni VISC

Time: 10am - 3pm

Meeting facilitator: John Lerner

Call to order: 10:30am

Agenda:

1. Introductions
 - a. Doug Harris - Ministry of Tourism
 - b. Robin Hoffos - ILMB in place of Kate Greskiw
 - c. Hattie Tanis - Interested in joining the group
2. Added agenda items
 - a. Overview report
 - b. Propose projects
 - c. More solutions
 - d. Improper game regulations
 - i. No big bucks
 - ii. Population of deer and moose in down
 - iii. There is no one out there to control or supervise
3. Review Minutes
 - a. Access Management
 - i. Scott Thompson should be invited from Ministry of Forest
 - ii. He's involved with the signage program
 - iii. Next access meeting ?
 - b. Gateway
 - i. Not all funding for materials came through
 - ii. Need ministry signs to be located on sensitive areas
 - iii.
 - iv. In order to get a closure sign you must go through regulations
 - v. Signage
 1. Identify horse trails (no motorize use)
 - vi. Manage a trail system
 1. Your responsible for the trail
 2. Charge people to use the trail
4. Current Projects
 - a. There is a call for more proposals
 - b. XGFNG fisheries ranger should include game
 - c. No PICFI
 - d. New monies Climate Change Adaptation from INAC
 - i. Implementation
 - ii. Monitoring
5. Prioritize concerns
 - a. Disappearing of waters: Creek beds are dry this year

- b. Grizzly bear being shot at Henry's crossing
 - c. Cubs showing up without mom's
 - d. Less bear activity in the alpine
 - e. Pine beetle
 - f. Fire guards
 - i. Every fire guard has to have a rehabilitation program
 - g. Solutions
 - i. Access Management
6. Next Steps
- a. Discuss UREP strategy for XGCA (Next agenda Oct 8, 2009)

Action: Doug will get a map of all the UREP's

Next Meeting: October 8, 2009 @ Karen McLean's (Tsylos Lodge)

Meeting adjournment: 2:30pm



Chilko Roundtable - Quality Waters Management Plan

Participants:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Marilyn Baptiste	XGFNG, Chief
Nancy Oppermann	XGFNG, Project Manager
John Lerner	Ecolibrio
Jon Tanis	Snowy Mountain Outfit
Bud McLean	Chilko Lake Resort
Eric Brebner	Tsuniah Lake Lodge
Doug Harris	Ministry of Tourism
Corinne McLean	Chilko Lake Resort
Kate Greskiw	ILMB
Richard Holmes	Caribou Envirotech Ltd.
Karen Mclean	Tsylos Park Lodge
Josh Reimer	Tsylos Park Lodge
Pam Quilt	XGFNG, Assistant Project Manager
Name of Guests/New Members	Organization
Jamie Doyle	PH. D. Candidate, Environmental & Chemical, Toxicology Program
Scott Thompson	Compliance & Enforcement Supervisor
Ian Barnes	DFO
Paul Welch	DFO

Date: October 8, 2009

Place: Tsylos Park Lodge

Time: 10am - 3pm

Meeting facilitator: John Lerner

Call to order: 10:25am

Agenda:

1. Introductions

2. Additional Agenda Items

- a. Opinion facing the fact NW Salmon
- b. Update Fisheries
 - i. Mainly dead with Sockeye
 - ii. Not a good year for Sockeye, for once there is no one to blame for this it was just not a good year for Sockeye anywhere.
 - iii. Climate change
 - iv. Region Change
 - v. Massive collapse throughout the watershed
 - vi. Record numbers of smolts that left and didn't return
 - vii. Fraser runs went well
 - viii. Sea lice
 - ix. Productivity within the Chilko was really high
 - 1. Biologist taking samples of water, temperature, depth, sunlight and silt
 - 2. Lots of fry (smolts)
 - 3. 4 years ago records of smolts taking out, above average
 - 4. High survival rate
 - 5. Loss about 15 years of ice (approx)
 - 6. 1939 hypercycsim mechanism, do counts of smolts out of the Chilko Lake

3. Review Minutes

- a. Next Community Managers Meeting is Oct 14, 2009
- b. XG presented to the CMC and a TOR was written up and sent out to Chief and Council. XG will be meeting with Kate, Oct 22, 2009
- c. Doug Harris- 4 trails were applied for and gave permission on two of the trails. Permission was only given on existing registered trails only.
 - i. Clear trails
 - ii. Develop 2km of new trail
 - iii. Butler Creek attach to another trail for hiking (no quads).
- d. Any new construction has to go through ILMB for referral then approval
- e. Public access info management
 - i. Recommendation to the CMC
- f. Closure Signage
 - i. Sent out questionnaires (I requested a copy of the questionnaire and back country brochure from Scott)
- g. 4500 Road

- i. Road rehabilitation
 - 1. Fireguards- There are five different types of road rehabilitation, if you need to inquire further information or pick up copies of the rehab plans on the fire guards we can contact Curtis Isfeld @ 250 989 2655
 - 2. Mushroom picking
 - a. Botanical forest products
 - b. No regulations on picking or license to pick mushrooms
 - c. Kate could bring forth to the CMC
- ii. Doug contacted Rob Haley
 - 1. Quite Clear there will not be or plans to put any kind of gate or to limit access to the road. No plans at this point.
- iii. Boat Regulations
 - 1. Speed regulations- This help stop the sockeye from scattering.
 - 2. Stop float planes and jet boats from landing on the sockeye
 - 3. Speed limit from Karen's place to the corner where the posts use to be is 5km/hr as Sept 11 - Oct 1
 - 4. Rob Mitchel
 - a. Looks at the resident fish
 - b. Looking into the size of boats on the Mitchel

Karen McLean - Two concerns

- ◆ Wayne Krauss - Remove the pipe
- ◆ Dragging of anchors through the beds

Bud McLean

- ◆ Illegal guiding happening more
- ◆ Fly fishing
- ◆ Organized ATV groups

WARNING: Ian - Evasive Species happening in the Chilko, bass and perch are being spotted please kill on site it needs to be dealt with right away.

4. Jamie Doyle-Assessing Soil Ingestion in People following Traditional Lifestyles

- a. Ph.D. Candidate, environmental and chemical toxicology program.
- b. Dept of Biology
- c. University of Ottawa
- d. Examines soil ingestion focusing on First Nations
- e. Power point presentation (Which I requested from him)
- f. Bond- Safety Measures

- i. Not to have the hazard there in the first place
- ii. Hard engineering barriers
- iii. Administrative Control - least control
 - 1. putting tarps up
 - 2. looks and feel
- iv. Look up, "Accidents", untimed events in the EA process
- v. Community concerns
 - 1. impact of animals and fish - dust ingestion

5. UREP strategy for Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area

- a. Beetle Kill Trees (Chaunigan, Davidson and Tsuniah)
- b. No plans to resurrect new sites we are keeping the original sites
- c. Removal of UREPs from Taseko area will only happen if the First Nations title case wins.
- d. Documents given to Nancy Re: Canoe Crossing and Henry's crossing stating there are no plans of resurrecting either of them

6. Prioritize Concerns

7. Water issues

- a. Pattie Joyce
 - i. Does drinking water samples
 - ii. She did Taseko

8. Next Agenda Items

- a. Glacier and water issues
- b. Define fishing policies

Action Items:

1. Kate Greskiw and Scott Thompson	Set up a meeting with the authors of "Back Road Country".
2. Kate and Nancy	Follow up with Ministry of Highways
3. Chilko Committee	Chilko Roundtable committee should write a letter Re: concerns with the watershed issues within the area
4. Marilyn	Get copies of the Fire guard Rehab plans from Ministry of Forest in Alexis Creek

Next Meeting: November 12, 2009 @ Taseko Lake Lodge (Sig and Kelly Reuter)

December 10, 2009 @ Williams Lake, BC

December 11, 2009 @ Williams Lake, BC, Chilko Roundtable AGM

Meeting adjournment: 2:15pm



Chilko Roundtable - Quality Waters Management Plan

Participants:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Rick Holmes	Cariboo Envirotech Ltd.
Tracy Tanis	Snowy Mountain Outfit
Kate Greskiw	ILMB
Lois Williams	XGFNG - Councilor
Nancy Oppermann	XGFNG - Project Manager
Corinne McLean	Chilko Board Member
John Lerner	Ecolibrio
Marilyn Baptiste	XGFNG - Chief
Sig Reuter	Taseko Lake Lodge
Kelly Reuter	Taseko Lake Lodge
Jon Tanis	Snowy Mountain Outfit
Benny William	XGFNG - Councilor
Pam Quilt	XGFNG - Tourism Coordinator
Name of Guests/New Members	Organization
Nelson William	XG Member

Date: November 12, 2009

Place: Taseko Lake Lodge - Sig & Kelly Reuter

Time: 10am - 3pm

Meeting facilitator: Nancy Oppermann & John Lerner

Call to order: 10:14am

Agenda:

1. Introductions

2. Additional Agenda Items

- ◆ Review Minutes
 - Kate tried to call Rob Dolighan, still no response.
 - Co-Management
 - New Business
 - a. Climate Change Adaptation project lead by Tine Rossing and team
 - ❖ Climate impacts (land base, population, vulnerability to XG)
 - ❖ Match science with local knowledge (blend the two)
 - ❖ Projects starts now until March 2010
 - ❖ Funding through INAC
 - Non Timber forest products
 - a. Scott Thompson met with TNG Re: Non Timber
 - b. Mushroom picking starts in April or May
- ◆ Rick Holmes submitted a letter to the Taseko Mine's informing that we are against the mine.

3. Glacier & Water Issues

Topics:

- ◆ River Lake Management
- ◆ Hatchery and Fish Management
 - Hatchery
 - Raise Chinook Salmon in the Chilko River again.
 - Take fish eggs out
 - Each female produces at least 5000 eggs
- ◆ Camping policy

- Government see this as crown land (Kate)
- ◆ ATV & Mountain bike use
- ◆ Mushroom Harvesting
- ◆ Park Co-Management

4. Define Fishing Policies

5. Next Steps

- ◆ Take these policies and review with community
- ◆ Make sure we are not missing any Traditional Value to these components
- ◆ Bill Chapman - Soil and mushroom scientist
 - Get him to determine if the burn site at Chilko Lake to be a sensitive site
 - Did lots of work about 8 years ago on policy but when the Campbell election won it was pulled.
- ◆ Next Agenda Items:
 - Review Policy
 - Compare other FN policies

Action Items:

1. Chief and Council	Keep in touch with Barry Hubert Re: Chinook Salmon bar coded tags
2. Rick Holmes	Find out which lakes in the XGCA are being stocked with fish and the ones that are not getting stocked.
3. Pam Quilt	Research Website design courses from the Williams Lake Employment centre.

Next Meeting: December 10, 2009 in Williams Lake
December 10, 2009 Chilko Roundtable AGM

Meeting adjournment: 1:57pm



Chilko Roundtable - Quality Waters Management Plan

Participants:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Corinne McLean	Chilko Community
Karen McLean	Chilko Resorts
Sig Reuter	Taseko Lake Lodge
Kate Greskiw	ILMB
John Lerner	Ecolibrio
Pam Quilt	XGFNG
Rick Holmes	Caribou Envirotech
Nancy Oppermann	XGFNG Project Manager
Marilyn Baptiste	XGFNG Chief
Trina Phillips	XGFNG Member
Jon Tanis	Snowy Mountain Outfit
<i>Name of Guests/New Members</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Linda Stevens	DFO
Scott Thompson	Ministry of Forest and Range

Date: December 10, 2009

Place: Carrier-Chilcotin Tribal Council Boardroom

Time: 10am - 2pm

Meeting facilitator: John Lerner

Call to order: 10:40am

Agenda:

32. Presentation on H2O Sampling Program in XGCA

- a. Power Point Presentation- A water reference manual and the 2009 water sampling analysis sites in the XGCA by Rick Holmes
- b. Water sampling done by Dinah and Jim Lulua (South), Corinne McLean and Ron (North)
- c. Amount of smolts were quite low and how large they were
- d. Lim-nology study done this summer on the Chilko by DFO
- e. Question: How do we get a water sample that shows toxic? In addition, how do we get it to them for analysis?
 - i. Labs in Vancouver or Kamloops
 - ii. Ship it by courier but you need to get the container from the labs and follow instructions

33. Eco-system Based Planning in Great Bear

- a. Power Point Presentation- Ecosystem based management planning by Rick Holmes
 - i. Brock University
 - ii. Adaptive Management-means always evolving
- b. Permaculture
 - i. Lacombe Alberta
 - 1. Produces more agriculture

34. Comparative Policy Review

35. Mushrooms - Scott Thompson

- a. Meeting with TNG regarding, "Mushroom Picking in the XGCA".
 - i. Barry Hink, Craig Kennedy (Auxiliary Member of the RCMP), Gene Cooper, Doug Green has to be contacted (Toosey) and one other member
 - ii. Gene Cooper - Worried about the garbage and environmental damage

1. 2003 fire people were making about \$2000/day using quads to find better location
- iii. May and June will be more busier with mushroom picking
- iv. Website:
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rsi/publicuse/MushroomPicking.htm>
- v. Designate campsites through ILMB
- vi. Check Points need to be initiated - Monitors need GPS
- vii. Vendors License needed if vendors are trying to set up
 1. Next Meeting with TNG regarding Mushroom Picking is Jan 29, 2010
 2. It was suggested that Bill Chapman should attend this meeting
 - a. Soil sensitive areas

36. Next Steps

Action Items:

1. Rick Holmes	Will look into funding with Federal Government Re: Contamination clean up and reclamation on old mine sites
2. Pam Quilt	Email copy of the, "Xeni Watershed Policy Comparative Matrix" to the whole Chilko Group.
3. Marilyn Baptiste	Contact Caribou Fire Centre regarding the map

Abbreviations:

XGCA - Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area
 DFO - Department of Fisheries and Ocean
 TNG - Tsilhqot'in National Government

Meeting adjournment: 2:16pm

Appendix C

Chilko River Roundtable Comparative Policy Review

**Xeni Gwet'in First Nation
Watershed Policy Comparisons
December 2009**

Ref #	Xeni Gwet'in Chilko River Roundtable	Nisga'a Lisims Treaty April 13, 2000	Great Bear Rainforest Ecosystem Based Management
	River/Lake Management		
1	There will be a more open dialogue with and more support from the Provincial Government regarding river management (e.g. more consultation on projects, more access to reports and studies)	If Nisga'a Government requests disclosure of information from Canada or British Columbia, the request will be evaluated as if it were a request by a province for disclosure of that information, but Canada and British Columbia are not required to disclose to Nisga'a Government information that is only available to a particular province or particular provinces.	EBM planning should engage people — First Nations, senior governments, resource users, tenure holders, local communities, and local people — meaningfully in developing and implementing plans as necessary at all scales. Page 15
2	There will be no effluent allowed in rivers or lakes ("effluent" to be determined according to Canadian Water Quality	Except as otherwise set out in this Agreement, Nisga'a Lisims Government may make laws in	Protect and sustain freshwater and coastal zone aquatic ecosystems. Page 32

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	Standards)	respect of environmental protection on Nisga'a Lands, including discharges into streams within Nisga'a Lands. In the event of a conflict between a Nisga'a law under this paragraph and a federal or provincial law, the federal or provincial law will prevail to the extent of the conflict.	
3	Canada Water Quality Standards will be maintained or exceeded on all waters for all users (commercial and residential)	See Ref #2 above	Maintain streamflow, channel characteristics & <u>water quality</u> within range of natural variability. Page 50
4	New projects need to prove themselves sustainable and meet, if not exceed, Canadian Water Quality Standards before being approved	A project on Nisga'a Lands that requires an environmental assessment under Nisga'a law and the law of another Party will be assessed only under the process prescribed by Nisga'a law if the Nisga'a Nation and the other Party agree under	Protect critical and sensitive hydrospheric ecosystems. Page 50

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		paragraph 1 that the Nisga'a environmental assessment will provide the information that the other Party requires to make its decisions concerning the project. In the absence of an agreement, the Parties may carry out concurrent environmental assessments.	
5	All recreation must be registered and/or permitted through the XGFN	Nisga'a Lisims Government will allow reasonable public access to and onto Nisga'a Public Lands for temporary non-commercial and recreational uses, but public access does not include: a. harvesting or extracting resources unless authorized by Nisga'a Lisims Government or as set out in this	Commercial & public access and facilities minimize impacts to cultural/ecological values.

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		<p>Chapter;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. causing damage to Nisga'a Lands or resources; c. causing mischief or nuisance; or d. interfering with other uses authorized by Nisga'a Lisims Government, or interfering with the ability of Nisga'a Lisims Government to authorize uses of or dispose of Nisga'a Public Lands, or to designate Nisga'a Public Lands as Nisga'a Private Lands or Nisga'a Village Lands. 	
6	Education about permitted recreation use on water will be clearly communicated by signage	(not quite related but) This Agreement does not affect public rights of access on navigable waters within Nisga'a Lands.	Commercial and public access and facilities development and use minimizes detrimental impacts to identified cultural and ecological values. Page 44

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7	Speed limitations will be in force on North Chilko Lake/Chilko Lake head waters from Sept 1 st to Nov 15 th and from April 1 st to June 1 st each year.	See #6 above. Regulated by Federal Government – Transport Canada – Navigable Waters Act	Maintain site integrity. Page 53
8	There will be revenue sharing on all fishing licenses issued for the rivers in the XGCA	Canada and British Columbia will not require the Nisga'a Nation, Nisga'a Villages, Nisga'a Institutions, Nisga'a Corporations, Nisga'a citizens, or other persons authorized by Nisga'a Lisims Government to harvest fish or aquatic plants under this Agreement: a. to have federal or provincial licences; or b. to pay fees, charges, or royalties	Local communities receive a fair share of benefits flowing from local resource extraction. Page 33
9	No anchorage allowed on the rivers	Regulated by Federal Government – Transport Canada–Navigable Waters Act ?	Apply low risk management targets to watersheds containing abundant salmon populations. Page 32

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10	All new stream diversions need to be approved by the XGFN	British Columbia will consult with the Nisga'a Nation about all applications for water licences in respect of streams wholly or partially within Nisga'a Lands.	Significant fishing, hunting, and trapping areas are protected with a no-development buffers or special management provisions that maintains areas as agreed to by local users. Page 53
11	The XGFN needs to approve all new water tenures and water tenure renewals	The Nisga'a Nation, a Nisga'a Village, a Nisga'a Corporation, or a Nisga'a citizen may, with the consent of the Nisga'a Nation, apply to British Columbia for water licences for volumes of flow to be applied against the Nisga'a water reservation	Significant fishing, hunting, and trapping areas are protected with a no-development buffers or special management provisions that maintains areas as agreed to by local users. Page 53
12	The XGFN has the authority to revoke all water tenures in the XGCA	<p>The Nisga'a water reservation will have priority over all water licences other than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. water licences issued before March 22, 1996; and b. water licences 	Significant fishing, hunting, and trapping areas are protected with a no-development buffers or special management provisions that maintains areas as agreed to by local users. Page 53

Ref #	Xeni Gwet'in Chilko River Roundtable	Nisga'a Lisims Treaty April 13, 2000	Great Bear Rainforest Ecosystem Based Management
		issued pursuant to an application made before March 22, 1996.	
13	There will be revenue sharing on water tenures issued for the rivers in the XGCA	A water licence issued under paragraph 126 will not be subject to any rentals, fees, or other charges by British Columbia	Local communities receive an fair share of benefits flowing from local resource extraction. Page 43
14	There will be no launching or anchoring in front of streams entering lakes	Regulated by Federal Government – Transport Canada –Navigable Waters Act	Apply low risk management targets to watersheds containing abundant salmon populations. Page 32
15	The XGFN needs to be consulted and approve of all chemicals applied on the land base or waterways that may compromise water quality (including fire retardant).	Nisga'a Lisims Government may make laws in respect of the environmental assessment of projects on Nisga'a Lands. In the event of a conflict between a Nisga'a law under this paragraph and a federal or provincial law of general application, the federal or provincial law will prevail to the extent of the	Protect and sustain high value fish habitat. Page 32

Ref #	Xeni Gwet'in Chilko River Roundtable	Nisga'a Lisims Treaty April 13, 2000	Great Bear Rainforest Ecosystem Based Management
		conflict.	
16	A review of all existing regulations and permits associated with XGCA lakes and rivers is required every five years. The first review should occur immediately.	British Columbia owns the submerged lands within Nisga'a Lands.	Due to the high values and scientific uncertainties involved, adaptive co-management and monitoring will play a key role in implementation, the goal being to refine knowledge and understanding of how the Central and North Coast and Haida Gwaii can remain a unique and fully functioning ecosystem while supporting a high level of well-being for the people that live and work in the region. Page IV
17	There will be no motorized use of boats on small lakes ("small lake" to be determined by XGFN)	Regulated by Federal Government – Transport Canada – Navigable Waters Act	Establish visual quality zones, recreation resource and visitor management strategies, and protocols for cultural heritage access, wildlife viewing, etc. Page 34
18	There will be a motor size limit or a speed limit on all big lakes ("big lake", motor size or speed limit to be determined by XGFN)	Regulated by Federal Government – Transport Canada – Navigable Waters Act	Establish visual quality zones, recreation resource and visitor management strategies, and protocols for cultural heritage access, wildlife viewing, etc. Page 34
19	DFO and MOE will notify and gain approval from the XGFN before fertilizing, testing and	Nisga'a Lisims Government may make laws in respect of the	Assess watershed condition in relation to management targets. Page 42

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	conducting research in XGCA lakes and rivers	environmental assessment of projects on Nisga'a Lands. In the event of a conflict between a Nisga'a law under this paragraph and a federal or provincial law of general application, the federal or provincial law will prevail to the extent of the conflict.	
	Fish Management		
20	Historically high levels of wild fish stocks will be restored and maintained	Nisga'a Lisims Government may conduct enhancement initiatives for Nass salmon or Nass steelhead only with the approval of the Minister. This approval will include provisions in respect of the determination of surpluses resulting from an approved enhancement initiative. The Joint Fisheries Management Committee may	<p>Maintain healthy populations/sub-populations of harvested fish and wildlife.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not exceed sustainable harvest levels. • First Nations have access to sustenance harvesting <p>Establish precautionary harvest levels for fish and wildlife.</p> <p>Page 34</p>

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		make recommendations in respect of those initiatives and provisions.	
21	Fish habitat will be retained and enhanced to foster historically high levels of fish. Any land use near rivers and lakes in the XGCA will be evaluated based on its impact on fish habitat.	<p>If a proposed project on Nisga'a Lands may reasonably be expected to have adverse environmental effects, the Nisga'a Nation will ensure that Canada and British Columbia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. receive timely notice of, and relevant available information on, the project and the potential adverse environmental effects; b. are consulted regarding the environmental effects of the project if there may be adverse 	Protect and sustain high value fish habitat.

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		<p>environmental effects off Nisga'a Lands, or on federal or provincial interests referred to in this Agreement; and</p> <p>c. receive an opportunity to participate in any environmental assessment under Nisga'a laws related to those effects, in accordance with those laws, if there may be significant adverse environmental effects off Nisga'a Lands, or on federal or provincial interests referred to in</p>	

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		this Agreement	
22	Alien fish species will be monitored and the Pacific Salmon Commission will be notified of new occurrences	<p>77. On the effective date, the Parties will establish the Joint Fisheries Management Committee to facilitate cooperative planning and conduct of Nisga'a fisheries and enhancement initiatives in the Nass Area. For this purpose, the Joint Fisheries Management Committee will carry out the responsibilities assigned to it under this Agreement, including:</p> <p>a. sharing information and plans for existing and proposed fisheries that could affect or be affected by Nisga'a fisheries;</p>	<p>Maintain healthy populations/sub-populations of harvested fish and wildlife. Page 34</p>

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		<p>b. arranging for collection and exchange of data required to carry out the provisions of this Chapter;</p> <p>c. providing advice concerning escapement goals;</p> <p>d. making recommendations to the Minister and Nisga'a Lisims Government in respect of other conservation requirements and the management of fish and aquatic plants;</p>	
23	A review of fish stocking policies will occur immediately with a view to allowing only stocking with indigenous species		Maintain healthy populations/sub-populations of harvested fish and wildlife. Page 34
24	DFO and MOE will notify and gain approval from the XGFN before stocking lakes in the XGCA		Protect and sustain freshwater and coastal zone aquatic ecosystems. Page 32

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25	All fishing (including FN fishing) must be permitted by the XGFN	<p>Canada and British Columbia will not require the Nisga'a Nation, Nisga'a Villages, Nisga'a Institutions, Nisga'a Corporations, Nisga'a citizens, or other persons authorized by Nisga'a Lisims Government to harvest fish or aquatic plants under this Agreement:</p> <p>a. to have federal or provincial licences; or</p> <p>b. to pay fees, charges, or royalties</p>	<p>Nothing found. However....</p> <p>Maintain sustenance, commercial and recreational, hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities.</p>
26	There will be revenue sharing with provincial or federal governments on all fishing licenses issued in the XGCA	<p>The amounts to be settled on the trustees of the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust are:</p> <p>a. \$10 million by Canada; and</p> <p>b. \$3 million by</p>	<p>Allow community access to local resources for development.</p> <p>Local communities receive an fair share of benefits flowing from local resource extraction. Page 43</p>

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		the Nisga'a Nation.	
	Camping Management		
27	There will be camping only in designated areas or with approval of the XGFN	<p>2. Nisga'a Lisims Government will allow reasonable public access to and onto Nisga'a Public Lands for temporary non-commercial and recreational uses, but public access does not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. harvesting or extracting resources unless authorized by Nisga'a Lisims Government or as set out in this Chapter; b. causing damage to Nisga'a Lands or resources; c. causing mischief or nuisance; or d. interfering with other uses authorized by 	<p>Ensure that tourism development minimizes impacts to cultural and ecological values.</p> <p>Page 34</p>

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		Nisga'a Lisims Government, or interfering with the ability of Nisga'a Lisims Government to authorize uses of or dispose of Nisga'a Public Lands, or to designate Nisga'a Public Lands as Nisga'a Private Lands or Nisga'a Village Lands.	
28	Only no trace camping will be allowed in the XGCA (pack-in/pack-out)		Ensure that tourism development minimizes impacts to cultural and ecological values. Page 34
29	Motorized camping only in designated area. Area will be equipped with a sani-dump service.		Ensure that tourism development minimizes impacts to cultural and ecological values. Page 34
30	Camping and access will not be allowed in sensitive wildlife habitat	Nisga'a Lisims Government may make laws in accordance with the Nisga'a Government Chapter regulating public access to and onto Nisga'a Public	Ensure that tourism development minimizes impacts to cultural and ecological values. Page 34

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		Lands, for purposes such as: c. the protection of sensitive habitat areas or heritage sites	
31	Sensitive habitat, particularly bear habitat, will be marked and signs posted to protect the areas as well as campers.	Nothing found but should be easy enough to create as policy	Establish no-access and facility development zones around significant cultural and ecological features. Page 33
	Motorized and Non-motorized Vehicle Management		
32	4X4s, Mountain bikes and ATVs will be allowed only designated ROADS (XGFN to identify designated and non-designated roads)	Nisga'a Lisims Government may make laws in accordance with the Nisga'a Government Chapter regulating public access to and onto Nisga'a Public Lands, for purposes such as: c. the protection of sensitive habitat areas or heritage sites	Inventory transportation routes/infrastructure (known roads, flight lines, etc.) Establish no-access and facility development zones around significant cultural and ecological features. Page 33
33	Only designated river or stream fords will be accessible to motorized or non-motorized vehicles	Except as otherwise set out in this Agreement, Nisga'a Lisims Government may make laws in respect of environmental	Protect and sustain high value fish habitat. Apply low risk management targets to watersheds containing abundant salmon

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		protection on Nisga'a Lands, including discharges into streams within Nisga'a Lands. In the event of a conflict between a Nisga'a law under this paragraph and a federal or provincial law, the federal or provincial law will prevail to the extent of the conflict.	populations. Page 32
	Wildlife Management		
34	All hunting, commercial viewing and research needs to be registered and/or permitted by the XGFN	Nisga'a Lisims Government will provide reasonable opportunities for the public to hunt and fish on Nisga'a Public Lands but, as the Nisga'a Nation is the owner of the land on the effective date, only Nisga'a citizens have the right to hunt and fish on Nisga'a Lands.	Commercial & public access and facilities minimize impacts to cultural/ecological values. Page 53
	Communications		
35	XGFN land use policies will be communicated broadly so that all potential users know about	Nothing found but Nisga'a Lisims land use	Establishment of new arrangements among First Nations, governments, and stakeholders that

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	the policies before they set out on vacation or before they enter the XGCA	policies are readily available through the Internet	provide for improved information sharing and cooperation, equitable access to resources and development benefits, economic stability, and coordinated management and monitoring. Page iv
36	Land use policies will be reviewed with XGFN members to inform them of restrictions and guidelines	Nothing found but assumed that all Nisga'a are kept informed through Band and Council.	Recognizing and accommodating First Nations Rights and Title and interests. Federal and provincial governments have not reached treaty agreements with First Nations in the CIT region. Interim and protocol agreements between First Nations, governments, tenure holders, and interested groups and organizations can establish working arrangements for resource access, stewardship and economic development. Page iii
	Park Co-management		
37	The Tsylos Park Co-management agreement will be reviewed with the XGFN leadership every five years to facilitate understanding of the	99. The Nisga'a Nation has the right to participate in the planning, management	Due to the high values and scientific uncertainties involved, adaptive co-management and monitoring will play a key role in implementation, the goal

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	agreement.	, and development of the Park and the Ecological Reserve in accordance with this Agreement.	being to refine knowledge and understanding of how the Central and North Coast and Haida Gwaii can remain a unique and fully functioning ecosystem while supporting a high level of well-being for the people that live and work in the region. Page iv
38	All park use permits must be approved by the XGFN	The Joint Park Management Committee will review and make recommendations to the Minister and Nisga'a Lisims Government in respect of: b. encumbrances, park use permits, and other interests and authorizations, applicable to or proposed for the Park;	Appropriate access and facilities management strategies in place prior to development. Page 33
39	All research or film making in the Park must be registered and approved by the XGFN and a protocol must be adhered to	The Joint Park Management Committee will review and make recommendations to the Minister and Nisga'a Lisims Government in respect of:	Assess potential impacts of access and facility development to identified cultural and ecological values and develop appropriate access strategies. Page 43

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		d. archaeological and other research projects, cultural and interpretive programs, publications, and communications strategies proposed for the Park or the Ecological Reserve;	
40	A best practices of co-management practices with other First Nations will be researched to determined if improvements can be made to the existing co-management agreement.	103. The Joint Park Management Committee will review and make recommendations to the Minister and Nisga'a Lisims Government in respect of: a. the development and periodic revision of the master plan, and all other plans, applicable to or proposed for the Park;	Governments and tenure holders have agreements with First Nations regarding consultation, resource management and use, and economic interests. Page 33
	Enforcement		
41	A voluntary XG Rangers group will be established	Nothing found however the	Nothing found however this could easily be

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	<p>to monitor, educate and enforce XGFN policies and regulations</p> <p>The forest fire burn areas would be a good place to pilot this idea due to the mushroom issue next year</p> <p>MOF may be able to designate the burns as "sensitive areas" to facilitate access management</p>	Haida Nation has Forest Guardians	implemented by the Xenigwet'in in their policy development

Subsurface Resources

Nisga'a Government owns all mineral resources on or under Nisga'a Lands, including:

- precious and base metals
- coal, petroleum, natural gases and geothermal resources
- earth, soil, peat, and marl (deposits of clay and calcium carbonate)
 - sand, gravel, rock and stone