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# Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy

## Management Plan

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February 2016



Taku River Tlingit  
First Nation



BC Parks

*Cover artwork: Wayne Carlick*

## Foreword

Tlingit Elders teach their people to work respectfully with all those who come to Taku River Tlingit traditional territory, to find ways to work together with respect and harmony. This conservancy management plan is part of the on-going collaboration between the Taku River Tlingit First Nation and the Province of British Columbia to sustainably manage the lands and resources of Tlingit territory through mutual respect and understanding.

*Wóoshtin wudidaa* (the Atlin Taku Land Use Plan) set the stage for the Tlingit vision for a connected network of protected areas to be realized. These protected areas were identified to: protect important Tlingit cultural sites and landscapes; ensure continuation of Tlingit *khustiyyh* (way of life); sustain biological diversity and important wildlife habitats; and protect landscapes and places of importance for recreation and tourism.

The Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy is an important part of Tlingit *Tlatsini* – the network of “places that make us strong.” We invite you to read and understand the importance of this place to the Tlingit people, and to others who make this region their home.

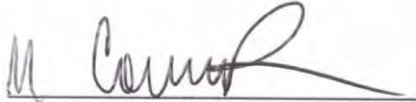
We also invite you to explore and enjoy Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy, and take part in conserving and protecting its resources for future generations.

*Gunalcheesh* / Thank you with respect



# Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy Management Plan

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to guide the management of Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi<sup>1</sup> Conservancy. This management plan:

- articulates the key features and values of the conservancy;
- identifies the types and levels of management activities;
- determines the appropriate levels of use and development;
- establishes the long-term vision and management objectives to be met; and,
- responds to current and predicted future threats and opportunities by defining a set of management strategies.

## 1.2 Planning Area

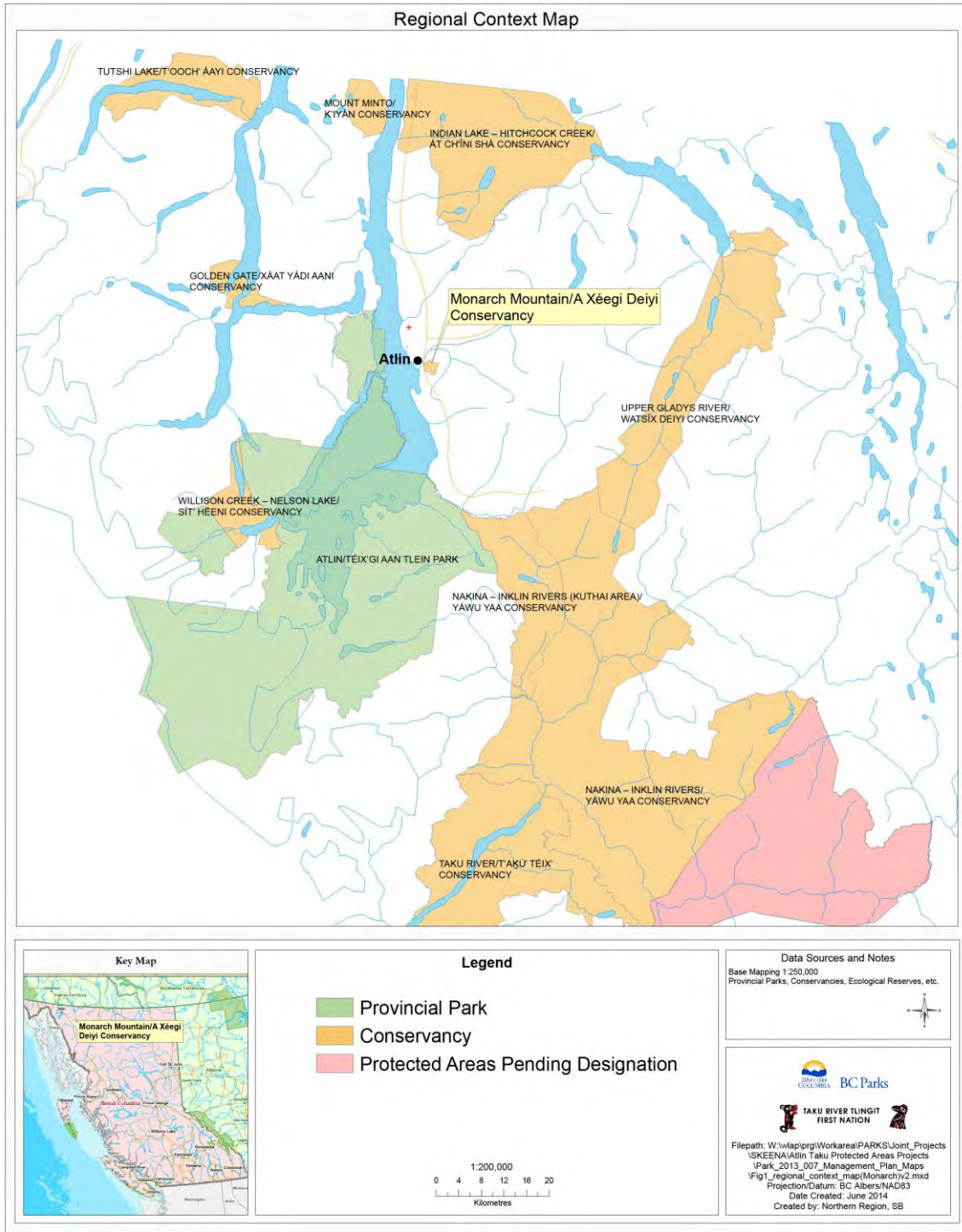
The Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy is located in the northwest corner of British Columbia, immediately southeast of the town of Atlin and within the traditional territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation. The conservancy is 424 hectares in size and protects the western slopes and the plateau of Monarch Mountain. Access to the conservancy is 3.7 kilometres south on Warm Bay Road where a vehicle pull-out and trailhead marks the beginning of the Monarch Mountain trail. The conservancy boundary is approximately 1 kilometre up the trail.

A regional context map is provided in Figure 1.



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<sup>1</sup> “A Xéegi Deiyi” is pronounced “A-hee-ged day”.



**Figure 1: Regional Context Map**

## 1.3 Legislative Framework

Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy was established on July 6, 2012, following the recommendations of the *Wóoshtin wudidaa*<sup>2</sup>/Atlin Taku Land Use Plan (*Wóoshtin wudidaa*). The *Wóoshtin wudidaa* was adopted by a Taku River Tlingit First Nation Joint Clan Resolution and jointly approved by the Province and the Taku River Tlingit First Nation in July 2011. The conservancy is named and described in Schedule E of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

Conservancies are set aside: (a) for the protection and maintenance of their biological diversity and natural environments; (b) for the preservation and maintenance of social, ceremonial and cultural uses of first nations; (c) for protection and maintenance of their recreational values; and, (d) to ensure that development or use of their natural resources occurs in a sustainable manner consistent with the purposes of (a), (b) and (c). Commercial logging, mining and hydroelectric power generation (other than local run-of-the-river projects) are prohibited in a conservancy.

## 1.4 Management Commitments and Agreements

### 1.4.1 *Wóoshtin wudidaa*: Atlin Taku Land Use Plan

The Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy was identified through a land use planning process conducted by the Taku River Tlingit First Nation and British Columbia under the 2007 *Framework Agreement Respecting Land Use and Wildlife Management*. The Framework Agreement land use planning process led to the identification of 13 new protected areas in the 2011 *Wóoshtin wudidaa*.

The management intent for the conservancies identified in the *Wóoshtin wudidaa* is to maintain Tlingit *Kustiyxh*<sup>3</sup> (way of life); protect and enhance cultural and heritage resources; protect and maintain biological diversity, natural environments and wilderness quality; and to provide recreational opportunities including hunting and fishing. A general set of objectives and implementation direction in the *Wóoshtin wudidaa* applies to all of the new protected areas and is provided in Appendix 1. Site specific direction was also provided for the Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy. This management plan is consistent with the direction in the *Wóoshtin wudidaa*.

### 1.4.2 *Wóoshtin Yan Too.aaf* Agreement

A government to government forum (G2G Forum) was established under the *Wóoshtin Yan Too.aaf* Land and Resource Management and Shared Decision Making Agreement between the Province of British Columbia and the Taku River Tlingit First Nation in 2011. This G2G Forum is the venue for strategic government to government

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<sup>2</sup> *Wóoshtin wudidaa* means “flowing together” like two rivers, and was chosen by Tlingit Elder Jackie Williams. The title acknowledges the strengthened relationship between the Taku River Tlingit First Nation and British Columbia.

<sup>3</sup> Tlingit *Khustiyxh*, or way of life, is defined in the *Wóoshtin wudidaa*: Atlin Taku Land Use Plan.

dialogue and interaction on land and resource matters including guiding the implementation of the *Wóoshtin wudidaa*.

To assist with the implementation of the *Wóoshtin wudidaa* and the commitments in the *Wóoshtin Yan Too.aat* agreement, the G2G Forum established a Protected Area Working Group (PAWG). The PAWG is co-chaired by the Province and the Taku River Tlingit First Nation to develop collaborative management plans for all protected areas in the *Wóoshtin wudidaa*.

## **1.5 Relationship with Communities**

The community of Atlin provides important services to conservancy visitors and conservancy management activities. The Taku River Tlingit First Nation and BC Parks staff will continue to work cooperatively with the Atlin community to undertake stewardship activities and promote community support for the conservancy.

## **1.6 Management Planning Process**

This management planning process was conducted collaboratively between the Taku River Tlingit First Nation and BC Parks.

Prior to the official start of the management planning process for the Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy, a Recreation Inventory Study was conducted in March 2012 to inform future management planning processes for protected areas identified in the *Wóoshtin wudidaa*. A key component of the study was a public open house held in Atlin. This open house was intended to identify public recreation interests in the proposed new conservancies and Atlin/Téix'gi Aan Tlein Park. This information was incorporated into the background information for the Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy management planning process.

The first phase of the management planning process occurred between August 2012 and February 2013. This phase involved collecting background information, obtaining key stakeholder input, and conducting ecosystem and cultural heritage assessments.

The second phase of the management planning process occurred between March 2013 and November 2013. This phase involved BC Parks and the Taku River Tlingit First Nation drafting the management plan and obtaining public input to the draft plan.

The third phase of the management planning process occurred between December 2013 and November 2015. This phase involved incorporating feedback from public input into the final management plan and obtaining the necessary approvals.

## 2 Values and Roles of the Conservancy

### 2.1 Significance in the Protected Areas System

Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy is an important component of the Taku River Tlingit *Tlatsini*<sup>4</sup> vision for a network of protected areas across the Taku River Tlingit First Nation territory.

The Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy also fulfills regionally important cultural heritage and recreation roles within the province's parks and protected areas system. Some of these include:

- Protecting a culturally significant and spiritual area for the Tlingit people; and,
- Providing a popular hiking opportunity for the Atlin community.

These values are described in more detail below.

### 2.2 Cultural Values

The Tlingit name "A Xéegi Deiyi" means the shoulder trail, which extends from the beach on Atlin Lake shoreline to the small lakes at the top of Monarch Mountain. According to Elder Jackie Williams, the rock outcropping is called shoulder rock because the shoulder is a strong part of the body, and this trail is a strong and powerful journey for people seeking healing and wellness. It is important to respect the privacy of people who travel to the two small lakes on the summit plateau for spiritual activities.

Three archaeological sites at the base of the "A Xéegi Deiyi" trail found just outside of the conservancy boundary highlight the significance of the area. These sites are at the mouth of Pine Creek (a key grayling gathering place) and are important spiritual sites for prayer and cleansing ceremonies. In addition to the trail and archaeological sites, documented Tlingit traditional uses include berry picking, hunting and trapping.

### 2.3 Natural Values

#### 2.3.1 Terrestrial Ecosystems

##### *Physiography & Climate*

Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy lies within the Yukon Southern Lakes Ecoregion. This ecoregion is characterized by a gently rolling upland, with wide valleys separating isolated mountains. In the past, this area was largely covered by glaciers that moved northward off the Boundary Ranges to the southwest where they came into contact with glaciers from the Skeena Mountains.

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<sup>4</sup> *Tlatsini* means "places that make us strong."

Within the Yukon Southern Lakes Ecoregion, Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy is found within the Teslin Plateau Ecosection. The climate of this ecosection is dry and subarctic with numerous strong rain shadows. The area can receive moist Pacific air moving over the mountains to the west and experience summertime surface heating off the many water bodies which creates convective currents resulting in localized showers, high humidity and cumulus clouds. During the winter and early spring, dense, cold Arctic air can invade the area, moving down over the mountains of the Yukon. This, in addition to the short daylight hours, can result in extremely cold temperatures and heavy cloud cover for extended periods of time.

## **Vegetation**

Vegetative communities are the basis for wildlife habitats and contribute to the cultural and recreational features in the conservancy. The dominant ecosystem in the Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy is the spruce-willow-birch shrublands. An area of Boreal White and Black Spruce also occurs on the lower slopes on the western side of the conservancy.

The Spruce-Willow-Birch zone (SWB) is the most northerly subalpine zone in British Columbia. The Spruce-Willow-Birch zone occupies the middle elevations ranging between 900 and 1500 metres in the north. Lower elevations of the SWB are generally forested with white spruce and subalpine fir trees, while higher elevations are scrub and parkland.

Common forest plant species in the SWB include Hornemann's willowherb, milky draba, smooth draba, Mount Sheldon butterweed, fragile sedge, whitish rush, arctic rush, Yukon lupine, arctic bladderpod and arctic dock.

The scrub/parkland of the SWB predominantly consists of scrub birch and willows such as Raup's willow. Other plant species include Alaskan sagebrush, tundra milk-vetch, curly sedge, fragile sedge, northern paintbrush, gray-leaved marsh felwort, Edwards wallflower, five-leaved cinquefoil, northern false asphodel, Taimyr campion, and various draba species.

Currently, there are no documented occurrences of plant and ecological communities at risk within Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy.



## **Wildlife**

Wildlife diversity in the Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy is limited by the harsh climate typical of the spruce-willow-birch ecosystem. These high elevation plateaus are not highly used in winter. However, a large variety of wildlife species, including ungulates, large carnivores, small mammals, raptors, song birds, and a host of invertebrate species, use the area in the snow-free months.

Habitat suitability mapping has identified a high amount of Caribou and a moderate amount of Stone's Sheep summer habitat. Large carnivores such as Grey Wolf, American Black Bear and Grizzly Bear may be present. Smaller animals that may

occupy this area include Wolverine, Red Squirrel, Fisher, Collared Pika, and Pacific Martin.

The Caribou that may be found in the Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy belong to the Atlin herd of the northern mountain population. This population is blue-listed in British Columbia and designated as a Special Concern under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA).

Another provincially blue-listed wildlife species that may be found in the Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy is the Grizzly Bear. Grizzly Bears are usually solitary opportunistic omnivores that require expansive seasonal and annual home ranges throughout a variety of habitats including low elevation forests and wetlands.

### **2.3.2 Aquatic Ecosystems**

Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy contains a number of small alpine and subalpine lakes. No fish observations have been recorded. The conservancy protects the headwaters of a number of small streams that flow into Atlin Lake.

## **2.4 Recreation and Tourism Values**

The primary recreation feature in the Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy is the Monarch Mountain Trail. This trail is a popular destination for nature and cultural appreciation and use, hiking and snowshoeing for local residents and visitors. Stunning views of Atlin Lake and the surrounding area are seen from the plateau. The Monarch Mountain Trail is the most popular and widely-used trail in the Atlin region.



## **2.5 Other Conservancy Attributes**

The entire conservancy is within one trapline territory and one guide outfitter territory. Due to the size and location of the conservancy, use has been minimal.

## 3 Management Direction

### 3.1 Ecosystem-Based Management

Ecosystem-based management is a holistic approach to managing natural values that integrates ecological, social and economic considerations into management decisions. There are many definitions of ecosystem-based management; common among them is that a landscape level approach<sup>5</sup> is used to sustain ecosystem processes by incorporating the best existing ecological knowledge along with human considerations (e.g., social and economic considerations such as protecting facilities and adjacent commercial forests from wildfire). The ecosystem-based management approach used in Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy will be based on the following set of principles:

- Ecosystems are maintained and conserved within a dynamic and changing environment.
- Ecological boundaries are considered when making management decisions.
- Ecological, social, economic, and traditional knowledge considerations are integrated recognizing that humans are part of the ecosystem.
- Inter-agency cooperation is essential given that ecosystems extend beyond jurisdictional boundaries.

### 3.2 Vision

**Tlingit *khustiyxh*, or way of life, depends on a close relationship with the land. The Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy will remain as Tlingit ancestors knew it and continue to provide sustenance and spiritual values for present and future generations.**

**The Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy provides hiking and nature viewing opportunities for the local community and tourists.**

### 3.3 Management Objectives and Strategies

The *Wóoshtin wudidaa* provides a general set of objectives and management direction that apply within all protected areas established as a result of the land use plan (See Appendix A). The *Wóoshtin wudidaa* also provides a set of site specific implementation direction for Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy. This includes:

- Maintain non-motorized recreational use accessed from the west side of Monarch Mountain.
- Establish the plateau of Monarch Mountain as a non-motorized recreation area.

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<sup>5</sup> A landscape level approach is one that considers ecological processes at the landscape scale such as climate change adaptation, natural disturbances, the movement of organisms, evolution, and ecosystem development.



- Maintain the visual quality from the Atlin townsite.
- Maintain the Monarch Mountain hiking trail.
- Existing tenures<sup>6</sup>, including licences and leases, that are eligible to continue under the *Park Act* will be grandfathered into the newly established protected area.

The following sections summarize specific objectives and strategies for Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy, consistent with the *Wóoshtin wudidaa*.

### 3.3.1 Cultural Heritage Management

#### **Context, Issues & Opportunities**

A key management intent for all protected areas in the *Wóoshtin wudidaa* is to protect and enhance cultural and heritage resources, and maintain Tlingit *khustiyxh*. *Wóoshtin wudidaa* identifies “category C” Tlingit cultural sites to show cultural landscapes within the protected areas that have special significance to the Tlingits. A “category C” cultural site was identified to recognize the special significance of the “A Xéegi Deiyi” trail and the small alpine lakes on the plateau. This trail largely follows the route of the present day Monarch Mountain Trail as far as the summit plateau (see section 5.4 and figure 2).

Specific issues and opportunities within Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy include:

- Some cultural heritage features, archaeological sites and traditional use locations are documented, but information gathering is ongoing. Where there is limited information, it is difficult to ensure that cultural heritage values are protected.
- Some allowable land uses within the conservancy may cause unintended disturbance of Tlingit cultural activities at the small alpine lakes on the Monarch Mountain plateau.
- Highlighting the aboriginal history and importance of the conservancy to visitors.
- Protecting the integrity of the “category C” Tlingit cultural site while maintaining opportunities for compatible uses consistent with the management intent for Tlingit cultural sites.

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<sup>6</sup> Existing tenures compatible with the *Park Act* include the trapping tenure and the guide outfitter tenure.

## Objectives and Strategies

Management Objective	Management Strategy
<p>A. Protect and encourage respect for Tlingit archaeological, cultural heritage, and traditional use sites, activities and resources.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As resources allow, support historical and ethnographic research, cultural heritage field mapping, and inventory programs where knowledge gaps exist.</li> <li>2. Apply Cultural Zoning to the “category C” Tlingit cultural site as shown on Figure 2.</li> <li>3. Prohibit the removal or alteration of Tlingit cultural material or property unless agreed to by BC Parks and Taku River Tlingit First Nation.</li> <li>4. Develop and install signage to prevent impacts to cultural sites, material and/or property, as appropriate.</li> <li>5. Support opportunities for Tlingit representatives to participate in archaeological and/or cultural research.</li> <li>6. As resources allow, support efforts to establish and implement a Tlingit guardian program to monitor the condition and use of archaeological, cultural heritage and traditional use sites.</li> </ol>
<p>B. Maintain opportunities for the exercise of Tlingit <i>khustiyxh</i> (way of life).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Support efforts to provide cultural programs (e.g. teaching or demonstrating ceremonies of traditional, spiritual or religious significance).</li> <li>8. Minimize impacts by encouraging hikers to respect a 200 metre setback from people undertaking cultural practices at the small lakes north of Monarch Mountain peak.</li> </ol>

Management Objective	Management Strategy
C. Interpret and share (where appropriate) Tlingit culture.	9. Ensure that conservancy publications, website, etc. provide information to the public about, and promote respect for, Tlingit cultural values and resources in Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy.  10. Develop signage at the Monarch Mountain trailhead highlighting the conservancy and its cultural, natural and recreational values.

### 3.3.2 Natural Values Management

#### Context, Issues and Opportunities

Another key management intent for all protected areas in the *Wóoshtin wudidaa* is to protect the diversity of natural environments, including wildlife habitat values, riparian and aquatic ecosystems, and wilderness quality. Specific issues and opportunities within Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy include:

- Plant and ecological community lists for the area are identified broadly and further refinement is necessary to understand what is found within the conservancy.
- Focal species habitat mapping was modelled at a small scale and further refinement is necessary to better understand the habitat and use within the conservancy (particularly for Caribou, sheep, and Mountain Goat habitat).
- A mineral tenure is excluded from the conservancy. If this tenure lapses, the *Wóoshtin wudidaa* indicates that the excluded area will be recommended for inclusion in the conservancy.

#### Climate Change Considerations

The climate trend in the Atlin Taku area is typified by warmer temperatures and more precipitation. The increase in precipitation occurs throughout the year with a higher increase in winter and summer. The increase in temperature is most notable in winter months. Climate change in northwestern B.C. has many major implications on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity across all scales (genetic, species, ecosystems, as well as the interactions among them) (Pojar, 2009). What this means for the species and ecosystems in the Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy is not fully understood. The combination of all protected areas in the *Wóoshtin wudidaa* and in neighbouring areas and other resource management direction in the *Wóoshtin wudidaa* assists in providing ecological connectivity within and beyond the plan area and provides places where nature can adapt to a changing climate.

## Objectives and Strategies

Management Objective	Management Strategy
D. Protect the diversity of natural environments, including wildlife habitat values, riparian and aquatic ecosystems, and wilderness quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Manage recreation and other allowable uses to avoid impacts on important wildlife habitat.</li> <li>12. Evaluate the presence, distribution and threat of introduced species and undertake management initiatives as needed.</li> <li>13. If mineral tenure 389658 lapses, recommend that the excluded portion of the tenure be included in the conservancy.</li> </ul>
E. Increase knowledge of Caribou and Stone's Sheep habitat and use, and rare ecological communities and species at risk or of management concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14. As resources allow, undertake field studies to determine the presence and distribution of rare ecological communities and species at risk or of management concern.</li> <li>15. Liaise with agencies and First Nations involved in wildlife management to identify research, inventory, and monitoring needs in and around the conservancy.</li> </ul>
F. Gain a better understanding of the impact of climate change on species and ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16. Support programs designed to monitor environmental change and impacts.</li> <li>17. Set up a BC Parks long-term ecological monitoring alpine plot on Monarch Mountain plateau.</li> <li>18. Identify species and ecosystems sensitive to climate change and initiate adaptive management practices and processes if required.</li> </ul>

### 3.3.3 Respectful Use of Natural Resources

#### Recreation and Tourism Management

##### Context, Issues & Opportunities

Another key management intent for all protected areas in the *Wóoshtin wudidaa* is to provide recreational opportunities including fishing and hunting. Specific issues and opportunities within Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy include:

- The Monarch Mountain trailhead and a portion of the trail is located outside of the conservancy boundary and requires interagency cooperation.
- Confirming allowable uses within the conservancy consistent with the site-specific implementation direction in the *Wóoshtin wudidaa*.
- The upper one kilometre of the trail to the peak is impacted with braiding and is not well defined for users.

### Objectives and Strategies

Management Objective	Management Strategy
<p>G. Manage recreation activities in a manner that maintains a largely undisturbed natural environment and is consistent with the management intent for all protected areas in the <i>Wóoshtin wudidaa</i>.</p>	<p>19. Ensure recreation activities are conducted in accordance with all access, natural value and cultural heritage management direction provided in this management plan.</p> <p>20. Work cooperatively with other agencies to manage the entire Monarch Mountain Trail from Atlin Lake and the trailhead on Warm Bay Road.</p> <p>21. Clearly define a single trail to the peak.</p> <p>22. Prohibit motorized use within the conservancy (see also Appendix 2: Appropriate Use Table).</p> <p>23. Prohibit commercial helicopter landings in the Cultural Zone.</p> <p>24. Authorize no trace backcountry camping in the Natural Environment Zone. Should impacts from camping show a need for a designated site, establish a backcountry campsite on the summit plateau in the Natural Environment Zone, subject to design guidelines and an impact assessment.</p>

### Registered Trapping Management

#### Context, Issues & Opportunities

The provision of trapping opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations is one of the overall objectives for all protected areas in the *Wóoshtin wudidaa*.

## Objectives and Strategies

Management Objective	Management Strategy
H. Maintain opportunities for registered trapping in the conservancy in a manner consistent with the management intent for all protected areas in the <i>Wóoshtin wudidaa</i> .	<p>25. Recognize registered trapping as a legitimate use in the conservancy pursuant to all laws and statutes.</p> <p>26. Ensure trapping activities are conducted in accordance with all access, natural values and cultural heritage management direction provided in this management plan.</p>

## 3.4 Zoning Plan

This management plan uses zoning to assist in the planning and management of the Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy. In general terms, zoning divides an area into logical units to apply consistent management objectives for protection of protected area values. The zones reflect the intended land use, existing patterns of use, the degree of human use desired, and the level of management and development required. Zoning provides visitors and managers with a quick visual representation and appreciation on how a particular protected area is managed.

The Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy has two zones. The objective for each zone and a brief discussion on the size, zone boundary and management intent is described below. A zoning map is provided in Figure 2.

### Cultural Zone

#### Objective

To protect the integrity of Tlingit cultural features and resources within the Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy.

#### Description

This zone corresponds with the “category C” Tlingit cultural site from *Wóoshtin wudidaa* and includes a portion of the Monarch Mountain Trail and the small lakes on the summit plateau. The Cultural Zone is 121 hectares in size and makes up 29% of the conservancy.

This zone is oriented to protect cultural values and intensive traditional use areas. Visitor access to the small lakes on the summit plateau may be restricted while cultural activities are being undertaken.

Compatible recreational activities that do not conflict with, or detract from, the cultural values are permissible in this zone. Examples generally allowed include nature and cultural appreciation and use, hiking, hunting, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

Facility development related to cultural activities such as a sweat lodge may occur in this zone. Recreation facilities other than the trail and signage will not be allowed.

## **Natural Environment Zone<sup>7</sup>**

### **Objective**

To protect scenic and cultural values, to provide backcountry recreation opportunities and to maintain opportunities for the exercise of Tlingit *khustiyxh* (way of life) in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

### **Description**

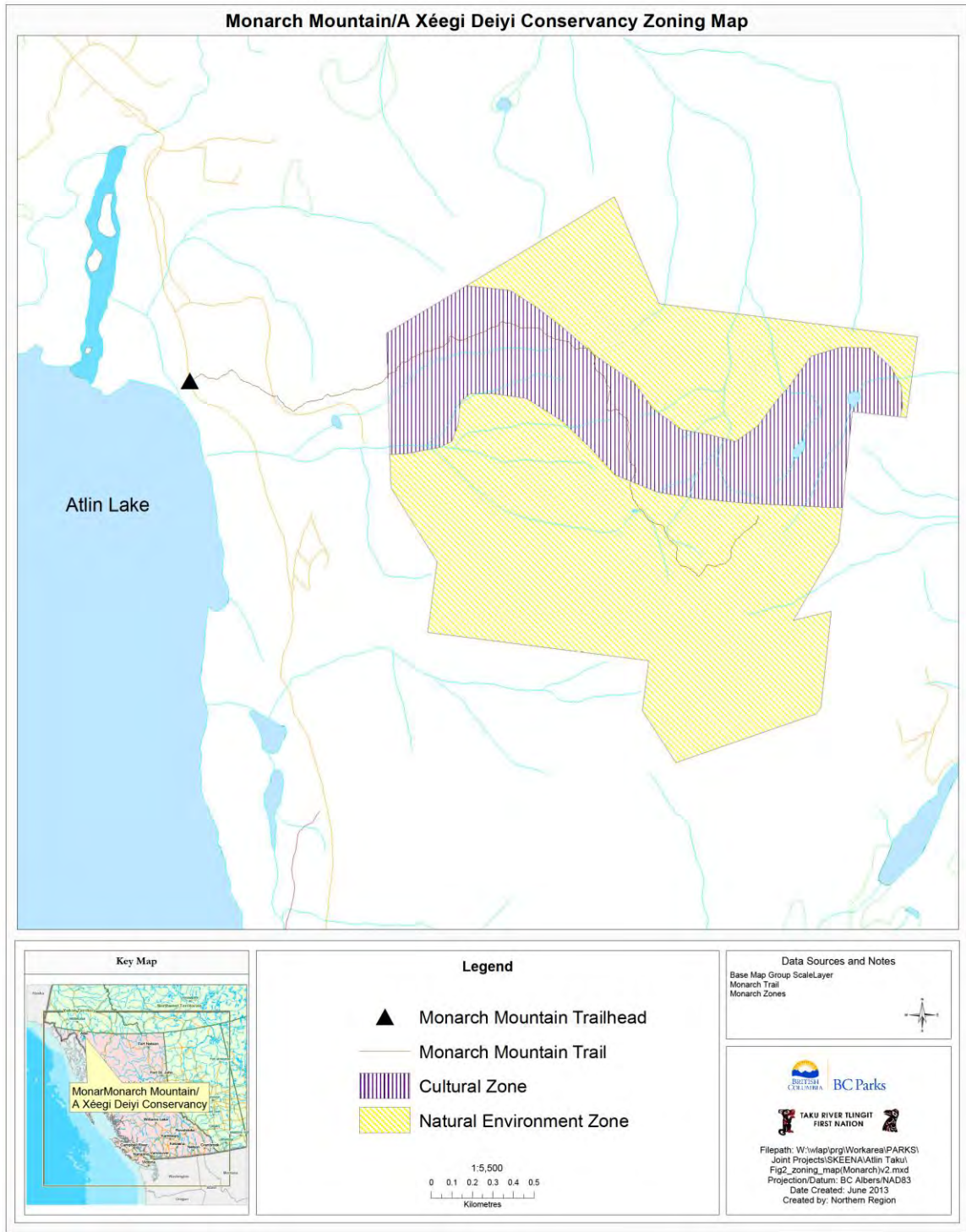
This zone is 303 hectares in size and makes up 71% of the conservancy.

This zone is oriented to maintain a natural environment to support Tlingit *khustiyxh* (way of life) and high quality nature-oriented recreation experiences. Examples of nature-oriented recreation activities include nature and cultural appreciation and use, hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

Facility development will be limited to structures to support information signage and limited backcountry camping. Facilities must be visually compatible with the natural setting.

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<sup>7</sup> This zone has the same intent as the Nature Recreation Zone in the BC Parks Zoning Framework.



**Figure 2: Zoning Map**

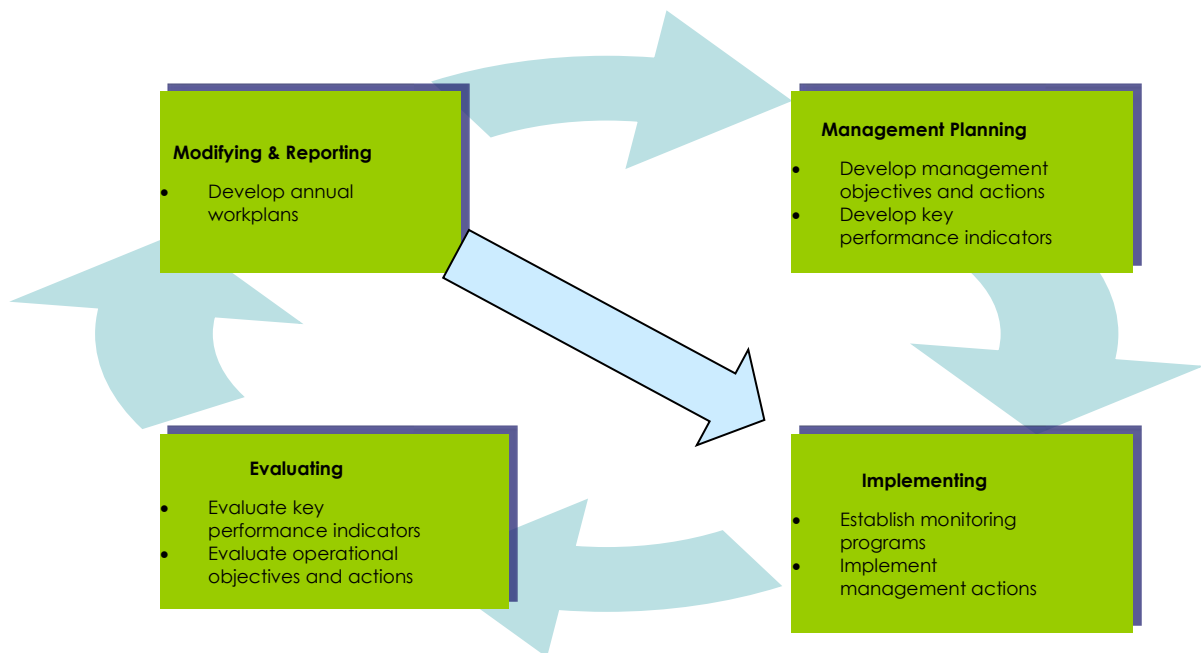


## 4 Plan Implementation

### 4.1 Key Performance Measures

Key performance measures based on the concept of adaptive management will guide BC Parks and Taku River Tlingit First Nation in the implementation of the Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy Management Plan. Priority management objectives will be monitored and evaluated in an adaptive management process. The use of performance measures also provides a mechanism to report out on operational activities. As such, the performance measures table in Appendix 3 will be used to track the status of the priority objectives in the plan.

#### 4.1.1 Adaptive Management Process



### 4.2 Management Plan Review

The management plan will be reviewed as required by BC Parks and Taku River Tlingit First Nation. 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; address some error or omission; or, address a new proposal. 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.

## 5 References

Pojar, J. 2009. Climate Change and Land Use Planning in the Atlin-Taku Area.

## Appendix 1: Management Direction for All Protected Areas from *Wóoshtin wudidaa*: Atlin Taku Land Use Plan

### Objectives for All Protected Areas

1. Protect the diversity of natural environments, including wildlife habitat values, riparian and aquatic ecosystems, salmon-bearing watersheds and wilderness quality.
2. Protect Tlingit cultural sites, features, and landscapes, and maintain opportunities for the practice of Tlingit *khustiyxh* (way of life), including the following:
  - Hunting, trapping and fishing;
  - Gathering traditional foods;
  - Gathering plants for medicinal and ceremonial purposes;
  - Cutting selected trees for ceremonial purposes;
  - Conducting, teaching or demonstrating ceremonies of traditional, spiritual or religious significance;
  - Seeking cultural or spiritual inspiration; and
  - Constructing and using shelters, such as camps and cabins.
3. Protect heritage resources and values associated with pioneer settlement and development.
4. Assist in providing ecological connectivity within and beyond the Plan Area.
5. Provide places where nature can adapt to a changing climate.
6. Maintain natural conditions for the benefit, recreation, education and enjoyment of present and future generations, including opportunities for hunting, trapping and fishing.
7. Enable sustainable economic development activity consistent with Tlingit social, ceremonial and cultural uses, and where appropriate to the zoning and resource management direction for each protected area.

### Implementation Direction for All Protected Areas

- a) Management emphasis will be placed on maintaining the ecosystems, cultural and recreational resource values and natural features for which the protected areas were established.
- b) Activities within protected areas will be managed with the intent to avoid impacts on First Nations cultural values and uses, including Tlingit Cultural Sites identified on Map 14 in the Land Use Plan.
- c) Activities within protected areas will be managed with the intent to avoid impacts on wildlife and fish habitat, wilderness aesthetics and visual quality.
- d) Commercial logging, mineral exploration and development, major hydroelectric or wind power generation and development, oil and gas development, and other similar types of industrial uses are not allowed in protected areas.
- e) Small scale hydroelectric and wind power generation is potentially acceptable for facilities such as cabins and lodges within protected areas, where consistent with the values and resource management direction for the protected areas.
- f) Development of new roads is not allowed within protected areas, except as noted in Section 8.5 in the Land Use Plan (area specific implementation direction shown below).
- g) The mineral tenures listed in appendix G in the Land Use Plan will be excluded from the protected areas. If these tenures expire, the areas will be recommended for inclusion in the protected Areas.
- h) Existing tenures including licences and leases that are eligible to continue under the *Park Act* will be grandfathered into newly established protected areas where consistent with the resource management direction for that protected area.
- i) Protected area management plans are to be developed collaboratively with the benefit of First Nations, public, and inter-agency participation. Protected area management plans may further define management objectives specific to each protected area, as well as acceptable uses and levels of use, zoning, and other strategies to minimize conflicts and help to ensure the integrity of important protected area values.
- j) Trapping, guide outfitting and commercial recreation are acceptable activities within protected areas, except as noted in Section 8.5 of the Land Use Plan (area specific implementation direction shown below). Further specific resource management direction for these activities may be provided in protected area management plans.
- k) Hunting, fishing and non-commercial recreation are acceptable activities within protected areas, except as noted below in Section 8.5 of the Land Use Plan (area specific implementation direction shown below).

## Appendix 2: Appropriate Uses Table

The following table lists existing and potential future uses in the Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of uses that may be considered in this protected area.

The table is provided to summarize the uses that the management planning process has confirmed are not appropriate in Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy. The table also gives a general indication of the management direction for potentially appropriate uses. Appropriate uses may be geographically restricted (i.e., only allowed in certain areas of Monarch Mountain/A Xéegi Deiyi Conservancy) or are only appropriate at certain times of the year. The table must be reviewed in conjunction with the other sections of the management plan, including the role descriptions, vision, objectives and strategies.

Appropriate Use Table Legend		
<b>N</b>	<b>Not an appropriate use</b>	The use is not appropriate in the indicated zone. If the use currently exists but the management planning process has determined that the use is no longer appropriate in all or part of the protected area, the management plan will include strategies for ending the activity (e.g., phasing out, closing).
<b>Y</b>	<b>May be an appropriate use</b>	Some level or extent of this use may be appropriate in the zone indicated. The management plan may provide guidance on the appropriate level of use and may address specific restrictions or planned enhancements (e.g. capacity, designated areas for a particular activity, party size, time of year, etc.).  For new or expanded uses, this symbol indicates that the use <u>may be considered</u> for further evaluation. The appropriateness of some activities may not be confirmed until a further assessment (e.g., BC Parks Impact Assessment Process) or evaluation process (e.g., park use permit adjudication) is completed.
<b>N/A</b>	<b>Not an applicable use</b>	It is not feasible for the use to take place in this zone (e.g., mooring buoys in a terrestrial zone).

Activities	Cultural Zone	Natural Environment Zone	Comments
Aircraft Landing/Takeoff	N	Y	As per strategy 23.
Camping (designated sites)	N	Y	As per strategy 24.
Camping (undesigned sites)	N	Y	As per strategy 24.
Commercial Filming	Y	Y	Pursuant to s. 8(6) and 9(6.1) of the <i>Park Act</i> .
Dog Sledding	Y	Y	
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N	N	
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N	N	
Hang Gliding/Para Gliding Launching	Y	Y	
Heli-Skiing	N	N	
Hiking	Y	Y	
Horse and Pack Animal Use	N	N	
Hunting	Y	Y	
Land-based Mechanized Activity (e.g., mountain biking)	N	N	
Land-based Motorized Activity (e.g., 4x4, motorcycles, ATV-not including snowmobiles, snowcats or aircraft landings)	N	N	
Skiing (downhill groomed and/or tracked skiing)	N	N	
Skiing (cross country and backcountry)	Y	Y	
Snowmobiling	N	N	
Snowcat Use	N	N	
Trapping	Y	Y	As per strategies 25 and 26.

Facilities/Infrastructure	Cultural Zone	Natural Environment Zone	Comments
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	N	N	
Cabins, Huts and Shelters (as defined in the Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy)	N	N	
Campgrounds (vehicle accessed)	N	N	
Communication Sites and Towers	N	N	
Designated Camping Sites (vehicle accessed)	N	N	
Designated Camping Sites (not vehicle accessed)	N	Y	As per strategy 24.
Fish Stocking and Enhancement Infrastructure	N	N	
Hydro Electric Projects and Infrastructure (local run of river)	N	N	
Interpretive Signage	Y	Y	
Lodges (as defined in the Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy)	N	N	
Log Storage and Dump Sites	N	N	
Parking Lots	N	N	
Picnic Areas (vehicle accessed)	N	N	
Roads	N	N	
Ski Facilities (vehicle accessed and serviced)	N	N	
Trails	Y	Y	As per strategies 20 and 21.
Utility Corridor Infrastructure	N	N	
Visitor Information / Interpretation Buildings	N	N	
Water Control Structures	N	N	

## Appendix 3: Performance Measures Table

Objective	Indicator	Target	Status
<b>Cultural Heritage Management</b>			
A. Protect and encourage respect for Tlingit archaeological, cultural heritage, and traditional use sites, activities and resources.	Condition of cultural sites.	No human-caused impacts to cultural sites, particularly the plateau lakes.	
B. Maintain opportunities for the exercise of Tlingit <i>khustiyxh</i> (way of life).	Exercise of Tlingit <i>khustiyxh</i> .	No reported impediments to Tlingit <i>khustiyxh</i> caused by conservancy recreation and management activities.	
C. Interpret and share (where appropriate) Tlingit culture and the pioneer settlement and development history.	Amount and type of information available to the public.	Increase information available to the public.	
<b>Natural Values Management</b>			
F. Increase knowledge of Caribou and Stone's Sheep habitat and use, and rare ecological communities and species at risk or of management concern.	Research, inventory, and monitoring activities.	Complete research, inventory, and monitoring activities.	
G. Gain a better understanding of the impact of climate change on species and ecosystems.	Research and monitoring activities.	Complete research and monitoring activities.	
<b>Respectful Use of Natural Resources</b>			
H. Manage recreation activities in a manner that maintains a largely undisturbed natural environment and is consistent with the management intent for all protected areas in the <i>Wóoshtin wudidaa</i> .	Amount of mechanized and motorized activity in the conservancy.	No reported mechanized and motorized use of the conservancy.	