

# Lakes Resiliency Project

## FOREST LANDSCAPE PLAN

DRAFT Version 1.6

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<sup>1</sup> View of Crystal Lake, located near Burns Lake, BC. Photo credit to Janelle Beaver.

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## List of Acronyms

AAC	Allowable Annual Cut	MPB	Mountain Pine Beetle
AFLB	Analysis Forest Land Base	NCD	Non-Classified Drainage
AOI	Area of Interest	NRV	Natural Range of Variation
AT	Alpine Tundra	OGMA	Old Growth Management Area
AUM	Animal Unit Month	PCF	Potential Control Feature
BEC	Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification	PG	Planning Guideline
BMP	Best Management Practices	POD	Potential Operational Delineation
CWD	Coarse Woody Debris	PSTA	Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis
dbh	Diameter at Breast Height	QEP	Qualified Environmental Professional
ECA	Equivalent Clearcut Area	RMA	Riparian Management Area
ESI	Environmental Stewardship Initiative	RMZ	Riparian Management Zone
ESSF	Engleman Spruce Sub-alpine Fir zone	RRZ	Riparian Reserve Zone
FHA	Focused Harvest Area	SBPS	Sub Boreal Pine and Spruce
FLA	Forest Landscape Area	SBS	Sub-boreal spruce zone
FLP	Forest Landscape Plan	SHA	Standard Harvest Area
FN	First Nations	SRIG	Stakeholder Review and Input Group
FNSC	First Nations Steering Committee	SRMP	Sustainable Resource Management Plan
FOP	Forest Operations Plan	SSAF	Skeena Sustainability Assessment Forum
FOR	Ministry of Forests	SSAF	Skeena Sustainability Assessment Forum
FPPR	Forest Planning and Practices Regulation	THLB	Timber Harvesting Land Base
FREP	Forest and Range Evaluation Program	TSA	Timber Supply Area
FRPA	Forest and Range Practices Act	TWG	Technical Working Group
FSC	Food, Social and Ceremonial Needs	UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People
GIS	Geographic Information System	UWR	Ungulate Winter Range
ICH	Interior Cedar-Hemlock	VL	Visual Landscape Inventory
IRA	Interim Recovery Area	VQO	Visual Quality Objective
LBM	Lakes Biodiversity Matrix	WLRS	Ministry of Water Lands and Resource Stewardship
LDM	Lakes Dynamic Matrix	WRRU	Wildfire Risk Reduction Unit
LRMP	Land and Resource Management Plan	WTRA	Wildlife Tree Retention Area
LRP	Lakes Resiliency Project	WUI	Wildland Urban Interface
LU	Landscape Unit		

## Document Revision History

Version	Date	Description
0.5	2025-11-11	Initial draft for review with the Planning Table and First Nation Steering Committee.
0.6	2026-03-06	Initial draft for review with the BC Staff (legal)
1.0	2026-03-02	Initial draft limited to Context and Strategies for focus themes/values.
1.1	2026-03-30	Draft version limited Context and Strategies for focus themes/values
1.4	2026-05-04	Draft version with all strategies and including BMPs
1.6	2026-05-20	Draft version addressing suggestions, maps, gaps, and linkages

# 1 Overview

The Lakes Resiliency Project represents a significant step forward in strengthening long term ecological, cultural, and community resilience across the Lakes Timber Supply Area. As part of this effort, several amendments to the Lakes North and South Sustainable Resource Management Plans (SRMP) are being proposed to better align land use direction with current landscape conditions, updated science, and the priorities of Indigenous Nations, local communities, and resource users.

## 2 Introduction and Context

The Lakes Resiliency Project was initiated in response to the devastating wildfire season that swept through the Lakes Timber Supply Area (TSA) in 2018. That year, six evacuation orders were issued across the Burns Lake area, and numerous wildfires burned out of control—highlighting the urgent need for a more proactive and resilient approach to forest and land management. The project aims to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire across the TSA by revisiting and amending the Lakes North (2009) and Lakes South (2003) Sustainable Resource Management Plans (SRMPs)—which set legal land use objectives for biodiversity—and by establishing a Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) Pilot.

The Forest Landscape Plan is being developed through a collaborative, government-to-government process, grounded in the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)—which the Province of British Columbia has committed to implementing through the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA). This pilot represents a significant step in reconciliation and redefines how forest management decisions are made on Indigenous territories within the Lakes TSA.

Since 2019, the region has endured a series of increasingly severe wildfires, resulting in profound ecological and socio-economic impacts. While fires in 2019, 2020, and 2022 remained relatively contained, the 2021 fire near Chief Louie Lake scorched over 20,000 hectares. The 2023 fire season included two large-scale wildfires: the North Lucas Lake fire (35,000 ha) and R11282 (25,000 ha). In 2024, the situation worsened further with the Sabina Lake wildfire consuming over 56,000 ha, and additional major fires at Michel Creek (33,000 ha) and Mount Wells (15,000 ha).

These cumulative fire events have devastated forest ecosystems, compromised biodiversity, degraded air and water quality, and undermined soil stability - especially in ecologically sensitive watersheds like the Cheslatta River and Ootsa Lake (*Utsewh Bin*, *Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en*). Beyond environmental toll, the fires disrupted local communities, strained emergency services, and deeply affected Indigenous Nations, whose cultural and traditional land use practices have been significantly affected.

Through the Lakes Resiliency Project, Indigenous leadership and traditional knowledge are being centered alongside western science to inform long-term planning. Recognizing that cultural and ecological recovery are intertwined, the project acknowledges the Cultural Wellbeing Objectives which reflects the pace and pathway of restoring Indigenous relationships to land and culture following disturbances.

This FLP pilot offers a model of collaboration and shared decision-making between the Province and Indigenous Nations, with engagement from licensees and other stakeholders. Together, partners are working toward the development of a resilient forest landscape that not only mitigates wildfire risk but

also supports cultural revitalization, biodiversity, conservation and sustainable livelihoods for future generations.

The planning table has evolved since its formation on March 18, 2021. Its current structure is shown in Figure 1:

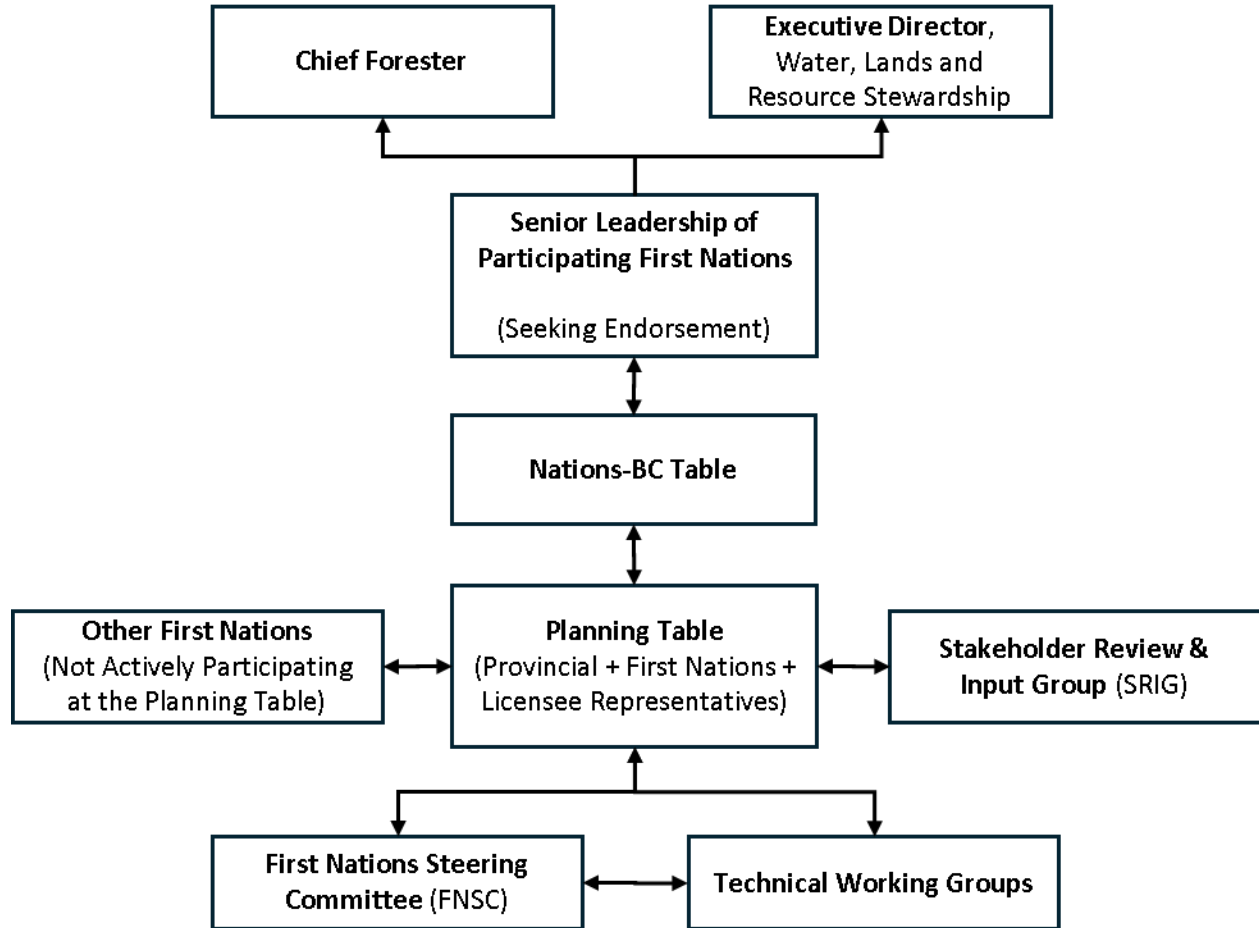


Figure 1 Lakes Planning Table Structure

- The success of the LRP is tied to bringing multiple initiatives together to support the implementation of this plan. Monitoring and assessment programs require a long-term commitment to ensure credible results. The LRP has been and intends to continue integrating with other initiatives to develop a durable product that’s success can be measured and evaluated over time.
- The Skeena Cumulative Effects Framework is a set of policies, procedures and decision-support tools that helps identify and manage cumulative effects consistently and transparently across Skeena’s natural resource sector. The Skeena Cumulative Effects initiative is envisioned to intersect with the Forest Landscape Plans in at least two different places:
- After the plan is implemented, the Skeena Cumulative Effects framework can be embedded into the monitoring process to help assist the implementation and effectiveness assessment of the plan.

- The Skeena Cumulative Effects program may also be utilized for values that have yet to be identified in a forest landscape plan. That could be values that are not addressed in the current iteration of the plan such as new and burgeoning values that should not wait to be evaluated before the next iteration of the FLP.

## 2.1 Vision, Broad Goals and Principles of the Plan

The vision, goals and principles for the Lakes Timber Supply Area (TSA) Forest Landscape Plan (FLP) pilot were compiled based on conversations with Nations, licensees, as well as project documents and Planning Team discussions, over the initial six month of the project and revised periodically over the term of the project. These statements were constantly being clarified to ensure that planning discussions and activities would always be grounded in the story of their development.

### Vision Statement

*Sustainable Forests.*

*Resilient Ecosystems.*

*Partnership with Indigenous peoples.*

*Collaborative management.*

### Goals

To achieve our vision, our goals are to:

- 1) Mitigate threats to ecological health and function from climate change, and natural disturbances. Accordingly, the following priorities will drive management for all values:
  - reduce hazard and manage the increasing threats from catastrophic wildfire,
  - mitigate threats associated with increasing impacts of forest health factors, and
  - mitigate other threats associated with climate change and other disturbances.
- 2) Ensure cultural, spiritual, and traditional values inform management practices and are sustained and celebrated by working alongside Indigenous governments as the traditional stewards of the land.
- 3) Increase community resilience by promoting a range of future options regarding forest management to support the future values and priorities of local residents, communities and businesses.
- 4) Sustainability over the long term for our values, and community and social-economic stability in the local area.

### Principles

The Planning Team will follow these principles:

- 1) Our management of the landbase will show respect for the land and all its people, including future generations and ancestors, building on the perspectives of the Indigenous Peoples who have sustainably managed the landbase for thousands of years. To that end:
  - a) We will enrich our planning for all values with Indigenous perspectives and knowledge.
  - b) Throughout our planning and implementation, we will develop and implement strategies in

partnership with local First Nations.

- 2) We will focus on the condition, health and well-being of the land first, considering all important influences, especially from climate change.
- 3) Our planning will promote a diverse portfolio of stand and ecosystem types and structures that will enable resilience to impacts from climate change and other influences.
- 4) We will be humble in the face of uncertainty, recognizing we will make mistakes, learning from them and improving over time. To that end, our planning and implementation will be adaptive and backed by monitoring to ensure a continuous iterative cycle of learning and management.
- 5) Together we will collaborate and build options for preferred strategies based on best available knowledge and data, while respecting different perspectives within our group.
- 6) We will encourage and seek to enable innovative practices to reduce risks and vulnerabilities and provide positive results for important values.
- 7) Planning and implementation will be transparent, with information, data and knowledge shared with those who are interested.
- 8) There will be clear lines of accountability - at the broad LRP level and at the operational level.
- 9) We will look for efficiencies by communicating and coordinating across divisions, agencies, First Nations, corporate entities, and other organizations, informing people as we go along.

### **Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls To Action**

The achievement of our vision and goals will be grounded in the following calls to action, as identified in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls To Action:

57. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

92. We call upon the corporate sector in Canada to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources. This would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Commit to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships, and obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects;
- Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects;
- Provide education for management and staff on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution,

human rights, and anti-racism.

### **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**

The Lakes Resiliency Project discussions and outcome development will be guided by UNDRIP, specifically the following articles:

Article 3 Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 4 Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to 4. Resolution 217 A (III). 5 their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

Article 5 Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Article 11 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.

Article 18 Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

Article 19 States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Article 18 Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions. Article 19 States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Article 27 States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

Article 29 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples.

Article 32 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources. 2. States shall consult

and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources. 3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

## 2.2 Plan Area

The geographic scope of the Lakes FLP is limited to the Lakes Timber Supply Area (TSA). The reason for the FLP only applying to the TSA was the original long-term vision that each management unit will have a plan and associated Allowable Annual Cut.

### 2.2.1 Description of the Area (Narrative and Maps)

The Forest Landscape Area (FLA) is in north-central British Columbia and encompasses approximately 1.5 million hectares of land.

The gentle rolling terrain of the TSA is typically of the Nechako plateau portion of the central interior of the province. The TSA contains the headwaters of important tributaries of both the Skeena and Fraser watersheds. As well, the landscape has abundant wetlands and many lakes, ranging from small kettle lakes to vast water bodies. Almost 9% of the planning area (approximately 142,000 hectares) is covered by lakes. Babine Lake (*C'inueebin*, Nadut'en), Francois Lake (*Ni Tagh Bin*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en; *Nee Dahr Buhn*, used by Nee Tahi Buhn) and the Nechako Reservoir (Ootsa (*Utsewh Bin*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en), Knewstubb and Tetachuk Lakes) are the largest lakes and the most significant physical features in the planning area. These long, linear lakes follow valley bottoms gouged by glaciers during the last ice age.

The climate is characterized by seasonal extremes in temperature, including severe and snowy winters, and relatively short, warm summers.

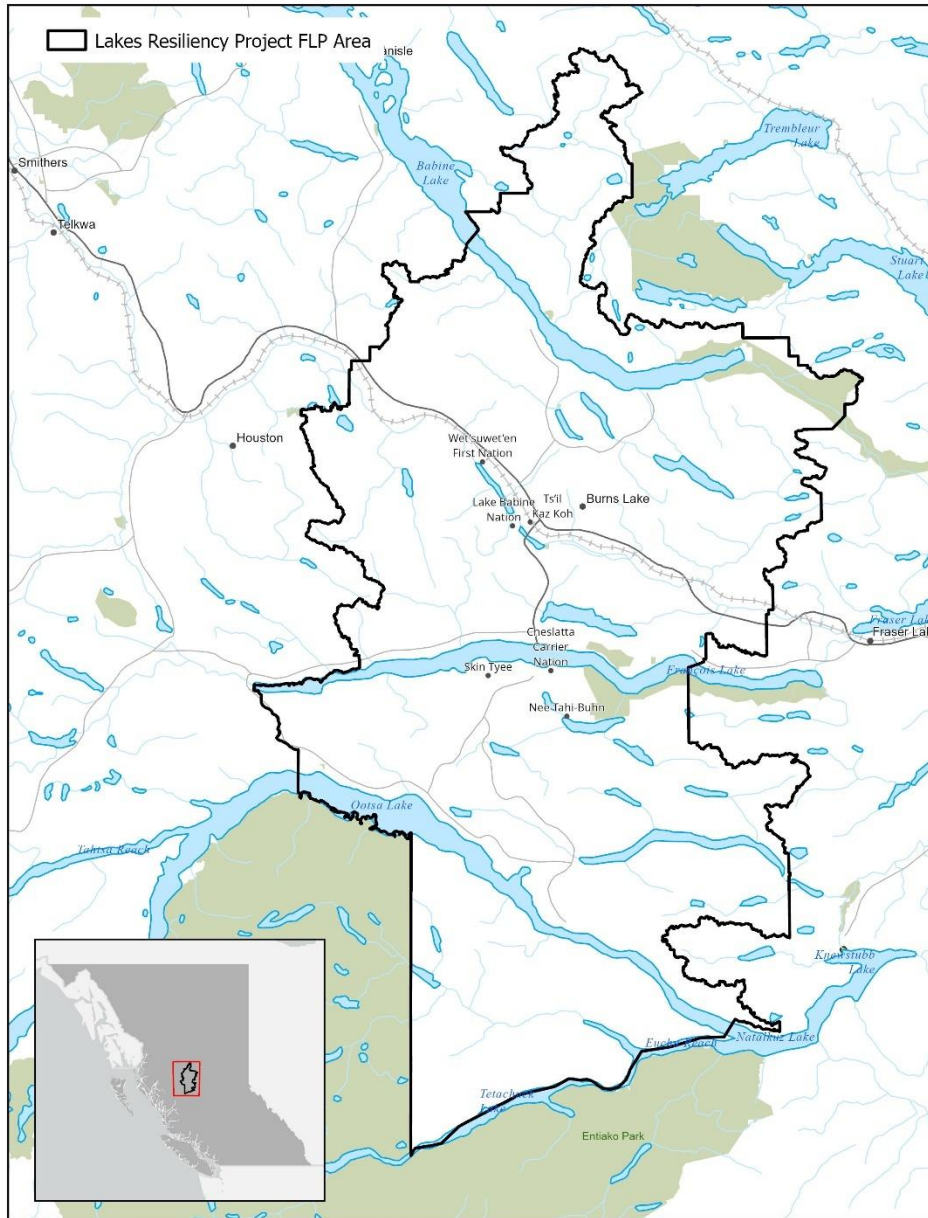
Four biogeoclimatic zones are used to characterize the terrestrial ecosystems found within the Lakes planning area (not including Tweedsmuir Park):

- The *Sub-Boreal Spruce (SBS) zone* is located throughout the planning area, mainly in valley bottoms up to 1,300 metres elevation. About 85% of the planning area falls within the SBS zone.
- High elevation plateaus (between 850 and 1,300 metres elevation) in the southern reaches of the planning area below Tetachuk Lake are generally classified as *Sub-Boreal Pine-Spruce (SBPS) zone*. These account for about 5% of the planning area.
- Pockets of *Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir (ESSF)* forests are found at elevations between 1,300 and 2,100 metres in the northern and eastern regions of the planning area. These account for about 8% of the planning area.
- Less than 1% of the land area falls within *the Alpine Tundra (AT) zone*, at elevations above 2,100 metres.

The Sub-Boreal Spruce zone dominates the Lakes TSA, and with it, a moderately dry climate and a history of frequent wildfires have created a mosaic of relatively young lodgepole pine forests with patches of aspen and pockets of Douglas-fir or birch. Pine dominated stands would eventually develop into white spruce dominated forests with some subalpine fir if they remained undisturbed long enough

to reach the climax or mature forest stage. Mature spruce forests (over 250 years) are relatively uncommon in the Lakes District planning area because the forests are usually destroyed by fire before they reach the climax.

Climate change is changing the context for the ecosystems in the Lakes TSA, with longer, drier and warmer summers and milder winters. This is already impacting the natural disturbance regimes on the landscape.



**Figure 2** Map of the Forest Landscape Area (FLA)

**2.2.2 Natural Disturbance**

The TSA has experienced two significant ecological events or change(s) in recent years. The first change was the size and extent of the Mountain Pine Beetle outbreak that took place. The beetle outbreak in

the Lakes TSA began in the late 1990's and the peak in mortality occurred in 2005. It is currently estimated that about 76% of the mature pine volume – or 49% of the commercially available volume – was killed.

The second significant ecological change that has occurred in the TSA are the extremes in the wildfire season. Forest fires are an ecologically integral part of the ecosystems that make up the Lakes TSA and stand replacing fires are frequent. Lodgepole pine, one of the dominant tree species in the TSA is a fire-adapted species and is well suited to prompt re-establishment after fire. Fires provide nutrient cycling, creates complexity, builds resiliency, and biological legacies within the ecosystem.

While fuel characteristics and distribution fluctuates over time due to natural disturbance and resource development, successful fire suppression efforts in the past century and climate change are affecting fire frequency and changing the dynamic of fire behaviour. For example, between 1933 and 2009, fires in the Lakes TSA burned on average of about 400 ha per year and rarely did they exceed 1,000 ha in size. In the past decade, the average has increased tenfold to about 42,000 ha/year. In 2010, about 28,000 ha was burned by the Binta Lake fire; in 2014 the Chelaslie River and China Nose fires burned about 92,000 ha, and in 2018, a total of eight large wildfires impacted 209,000 ha within the total geographic boundary of the Lakes TSA – this includes 102,000 ha within Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. Besides burning significant area within the park, the burn also consumed volume in area-based tenures and private land, as well as burning 45,000 ha within the THLB.

The wildfires of 2018 also burned watersheds important to First Nations communities. For example, Cheslatta Carrier Nation lost 75% of the Cheslatta Watershed. These wildfire not only caused economic loss for the communities, but they also affected the land where these nations can practice their cultural and spiritual rights.



of precipitation. The implication is that significant long-term trends in hydrology and drought will be driven primarily by changes in temperature rather than precipitation, e.g., decline of snowpack and glaciers, longer snow-free period, and increase in growing-season evaporative demand. Global climate model projections suggest that the lower-than-usual precipitation of the past 20 years is more likely due to natural variability than due to climate change.

- Biogeoclimatic analogs—The trends towards warmer and wetter conditions can be characterized as a shift from SBPS and ESSF climates to ICH-like climates (primarily ICHmk2 in ~2030 and ICHxm1/mc2 in ~2050). These climate analogs are useful for ecosystem management interpretations, but likely are imperfect descriptions of the future climates of the Lakes TSA.

## 2.3 Historical Context for Indigenous Stewardship

The perspectives and historical context summarized in this section was written by the participating First Nations. This section remains unedited by the collaborative planning table and its inclusion is intended to support the Nations' lived experiences.

The Lakes Resiliency Project (LRP) is one of four pilot projects initiated by the Province of British Columbia to develop new Forest Landscape Plans (FLPs). This multi-year process represents a shift in forest management regime in the province – one that recognizes that forests hold many more values than just timber supply. This transition to a new forest management regime moves away from aspatial forest stewardship plans and the transactional consultation model of referrals, and towards landscape-level management plans collaboratively developed by the Province, First Nations, and licensees.

Fifteen First Nations have traditional territory within the geographical boundary of the TSA: Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Lake Babine Nation, Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation (formerly Burns Lake Band), Skin Tye Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn Indian Band, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Takla Lake First Nation, Stellat'en First Nation, Nadleh Whut'en Band, Yekooche First Nation and Tl'azt'en First Nation, Ulkatcho First Nation, Binche Whut'en, Witset First Nation, and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en (which represents Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs).

This section gives a brief overview of the context for First Nations participating in the Lakes Resiliency Project. It is not a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of colonialism or the traditional governance systems of these Nations. Nor is it meant to endorse the LRP as a perfect solution to issues First Nations continue to have in dealing with ongoing colonialism. However, it should give readers essential background in how the LRP is beginning to scratch the surface of collaborative management between the Crown and First Nations in the region.

### 2.3.1 Indigenous land stewardship, resource use, and legal traditions

The Dakelh, Nedut'en, and Wet'suwet'en peoples whose lands comprise the Lakes TSA have practiced sophisticated land stewardship and resource management techniques, demonstrating a deep knowledge of their environments, since time immemorial. These practices, embedded in cultural and spiritual traditions, have provided a structured approach to managing the land and resources sustainably. These methods and the traditional legal and political practices governing them have persisted despite violent acts of assimilation and colonization by Canada, British Columbia, and churches.

Like everywhere in British Columbia, the natural resources of the Lakes TSA have been exploited at an industrial scale since the rise of settler colonialism in the early 19th century. The large-scale removal of

timber, fish, minerals, hydrocarbons, and other natural resources from the environment for the purposes of economic growth and development fundamentally differs from traditional land and resource use that has traditionally sustained First Nations.

The increased pressure on the land through settler industrial activity has been accompanied by a series of colonial legal measures that aimed at distinguishing “Indians” from the rest of the population, dispossessing them of their lands, and destroying their cultures. A number of national laws and policies, especially the Indian Act (1876) have justified significant violence against Indigenous Peoples across what became Canada. That violence has also been experienced in the Lakes region.

For instance, The Nations participating in the LRP all have rich and interconnected traditional governance systems that predate the imposition of the colonial state by thousands of years. All of these were either delegitimized or made outright illegal by the Canadian state.

First, feasts – including the potlatch or balhats – are ways that the Wet’suwet’en, Nedut’en and Dakelh peoples enact traditional governance systems, make agreements, and mark significant life events. The Canadian state outlawed the Potlatch between 1884 and 1951. The traditions of these feasts continued to be practiced in secret and have been revitalized since the prohibition was lifted.

Second, specific people, families, or clan units have always been responsible for the stewardship of defined areas. For the Wet’suwet’en, each Clan (Dīdikh) is divided into houses, and each house (yikh) has an area that is responsible for. For Dakelh nations, territory is divided into Keyohs, each of which has a recognized Keyoh Holder who takes responsibility for decisions in their Keyoh.

The Band system was introduced with the Indian Act in 1876 and continues to be the way most First Nations are governed. This system was put in place to delegitimize the authority of traditional leadership, including Clan, House, and Keyoh. Now many First Nations now have both traditional and elected systems functioning side by side.

These colonial attempts to crush the decision-making structures of First Nations were accompanied by legislated exclusion from the economy. Beyond forcing First Nations onto miniscule reserve lands, the Provincial and Federal Governments made it illegal for First Nations to participate in commercial fishing between 1888 and 1923. In the early 20th century, fisheries agents threatened leaders and members of a number of regional First Nations (including Lake Babine Nation, Nak’azdli Whut’en, Nadleh, Stellat’en and others) with imprisonment if they did not remove their fish weirs. Weirs are an efficient way of harvesting salmon in rivers; however, fisheries officers believed that the weirs were competing with the coastal fishery and therefore harming the profits of canneries. This resulted in the “barricade treaties” by which First Nations were provided with nets and other supplies to change their fishing practices, farming equipment, as well as building a school for children from the First Nations to be educated.<sup>2</sup> Tragically, the desire for education by these Nations justified the incursion of the Crown and Church in constructing the Lejac Indian Residential School.

It is important to recognize that these kinds of unjust exclusions from lands has continued through the 20th century and into the present day. Each Nation in the Lakes TSA has their own story of dispossession and harm. We have listed a few examples below.

- The Government of Canada and AICan (the Aluminum Company of Canada) flooded the Cheslatta Carrier territory when they constructed the Kenney Dam in 1952. After being told they would be able to return to their village to retrieve possessions, the Cheslatta members

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.lbntreaty.com/history-culture/timeline/the-barricades-are-protected-and-the-treaty-is-made-1906/>

discovered their village had been burned. When the flood waters started rising, entire graveyards were left to be flooded (even though AICan had agreed to move them). Cheslatta continues to deal with the fallout of losing their territory.<sup>3</sup>

- Ts'il Kaz Koh (Burns Lake Band) had its reserve lands gradually reduced from 400 acres to just 15 acres. In 2000, Ts'il Kaz Koh's attempt to exert its right to collect tax revenue from a mill operating on its reserve resulted in a conflict with the Village of Burns Lake in which they Village attempted to charge \$400,000 for municipal services to 20 houses.
- The Office of the Wet'suwet'en, representing Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs (and therefore not an Indian Band under the Indian Act, but an expression of pre-colonial Indigenous jurisdiction and authority) took it upon themselves to oppose the Coastal Gaslink pipeline, issuing an eviction order to the construction crews operating on their territory. This group had proven in the Delgamuukw decision that they had never ceded their territory to the Crown. They claimed that they had never given consent to the project – but the Crown issued injunctions against them anyway, asserting authority over land to which its legal authority is at least contested, and at most non-existent.

It is important to consider that the actions of the colonial state were not in the distant past, and that their impacts continue to be felt in the way First Nations people have higher rates of incarceration, of dying in police custody, lower life expectancies, and other statistical measures of deeply ingrained differential treatment.<sup>4</sup> Only through the hard work of fighting the Crown in court and on the land have First Nations begun to demonstrate that their pre-existing right to self-determination must be respected.

### 2.3.2 Aboriginal Rights and Title

Aboriginal Title is a property right that is defined by the Crown's legal system. It is a right to use and decision-making over land, held in common by a First Nation or other Indigenous groups.<sup>5</sup> It is important to recognize that this concept comes not from First Nations' own ways of describing their relationship with the land, but from the colonial system. Nearly all the political and legal battles that First Nations have won have been on the Crown's own terms. These wins have gradually forced the Crown to "grant" First Nations (and other Indigenous peoples) recognized rights under the Canadian legal system.

A foundational document for understanding Aboriginal title within the Crown's legal system is the Royal Proclamation of 1763. The Royal Proclamation recognizes Aboriginal title and establishes that land held by Aboriginal peoples could only be ceded through treaties with the Crown. The Proclamation is enshrined in Section 25 of the Canadian Constitution.

British Columbia, however, has very few treaties – and no historical treaties were ever signed in what became the Lakes Timber Supply Area. The northeastern part of the province is covered by Treaty 8 (signed in 1899), and 14 treaties were negotiated with First Nations on Vancouver Island by the first Lieutenant Governor of BC, James Douglas, in 1850-54. However, starting with Douglas' successor Joseph Trutch in the 1860s, the Province stopped entering into treaties with First Nations, and instead unilaterally declared Crown sovereignty. The Province did not change course until the 1990s. As a result,

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cheslatta.com/history>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.nccih.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/10373/Health\\_Inequalities\\_EN\\_Web\\_2022-04-26.pdf](https://www.nccih.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/10373/Health_Inequalities_EN_Web_2022-04-26.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/aboriginal\\_title/](https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/aboriginal_title/)

very little of BC is covered by treaty, which is the legal process in Canada by which Aboriginal title may be ceded to the Crown.

Aboriginal rights are enshrined in the Constitution through Sections 25 and 35. Section 25 incorporates the Royal Proclamation of 1763, while Section 35 recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights. The specific content of Aboriginal rights has been clarified through numerous court cases, and flow from Aboriginal peoples' use and occupation of their traditional lands. Aboriginal rights exist prior to being recognized by the constitution or the Crown. In a general sense, Aboriginal rights include resource use for food, social, and ceremonial purposes, the right to self-determination, and the right to practice culture and religion. Concurrently, Aboriginal title has been defined through a series of court cases as a collective property right to occupy and possess land.

### **Canadian Constitution Section 25**

25. The guarantee in this Charter of certain rights and freedoms shall not be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from any aboriginal, treaty or other rights or freedoms that pertain to the aboriginal peoples of Canada including:

- a) any rights or freedoms that have been recognized by the Royal Proclamation of October 7, 1763; and
- b) any rights or freedoms that now exist by way of land claim agreements or may be so acquired.

### **Canadian Constitution Section 35**

35. (1) The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.

(2) In this Act, "aboriginal peoples of Canada" includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.

(3) For greater certainty, in subsection (1) "treaty rights" includes rights that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the aboriginal and treaty rights referred to in subsection (1) are guaranteed equally to male and female persons.

#### **2.3.3 Landmark court rulings**

Since Aboriginal rights were enshrined in the Constitution (1982), First Nations have been actively challenging the Canadian government in numerous court cases, many from British Columbia. Legal precedents established in landmark court rulings include:

- **The right of First Nations to harvest resources.** The Sparrow case (1990) provided a test for First Nations to assert their right to harvest.
- **The continued existence of Aboriginal title.** The Delgamuukw case (1997) affirmed the use of oral history as evidence and established criteria for asserting Aboriginal title.
- **The Crown's duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples.** The Haida case (2004) established the Crown's duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples who claim land rights, and to accommodate significant impacts on those claims. This case led to the referrals process now familiar in BC.
- **The right of First Nations to make land use decisions.** The Tsilhqot'in case (2014) was the first case to recognize Aboriginal title over a specific area of land. While the ruling did not extinguish

the Crown's title, it did grant the Tsilhqot'in Nation the right to decide how the land would be used. This case prompted the BC government to seek more genuine negotiations with First Nations to avoid protracted legal battles.

- **The need to address cumulative impacts of natural resource extraction in relation to treaty rights.** The Blueberry case (2021) established that multiple resource extraction projects on the same land base may result in cumulative impacts, and that authorizing such impacts can amount to a breach of treaty.

The Delgamuukw case established a three-part test for Aboriginal title: the land must have been occupied prior to the Crown asserting sovereignty; there must be continuity between pre-sovereignty and present occupation; and the occupation must have been exclusive at the time of sovereignty. Although challenging to meet, this test remains foundational in Aboriginal title claims, with the Tsilhqot'in case being the first successful ruling that applied these criteria.

#### 2.3.4 BC Forestry Context

As Aboriginal Rights and Title have become central to a predictable investment climate, the forestry industry in BC has been undergoing significant changes. Since 1885, forest tenures have been granted to private companies, maintaining that most BC land was held by the Crown and not granted as fee simple lands, as was previously done in BC and continued in the United States. Following the introduction of the Forest Act (1912), amendments were made in 1947, and volume-based licenses, referred to as sustainable yield units, were introduced. While there have been numerous changes to how forests are managed since 1947, most trees harvested in BC continue to originate from volume-based tenure. During the 1980s, sustainable yield units were consolidated into timber supply areas, and non-timber values started incorporating into the forest management regime. This happened in conjunction with the height of timber harvesting in BC.

The current forest management regime has been in place since 2002, when the Forest Range Practices Act (FRPA) was introduced. Forest Stewardship Plans are the primary way licensees communicate to the Province how they will harvest in each area. Forest Stewardship Plans are meant to balance forest activity against eleven values identified in the FRPA. However, the size of the timber supply areas and the aspatial nature of the volume-based tenures meant that Forest Stewardship Plans have not always maintained their intended values. For instance, in 2020 the Forest Practices Board found that the Prince George TSA Biodiversity Order was being contravened, leading to significant impacts to biodiversity, even though all harvesting in the TSA was subject to Forest Stewardship Plans.<sup>6</sup>

First Nations only become aware of proposed cutting permits in their territories after licensees have laid out their cut blocks. This happens through a referral process which was put in place after the Haida decision in 2004 that prompted the 'duty to consult'. The referral process means that First Nations were only involved at the very end of the planning process, functionally ignoring their concerns.

In addition to the inadequacy of the referral process, the Lands and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) process that began in the late 1990s and continued through the early 2000s did not include First Nations in it. These LRMPs continue to be legal documents that guide land use planning. The Lakes TSA has two, one covering the north and the other covering the south. The LRP will also be updating these plans.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bcfpb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/IRC235-PG-TSA-Biodiversity.pdf>

In the Lakes area, the annual allowable cut (AAC) was increased early 2000s in an effort to salvage forests that had been heavily impacted by the mountain pine beetle infestation. The uplift of the AAC went beyond what was forecast for a sustainable cut in the 1990s. The uplift to salvage beetle kill doubled the AAC in only five years, from 1.5m hectares set in 1996 to 3m hectares in 2001.

Along with the devastation from the mountain pine beetle, the Lakes area is feeling all the effects of climate change. Drought and a warming climate have laid the groundwork for wildfires that have been unknown in the region in both size and severity. In 2023 alone, 66,000 hectares of forest burned in the Lakes TSA

The inadequate nature of the permitting process, the devastation caused by the mountain pine beetle infestation, ongoing impacts from climate change and increased wildfires, and the historical exclusion of First Nations from planning process have inspired changes to the Forest Act and FRPA that lead to Forest Landscape Plans.

### **2.3.5 Paradigm Shift: Moving Towards Co-Management**

As mentioned above, Canadian law recognizes that Aboriginal title pre-exists the sovereignty of the Crown. As very little of BC's land base is covered by treaties, the Crown has not formally extinguished Aboriginal title here. This has led to increasing uncertainty of natural resource use in BC, as the courts have consistently upheld Aboriginal title (which is a property right) and clarified Aboriginal rights through case law.

Crown sovereignty asserts exclusive ownership and jurisdiction over lands and resources stewarded and occupied by Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. Yet the precedents set in Canadian case law, as well as the current social, political, and economic climate necessitate a fundamental shift in how natural resources are managed and decisions are made. The goal is not historical justice, but securing resource access and legitimate decision-making, as the Crown needs to align its claims with legally recognized Aboriginal title.

Contemporary Reconciliation negotiations represent a new phase in treaty-making, acknowledging Aboriginal title without detailing its application. They follow the Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for treaty negotiations in British Columbia, which sets out general negotiation guidelines. These negotiations are designed to reconcile Crown and Aboriginal title over First Nations' traditional territories. They are the successors to the Modern Treaty Process, which continues to exist, but has evolved due to limits recognized in its original design.

British Columbia's Modern Treaty Process and Reconciliation Agreements are intended in part to create a predictable investment climate for natural resource operations. In addition, the Province committed to reconciling Crown and Aboriginal title through the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (the Declaration Act) in 2019 and amended forestry legislation through Bills 23 and 28 in 2021.

Over the last ten years, First Nations and the Province have also come together in a number of Environmental Stewardship Initiatives (ESI) to develop shared, trusted information about how industrial activity has impacted First Nations rights, including how these activities have led to cumulative effects. The Omineca ESI and the Skeena Sustainability Assessment Forum (SSAF) have demonstrated high impacts from industrial development – particularly forestry – in the Lakes TSA. These impacts affect the ability of First Nations to meaningfully exercise their Section 35 rights. These are the same kinds of impacts referenced in the *Yahey* decision that resulted in the Crown liable for hundreds of millions of dollars in damages to the Nation for rights infringement. In the case of the Omineca ESI and SSAF, the

Nations and the province are attempting to work together to address these cumulative impacts through a variety of measures, including Government to Government negotiations that reconcile Crown and Aboriginal Title.

This is the context in which Forest Landscape Planning is being undertaken. As the Province implements these changes, First Nations are beginning to reassert their ability to make decisions over lands that they never surrendered and increase the legitimacy of decisions that British Columbians are making together.

### 2.3.6 Relationships as a Key Outcome of Forest Landscape Planning

The new Forest Landscape Planning (FLP) process fosters the co-management of ecosystem health and shared forestry decision-making between the Province and First Nations. Government-to-Government (G2G) relationships are central to this process, and they are crucial for effective land stewardship and natural resource management.

Relationships are an unstated yet important outcome of the FLP process, emphasizing the importance of ongoing collaboration among First Nations, provincial ministries, and other stakeholders. Ongoing relationships and the processes enabled by these relationships are needed to develop both individual and joint readiness for shared decision-making and co-governance.

Effective implementation will necessitate the creation of multi-nation protocols, clear decision-making frameworks, and effective dispute-resolution mechanisms, both among First Nations and between First Nations and the Province. Forest Landscape Planning will be greatly strengthened by intentional processes for building trust, resolving disputes, making joint decisions in a timely manner, and adapting to emerging conditions.

### 2.3.7 Indigenous Place Names

Indigenous place names are included whenever possible and appropriate throughout this document. Each place name is linked to their respective language family (i.e., Dakelh, Nadut'en, or Witsuwit'en /Wet'suwet'en). The language of Wet'suwet'en peoples is sometimes spelled "Witsuwit'en" (adopted by the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and the Witsuwit'en Language and Culture Authority). Other times, the language is spelled "Wet'suwet'en" (maintaining the spelling used in legal proceedings, as established in the Delgamuukw-Gisday'wa court case). Both spellings for the language are included here as "Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en."

In addition, place names vary both within and between communities. This document does not intend to invalidate any alternative or absent place names or spellings. The chosen place names and spellings included here were confirmed by each Nations' own internal process. The place names included in this document do not intend to be definitive or comprehensive. There are many additional Dakelh, Nadut'en, and Witsuwit'en /Wet'suwet'en place names that have not been made public here.

The current consolidated list of shared Indigenous place names includes:

- Allin Creek (*Nis Tsë Dizardle Kwah*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)
- Bulkley River (*Widsin Kwa'h*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)
- Decker Creek (*Taltsiy Kwah*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)
- Henkel Creek (*Ts' ilhgi Kwah*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)
- Peter Aleck Creek (*T'azdli Kwah*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)
- Sauls Creek (*Tsil Klaz Kwe*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)
- Sheraton Creek (*Wen'zeen'ii Coo Kwe*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)
- Stearns Creek (*Ts'an Kwe*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)

Tchesinkut Creek (*Ceste K'et Tl'enlii*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Babine Lake (*C'inueebin*, Nadut'en)  
 Binta Lake (*Bit Ndet*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Broman Lake (*C'iggiz*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Bulkley Lake (*Tsë Tëzdli*, "Flowing Through the Rocks," Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Burns Lake (*Tselh K'iz Bin*, "Axe in Lake," Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Day Lake (*Netadziw*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Decker Lake (*T'aco*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Elwin Lake (*Sdets' Inegh*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Francois Lake (*Ni Tagh Bin*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en; *Nee Dahr Buhn*, used by Nee Tahí Buhn)  
 Guyishton Lake (*C'iyistan Bin*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Isaac Lake (*Tselh Tsë K'iz*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Maxan Lake (*Tasdlegh Bin*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Morice Lake (*Widzin Bin*, used by Nee Tahí Buhn)  
 Nechako Reservoir (*Wutseexw Ben*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Ootsa Lake (*Utsewh Bin*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Owen Lake (*Biwiní*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Park Lake (*Khëlh Bin*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Pinkut Lake (*Beendec Bin*, Nadu'ten)  
 Rose Lake (*Windí Kën*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Skins Lake (*Netanli Bin*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en; *Thlae Dees Tsih*, "Noisy leaves blowing in the wind," used by Nee Tahí Buhn)  
 Swans Lake (*Tl'o K'iwico*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Takysie Lake (*Dik'ay Zi Bin*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Taltapin Lake (*T'seelet T'aat*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Tatalrose Lake (*Talhghez Bin*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Tschesinkut Lake (*Ceste K'et Bin*, "Lake on Top of Ridges," Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Uncha Lake (*Honcagh Bin*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Boo Mountain (*Tatl'ac Yes*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)  
 Uncha Mountain (*Honcagh Yis*, Witsuwit'en/Wet'suwet'en)

## 2.4 History of Forest Harvesting and Management

The construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific in 1914 generated demand for railway bridge timbers. During this period tie-hacking became a major component of the local economy (Province of BC 2000). Utilization of the area's forests did not occur on a significant scale until World War II. Post war demand encouraged the establishment of countless small portable sawmills and, for a time, small-scale entrepreneurs thrived. As forest management became more complex and the industry more highly integrated, timber rights held by small local mills were slowly bought out by more efficient large stationary sawmill complexes.

The dead timber from the recent Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) epidemic has been the focus of intensive salvage activities to recover its economic value before the trees decay and break down. As a result, harvesting decisions have focused on this killed volume resulting in about 75 percent of all volume harvested in the past 20 years being pine and most of that pine (about 76%) killed by the MPB.

A significant amount of dead pine remains on the landscape, but there is an uncertainty around the amount that can be salvaged or will be harvested, as there are many factors in play over the viability of the value it represents (e.g., shelf life, markets, forest management objectives for other values, etc.).

Forests are important culturally and spiritually for local First Nations. As well, forests are gaining increasing economic importance to local First Nations as most now have an agreement with the

province for forest harvesting and management:

- Carrier Sekani First Nations Collaboration Agreement with the province (includes Nadleh Whuten, Nak'azkli, Saik'uz First Nation, Stelat'en First Nation, Talka Lake First Nation, Tl'azt'en Nation and Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation and Carrier Sekani Tribal Council) – 5 of these communities have interests in the Lakes TSA.
- Babine Lake Community Forest Society (Community forest partnership between Granisle and Lake Babine Nation – 8,939 ha and 10,088m<sup>3</sup>)
- Cheslatta Carrier Nation – Community Forest Agreement
- Chinook Community Forest – equal partnerships between 6 First Nation and 2 Municipal governments (Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Lake Babine Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn Indian Band, Skin Tyee Band, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Village of Burns Lake and Regional District of Bulkley Nechako (Area "B" and "E") – area impacted by fire 7,000 ha – and 17,500 ha of forests across Chinook Community Forest are high burn severity category with another 14,000 in very high) (total landbase 130,244 ha – not sure of the % burned as can't find annual report)
- First Nations Woodlot Licenses – Lake Babine Nation and Nee Tahi Buhn

The forests are also important locally for non-timber economic activities. Many people in the Lakes District lead a rural lifestyle that includes some combination of mixed farming, ranching, logging, trapping and guiding. These activities are often practiced as part-time ventures or subsistence activities.

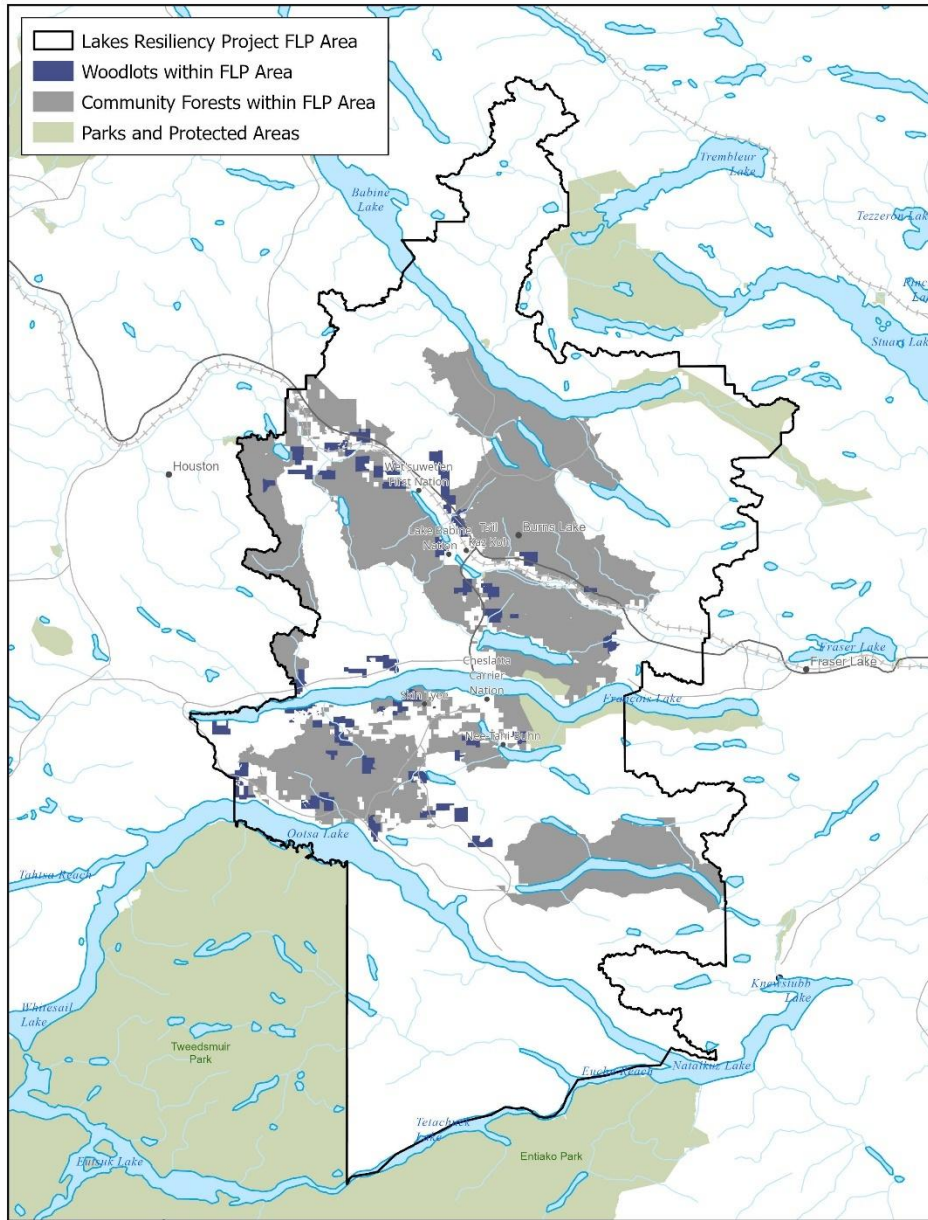


Figure 4 Map of Area-Based Tenures within the FLP Area

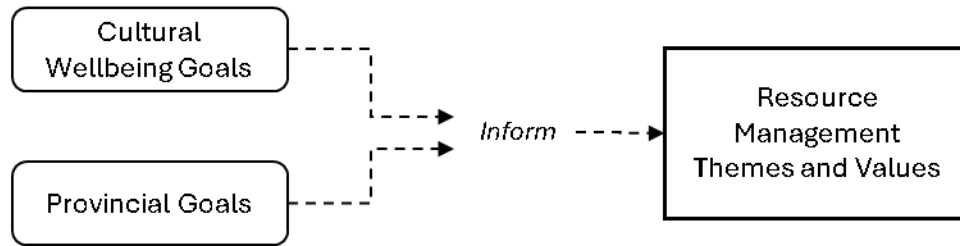
## 2.5 Document Framework

Building from the context and considerations outlined above in Section 2, the sections below set out the core direction of the FLP. This includes the goals, values, objectives, strategies, and associated guidance that will inform forest management within the FLP. Together, these components translate the planning context into actionable direction, supporting implementation on the ground while reflecting the values and priorities identified through the planning process.

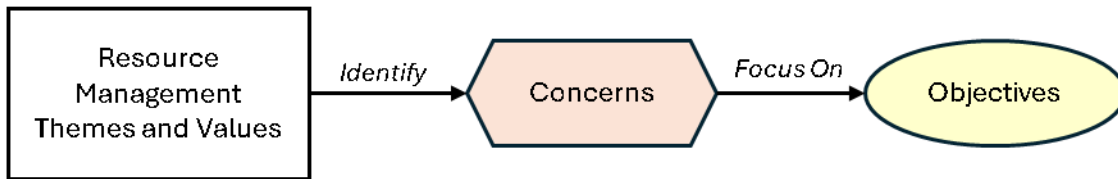
The document framework (Figure 5) outlines the planning process in which cultural wellbeing and provincial goals inform shared resource management values, leading to the identification of concerns, objectives, and stewardship strategies. Reflecting the concept that everything is connected, objectives

guide outcomes through planning guidelines and best management practices, with monitoring and reporting supporting adaptive management and continuous improvement.

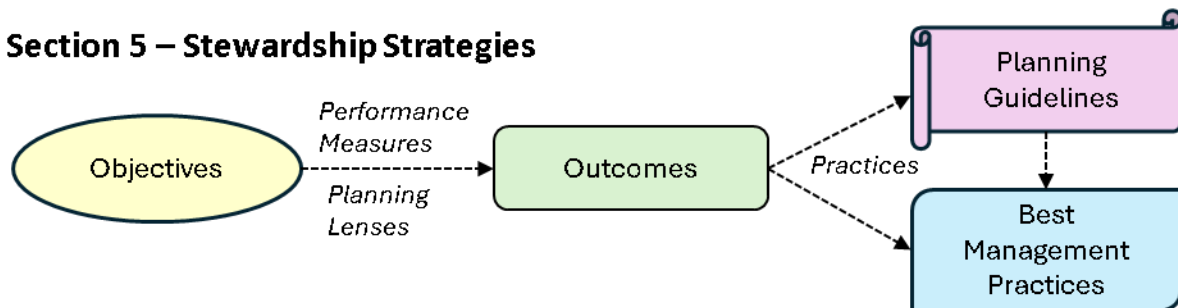
**Section 3 – Goals and Linkages**



**Section 4 – Resource Management Themes, Values, Objectives, and Concerns**



**Section 5 – Stewardship Strategies**



**Section 6 – FLP Implementation**

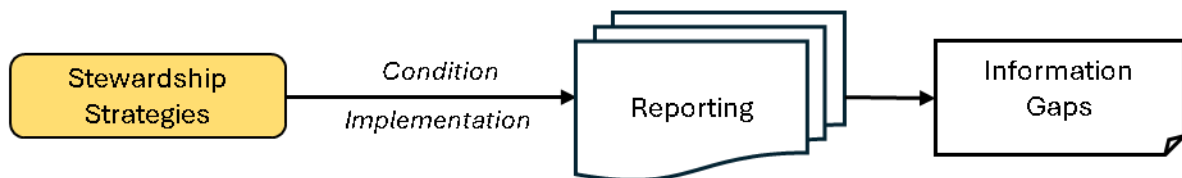










Figure 5 FLP Document Framework

## 3 Goals and Linkages

### 3.1 Cultural Wellbeing Goals

To maintain and expand the stewardship and jurisdictional rights of each nation, and to ensure that First Nation values inform all strategies delineated within the FLP, the First Nations Steering Committee (FNSC) has identified the following cultural wellbeing goals for valued ecosystem components of high priority to the First Nations participating in the Lakes Resiliency Project:

	Forest Biodiversity	Preserve and create healthy, diverse forests that are resilient to infestation, wildfire and the effects of climate change, and support the full exercise of section 35 rights.
	Wetlands (Tloh telh t'ah)	Maintain and restore health, abundance, and diversity of high-quality wetland ecosystems in the Lakes TSA.
	Fish (Lokh/Lhok) and Fish Habitat	Restore the health and abundance of resident and anadromous fish populations (including wild salmon populations) in the Lakes TSA to levels that fully-satisfy each Nations' food, social and ceremonial needs and provide meaningful economic benefit to Indigenous communities.
	Water (Toh) & Watercourses	Maintain and restore stream flows and temperatures to pre-industrial levels that are stable and conducive for healthy and abundant plant, fish and wildlife populations. Ensure water bodies are unpolluted and safe for nuneets'iyh' (all the living creatures).
	Moose (Khida/Hida) and Moose Habitat	Healthy khida and abundant khida population and habitat that fully satisfy each Indigenous Nations' food, social, and ceremonial needs.
	Fur Bearing Animals	Increase health, abundance and resiliency of marten, fisher, mink, porcupine, lynx, beaver, wolverine, fox, and rabbit habitat. Minimize the negative impacts of forestry operations on Indigenous trapping activities as much as possible and ensure that habitat requirements for all fur bearing animals are met. Facilitate collaboration between Indigenous trappers and licensees where possible.
	Other Large Terrestrial Wildlife	Forestry operations have as minimal negative impact on nuneets'iyh' (all the living creatures) as possible. Wildlife can freely and safely move throughout the Lakes TSA, and they have easy access to abundant, healthy and diverse habitats.
	Cultural Heritage Features	Cultural heritage features and objects are treated respectfully and in culturally appropriate ways. Cultural features and objects are preserved for future generations. Sacred and preferred places are protected from pollution, inappropriate timber harvesting activities and non-Indigenous access to enable Indigenous cultural and spiritual activities.

Whenever possible, these cultural wellbeing objectives draw upon the trusted data and indicators developed for the Skeena Sustainability Assessment Forum (SSAF) and Omineca Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI).

The Cultural Wellbeing Goals are intended to imbue an essence of cultural wellbeing into recommendations put forth by the TWGs. By doing so, the FNCS aspires to ensure that First Nation values are not merely considered but actively incorporated into the development of objectives within the FLP.






### Indigenous Perspectives Statements

Cultural and ecological recovery are closely interconnected, requiring meaningful integration of Indigenous rights under Section 35 to support inherent stewardship responsibilities with the support of the Province and Licensees. Forest management is strengthened by combining Indigenous knowledge with Western scientific data and rooting decisions in land-based activities. The Cultural Wellbeing Objectives have supported “sustainable forestry practices that harmonize with each Nation’s land use activities and harvesting rights while honouring each Nation’s responsibility to safeguard its Aboriginal title for future generations.” Within the Lakes Resiliency Project Forest Landscape Plan, valued ecosystem components identified as priorities by First Nations are central, and recommendations from technical working groups have included cultural wellbeing to ensure they are carried forward through this lens. Integrating cultural wellbeing within the Plan supports meaningful integration of section 35 rights and the collaborative effort to move towards co-management in which forestry practices reflect all involved in protecting and benefitting from our natural resources.

Indigenous perspectives statements are included as considerations and concerns with relevant resource management themes and values described in Section 4.

## 3.2 Provincial Goals

Key provincial goals that the Chief Forester must consider under FRPA Section 2.22<sup>7</sup> include:

	supporting the production and supply of timber in the forest landscape area
	supporting the protection and conservation of the environment;
	managing the values placed on forest ecosystems by Indigenous peoples;
	managing the values placed on forest ecosystems by local communities;
	preventing, mitigating and adapting to impacts caused by significant disturbances to forests and forest health, including wildfire, insects, disease and drought.

To meet these provincial goals, this FLP will:

- Identify where and how forest management activities can occur (i.e., timber harvesting, road

<sup>7</sup> Bill 23, Section 2.22

layout, silviculture activities).

- Provide clarity on overlapping direction from strategic plans and land use objectives including wildfire risk reduction plans and access management plans.
- Efficiently address changing conditions (e.g., climate change, wildfires).
- Address the potential environmental impacts of timber harvesting activities.
- Consider cumulative effects to prepare for possible future forest conditions.

Within the scope of this project, the Executive Director (Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship) may consider revising provincial goals (objectives) established under Section 93.4 of the Land Act that include:

- Objectives 1 through 4 of the Lakes North Sustainable Resource Management Plan (2008)
- Objectives 1 through 8 of the Lakes South Sustainable Resource Management Plan (2007)

## 4 Resource Management Themes, Values, Concerns, and Objectives

### 4.1 Landscape Ecosystem Health and Resilience

<b>Overarching Objectives</b>	Maintain healthy populations of local species by maintaining all the key functional components of local ecological landscapes with enough space (using correct scale) and redundancy to allow for natural processes in the face of climate change.
<b>Considerations and Concerns</b>	<p>Landscape Ecosystem Health and Resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Seral stage levels</u> – The cumulative disturbance in the past 30 years, primarily from mountain pine beetle, wildfire, and salvage harvesting, exacerbated by climate change, has created landscapes across the TSA unnaturally dominated by young (0-40 year old) stands. These dense young stands, particularly those greater than 15 years of age, often have low structural diversity and few vigorous understory herbs and shrubs. Meanwhile, mature and older age classes of stands, important for some species, are scattered across the TSA as remnants at unnaturally low levels.</li> <li>• <u>Ecological representation</u> – The high degree of harvesting disturbance mostly associated with salvage in the recent past has dramatically reduced the number and distribution of ecosystems allowed to go through natural processes, unaltered by harvesting and other significant 'unnatural' influences. Maintaining the full range of ecosystems subject only to natural processes, as benchmark reference examples and habitat for poorly understood species has long been a cornerstone of sound biodiversity conservation science.</li> <li>• <u>Fine-scale diversity</u> – related to the concept of “maintaining all the structural and ecological bits and pieces,” maintenance of a degree of fine-scale diversity helps build in structures and habitat elements for poorly understood species that do not disperse widely. Disturbance over the past 30-40 years has reduced diversity at this scale.</li> <li>• <u>Interior forest / Edge</u> - The high degree of disturbance in the past 50-60</li> </ul>

	<p>years may have significantly reduced the ratio of interior forest to the length of edge. Edge habitat is important for certain species to thrive, but a dramatic increase in such habitat over interior forest, may unnaturally skew the TSA in favour of the suite of edge species to the detriment of forest interior species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Fragmentation / Landscape Diversity</u> – Related to the issue of more edge and less interior forest, disturbance over the past 50-60 years does not appear to be creating patterns on the landscape congruent with a natural disturbance regime that creates larger concentrated disturbances. Limits to harvest unit size and other harvesting rules has spread harvesting disturbance broadly across the landscape, with many widely dispersed small cutblocks and a highly fragmented forested matrix.</li> <li>• <u>Concept vs. reality of Old Growth Management Areas and Landscape Connectivity Corridors</u> – The high degree of disturbance, the extent of high-hazard stands for wildfire due to fuel accumulations, and anticipated further impacts from climate change have some professionals and community members wondering if the approach used to manage for biodiversity over the past 25 years is still relevant in the Lakes TSA.</li> <li>• <u>Climate change ‘readiness’</u>- Resilient landscapes should be able to absorb man-made and natural disturbance and rebound to a healthy degree of ‘naturalness’ where natural processes are facilitated and species are maintained. However, for this type of resilience we need to understand trends, influences and vulnerabilities from climate change and build mitigation approaches into our management planning and practices. This has not previously been well done in the Lakes TSA.</li> <li>• <u>Capturing and integrating lessons learned</u> – Adaptive management is an approach to management with a focus on continuous learning, facilitated through a blending of scientific experimentation with operational approaches that use the best available knowledge. Our approach in the TSA up to this point has been mostly one of setting rules and expecting compliance, rather than adaptive management.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indigenous Perspectives on Landscape Ecosystem Health and Resilience</b></p>	<p>Landscape-level ecosystem health and resilience are foundational to sustainable forestry, the restoration of wildlife populations, and long-term land stewardship. Healthy forest ecosystems continue to contribute to biodiversity and water cycles and mitigate climate change. They provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife while sustaining communities' cultural and economic well-being. This aligns with the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and is guided by Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles. The co-developed forestry strategies between the Nations, forest licensees, and Provincial governments ensure that the management, stewardship, and responsibility values are echoed throughout the process. To achieve this, forestry must shift toward ecosystem-based management, creating resilience from wildfire and forest restoration and protecting watersheds with wildlife habitats. Furthermore, to enhance stand diversity, the aspect of co-management between the Nations, licensees, and Province offers a powerful model for monitoring, stewardship, and adaptive land management. Embedding this partnership into a collaborative planning process ensures that the forest landscape is ecologically resilient and culturally and socially just.</p>

Specific Objectives with links to associated, Outcome(s), Planning Guideline(s), and Best Management Practice(s)	Outcomes	Planning Guidelines	Best Management Practices
<p><b>Lakes Biodiversity Matrix (LBM)</b> - maintain a connected network of areas with minimal human influence to sustain natural processes and biodiversity, while supporting effective management of the surrounding working landscape. These areas provide a degree of protection despite natural disturbance impacts that includes critical biotic and abiotic elements and will also support ecological representation and both fine scale and landscape diversity.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 1</b> <b>Outcome 4</b></p>	<p><b>PG 1</b> <b>PG 6</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 1</b></p>
<p><b>Rationale</b> – The LBM lays the foundation for management of biodiversity at the landscape scale in the TSA, providing some protection for sites recognized to be important for habitat or cultural purposes and combining these with other areas into a network with functional connectivity. The LBM ensures foundational elements are retained supporting the long-term health of the ecological landscape. This approach recognizes there are many unknowns when it comes to managing for biodiversity and we need to have benchmark areas where natural processes can proceed unencumbered by significant man-induced disturbance, while allowing for cultural and other light use. It follows the biodiversity conservation foundational element of keeping all the ‘cogs and wheels.’</p>			
<p><b>Lakes Dynamic Matrix (LDM)</b> – support a full range of anthropogenic activities where the type and pattern of activity cycles across the landscape over time. These areas will support a stable gradual transition from the current fragmented landscape-level opening/patch size and wildlife tree objectives to managing for healthy ecosystems patterns to a more aggregated approach, better aligned with natural disturbance patterns on the landscape.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 2</b> <b>Outcome 3</b> <b>Outcome 5</b> <b>Outcome 6</b></p>	<p><b>PG 2</b> <b>PG 4</b> <b>PG 7</b> <b>PG 9</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 1</b></p>
<p><b>Rationale</b> – Management in the LDM is as important for biodiversity as the LBM by supporting the transition from managing small patches or stands to larger ‘Event Units’ as an amalgam of stands. Practices in the larger Focused Harvest Areas, together with targeted activities in the Interim Recovery Areas, will help to drive this transition.</p>			
<p><b>Standard Harvest Area</b> – produce timber in a practical, responsible way while following existing rules and taking basic steps to care for forests, wildlife, and other important values over the long term. Within the LDM, the SDA supports a stable and gradual transition from the current fragmented landscape-level opening/patch size patterns to a more aggregated approach, better aligned with natural disturbance patterns on the landscape and healthy ecosystems.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 2</b> <b>Outcome 3</b> <b>Outcome 4</b> <b>Outcome 5</b></p>	<p><b>PG 6</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 1</b></p>
<p><b>Rationale</b> – Refined outcomes for the SHA help to reduce the current fragmentation caused by dispersed harvesting by transitioning toward larger, aggregated harvest patterns that mimic natural disturbance regimes—particularly wildfire. Research shows that aggregated patterns better support biodiversity, structural complexity, and ecosystem resilience. Implementing this shift gradually ensures ecological stability and resilience.</p>			
<p><b>Focused Harvest Areas (FHA)</b> – concentrate timber harvesting over a short period of time to develop a disturbance pattern more aligned with natural disturbance and then limit activities to support recovery.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 5</b></p>	<p><b>PG 7</b> <b>PG 8</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 1</b></p>

<p><b>Rationale</b> – Wildfire as large natural disturbance events tend to cluster in ecological landscapes like those in the Lakes TSA. FHAs are designed to mimic these natural patterns to a degree, moving the current landscape that is highly fragmented by our past approach of distributed small patches, to something more natural. Harvesting disturbance over a portion of the TSA will approximate natural disturbance with retention and remnant patches, clustered intensively over a 10- to 20-year period and then left to develop naturally for 30 years or so. Practices, such as riparian reserves, will fit with natural disturbance patterns more closely than under FRPA. This has been found to be important to support natural processes, functions and ecological regeneration.</p>			
<p><b>Interim Recovery Areas (IRA)</b> - Limit human activity to non-commercial activity within designated parts of the landscape, within the LDM, for several decades at a time to help transition to a disturbance pattern more aligned with natural disturbance.</p>	<p><b>Outcome 6</b></p>	<p><b>PG 9</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 1</b></p>
<p><b>Rationale</b> – If wildfires naturally cluster in ecological landscapes like those in the Lakes TSA, then larger patches were naturally left undisturbed for extended periods. The ‘where-you-are-nots’ or IRAs are large intact temporary deferrals left within the TSA to ‘rest’ or ecologically recover from disturbance for a defined period (20-50 years) while contributing to the conservation of biodiversity objectives. Along with FHAs, IRAs assist in the transition to a more natural disturbance pattern on the Lakes TSA landscapes.</p>			

## 4.2 Wildfire Resilience

<p><b>Overarching Objectives</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the size, spread, and intensity of wildfires across the landbase.</li> <li>• Design fire management strategies across the landscape to promote fuel discontinuity or modified fire behaviour. These strategies aim to slow fire progression (not stop it) by using existing natural features as much as possible, altering harvest patterns, managing/prescribing fire, converting species to deciduous, and managing surface/ladder/crown components of stands.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Considerations and Concerns</b></p>	<p>Wildfire Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Increasing fire size</u> – With increasing temperatures and prolonged droughts we are seeing much larger fires than in the past, impacting timber inventories, habitats and a range of other values over large areas.</li> <li>• <u>Build-up of hazardous and continuous fuel types</u> – the combination of mountain pine beetle and past fire suppression has caused fuels to build up in stands at unprecedented levels. At the same time, these stands are already in climate envelopes that are no longer aligned with the natural ecosystem, and under climate change, they will continue to become warmer and drier for longer periods in the summer. This combination of climate and fuels contributes to a high risk situation.</li> <li>• <u>Increasing fire intensity</u> – high temperatures and drought conditions are now so prolonged in the TSA that, combined with fuel loading, hazards are sufficiently high to contribute to wildfires of intensities previously unknown in the TSA.</li> <li>• <u>Wildfire spread</u> – related to the other factors mentioned above, rates of wildfire spread are increasing such that they are becoming difficult to get under control within a reasonable period of time.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indigenous Perspectives on</b></p>	<p>Wildfire resilience is a central value in this Plan, approached through ecosystem-based management to strengthen diversity, build resilience, and reduce the risk of uncontrolled wildfires. Many Nations have experienced devastating wildfire</p>

<b>Wildfire Resilience</b>	impacts that have affected forestry operations, cultural practices, and emergency resources. In collaboration with the Province and licensees, efforts are focused on respecting First Nations values and priorities by enhancing block cleanup, applying traditional land restoration techniques, and aligning with the principles of Indigenous stewardship, while building on existing higher-level plans to achieve this proactive approach to wildfire resiliency.		
<b>Specific Objectives with links to associated, Outcome(s), Planning Guideline(s), and Best Management Practice(s)</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Planning Guidelines</b>	<b>Best Management Practices</b>
Reduce the size, intensity, and rate of spread of the largest wildfires compared to 2014-2023.	<b>Outcome 7</b> <b>Outcome 8</b> <b>Outcome 9</b>	<b>PG 10</b> <b>PG 11</b> <b>PG 12</b> <b>PG 13</b>	<b>BMP 2</b>
<b>Rationale</b> – The intent of these guidelines and BMPs are to reduce the dominance of high hazard fuel and stand types across the TSA. The direction is focussed either directly on fuel treatments, targeted harvesting in specified locations on the landscape, regeneration and other treatments to reduce fuels.			

### 4.3 Aquatics, Wetlands, and Riparian Habitat

<b>Overarching Objectives</b>	Protect and restore functional aquatic and riparian habitat in the plan area that has been highly disturbed by the mountain pine beetle epidemic, more recent wildfires, and associated road building and salvage disturbance, with special attention to wetlands and Indigenous cultural linkages.
<b>Considerations and Concerns</b>	<p>Water Quantity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Changes in stream flow (timing and magnitude)</u> - with increased disturbance across the landscape, significant changes have occurred to the natural stream flow regime with increased peak flow, mobilizing sediments and organic materials beyond what occurs naturally, decreasing water quality and impacting channel integrity. Also, decreased low flows can occur, prompting streams to unnaturally dewater, negatively impacting fish spawning and other habitats, and domestic water supplies. As well, the timing of peak and low flows may become desynchronized from the natural flow regime, impacting species with lifecycle stages tied to the natural timing of those flow events.</li> <li>• <u>Stream channel stability or morphology for mainstem reaches</u> – if stream flow is increased beyond the contemporary natural regimes, depending on the volume and power of the stream, it can erode banks, change channel morphology, inundate floodplains and ultimately disrupt fish and other habitats. Depending on the slope, channels can be destabilized sending debris flows and excessive sediments downstream, negatively impacting fish habitat or water quality for domestic water supplies.</li> </ul> <p>Water Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Increased summer stream temperatures</u> – Excessive exposure to sunlight due to excessive disturbance, can in some cases raise water temperatures for a period on stream systems within a watershed to the point that it is lethal to fish and/or detrimental to related species.</li> <li>• <u>Maintenance of sufficient vegetative cover and future wood debris inputs</u></li> </ul>

	<p><u>along streams</u> which provide sufficient fine organic input into streams as forage for aquatic and riparian species and, larger woody debris to help stabilize stream morphology and maintain key habitat elements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Fine sediment inputs generally and increases post-wildfire</u> – Wildfire can contribute to significant impacts on soil and other resources. Removal of the living canopy of trees and shrubs increases rainfall inputs directly to the soil. Compounds released from burning organic material together with super-dried mineral soil often makes soils hydrophobic to initial rainstorms post-fire, dramatically increasing surface erosion. With few trees and shrubs to absorb water from the soil, some soils may become overloaded as water eventually infiltrates into lower soil horizons, contributing to slumps and landslides. This process can be accelerated by fire guards and related disturbances that move and concentrate water in specific locations.</li> </ul>		
	<p>Fish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Fish passage</u> – through drainage structures including culverts, cross drains and under bridges, which allows full access to habitats along various stream reaches. These structures must be inspected and properly maintained over time to ensure proper functioning.</li> </ul>		
	<p>Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Wetland hydrology</u> – Since wetlands tend to be a highly connected mosaic of marsh, swamp, fen and bog systems with water and nutrients flowing slowly through them, they are vulnerable to road development that blocks such water flow.</li> <li>• <u>Sediment within wetlands</u> – that can contribute to degradation of water quality and altered stream flows through the wetland mosaic with habitat loss, reduced oxygen levels and nutrient imbalances.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Indigenous Perspectives on Aquatics, Wetlands, and Riparian Habitat</b></p>	<p>The mountain pine beetle epidemic, successive wildfires, associated road building, and landscape activity have heavily impacted the forest landscape's aquatic values. In these areas, aquatic and riparian systems have often been fragmented, degraded, or hydrologically altered. This has placed pressure on fish habitat, wetland function, and water quality. Stewardship efforts must prioritize reestablishing functional habitat, with special attention to wetlands, key streams, and headwaters that serve as ecological and habitat lifelines. This includes recognizing and respecting Indigenous cultural linkages to water, where specific wetlands, fish-bearing streams, and water sources hold ongoing cultural, environmental, and ecosystem significance. Effective aquatic networks must integrate the cultural values with habitat needs for sensitive and wide-ranging species, which further supports a healthy and strong connectivity and wildfire resiliency across the watersheds. This work is guided by Indigenous stewardship through Guardian programs, and trusted data co-developed by Nations, licensee, and the Province. Forest Landscape Planning can begin to work towards restoration of aquatic systems as living networks that support biodiversity, cultural wellbeing and long-term sustainability.</p>		
<p><b>Specific Objectives with links to associated, Outcome(s), Planning Guideline(s), and Best Management Practice(s)</b></p>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p>	<p><b>Planning Guidelines</b></p>	<p><b>Best Management Practices</b></p>
<p>WATER QUALITY - Vegetative cover and future woody debris is maintained or restored to provide sufficient habitat for</p>	<p><b>Outcome 10</b></p>	<p><b>PG 14</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 3</b></p>

aquatic and terrestrial riparian species.			
<b>Rationale</b> – by providing streamside vegetation buffers (including trees) with sufficient fine organic input into streams as forage for aquatic and riparian species and, larger woody debris to help stabilize stream morphology and maintain key habitat elements.			
WATER QUALITY - Stream temperature is moderated along critical stream reaches sufficient to support functional habitat for local aquatic/riparian species.	<b>Outcome 10</b>	<b>PG 14</b>	<b>BMP 3</b>
<b>Rationale</b> – by maintaining or restoring sufficient streamside vegetation, to provide shade along a sufficient length of streams in and connecting to key local aquatic and riparian habitats, to avoid detrimental stream temperature increases in those habitats.			
WATER QUALITY - Roads are built, maintained and deactivated to minimize fine sediment delivery into aquatic habitat.	<b>Outcome 11</b>	<b>PG 14</b>	<b>BMP 3</b>
<b>Rationale</b> – by using standard engineering practices to control water flow and sediment delivery to maintain the natural diversity of quality, functioning aquatic and riparian habitats and, high water quality for domestic water supplies (where applicable).			
WETLANDS – Surface and ground water flow within wetlands and wetland complexes is maintained or restored.	<b>Outcome 11</b>	<b>PG 14</b>	<b>BMP 3</b>
<b>Rationale</b> – Using standard operating procedures for roadbuilding, maintenance and deactivation near wetlands.			
WATER QUANTITY - Water flows are maintained at historic timing and peak/low levels that support aquatic habitat.	<b>Outcome 12</b>	<b>PG 7</b> <b>PG 8</b> <b>PG 9</b>	<b>BMP 3</b>
WATER QUALITY - Post wildfire management activities prevent negative impacts of peak flow on channel conditions, terrain instability events and surface erosion.			
WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY - Channel stability and morphology for mainstem stream reaches is maintained or improved.			
<b>Rationale</b> – Maintaining a disturbance footprint within watersheds to maintain a close-to-natural water flow that follows predictable natural patterns (within a range), avoiding unnatural spring peak flow increases, decreased low summer flows, and altered timing of either flow events.			

#### 4.4 Wildlife Habitat – Moose, Fisher, Northern Goshawk

<b>Overarching Objectives</b>	Maintain and restore the forest structures, stand conditions, and landscape connectivity each species requires to survive and reproduce.
<b>Considerations and Concerns</b>	<p><u>Moose</u> - habitat management focuses on sustaining high-quality browse, cover, and movement corridors, particularly in areas where forest development may alter forage availability or predator dynamics, ensuring that forest practices do not undermine population resilience.</p> <p><u>Northern Goshawk</u> – habitat management prioritizes conserving mature and old-growth forests critical for nesting, foraging, and territory integrity, as habitat loss and fragmentation remain major threats that require coordinated planning and retention of key structural attributes.</p> <p><u>Fisher</u> (Columbian)– habitat management emphasizes maintaining connected patches of mature and structurally complex forest that provide denning, resting, and foraging opportunities, recognizing that fishers rely heavily on older forests</p>

	<p>with abundant large trees, cavity structures, and coarse woody debris. This is a red-listed species in BC (not registered under the federal Species At Risk Act) and is generally considered an indicator species for ecosystem health.</p> <p><u>Access</u> - roads disrupt habitat connectivity, alter movement patterns, and expose species to increased predation, hunting pressure, and disturbance.</p>		
<b>Indigenous Perspectives on Wildlife Habitat</b>	<p>Wildlife has sustained Indigenous peoples since time immemorial, providing food, clothing, and laws respecting wildlife. Species such as moose have been central to food security, social, and ceremonial practices. The health of wildlife populations depends upon the health of the land, and traditional Indigenous stewardship systems maintained that balance.</p> <p>Modern forest practices have altered ecosystems and wildlife habitat. Large-scale harvesting, road development, and landscape fragmentation have reduced and disrupted critical habitat, travel corridors, and calving areas for species such as moose. These cumulative impacts have contributed to their population declines.</p> <p>Restoring and maintaining a balance in forest operations is therefore essential. Forest management must prioritize connected, diverse, and resilient habitats that allow wildlife to move freely and thrive. By reducing fragmentation, protecting key habitat features, and planning harvest activities with long-term ecosystem health in mind, forestry can better support stable moose populations and other species. A balanced approach ensures that wildlife continues to sustain Indigenous peoples for generations to come.</p>		
<b>Specific Objectives with links to associated, Outcome(s), Planning Guideline(s), and Best Management Practice(s)</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Planning Guidelines</b>	<b>Best Management Practices</b>
FEATURES – Protect special wildlife habitat features.	<b>Outcome 14</b>	<b>PG 15</b>	<b>BMP 5</b>
MOOSE - Maintain or increase the amount of dynamic forage and cover for moose over time.	<b>Outcome 16</b> <b>Outcome 15</b> <b>Outcome 17</b>	<b>PG 19</b> <b>PG 16</b>	<b>BMP 6</b>
FISHER - Recruit sufficient and appropriate maternal territories including denning and resting habitat for a viable fisher population.	<b>Outcome 18</b>	<b>BMP 7</b>	<b>BMP 7</b>
NORTHERN GOSHAWK - Maintain sufficient and appropriate high-quality habitat within the suitable breeding and forage zones for a viable Goshawk population.	<b>Outcome 19</b>	<b>PG 22</b>	<b>BMP 8</b>
CARIBOU - Maintain early, mature plus old, and old seral stages and minimize disturbance and incrementally increase intact habitat within caribou range to support a self-sustaining population.	Ungulate Winter Range order established under GAR sections 9(1), 9(2), and 12(1) and Objective 1b of the Ministerial Order for the Lakes South SRMP.		
MOUNTAIN GOAT - Sufficient winter habitat is secured/maintained to support a viable and stable populations.	Ungulate Winter Range order established under GAR sections 9(1), 9(2), and 12(1)		
MULE DEER - Maintain functional winter habitat throughout the SBSdk, and isolated patches of the SBSmc subzones located in forest types at the elevation and on slope aspects typical of ungulate winter ranges for Mule Deer.	<b>Outcome 20</b>	<b>PG 23</b>	Not currently
GRIZZLY BEAR - Maintain grizzly bear habitat distributed to provide suitable size, spatial distribution, and connectivity.	<b>Outcome 21</b>	<b>PG 24</b>	Not currently

### 4.5 Visuals

<b>Overarching Objectives</b>	Manage the scenic qualities of landscapes that are visible from key public viewpoints so that forest practices do not unduly diminish the public’s visual experience.  In defined scenic areas, a viewscape is natural in appearance, focusing on design principles characteristic of fire base ecosystem.		
<b>Considerations and Concerns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large and repeated fire can reduce vegetative cover and increase visible signs of disturbance, making the landscape appear more altered and less visually intact over time.</li> <li>• Balance the need for fuel reduction to mitigate wildfire impacts with the goal of maintaining an acceptable visual appearance.</li> </ul>		
<b>Specific Objectives with links to associated, Outcome(s), Planning Guideline(s), and Best Management Practice(s)</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Planning Guidelines</b>	<b>Best Management Practices</b>
In defined scenic areas, a viewscape is natural in appearance, focusing on design principles characteristic of fire-based ecosystems.	<b>Outcome 22</b>	<b>PG 25</b>	<b>BMP 9</b>

### 4.6 Range

<b>Overarching Objectives</b>	Manage forests for range values by maintaining forage and associated plant communities, protecting biodiversity, and sustaining ecosystem health.		
<b>Considerations and Concerns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that rangelands can consistently provide enough healthy plant growth to support livestock and wildlife without causing long-term degradation of soils, water, and ecosystems.</li> <li>• Ensure that grazing and forest practices do not degrade the quality, availability, or connectivity of habitats that wildlife depend on for food, shelter, and movement.</li> <li>• Ensure grazing pressure does not exceed the land’s ability to sustain healthy forage and plant communities.</li> </ul>		
<b>Specific Objectives with links to associated, Outcome(s), Planning Guideline(s), and Best Management Practice(s)</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Planning Guidelines</b>	<b>Best Management Practices</b>
NATURAL RANGE BARRIERS - maintain or enhance landscape features that naturally limit livestock movement, reducing the need for constructed barriers while protecting sensitive habitats and preventing overgrazing.	<b>Outcome 23</b>	<b>PG 26</b>	<b>BMP 10</b>
INVASIVE PLANTS - prevent establishment and reduce expansion through targeted treatments and grazing management, and by maintaining healthy native plant communities that resist their spread.	<b>Outcome 24</b>	<b>PG 27</b>	<b>BMP 10</b>

### 4.7 Soil

<b>Overarching Objectives</b>	Conserve soil productivity, stability, and ecological function by minimizing disturbance, protecting soil structure and nutrient cycles, and ensuring long-term forest sustainability.		
<b>Considerations and Concerns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil sensitivity: Identify compaction-prone, erosive, or unstable soils; adjust timing and equipment accordingly.</li> <li>• Hydrologic function: Maintain natural drainage, protect wetlands/riparian soils, and limit connectivity to streams.</li> <li>• Carbon &amp; climate resilience: Avoid deep disturbance, protect organic soils, and retain litter/CWD to support soil carbon.</li> <li>• Legacy impacts: Map past compaction, roads, and slides; avoid adding new disturbance where cumulative effects are high.</li> <li>• Operational feasibility: Ensure strategies are practical across tenures, equipment types, and seasonal access windows.</li> <li>• Indigenous knowledge: Integrate knowledge about culturally important soils, plant communities, and harvesting areas.</li> <li>• Natural disturbance: Align strategies with fire, flood, and erosion regimes rather than trying to maintain static conditions.</li> <li>• Monitoring &amp; adaptive management: Use measurable indicators, remote sensing, and clear triggers for adjustment.</li> <li>• Integration with other values: Align soil protection with water, wildlife, wildfire risk reduction, and recreation planning.</li> <li>• Roads &amp; access: Minimize road density, plan shared access, ensure proper drainage, and invest in long-term deactivation.</li> </ul>		
<b>Specific Objectives with links to associated, Outcome(s), Planning Guideline(s), and Best Management Practice(s)</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Planning Guidelines</b>	<b>Best Management Practices</b>
Limit cumulative soil degradation by minimizing new road construction, coordinating shared access, and prioritizing restoration and deactivation of legacy disturbances that reduce soil health or hydrologic stability.	<b>Outcome 25</b>	<b>PG 28</b>	<b>BMP 4</b>
Maintain soil productivity and ecological function by minimizing compaction, erosion, and ground disturbance, with heightened protection for sensitive and unstable soils across the landscape.	<b>Outcome 26</b>	<b>PG 29</b>	<b>BMP 4</b>
Conserve soil-related hydrologic function by protecting wetlands, riparian soils, and natural drainage patterns, and by reducing sediment delivery pathways from forest operations to streams and waterbodies.	<b>Outcome 11</b>	<b>PG 14</b>	<b>BMP 3</b>

### 4.8 Timber

<b>Overarching Objectives</b>	Guide where and how timber harvesting can occur in a manner that supports long-term ecosystem resilience, aligns with strategic land-use direction, and considers wildfire threats and cumulative effects across the landscape.
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<b>Considerations and Concerns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain a sustainable and resilient timber supply by accounting for climate-driven changes, historical disturbances such as wildfires and beetle infestations, and the current condition of forest resources within the Lakes TSA.</li> </ul>		
<b>Specific Objectives with links to associated, Outcome(s), Planning Guideline(s), and Best Management Practice(s)</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Planning Guidelines</b>	<b>Best Management Practices</b>
Develop a predictable and sustainable flow of commercially viable timber that is relatively stable through time.	Outcome 27	Not currently	BMP 11

## 5 Stewardship Strategies

### 5.1 Prioritization of Stewardship Strategies

Stewardship strategies presented in the sections below were developed with an understanding that, under normal conditions, some strategies take precedence over others. To guide planning decisions and compliance actions, this section describes how specific strategies are prioritized where conflicts occur between strategies. It is important to note, however, that all strategies are subordinate to statutory requirements and must remain consistent with legally established objectives and practice requirements, unless the FOP holder is granted an exemption through FPPR Sec 4.51.

#### 5.1.1 Wildfire Risk Reduction

For planning guidelines associated with Strategy 8 (Fuel Near Potential Control Features) and Strategy 9 (Fuel Management within Wildland Urban Interfaces) the prioritization of potentially conflicting strategies is considered accordingly:

<b>These strategies take precedence</b>	<b>These strategies are subordinate</b>
Strategy 11- Roads Near Wetlands	Strategy 1- Lakes Biodiversity Matrix
Strategy 14 - WHFs	Strategy 6– Interim Recovery Areas
Strategy 17- Moose Disturbance	Strategy 15 - Moose Cover
Strategy 27- Soil Disturbance	Strategy 16- Moose Forage
Strategy 20- Caribou	Strategy 18- Fisher
Strategy 21- Mountain Goat	Strategy 19 - Northern Goshawk
	Strategy 22- Mule Deer
	Strategy 23- Grizzly Bear
	Strategy 25- Natural Range Barriers

#### 5.1.2 Biodiversity Reserve and Recovery Areas

For planning guidelines associated with Strategy 1 (Lakes Biodiversity Matrix) and Strategy 6 (Interim Recovery Areas) the prioritization of potentially conflicting strategies is considered accordingly:

These strategies take precedence	These strategies are subordinate
n/a	Strategy 5 – Focused Harvest Areas Strategy 7 – Potential Operational Delineations

**5.1.3 Focused Harvest Areas**

For planning guidelines associated with Strategy 5 (Focused Harvest Areas), the prioritization of potentially conflicting strategies is considered accordingly:

These strategies take precedence	These strategies are subordinate
Strategy 1- Lakes Biodiversity Matrix	Strategy 2- Seral Stage
Strategy 11 - Roads Near Wetlands	Strategy 4- Wildlife Tree Retention
Strategy 14 - WHFs	Strategy 12- Watershed Disturbance (ECA)
Strategy 15 - Moose Cover	Strategy 24- Visual Quality
Strategy 16- Moose Forage	
Strategy 17- Moose Disturbance	
Strategy 18- Fisher	
Strategy 19 - Northern Goshawk	
Strategy 20- Caribou	
Strategy 21- Mountain Goat	
Strategy 22- Mule Deer	
Strategy 23- Grizzly Bear	
Strategy 25- Natural Range Barriers	
Strategy 27- Soil Disturbance	

**5.1.4 Riparian Forest**

For planning guidelines associated with Strategy 10 (Riparian Forest) the prioritization of potentially conflicting strategies is considered accordingly:

These strategies take precedence	These strategies are subordinate
n/a	Strategy 15 - Moose Cover

**5.2 Consideration of Planning Lenses**

To support decision-making, the planning table considered all values and strategies through four lenses: wildfire, cultural, socioeconomic, and climate change. To various degrees, each lens was used to examine how strategies influence key values and outcomes at the landscape level. Together, these lenses provide a structured way to understand implications across different interests and to support balanced planning decisions.

The wildfire lens considers how strategies affect wildfire risk and fuel conditions across the landscape. This includes the extent, arrangement, and treatment of fuels, as well as opportunities to reduce the likelihood or intensity of wildfire in priority areas. The lens supports evaluation of how management

activities can contribute to reducing wildfire risk through fuel management and landscape design.

The cultural lens considers how strategies affect cultural values and features across the landscape. This includes the presence, condition, and continuity of culturally important areas, species, and resources and the cultural wellbeing goals discussed above. The lens supports understanding of how management activities may influence the ability to maintain and sustain these values over time.

The socioeconomic lens considers how strategies influence the economic health and stability of local communities and forest-based industries. This includes the relationship between timber supply and economic outcomes such as employment, fibre availability, and the viability of processing facilities. The lens helps identify how changes in access to timber and landbase availability may affect economic resilience and community well-being over time.

The climate change lens considers how strategies influence the long-term resilience and adaptation of forest ecosystems to changing climate conditions. This includes factors such as disturbance regimes, stand structure, species composition, and the capacity of forests to withstand and recover from stresses like wildfire, drought, insects, and changing weather patterns. The lens supports evaluation of how management activities can contribute to building resilient landscapes that can sustain ecological function and forest values over time under a changing climate.

### 5.3 Ecosystem Health and Resilience

Stewardship strategies developed to maintain landscape ecosystem health and resilience reflect considerations and concerns described in Section 4.1 Landscape Ecosystem Health and Resilience, which are linked to these specific goals:

#### Cultural Wellbeing Goals



- Preserve and create healthy, diverse forests that are resilient to infestation, wildfire and the effects of climate change, and support the full exercise of section 35 rights.

#### Provincial Goals



- Support the protection and conservation of the environment.



- Manage the values placed on forest ecosystems by Indigenous peoples.



- Manage the values placed on forest ecosystems by local communities.



- Prevent, mitigate, and adapt to impacts caused by significant disturbances to forests and forest health, including wildfire, insects, disease and drought.

This suite of biodiversity stewardship strategies provides a clear path for achieving these goals.

Climate Change - Based on past and current natural disturbance regimes in the Lakes TSA, and considering potential climate change impacts over time, it is best to concentrate a significant proportion of harvesting disturbance to approximate the natural situation for conservation of local biodiversity. This also supports wildfire management goals.

Lakes Dynamic Matrix - At a coarse level, a rough balance of seral stages across the landscape helps to provide for a range of habitats and an ecologically sustainable supply of old seral stages over time.

Lakes Biodiversity Matrix – Designing networks where conservation of biodiversity is the primary goal has long been a key component of an effective strategy to manage locally for conservation of biodiversity, along with large set-asides (out of scope) for ecological representation, landscape diversity and to a degree, landscape fragmentation. This network considers the local dynamic natural disturbance regimes and intentionally links to and overlaps with Indigenous practices and habitat requirements for a range of species and protection needs for other values.

Patch Size – Natural disturbance events are created through harvesting to more closely align with the natural fine-scale disturbance patterns with residual trees and habitat patches. These will enrich the developing managed stands, lifeboat species through the disturbed stage and provide a degree of connectivity as corridors or stepping stones on the managed forest.

Stand Level Practices - Practices in all harvested cutblocks will retain and feature key ecological remnants to help enrich the developing managed stands, lifeboat species through the disturbed stage and provide a degree of connectivity as corridors or stepping stones on the managed forest.

Interim Recovery Areas and Focused Harvest Areas – Within the managed landbase, IRAs are deferred from harvest for a time to provide important transitional habitat as these stands mature and become future potential areas for focused harvesting (FHAs – or where you are). These areas will perform numerous temporary roles for habitat conservation, aligning with goals for multiple species, indigenous and other values, while contributing to the conservation of biodiversity objectives. As harvesting on the landscape becomes more focused over time, IRAs and FHAs together will also help address landscape fragmentation in this heavily disturbed area.

### **Current Situation:**

The 2024 baseline condition for forest biodiversity risk in the Lake FLA is assessed as moderate. Approximately 43.5% of the study area is classified as low or low-moderate risk, while about 30.5% falls within the high or moderate-high risk categories; the remaining area is categorized as moderate risk.

This biodiversity risk assessment is based on the concept of functional old forest, defined as old forest located more than 100 m from roads. A moderate risk rating indicates that the expected proportion of old forest across the landscape is estimated to range between 44% and 57%.

*Source: Lakes FLP Current Condition Report (2024)*

Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) in the FLA is 74,923 ha, including approximately 22,292 ha in Lakes North, 27,091 ha in Lakes South, and 20,763 ha within Caribou migration corridor use zones (Table 1). OGMAs have been legally established in both Lakes North and Lakes South.

Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) outbreaks and recent wildfires have affected portions of these OGMAs. About 12% of the OGMA area has experienced more than 70% mortality of standing volume due to MPB, while roughly 47% of the total OGMA area remains unaffected by MPB impacts. Wildfire effects have been comparatively modest, with approximately 16% of OGMA areas impacted by fires.

Seral stage distribution across OGMAs in the Timber Supply Area (TSA), analyzed by BEC zones, shows variation between zones. In the ESSF zone, only about 6% of OGMA area is classified as old forest, while mature stands account for roughly 68%. In contrast, the SBS zone shows stronger representation of old

seral forest, with approximately 38% of the area classified as old.

Source: Lakes FLP Current Condition Report (2024)

**Table 1 Old Growth Current Condition (Baseline) in FLA**

Old Growth Metrics	Baseline / Current Condition <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total OGMA</b>	74,923 ha
<b>Total OGMA impacted by MPB (More than 70% dead)</b>	9,073 ha (12%)
<b>Total OGMA impacted by Wildfire (high)</b>	3,628 ha (4.8 %)
<b>Total Old Seral Stage of OGMA</b>	24,512 ha (33%)

<sup>1</sup> Source: Lakes FLP Current Condition Report (2024)

**Strategy 1 Lakes Biodiversity Matrix**

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain a connected network of <b>areas with minimal human influence</b> to sustain natural processes and biodiversity, while supporting effective management of the surrounding working landscape.</li> </ul>														
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 1</b> Maintain 20-25% of the total area within each SRMP unit (Figure 6) (North/South) as the Lakes Biodiversity Matrix that protects key biodiversity values.</p>														
<b>Planning Guideline</b>	<p><b>PG 1</b> As specified under Objective 2 of Ministerial Order No. ????, the holder of a FOP may only harvest timber from identified <b>Lakes Biodiversity Matrix</b> areas (Figure 7) to the extent of allowable activities listed in Table 2 and must ensure that the primary forest activity does not damage or render ineffective found, rare and/or endangered plant communities listed in Table 3.</p> <p><b>Table 2 Allowable activities within the LBM<sup>1</sup></b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Cultural</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Nations traditional uses.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wildfire Management</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating fire breaks near values (ecological, cultural, community, stands of commercial value).                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove long-term known fuel breaks out of LBM upfront. Temporal fire breaks can stay in LBM.</li> <li>Treat stands to reduce fire threat near areas of concern (i.e., near community, critical infrastructure and values).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Wildlife habitat enhancement.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roads</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road reclamation.</li> <li>Construction of roads for safety and permitted use.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Forest Health</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management to address forest health concerns for immediate or adjacent forest values or communities.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recreation</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation development and management within established recreation sites, trails, and interpretive forest sites.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salvage</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salvage logging only if and where it meets any of the above criteria.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table> <p><sup>1</sup> Avoid harvesting in rare and/or endangered plant communities listed in Table 3.</p> <p><b>Table 3 Rare and endangered ecosystems (BEC site series)</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Red- and Blue-listed</td> <td>SBS dk – 04, 08, 81, 82</td> </tr> </table>	Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Nations traditional uses.</li> </ul>	Wildfire Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating fire breaks near values (ecological, cultural, community, stands of commercial value).                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove long-term known fuel breaks out of LBM upfront. Temporal fire breaks can stay in LBM.</li> <li>Treat stands to reduce fire threat near areas of concern (i.e., near community, critical infrastructure and values).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Wildlife habitat enhancement.</li> </ul>	Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road reclamation.</li> <li>Construction of roads for safety and permitted use.</li> </ul>	Forest Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management to address forest health concerns for immediate or adjacent forest values or communities.</li> </ul>	Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation development and management within established recreation sites, trails, and interpretive forest sites.</li> </ul>	Salvage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salvage logging only if and where it meets any of the above criteria.</li> </ul>	Red- and Blue-listed	SBS dk – 04, 08, 81, 82
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Nations traditional uses.</li> </ul>														
Wildfire Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating fire breaks near values (ecological, cultural, community, stands of commercial value).                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove long-term known fuel breaks out of LBM upfront. Temporal fire breaks can stay in LBM.</li> <li>Treat stands to reduce fire threat near areas of concern (i.e., near community, critical infrastructure and values).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Wildlife habitat enhancement.</li> </ul>														
Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road reclamation.</li> <li>Construction of roads for safety and permitted use.</li> </ul>														
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Salvage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salvage logging only if and where it meets any of the above criteria.</li> </ul>														
Red- and Blue-listed	SBS dk – 04, 08, 81, 82														

	Ecological Communities	SBS mc2 – 81, 82
	Hydro-Riparian Ecosystems	SBS dk – 04, 07, 08, 09, 10
		SBS mc2 – 07, 09, 10, 12
		ESSF mc – 07, 08, 09, 10
		ESSF mv1 – 04, 05
		ESSF mv3 – 07
Related planning guideline(s) include:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PG 9 – Maintenance of Interim Recovery Areas</li> </ul>
<b>Best Management Practices</b>	<b>BMP 1 - Biodiversity Strategy</b>	
	Combine all the Rules and Guidelines associated with the Biodiversity Strategy including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of the Fixed Component (<b>Lakes Biodiversity Matrix</b> and <b>Dynamic Matrix</b> - Figure 7) and Dynamic Components (FHA, IRA, SHA)</li> <li>Clarification of details and conditions for allowable activities within the Lakes Biodiversity Matrix.</li> </ul>	
<b>Definitions</b>		
<p><i>LBM (Lakes Biodiversity Matrix) – pre-established and static part of the landscape that includes critical biotic and abiotic elements that form the foundation of the continued long-term health of the landscape ecosystem.</i></p> <p><i>Dynamic Matrix – the remainder of the landscape (excluding Lakes Biodiversity Matrix) where a full range of anthropogenic activities are permitted, where the type and pattern of activity cycles across the landscape over time.</i></p>		
<b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and apply a process to track activities being carried out within the LBM (including rationale, approval, and results relative to the allowable activities).</li> <li>Develop and apply a process to track changes to the LBM.</li> <li>Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</li> </ul>		

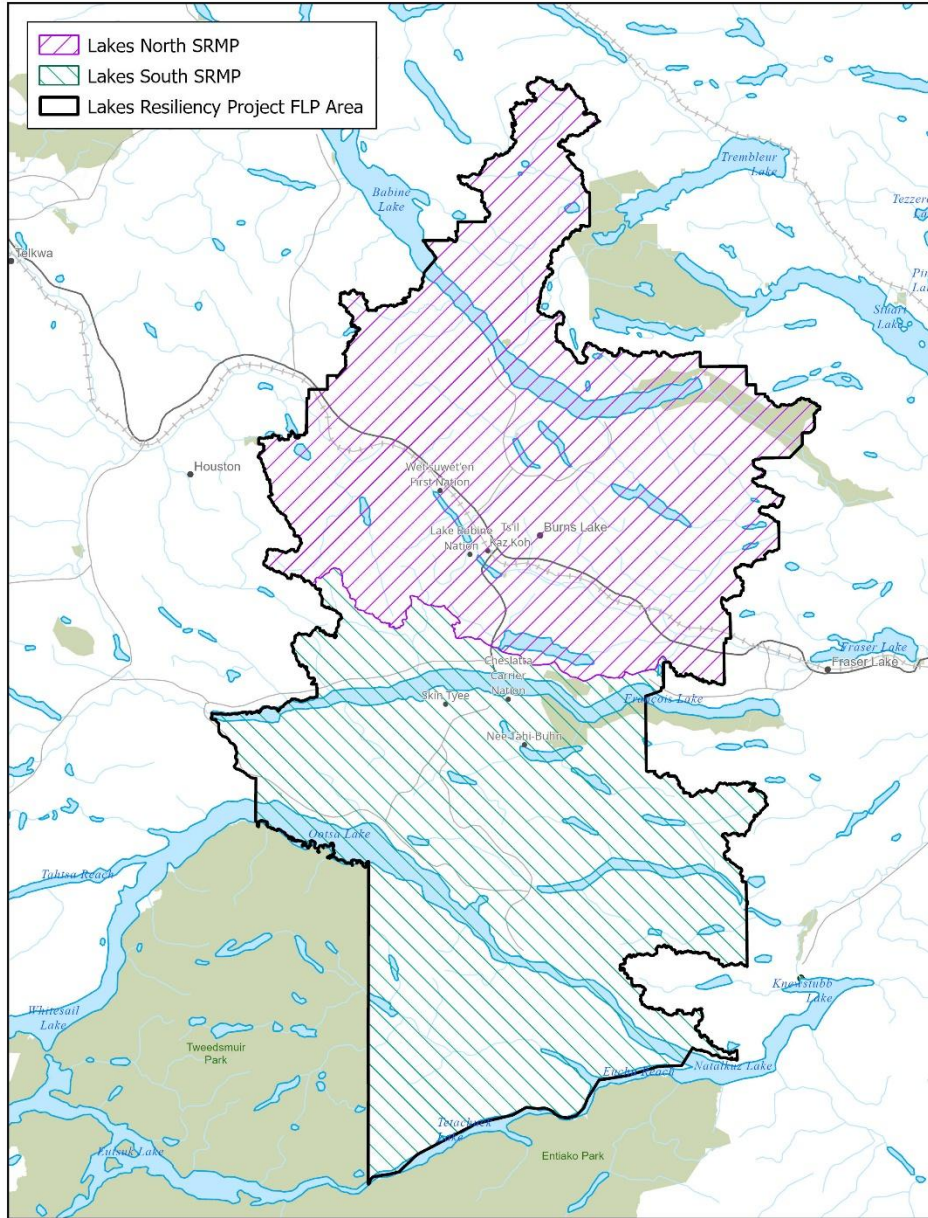


Figure 6 Map of SRMP Areas (North and South) Across the FLP Area

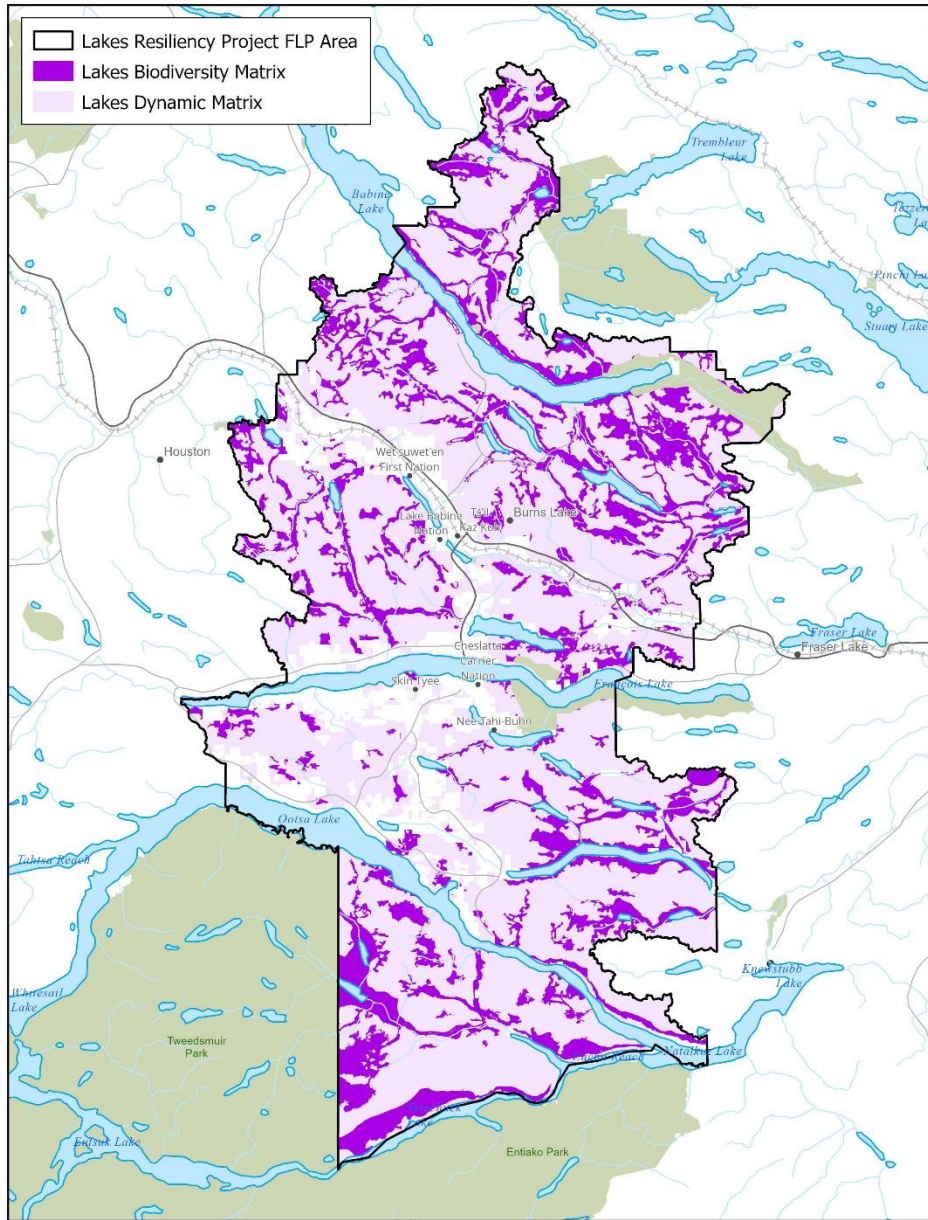


Figure 7 Map of LBM & LDM (Lakes Biodiversity Matrix & Lakes Dynamic Matrix) Across the FLA

**Strategy 2 Seral Stage – Old Forest**

<p><b>Objective(s)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support a full range of anthropogenic activities where the type and pattern of activity cycles across the landscape over time.</li> <li>• Produce timber in a practical, responsible way while following existing rules and taking basic steps to care for forests, wildlife, and other important values over the long-term.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome(s)</b></p>	<p><b>Outcome 2</b> The proportion of reporting units (Landscape Unit and grouped BEC units - Figure 8) trends towards the forecasted levels for <b>old forest</b> over the FLP term according to Schedule 1 of Appendix 3.</p> <p>This outcome is calculated as the area-weighted average AFLB (ha) achieving old forest thresholds within all reporting units across the FLA.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forecasted results were developed from the preferred scenario modelled for the Lakes Resiliency Project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Planning Guideline(s)</b></p>	<p>PG 2 Excluding FHAs, the holder of a FOP must maintain minimum thresholds for <b>old forest</b> within each LU and grouped BEC units: ESSF ≥35%, SBSmc/wk ≥22%, SBSdw/dk ≥9%.</p> <p>PG 3 Within units, excluding FHAs, where the minimum <b>old forest</b> thresholds in PG 2 are not met, a FOP holder, prior to harvesting a new proposed cutblocks in the FOP, must first develop a spatially referenced <b>recruitment strategy</b>.</p> <p>PG 4 The holder of a FOP must maintain minimum thresholds for <b>old forest</b> within grouped BEC units across the FLA: ESSF ≥21%, SBSmc/wk ≥13%, SBSdw/dk ≥3%.</p> <p>PG 5 Within units where the minimum <b>old forest</b> thresholds in PG 4 are not met, a FOP holder, prior to harvesting a new proposed cutblocks in the FOP, must first develop a coordinated <b>old forest management strategy</b>.</p> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PG 1 – Maintenance of Lakes Biodiversity Matrix</li> <li>PG 6 – Stand Level Retention across the Standard Harvest Area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Best Management Practices</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 1 - Biodiversity Strategy</b></p> <p>Combine all the Rules and Guidelines associated with the Biodiversity Strategy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructions on identifying and assessing <b>old, mature</b>, and young forest (i.e., <u>monitor relative to NRV thresholds</u>; old = 140 yrs; mature = 80yrs; young (harvested and wild) = 20 yrs).</li> <li>Direction for developing a <u>spatial recruitment strategy</u></li> <li>Direction for developing a <u>coordinated old forest management strategy</u> (considering: LBM contribution, NRV thresholds for mature, forest interior, representation, etc).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>Old forest – forested stands throughout the FLA with an average age greater than 140 years.</i></p> <p><i>Mature forest – forested stands throughout the FLA with an average age greater than 80 years and up to 140 years.</i></p> <p><i>NRV (Natural Range of Variability) – historical spectrum of ecosystem conditions, structures, and processes— usually based on the period before major European-influenced changes—derived from observed natural disturbance regimes such as fire, insects, and wind. It represents the range of conditions an ecosystem naturally experienced over long time periods and is used as a benchmark for sustainable forest management.</i></p> <p><i>AFLB (Analysis Forest Land Base) – portion of crown land that is forested or capable of producing a forest stand, as identified through provincial inventory and classification systems. It excludes areas that are not considered capable of growing trees (e.g., lakes, rock, alpine) and areas that are not managed within the analysis.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and test instructions, criteria, and scripts for monitoring seral stage.</li> <li>Prepare working examples for spatial recruitment strategy and a coordinated old forest management strategy.</li> </ul>	

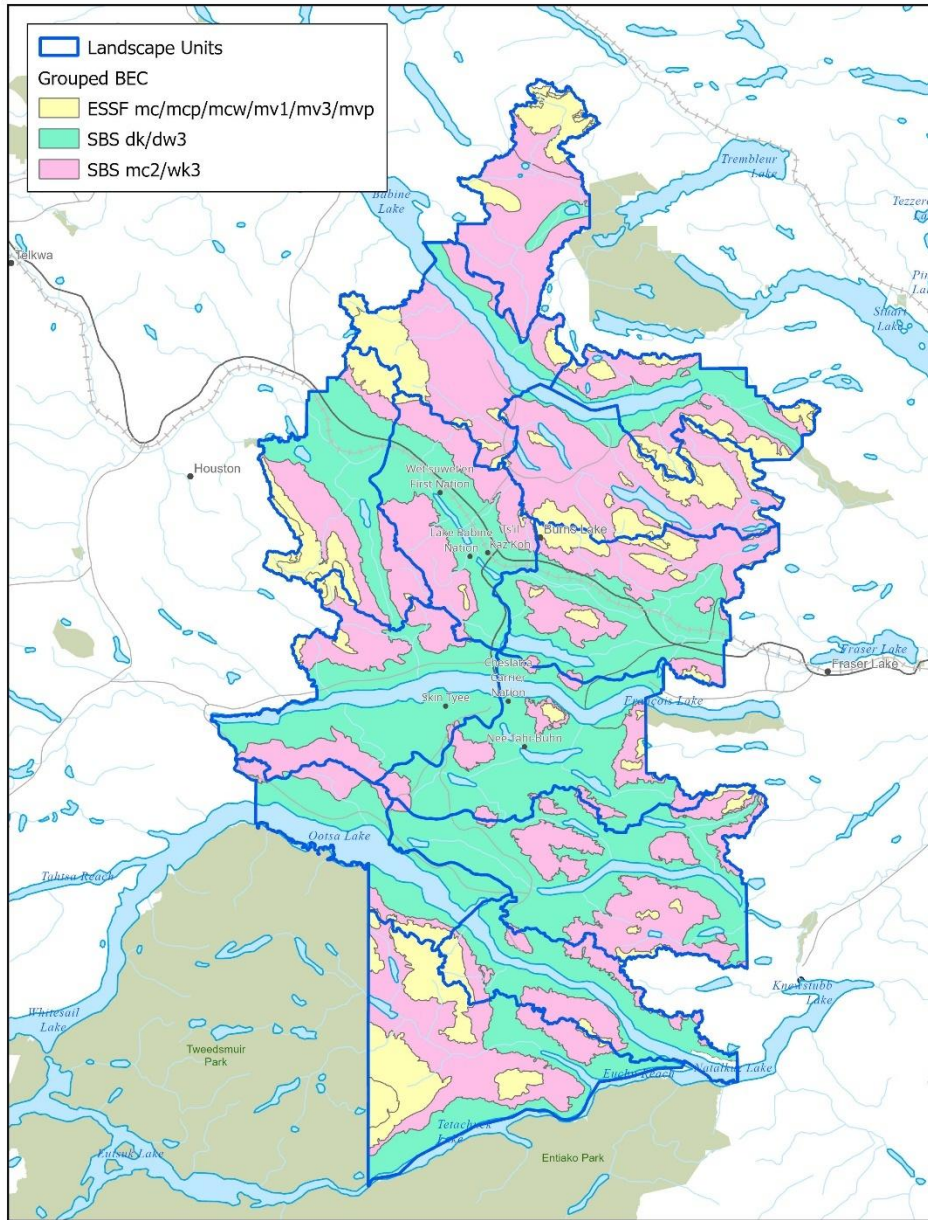


Figure 8 Map of Seral Stage Reporting Units (LU and grouped BEC Units) Across the FLA

**Strategy 3 Patch Size across the Standard Harvest Area**

<p><b>Objective(s)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design timber harvesting to be consistent with the structural characteristics and the temporal and spatial distribution of an opening that would result from a natural disturbance. Support a stable and gradual transition from the current fragmented landscape-level patterns to a more aggregated approach, better aligned with natural disturbance patterns and healthy ecosystems.</li> <li>• Produce timber in a practical, responsible way while following existing rules and taking basic steps to care for forests, wildlife, and other important values over the long term.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome(s)</b></p>	<p><b>Outcome 3</b> Over the FLP term, harvest pattern development over the FLA (Figure 10) trends towards natural disturbance patterns represented through the aspirational targets</p>

	described below and in the BMP 1 - Biodiversity Strategy.																								
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p>While there are no specific planning guidelines for this strategy at this time, FOP holders are expected to consider best management practices described in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BMP 1 - Biodiversity Strategy.</li> </ul> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PG 2 and PG 4 – Minimum thresholds for old forest seral stage.</li> <li>PG 9 – Maintenance of Interim Recovery Areas</li> <li>PG 7 – Concentrated harvest within Focused Harvest Areas.</li> </ul>																								
<b>Best Management Practices</b>	<p><b>BMP 1 - Biodiversity Strategy</b></p> <p>Combine all the Rules and Guidelines associated with the Biodiversity Strategy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed instructions and criteria for assessing Patch Size Distribution.</li> <li>Patch size distributions are assessed for three reporting units (see Figure 9): Babine (north of Francois Lake), South Francois (South of Francois Lake), and South Ootsa (South of Ootsa Lake).</li> <li>Patch Size Distribution Targets (% of total forested area by seral stage and reporting units):</li> </ul> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Seral Stage</th> <th>Age</th> <th>&lt;40 ha</th> <th>40 – 250 ha</th> <th>250 – 1000 ha</th> <th>1000+ ha</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Very Early</td> <td>0-20</td> <td>5%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>20%</td> <td>65%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mature + Old</td> <td>&gt;=80</td> <td>5%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>20%</td> <td>65%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Patch Buffer Distance</td> <td>25m</td> <td>50m</td> <td>100m</td> <td>100m</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Targets are secondary to achieving other non-timber objectives.</p>	Seral Stage	Age	<40 ha	40 – 250 ha	250 – 1000 ha	1000+ ha	Very Early	0-20	5%	10%	20%	65%	Mature + Old	>=80	5%	10%	20%	65%	Patch Buffer Distance		25m	50m	100m	100m
Seral Stage	Age	<40 ha	40 – 250 ha	250 – 1000 ha	1000+ ha																				
Very Early	0-20	5%	10%	20%	65%																				
Mature + Old	>=80	5%	10%	20%	65%																				
Patch Buffer Distance		25m	50m	100m	100m																				
<b>Definitions</b>																									
<p><i>SHA (Standard Harvest Area) – normal, existing pattern of land use or forest management practices that would occur without any new actions, interventions, or policy changes—often used as a baseline for comparing the effects of new wildfire, carbon, or land-management strategies.</i></p> <p><i>Patch Size – area of a distinct forest opening or habitat unit, often created by harvesting or natural disturbance, that influences edge vs. interior habitat conditions for wildlife and biodiversity.</i></p>																									
<b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b>																									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refine and test instructions, criteria, and scripts for assessing Patch Size Distribution, including ways to demonstrate trends over time.</li> </ul>																									

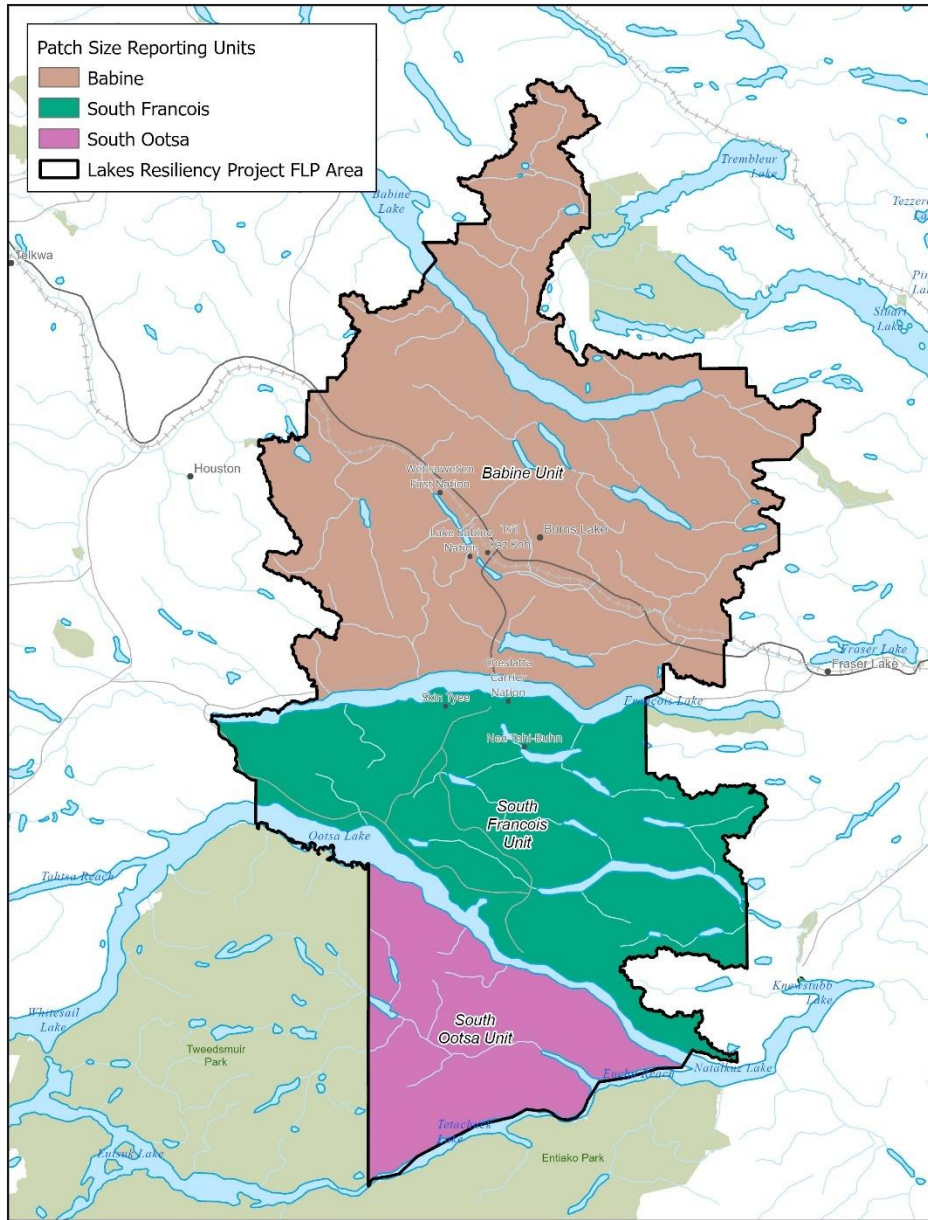


Figure 9 Map of Patch Size Distribution Reporting Units Across the FLP Area

**Strategy 4 Stand-Level Retention across the Standard Harvest Area**

<p><b>Objective(s)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain, where practical, representative forest structures and habitat elements within harvested areas maintain biodiversity, ecological function, and resilience.</li> <li>• Produce timber in a practical, responsible way while following existing rules and taking basic steps to care for forests, wildlife, and other important values over the long term.</li> <li>• Support a stable gradual transition from the current fragmented landscape-level opening/patch size and wildlife tree objectives to managing for healthy ecosystems patterns to a more aggregated approach, better aligned with natural disturbance patterns on the landscape.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome(s)</b></p>	<p><b>Outcome 4</b> Over the FLP term, harvesting across the <b>SHA</b> (Figure 10) meets thresholds for</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>wildlife tree retention areas expressed in the planning guideline (PG 6).</b></p> <p>This outcome is calculated as the area-weighted average WTRA for each cutting permit across the SHA and accumulated over the FLP term.</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p><b>PG 6</b> Within the SHA (Figure 10), the holder of a FOP must maintain, over the stand’s rotation, at least 7% of each total cutblock area and 15% for each cutting permit, as Wildlife Tree Retention Areas with representative forest structures and habitat elements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not apply to blocks &lt;5 hectares in size and those managed with patch cut or retention silvicultural systems.</li> <li>Includes portions of blocks impacted by insects or fire.</li> </ul> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PG 1 – Maintenance of Lakes Biodiversity Matrix</li> <li>PG 14 – Retain Riparian Habitat.</li> </ul>
<b>Best Management Practices</b>	<p><b>BMP 1 - Biodiversity Strategy</b></p> <p>Combine all the Rules and Guidelines associated with the Biodiversity Strategy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a variety of opening sizes but retain at least 15% of the gross harvest area for biodiversity and wildlife values.</li> <li>Adjacency requirements (5 ha blocks side by side).</li> <li>Monitor the amount of partial harvest conducted and percentage of volume removal in partially harvested stands.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>SHA (Standard Harvest Area) – normal, existing pattern of land use or forest management practices that would occur without any new actions, interventions, or policy changes—often used as a baseline for comparing the effects of new wildfire, carbon, or land management strategies.</i></p> <p><i>WTRA (Wildlife Tree Retention Area) - designated portions of a cutblock where live or dead trees with important wildlife habitat values intended to maintain ecological structure, provide habitat for species dependent on wildlife trees, and support long-term biodiversity during and after harvesting.</i></p> <p><i>Partial Harvest - A silvicultural system in which a planned proportion of the stand is removed during a harvest entry, leaving residual trees of defined species, size, and spatial distribution to maintain forest cover, protect non-timber values, and support regeneration, with additional harvest entries occurring over time.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and test instructions for gathering and summarizing WTRA outcomes.</li> <li>Develop and test protocol and process for sampling how WTRAs are implemented in the field and their effectiveness (e.g., FREP Protocol for Stand-level Retention Monitoring).</li> </ul>	

**Strategy 5 Focused Harvest Areas**

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concentrate on harvesting timber over a short period of time to develop a disturbance pattern more aligned with natural disturbance and then limit activities to support recovery.</li> <li>Support a stable gradual transition from the current fragmented landscape-level opening/patch size patterns to a more aggregated approach, better aligned with natural disturbance patterns on the landscape and healthy ecosystems.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 5</b> Concentrate 30% (+/-20%) of the timber harvest within <b>FHAs</b> (Figure 10) over the FLP term.</p> <p>This outcome is calculated as the area harvested within FHAs over the total area harvested</p>

	within the FLA over the same period.
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p>PG 7 Complete harvesting on up to 4 FHAs over the FLP term.</p> <p>PG 8 Within each FHA unit, retain &gt;30% as undisturbed forest (&gt;20 yrs).</p> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PG 1 – Maintenance of Lakes Biodiversity Matrix</li> <li>PG 9 – Maintenance of Interim Recovery Areas</li> <li>PG 14 – Retain Riparian Habitat.</li> </ul>
<b>Best Management Practices</b>	<p><b>BMP 1 - Biodiversity Strategy</b></p> <p>Combine all the Rules and Guidelines associated with the Biodiversity Strategy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructions and criteria for creating a <b>FHA</b> and associated Event Units.</li> <li>Direction on harvest duration - the intent is to quickly complete harvesting and close out FHAs so that up to 2 FHA are active at anytime.</li> <li>Considerations on the sequencing of Event Units and lifespan (how fast in/out).</li> <li>Description of the activities allowed/ encouraged within a <b>FHA</b>, including access.</li> <li>Rules and conditions for closing (must/should), re-entry delay (&gt;30yrs), and adjusting <b>FHAs</b> over their operational period.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>FHA (Focused Harvest Areas) – large (~10,000 hectares), pre-identified units scattered throughout the dynamic matrix component of the landscape where human activity is not only allowed but focused over time and space for a short period of time before walking away.</i></p> <p><i>Event Units – discrete, pre-identified operational planning units of concentrated harvest planed within FHA units. These intermediate/meso-scale disturbances include a mosaic of undisturbed residuals (patches and corridors) and consider dash distance to edges.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a working example to adjust a FHA.</li> <li>Assess how the first FHA meets the objectives and make recommendations.</li> <li>Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</li> </ul>	

**Strategy 6 Interim Recovery Areas**

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit human activity to non-commercial activity within designated parts of the landscape, within the LDM, for several decades at a time to help transition to a disturbance pattern more aligned with natural disturbance.</li> <li>Support a stable gradual transition from the current fragmented landscape-level opening/patch size patterns to a more aggregated approach, better aligned with natural disturbance patterns on the landscape and healthy ecosystems.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 6 Maintain up to 25% of the FLA within identified IRAs (Figure 10) over the FLP term that are intended as harvesting deferrals to allow recovery from disturbances over 20-50 years, depending on the IRA.</b></p> <p>This outcome is calculated as the area identified as IRAs over the total FLA over the same period.</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p>PG 9 The holder of a FOP may only harvest timber from identified IRAs (Figure 10) to the extent of these allowable forestry activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildfire fuel management,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stand health improvement,</li> <li>• Prescribed and/or cultural burns,</li> <li>• Small-scale cultural harvesting (of trees, plants, berries, fungus, lichen, etc.).</li> <li>• Salvage logging only in support of the activities listed above.</li> </ul> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PG 1 – Maintenance of Lakes Biodiversity Matrix</li> <li>• PG 7 and PG 8 – Focused Harvest Areas may become future IRAs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Best Management Practices</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 1 - Biodiversity Strategy</b></p> <p>Combine all the Rules and Guidelines associated with the Biodiversity Strategy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructions and criteria for creating an <b>IRA</b>.</li> <li>• Guidance on blending deferral timelines (e.g., half for 20 years, half for 40-50 years).</li> <li>• Description of the activities allowed/encouraged within <b>IRAs</b> including access.</li> <li>• Description of the rules and conditions for adjusting <b>IRAs</b> over their deferral period.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>Commercial timber harvesting – The cutting and removal of trees for sale as wood products—typically involving operations where timber is harvested in quantities and for economic gain.</i></p> <p><i>IRA (Interim Recovery Areas) – pre-identified units (~10,000 hectares) scattered throughout the dynamic matrix component of the landscape where human activity is limited to non-commercial activity for several decades at a time.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a working example to adjust an <b>IRA</b>.</li> <li>• Assess how the first <b>IRA</b> meets the objectives and make recommendations.</li> </ul>	

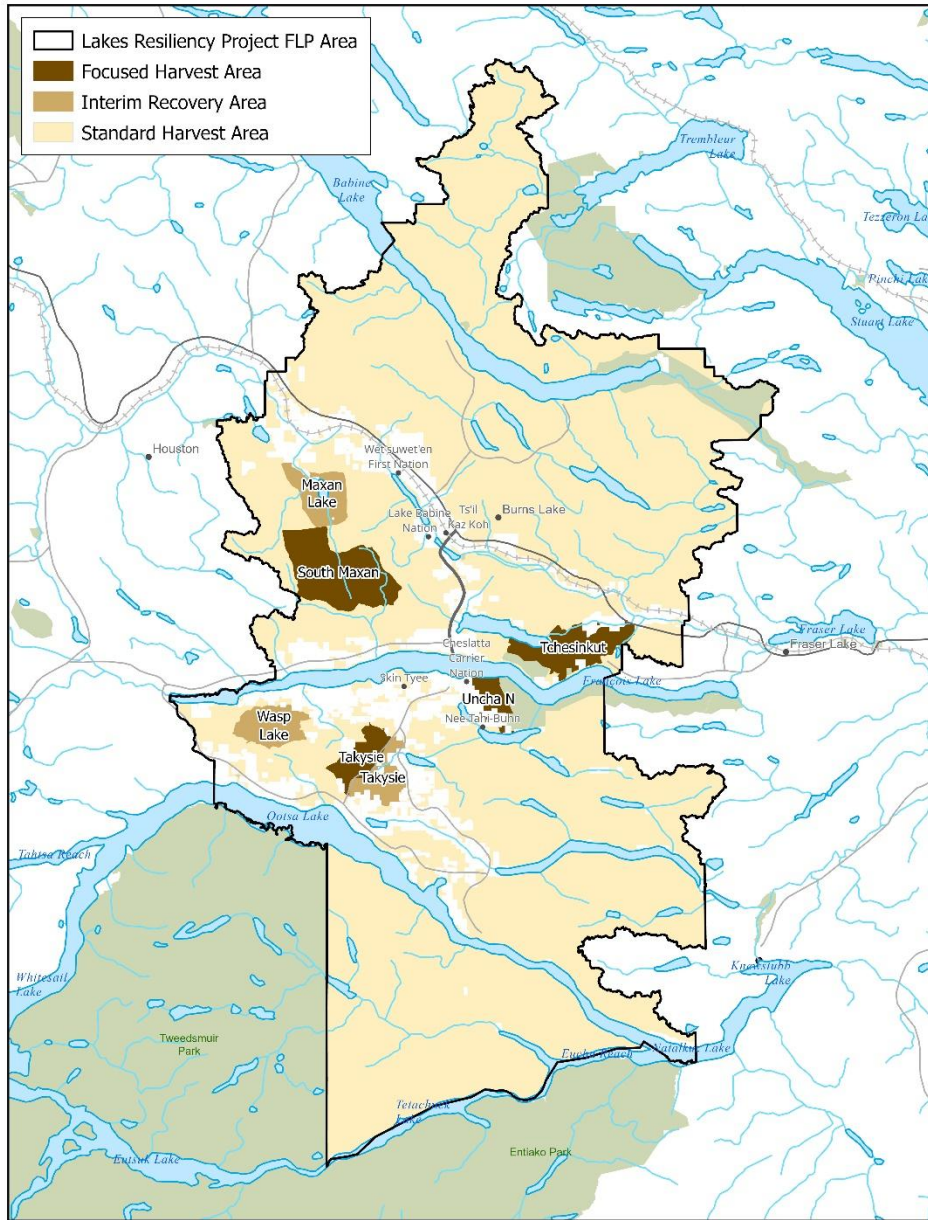




Figure 10 Map of LDM (Lakes Dynamic Matrix) Components Across the FLA

### 5.4 Wildfire Resilience

To promote wildfire resilience while reducing the size, spread, and intensity of wildfires across the landbase, stewardship strategies were developed that reflect considerations and concerns described in Section 4.2 Wildfire Resilience, which are linked to these specific goals:

#### Cultural Wellbeing Goals

- 
○ Preserve and create healthy, diverse forests that are resilient to infestation, wildfire and the effects of climate change, and support the full exercise of section 35 rights.
- 
○ Cultural heritage features and objects are treated respectfully and in culturally appropriate ways.

### Provincial Goals



- Prevent, mitigate, and adapt to impacts caused by significant disturbances to forests and forest health, including wildfire, insects, disease and drought.

Climate change is recognized as contributing to increasing size and intensity of wildfires in the TSA. As demonstrated over 2014-2023, these large intense wildfires are also perceived to occur more frequently and cause significant impacts to values across the TSA. Based on current landscape conditions and learnings from the recent fires, the strategies described below seek to reduce the number and size of catastrophic wildfires, while improving our ability to protect values when such a fire occurs.

### Current and Forecasted Conditions:

Fire hazard threat assessment mapping and indicators (baseline) are based on BC Wildfire Service Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis (PSTA) data and provide spatial context for wildfire risk across the FLA (Table 4 and Figure 11).

**Table 4 Wildfire Threat Assessment<sup>1</sup> for FLA**

Threat Class	Plan Area		Plan Area Burned <sup>2</sup>	
	FLP	FLP + Buffer <sup>3</sup>	FLP	FLP + Buffer <sup>3</sup>
Low	5.9 %	8.0 %	2.6 %	2.1 %
Moderate	26.5 %	25.2 %	25.0 %	21.9 %
High	28.6 %	29.7 %	38.9 %	43.0 %
Extreme	22.5 %	24.2 %	30.2 %	28.8 %
No Threat	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
No Data	6.6 %	4.2 %	0.3 %	0.5 %
Water	10.0 %	8.7 %	2.9 %	3.6 %

1 PSTA year: 2021 (res: 50 m)

2 PSTA data constrained areas which burned during the period 2021-2024 for the planning area

3 FLP planning area extent buffered by 20 km

The assessment in Table 4 is based on the 2021 PSTA dataset for threat classes, and the “p Area burned” is based on 2021-2024 wildfire perimeter data.

The “p Area Burned” columns refer to the percentage of the total burnt area from 2021-2024 wildfire perimeters that falls under each threat class. For example, in this analysis, 2.6% of the total area burned inside the FLA from 2021-2024 wildfire perimeters is low threat class and 2.1% of the total area burned in the FLP + the buffer area from 2021-2024 perimeters is low threat class. This differs from the “p Area” columns, which show the percentage of the total FLA by threat class. For example, 5.9% of the total FLA is low threat class. The 20 km buffer is used because FLAs are relatively small, the 2021–2024 timeframe is short, and expanding the spatial extent helps capture wildfire potential in adjacent areas and illustrates threat adjacency.

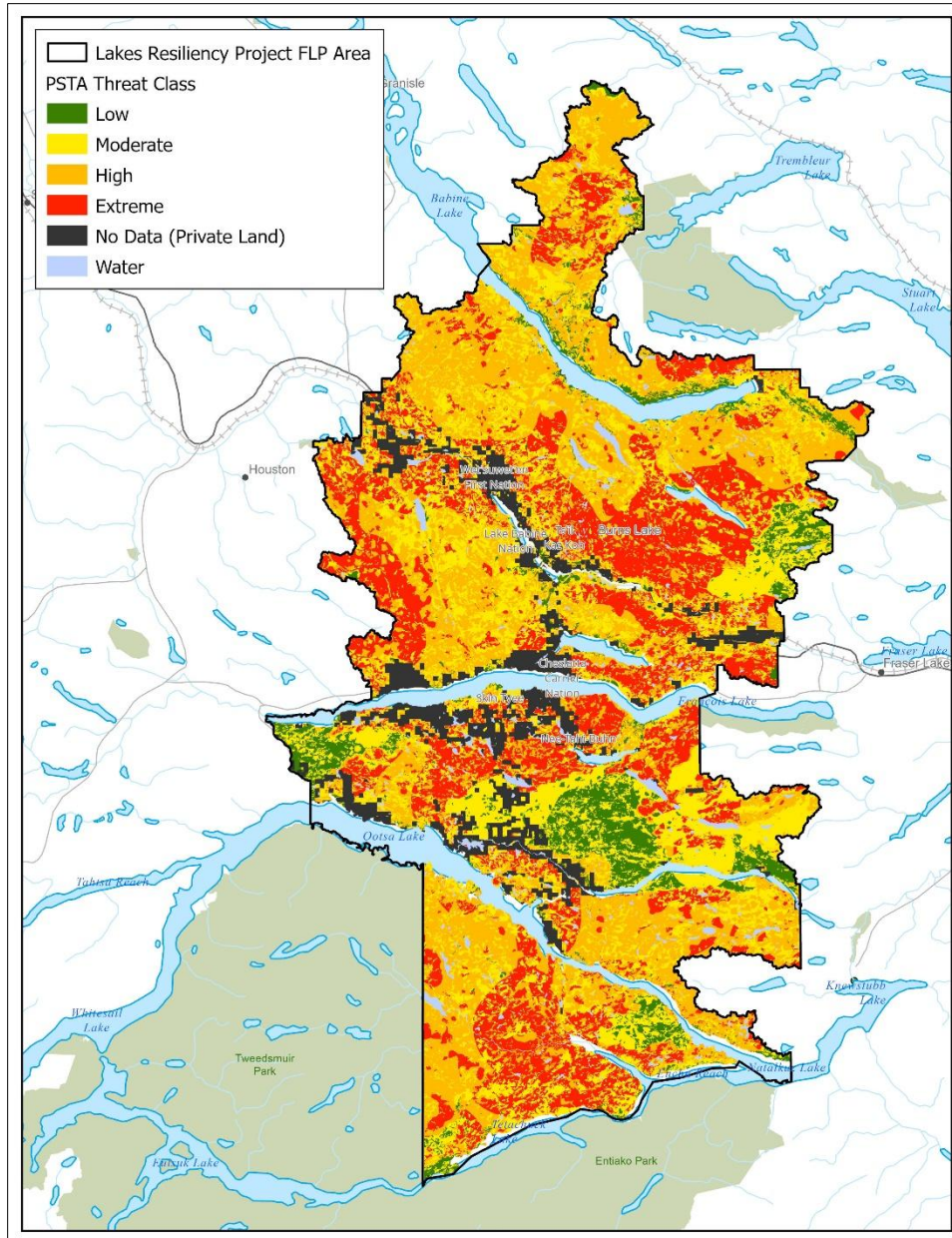


Figure 11 PSTA Wildfire Threat Assessment Map for FLA

**Strategy 7 Wildfire Threat within Potential Operational Delineations**

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the size, intensity, and rate of spread for the largest wildfires compared to 2014-2023.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 7</b> The area assessed through PSTA as high or extreme wildfire threat (<math>\geq 7</math>) will decrease within PODs (Figure 12) where forestry activities are carried out over the FLP term.</p> <p>Targets should get more specific as results for this outcome are tracked over time.</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p>While there are no specific planning guidelines for this strategy at this time, FOP holders are expected to consider best management practices described in:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMP 2 - Wildfire Risk Reduction and Fuel Management.</li> </ul> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PG 10 and PG 11 – Forestry activities near Potential Control Features.</li> <li>• PG 12 and PG 13 – Forestry activities within Wildland Urban Interface areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Best Management Practices</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 2 - Wildfire Risk Reduction and Fuel Management</b></p> <p>Guidance associated with managing forest fuels and abating wildfire risk including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the process for measuring / monitoring this outcome (i.e., fuel hazard assessment process);</li> <li>• Summarize the assessment methodology for assessing wildfire threat from PSTA.</li> <li>• Develop a process to refine the delineation of <b>PCFs / PODs</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>PSTA (Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis): - A province-wide assessment and mapping system that identifies wildfire threat levels to key values (communities, infrastructure, and natural resources) by integrating data such as fire density, head fire intensity, and spotting impact. It helps guide wildfire prevention, planning, and priority setting across B.C.</i></p> <p><i>POD (Potential Operational Delineation) - pre-identified wildfire response unit built around potential control features (e.g., roads, ridges, rivers) to help plan where firefighters can most effectively contain or manage a fire. It supports safer, strategic, and proactive decision-making before and during wildfire operations. PODs guide strategic fuel management, harvest design, and coordinated wildfire response planning across the landscape.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refine the delineation of PCFs / PODs that consider developing tactical plans and values across the landscape.</li> <li>• Measure the initial or baseline fuel hazard condition within each POD (i.e., fuel hazard assessment process).</li> <li>• Develop a silviculture regime(s) designed to reduce the risk of future wildfire (including stocking levels, prescribed fire, and stand management).</li> </ul>	



Figure 12 Map of PODs (Potential Operational Delineations) Across the FLA

**Strategy 8 Fuel Management and Mitigation Near Potential Control Features**

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the size, severity and rate of spread for the largest wildfires compared to 2014-2023.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 8</b> Over the FLP term, all forestry activities near PCFs (Figure 13) will reduce the potential fire intensity according to the planning guidelines.</p> <p>Thresholds should get more specific as results for this outcome are tracked over time.</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p><b>PG 10</b> Within all areas between 0 and 150m of PCFs (Figure 13), the holder of a FOP must undertake forestry activities that reduce the potential fire intensity to &lt;2000 kW/m.</p> <p><b>PG 11</b> Within all areas between 150m and 300m of PCFs (Figure 13) the holder of a FOP must undertake forestry activities that reduce the potential fire intensity to &lt;4000</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>kW/m.</b></p> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PG 12 and PG 13 – Forestry activities within Wildland Urban Interface areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Best Management Practices</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 2 - Wildfire Risk Reduction and Fuel Management</b></p> <p>Guidance associated with managing forest fuels and abating wildfire risk including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlight specific guidance from 2025 Guide to Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement and 2024 Fuel Management Practices Guide.</li> <li>Develop and apply a process to measure / monitor fuel hazard conditions within each <b>PCF / POD</b> (i.e., fuel hazard assessment process).</li> <li>Develop a process to refine the delineation of <b>PCFs / PODs</b>.</li> <li>Prioritize harvesting within Potential Control Features and high hazard areas.</li> <li>Identify and prioritize activities near high value features (e.g., cultural, radio towers, silviculture investments).</li> <li>Consult with local District/Zone/Fire Centre to determine appropriate treatment.</li> <li>Apply wildfire stocking standards.</li> <li>Pruning is not an allowable cost recovery activity towards this strategy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>PCF (Potential Control Feature) – a landscape feature—such as a road, river, ridge, barren area, waterbody, or major fuel break—that can help firefighters slow, steer, or contain a wildfire, and is used to form the boundaries of operational planning units like PODs.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refine the delineation of <b>PCFs / PODs</b> that consider developing tactical plans and values across the landscape.</li> <li>Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</li> <li>Measure the initial or baseline fuel hazard condition along each <b>PCF</b> (i.e., fuel hazard assessment process).</li> <li>Develop a silviculture regime(s) designed to reduce the risk of future wildfire (including stocking levels, prescribed fire, and stand management).</li> </ul>	

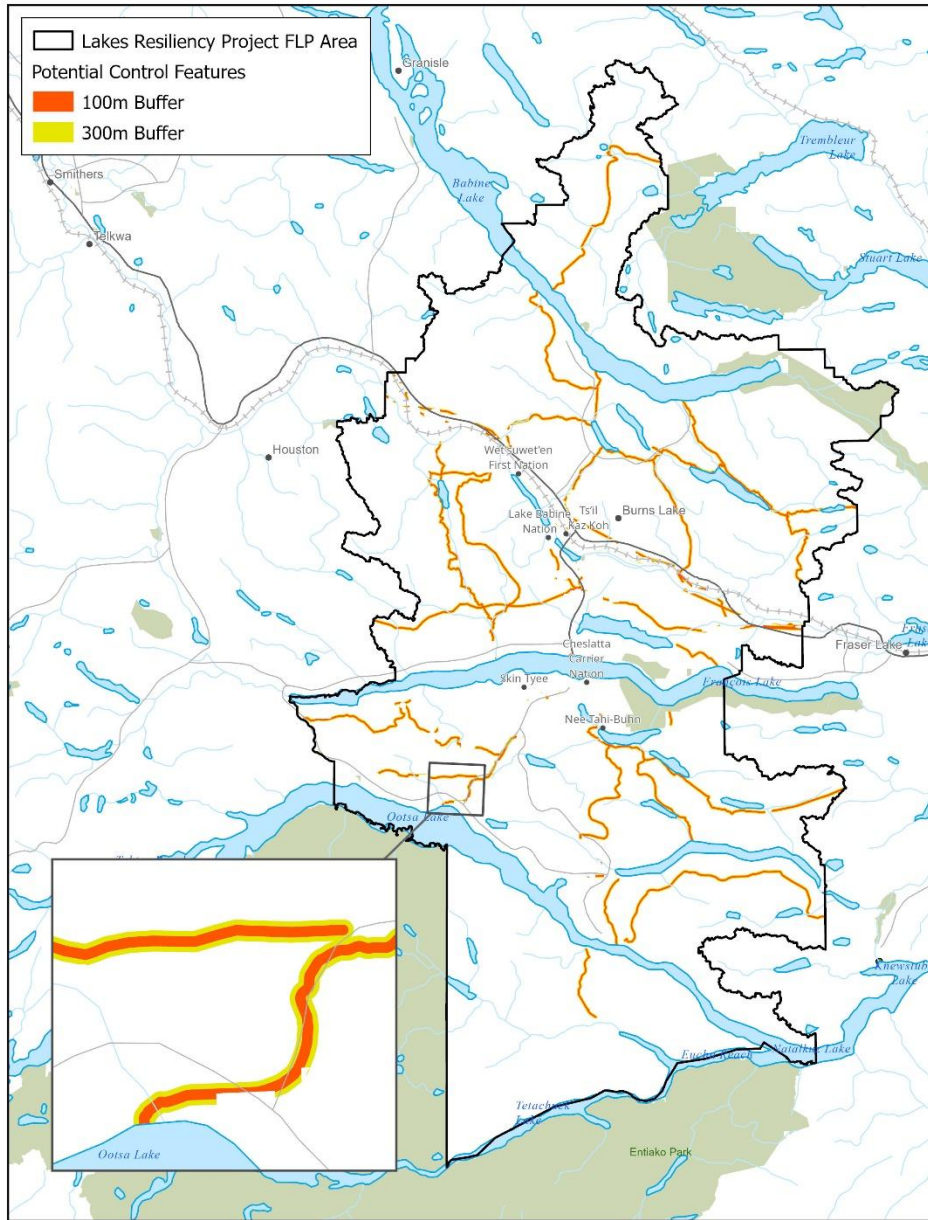


Figure 13 Map of PCFs (Potential Control Feature) Across the FLA

**Strategy 9 Fuel Management and Mitigation Activities within Wildland Urban Interface Areas**

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the size, severity and rate of spread for the largest wildfires compared to 2014-2023.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 9</b> Over the FLP term, all forestry activities within WUI WRRUs and WUI AOIs (Figure 14) will reduce the potential fire intensity according to the planning guidelines. Thresholds should get more specific as results for this outcome are tracked over time.</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p><b>PG 12</b> Within WUI WRRUs (Figure 14), the holder of a FOP must undertake forestry activities that reduce the potential fire intensity to <b>&lt;2000 kW/m</b>.</p> <p><b>PG 13</b> Within WUI AOIs—outside of WRRUs (Figure 14), the holder of a FOP must undertake forestry activities that reduce the potential fire intensity to <b>&lt;4000 kW/m</b>.</p>

	<p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PG 10 and PG 11 – Forestry activities near Potential Control Features.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Best Management Practices</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 2 - Wildfire Risk Reduction and Fuel Management</b></p> <p>Guidance associated with managing forest fuels and abating wildfire risk including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlight specific guidance from 2025 Guide to Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement and 2024 Fuel Management Practices Guide.</li> <li>Develop wildfire stocking standards/regimes for silviculture activities (including reforestation, commercial thinning and prescribed fire).</li> <li>Describe the process for measuring / monitoring this outcome (i.e., fuel hazard assessment process);</li> <li>Prioritize harvesting within breaks and high hazard areas.</li> <li>Identify/mitigate high value features (silviculture investments, cultural, radio towers).</li> <li>Consult with local District/Zone/Fire Centre to determine appropriate treatment.</li> <li>Apply wildfire stocking standards.</li> <li>Pruning is not an allowable cost recovery activity towards this strategy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) - is the area where human development directly meets or intermingles with forest and grassland fuels, creating zones where communities are exposed to elevated wildfire risk.</i></p> <p><i>WUI WRRU (Wildfire Risk Reduction Units) - mapped planning areas within a Wildfire Risk Reduction Plan used to identify, prioritize, and organize fuel-management actions on Crown land near communities to reduce wildfire intensity and improve suppression opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>WUI AOI (Area of Interest) - mapped geographic areas surrounding a community where wildfire risk is assessed and managed, focusing on where human development overlaps with forest or grassland fuels. It defines the spatial boundary used in planning tools such as Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans and is beyond the mapped WUI WRRU.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refine the delineation of WUI WRRUs and WUI AOIs that consider developing tactical plans and values across the landscape.</li> <li>Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</li> <li>Develop a silviculture regime(s) designed to reduce the risk of future wildfire (including stocking levels, prescribed fire, and stand management).</li> </ul>	

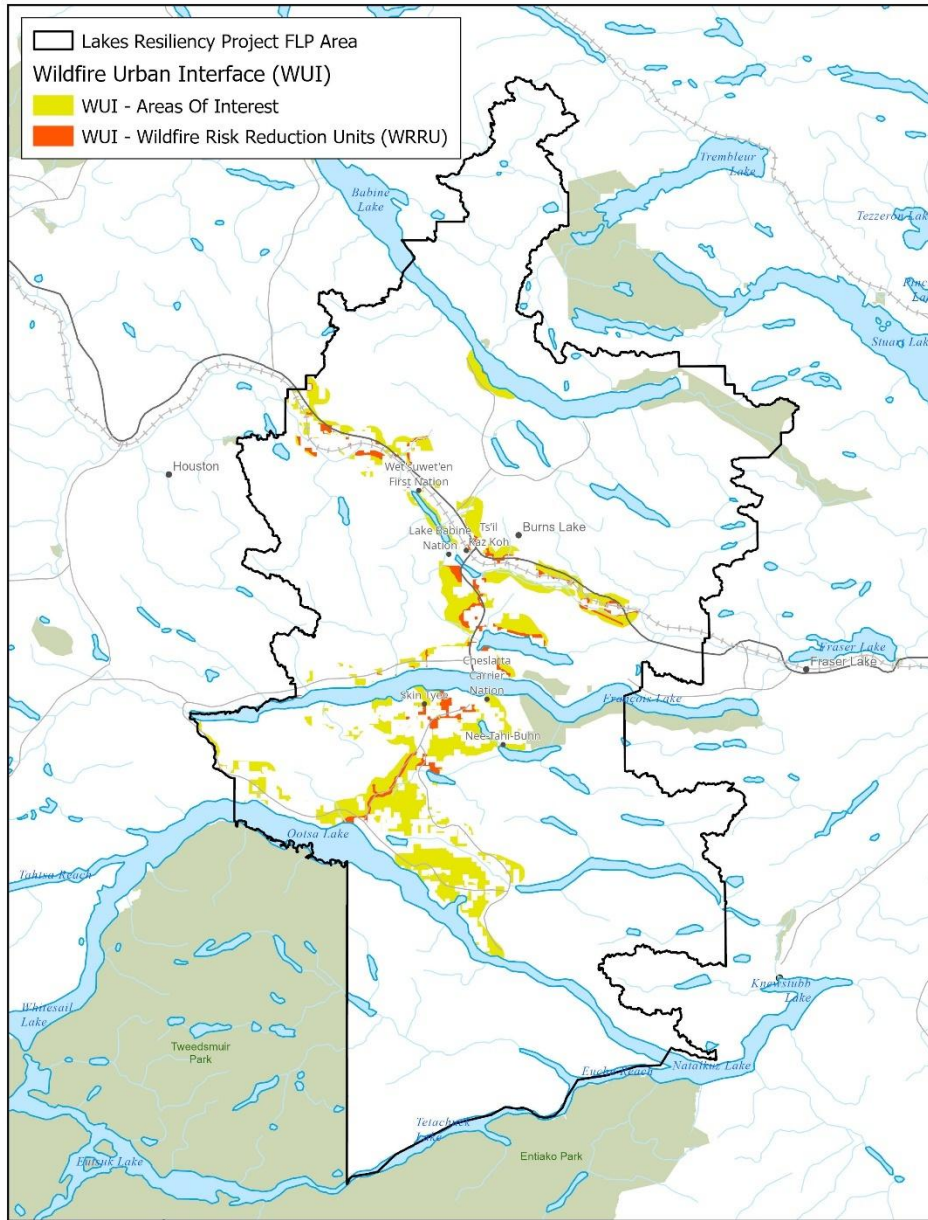




Figure 14 Map of WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) Strategies Across the FLP Area

### 5.5 Aquatics, Wetlands, and Riparian Habitat

Stewardship strategies developed to protect and restore functional aquatic and riparian habitat reflect considerations and concerns described in Section 4.3 Aquatics, Wetlands, and Riparian Habitat, which are linked to these specific goals:

#### Cultural Wellbeing Goals

- 
  - Maintain and restore health, abundance, and diversity of high-quality wetland ecosystems in the Lakes TSA.
- 
  - Restore the health and abundance of resident and anadromous fish populations (including wild salmon populations) in the Lakes TSA to levels that fully-satisfy each

Nations’ food, social and ceremonial needs and provide meaningful economic benefit to Indigenous communities.



- Maintain and restore stream flows and temperatures to pre-industrial levels that are stable and conducive for healthy and abundant plant, fish and wildlife populations. Ensure water bodies are unpolluted and safe for nuneets’iyh’ (all the living creatures).

**Provincial Goals**



- Support the protection and conservation of the environment.

Water Flows - Maintaining natural water flows that support aquatic habitat is very important to local First Nations and the province. High and low flows can disrupt, alter or destabilize stream channels and impact fish and other aquatic habitats. Limiting the disturbances within a watershed, often assessed through an equivalent clearcut area (ECA), can mitigate extreme flows. This approach seeks to improve the resilience within priority watersheds in the face of climate change and increasing drought. However, at some point disturbance to control fuels and reduce fire hazards may be necessary to maintain resilience. Ultimately the goal is to protect key aquatic and riparian habitats and sensitive areas by considering past disturbances, current condition, and potential responses to future disturbances or actions.

Riparian Management - Stream temperatures are a significant concern for fish and other aquatic species in the TSA due to a warming climate and more extreme weather events. Shading on streams from riparian stream buffers is one way to reduce potential impacts from climatic warming in cutblocks harvested under this plan.

Roads - Sediment from roads is one of the most significant impacts on water quality and habitat particularly near wetlands in the TSA. The amount of active, open roads near streamside buffers is a key indicator of this threat. Another key factor is proper road construction, maintenance and deactivation. Monitoring the impacts of sediments on aquatic habitat is one approach to determine if road BMPs are being followed.

**Current Situation:**

*Table 5 Current Condition for water and aquatic resources*

Water and Aquatic Resources Indicator	Water and Aquatic Resources Metric	Baseline/ Current Condition1
<b>Water Quantity</b>	Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) (%)	86% (>20%), 7% (>=15%, <=20%), 7% (<15%)
	Young Second Growth (%)	73% (>=25%), 25% (>=5%, <25%), 2% (<5%)
<b>Water Quality</b>	Riparian Disturbance (%)	80% (>15%), 12% (>=5%, <=15%), 8% (<5%)
	Road Density within Buffer Area (km/km <sup>2</sup> )	63% (>0.16 km/km <sup>2</sup> ), 4% (>=0.08, <=0.16 km/km <sup>2</sup> ), 2% (<0.08 km/km <sup>2</sup> ), 31% (None)
	Intactness of Contributing Area (%)	88% (>90%), 11% (60%-90%), 1% (<60%)
<b>Aquatic Habitat</b>	Road Density (Fish Habitat) (km/km <sup>2</sup> )	81% (>1.2 km/km <sup>2</sup> ), 14% (>=0.4, <=1.2 km/km <sup>2</sup> ), and 5% (<0.4 km/km <sup>2</sup> )
	Salmonid Habitat (km)	1% (>200 km), 79% (>=50 km, <=200 km), and 20% (<50 km)
	Salmon Spawning Habitat (km)	2% (>20 km), 2% (>=5 km, <=20 km), and 96%

Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Index	(<5 km) 60% Meeting Mature and Old Targets
-------------------------------------	---

<sup>1</sup> Source: Lakes FLP Current Condition Report (2024)

In the FLA, Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) levels indicate elevated hydrological concern: 86% of aquatic unit area exceeds 20% ECA (high concern), 7% falls between 15–20% (moderate concern), and 7% is below 15% (low concern). ECA estimates the hydrological impact of timber harvesting by expressing the proportion of a watershed functionally equivalent to clearcut forest as a percentage.

Currently several watersheds exceed ECA thresholds set at moderate stream flow hazard (red, pink and orange below - Figure 17).

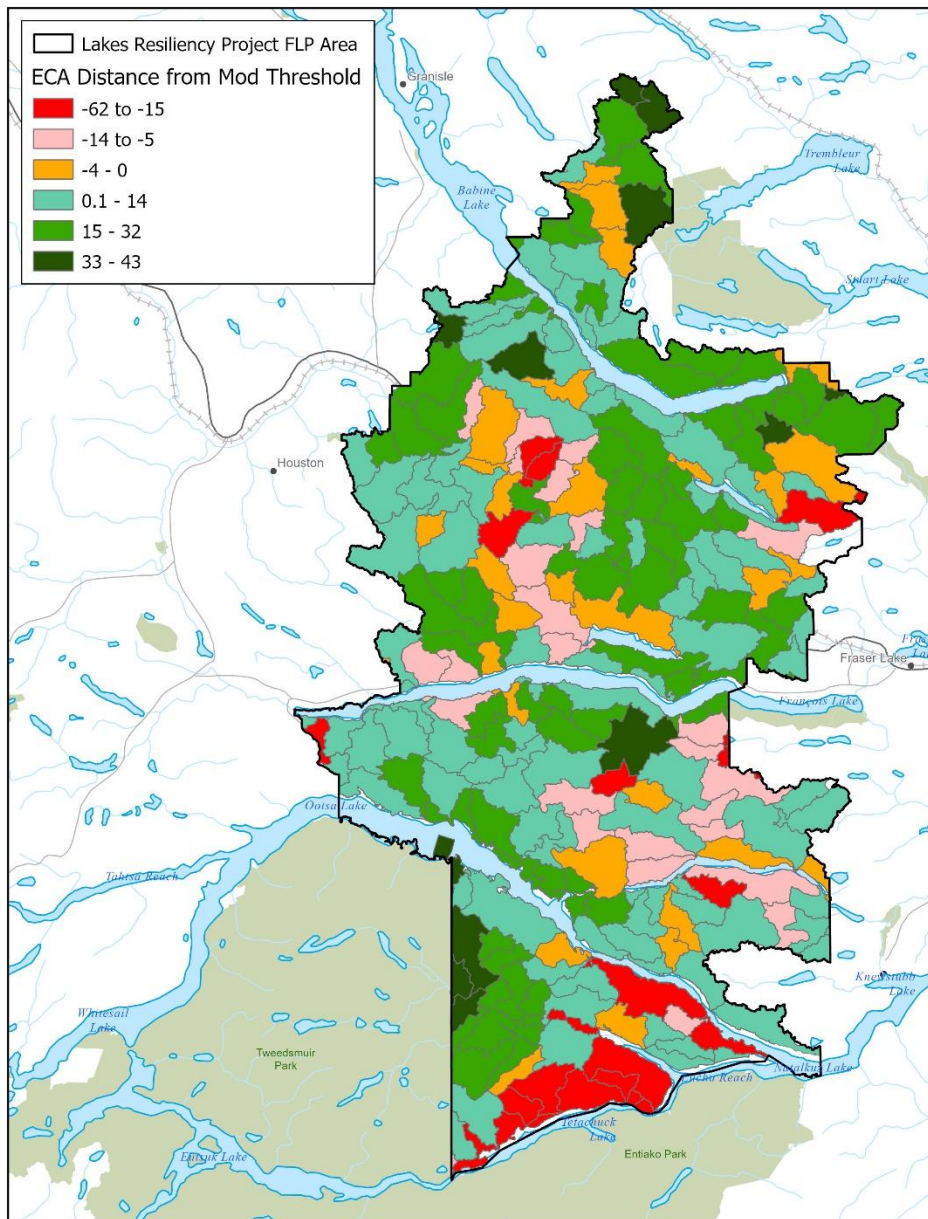


Figure 15 ECA Status Relative to Maximum Thresholds (set at moderate stream flow hazard)

Managing to meet the ECA thresholds only in priority watersheds (Figure 16) will reduce the short-term harvest level by 5.2%, while meeting ECA thresholds in all watersheds (priority and non-priority - Figure 17) reduced the short-term harvest level by 6.1%. This approach allows some flexibility for managing with a higher disturbance impact for biodiversity (at times) and for wildfire fuel reduction.

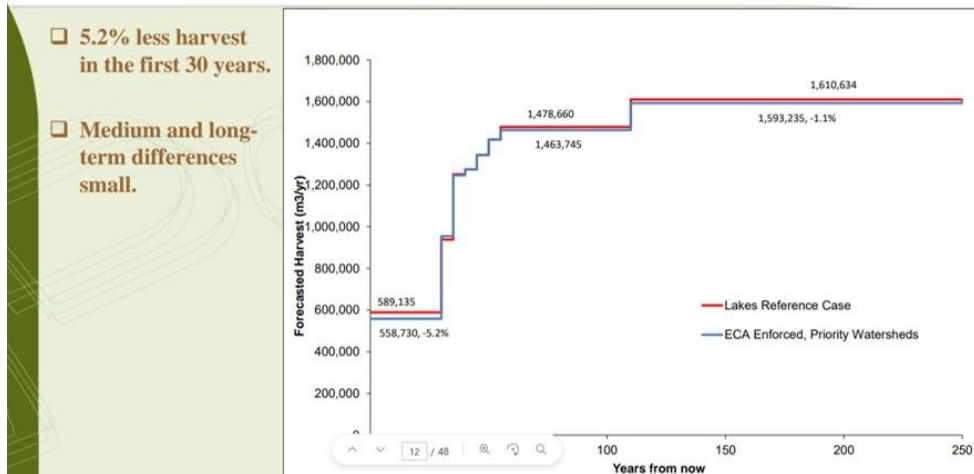


Figure 16 Impacts to harvest forecast - Enforce ECA for priority watersheds

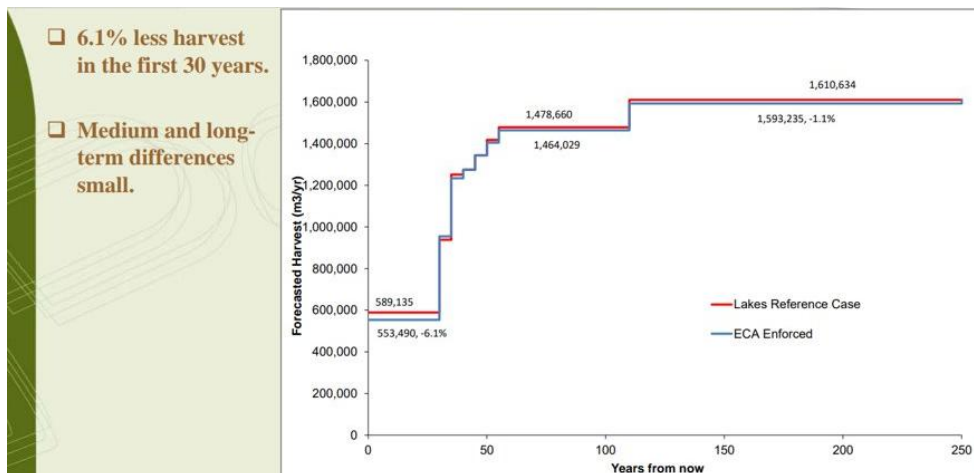


Figure 17 Impacts to harvest forecast - Enforce ECA for all watersheds

Young Second Growth (<80 years) comprises 73% high concern ( $\geq 25\%$ ), 25% moderate concern ( $\geq 5\%$ – $< 25\%$ ), and 2% low concern ( $< 5\%$ ) of aquatic unit areas. Evidence from the U.S. Pacific Northwest suggests intensively regenerating young stands can reduce summer stream flows compared with mature or old forests, indicating potential water quantity implications.

Riparian Disturbance affects 80% of aquatic unit areas at high concern ( $> 15\%$ ), 12% moderate (5–15%), and 8% low ( $< 5\%$ ). This metric measures disturbance within 30-m riparian buffers around streams from natural or anthropogenic sources (e.g., wildfire, insects, or harvesting).

Road Density within Wetland Buffer Areas shows 63% high risk ( $> 0.16$  km/km<sup>2</sup>), 4% moderate risk (0.08–0.16 km/km<sup>2</sup>), 2% low risk ( $< 0.08$  km/km<sup>2</sup>), and 31% with no roads present. Each wetland (7,608 total) was buffered by 100 m, and road length within buffers was divided by buffer area to estimate density.

Intactness of Contributing Area indicates generally strong landscape integrity: 88% low threat ( $> 90\%$

natural/semi-natural cover), 11% moderate (60–90%), and 1% high threat (<60%) within 2-km wetland buffers.

Road Density in Fish Habitat Watersheds is high overall, with 81% >1.2 km/km<sup>2</sup> (high concern), 14% moderate (0.4–1.2 km/km<sup>2</sup>), and 5% low (<0.4 km/km<sup>2</sup>). Total watershed net area assessed is 929,551 ha.

Salmonid Habitat Length is generally limited: 1% of units exceed 200 km (high habitat availability), 79% range from 50–200 km, and 20% have <50 km, meaning roughly 99% of units fall into moderate or lower habitat availability categories.

Salmon Spawning Habitat is similarly constrained: 2% exceed 20 km, 2% range between 5–20 km, and 96% have <5 km, indicating predominantly low spawning habitat availability.

The Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Index shows that 60% of wetlands meet mature and old forest thresholds within a 2-km buffer. Mature and old forest areas were compared against LU/BEC forest thresholds using compiled biodiversity indicator data.

The metrics described represent the current condition (baseline) for water and aquatic resources in the FLA, summarized in Table 5.

Source: Lakes FLP Current Condition Report (2024).

### Strategy 10 Riparian Habitat

Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vegetative cover and future woody debris</b> is maintained or restored to provide sufficient habitat for aquatic and terrestrial riparian species.</li> <li>• <b>Stream temperature</b> is moderated along critical stream reaches sufficient to support functional habitat for local aquatic/riparian species.</li> </ul>
Outcome(s)	<p style="color: red;">Outcome 10 Cutblocks maintain sufficient and appropriate riparian vegetation, including trees of appropriate size along fish streams and other waterbodies over the FLP term.</p>
Planning Guideline	<p style="color: red;">PG 14 The holder of a FOP must retain riparian forest adjacent to waterbodies according to the riparian management criteria described in: Table 6 within the Standard Harvest Area (SHA) land base (Strategy 4), and Table 7 within the Focused Harvest Area (FHA) land base (Strategy 5).</p>
Related Practice Requirements	<p>The following sections of the FPPR continue to apply to agreement holders (this list is not exhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Restrictions in a riparian management area (s.52)</b>—limits on harvesting, road building, and disturbance.</li> <li>• <b>Temperature-sensitive streams (s.53)</b>—mandatory shading and disturbance protections.</li> <li>• <b>Stream crossings (s.55)</b>—must meet engineering, hydrological, and environmental requirements.</li> <li>• <b>Fish passage(s.56)</b>—must be maintained at all crossings.</li> <li>• <b>Protection of fish and fish habitat (s.57)</b>—is mandatory (regardless of plan strategies).</li> <li>• <b>Use of Livestock (s.58)</b>—restrictions in riparian areas.</li> </ul>
Best Management Practices	<p style="color: red;">BMP 3 – Aquatic and Riparian</p> <p>Combine guidelines associated with Riparian Forest Management including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance on minimizing windthrow in riparian reserves</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direction on monitoring the application of BMP criteria along S4 and S6 streams</li> <li>• Guidance on managing riparian vegetation with a requirement to monitor S4 and S6 streams (see Yintah stewardship principles, Lake Babine Nation BMP, Cheslatta-Carrier Nation, and West Fraser strategies).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>Riparian forest - wooded area directly adjacent to streams, rivers, lakes, or wetlands, where vegetation helps stabilize banks, regulate water temperature, support high biodiversity, and supply nutrients to aquatic ecosystems.</i></p> <p><i>Riparian feature - A series of individual stream reaches that may have different riparian classes. A riparian feature may also include wetlands and lakes along the flow path.</i></p> <p><i>Basal area retention (%) - Riparian features containing multiple riparian classes apply BA% targets to each portion of the feature according to its class.</i></p> <p><i>Connection / connected - Areas where unharvested forest outside or across a WYR remains linked through riparian features. These connections can allow fire to move through higher fuel loads in a harvested WYR.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and apply a process to monitor the application of BMP criteria along S4 and S6 streams, as well as riparian management within FHA units.</li> </ul>	

**Table 6 Riparian Management in the Standard Harvest Area Land Base (Strategy 4)**

Waterbody	Class	Waterbody Width/Area	RRZ	RMZ	RMA	BA Retention	Effective Retention
<b>Stream</b>	S1A	>100m	0m	100m	100m	>30%	30m
	S1B	>20m	50m	20m	70m	>30%	56m
	S2	>5m	30m	20m	50m	>20%	34m
	S3	>1.5m	20m	20m	40m	>30%	26m
	S4	≤1.5m	0m	30m	30m	10% PG	3m PG
						>33% (BMP) <sup>4</sup>	10m (BMP) <sup>4</sup>
	S5	>3m	0m	30m	30m	>50%	15m
	S6a <sup>1</sup>	≤3m	0m	20m	20m	n/a (PG)	n/a (PG)
						>33% (BMP) <sup>4</sup>	7m (BMP) <sup>4</sup>
S6b	≤3m	0m	20m	20m	>15 <sup>2</sup>	5m <sup>3</sup>	
NCD	-	-	5m <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	
<b>Wetland</b>	W1 / W5	>5ha	15m	20m	35m	>25%	20m
	W3	>1ha	10m	15m	25m	>25%	13.75m
<b>Lake</b>	L1B	>5ha	10m	10m	20m	>10%	11m
	L3	>1ha	0m	30m	30m	>10%	3m

<sup>1</sup> tributary to fish stream (>100m in length and same stream order)

<sup>2</sup> live merchantable trees >12.5cm dbh per side over 100m

<sup>3</sup> Machine Free Zone

<sup>4</sup> Best Management Practice (BMP) with focused monitoring but where necessary, FRPA default restrictions for Planning Guideline (PG)

The approach to riparian management in FHAs (Table 7) is not consistent with FPPR as it intentionally shifts away from uniform, reserve-based riparian buffers toward a pattern that reflects the ecological variability created by natural wildfire. The default practice requirements emphasize continuous, linear RRZs and RMZs with relatively even retention to protect riparian function, whereas riparian management in FHAs applies retention at the reach and feature scale using a mix of intact and disturbed conditions, variable basal area, partial mortality, and non-linear residual patterns. This design recognizes that historical fire regimes produced heterogeneous riparian forests characterized by patchiness, episodic tree mortality, large woody debris recruitment, and intermittent canopy openings, while still maintaining overall riparian connectivity and function across the landscape. By allowing localized disturbance where risk is low and concentrating higher retention elsewhere, the FHA approach seeks to better align riparian structure and processes with natural disturbance dynamics, while also incidentally reducing fuel continuity and wildfire intensity risk.

**Table 7 Riparian Management in the Focused Harvest Areas (FHA) (Strategy 5)**

Waterbody	Class	Waterbody Width/Area	RRZ	RMZ	RMA (FRPA)	BA Retention	Gap/Break <sup>1</sup> (BMP)	Intact <sup>2</sup> (BMP)
Stream	S1A	>100m	0m	100m	100m	>20%	100m	500m
	S1B	>20m	0m	70m	70m	>77%	100m	500m
	S2	>5m	0m	50m	50m	>68%	100m	500m
	S3	>1.5m	0m	40m	40m	>60%	100m	500m
	S4	≤1.5m	0m	30m	30m	>10%	100m	500m
	S5	>3m	0m	30m	30m	>10%	100m	500m
	S6a <sup>1</sup>	≤3m	0m	20m	20m	>0%	100m	500m
	S6b	≤3m	0m	20m	20m	>0%	n/a	n/a
	NCD	-	-	5m <sup>3</sup>	5m <sup>3</sup>	-	n/a	n/a
Wetland	W1 / W5	>5ha	0m	50m	50m	>28%	100m	n/a <sup>4</sup>
	W3	>1ha	0m	30m	30m	>10%	100m	
Lake	L1B	>5ha	0m	10m	10m	>70%	100m	
	L3	>1ha	0m	30m	30m	>10%	100m	

<sup>1</sup> Break – Maximum length (m) of gap/break along RMA or absence of retention adjacent timber from termination of RMA

<sup>2</sup> Intact - Maximum operable intact RMA along a stream reach within FHA units

<sup>3</sup> Machine Free Zone

<sup>4</sup> No connection to adjacent timber beyond riparian feature

### Strategy 11 Road Practices Near Wetlands

Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roads are built, maintained and deactivated to <b>minimize fine sediment</b> delivery into aquatic habitat.</li> <li>Surface and ground <b>water flow within wetlands and wetland complexes</b> is maintained or restored.</li> </ul>
Outcome(s)	<p><b>Outcome 11 Road inspections—within 30 metres of wetlands &gt;1ha in size—that result in moderate or high impact rating do not increase over the FLP term.</b></p> <p>Impact rating is based on evidence that road management practices have generated and transported fine sediment to the wetland, in accordance with the 2018 Protocol for Evaluating</p>

	the Potential Impact of Forestry and Range Use on Water Quality.
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p>While there are no specific planning guidelines for this strategy at this time, FOP holders are expected to consider best management practices described in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMP 3 – Aquatic and Riparian</li> </ul> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PG 14 – Retain Riparian Habitat within Focused Harvest Areas and Standard Harvest Areas</li> </ul>
<b>Related Practice Requirements</b>	<p>The following sections of the FPPR continue to apply to agreement holders (this list is not exhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Protecting water quality (s.59)</b>—must not introduce sediment or cause harmful inputs.</li> <li>• Licensed waterworks protection (s.60)—mandatory safeguard rules.</li> <li>• <b>Excavated or bladed trails (s.61)</b>— must follow construction and reclamation standards.</li> <li>• <b>Stream crossings (s.55)</b>—must meet engineering, hydrological, and environmental requirements.</li> <li>• <b>Fish passage (s.56)</b>—must be maintained at all crossings.</li> <li>• <b>Protection of fish and fish habitat (s.57)</b>—mandatory (regardless of plan strategies).</li> </ul>
<b>Best Management Practices</b>	<p><b>BMP 3 – Aquatic and Riparian</b></p> <p>This BMP describes key aspects and local experience associated with access management within the FLA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develops and applies a process to measure / monitor water quality associated with road practices near wetlands (including who does the inspections, appropriate sample size, and where/how results are managed and accessed).</li> <li>• References the 2018 Protocol for Evaluating the Potential Impact of Forestry and Range Use on Water Quality.</li> <li>• Preferred local practices to maintain flow and prevent sediment in wetlands (e.g., Ducks Unlimited and licensees in Alberta and the Boreal.</li> </ul>
<b>Definitions</b>	
<p><i>Wetland - land that is saturated with water long enough to develop water-loving plants, poorly drained (hydric) soils, and other biological activity adapted to wet conditions.</i></p>	
<b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build the spatial data and map of the wetlands associated with this strategy.</li> <li>• Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</li> <li>• Establish a baseline for the proportion of road inspections within 30 metres of identified wetlands rated with moderate and high impact.</li> </ul>	

**Strategy 12 Watershed Disturbance**

<p><b>Objective(s)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water flows</b> are maintained at historic timing and peak/low levels that support aquatic habitat.</li> <li>• <b>Channel stability and morphology</b> for mainstem stream reaches is maintained or improved.</li> <li>• <b>Post wildfire management activities</b> prevent negative impacts of peak flow on channel conditions, terrain instability events and surface erosion.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome(s)</b></p>	<p><b>Outcome 12</b> The proportion of watersheds that exceeds maximum ECA thresholds (at moderate stream flow hazard; see Table 8 and Schedule 2 of Appendix 3) decreases over the FLP term.</p> <p>This outcome is calculated as the area-weighted average % ECA for each watershed, then summarized relative to ECA thresholds.</p> <p>Thresholds should get more specific as results for this outcome are tracked over time and detailed assessments are completed by QEPs.</p>
<p><b>Planning Guideline(s)</b></p>	<p>While there are no specific planning guidelines for this strategy at this time, FOP holders are expected to consider best management practices described in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMP 3 – Aquatic and Riparian</li> </ul> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PG 7 and PG 8 – Focused Harvest Areas may become future IRAs.</li> <li>• PG 9 – Maintenance of Interim Recovery Areas</li> </ul>
<p><b>Related Practice Requirements</b></p>	<p>The following sections of the FPPR continue to apply to agreement holders (this list is not exhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Protecting water quality (s.59)</b>—must not introduce sediment or cause harmful inputs.</li> <li>• <b>Licensed waterworks protection (s.60)</b>—mandatory safeguard rules.</li> <li>• <b>Excavated or bladed trails standards (s.61)</b>—must follow construction and reclamation standards.</li> <li>• <b>Use of fertilizers (s.63)</b>—must follow restrictions to protect water quality.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Best Management Practices</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 3 – Aquatic and Riparian</b></p> <p>Specific guidance for conducting landscape-level watershed assessments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List the Priority and Non-Priority Watersheds with their associated Hydrologic Response Potential Class and maximum ECA thresholds.</li> <li>• Maintain Priority and Non-Priority Watersheds as static populations throughout the FLP term.</li> <li>• Develop and apply a process to consistently assess watershed disturbance using an Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) approach using the best available forest inventory data.</li> <li>• Encourage forest operators to avoid harvesting within watersheds that exceed moderate ECA thresholds (see Table 8, Figure 18, and Schedule 2 of Appendix 3) <b>OR</b> follow the detailed assessment and recommendations from a QEP - hydrologist.</li> <li>• Encourage forest operators to follow the detailed assessment and recommendations from a qualified hydrologist where post-fire salvage operations are proposed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>ECA (equivalent clearcut area) - A measure of how much forest in a watershed is effectively equivalent to being clearcut, after accounting for disturbance (e.g., harvest, fire, insects) and the degree of hydrologic recovery from forest regrowth. It indicates how much the forest canopy has lost (or regained) its ability to regulate water.</i></p>	

*Priority Watershed – A watershed identified by First Nations as needing focused management or restoration because its water quality, hydrology, or community drinking-water supply is at higher risk from land-use impacts such as roads, harvesting, or cumulative hydrologic effects. This prioritization is typically based on watershed condition and the need to protect or improve drinking-water sources or key fishery values.*

*QEP (Qualified Environmental Professional) – An applied scientist or technologist who holds a professional designation, is in good standing with a BC professional organization, and has the expertise to perform assessments in their area of practice.*

**Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:**

- Review and recommend appropriate Reporting Units and Criteria for the outcome (currently identified as assessment watersheds).
- Build the BMP listed above using a team of practitioners and, where needed, a SME to ensure the intent is clear.
- Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.

**Table 8** Number of watersheds by ECA threshold (moderate stream flow hazard)

Watershed Type	Maximum ECA (moderate)				Total
	30%	35%	40%	50%	
Priority	1	31	14	19	65
Non-Priority		61	52	40	153
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>218</b>

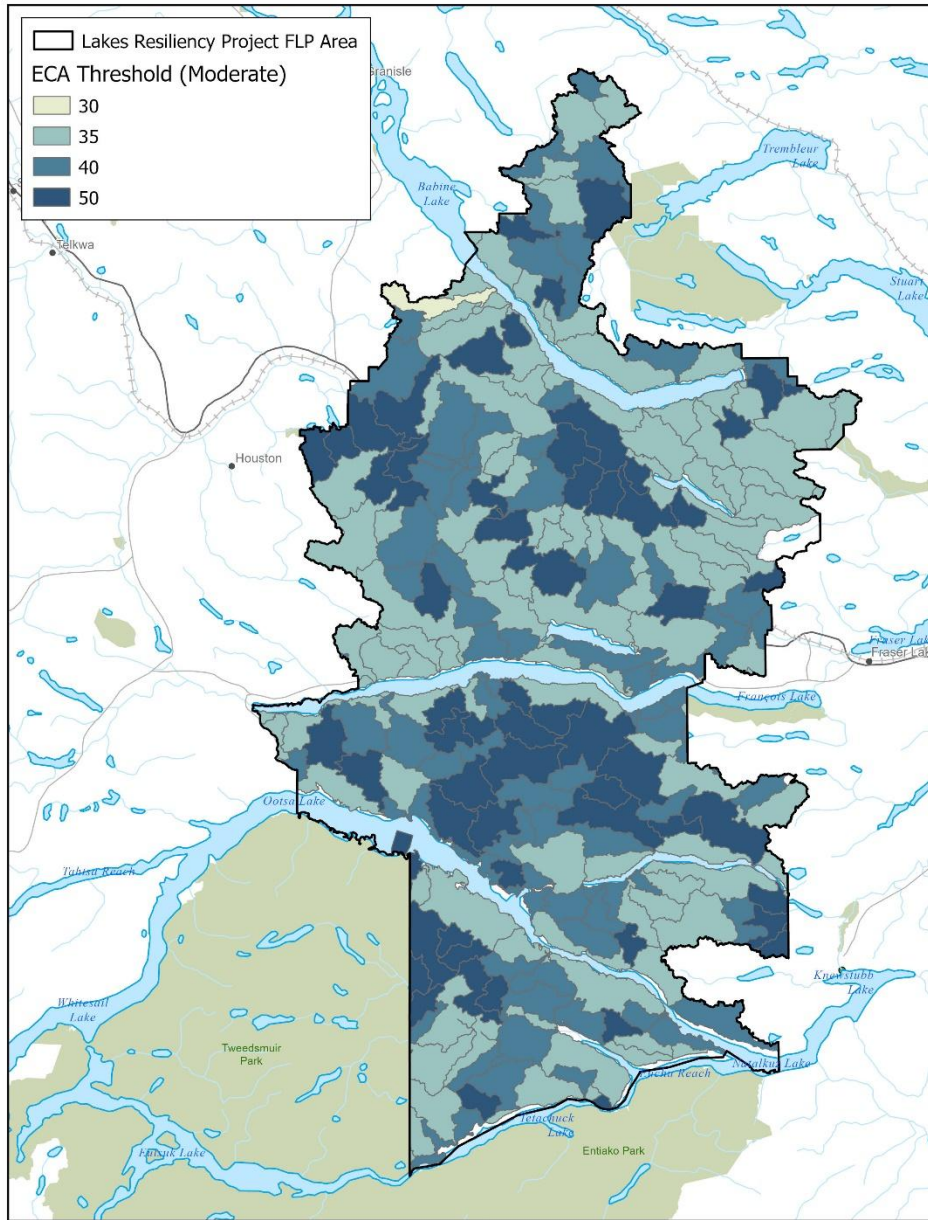


Figure 18 Equivalent Clearcut Area Thresholds (moderate stream flow hazard)

**Strategy 13 Open Road Density**

<p><b>Objective(s)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads are built, maintained and deactivated to <b>minimize fine sediment delivery</b> into aquatic habitat.</li> <li>• Reduce the impacts of predation and hunting and other <b>disturbance due to access</b>, supporting self-sustaining moose populations over time.</li> <li>• Minimize disturbance and incrementally <b>increase intact habitat</b> within caribou range to support a self-sustaining population.</li> <li>• The long-term goal (beyond the period of the FLP) is to achieve a maximum threshold for open roads of 0.6 km/km<sup>2</sup> within priority watersheds.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome(s)</b></p>	<p><b>Outcome 13</b> The density of <b>open roads</b> calculated for assessment watersheds decreases over</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>the FLP term.</b></p> <p>This outcome is calculated as the area-weighted average density (km/km<sup>2</sup>) for each watershed, then summarized relative to road density thresholds.</p>
<p><b>Planning Guideline(s)</b></p>	<p>While there are no specific planning guidelines to this strategy, FOP holders are expected to consider best management practices described in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMP 4 – Road Inventory and</li> </ul>
<p><b>Related Practice Requirements</b></p>	<p>The following sections of the FPPR continue to apply to agreement holders (this list is not exhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mapping (s.4.22)</b>—must classify the road network near proposed roads.</li> <li>• <b>Protecting water quality (s.59)</b>—must not introduce sediment or cause harmful inputs.</li> <li>• <b>Licensed waterworks protection (s.60)</b>—mandatory safeguard rules.</li> <li>• <b>Excavated or bladed trails standards (s.61)</b>—must follow construction and reclamation standards.</li> <li>• <b>Stream crossings (s.55)</b>—must meet engineering, hydrological, and environmental requirements.</li> <li>• <b>Fish passage (s.56)</b>—must be maintained at all crossings.</li> <li>• <b>Protection of fish and fish habitat (s.57)</b>—is mandatory (regardless of plan strategies).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Best Management Practices</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 4 – Road Inventory and Road Structure</b></p> <p>This BMP describes key aspects and local experience associated with access management within the FLA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete set of Standard Operating Procedures for road construction (including structures), maintenance, and deactivation, and rehabilitation/debuilding.</li> <li>• Preferred local practices to control sediment during road construction, maintenance and deactivation, including building, maintaining and removing drainage or crossing structures.</li> <li>• Preferred local practices to maintain flow and prevent sediment in wetlands (e.g., Ducks Unlimited and licensees in Alberta and the Boreal).</li> <li>• Consider acceptable measures that make road sections “closed” (e.g., render inaccessible over the first 200 m or to the first corner).</li> <li>• Investigate and consider current access management practices:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What licensees are legally required to do under the various agreements.</li> <li>○ Opportunities for old Forest Service Roads and Wilderness Roads that are not under permit.</li> <li>○ How access management plans consider road density targets.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• List the <b>Priority and Non-Priority Watersheds</b> with their associated road density targets.</li> <li>• Develop and apply a process to consistently assess road density within watersheds using the best available road inventory data (i.e., gather and clean spatial data, compile/summarize, compare/interpret).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>Closed Road – A forest road that has been formally deactivated and closed —meaning it is no longer maintained for vehicle (typical 4WD) access and may be completely overgrown or have barriers, water-management structures, or other treatments applied to prevent use and reduce environmental risk. Any dependent tributaries to a closed road are also closed.</i></p> <p><i>Priority Watershed – A watershed identified by First Nations as needing focused management or restoration because its water quality, hydrology, or community drinking-water supply is at higher risk from land-use</i></p>	

*impacts such as roads, harvesting, or cumulative hydrologic effects. This prioritization is typically based on watershed condition and the need to protect or improve drinking -water sources or key fishery values.*




**Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:**

- Review and recommend appropriate Reporting Units and Criteria for the outcome (currently identified as assessment watersheds).
- BMP 3 – Aquatic and Riparian  
may need to be designed between plans with practitioners from licensee organizations and BCTS, with some involvement from a subject matter expert to ensure the intent is not lost (possibly combining what these organizations currently have in place as SOPs).
- Ultimately, Coordinated Access Management Planning is required but that may take several planning cycles to develop.
- Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.




## 5.6 Wildlife Habitat

Stewardship strategies developed to maintain and restore the forest structures, stand conditions, and landscape connectivity reflect considerations and concerns described in Section 4.4 Wildlife Habitat – Moose, Fisher, Northern Goshawk, which are linked to these specific goals:

### Cultural Wellbeing Goals

-  ○ Moose (Khida/Hida) and Moose Habitat - Healthy khida and abundant khida population and habitat that fully satisfy each Indigenous Nations' food, social, and ceremonial needs.
-  ○ Fur Bearing Animals - Increase health, abundance and resiliency of marten, fisher, mink, porcupine, lynx, beaver, wolverine, fox, and rabbit habitat. Minimize the negative impacts of forestry operations on Indigenous trapping activities as much as possible and ensure that habitat requirements for all fur bearing animals are met. Facilitate collaboration between Indigenous trappers and licensees where possible.
-  ○ Other Large Terrestrial Wildlife - Forestry operations have as minimal negative impact on nuneets'iyh' (all the living creatures) as possible. Wildlife can freely and safely move throughout the Lakes TSA, and they have easy access to abundant, healthy and diverse habitats.

### Provincial Goals

-  ○ Support the protection and conservation of the environment;
-  ○ Manage the values placed on forest ecosystems by Indigenous peoples;
-  ○ Manage the values placed on forest ecosystems by local communities;

Strategies developed focused on maintaining critical habitat features, ecosystem functions, and

long-term species viability and incorporate the specific ecological needs of each species—such as the forage, cover, and movement conditions essential for moose, the connected, structurally complex forest stands required by fishers, and the mature and old-growth forest structure needed by northern goshawks, whose declines are strongly linked to habitat loss and fragmentation.

Modern forest practices have altered ecosystems and wildlife habitat. Large-scale harvesting, road development, and landscape fragmentation have reduced and disrupted critical habitat, travel corridors, and calving areas for species such as moose or nesting areas for species such as Northern Goshawk. These cumulative impacts have contributed to their population declines.

Restoring and maintaining a balance in forest operations is therefore essential, prioritizing connected, diverse, and resilient habitats that allow wildlife to move freely, forage, reproduce and thrive. By reducing fragmentation, protecting key habitat features, and planning harvest activities with long-term ecosystem health in mind, forestry can better support stable moose populations and other species. A balanced approach ensures that wildlife continues to sustain Indigenous peoples for generations to come.

Access management is critical to managing healthy populations of wildlife species important to local First Nations and the province as roads often increases hunting pressure and predation on many species. Comprehensive coordinated access planning is a significant gap provincially and locally, but it is complex and challenging to undertake, especially in a TSA setting.

### Current and Forecasted Conditions:

Across the 13 Landscape Units, grizzly bear habitat totals about 24,511 ha, but over half of these units fail to meet the requirement that at least 50% of forest cover be older than 121 years, and road densities—averaging 1.61 km/km<sup>2</sup>—pose high or very high risks to bear populations. Open-canopy forests that support berry production are important for grizzlies, yet several units exceed the threshold of 30% mid-seral dense conifer forest, reducing forage availability. Caribou populations are also declining: the Takla subpopulation has fallen from about 70 animals in 2012 to roughly 45 in 2020, while the Tweedsmuir-Entiako herd has dropped from around 600 animals in the 1960s to approximately 150–200 in recent years.

Other wildlife habitat indicators show similar pressures. Mule deer habitat is extensive, but only 35% of CFLB habitat is in mature stands over 101 years old, indicating a deficit linked to historic disturbances. Fisher habitat suitability is low, with only 5.9% of AFLB habitat meeting criteria, aligning with Indigenous reports of declining populations. Moose habitat includes large core areas and designated winter range zones, and mountain goat habitat meets legal protections through ungulate winter range orders. Marten habitat includes nearly 100,000 ha of older forest, though communities note declines, and northern goshawk habitat remains at risk, with nearly half of mapped foraging areas located in reserves or visually sensitive zones.

Source: Lakes FLP Current Condition Report (2024).

Table 9 summarizes the current condition (baseline) of the wildlife and habitat areas in the FLA.

**Table 9 Lakes FLP Current Condition (baseline) for Wildlife & Habitat Areas**

Species of Concern	Wildlife & Habitat Metrics	Baseline/ Current Condition <sup>1</sup>
Grizzly Bear	Grizzly Bear Total Habitat Area	24,511 ha
	Grizzly Bear Total Analysis Forest Land Base (AFLB)	9,950 ha

	Habitat Area	
	Grizzly Bear AFLB Habitat Area with Age <121	4,906 ha (49%)
	Grizzly Bear Population Risk (Road Density Indicator)	Very High Risk
	Grizzly Bear Mid-Seral Dense Conifer Indicator (Forage Risk)	High Risk in Burns Lake East and Ootsa LUs
<b>Takla Caribou</b>	Takla Caribou Population	45
<b>Caribou (Tweedsmuir Herd)</b>	Caribou (Tweedsmuir Herd) Population	150-200
<b>Mule Deer</b>	Mule Deer Total Gross Habitat Area	72,086 ha
	Mule Deer Total Analysis Forest Land Base (AFLB) Habitat Area	34,694 ha
	Mule Deer Total AFLB Habitat Area with Age > 101	12,050 ha
<b>Fisher</b>	Fisher AFLB Habitat Area	559,590 ha
	Fisher AFLB Meeting Habitat Score	33,293 (5.9%)
<b>Moose</b>	Moose Total AFLB Habitat Area	228,545 ha
<b>Mountain Goat</b>	Mountain Goat Habitat Compliance Index	Meeting the requirements
<b>Marten</b>	Marten AFLB Habitat Area	676,415 ha
	Marten AFLB Habitat Old Area	99,426 ha
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>	Northern Goshawk Forage Area AFLB	144,699 ha
	Northern Goshawk Permanent Reserves or VQO of the AFLB	71,593 ha (49%)

<sup>1</sup> Source: Lakes FLP Current Condition Report (2024)

#### Strategy 14 Protect Special Wildlife Habitat Features

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect special wildlife habitat features.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 14</b> Over the FLP term, forestry activities do not damage or render ineffective special wildlife habitat features.</p> <p>This outcome tracks the number of special wildlife habitat features identified relative to those disturbed. Targets should get more specific as results for this outcome are tracked over time.</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p><b>PG 15</b> The holder of a FOP must take measures to ensure that special wildlife habitat features are not damaged or rendered ineffective by roads, harvesting, and other forestry activities.</p>
<b>Best Management Practices</b>	<p><b>BMP 5 - Wildlife Habitat Features</b></p> <p>This BMP describes key aspects and local experience associated with managing special wildlife habitat features within the FLA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of categories for local special wildlife habitat features and appropriate measures to protect them (see West Fraser / Kootenay Boundary)</li> <li>Develop and apply a process to report the location of special wildlife habitat features to WLRS (note: since special wildlife habitat features do not have associated spatial data, licensees must simply identify and protect when found in the field). Also include a sampling process to monitor these over time for detecting disturbance.</li> <li>Knowledge transfer to First Nations would be appreciated.</li> </ul>
<b>Definitions</b>	<p><i>Special Wildlife Habitat Feature – a specific, localized habitat element—such as a mineral lick, wallow, sensitive</i></p>

<i>nest, den, hibernacula, nursery roost, or other feature— used by wildlife to meet essential life-history needs and therefore requires special protection during forestry or range activities.</i>
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</li> </ul>

**Strategy 15 Moose Cover**

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain or increase the amount of dynamic forage and cover for moose over time.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 15</b> Moose thermal and security cover is maintained or enhanced across the FLA, outside of the Caribou management area (Figure 19), throughout the term of the FLP.</p> <p>This outcome is calculated as the area of potential <b>thermal cover</b> (live stands &gt;18m in height (or &gt;60 years), &gt;50% crown closure, and &gt;60% conifer) plus the area of potential <b>security cover</b> (stands &gt;3m in height) across the FLA and outside of the Caribou management area. While the aspirational cumulative target for moose cover is 60%, targets should get more specific as results for this outcome are tracked over time.</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p><b>PG 16 Thermal Cover:</b> The holder of a FOP must maintain at least 30% of the area within 100m of <b>W1 and W5 wetlands</b> across the FLA but outside of the Caribou areas, with live stands &gt;18m in height (or &gt;60 years), &gt;50% crown closure, and &gt;60% conifer.</p> <p><b>PG 17 Security Cover:</b> The holder of a FOP must maintain at least 60% of the area within 100m of <b>W1 and W5 wetlands</b> across the FLA but outside of the Caribou areas, with stands &gt;3m in height.</p> <p><b>PG 18</b> Within the Moose Home Range as identified in Figure 19, the holder of a FOP must ensure all harvested area is within 300m of <b>visual screening</b> (see definitions) where practicable, or at least 56% of each cutblock is within 100m of visual screening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Except for smaller wetlands (i.e., &lt;5ha), both <b>thermal and security cover</b> is maintained in &gt;2ha patches, &gt;100m wide, and, where more than one patch is established, not more than 400m apart.</li> <li>Salvage operations maintain these criteria wherever feasible.</li> <li>Where thermal cover is not present, stand tending activities are permitted to facilitate recruitment.</li> </ul> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PG 1 – Maintenance of Lakes Biodiversity Matrix</li> <li>PG 2 and PG 4 – Old Forest</li> <li>PG 6 – Stand Level Retention across the Standard Harvest Area.</li> <li>PG 14 – Retain Riparian Habitat</li> <li>PG 15 – Protect Special Wildlife Habitat Features.</li> </ul>
<b>Best Management Practices</b>	<p><b>BMP 6 - Moose</b></p> <p>This BMP describes key aspects and local experience associated with moose management within the FLA but outside of the Caribou Management areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map of Caribou Management area.</li> <li>Detailed instructions and criteria for planning moose thermal and security cover associated with Strategy 15 Moose Cover.</li> <li>Develop a process for tracking areas designated as moose cover (thermal and security).</li> </ul>

	<p><b>BMP 3 – Aquatic and Riparian</b></p> <p>Consider guidelines associated with Riparian Forest Management including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riparian management criteria associated with wetlands.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>Thermal Cover – forest canopy cover that moose use for protection from extreme winter temperatures, typically provided by taller conifer stands with higher canopy closure that reduce wind and retain warmth. This cover helps moose conserve energy during severe cold.</i></p> <p><i>Security Cover – forest vegetation—often coniferous leave strips, patches, or buffers commonly placed between forage areas, wetlands, and roads—that provides visual screening, allowing moose to move, forage, and rest without being easily detected by predators or humans.</i></p> <p><i>W1 and W5 Wetland – land ≥5 hectares that is saturated with water long enough to develop water-loving plants, poorly drained (hydric) soils, and other biological activity</i></p> <p><i>Visual screening – vegetation and/or topographic features that block sightlines from roads into adjacent habitat, reducing disturbance to moose by making it difficult to see into areas they use for foraging or security cover. Specific criteria for visual screening include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) Stem density obscures 90% of the moose from an open road surface, or</i></li> <li><i>b) A diversity understory that obscures a moose at close range, or</i></li> <li><i>c) Gullied terrain may offer security opportunities, or</i></li> <li><i>d) Structural stages 3,4, and 5 (best) but also 6 and 7.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>adapted to wet conditions.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a map of known W1 and W5 wetlands throughout the FLA but outside of the Caribou areas.</li> <li>Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</li> <li>Measure the initial or baseline status for Moose thermal and security cover (i.e., moose habitat tracking process).</li> </ul>	

**Strategy 16 Moose Forage**

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain or increase the amount of dynamic forage and cover for moose over time, targeting 20% of an opening within Moose Home Range units as small gaps by free growing.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 16</b> The proportion of <b>Moose Home Range</b> units managed under a <b>moose silvicultural regime</b> increases over the FLP term.</p> <p>This outcome is calculated as the area-weighted average % of Moose Home Range units that meet the criteria in PG 19. Thresholds should get more specific as results for this outcome are tracked over time.</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p><b>PG 19</b> The holder of a FOP must ensure that each <b>Moose Home Range</b> unit (Figure 19) is managed under a <b>moose silvicultural regime</b> that considers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gap Establishment Timing and Methods</li> <li>○ Gap Targets and Distribution</li> <li>○ Preferred Gap Locations</li> <li>○ Free Growing Considerations</li> <li>○ Application to Existing Cutblocks</li> </ul> <p>FOP holders are expected to consider best management practices described in:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMP 6 - Moose</li> <li>• BMP 11 - Silviculture</li> </ul>
<p><b>Best Management Practices</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 6 - Moose</b></p> <p>This BMP describes key aspects and local experience associated with moose management within the FLA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clearly defined moose silvicultural regime, including stocking standard tables.</li> <li>• Description of desired stand structure conditions for moose forage regime.</li> <li>• Survey procedures to verify that the desired moose forage regime is appropriately established.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>Moose Home Range – designated planning areas (Figure 19 for this FLP) reflecting where a cow moose might regularly use through the year (typically about 5–10 km<sup>2</sup>). Moose use these ranges for feeding, movement, and shelter but do not defend territories.</i></p> <p><i>Moose Silvicultural Regime – A silvicultural regime designed to maintain or enhance key habitat conditions for moose—including forage availability, thermal cover, and security cover—by managing forest stand structure, harvest patterns, and regeneration in ways that support moose seasonal habitat needs (see BMP 11 - Silviculture).</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and refine a clearly defined moose silvicultural regime, including stocking standard tables.</li> </ul>	

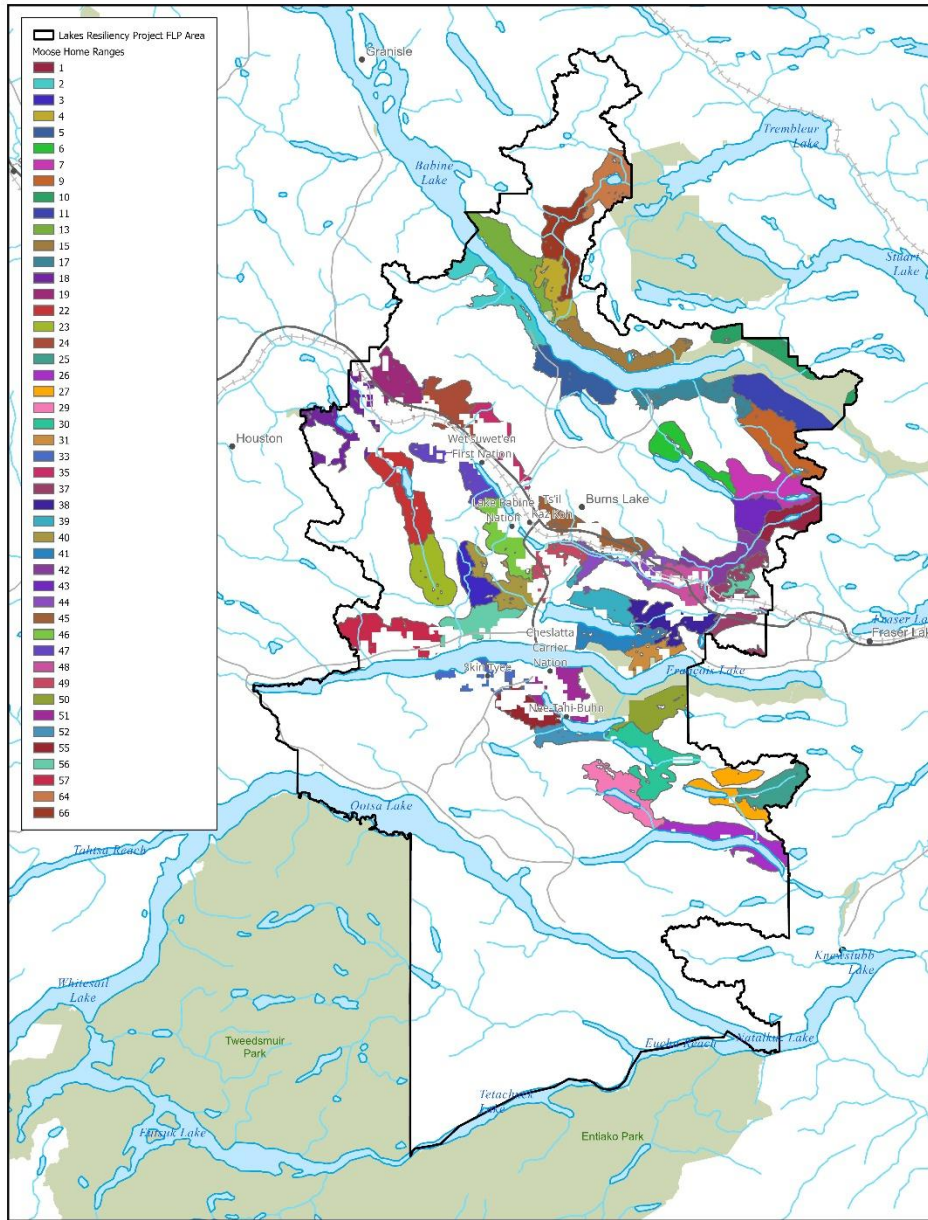


Figure 19 Map of Moose Home Ranges Across the FLP Area

**Strategy 17 Moose Disturbance**

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the impacts of predation and hunting and other disturbance due to access, supporting self-sustaining populations over time.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 17</b> Primary harvest activities conducted within 500m of W1 and W5 wetlands are timed to avoid disturbances during moose calving season, as specified in PG 20.</p> <p>This outcome is tracked through random inspections of primary forestry activities conducted near wetlands between April 1st and May 31st. Targets should get more specific as results for this outcome are tracked over time.</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p><b>PG 20</b> Between April 1st and May 31<sup>st</sup>, a FOP holder must not conduct primary harvest activities within 500m of W1 and W5 wetlands throughout the FLP but outside of the</p>

	<p><b>Caribou areas (Figure 19) over the FLP term.</b></p> <p>FOP holders are also expected to consider best management practices described in:</p> <p><b>BMP 3 – Aquatic and Riparian</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>• BMP 6 - Moose</li> </ul> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PG 16—Maintain moose thermal cover.</li> <li>• PG 17—Maintain moose security cover.</li> <li>• PG 18—Maintain visual screening for moose.</li> <li>• PG 19—Manage areas under a moose silvicultural regime.</li> </ul>
<b>Best Management Practices</b>	<p><b>BMP 6 - Moose</b></p> <p>This BMP describes key aspects and local experience associated with moose management within the FLA but outside of the Caribou areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid <b>primary forestry activities</b> during calving periods of April 1st to May 31st within 500m of W1 and W5 wetlands within the moose home ranges.</li> </ul>
<b>Definitions</b>	<p><i>Primary Harvest Activities - Activities such as timber harvesting and road construction, maintenance, or deactivation. These are the core on-the-ground operations that directly modify forest stands and access infrastructure.</i></p>
<b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a map of known W1 and W5 wetlands throughout the FLA but outside of the Caribou areas.</li> </ul>

**Strategy 18 Fisher Habitat Retention Tool**

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit sufficient and appropriate maternal territories including denning and resting habitat for a viable fisher population.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 18</b> Over the FLP term, new cutblocks located within suitable fisher habitat (Figure 20) were designed and harvested according to PG 21.</p> <p>This outcome is calculated as the percentage of cutblock area within suitable fisher habitat where specific habitat protection or enhancement actions were applied, compared to the total area of cutblocks approved in suitable fisher habitat. Targets should get more specific as results for this outcome are tracked over time.</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p><b>PG 21</b> Prior to commencing a primary harvest activity in an area identified as suitable fisher habitat (Figure 20), a holder of a FOP will: a) apply the <b>Fisher Habitat Retention Tool</b>, and b) consider its outputs to maintain or enhance fisher habitat that prioritizes retention trees and features that meet the minimum structural attributes for fisher denning, branch resting, cavity resting, and coarse woody debris resting habitat (see BMP 7 - Fisher).</p> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PG 1 – Maintenance of Lakes Biodiversity Matrix</li> <li>• PG 6 – Stand Level Retention across the Standard Harvest Area.</li> <li>• PG 14 – Retain Riparian Habitat</li> <li>• PG 15 – Protect Special Wildlife Habitat Features.</li> </ul>
<b>Best</b>	<b>BMP 7 - Fisher</b>

<b>Management Practices</b>	<p>This BMP describes key aspects and local experience associated with Fisher management within the FLA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within suitable fisher maternal territories (i.e., SBS, SBPS BEC Zone), apply the <b>Fisher Habitat Retention Tool</b> and retain (and/or construct) fisher habitat features as calculated and described by the tool outputs.</li> <li>• Map of suitable fisher maternal territories and recruitment breeding areas.</li> <li>• Develop and apply a process to measure / monitor cutblocks where Fisher habitat measures were applied (including who does the inspections, appropriate sample size, and where/how results are managed and accessed).</li> </ul>
<b>Definitions</b>	
<p><i>Fisher Habitat Retention Tool - A spatial planning tool developed by the BC Fisher Habitat Working Group to help foresters identify, retain, and manage important fisher habitat within cutblocks. It provides habitat retention targets, highlights key structures and stand types, and guides block-level planning to maintain habitat features required by fishers.</i></p> <p><i>Primary Harvest Activities - Activities such as timber harvesting and road construction, maintenance, or deactivation. These are the core on-the-ground operations that directly modify forest stands and access infrastructure.</i></p>	
<b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</li> </ul>	

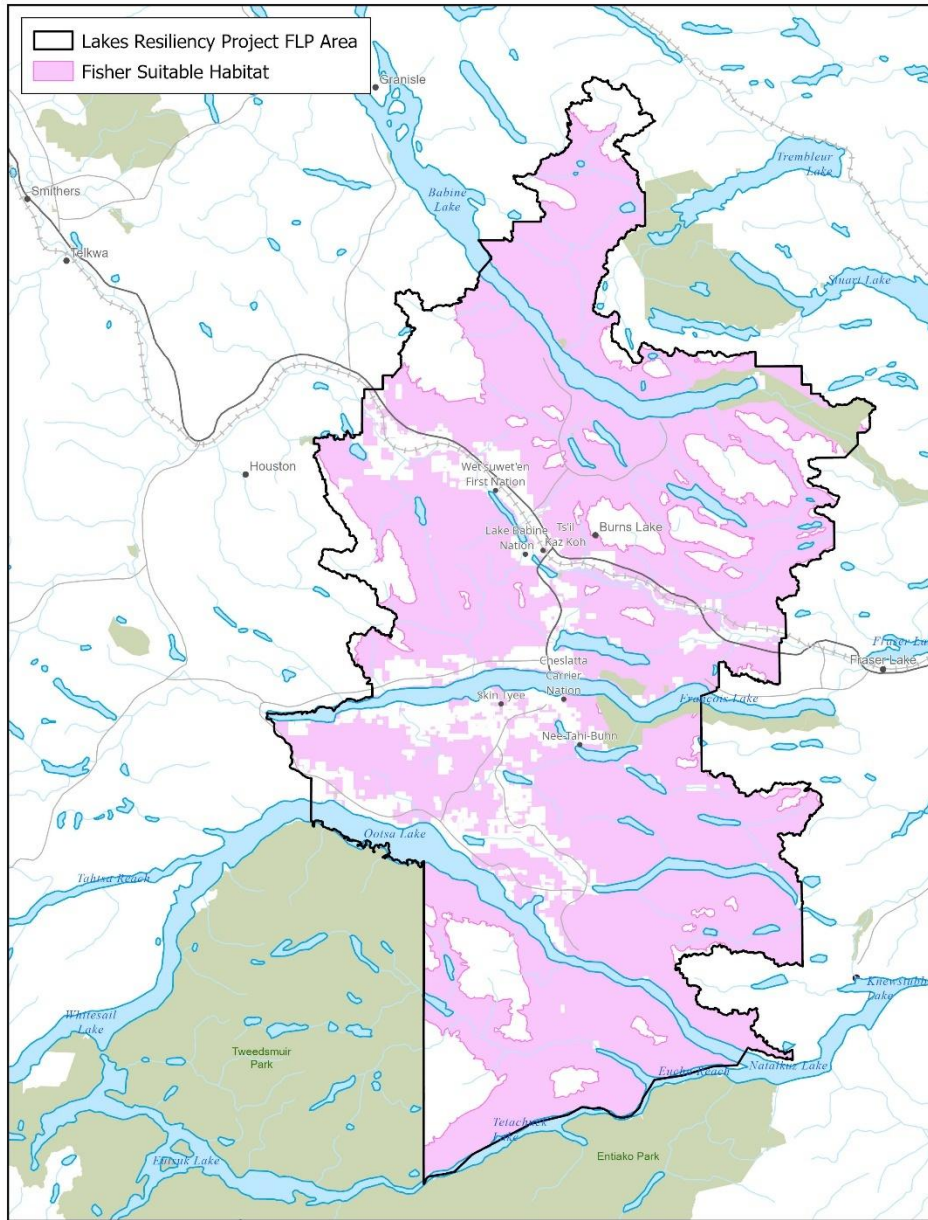


Figure 20 Map of Suitable Fisher Habitat Across the FLP Area

**Strategy 19 Northern Goshawk Breeding and Forage**

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain sufficient and appropriate high-quality habitat within suitable breeding and forage zones for a viable Goshawk population.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 19</b> Over the FLP term, new cutblocks located within core breeding and buffer areas (Figure 21):</p> <p>a) have had a Northern Goshawk occupancy survey completed by a QEP, and</p> <p>b) where this survey identifies an active nest(s), management measures are undertaken according to PG 22.</p> <p>This outcome is calculated as the proportion of cutblock area where Northern Goshawk occupancy is assessed, for all cutblocks located within core and breeding buffer areas – 1km from</p>

	suitable (active or predicted) nest locations.
<p><b>Planning Guideline(s)</b></p>	<p><b>PG 22</b> Prior to commencing a primary forestry activity within Northern Goshawk core breeding and buffer areas (Figure 21), the holder of a FOP will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) provide results of a Northern Goshawk occupancy survey undertaken by a QEP during nestling and post-fledgling season,</li> <li>b) this occupancy survey is not required if a wildfire has burned the core breeding or core buffer areas by more than 70% or 50% respectively, at high severity,</li> <li>c) if an active nest is found, ensure that each <u>Northern Goshawk Suitable Habitat Area</u> is managed under a regime that considers the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Coarse woody debris (CWD)</li> <li>o Snags and live retention (mature perch trees for hunting)</li> <li>o Habitat and food sources for forage species</li> </ul> </li> <li>d) if an active nest is found during operations, stop work and follow recommendations from a QEP that considers the regime specified in c) (see BMP 8 - Northern Goshawk).</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stuart-Smith et al. note goshawk occupancy is best determined during the nestling (June 1–30) and post-fledging periods (July 1–August 15). Our region may have started slightly earlier (~May 25) and not gone as late into August in some years and that would have been on the advice of local goshawk experts.</li> <li>• As per Ray et al., 2014 and Reynolds et al., 2017, a territory is considered abandoned if: &gt;70% of the Core Breeding Area burns at high severity, or &gt;50% of the Core Buffer burns at high severity.</li> </ul> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PG 1 – Lakes Biodiversity Matrix</li> <li>• PG 9 – Maintenance of Interim Recovery Areas</li> </ul>
<p><b>Best Management Practices</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 8 - Northern Goshawk</b></p> <p>This BMP describes key aspects and local experience associated with managing habitat for goshawk, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map of Suitable Goshawk Management Zones for active and predicted goshawk territories – including core nest areas, breeding-area buffers, and foraging zones.</li> <li>• Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</li> <li>• Maintain at least 80% of each <b>breeding area buffer</b> (see map) &gt;80 years old, utilizing selection harvest silvicultural systems that retain at least 60% of the stems.</li> <li>• Maintain at least 50% of each <b>foraging zone</b> (see map) &gt;80 years old, utilizing selection harvest silvicultural systems that retain at least 60% of the stems.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>Suitable Goshawk Management Zones - Areas within an active or predicted goshawk territory—such as core nest areas, breeding-area buffers, and foraging zones—that are managed to retain forest structure and habitat attributes needed for nesting, prey availability, and long-term territory occupancy. These zones specify retention levels and allowable disturbance, guiding forestry activities to maintain functioning goshawk habitat.</i></p> <p><i>Active Nest – A nest that is occupied by a bird, its egg, or its young. It is legally protected under both the BC Wildlife Act and the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act.</i></p> <p><i>Primary Forestry Activities - Activities legally defined under the FPPR as timber harvesting, silviculture treatments, and road construction, maintenance, or deactivation. These are the core on-the-ground operations that directly modify forest stands and access infrastructure.</i></p>	

**QEP (Qualified Environmental Professional)** – An applied scientist or technologist who holds a professional designation, is in good standing with a BC professional organization, and has the expertise to perform assessments in their area of practice.

**Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:**

- Identify past cutblocks located within core breeding and buffer areas (Figure 21) (i.e., excluded from future assessments under the outcome).

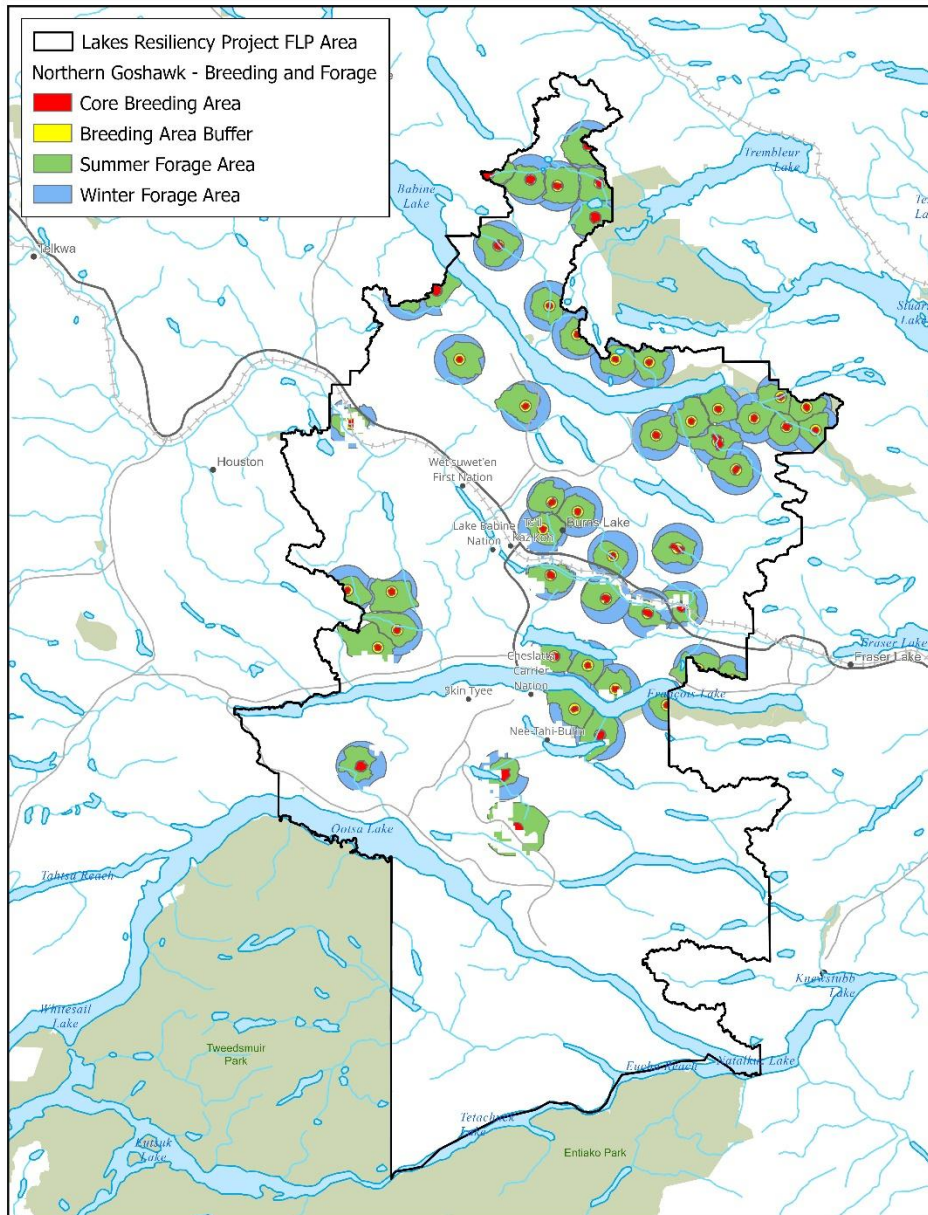


Figure 21 Suitable Goshawk Management Areas

**Strategy 20 Caribou**

<p><b>Objective(s)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain early, mature plus old, and old seral stages and minimize disturbance and incrementally increase intact habitat within caribou range to support a self-sustaining population.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Related Practice Requirements</b></p>	<p>The Ungulate Winter Range order u-6-013 (04/01/2021) established under GAR sections 9(1), 9(2), and 12(1) requires the holder of a FOP to follow the General Wildlife Measures stipulated within and for the area designated under ungulate winter range GAR order (available from DataBC as illustrated in Figure 22).</p> <p>Objective 1b of the Ministerial Order for the Lakes South SRMP (03/07/17) stipulate the target seral stage distribution to be maintained for the Caribou Migration Corridor (Tweedsmuir-Entiako herd) for early, mature-plus-old, and old seral stages (available from DataBC as illustrated in Figure 22).</p>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>GWM (General Wildlife Measures) - Legally established forest management practices designed to maintain or enhance critical habitat features and reduce adverse impacts to wildlife and their habitats.</i></p> <p><i>Old forest – forested stands throughout the FLA with an average age greater than 140 years.</i></p> <p><i>Mature forest – forested stands throughout the FLA with an average age greater than 80 years and up to 140 years.</i></p> <p><i>Early forest – forested stands throughout the FLA with an average age less than or equal to 40 years.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</li> </ul>	

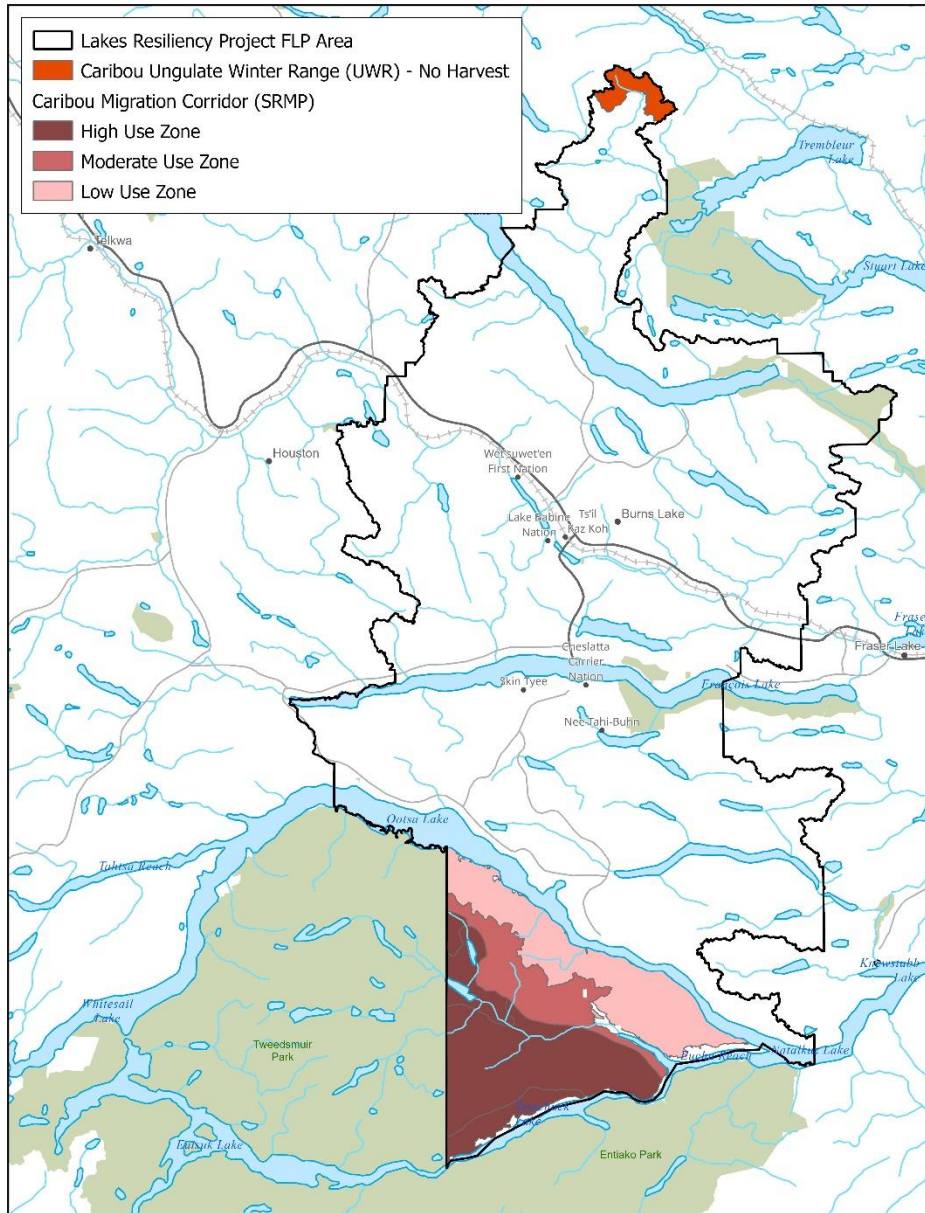


Figure 22 Caribou Ungulate Winter Range (u-6-013) and Migration Corridors (from Lakes South SRMP)

**Strategy 21 Mountain Goat**

<p><b>Objective(s)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter Habitat - Sufficient winter habitat is secured/maintained to support a viable and stable populations (in the face of climate uncertainty).</li> <li>• Corridor - Sufficient habitat for transition and migration between high value habitat during migration season is protected/maintained and disturbance is minimized.</li> <li>• Nutrition - Mountain Goat nutrition is maintained or improved through protection of Mountain Goat at habitat features.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Related Practice</b></p>	<p>The Ungulate Winter Range order u-6-017 (05/17/2017) established under GAR sections 9(1), 9(2), and 12(1) requires the holder of a FOP to follow the General Wildlife Measures stipulated</p>

<b>Requirements</b>	within and for the area designated under the ungulate winter range GAR order (available from DataBC as illustrated in Figure 23).
<b>Definitions</b>	<i>GWM (General Wildlife Measures) - Legally established forest management practices designed to maintain or enhance critical habitat features and reduce adverse impacts to wildlife and their habitats.</i>
<b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</li> </ul>	

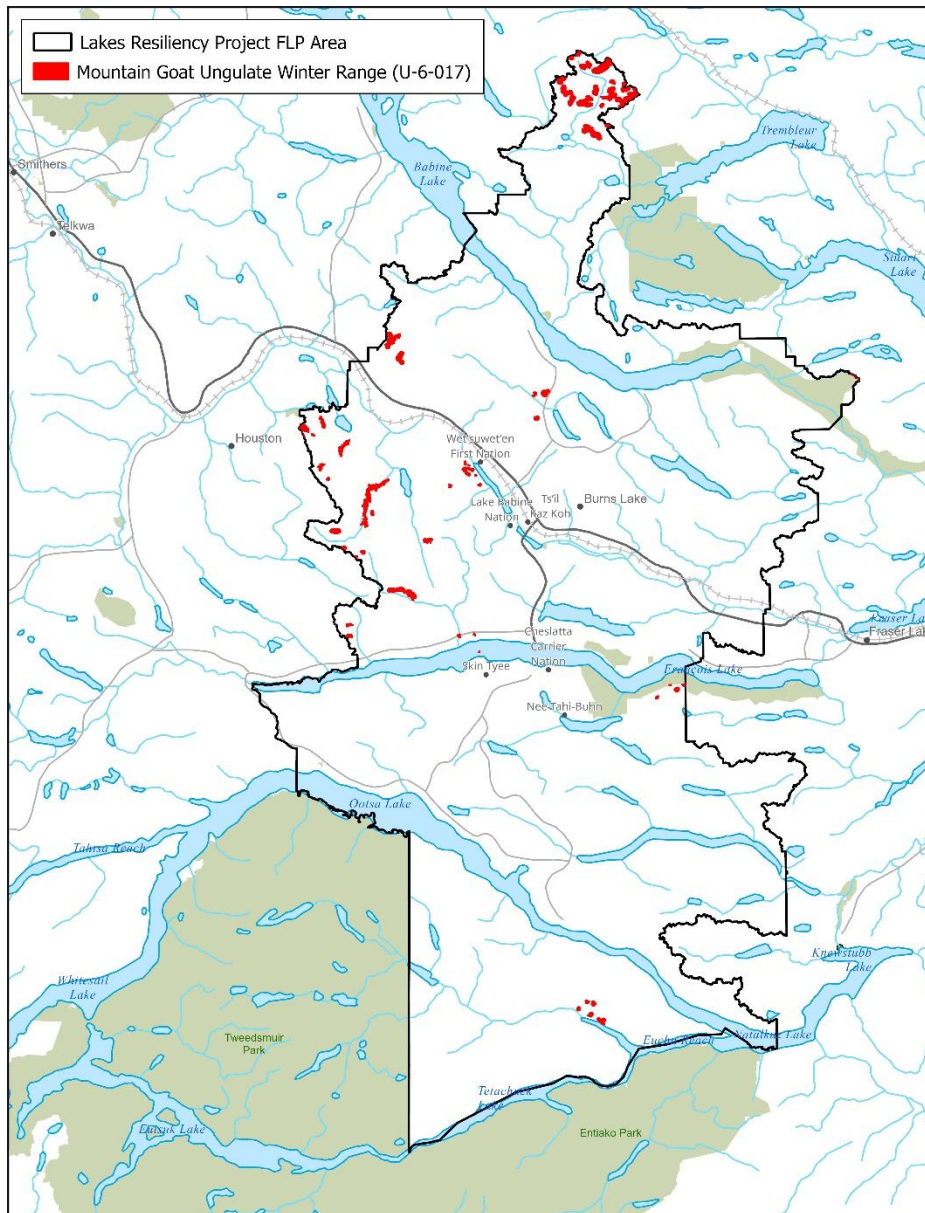


Figure 23 Mountain Goat Ungulate Winter Range (u-6-017)

**Strategy 22 Mule Deer**

*Note: The intent of the notice – Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat Required for the Winter Survival of Ungulate species in the Lakes Timber Supply Area (Dec-04) under FPPR 7(2) will be carried forward into the FLP but the planning table has not worked out the exact wording. Accordingly, the following strategy is considered draft for the purposes of this public review.*

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain functional winter habitat throughout the SBSdk, and isolated patches of the SBSmc subzones located in forest types at the elevation and on slope aspects typical of ungulate winter ranges for Mule Deer.</li> <li>Maintain stand-level winter forage availability and security/thermal cover.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 20</b> Over the term of the FLP, mature forest structure is retained to support mule deer winter habitat, and the extent and duration of early-seral conditions is limited within mapped high-value winter habitat.</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p><b>PG 23</b> The holder of a FOP must plan and carry out primary harvest activities so that, within mapped high-value mule deer winter habitat (Figure 24), activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>maintain a minimum of 50% of the AFLB in stands of at least 101 years of age, and</li> <li>maintain a maximum of 33% of the AFLB in stands less than 3 meters in height or 17 years of age.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positioning of these areas should support mule deer winter energetics (reduced snow exposure, movement efficiency) with older-age forest cover that provides: snow interception, thermal cover, and security from predators and include mixed-age forest mosaics that balance forage, shelter, and movement efficiency.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>Winter Habitat - Areas with suitable snow conditions and vegetation that mule deer use during winter to conserve energy and access forage, providing critical habitat for survival.</i></p> <p><i>Primary Harvest Activities - Activities such as timber harvesting and road construction, maintenance, or deactivation. These are the core on-the-ground operations that directly modify forest stands and access infrastructure.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</li> </ul>	

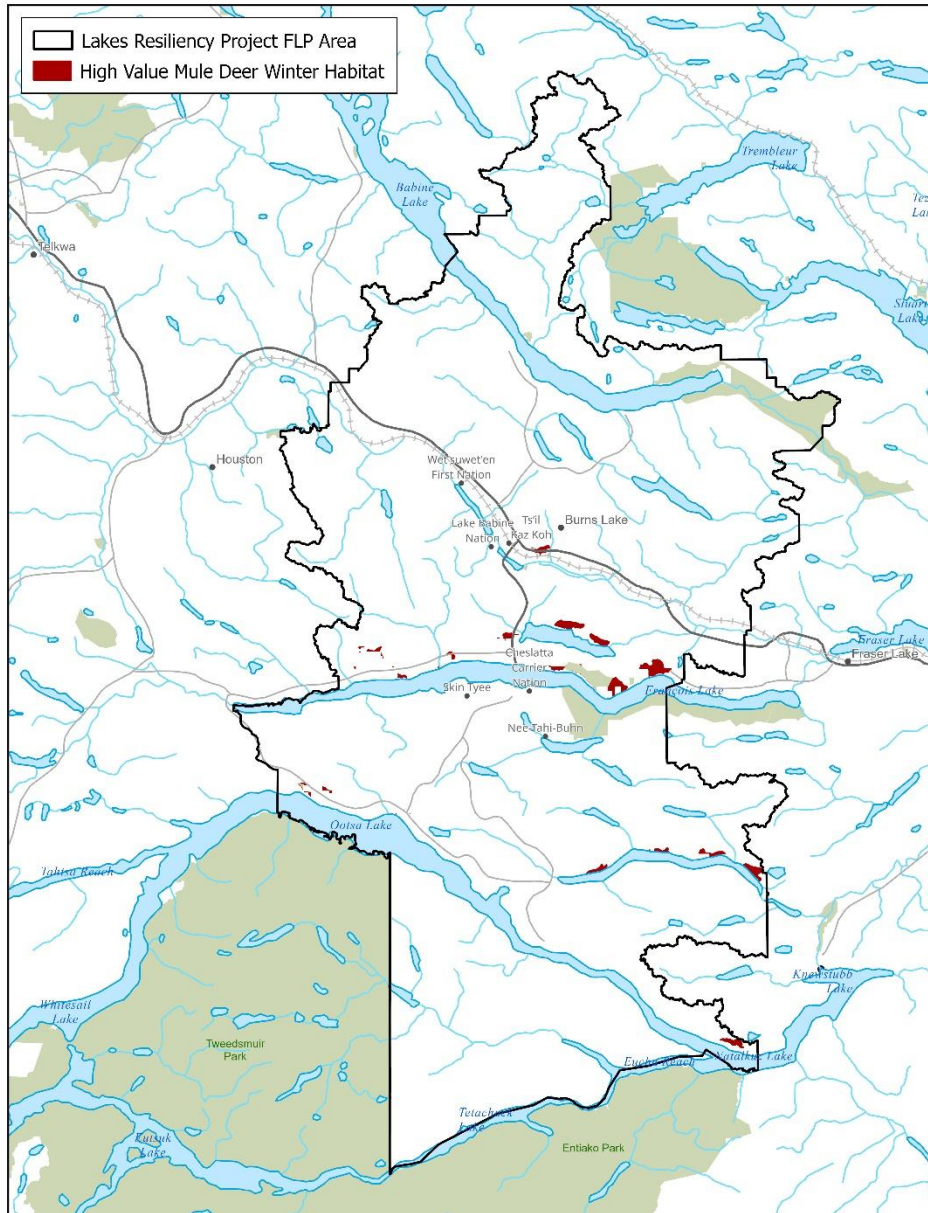


Figure 24 High-value winter habitat for Mule Deer

Strategy 23 Grizzly Bear

*Note: The intent of the notice – Indicators of the Amount, Distribution and Attributes of Wildlife Habitat for the Survival of Species At Risk in the Nadina Forest District (Dec 30, 2004) under FPPR 7(2) will be carried forward into the FLP but the planning table has not worked out the exact wording. Accordingly, the following strategy is considered draft for the purposes of this public review.*

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain grizzly bear habitat distributed to provide suitable size, spatial distribution, and connectivity.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 21</b> Over the term of the FLP, mature forest structure is retained to support grizzly bear habitat, and the extent and duration of early-seral conditions is limited within critical habitat mapped for grizzly bear as described in the planning guideline (PG 24).</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p><b>PG 24</b> The holder of a FOP must plan and carry out primary harvest activities so that, within mapped critical grizzly bear habitat (Figure 25), activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) maintain a minimum of 50% of the AFLB in stands of at least 121 years of age, and</li> <li>b) maintain a maximum of 33% of the AFLB in stands less than 5 meters in height or 28 years of age.</li> </ul> <p>Clarification: To meet these criteria, FOP holders typically avoid primary harvest activities within critical habitat mapped for grizzly bear.</p> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PG 1 – Maintenance of Lakes Biodiversity Matrix</li> <li>PG 2 and PG 4 – Maintenance of old forest</li> <li>PG 14 – Retain Riparian Habitat.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>Primary Harvest Activities - Activities such as timber harvesting and road construction, maintenance, or deactivation. These are the core on-the-ground operations that directly modify forest stands and access infrastructure.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</li> </ul>	

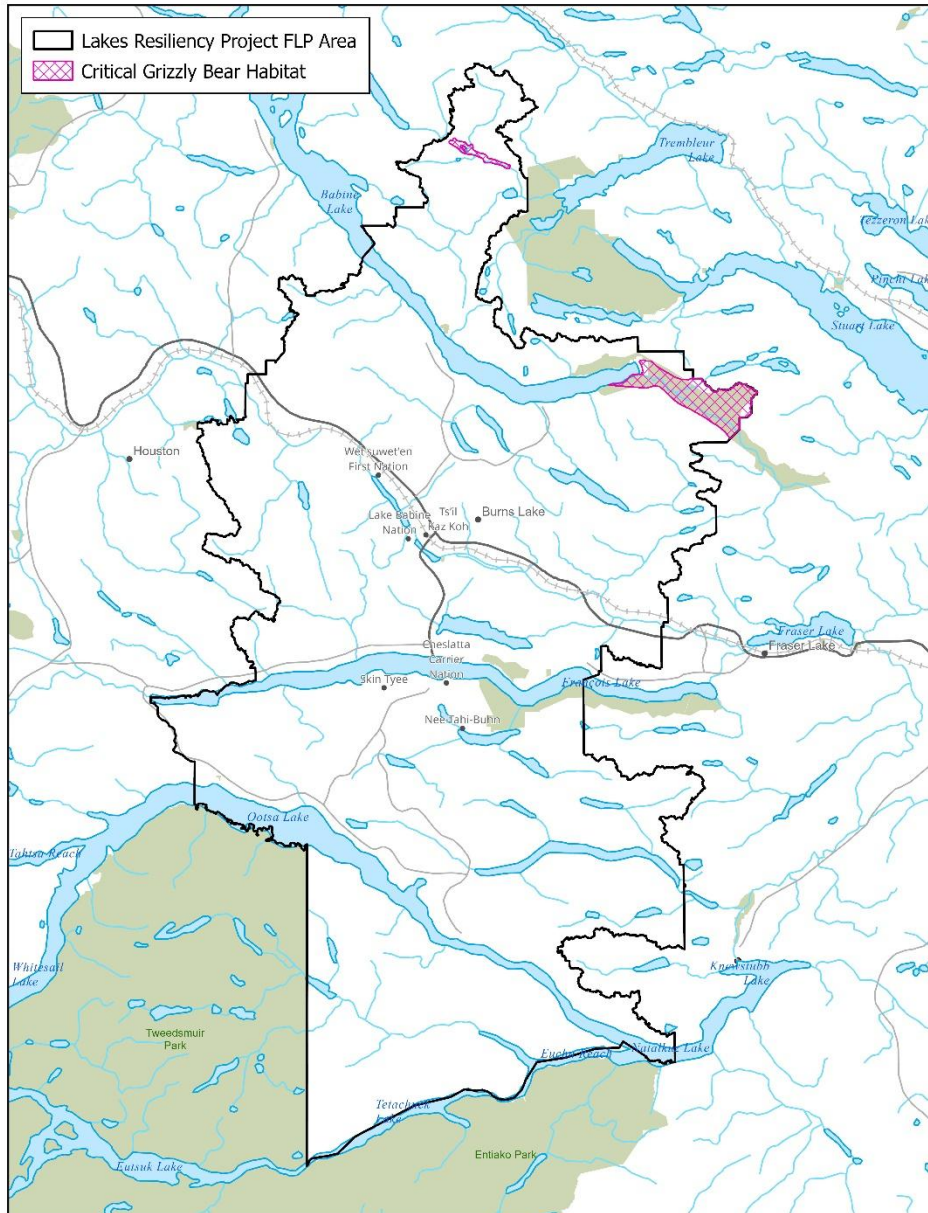


Figure 25 Critical Grizzly Bear Habitat

### 5.7 Visual Quality

Stewardship strategies developed to maintain the condition of defined scenic areas as natural-appearing, reflect considerations and concerns described in Section 4.5 Visuals, which are linked to these specific goals:

**Cultural Wellbeing Goals** – none

**Provincial Goals**



- Manage the values placed on forest ecosystems by local communities.

Visual landscape management should fit with the natural form, design and function of the landscape. Strategies for managing visual objectives across frequently disturbed landscapes, like the Lakes TSA, should not be the same as those developed within infrequently disturbed landscapes. Focus must be placed on the needs and desires of local communities and First Nations for balance with other values.

**Current Situation:**

From 46 sites assessed in Lakes TSA, 71.74% either well-met (67.4%) or met (4.3%) currently established visual quality objectives (VQO). VQO “well met” means the definition is achieved and the percent alteration is well within the VQO range, while VQO “met” means the definition is achieved but the percent alteration may be near the boundary or somewhat exceeding the VQO range. For example, in an area with a Preservation VQO, “well met” indicates no visible alteration, whereas “met” indicates very minor alteration that remains close to the allowable threshold.

Source: [FREP Dashboard](#)

**Strategy 24 Visual Quality**


<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In designated scenic areas, the post-harvest visual condition must maintain a viewscape that is <b>natural in appearance</b>, focusing on design principles characteristic of fire base ecosystems.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 22</b> Visual impact assessments are completed prior to commencement of forest activities in all designated scenic areas in the FLA and visuals considerations are adequately incorporated into planning.</p> <p>This outcome is calculated as the percentage of cutblock area within designated scenic areas where specific visual considerations were assessed and applied, compared to the total area of cutblocks approved in designated scenic areas. Targets should get more specific as results for this outcome are tracked over time.</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p><b>PG 25</b> For cutblocks located within designated scenic areas (Figure 26), the holder of a FOP will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>undertake a visual impact assessment by a QEP, and</li> <li>not alter more than 18% (Modification) of a visual landscape polygon / scenic area assessed from identified viewpoints.</li> </ol>
<b>Best Management Practices</b>	<p><b>BMP 9 - Visual Resource</b></p> <p>This BMP describes key aspects and local experience associated with visual resource practices, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and apply a process to consistently assess how Visual Impact Assessments are conducted for cutblocks located within defined scenic areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>Designated Scenic Area - A mapped area designated by government where scenic values must be managed, usually through applying Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) to guide how forestry activities appear on the landscape.</i></p> <p><i>Natural In Appearance - A forest alteration that is difficult to see, small in scale, and blends with the surrounding natural landscape, without obvious geometric or unnatural shapes.</i></p> <p><i>Modification – A category used to describe forest areas altered by logging and road construction, where the changes are clearly visible from a major public viewpoint. The alterations are either large and natural-looking, or small to medium in size but with some noticeable angular shapes.</i></p> <p><i>Identified Viewpoints - Specific public locations (e.g., highways, communities, recreation sites, trails, waterways) from which the visual effects of forest practices are assessed to evaluate visible landscapes and</i></p>	





## 5.8 Range

Stewardship strategies developed to manage forests for range values, reflect considerations and concerns described in Section 4.6 Range, which are linked to these specific goals:

### Cultural Wellbeing Goals

-  ○ Preserve and create healthy, diverse forests that are resilient to infestation, wildfire and the effects of climate change, and support the full exercise of section 35 rights.

### Provincial Goals

-  ○ Support the protection and conservation of the environment.
-  ○ Manage the values placed on forest ecosystems by local communities.

The strategies developed to manage forests for range values (e.g., forage supply, plant community health, livestock use, wildlife habitat), align these goals to ensure that government-set objectives and legal requirements are met.

### Current and Forecasted Conditions

In 2021, there were 99 grazing licenses and permits granted in the Lakes area, authorizing 24,652 animal unit months (AUMs) of grazing. In 2024, 24,266 AUMs authorized under Range Act grazing licenses or leases and 6,260 AUMs authorized under Land Act grazing leases.

Source: [Range Branch](#)

### Strategy 25 Natural Range Barriers

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Control livestock movement</b> by using natural features (e.g., rivers, steep terrain, dense timber) to keep animals within designated grazing areas.</li> <li>• Reduce the <b>need for constructed fencing</b>, lowering costs and long-term maintenance impacts on the landscape.</li> <li>• <b>Protect sensitive areas</b> such as riparian zones, regeneration sites, and wildlife habitat by limiting animal access.</li> <li>• Support <b>effective range tenure management</b> by clearly defining grazing boundaries in a way that aligns with natural landscape features.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 23</b> Over the FLP term, primary harvest activities avoid or mitigate and remediate damage to identified natural range barriers within range tenures.</p> <p>This outcome is calculated as the percentage of cutblock area within range tenures where specific actions were undertaken to maintain identified natural range barriers, compared to the total area of approved cutblocks identified with natural range barriers in range tenures. Targets should get more specific as results for this outcome are tracked over time.</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p><b>PG 26</b> A FOP holder planning activities within range tenures must identify <b>natural range barriers</b>, specify actions that avoid or mitigate their damage, and where practicable, undertake remediation efforts in agreement with the affected range tenure holder(s).</p> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PG 1 – Maintenance of Lakes Biodiversity Matrix</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PG 6 – Stand Level Retention across the Standard Harvest Area.</li> <li>PG 14 – Retain Riparian Habitat</li> <li>PG 15 – Protect Special Wildlife Habitat Features.</li> </ul>
<b>Best Management Practices</b>	<p><b>BMP 10 - Forest and Range</b></p> <p>This BMP describes key aspects and local experience associated with forest and range management, including:</p> <p>Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</p> <p>Process for working with range tenure holders and the Ministry to develop site plans that support the management of cumulative effects on Natural Range Barriers.</p> <p>Access management, including wildfire evacuation.</p> <p>Valuable features (e.g., grassland patches, wetlands, roads and trails, salt licks)</p>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>Natural Range Barriers - Naturally occurring landscape features—such as lakes, rivers, wetlands, rock faces, talus slopes, steep embankments, shrub thickets, or standing/dead timber—that stop or significantly impede livestock movement between areas.</i></p> <p><i>Primary Harvest Activities - Activities such as timber harvesting and road construction, maintenance, or deactivation. These are the core on-the-ground operations that directly modify forest stands and access infrastructure.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with range tenure holders and continue to map identified natural range barriers.</li> </ul>	

**Strategy 26 Mitigate Spread of Invasive Plants**

<b>Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants</b> through forest operations, transportation corridors, and soil disturbance.</li> <li><b>Limit the expansion of existing infestations</b> to protect forest productivity, regeneration success, and native plant communities.</li> <li><b>Maintain ecosystem integrity</b> by prioritizing early detection and rapid response in high-risk or high-value forest areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome(s)</b>	<p><b>Outcome 24 Over the FLP term, forest and range activities across the FLA do not introduce or expand existing infestations of invasive plant species .</b></p> <p>This outcome tracks the number of reported incidents where invasive plant species were introduced through forest and range activities relative to the number of reported observations over the FLP term. Targets should get more specific as results for this outcome are tracked over time.</p>
<b>Planning Guideline(s)</b>	<p><b>PG 27 The holder of a FOP must report the presence and prevent the introduction or spread of invasive plant species under the Invasive Plants Regulation, if the introduction or spread is likely to be the result of the holder's forest practices.</b></p>
<b>Best Management Practices</b>	<p>BMP 10 - Forest and Range</p> <p>This BMP describes key aspects and local experience associated with forest and range management, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated</li> </ul>

	<p>with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process for working with range tenure holders and the Ministry to develop site plans that mitigate the spread and reporting the presence of invasive plants.</li> <li>• Reference the Northwest Invasive Plants Council and the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>Invasive Plants - Plants that do not occur naturally in B.C. or are outside their natural range, and that spread aggressively, often outcompeting native vegetation, causing environmental, cultural, economic, or human-health harm.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine a baseline for the locations and number of reported observations of invasive plant species.</li> </ul>	

## 5.9 Soil

Stewardship strategies developed to conserve soil productivity, stability, and ecological function across the landbase reflect considerations and concerns described in Section 4.7 Soil, which are linked to these specific goals:

### Cultural Wellbeing Goals



- Preserve and create healthy, diverse forests that are resilient to infestation, wildfire and the effects of climate change, and support the full exercise of section 35 rights.

### Provincial Goals



- Support the protection and conservation of the environment.

## Considerations

First Nations identified concerns with road density and access management as high road density impacts fish and wildlife habitat.

Licensees identified the need for flexibility with soil disturbance limits on cutblocks where fuel reduction and wildfire mitigation treatments are prescribed. Some flexibility should also be considered under certain conditions that require special treatments or practices for non-timber values.

The Stakeholders Review and Input Group identified a need for local monitoring to assess trends in soil productivity over time after intense fires.

### Current Situation:

Licensees comply with the established soil disturbance limit thresholds. Practice requirements set a percentage of soil disturbance limits for sensitive soils, non-sensitive soils, roadsides, and permanent access structures in a cutblock. Exemptions on soil disturbance limits may be authorized:

- When removing root disease-infected stumps or salvaging windthrow.
- When constructing a temporary access structure where the limits are not exceeded by >5%
- If there is no other practicable option regarding size, topography, engineering constraints, road

safety, and requirement for harvesting systems or if additional permanent access structures are required for access beyond the cutblock.

- Where raking is done for fuel management and wildfire mitigation treatments.

**Strategy 27 Mitigate Soil Disturbance**



<p><b>Objective(s)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Limit cumulative soil degradation</b> by minimizing new road construction, coordinating shared access, and prioritizing restoration and deactivation of legacy disturbances that reduce soil health or hydrologic stability.</li> <li>• <b>Maintain soil productivity and ecological function</b> by minimizing compaction, erosion, and ground disturbance, with heightened protection for sensitive and unstable soils across the landscape.</li> <li>• <b>Conserve soil-related hydrologic function</b> by protecting wetlands, riparian soils, and natural drainage patterns, and by reducing sediment delivery pathways from forest operations to streams and waterbodies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome(s)</b></p>	<p><b>Outcome 25</b> Over the FLP term, permanent access structures across the FLA do not exceed the thresholds outlined in PG 28.</p> <p><b>Outcome 26</b> Over the FLP term, soil disturbance levels across the FLA do not exceed the thresholds outlined in PG 29.</p> <p>These outcomes are calculated as the area-weighted average as permanent access structures and soil disturbance for a sample of cutblocks harvested over the FLP term. These activities associated with fuel management and wildfire mitigation are sampled separately.</p>
<p><b>Planning Guideline(s)</b></p>	<p><b>PG 28</b> The holder of a FOP must ensure that the total area as permanent access structures in each cutblock does:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not exceed 7% in 100% outside of wildland urban interface, and</li> <li>Not exceed 7% in 95% of cutblocks in wildland urban interface areas.</li> </ol> <p><b>PG 29</b> The holder of a FOP must ensure that the proportion of soil disturbance does not exceed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5% of the area covered by the standards unit if the standards unit is primarily comprised of sensitive soils, and</li> <li>10% of the area covered by the standards unit if the standards unit is not primarily comprised of sensitive soils, and</li> <li>25% of the area covered by roadside work areas.</li> </ol> <p>Related planning guideline(s) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PG 12 and PG 13 – Activities within wildland urban interfaces.</li> </ul> <p>FOP holders are expected to consider best management practices described in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMP 4 – Road Inventory and</li> </ul>
<p><b>Related Practice Requirements</b></p>	<p>The following sections of the FPPR continue to apply to agreement holders (this list is not exhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Soil disturbance (s.35)</b>—limits must not be exceeded.</li> <li>• <b>Permanent access structures (s.36)</b>— (roads, landings) must remain within limits set by regulation.</li> <li>• <b>Preventing landslides associated with forestry activities (s.37)</b>—is mandatory.</li> <li>• <b>Gully processes (s.38)</b>—must not be damaged by operations.</li> <li>• <b>Natural surface drainage patterns (s.39)</b>—cannot alter drainage in a way that causes</li> </ul>

	<p>environmental harm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Revegetation of exposed soils (s.40)</b>—is required in specified circumstances.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Best Management Practices</b></p>	<p>BMP 4 – Road Inventory and</p> <p>This BMP describes key aspects and local experience associated with permanent access area and soil disturbance within the FLA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete set of Standard Operating Procedures for road construction (including structures), maintenance, and deactivation, and rehabilitation/debuilding.</li> <li>• Develop and apply a process to sample and assess the level of permanent access structures and soil disturbance for cutblocks harvested over the FLP term.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><i>Permanent Access Structures - a road, trail, or other structure that is intended to remain on the landbase and provide ongoing or future access and is therefore not expected to be rehabilitated.</i></p> <p><i>WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) - is the area where human development directly meets or intermingles with forest and grassland fuels, creating zones where communities are exposed to elevated wildfire risk.</i></p> <p><i>Standards Unit - A defined area within a cutblock that has similar site conditions and is managed under a common set of stocking standards (e.g., species, density, and free-growing requirements).</i></p> <p><i>Sensitive Soils - Soils that, because of their slope gradient, texture class, moisture regime, or organic matter content have a very high hazard for displacement, surface erosion or compaction.</i></p>	
<p><b>Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and test protocol and process for sampling the level of permanent access structures and soil disturbance for cutblocks.</li> </ul>	





### 5.10 Timber

Stewardship strategies developed to maintain a sustainable and resilient timber supply reflect considerations and concerns described in Section 4.8 Timber, which are linked to these specific goals:

#### Cultural Wellbeing Goals

- 
  - Preserve and create healthy, diverse forests that are resilient to infestation, wildfire and the effects of climate change, and support the full exercise of section 35 rights.
- 
  - Cultural heritage features and objects are treated respectfully and in culturally appropriate ways.

#### Provincial Goals

- 
  - Support the production and supply of timber in the forest landscape area
- 
  - Support the protection and conservation of the environment;
- 
  - Manage the values placed on forest ecosystems by Indigenous peoples;
- 
  - Manage the values placed on forest ecosystems by local communities;



- Prevent, mitigate, and adapt to impacts caused by significant disturbances to forests and forest health, including wildfire, insects, disease and drought.

As described in section 5.2 Consideration of Planning Lenses, socioeconomic lens—closely associated with the objective to maintain a sustainable supply of timber—was considered for all strategies in the FLP. In fact, these strategies are weaved directly into the approach and assumptions used to forecast a sustainable timber supply. Specific examples of these include landscape spatial harvest patterns through FHAs, IRAs, and Patch Size, reducing wildfire threat within PODs, assessing watershed disturbance relative to assigned thresholds, and maintaining forest structures, stand conditions, and landscape connectivity for wildlife species.

Strategies developed accounted for climate-driven changes, historical disturbances such as wildfires and beetle infestations, and the current condition of forest resources within the FLA. Through scenario planning, these strategies were supported through forest estate modelling that tested the impact of alternative management strategies on many value indicators. While these scenarios were configured to explore the next 250 years, analyses focused on the first 3 decades because afterwards the forest is forecasted to quickly transition to much higher and more stable conditions following the devastating recent impacts from mountain pine beetle and wildfires.

The scenario results (Figure 27) were compared to results of a Reference Scenario (solid black line) that represents current legal requirements and current management practices. Specific components from this series of learning scenarios were combined to ultimately arrive at a preferred scenario representing this FLP (solid pink line). The extreme limits considered throughout these learning scenarios are illustrated as the upper limit (solid red) and the lower limit (solid blue) harvest forecasts.

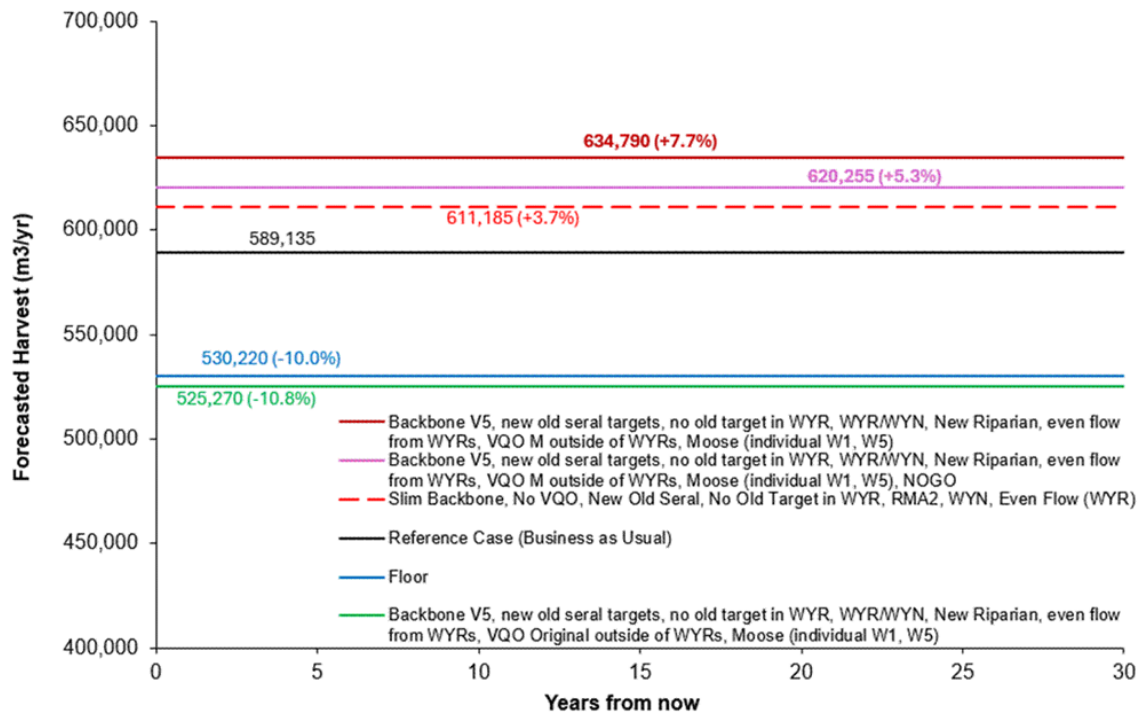


Figure 27 Forest landscape modelling results

**Current Situation:**

**Allowable Annual Cut** – The current AAC in the Lakes TSA is 970,000 m<sup>3</sup> per year of which 400,000 m<sup>3</sup> is attributable to live conifer volume and 550,000 m<sup>3</sup> to dead volume. An additional 20,000 m<sup>3</sup> is attributable to live deciduous volume. The AAC for area-based tenures in the FLA accounts for an additional 327,872 m<sup>3</sup>. Between 2012 and 2025, only 74% of AAC was harvested from volume- and area-based tenures within the FLA (Figure 28).

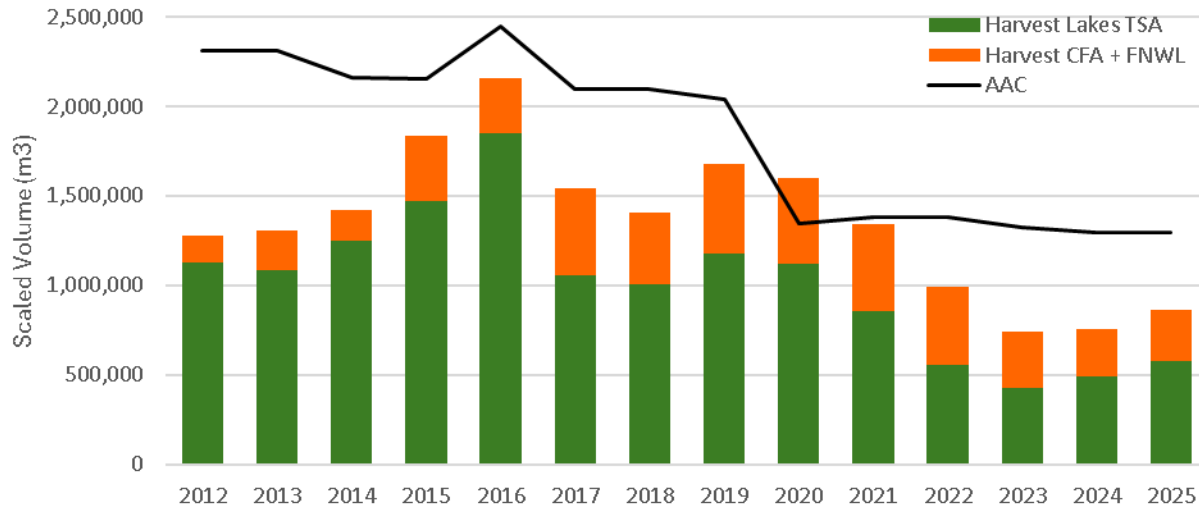


Figure 28 Timber harvest from the FLA between 2012 and 2025

**Volume of Merchantable Timber** - The merchantable volume of timber in the forested area within the Lakes planning area is estimated at 88.8 million m<sup>3</sup>. Approximately 26% of the volume is classified as dead. The live volume is comprised of spruce (35%), pine (17%) and balsam (12%). Approximately 84% of the dead timber is in the SBS BEC zones with the balance in ESSF.

**Age class distribution** - The MPB infestation in the project area required prompt salvage harvesting of the dead and damaged timber. Due to the salvage activities and recent wildfires, 37% of the forested area is less than 40 years old.

**Volume per ha** - There are 380,983 ha of natural stands (55 years old or older in 2021) in the potentially harvestable area in the FLA. Approximately 36% (138,855 ha) of them have less than 140 m<sup>3</sup> per ha (dead and live). The natural stands that have less than 140 m<sup>3</sup> of live timber per ha, but when combined with dead timber meet the 140 m<sup>3</sup> per ha threshold, constitute 22% (82,844 ha) of the area. The balance of the natural stands (159,283 ha, 42%) consists of stands where the live volume is 140 m<sup>3</sup> per ha or more.

Source: Lakes FLP Current Condition Report (2024)

**Strategy 28 Timber Supply**

<p><b>Objective(s)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a predictable and sustainable flow of commercially viable timber that is relatively stable through time.</li> <li>• Define where and how timber harvesting may occur, including harvest boundaries, road layout, and silviculture systems.</li> <li>• Maintain a sustainable timber supply that accounts for climate change impacts such as reduced winter precipitation, rising summer temperatures, and variable annual precipitation.</li> <li>• Integrate the legacy of beetle outbreaks, wildfires, and salvage into harvest planning to support long-term recovery and structural forest diversity.</li> <li>• Ensure harvesting aligns with objectives for biodiversity, water, wildlife habitat, wetlands, silviculture, and visual management.</li> <li>• Use harvesting and silviculture practices that strengthen forest resilience, reduce wildfire risk, and improve long-term productivity.</li> <li>• Set targets for the amount, timing, and spatial distribution of harvesting to maintain ecological connectivity and old-forest retention.</li> <li>• Align timber management with First Nations rights, title, stewardship goals, and knowledge systems.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome(s)</b></p>	<p><b>Outcome 27</b> Over the FLP term, the harvest rate across the FLA does not exceed the forecasted annual harvest level of 620,255 m<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>This outcome is assessed through annual reports of the province’s harvest billing system. While it is based on results from the modelling work undertaken throughout the development of this FLP, this outcome does not directly reflect the combined AAC for the FLA.</p>
<p><b>Planning Guideline(s)</b></p>	<p>While there are no specific planning guidelines for this strategy at this time, FOP holders are expected to consider all of planning guidelines and best management practices described above, as they aim to align with a sustainable supply of harvestable timber. Moreover, best management practices described in BMP 11 - Silviculture provide specific direction on silviculture regimes.</p>
<p><b>Related Practice Requirements</b></p>	<p>The following sections of the FPPR continue to apply to agreement holders (this list is not exhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Modification of insect behaviour (s.41)</b>—must destroy insects attracted by trap trees and pheromones before they emerge.</li> <li>• <b>Use of livestock (s.42)</b>—in forestry operations is regulated.</li> <li>• <b>Seed use (s.43)</b>—must follow provincial seed rules and transfer guidelines.</li> <li>• <b>Free growing obligations (s.44)</b>—must be met for stands and across cutblocks.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Best Management Practices</b></p>	<p><b>BMP 11 - Silviculture</b></p> <p>This BMP describes key aspects and local experience associated with silvicultural activities within the FLA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Application of Stocking Standards specifically relating to timber, enhanced regime, and climate change</li> <li>• Wildfire Resiliency Silviculture Regime</li> <li>• Moose Habitat-Focused Silviculture Regime</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p>AAC (Allowable Annual Cut) - the volume of timber authorized by the Chief Forester to be harvested annually from forest tenure management units such as Timber Supply Areas, Tree Farm Licenses, Community Forest</p>	

*Areas, and First Nation Woodland Licenses.*

*Silviculture regime - a planned, sequential series of forest management activities—such as site preparation, planting, thinning, and pruning—implemented over time to meet specific ecological or economic objectives. These regimes control forest structure, composition, and growth, balancing timber production with goals like biodiversity, water quality or habitat maintenance.*

**Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:**

- The current AAC (2024) for Lakes TSA is 970,000 m<sup>3</sup> and for Tenures is 369,724 m<sup>3</sup>. The total average harvest (m<sup>3</sup>) for year 2020-2024 is 1,086,503 m<sup>3</sup>, including 689,357 m<sup>3</sup> TSA harvest and 448,815 m<sup>3</sup> area-based harvest.
- Historically the scaled volume has been substantially less than the AAC except for 2020, when the harvest exceeded the project area AAC. Note that all licensees in the planning area are on a 5-year cut control system. Within the system the harvest vs. AAC is monitored over a 5-year period and annual surpluses and shortfalls are common.
- Over time the share of area-based tenures of the total harvest has increased. In 2012 approximately 13% of the scaled harvest came from area-based tenures. In 2020 their share had increased to 30%.

*Source: Lakes FLP Current Condition Report (2024)*

## 6 FLP Implementation

The following sections highlight key aspects of the planning and management regime that likely contribute to the successful implementation of this FLP. We expect that FLP partners and FOP holders will continue to develop and refine these throughout the FLP term.

### 6.1 Monitoring

Monitoring is essential because it turns forest landscape plans from static documents into living management tools that allow our forest management system to respond to ecological change, evaluate trade-offs, and continuously improve outcomes for forests, communities, and future generations. Monitoring will be critical to success of this FLP in the following ways:

- 1) Confirms whether FLP objectives are being achieved. Monitoring provides the evidence needed to demonstrate how management actions on the ground are meeting the intended outcomes, rather than just complying with plans on paper.
- 2) Enables adaptive management in a changing environment. BC forests are increasingly affected by climate change, wildfire, insects, and disease. Monitoring allows planners and decision-makers to detect unexpected outcomes and changing conditions, and to adjust objectives, targets, or practices accordingly. This “learning by doing” approach is central to the adaptive management process endorsed by the Province and embedded in modern forest planning frameworks.
- 3) Tracks cumulative effects at the landscape scale rather than individual cutblocks or roads. Monitoring helps assess how multiple activities interact over time—such as harvesting, wildfire risk reduction, and access development—and whether thresholds for ecological or social values are being approached or exceeded.
- 4) Supports accountability and transparency. Monitoring results provide a transparent way to demonstrate progress (or lack of progress) toward agreed-upon outcomes, helping to build trust, social licence, and informed public engagement.
- 5) Bridges strategic plans and operational decisions. Monitoring data feeds back into both strategic-level planning and operational practices, ensuring that on-the-ground decisions remain consistent with landscape-level objectives over time.

*While we acknowledge that more work is needed to fully develop and refine the monitoring activities associated with this FLP, the following tables provide a summary of indicators, with key aspects identified for monitoring requirements associated with the strategies presented above (Table 10), plus other monitoring (Table 11) recommended to inform future stewardship decisions.*

**Table 10 Required Monitoring Associated with Outcomes**

Source	Indicator	Reporting Unit(s)	Purpose / Approach	Protocol
<b>Outcome 1</b>	Total area maintained as the Lakes Biodiversity Matrix (Figure 7).	SRMP unit (North/South) (Figure 6)	Condition / Analysis	BMP 1

<b>Outcome 2</b>	Proportion of AFLB achieving old forest thresholds.	LU x grouped BEC Units (Figure 8)	Condition / Analysis	BMP 1
<b>Outcome 3</b>	Patch size distribution of the AFLB as very early and mature-plus-old forest.	Patch size units (Figure 9)	Trend / Analysis	BMP 1
<b>Outcome 4</b>	Average WTRA by cutting permit calculated for cutblock areas within the SHA land base.	SHA within the FLA (Figure 10)	Condition / Summary	BMP 1
<b>Outcome 5</b>	Proportion of cutblock areas within the FHA land base.	FHA within the FLA (Figure 10)	Implement / Summary	BMP 1
<b>Outcome 6</b>	Proportion of the AFLB maintained as IRA.	IRA within the FLA (Figure 10)	Implement / Summary	BMP 1
<b>Outcome 7</b>	Area assessed through PSTA as high or extreme wildfire threat ( $\geq 7$ ) (Figure 11).	PODs (Figure 12) within FLA	Condition / Analysis	BMP 2
<b>Outcome 8</b>	Proportion of cutblock areas near PCFs that meet planning guidelines for fuel management and mitigation.	PCFs (Figure 13) within FLA	Implement / Inspection	BMP 2
<b>Outcome 9</b>	Proportion of cutblock areas within WUI WRRUs and WUI AOIs that meets planning guidelines for fuel management and mitigation.	WUI WRRUs and WUI AOIs (Figure 14) within the FLA	Implement / Inspection	BMP 2
<b>Outcome 10</b>	Proportion of inspected cutblock areas that meet planning guidelines for riparian habitat.	Harvested areas within the FLA	Implement / Inspection	BMP 3
<b>Outcome 11</b>	Proportion of inspected access structures near wetlands that result in moderate or high impact rating on wetlands.	Road near wetlands within the FLA	Implement / Inspection	BMP 3
<b>Outcome 12</b>	Proportion of watersheds that exceed ECA thresholds.	Assessment Watershed (Figure 18)	Condition / Analysis	BMP 3
<b>Outcome 13</b>	Proportion of watersheds that exceed thresholds for open road density.	Assessment Watershed	Condition / Analysis	BMP 3 BMP 4
<b>Outcome 14</b>	Number of special wildlife habitat features identified relative to those disturbed.	FLA	Condition / Summary	BMP 5
<b>Outcome 15</b>	Proportion of the AFLB that meet the criteria for potential Moose thermal cover and potential security cover.	FLA outside of the Caribou management area (Figure 19)	Condition / Analysis	BMP 6
<b>Outcome 16</b>	Proportion of cutblock areas within Moose Home Range units managed under a Moose silviculture regime.	Moose Home Range units (Figure 19)	Implement / Inspection	BMP 6
<b>Outcome 17</b>	Proportion of inspected activities near wetlands that were conducted during Moose calving season.	Activities near wetlands	Implement / Inspection	BMP 6
<b>Outcome 18</b>	Proportion of cutblock areas within suitable Fisher habitat that meet planning guidelines for Fisher habitat.	Suitable fisher habitat (Figure 20)	Implement / Inspection	BMP 7
<b>Outcome 19</b>	Proportion of cutblock areas within core breeding and buffer areas that meet the planning guidelines for Northern Goshawk habitat.	Core breeding and buffer areas (Figure 21)	Implement / Inspection	BMP 8
<b>Outcome 22</b>	Proportion of inspected cutblock areas within scenic areas that meet planning guidelines for visual resource practices.	Designated scenic areas (Figure 26)	Implement / Inspection	BMP 9

<b>Outcome 23</b>	Proportion of inspected cutblock areas within range tenures that meet planning guidelines for natural range barriers.	Range tenures	Implement / Inspection	BMP 10
<b>Outcome 24</b>	Proportion of inspected cutblock areas that meet planning guidelines to mitigate the spread of invasive plants.	FLA	Implement / Inspection	BMP 10
<b>Outcome 25</b>	Proportion of inspected cutblock areas that meet planning guidelines for soil disturbance.	FLA (wildfire mitigation activities)	Implement / Inspection	BMP 3 BMP 4
<b>Outcome 26</b>	Proportion of inspected cutblock areas that meet planning guidelines for soil disturbance.	FLA (wildfire mitigation activities)	Implement / Inspection	BMP 3 BMP 4
<b>Outcome 27</b>	Annual timber harvest reported through the provincial harvest billing system.	FLA (tenure, FHA)	Implement / Summary	Not currently

Table 11 Other Recommended Monitoring

Source	#	Indicator	Reporting Unit(s)	Purpose / Approach	Protocol
<b>Strategy 2</b>	1	Proportion of AFLB assessed as Mature-plus-Old (>80 years) and Young (harvested and wild) (>20 years) forest.	LU x grouped BEC Units (Figure 8)	Condition / Analysis	BMP 1
<b>Strategy 3</b>	2	Proportion of AFLB assessed as Old Forest Interior.	Patch size units (Figure 9)	Condition / Analysis	BMP 1
<b>Strategy 7</b>	3	Total area of the 5 largest fires.	FLA	Effectiveness / Summary	BMP 2
<b>Strategy 8</b>	4	Proportion of moderate and high burn severity assessed separately for the 5 largest fires.	FLA	Effectiveness / Analysis	BMP 2
<b>Strategy 9</b>		Number of PODs that overlap the 5 largest fires.	PODs (Figure 12) within FLA	Effectiveness / Analysis	BMP 2
		Total area treated as prescribed and cultural fires.	FLA	Implement / Summary	BMP 2
<b>Strategy 24</b>	7	Cutblocks harvested from identified scenic areas are inspected and deemed natural in appearance in the context of local disturbance ecology.	Designated scenic areas (Figure 26)	Effectiveness / Inspection	BMP 9

## 6.2 Information Gaps

Clearly, we do not have perfect information about every value on the landscape. Identifying information gaps helps everyone understand what we know, what we don't know, and how we might improve decision-making. As strategies were developed, key information gaps were identified either as specific outcomes and monitoring activities listed in section 6.1, or as referenced below through potential implementation direction to pursue over one or more FLP iterations.

- Wildfire behaviour and treatment effectiveness – Insufficient field data on fuels, stand structure, and extreme fire drivers reduces confidence in predictions from fire behavior models. Additionally, there is minimal empirical evidence on how fuel treatments perform during real

wildfire events, especially under extreme conditions, and long-term impacts of silviculture treatments on wildfire risk remains uncertain. Overall, these gaps create uncertainty in scaling treatment effectiveness from stand to landscape levels and in predicting outcomes under changing climate and disturbance regimes.

- Old growth characteristics – Current inventory systems describe stands primarily in terms of timber supply attributes, not old growth structural function. Better landscape planning and stand level prescriptions require: (1) attribute-based inventory data capturing snags, coarse woody debris, canopy structure, and veteran tree characteristics, (2) improved LiDAR coverage to map structural complexity spatially, (3) site productivity data to identify where high-value structural old growth is concentrated, and (4) post-harvest long-term monitoring to confirm that retention prescriptions are achieving their intended outcomes.
- Localized NRV - NRV information gaps stem from limited historical data, scale and modelling uncertainty, and challenges integrating NRV with modern conditions and future climate change. This creates uncertainty in: defining ecologically meaningful baselines, measuring departure from natural conditions, and setting realistic, forward-looking landscape targets. For this FLP, estimates of NRV were derived from the best available data from Steventon<sup>8</sup> (2002). Priority needs to integrate with the FLP process include: improved local NRV calibration using region-specific data, incorporation of Indigenous knowledge and historical land-use patterns, further development of practical indicators and metrics tied to NRV, and additional scenario approaches that combine NRV + climate-adjusted future ranges.
- Road Network Classification - Road inventory and classification gaps are driven by incomplete data, inconsistent standards, and poor information on rapidly changing road status, condition, and function. To better understand effectiveness of FLP strategies, priority needs include development of a comprehensive, shared up-to-date road inventory (including legacy roads), standardized road classification framework (status, use, risk). This is particularly critical in classifying whether an access structure is considered open or closed for specific values.
- Visual Landscape Inventory - visual quality information gaps stem from outdated and uneven inventory, limited spatial and cultural representation, and weak integration with cumulative effects and dynamic landscape change. This creates uncertainty in: current visual condition, true visual sensitivity and values, and the ability to forecast future visual outcomes under FLPs. To better understand effectiveness of FLP strategies, priority needs include: updating of VLI that leverages better information and technology, integration of Indigenous and community-defined visual values, and improved tracking of current condition and cumulative visual alteration.
- Aquatic information - Aquatic information gaps are driven by limited direct monitoring and poor coverage of small streams. Collectively, this creates uncertainty in: baseline conditions, cumulative effects of forestry and roads, and predictive planning under climate change. To better understand effectiveness of FLP strategies, priority needs include: expanded headwater monitoring (temperature), downstream water monitoring (sediment, and flow), and longer-term datasets to capture extremes and climate trends.
- Sustainable Forage Supply for Range - FLP-related information gaps with forage supply are driven by incomplete and inconsistent inventory, weak links between forage and allocation, and

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<sup>8</sup> Steventon, J.D. 2002. Historic disturbance regimes of the Morice and Lakes Timber Supply Areas: Draft Discussion Paper. BC Ministry of Forests. Dec. 2002. 22p.

limited integration of cumulative effects and climate variability. This creates uncertainty in: actual carrying capacity and sustainable grazing levels, impacts of forestry and disturbance on forecasted forage supply, and adaptive management under changing climate conditions. Priority needs to integrate with the FLP process include: stronger linkage between vegetation resources inventory, forage supply, and grazing allocations, improved integration of range–forestry cumulative effects (particularly how forestry activities can reduce forage availability), and monitoring and modeling of climate-driven variability in forage production.

# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1 The Lakes Resiliency Planning Approach

First Nation Steering Committee. Established fall 2021 to provide the First Nations reps to discuss their perspectives/positions as a collective without the Province or licensees in the room. The FNSC provides Indigenous perspectives and values to planning table and TWGs.

Stakeholder Review and Input Group: Here we talk to members of the local communities about their values

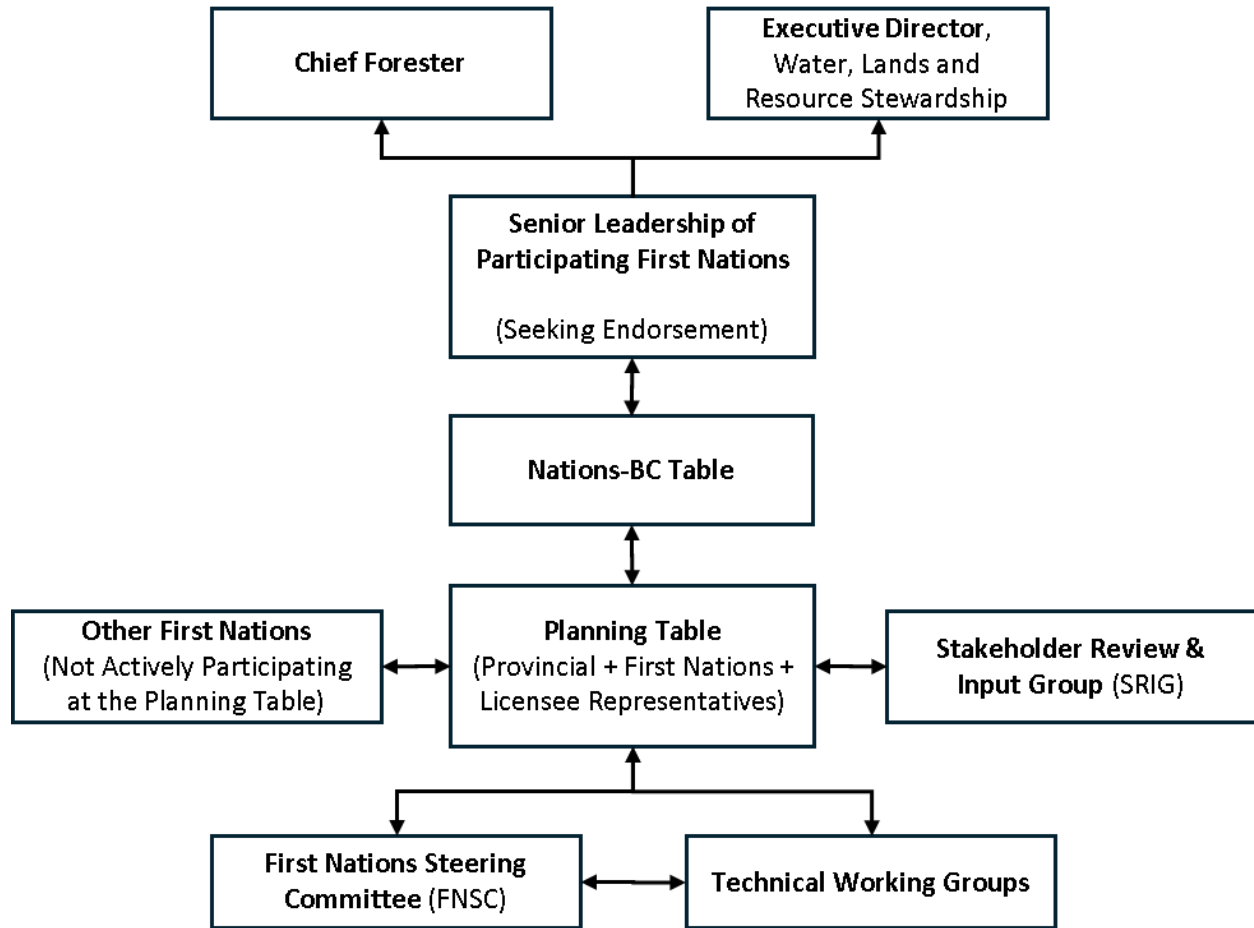
The structure of the planning process and membership can be found below. The foundation for the plan's development was based on a group decision-making process in which participants developed and decided on proposals with the aim of acceptance by all. Consensus did not necessarily mean unanimous agreement on all elements by all Parties, but simply the absence of objection. The LRP Planning Table also used an interest-based negotiation approach to find solutions to problems. This approach was based on a set of principles and steps with parties making an explicit commitment to seek mutually acceptable solutions, as opposed to bargaining for win-lose outcomes. The maintenance of a constructive relationship between negotiating parties was paramount to the process.



*FLA for Lakes Resiliency Project*

**Planning Table**

The centre of the process is the LRP Planning Table. This team is comprised of Ministry of Forests, First Nations, and industry representation (forest and range), is co-chaired by industry and Provincial Government representatives and is guided by the Lakes Resiliency Project Terms of Reference. Each First Nation’s representative at the LRP Planning Table was allowed to invite one observer per meeting to support capacity building opportunities for the respective First Nation.



**Lakes Resiliency Project Structure**

The Planning Table is/was facilitated by a Group Facilitator. They were responsible for the coordination, facilitating, recording and reporting of all the meeting and key documents relevant to ensuring the function of the Planning Table and the writing of the plan. More information on the roles and responsibilities of the Process Facilitator can be found in Appendix XX. The primary purpose of the LRP Planning Table is/was to provide input into the FRP through expression of interests, review of management scenarios, and to develop a plan for recommendations to Ministry of Forests statutory decision makers and First Nation leadership. The Planning Table also works/ed with Technical Working Groups when they were/are in need of information, materials and guidance. This guidance was often communicated as specific questions around the interests of specific values that existed in the planning area.

**Technical Working Groups**

Technical working group (TWG) membership was determined by their respective interest groups and appointed by the LRP Planning Table. While each TWG reported to the Planning Table, they had no formal authority in the process (i.e., could not issue directives). Their role was to provide information and analysis to support the FLP Planning Table, as well as aid in drafting content for the Forest Landscape Plan and recommendations for the SRMPs, if requested by the Planning Table. Each TWG was

composed of subject matter experts, forest and range licensees and First Nations. This collaborative effort provided perspectives from western science and Indigenous knowledge on how to sustainably manage the values of interest and make recommendations on what would constitute low, medium, and high risk to that value. The licensee provided advice and recommendation on how to practically implement the management recommendations and outcomes suggested by the other members of the group. Each TWG was managed by a Chair, also a subject matter expert, who worked closely with the LRP Planning Table Co-Chairs. For the LRP, technical working groups were established for wildfire, biodiversity, silviculture, soils, range, visuals, modelling and water.

### **Nation Leadership Tables**

When recommendations came out of the LRP Planning Table, and input was required, they went to First Nation Leadership . Besides providing input on recommendations coming from the Planning Table, the First Nation Leadership Tables also identify interests, review project progress and contribute to decisions at key milestones. Where possible, key decisions and endorsement of this final plan will be sought by consensus at the First Nation Leadership tables and any related recommendations will be provided to Ministry of Forests for consideration prior to this plan being established.

There is also a First Nations Steering Committee that is made up of all First Nations with overlapping territory within the FLP and who have expressed their interests and values for forest management to the LRP Planning Table. This Committee has provided direction, input into the plan content and technical decision-making at key milestones throughout the planning process.

### **Stakeholder Review and Input Group**

Stakeholder review and input was provided to the Planning Table by a group who has a known interest in, or will be impacted by, the FLP. As described in the LRP Terms of Reference, this group provided input to the planning table at various milestones for consideration throughout the planning process. Where possible, this feedback was incorporated into the scenario planning and establishment of recommendations.

## Appendix 2 Planning Contributors

T'sil Kaz Koh- Albert Gerow (Co-chair)

Cheslatta Carrier Nation – Jim D'Andrea, William Elkins, Logan Wilson, Tina Pederson, Theo Hawse

Lake Babine Nation- Verna Power, Duane Crouse, Kelly Lindsay, Georgina West, Koralyann Phair, Mark Power, Mike Beck, Cam Brown

Nee Tahi Buhn Indian Band- Kieran Broderick, Ryan Brooks

Wet'suwet'en First Nation- Stephanie Wilford, Nick Dormaar, Virginia Spence, Nichole Taylor, Canaan Tiersma

Office of the Wet'suwet'en- David De Wit, Brett Trip, Teagan O'Shaughnessy, Casey Engstrom

Chinook Community Forest- Ken Nielsen

Burns Lake Community Forest- Frank Varga, Leroy Carr, Donna Brochez

Hampton Forest Products- Daniella Oake

West Fraser- Jeff Mycock (ex-co-chair), Jaret Van Der Giessen

Sinclar Group – Anderw Peacosh, Emma Duncan

BC Cattleman's Association- Jon Solecki

BC Ministry of Forests- Tara Dunphy (Co-chair), Beth Eagles (ex-co-chair), Barry Snowdon, Jass Morin

Parker, Hans Erasmus, Steffy Howard-Stratton, Brittany Evans, Darrell Whelan, Shawn Trottier, Neil Marincak, Ashkan Hosseinipooya

First Nation Steering Committee (Coordinated by Resonant Strategic)- Marieka Sax, Jared Tibbits

Forsite Consultants: Patrick Bryant and Ken Zielke

Forest Ecosystem Solutions Limited: Antti Makitalo, Claire Tweeddale

Skeena Sustainability Assessment Forum (SSAF)

Stakeholder Review and Input Group

Chair- Village of Burns Lake, Charlie Rensby

Northern Confluence- Nikki Skuce

### Subject Matter Experts

Aaron Benterud

Alex Woods

Brad Blackwell

Brad Marten

Bryce Bancroft

Carl-Evan Jefferies

Colin Mahoney

Dave Wilford

David Andison

Devan Dake

Doug Lewis

Eleanor McWilliams

Emily Mason

Garnet Mireau

Glen McIntosh

Greg Yeomans

Doug Bysouth

Sara Johnson

Taylor Griffin

Jeff McWilliams

Jeff Walsh

Jesse Fraser

Joanna Burgar

Karine Pigeon

Kris Garneau

Laura Kroesen

Laurie Kremsater

Lee-ann Puhallo

Liam Grant

Luke Wayman

Miles Fuller

Monica Erickson

Mylène Labonté

Norbert Mund

Patricia Tomchuk

Samantha Berdej

Sandra Frey

Shannon Irvine

Wess Bender

**FLNRORD Project Charter: Lakes Resiliency Project (Phase 1)**

Last Updated: Mar 19, 2020

**Purpose:** To provide sufficiently clear planning direction to address existing and emerging planning problems in the Lakes.

**Background:** Timber supply in the Lakes has been impacted by Mountain Pine Beetle and more recently by wildfire. The plan will be developed to direct tactical level forest management, and the target is Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP) replacement. The Lakes District Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) developed in 2000, will provide the overarching strategic framing for tactical-level trade-off and decisions. Broad engagement, a crucial component of the planning process, will confirm the values identified in the LRMP and ensure that the new plan addresses community and First Nations' needs while providing clarity for operational activities.

**Goal:** Develop a forest management plan that, when implemented, will establish a more resilient forested land base, conserve ecological values, address wildfire risk, and ultimately contribute to community stability.

**Objectives**

- To promote community and forest resilience that is responsive to climate change and natural hazards
- To complete a comprehensive engagement process and develop key partnerships with First Nations and stakeholders
- To set innovative landscape landscape-level direction that addresses planning problems in the lakes.
- Cross-division and agency coordination to achieve unified outcomes and efficiencies for licences, Nations & District

In Scope	Out of Scope
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest Landscape Plan with spatially explicit forest direction</li> <li>Recommendations to the OCF on the FLP process</li> <li>Landscape level direction and guidance for Lakes District (aligns with Strategic GAR, caribou, other initiatives)</li> <li>Replacement of SRMP</li> <li>Potential recommendations to amend Lakes LRMP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan implementation (covered in Phase 2)</li> <li>Short term wildfire risk reduction in the WUI</li> </ul>

Project Team		Budget (+100/-50)% Accuracy	
Name	Role		
Geoff Recknell	Sponsor	Contract Analytic Support (some of this will be offset by FAIB contributions)	\$300,000
Tara Dunphy	Project Manager		
Steffy Howard-Stratton	Land and Resource Specialist	Engagement in Burns Lake	\$150,000
Brian Kolman	Science/Technical Lead, SME		
Tobi Anaka	Ecosystems Biologist	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$450,000</b>
Jesse Frasier	Analyst		
District Resource	TBD		

Critical Success Factors	Milestones and Deliverables										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of a plan that meets its objectives (will feed phase 2 (implementation))</li> <li>Gaining the trust of the communities.</li> <li>Project timelines that consider the complexities of effective engagement</li> <li>Alignment with Office of the Chief Forester on the Forest Landscape Plan section of the larger LLP</li> <li>Sound governance and integration into broader Lakes Strategy by reporting to a Steering Committee (Chair: Ryan Holmes)</li> </ul>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Decision Support Tool Workshop</td> <td>April 30 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Engagement in Burns Lake</td> <td>May 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Workshop</td> <td>Q2-Q3 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Engagement for planning/trade-off discussions</td> <td>Q4 2020+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Commence drafting plan</td> <td>2021+</td> </tr> </table>	Decision Support Tool Workshop	April 30 2020	Engagement in Burns Lake	May 2020	Community Workshop	Q2-Q3 2020	Engagement for planning/trade-off discussions	Q4 2020+	Commence drafting plan	2021+
Decision Support Tool Workshop	April 30 2020										
Engagement in Burns Lake	May 2020										
Community Workshop	Q2-Q3 2020										
Engagement for planning/trade-off discussions	Q4 2020+										
Commence drafting plan	2021+										

**Engagement and Partnerships**

**First Nations**  
 Lake Babine Nation, T'sil Kaz Koh, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Skin Tsee Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn Band, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Office of the Wet'suwet'en, Steliat'en First Nation, Yekoochee First Nation, Takla Lake First Nation, Nadleah Whut'en, T'la'at'en First Nation, Ulkatcho First Nation

**Key Stakeholders**

- Licencees and industry: community forests, woodlots, First Nation woodlands, Hampton, West Fraser, Tahsta Timber, Pinacle Pellet
- Local and regional government
- Range tenure holders, hunters (recreational and guide outfitters), trappers, recreationalists
- Community members (Burns Lake, Southside, rural)
- Government staff including DND and regional staff, MIRR, Rural Development
- BV Research Centre and research associates
- Forest Practices Board, Office of Chief Forester, FAIB

Key Risks	Prob.	Imp.	Response Strategy	Resid.
Inadequate stakeholder engagement due to "engagement burn out" and distrust of government	M	M	Engagement plan, with focus on key informants and SMEs.	M
Inadequate resourcing, especially for technical (analytical) components	H	H	Secure team resources. Analytical support beyond FAIB (CFS, Universities)	H
If capacity funding is not secured, there is a risk of limited FN involvement in the co-design process	M	H	Collaborate with other funded initiatives such as recovery	M

**Linkages and Dependencies**

- Wildfire recovery, community wildfire protection plans, Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction program
- Timber Supply Review, FRPA, Interior Forest Renewal/Forest Policy Initiative
- Forest Carbon Initiative, Forest Enhancement Strategy
- Environmental Stewardship Initiative (Skeena and Omineca)
- LRMP, SRMPs, legal objectives
- First Nation agreements (especially with Cheslatta, Lake Babine and Carrier Sekani)
- Tactical planning, provincial land use planning initiatives and landscape-level planning pilots

**Project Phase Overview**

- Phase 1: Design & Build (Years 1-3)
- Phase 2: Implement & Monitor (Year 4+)

Project Approvals	
<b>Project Manager</b>	<b>Project Sponsor</b>
Name Tara Dunphy	Name Geoff Recknell
Signature <i>Tara Dunphy</i>	Signature <i>Geoff Recknell</i>
Date 26 March 2020	Date 26 March 2020

## Appendix 3 Schedules

### Schedule 1 Lakes Dynamic Matrix\* - Old Forest targets forecasted over the first 10 years

Landscape Unit	BEC2	Old Forest Forecasted				Deficits
		AFLB (ha)	Year 0	Year 5	Year 10	
Babine East	ESSF	8,559	4,275	3,855	3,774	
	SBSdw/dk	14,942	4,167	4,096	4,410	
	SBSmc/wk	20,722	5,523	4,843	4,672	
Babine West	ESSF	14,072	9,481	8,977	8,744	
	SBSdw/dk	7,538	1,318	1,274	1,186	
	SBSmc/wk	37,338	11,364	10,526	9,870	
Bulkley	ESSF	14,832	6,731	6,251	6,125	
	SBSdw/dk	27,553	5,248	5,026	4,802	
	SBSmc/wk	17,999	2,613	2,373	2,425	Y
Burns Lake East	ESSF	11,447	2,357	2,184	2,182	Y
	SBSdw/dk	37,397	4,904	4,482	4,450	
	SBSmc/wk	28,857	2,092	1,988	2,123	Y
Burns Lake West	ESSF	1,709	625	623	620	
	SBSdw/dk	26,534	5,283	5,006	4,731	
	SBSmc/wk	18,206	4,372	4,414	4,270	
Chelaslie	ESSF	29,625	11,180	11,024	11,184	
	SBSdw/dk	22,270	1,678	1,650	1,677	Y
	SBSmc/wk	40,815	5,743	5,667	5,794	Y
Cheslatta	ESSF	3,519	426	444	442	Y
	SBSdw/dk	45,193	4,560	4,185	4,196	
	SBSmc/wk	40,146	3,370	3,237	3,233	Y
Fleming	ESSF	9,738	6,992	6,690	6,541	
	SBSdw/dk	2,750	1,113	1,033	1,138	
	SBSmc/wk	36,818	8,139	7,354	7,830	Y
Francois East	ESSF	1,954	409	402	442	Y
	SBSdw/dk	46,854	7,293	6,925	7,500	
	SBSmc/wk	13,955	2,575	2,292	2,092	Y
Francois West	ESSF	3,570	1,582	1,577	1,483	
	SBSdw/dk	25,107	4,573	4,394	3,883	
	SBSmc/wk	20,925	3,360	3,189	3,063	Y
Intata	ESSF	3,960	1,447	1,430	1,412	
	SBSdw/dk	24,657	3,170	3,111	3,036	
	SBSmc/wk	16,351	1,934	1,892	1,888	Y
Ootsa	ESSF	2,529	573	551	551	Y
	SBSdw/dk	15,523	1,492	1,468	1,462	
	SBSmc/wk	7,575	996	959	909	Y
Taltapin	ESSF	18,461	8,748	7,908	7,616	
	SBSdw/dk	3,429	919	881	857	
	SBSmc/wk	45,987	12,785	11,913	11,486	
<b>Total</b>		<b>769,414</b>	<b>165,411</b>	<b>156,096</b>	<b>154,101</b>	

\* This includes the entire Analysis Forest Land Base across the Forest Landscape Area – BOTH the Lakes Biodiversity Matrix and the Lakes Dynamic Matrix (Focused Harvest Areas and Standard Harvest Areas).

**Schedule 2 Maximum Equivalent Clearcut Area Thresholds (moderate stream flow hazard) for Assessment Watersheds**

ID	GNIS_NAME	AREA (ha)	HPR <sup>9</sup> Class	Max ECA	ID	GNIS_NAME	AREA (ha)	HPR <sup>9</sup> Class	Max ECA
358	Pierre Creek	4,800	VH	30%	1412	Taman Creek	2,371	H	35%
359		2,101	H	35%	1431	Bulkley River	6,463	L	50%
360		2,436	M	40%	1432	Bulkley River	3,223	L	50%
361	Twain Creek	6,823	H	35%	1433	Bulkley River	7,006	L	50%
362		5,557	L	50%	1740	Cheslatta River	8,451	L	50%
363		2,215	L	50%	1741	Bird Creek	3,065	L	50%
364		3,984	H	35%	1742		3,338	M	40%
365	Cross Creek	3,517	H	35%	1743		8,882	H	35%
366	Donalds Creek	2,201	M	40%	1745	Knapp Creek	9,869	L	50%
367	Pinkut Creek	7,532	H	35%	1746		5,274	H	35%
368	Marlin Creek	2,708	H	35%	1747		3,130	M	40%
369	Henrietta Creek	5,905	H	35%	1748		2,309	L	50%
370	Coldwater Creek	2,053	H	35%	1749		8,253	L	50%
371		2,271	L	50%	1750		3,000	L	50%
372	Henrietta Creek	9,751	H	35%	1751		4,536	M	40%
373		2,382	L	50%	1752		3,345	H	35%
374		5,671	L	50%	1753		3,428	H	35%
375		3,556	L	50%	1754		3,237	H	35%
376		5,202	L	50%	1755		2,917	M	40%
377		2,104	M	40%	1756		3,450	M	40%
378	Ling Creek	3,868	L	50%	1757	Dog Creek	2,967	M	40%
379	Pinkut Creek	3,285	H	35%	1758	Cheslatta River	6,237	H	35%
381		3,762	H	35%	1760	Cheslatta River	7,381	H	35%
382	Pinkut Creek	1,373	H	35%	1761	Cheslatta River	3,686	H	35%
383	Pinkut Creek	9,072	L	50%	1762	Cheslatta River	3,257	M	40%
384	Pinkut Creek	9,582	H	35%	1763	Cheslatta River	8,502	H	35%
385	Gullwing Creek	5,317	M	40%	1764	Cheslatta River	3,425	M	40%
386	Four Mile Creek	4,923	H	35%	1765	Cheslatta River	5,278	L	50%
387		2,698	H	35%	1766		5,766	L	50%
388	Sutherland River	3,415	L	50%	3939		3,237	H	35%
395	Sutherland River	9,666	H	35%	3940	Cheskwa Creek	3,689	M	40%
396	Sutherland River	4,001	H	35%	3941	Tchesinkut Creek	9,806	H	35%
415		4,419	H	35%	3942	Tchesinkut Creek	9,185	H	35%
416		3,594	H	35%	3944	Tchesinkut Creek	5,516	M	40%
417		3,264	H	35%	3945	Tchesinkut Creek	6,339	H	35%
418		4,772	H	35%	3946	Shovel Creek	5,394	H	35%
419		9,599	H	35%	3947		5,456	H	35%
420		4,052	H	35%	3948		2,125	L	50%
421		5,931	H	35%	3949		4,694	H	35%
422		4,134	H	35%	3950		5,174	H	35%
1389	Aitken Creek	5,939	L	50%	3952	Shovel Creek	5,737	M	40%
1401	Ailport Creek	9,713	M	40%	3954		2,608	M	40%
1402		5,921	L	50%	3955	Sheraton Creek	4,289	H	35%
1404	Crow Creek	7,396	H	35%	3956	Tintagel Creek	2,028	H	35%
1405	Maxan Creek	6,036	L	50%	3957	Stearns Creek	3,159	H	35%
1406	Foxy Creek	9,649	H	35%	3958	Guyishton Creek	2,323	H	35%
1407		2,189	H	35%	3959	Wardrop Creek	2,171	H	35%
1408		3,924	M	40%	3960	Sauls Creek	2,331	H	35%
1409		3,066	M	40%	3961	Eagle Creek	5,396	H	35%
1410	Maxan Creek	8,046	M	40%	3962	Decker Creek	5,988	M	40%
1411	Maxan Creek	4,162	L	50%	3963	Gerow Creek	4,581	H	35%

<sup>9</sup> Hydrologic Response Potential Class

ID	GNIS_NAME	AREA (ha)	HPR <sup>9</sup> Class	Max ECA	ID	GNIS_NAME	AREA (ha)	HPR <sup>9</sup> Class	Max ECA
	Powder House		H	35%	8051	Michel Creek	8,736	H	35%
3964	Creek	2,793			8052		4,258	L	50%
3965		2,597	H	35%	8053		2,305	L	50%
3966		2,150	H	35%	8054	Blanchet River	8,596	M	40%
3967		4,519	M	40%	8056		8,151	M	40%
3968	Allen Creek	3,376	M	40%	8059		8,159	L	50%
3969	Endako River	7,946	M	40%	8060		2,407	L	50%
3970	Endako River	4,182	M	40%	8061		2,059	L	50%
3971	Endako River	5,203	L	50%	8068	Chelaslie River	3,605	H	35%
3972	Endako River	3,071	H	35%	8069	Chelaslie River	6,211	H	35%
3973	Endako River	8,012	M	40%	8070	Chelaslie River	3,128	L	50%
3974	Endako River	7,508	L	50%	8071	Chelaslie River	6,214	L	50%
3975	Endako River	4,124	L	50%	8076		4,688	M	40%
3976	Endako River	3,160	L	50%	8077		2,259	L	50%
3977	Endako River	4,042	M	40%	8078		2,203	H	35%
3978	Endako River	7,982	M	40%	8081		9,865	H	35%
3987		3,544	M	40%	8082		3,929	M	40%
3988	Uncha Creek	9,669	L	50%	8083		3,095	H	35%
3989		2,230	H	35%	9127		5,457	L	50%
3990		8,019	L	50%	9172		2,049	M	40%
3991		2,864	M	40%	9173		2,231	L	50%
3992		6,184	H	35%	9174		4,054	M	40%
3993		2,747	M	40%	9175		3,932	M	40%
3994	Takysie Creek	8,302	L	50%	9176		2,874	M	40%
3995	Small Trout Creek	5,141	M	40%	9184		7,606	M	40%
3996	Hawley Creek	2,110	M	40%	9186		5,666	M	40%
3997		2,845	M	40%	9187		9,335	H	35%
3998	Takysie Creek	5,643	L	50%	9189		4,536	H	35%
3999		3,558	L	50%	9190		4,231	H	35%
4000		4,489	L	50%	9191		3,293	H	35%
4001	Snodgrass Creek	2,559	M	40%	17824	Tetachuck River	1,737	L	50%
4002		2,040	L	50%	17825		2,005	M	40%
4003		2,149	M	40%	17829		5,165	M	40%
4004	Allin Creek	10,825	H	35%	17830		2,705	L	50%
4005	Beach Creek	3,670	M	40%	17834		6,015	H	35%
4006	Tatalrose Creek	3,071	L	50%	17835		2,789	H	35%
4007	Totem Pole Creek	3,350	L	50%	17836		3,833	H	35%
4008	Tatalaska Creek	2,032	L	50%	17875	Tetachuck River	6,288	H	35%
4009	Henkel Creek	3,818	H	35%	17877	Tetachuck River	4,286	M	40%
4010	Wynkes Creek	6,183	M	40%	18628		2,129	L	50%
4011	Ramsay Creek	4,205	H	35%	18629		2,272	H	35%
4012	Cordella Creek	2,281	M	40%	18630	Goodwin Creek	4,739	H	35%
4013	Isaac Creek	5,953	M	40%	18633		5,048	L	50%
4022	Arethusia Creek	5,416	L	50%	18637	Eastern Creek	2,179	M	40%
4023		4,671	H	35%	18696		11,593	H	35%
4050		3,741	M	40%	18697		8,093	M	40%
4051		3,444	M	40%	18698		5,207	L	50%
4052		9,903	H	35%	18700		7,208	H	35%
4053		4,479	M	40%	19604	Fleming Creek	8,826	L	50%
4054		3,448	H	35%	19606	Tildesley Creek	6,162	M	40%
4055		5,759	H	35%	19607		2,378	H	35%
4056		4,090	H	35%	19608		3,548	M	40%
4057		3,490	H	35%	19609		2,137	M	40%
4058		7,714	H	35%	19610	Tildesley Creek	6,366	H	35%
8049	Chelaslie River	6,281	M	40%	19611	Tildesley Creek	4,001	H	35%
8050		2,421	M	40%	19612		4,929	H	35%

<b>ID</b>	<b>GNIS_NAME</b>	<b>AREA (ha)</b>	<b>HPR<sup>9</sup> Class</b>	<b>Max ECA</b>
19613		2,894	L	50%
19614		2,819	M	40%
19615		2,356	L	50%

<b>ID</b>	<b>GNIS_NAME</b>	<b>AREA (ha)</b>	<b>HPR<sup>9</sup> Class</b>	<b>Max ECA</b>
19616	Fleming Creek	3,869	M	40%
19617	Fleming Creek	8,073	M	40%

## Appendix 4 Best Management Practices

**Best Management Practices (BMP)** provide consolidated, operational guidance for implementing **FLP strategies** (outcomes and planning guidelines) within the Lakes Forest Landscape Area (FLA).

These BMPs do **not** replace legislation, regulation, or professional standards. Instead, they function as an **interpretive and application guides**; clarifying aspects that **FOP holders and professionals must demonstrate** to meet FLP objectives that support landscape-level and site-level management.

These BMPs apply to **all FOP holders operating within the FLP area** and are intended to be considered alongside FLP strategies, outcomes, planning guidelines, and Forest Operation Plans (FOPs).

*These BMPs are currently incomplete. In some cases, they list notes on key concepts and activities that will be incorporated into an expanded version over the coming months. Moreover, these BMPs have not yet been reviewed by the planning table. For now, the BMPs provided below are intended to provide the reader with a general idea of the non-legal guidance provided to FOP holders.*