Lakes Resiliency Project
What We Heard Report
Public Engagement
November 2025 - January 2026

Crystal Lake, Burns Lake, BC

Cheslatta Carrier Nation

Lake Babine Nation

Nee-Tahi-Buhn Band

Office of the Wet'suwet'en

Ts'il Kaz Koh

Wet'suwet'en First Nation

Witset First Nation

Ministry of Forests

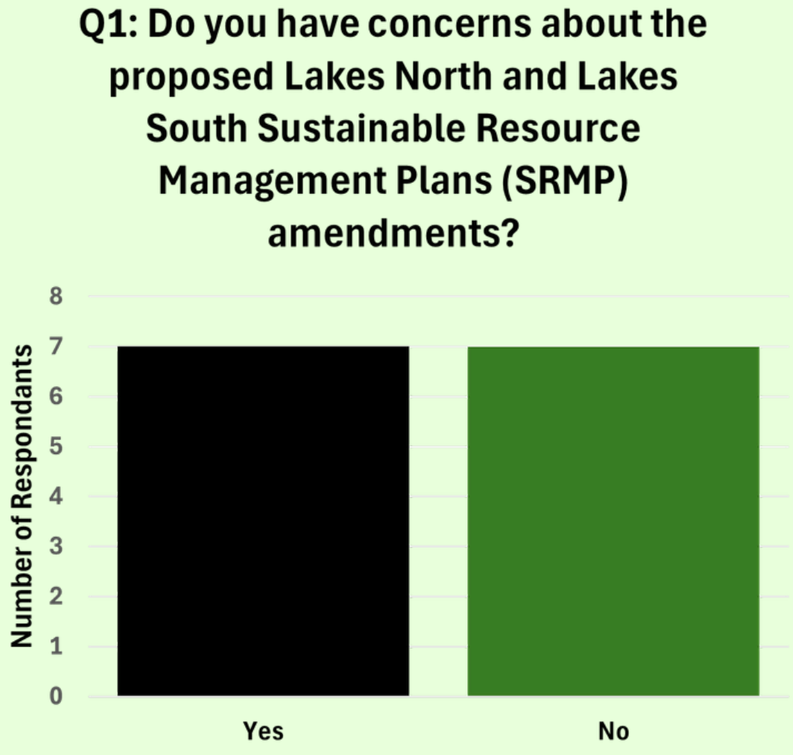
The Lake Resiliency Project (LRP) Forest Landscape Plan (FLP) held a public engagement period from November 18, 2025, to January 31, 2026. On November 18, 2025, two open houses were held in Burns Lake and Southside communities to share information with the public and gather feedback. The sessions focused on the proposed changes to the Lakes South and Lakes North Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP), as well as an overview of the FLP and proposed strategies.

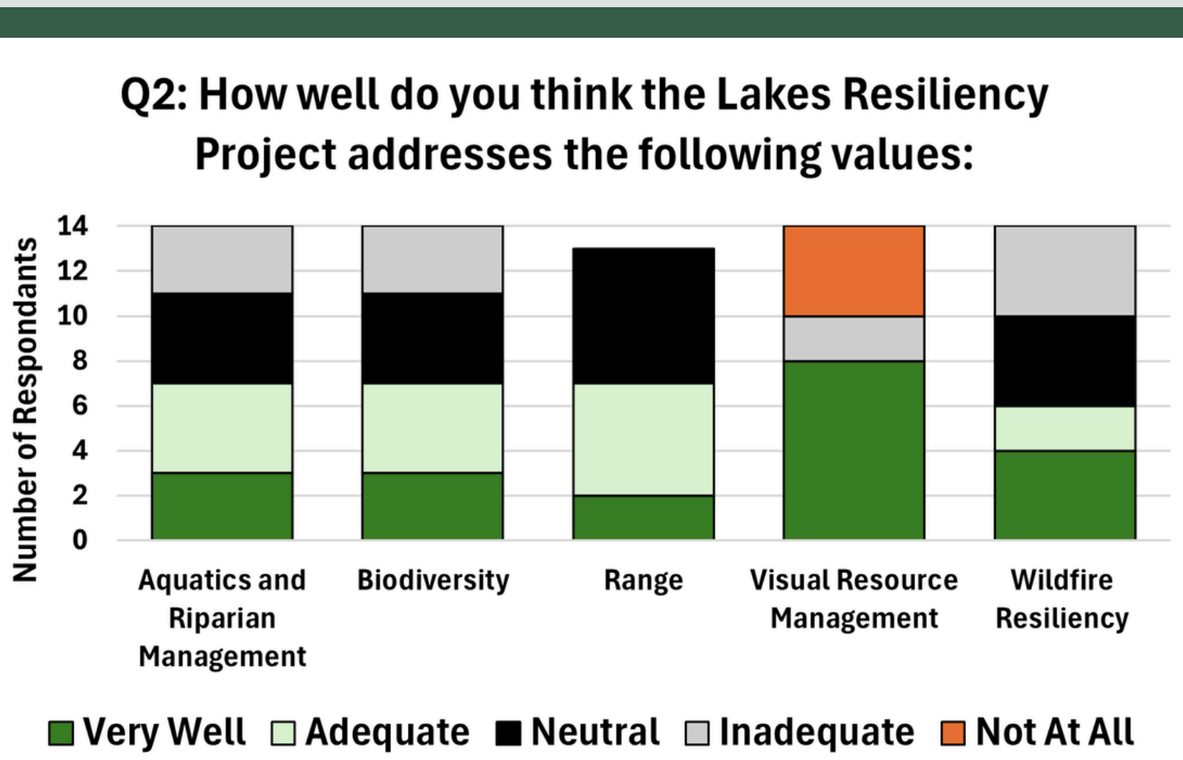
During this time, the public was invited to complete a survey to provide feedback on the proposed SRMP amendments and the FLP strategies related to aquatics and riparian management, biodiversity, range, visual resource management, and wildfire resiliency.

This page of the "What We Heard" report is an overall summary of the survey questions 1, 2, 4 and 5.

The following pages include a summary of comments received for the survey questions 1, 3, and 4 and a summary of emailed comments

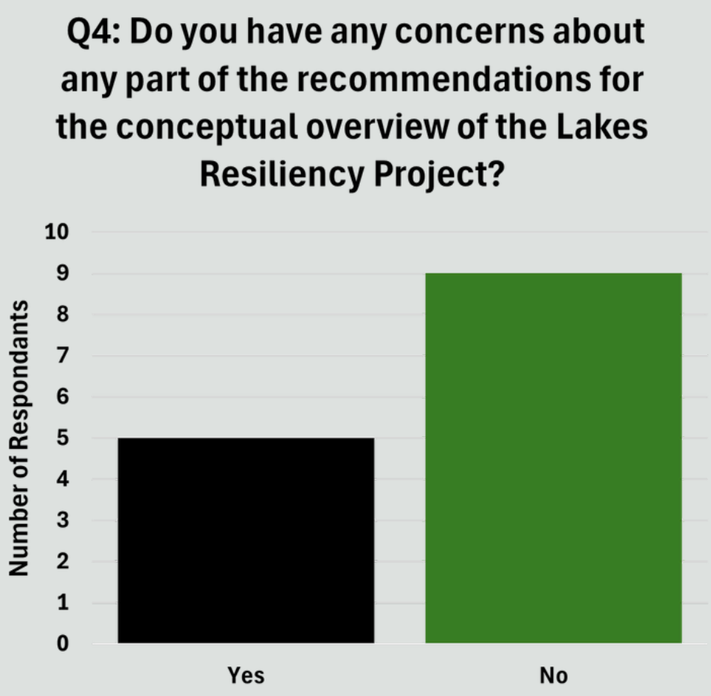
19 people attended the open houses. 14 survey responses received.

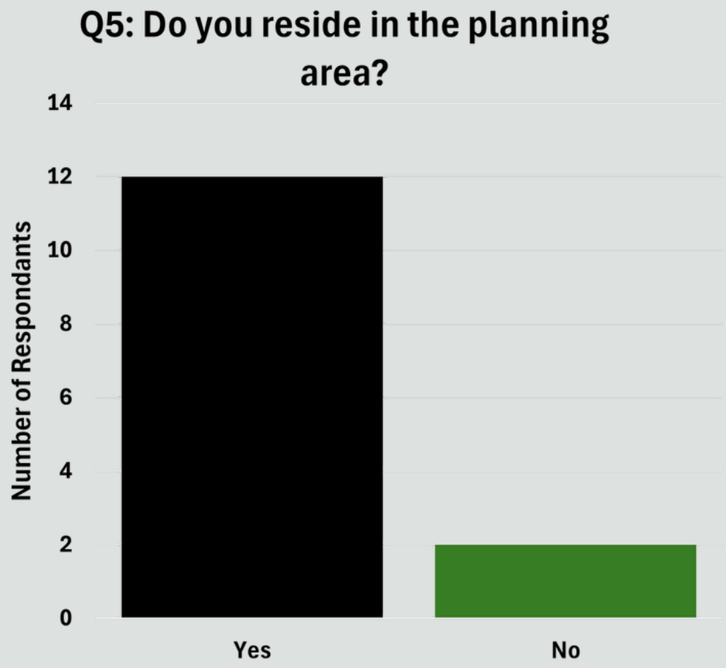




The distribution on how well survey respondants think the LRP addresses five different values. 14 Reponses were received with one null response for range

Ranking	Aquatics and Riparian Management	Biodiversity	Range	Visual Resource Management	Wildfire Resiliency
Very Well	3	3	2	8	4
Adequate	4	4	5	0	2
Neutral	4	4	6	0	4
Inadequate	3	3	0	2	4
Not At All	0	0	0	4	0





Public feedback plays a critical role in shaping the FLP by ensuring that planning decisions reflect a broad range of perspectives, experiences, and values. Additional public engagement opportunities will be offered in the future to continue gathering input and feedback on the FLP.

Survey responses have been summarized, and plain language has been applied where possible for this What We Heard report. The unedited responses have been recorded and will be shared with the Lakes Resiliency Project planning table.

Question 1: Do you have concerns about the proposed Lakes North and Lakes South Sustainable Resource Management Plans (SRMP) amendments?

- Concerns about whether the plan applies ecological forestry principles and manages for maximum biodiversity. Questions if silviculture practices are moving away from monoculture forests.
- Concerns around the volume of dead wood left in non-harvest and riparian areas.
- Questions if proposed seral targets, patch sizes, and management regimes are supported by science or research.
- Concerns that the proposal provides too much discretion to licensees without clear constraints.
- Support for increased flexibility to address future challenges.

Question 2: How well do you feel the LRP addresses the following values for Aquatics & Riparian Management, Biodiversity, Range, Visual Resource Management, and Wildfire Resiliency?

Ranking	Aquatics and Riparian Management	Biodiversity	Range	Visual Resource Management	Wildfire Resiliency
Very Well	3	3	2	8	4
Adequate	4	4	5	0	2
Neutral	4	4	6	0	4
Inadequate	3	3	0	2	4
Not At All	0	0	0	4	0

Question 3: For any values listed (in Question 2) for which you rated not at all or inadequate please explain the reason for your rating, with consideration of how it can be strengthened. If you are unsure or don't know if the LRP addresses any of the values listed above, please explain.

- Concerns regarding the proposed Visual Resource Management (VRM) strategy and Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) around scenic stewardship, tourism, and size of disturbance.
- Concerns and comments for biodiversity regarding species diversity, age classification, and forest complexity. Need more options for harvesting strategies and species for climate and wildfire resilience.
- Wildfire concerns around strategies being too vague.
- Aquatics concerns regarding calculations and riparian buffers.
- General comment that the plan fails to address regional specifics or precise issues.

Question 4: Do you have any concerns about any part of the recommendations for the conceptual overview of the Lakes Resiliency Project?

- Feedback on the survey design and suggestions to increase character limit for more input.
- Questions regarding how success will be measured and what will be better on the landscape as a result
- Concerns regarding practice requirements for Visual Quality Objectives, riparian retention, and seral stage requirements.
- Comment regarding the perceived focus on increasing timber harvesting

Emailed responses have been summarized and plain language has been applied where possible for this What We Heard report. The unedited responses have been recorded and will be shared with the Lakes Resiliency Project planning table.

Respondent 1:
The respondent acknowledges the growing wildfire risk and the need to rebalance forest values. They suggest this can be done in the current visual management system by allowing more flexibility. The respondent agrees that the visual inventory needs updating.

The respondent raises concerns about the visual management strategy. They describe how this approach might not meet public expectations over time. They describe concerns about how this strategy would be measured, verified, or enforced. Finally, the respondent suggests through continued monitoring we should improve the consistent use of design principles in the current system before making major changes.

Respondent 2:
The respondent expressed concern that while the visual management strategy presents an overall vision, it does not include specific, measurable criteria. The respondent raised concerns about how the strategy would be evaluated and the criteria to monitor the effectiveness. The respondent expressed that this could lead to widespread large-scale disturbances.

The respondent suggested an alternate approach to divide the TSA into three visual management zones. They expressed concern about licensees being able to meet existing visual requirements. The respondent noted that design techniques are inconsistent and current performance data does not support success. They questioned how the strategy would improve outcomes.

The respondent responded that the visual management strategy lacks clear, measurable standards, that large-scale clearcutting is not widely supported or necessary for wildfire risk reduction. They express that Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) already allow flexibility and proven outcomes in key scenic areas, and that FRPA already provides tools to manage exceptions without removing VQOs altogether.

Next Steps
We would like to thank everyone who attended the open houses and completed the survey. Your feedback is important and will inform the Forest Landscape Plan (FLP) and will be considered by the Chief Forester prior to plan establishment.

The Lakes Resiliency Project planning table will review the feedback and work to address the concerns raised during public engagement. This includes:

- **Visual Resource Management** – The FLP planning table will review the feedback and re-examine the proposed approach to make sure there are no unintended impacts.
- **Biodiversity, wildfire, and aquatics strategies** – The planning table will continue to develop these strategies. More details will be included in the draft FLP, which will be available for public review.
- **Survey improvements** – The next round of public engagement will allow for longer responses.

There will be future public engagement opportunities on the draft FLP this upcoming year. We look forward to hearing from you.