



# Daawuuxusda Management Plan

July 2011



Council of the  
**Haida Nation**



Cover photo: Alan Wilson

# Foreward

*“The Supernatural Beings invited him because they wanted to see the skin and five fins of K’aa Gwaay . . . and he showed it to them everytime.”*

Guujaaw

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# 1.0 Introduction

The Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia have a dispute of title over all of Haida Gwaii, but through planning and negotiations the Haida Nation and the province have taken steps towards reconciliation of interests.

Daawuuxusda is now formally protected by both the Haida Nation as a Haida Heritage Site and the Province of British Columbia as a conservancy. For the purposes of this management plan, the area will be referred to as Daawuuxusda. Other areas established as both Haida Heritage Sites and conservancies will be referenced as protected areas in this document. The Haida Nation and the province through their respective authorities are now working together in managing this area.

This management plan does not have a complete or comprehensive listing of all cultural features or cultural inventory in the area. There are far more cultural features, many that are not inventoried and other cultural values which are held in secret by the Haida Nation.

Preparation of this management plan for Daawuuxusda<sup>1</sup> has been jointly undertaken by the Council of the Haida Nation and the Government of British Columbia's Ministry of Environment (hereafter referred to as “the Parties”).

## 1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to:

- establish the vision, long-term strategic direction, guidance and acceptable uses for Daawuuxusda;
- ensure that any activities are respectful of the natural values and not in conflict with Haida social, ceremonial and cultural uses;
- ensure protection for lands and seas in their natural state;
- describe the background and legal context of Daawuuxusda; and,
- manage visitor use.

## 1.2 Planning Area

Daawuuxusda has been used by Haida people and given them life since time immemorial.

The marine environment is at the edge of the continental shelf while the shoreline includes many harbours and bays. Burial caves, village sites and cultural forests continue to highlight the rich history of Daawuuxusda.

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<sup>1</sup> Phonetic pronunciation is “Daaw hhusta”

Daawuuxusda is located on the west-central coast of Haida Gwaii, 25 kilometres west of the communities of Queen Charlotte, Skidegate and Sandspit (Figure 1). It is part of an archipelago-wide system of protected areas.<sup>2</sup> In total, half of the land base of Haida Gwaii is now in protected status. The terrestrial component of Daawuuxusda covers 70,319 hectares and extends from the southern edge of Rennell Sound and Graham Island, along the western shores of Moresby Island to Tasu Sound (Figure 2). The elevation range is from sea level to 1120 metres.

A marine component/foreshore area has been delineated by a joint Haida Nation and Province of British Columbia process that covers an area of 45,782 hectares.<sup>3</sup> Boundaries for the marine portion of the protected area are brought forward first by Order in Council, then by legislation to ensure equal protection across the terrestrial and marine components. This management plan will provide direction to this marine area as well.

Duu Guusd is located to the north of Daawuuxusda. Along with Gwaii Haanas, these three large protected areas have contiguous marine boundaries and form a significant interconnected ecological complex along the west coast of Haida Gwaii.

Much of Daawuuxusda consists of rugged, exposed Pacific Ocean coastline bisected by channels and fiords, and a number of sheltered inlets.

Most of Daawuuxusda is roadless, except for rugged logging roads into Skidegate Channel, Kootenay Inlet, and Peel Inlet which have eroded with little or no maintenance. Access to Daawuuxusda is generally by air or sea. Access by foot or vehicle is difficult and limited.

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<sup>2</sup> That includes Gwaii Haanas<sup>2</sup>, several provincial parks and ecological reserves, and ten other protected areas.

<sup>3</sup> All navigation and activities related to navigation (including within any marine protected areas established by provincial legislation) are managed by Transport Canada mainly through the *Canada Shipping Act*, other federal statutes and international treaties.

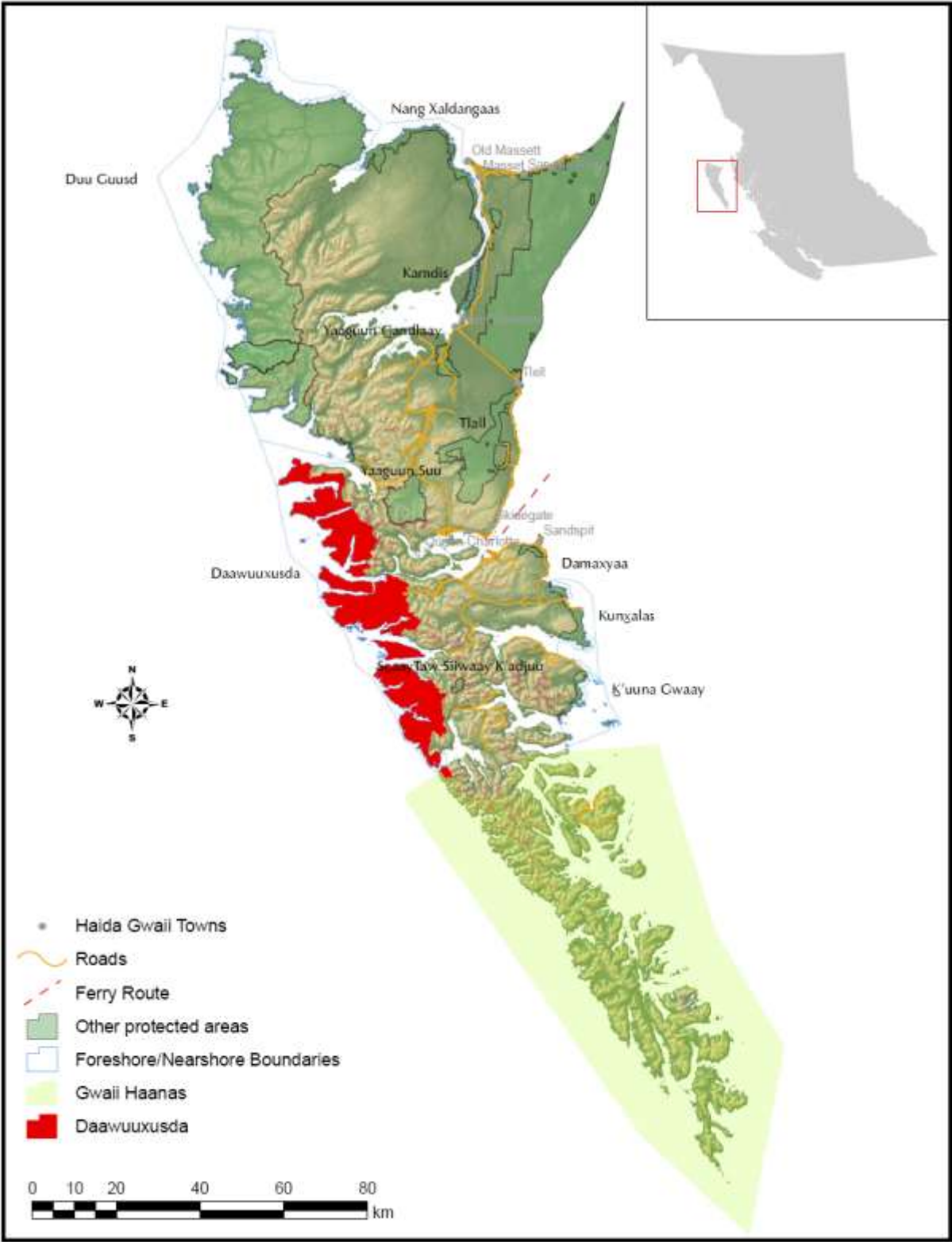


Figure 1: Regional Context Map



Figure 2. Daawuuxusda Map



## 1.3 Planning and Policy Context

The Parties acknowledge each other's respective authorities and are cooperating in the management of Daawuuxusda. The Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia have agreements on land use and reconciliation and use their respective lawmaking authorities to enact this management plan. For example, permits are to be jointly reviewed and adjudicated as per processes such as the Solutions Table that are consistent with existing agreements between the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia. Additionally, an appropriate government to government forum will be utilized to address collaborative management of protected areas.

A brief chronological history is summarized below.

According to archaeological evidence, Daawuuxusda has been occupied for at least 10,000 years by the Haida people although Haida oral history indicates much longer. Great stories of heroes and adventure exist within the Haida lore. Many Haida families trace their ancestry to Daawuuxusda.

In 1996, the Gudal Bay/Marble Island area was identified by the Province of British Columbia as a Goal 1 Study Area, and the Tana Bay, Kitgoro Inlet, and Kootenay Inlet areas were identified as Goal 2 Study Areas under the Protected Areas Strategy.

The features or characteristics that merited consideration for protection included recognition of the Goal 1 area as an excellent representative example of the Windward Queen Charlotte Mountains Ecoregion and coastal marine ecosystems, plus the existence of large seabird nesting colonies on Marble Island and occurrences of rare endemic<sup>4</sup> plants on limestone outcrops on Mt. La Perouse. The significant values of the Goal 2 sites include special biophysical features such as columnar basalt formations (pipe-organ rocks), special estuary habitats, and occurrences of old-growth forests, and notable recreational features including protected inlets with beaches, camping and anchorages.

Daawuuxusda provides habitat for the diverse seabirds' nesting requirements. In 2002, wildlife habitat areas had been established under the Forest Practices Code for eleven of the seabird nesting colonies on the west coast of Haida Gwaii within the Daawuuxusda area. The purpose of these designations was to establish protective measures applicable to these critical locations designed to help maintain the seabirds and their habitats. These eleven areas are to be protected within the Daawuuxusda management system and will no longer need the wildlife habitat area status.

In 2004, the Haida Land Use Vision, based on principles of Yah' guudang (respect), was put forward by the Council of the Haida Nation to guide deliberations toward a sustainable land use plan for Haida Gwaii. In 2007, the Haida Gwaii Strategic Land Use Agreement (SLUA) supported the Haida Land Use Vision which included the protection of Daawuuxusda.

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<sup>4</sup> Native to, or confined exclusively to, a particular region.

The SLUA stated that the new protected areas were to be set aside for cultural, spiritual, ecological and recreation purposes, and the areas were to be maintained for the benefit, education and enjoyment of present and future generations. The agreement was formally signed off by the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia on December 12, 2007.

On December 17, 2008, Provincial Order in Council No. 977/2008 established the terrestrial component of Daawuuxusda Conservancy. On October 29, 2009, Daawuuxusda was named and described in Provincial legislation by passing and providing Royal Assent to Bill 10 — 2009 (*Protected Areas of British Columbia Amendment Act, 2009*).

The Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol was signed by the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia on December 11, 2009. On June 3, 2010, Bill 18 — 2010, entitled the *Haida Gwaii Reconciliation Act*, received Royal Assent. This bill contains amendments that have implications to protected area planning and management on Haida Gwaii. This management plan is consistent with the intent of the *Haida Gwaii Reconciliation Act*.

In October 2010, the Haida Nation, at the Annual House of Assembly, adopted the KaayGuu Ga ga Kyah ts'as – Gin 'inaas 'laas waadluwaan gud tl'a gud giidaa (Haida Stewardship Law). The purpose of the Haida Stewardship Law is to ensure the well being of Haida Gwaii and create an economy that is respectful of the land, culture and people through establishing structures to manage the forests and the lands, which include the manner in which humans interact with the natural world. This management plan is consistent with the intent of the Haida Stewardship Law.

## 1.4 Planning Process

The Parties initiated management planning for Daawuuxusda in the fall of 2009 as part of a broader effort to prepare management plans for all eleven new protected areas on Haida Gwaii.

Area descriptions were developed from available information for each protected area to identify important cultural and natural values, as well as recreational and economic interests. Individual management plans incorporated information from the area descriptions.

Public informational sessions were jointly held by the Parties in the communities of Old Massett, Masset, Port Clements, Skidegate, Queen Charlotte and Sandspit in January 2010 as part of a series of public consultation sessions being held to implement ecosystem based management measures on Haida Gwaii. Protected area maps with proposed marine boundaries were shared with the public and information was provided regarding the management planning process, and what opportunities would exist for future public review and input.

In February, March and April 2010, draft management plans were developed for public review and presented at open houses held in Old Massett, Tlell, Skidegate and Sandspit. The public review drafts were also posted on the Haida Nation and BC Parks' websites for broader comment and circulation.

## 2.0 Values of Daawuuxusda

### 2.1 Significance and Role in the Protected Areas System

Daawuuxusda:

- is rich with cultural values including at least seven village sites or seasonal camp locations and 17 registered archaeological sites and extensive cultural features within the forests;
- is part of an archipelago-wide system of protected areas that now protects half of the land base of Haida Gwaii;
- forms a significant interconnected ecological complex along the west coast of Haida Gwaii along with Duu Guusd and Gwaii Haanas;
- has more than 96% the forested area in mature and old-growth condition;
- protects nesting and foraging locations for internationally significant populations of seabirds and at least 27 known Peregrine Falcon nest sites;
- has high intertidal values with surfgrass habitat and eelgrass beds, kelp forest areas and nine estuaries that spill into some of the most productive marine habitat on Haida Gwaii; and,
- is inclusive of extensive geological formations from antiquity.

### 2.2 Cultural Heritage

The people of the Haida Nation have occupied and collected food and materials from Daawuuxusda area since time immemorial. The Haida made their homes and have at least seven villages and seasonal camps within Daawuuxusda.

This management plan does not have a complete or comprehensive listing of all cultural features or cultural inventory in the area. There are far more cultural features, many that are not inventoried and other cultural values which are held in secret by the Haida Nation.

Seventeen recorded archaeological sites contain a diversity of cultural features including culturally modified trees (CMTs), a ceremonial rock feature, a pictograph, cultural material, shell middens, human remains, a mortuary pole, habitation feature, fish bones inside a cave, a cultural depression, historical log cabin and house posts. Further work will undoubtedly reveal even more of these treasures.

The management plan provides for the continuance of Haida culture through traditional use of the area. Some examples of traditional use within Daawuuxusda include monumental cedar and cedar bark harvesting, seaweed harvesting, medicinal plant harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping and food gathering. Daawuuxusda also provides the setting for the physical expression of culture through monumental art such as totems or establishment of traditional style infrastructure.

Though now seen as a wilderness, Daawuuxusda was once the home for thousands of people and traces of their vibrant culture are enshrined across the landscape. Daawuuxusda will continue to provide for present and future Haida access to those areas for on-going social, ceremonial and cultural purposes.

## 2.3 Natural Heritage

Daawuuxusda is almost entirely within the Windward Queen Charlotte Mountains terrestrial ecosection (which is well represented by protected areas on Haida Gwaii), and contains representative examples of all of Haida Gwaii's Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) zones. This includes Coastal Western Hemlock, Sub-montane wet hypermaritime (CWHwh1), Coastal Western Hemlock, Montane wet hypermaritime (CWHwh2), Coastal Western Hemlock, very wet hypermaritime (CWHvh2), Mountain Hemlock Windward (MHwh1), Mountain Hemlock Leeward (MHwh2) and Coastal Mountain Heather-Alpine. Notably, it protects almost 6% of the province's Mountain Hemlock Windward biogeoclimatic variant.

The marine component is within the Continental Slope marine ecosection.

Of special significance are the coastal ecological communities of Sitka spruce – Pacific reedgrass as well as the limestone landscapes throughout the area that provide a unique substrate for uncommon plant species.

In the north from Rennell Sound to Gudal Bay, the area is composed of intrusive rocks. Between Gudal Bay to the north side of Skidegate Channel is primarily undivided volcanic rocks. Chaatl Island to the north side of Kootenay Inlet is comprised of some of the oldest rocks on the Islands, primarily volcanic rocks that are part of the Karmustsen formation. Southwest of the Chaatl Narrows exists the oldest geological formation on Haida Gwaii, known as the Chaatl Inlet pluton formation. On the steep cliffs of the south shore, near Ells Point, columnar basalt can be found forming distinctive 'pipe-organ' rock structures. Mesozoic rock and fossils preserved on Haida Gwaii records nearly complete an uninterrupted span of geological time from the Late Triassic through Late Cretaceous. The fossil records provide a rare opportunity to glimpse into the distant past and gain knowledge of primal life on earth.

There is a tremendous diversity throughout the tidal and non-tidal waters. Daawuuxusda contains nine estuaries that are home to important eelgrass and surfgrass habitat. The area northwest of Kindaken rock has been recognized by Fisheries and Oceans Canada as a unique marine ecosystem. Also, Daawuuxusda contains 4% of Haida Gwaii's fish-bearing waters. Freshwater streams, such as Gudal, Cone Head and Jiinaanga, are known to host Coho Salmon, Chum Salmon, Pink Salmon, Sockeye Salmon, Dolly Varden, Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout and Steelhead.

In the northern region of Daawuuxusda, Gudal Bay/Marble Island has a high diversity of rare and endemic plants (one of the top three areas on Haida Gwaii). The area contains rare and important ecological associations including:

- the Western redcedar-Sitka spruce/Conocephalum community (blue listed)<sup>5</sup>;
- the Western redcedar-Sitka spruce/Foamflower community (blue listed);
- the Western redcedar – Sitka spruce/Devil’s Club community (blue listed);
- the Western redcedar – Sitka spruce/Sword fern community (blue listed);
- the Western redcedar – Sitka spruce/Skunk cabbage community (blue listed);
- the Sitka spruce/False lily-of-the-valley community (red listed);
- the Red alder/False lily of the valley community (red listed);
- the Western hemlock – Sitka spruce/Lanky moss community (blue listed);
- the Sitka spruce/Reedgrass community (blue listed);
- the Sitka spruce-Mountain hemlock/Reedgrass community (blue listed); and,
- the Sitka spruce/Trisetum community (blue listed).

The area hosts numerous blue and red listed fauna, including 27 known Peregrine Falcon (red listed) nest sites. Important nesting and foraging habitat can be found within Daawuuxusda for Ancient Murrelet, Cassins Auklet, Tufted Puffin, Horned Puffin, Marbled Murrelet, Pelagic Cormorant, Stellar Sea Lions, and potentially Northern Goshawk (laingi subspecies – red listed).

The remote location of Daawuuxusda provides an excellent opportunity to maintain biological diversity and natural environment values. Of concern, though is the presence of introduced mammals (e.g., Raccoons, Norway Rats and Black-tailed Deer) which pose a threat to local ecosystems. Sowthistle, an invasive non-native plant, also occurs here.

Daawuuxusda protects representative examples of all six biogeoclimatic zones on Haida Gwaii and is both large and geologically diverse enough to protect a variety of plants and animals, the processes that support them, and habitat for a number of species at risk. The rugged coastline hosts several breeding pairs of Peregrine Falcon and many seabird nesting sites. In addition, Daawuuxusda, along with other protected areas on the west coast of Haida Gwaii, provides contiguous protection to the special biophysical and natural features in both the terrestrial and the marine environments from South Moresby Island to Graham Island. This connectivity is important and will be a key aspect of the area’s management.

## 2.4 Recreation

Although boating occurs within Daawuuxusda, other recreation opportunities are somewhat limited due to the remote nature and lack of road access to much of the area and the rugged west coast receives few visitors due to challenging weather and oceanic conditions. Some good anchorages are located within Daawuuxusda and camping opportunities may exist within many of the protected inlets, though the campsites are also old village or other archaeological sites. Boating, marine mammal viewing and kayaking are possible in some sheltered areas though safety of recreational travellers and the impacts on the land are management issues needing attention.

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<sup>5</sup> Blue list = list of ecological communities, and indigenous species and subspecies of special concern in B.C. Red list = list of ecological communities, and indigenous species and subspecies that are extirpated, endangered or threatened in B.C. (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/faq3.html#1>).

## **2.5 Respectful Use of Natural Resources**

The Haida trap throughout Daawuuxusda.

The province has issued five trapline licenses.

Two small sites are licensed for communication installations.

## 3.0 Management Direction

### 3.1 Vision

Haida culture is the interrelationship of the people to the land.

Daawuuxusda will remain as the ancestors of the Haida Nation have known it. Daawuuxusda and the remaining protected areas continue to provide the sustenance and spiritual values to this and future generations.

Scientific research, respectful observance and enjoyment of the natural world are the preferred approaches to human interaction. Ecological connectivity of the west coast of Haida Gwaii and protection of nationally important seabird colonies and rare terrestrial and intertidal ecosystems, species, and biophysical features are other reasons for protection.

The values of Daawuuxusda to humanity will be hard to quantify though will prove invaluable to the understanding of the human relationship to the natural world for those who get there.

### 3.2 Management Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures

Management strategies and objectives for Daawuuxusda have been identified through a thorough analysis of key issues that may affect the balance between protection and use. The management plan will always consider the well being of the lands and marine areas first.

Knowledge, education and on-site monitoring will be primary tools of management.

The next stage of planning will develop site level management plans for select high use and sensitive areas.

#### Cultural Heritage

Key issues which may affect achievement of stated Haida cultural values in Daawuuxusda are described. These issues relate primarily to the need for detailed inventories of key values. Filling information gaps in the early stages will help prevent current and potential impacts from recreational use and other activities. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 1).



**Table 1. Goals, Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures for Cultural Heritage**

<b>Overall Management Goal: Preserve and maintain Haida social, ceremonial and cultural uses.</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
<b>Identify, protect and maintain Haida cultural heritage features, archaeological sites and traditional use locations.</b>	Many cultural heritage features, archaeological sites and traditional use locations are well documented, but information for some areas may be incomplete. Where there is limited information it is difficult to ensure the values are protected.	Continue historical and ethnographic research, cultural heritage field mapping and inventory programs where knowledge gaps exist.	Completed historical and ethnographic research and cultural heritage field inventories.
	Certain uses can cause unintended disturbance to cultural heritage and traditional use sites and features.	Identify and report where cultural heritage features, archaeological sites and/or traditional use resources or sites exist within areas that have periodic human use.	Prior to any site specific development or within areas that receive recreational use, ensure cultural heritage sites have been identified.
		Identify and evaluate extent of threats and implement site specific protective measures for sensitive or special feature sites, such as Appendix 2, which may include: - marking areas as off-limits; - focusing use away from sites; - restricting aircraft access; - developing site level management plans for select high-use and culturally sensitive areas; - developing best management practices for aircraft, and pleasure craft activities in anchorages; and/or, - public information/interpretation initiatives.	Appropriate measures established at sensitive sites.
		Consider opportunities for monitoring activity at most vulnerable sites.	Monitoring of activities achieved.
		Extend the Haida Watchmen program, and identify potential locations to support establishment of Watchman sites.	Recommendations from assessment implemented.
<b>Ensure that new uses are compatible with Haida traditional activities.</b>	Many traditional and sustenance harvesting sites and activities are well documented, but information for some areas may be incomplete or withheld for traditional reasons and customs. Where there is limited information it is difficult to ensure that the values are protected.	Support efforts to identify and monitor traditional and sustenance harvesting sites and activities where knowledge gaps exist.	Completed inventories of traditional use and sustenance harvesting areas.
		Visitors respect traditional reasons and customs for privacy through dialogue and understanding with either Party.	Visitors are respectful people on the land.
	There are traditional cultural use activities that can benefit from monitoring or facilitation using existing Haida Nation programs.	Identify uses (such as cultural cedar harvesting) that benefit from continued facilitation from the Haida Nation to ensure sustainable and on-going access to traditional resources, recognizing that many activities are preferable to occur in non-protected areas.	Traditional users are engaged in specific uses and programs.  Linkages are made with on-going Haida Nation and provincial administrative processes (such as Haida Gwaii cultural wood permit process).

## Natural Heritage

Key issues which may affect achievement of stated biological diversity objectives in Daawuuxusda have been identified. These issues relate primarily to the desire to maintain important habitats, minimize potential impacts from introduced species, and create more complete inventories as a way to prevent negative impacts from recreational or commercial use within Daawuuxusda. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 2).

**Table 2. Goals, Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures for Natural Heritage**

<b>Overall Management Goal: Protect and maintain the diversity of terrestrial, intertidal and marine ecosystems and contribute to ecological connectivity on the west coast of Haida Gwaii.</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
<b>Identify and protect important and rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.<sup>6</sup></b>	Lack of inventory of the values results in unintended impacts on the protected area's rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.	Identify research and inventory needs. Support programs designed to fill information gaps with emphasis on rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.	Number of initiatives underway that enhance information. <hr/> Comprehensive knowledge base achieved.
		Identify and support restoration initiatives for rare and at risk ecosystems and species (e.g., nesting seabirds and their habitat, eelgrass habitats, estuaries, rare plant assemblages, understory vegetation, and Western redcedar regeneration).	Rare and at risk ecosystems and species restored/maintained.
	Marine bird breeding, nesting and foraging sites require special considerations during sensitive periods. There is evidence that current use is causing site-level disturbance and declines in the abundance and distribution of rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.	Increase public and visitor awareness about seabird sensitivities and provide guidelines for appropriate conduct to avoid impacts in seabird areas.	Information package and guidelines available regarding seabird needs, approach standards, etc., and are utilized by public and commercial operators to minimize impacts.
		Where necessary, limit access to protect rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species such as nesting seabirds.	Access restrictions in place where appropriate.
		Support efforts to maintain integrity of seabird habitat, and minimize the risk of injury and mortality to seabirds.	Development does not occur within seabird nesting islands. Activities that alter shoreline and/or intertidal or inshore marine waters are prevented.
		Adjust the Management Unit Type 4 boundaries if compelling new ecologically-based information indicates the need for revision to meet management intent and protect values.	Where sufficient rationale warrants revision, Management Unit Type 4 boundaries are amended.

<sup>6</sup> To recognize the likely occurrence of distinctiveness on Haida Gwaii, rare is applied to Conservation Data Centre (CDC)-listed species and ecological communities as well as identified locally rare or at risk species and ecological communities.

**Overall Management Goal: Protect and maintain the diversity of terrestrial, intertidal and marine ecosystems and contribute to ecological connectivity on the west coast of Haida Gwaii.**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
	Introduced species are displacing and harming native flora and fauna. Specific concerns are related to deer browsing and predation of seabird colonies by rats and raccoons.	Evaluate presence, distribution and threat of introduced species.	Presence, distribution and threat of introduced species is documented.
		Undertake prevention initiatives and introduced species control programs on a co-ordinated and priority basis. Mechanical and biological methods are preferred. Monitor and report on efficacy of efforts.	Control programs in place. Target species controlled or removed. Disturbance and predation levels reduced. Monitoring reports completed.
		Support efforts in on-going introduced species research, education and public information programs.	Programs supported.
	Without knowing the effects of global climate change and sea level rise on ecosystems, ecological communities and species, it is difficult to know how to mitigate negative impacts to these values.	Support programs designed to monitor environmental change and impacts.	Monitoring programs supported.
		Initiate adaptive management practices and processes if required.	Adaptive management initiated.
	Silviculture activities and road deactivation within Daawuuxusda (from forest harvesting prior to establishment) have an impact on stated values.	Work with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the licensee to ensure that outstanding obligations and any silviculture activities and road deactivation plans are timely and consistent with the Daawuuxusda management plan.	Ensure silviculture obligations are met in a timely manner consistent with the Daawuuxusda management plan.
<b>Protect intertidal and subtidal habitat to help sustain the abundance and distribution of marine species.</b>	Habitat and populations of marine intertidal and subtidal species are sensitive and are subject to adverse impacts from human activities.	Work with other agencies to monitor and, if necessary, consider limiting recreation and other activities.	Populations of intertidal and subtidal species are monitored and habitat sustained.
<b>Protect paleontological resources.</b>	A diversity of globally significant fossil beds from the Mesozoic era are well documented throughout Daawuuxusda. Removing these fossils threatens our understanding of the natural heritage of Haida Gwaii.	Support programs to educate the public and visitors of the importance of paleontological resources remaining intact.	Public education and awareness is enhanced.
		Monitor and inventory fossil sites in Daawuuxusda.	Fossil sites remain intact.

## Recreation

Key issues which may support provision for recreational opportunities in Daawuuxusda are described. These issues relate primarily to the maintenance of access and potential impacts on stated cultural or ecological values from recreational use. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 3).

**Table 3. Goals, Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures for Recreation**

<b>Overall Management Goal: Provide for limited commercial and public recreational use in a largely undisturbed natural environment.</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
<b>Identify opportunities for appropriate wilderness recreation and Identify any necessary associated facilities.</b>	There is a need to determine appropriate and respectful approaches to recreational visits in Daawuuxusda. Where there is limited information it is difficult to ensure that the values are protected.	Develop a baseline inventory of structures and current and potential recreational uses, with emphasis on use or sites near cultural or natural features of interest.	Completed baseline inventory of recreational opportunities, structures and use.
		Implement a Backcountry Recreational Impact Monitoring (BRIM) assessment on any current recreation sites.	Annual site inspections for more accessible locations in Daawuuxusda to be completed with BRIM reports every three years. Bi-annual backcountry site inspections completed with BRIM reports every four years.
	Recreational use can impact other heritage and natural values.	Develop criteria to ensure recreational use is compatible with the cultural and natural heritage features or values.	Criteria are developed to determine acceptable limits of impacts, avoidance of impacts, and BRIM reports are used to inform adaptive management on a site specific basis.
	The current level of public awareness of available recreation opportunities affects the ability to meet economic objectives.	Identify recreation opportunities and facilities in promotional and marketing materials in consideration of existing cultural activities.	Development and distribution of promotional information and materials.
	There are companies offering facility-based fishing opportunities in Daawuuxusda that do not have the required authorizations.	Permits are to be jointly reviewed and adjudicated as per processes such as the Solutions Table that are consistent with existing agreements between the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia. Additionally, an appropriate government to government forum will be utilized to address collaborative management of the protected areas.	Processes are in place.
		Companies with pre-existing operations in Daawuuxusda but without authorizations will not be offered permits until jointly reviewed and adjudicated by the Parties.	Companies without tenures and new proposals undergo review by the Parties.
	Tourism in Daawuuxusda provides limited benefits to the people of Haida Gwaii.	Provide young people with the requirements in guiding and career opportunities related to Daawuuxusda.	Daawuuxusda is relevant to island youth.
	Encourage companies to utilize residents and local services in the use of Daawuuxusda.	Increase in the number of local opportunities.	
	Develop opportunities for cultural interpretation and guiding services.	Increase in the number of local opportunities.	
	Assist in the diversification of local economies.	Daawuuxusda becomes an asset to the Haida Gwaii economy.	
<b>Provide limited facilities for low impact and safe wilderness</b>	Availability and access to recreation opportunities is limited.	Consider development of access points and shelters where deemed to be appropriate and consistent with the purposes of this plan.	Access and opportunities are managed.

**Overall Management Goal: Provide for limited commercial and public recreational use in a largely undisturbed natural environment.**

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
recreation opportunities.		Determine long-term visitor use infrastructure and maintenance or development needs.	Analysis completed for long-term maintenance and infrastructure needs.

## Respectful Use of Natural Values

Key issues which may affect achievement of stated objectives related to the respectful use of Daawuuxusda relate primarily to the potential conflict between the use of and potential impacts on the cultural and natural values that have been identified. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 4).

**Table 4. Goals, Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures for Respectful Use of Natural Values<sup>7</sup>**

<b>Overall Management Goal: Provide for compatible opportunities where appropriate.</b>			
Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
Identify appropriate uses and support the delivery of economic benefits.	Small-scale <sup>8</sup> tree removal is an acceptable management option when required for human health and safety, or to facilitate approved development, or for ecological restoration or forest health management projects.	Identify appropriate opportunities for small-scale tree removal.	All projects compliant with management plan direction.
	Current and future commercial uses by the Haida Nation including infrastructure development may be needed to enhance the visitor experience.	Proposals will be subject to meeting the goals, objectives and protection of values outlined in this management plan.	Visitor experience is enhanced by cultural infrastructure.
	Harvesting forest botanicals <sup>9</sup> by Haida medicinal practitioners will continue in Daawuuxusda. Any harvesting of forest botanicals by others can be permitted if the harvest is sustainable and will not impact identified values or conflict with other management plan objectives.	Authorizations will not be issued to any individual that may compromise the natural values.	Monitor harvest levels for different botanicals.
		Specific proposals for access will be considered in the context of maintaining cultural and natural values.	All proposals are compliant with management plan direction.
		To guide conditions for commercial permit approvals, consider method and scale of harvest (quantity over area), location (to	Commercial use is consistent with balancing traditional/sustenance use, ecosystem integrity and local economic

<sup>7</sup> Natural resource uses and developments must be consistent with the cultural, natural and recreational purposes of the Daawuuxusda.

<sup>8</sup> A few trees, or less than 1 hectare in area.

<sup>9</sup> Forest botanicals are non-timber-based products gathered from forest and range land with seven recognized categories: wild edible mushrooms, floral greenery, medicinal products, fruits and berries, herbs and vegetables, landscaping products and craft products.

**Overall Management Goal: Provide for compatible opportunities where appropriate.**

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
		gauge degree of compatibility with traditional or recreational users), and level of benefit to local economy.	benefit.
	Harvesting of marine plants (including seaweed), herring spawn on kelp, or shellfish by Haidas will continue in Daawuuxusda. Harvesting by others can be permitted if the harvest is sustainable and will not impact identified values or conflict with other management objectives.	Specific proposals for access will be considered in the context of maintaining cultural and natural values.	All proposals must be compliant with management plan direction.
		To guide conditions for commercial permit approvals, consider method and scale of harvest (quantity over area), location (to gauge degree of compatibility with traditional/sustenance use), and level of benefit to local economy.	Commercial use is consistent with balancing traditional/sustenance use, ecosystem integrity and local economic benefit.
		Commercial marine harvest activities will not be permitted in Management Unit 4 except as noted in Appendix 1.	Commercial marine harvest does not occur in Management Unit 4 except as noted in Appendix 1.
	Development of local run-of-the-river hydroelectric projects <sup>10</sup> may be permitted if the development does not conflict with the ecological well being or other management objectives in Daawuuxusda.	Specific proposals will be considered for further evaluation and approval.	All projects must be compliant with management plan direction.
	The nature of economic benefits for the Haida Nation in Daawuuxusda has not yet been defined.	Utilize an appropriate government to government forum to access economic opportunities for the Haida Nation.	Develop and maintain an economic plan for protected areas on Haida Gwaii that assists Haida individuals and businesses to take advantage of economic and employment opportunities.

### 3.3 Zoning

Zoning assists in the planning and management of protected areas. In general terms, zoning divides an area into logical units to apply consistent management objectives. The management units identified in Daawuuxusda are in accordance with Haida Gwaii Yah’guudang - respect for all living things - and reflect the intended land use, the acceptable level of development and use, and the level of management required (Figure 3).

The following four units have been identified within Daawuuxusda and uses that have been deemed appropriate for each of the units are identified in Appendix 1.

#### Management Unit Type 1

Management Unit Type 1<sup>11</sup> is an area within Daawuuxusda where the primary goal is to protect and maintain Haida cultural values and provide for social and ceremonial uses within the natural environment.

<sup>10</sup> May only supply power to approved uses in Daawuuxusda or nearby communities that do not otherwise have access to hydro-electric power.

<sup>11</sup> This unit corresponds to the BC Parks Cultural Zone.

The purpose of the unit is to protect these significant features in the context of a living Haida culture. Sensitive heritage special feature sites, such as village sites and burial caves, are identified in Appendix 2. These sites are for cultural and spiritual use including the special use by youth and elders. These areas will receive site level management plans and protective measures which may include: restricting and/or limiting access or the development of best management practices for aircraft and pleasure craft activities in anchorages.

Management activities in this unit will focus on protecting cultural and natural heritage values. Management efforts will be directed to ensuring that access and the use of this area occurs in such a way that the cultural and natural heritage values are maintained.

### **Management Unit Type 2**

The purpose of Management Unit Type 2<sup>12</sup> is to maintain natural biodiversity and ecological processes while protecting Haida cultural features and access for social and ceremonial uses. This unit also allows for the enjoyment of the natural environment where compatible with the cultural and natural values. Low impact activities, such as no trace camping and hiking are appropriate with minimal development in this wild and remote setting.

Management activities in the unit will focus on efforts to maintain and sustain cultural use, natural biodiversity and ecological processes, and protecting the habitat for species. Additionally, a secondary objective will be to manage for some development or use of natural resources while maintaining opportunities for commercial and public recreation in a largely wilderness environment.

### **Management Unit Type 4**

Management Unit Type 4<sup>13</sup> is dedicated to maintaining intact ecological processes and protecting the outstanding natural biological diversity found within this area.

This unit is established with the intent to protect habitat for nesting seabirds, and reflects a range of nesting habitat, previously identified as Wildlife Habitat Areas, for Ancient Murrelet and Cassin's Aucklet, as well as nesting habitat for Fork-tailed Petrels, Rhinoceros Aucklets, Pigeon Guillemots, Black Oystercatchers, Tufted Puffin, Leach's Storm-petrels and Pelagic Cormorants. A secondary objective will be to provide opportunities for limited wilderness recreation where compatible with the intent of this zone.

The management activities in this unit will focus on maintaining natural biodiversity and ecological processes, and protecting the habitat for the internationally significant populations of nesting seabirds.

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<sup>12</sup> This unit corresponds to BC Parks Wilderness Recreation Zone.

<sup>13</sup> This corresponds to the BC Parks Special Feature Zone.



Figure 3. Daawuuxusda Management Zone Map



## 4.0 Plan Implementation

Implementation of the Daawuuxusda Management Plan will involve identifying strategies and achieving stated performance measures, while focusing on implementing high priority strategies. Strategies and performance measures will be prioritized in terms of cost, feasibility and overall benefit to management.

### 4.1 Implementation Resources

The Parties will develop and maintain a collaborative workplan for the protected areas. Items to be included in the workplan will include a description of the resources available during a given time period including staff and any additional operating or project funds that may support identified initiatives. The Haida Nation will dedicate staff and resources as funding allocations permit. The Ministry of Environment will seek project-specific funding to implement priority strategies and monitor key performance measures, subject to provincial government funding availability. Specific projects will be evaluated for priority in relation to the overall protected areas system. Many of the initiatives contemplated are not funded as part of core ministry activities so jointly seeking funds from available funding sources either provincially or externally will be considered.

Permit holders will be required to collect and provide information related to performance measures and the overall state of Daawuuxusda. Such requirements will be defined in approved permits and in any protocols between the Haida Nation and the permittee.

### 4.2 Priority Implementation

As part of developing on-going workplans, priorities will be developed for implementation of strategies and performance measures. A key priority is to implement management strategies which support cultural use and cultural inventory information. These priorities will be developed based on Haida Nation and provincial interests taking into account the requirements of other protected areas on Haida Gwaii such as developing baseline data to support management strategies.

### 4.3 Reporting

The Parties will prepare a summary bi-annual report describing progress on implementation of the protected area management plans.

### 4.4 Management Plan Review

In order to ensure the management of Daawuuxusda remains relevant and effective, an adaptive management approach will be used. Adaptive management involves a five-step process of planning, action, monitoring, evaluation and revision of the management plan to reflect lessons learned, changing circumstances and/or objectives achieved.

The management plan will be reviewed as required by the Parties and may be affirmed, revised, or amended by written agreement. A review of the management plan should generally be triggered by the complexities of the management issues in the protected area and/or a significant change in circumstances (e.g., a natural disaster, major environmental change or discovery of a major new archaeological site), and not a by a specific time period.

A management plan review looks for any necessary updates to the management plan that are required to keep management direction current and relevant, correct the intent of a policy statement or address some error or omission. Any updates or changes to the content of the management plan will be addressed through a formal management plan amendment process. The amendment process will include an opportunity for public input.

## Appendix 1 – Appropriate Uses Chart

The following table lists existing and potential future uses or activities in Daawuuxusda. However, it is not an exhaustive list of all uses that may be considered in this protected area. The table also indicates the uses which the management planning process has confirmed are not appropriate in Daawuuxusda. Additionally, a permit cannot be issued for commercial logging, mining, or hydroelectric power generation, other than local run-of-the-river projects that supply power to approved uses in Daawuuxusda or nearby communities that do not otherwise have access to hydro-electric power.

The table must be reviewed in conjunction with the other sections of the management plan, including the descriptions, vision, objectives and strategies. Uses are subject to existing policies and any relevant impact assessment processes.

Activity/Facility	Management Unit		
	Type 1 <sup>14</sup>	Type 2 <sup>15</sup>	Type 4 <sup>16,17</sup>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>			
Cultural, Ceremonial, Food Gathering and Social Uses	Y	Y	Y
Cultural Infrastructure (facility-based)	Y	Y	N
<b>Natural Heritage</b>			
Fire Management <sup>18</sup>	Y	Y	Y
Forest Insect/Disease Control	Y	Y	Y
Noxious Weed Control	Y	Y	Y
Scientific Research	Y	Y	Y
<b>Recreation</b>			
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	N	N	N
Aircraft Access	Y	Y	Y
Anchorage	Y	Y	Y <sup>19</sup>
Backcountry Huts and Shelters	N	N2	N
Boat Launches	N	N	N
Boating (Motorized)	Y	Y	Y
Boating (Non-motorized)	Y	Y	Y
Camping – backcountry or boat accessible	Y	Y	N
Campsites and Picnic Areas – road accessible	N	N	N
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	N	Y	N

<sup>14</sup> This unit covers 3,462 hectares of land and 1,187 hectares of marine foreshore in Daawuuxusda.

<sup>15</sup> This unit covers 66,523 hectares of land and 44,150 hectares of marine foreshore in Daawuuxusda.

<sup>16</sup> On islands within Management Unit Type 4 all appropriate uses are subject to any access restrictions in place to protect seabird colonies.

<sup>17</sup> This unit covers 334 hectares of land and 445 hectares of marine foreshore in Daawuuxusda.

<sup>18</sup> As per fire management plan.

<sup>19</sup> Permitted, but not encouraged.

Activity/Facility	Management Unit		
	Type 1 <sup>14</sup>	Type 2 <sup>15</sup>	Type 4 <sup>16,17</sup>
Commercial Recreation (no facilities)	Y	Y	Y
Fishing	Y	Y	Y
Heli-hiking	N	Y	N
Hiking/Backpacking/Walking	Y	Y	N
Hunting <sup>20</sup>	Y	Y	Y
Interpretation and Information Buildings / Signs	Y	N	N1
Mechanized Off-road Access (non-motorized – i.e., mountain biking)	N	N	N
Motorized Off-road Access (i.e., 4x4, motorcycles)	N	N	N
Pack Animal Use	N	N	N
Trails (hiking)	Y	Y	N
Wharves/docks	N	N	N
Wildlife/Nature Viewing	Y	Y	Y
<b>Respectful Use of Natural Values</b>			
Angling Guiding	Y	Y	Y
Aquaculture (finfish)	N	N	N
Aquaculture (shellfish)	N <sup>21</sup>	Y	N
Commercial Botanical Forest Products	N	Y	N
Commercial Filming	Y	Y	Y
Commercial Marine Plant Harvesting	N	Y	N
Commercial Herring Spawn on Kelp	N	Y	N
Communication Sites	N	N2	N
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N	N	N
Guide Outfitting <sup>22</sup>	Y	Y	Y
Independent Hydro Electric Power Projects & Infrastructure	Y	Y	N
Marine-based Manufactured Log Recovery	Y	Y	Y
Trapping	Y	Y	Y

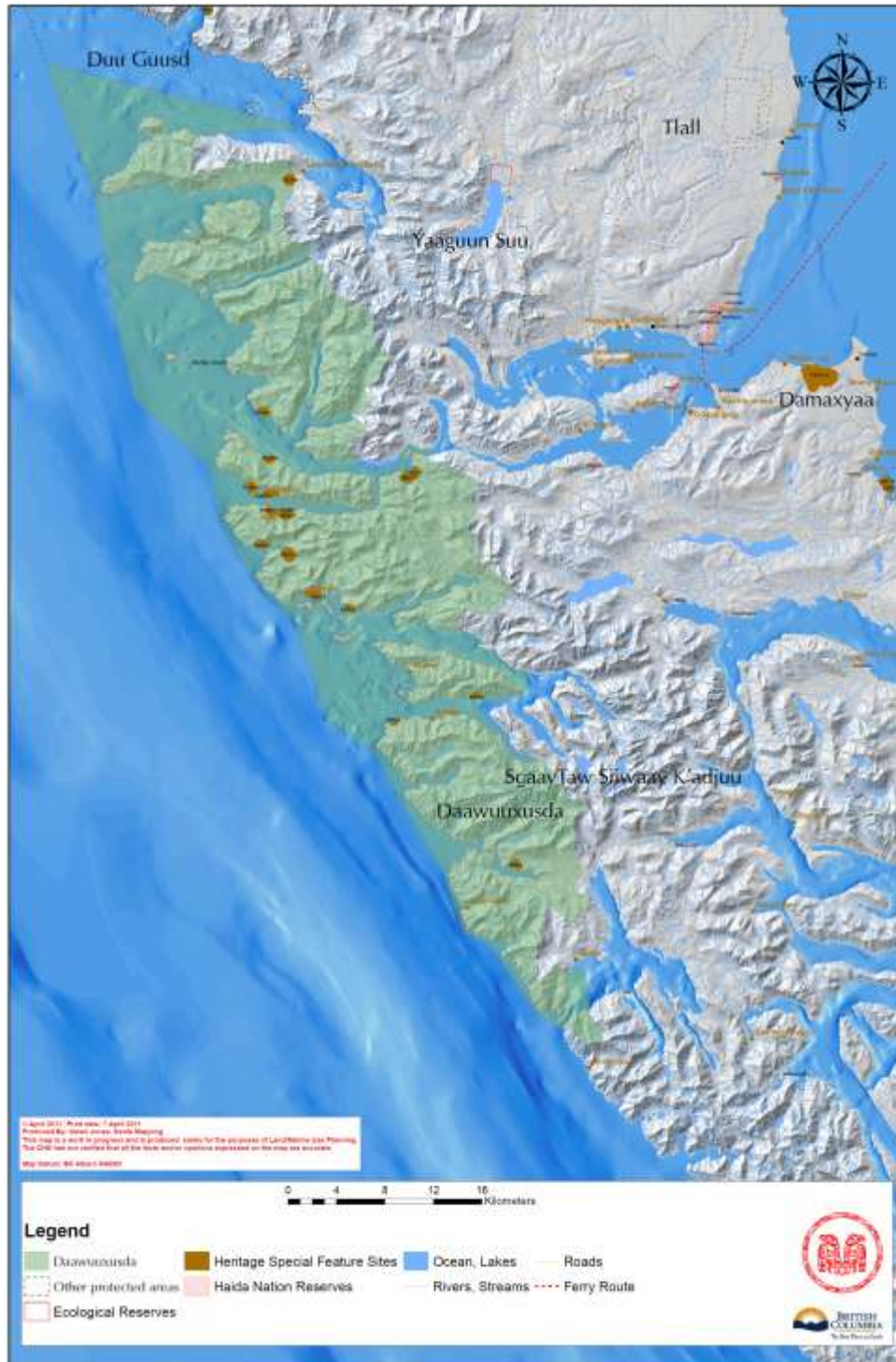
- Y Appropriate  
N Not appropriate  
N1 Not appropriate except for expressed management purposes as identified in the Management Plan  
N2 Not appropriate, but if the specific activity or facility existed at the time of establishment of the protected area, it is normally appropriate for it to continue  
N/A Not applicable

<sup>20</sup> The management of black bear hunting will be consistent with outcomes of negotiations between the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia. If required, changes will be reflected in amendments to this management plan.

<sup>21</sup> Except for deep water culture within Armentierres Channel.

<sup>22</sup> The guide outfitting certificate is owned by the Council of the Haida Nation. There will be no commercial black bear hunting.

# Appendix 2 – Heritage Special Feature Sites



# Daawuuxusda Management Plan

**Approved by:**



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April Churchill  
Vice President of the Haida Nation

July 29, 2011

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Date



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Brian Bawtinheimer  
Director, Parks Planning & Management Branch  
BC Parks

August 2, 2011

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Date

Back Cover Photo: Alan Wilson

