Tā Ch’ilā Park [a.k.a. Boya Lake Park] & Ne’āh’ Conservancy

Management Plan

2025

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Ministry of Environment and Parks

Vision Statement

Tā Ch'ilā Park [a.k.a. Boya Lake Park] was established to conserve one of the most significant esker and kettle glacier deposits in northern British Columbia. The park serves to protect important wetlands, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities for travellers of Highway 37, with lakefront campsites and interpretation features that allow users to appreciate and learn about the cultural, historic, and natural values of the area.

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Adjacent to Tā Ch'ilā Park, is the Ne'āh' Conservancy. The conservancy protects an area largely untouched by human disturbance with important habitat for Moose, Grizzly Bear, Caribou, and many other species. The conservancy supports remote wilderness recreation opportunities.

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Both Tā Ch'ilā Park and the Ne'āh' Conservancy are part of Dene Kēyeh (Kaska Ancestral Territory). Protecting the core Dene Kēyeh lands that contain spiritual, social, and cultural attributes in recognition of Kaska Law is an important path to reconciliation. Common goals are that Tā Ch'ilā Park and the Ne'āh' Conservancy be managed to protect the Kaska Dena way of life, their cultural sites and landscapes; that biological diversity and important wildlife habitat are sustained, and landscapes are protected for sustainable recreation and tourism.

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Foreword by Kaska Dena First Nations

*"…Since human beings have inhabited this landscape, Kaska Dena have been here. As long as human beings inhabit this landscape, Kaska Dena will remain here. Our occupancy of this land establishes both our right and our responsibility to ensure this land remains intact and able to support our people and culture." (*DKI - Ne'āh' Brochure)

The Kaska traditional territory is 24 million hectares and includes portions of three provinces and territories (British Columbia, Yukon, and Northwest Territories). The majestic northern boreal forest regions of interior British Columbia and the Yukon have some of the continent's most expansive and impressive wilderness areas, with a great diversity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Extensive mountain ranges and wild rivers frame pristine boreal forest watersheds. Large free ranging populations of Woodland Caribou, Moose, Stone Sheep, a full suite of large carnivores, and hundreds of thousands of migrating neo-tropical songbirds and waterfowl make their home in these diverse boreal landscapes.

The health of Kaska culture requires large intact landscapes which support healthy populations of traditional plants and animals. Furthermore, a central facet of our identity requires large unfragmented landscapes for our families to be on. This is where our traditional knowledge is passed on from parent to child, from generation to generation. As well, our physical health requires continued access to healthy wildlife populations as a key component of the diet to which we are accustomed and adapted.

Permanently protected areas and parks can play an important role in ensuring the long-term health of First Nations cultures, and thus the Kaska are supportive of the concept of protected areas as a mechanism to protect our cultural interests.

Tā Ch'ilā Park

Adjacent to the northern part of the Ne'āh' and separated by the Dease River, Tā Ch'ilā is an area of great social, cultural and spiritual importance to the Kaska Dena, who have called it their home for generations. This area, rich in wildlife, presented a good place for a rest during long trips to and from the Ne'āh'.

The Kaska translation of Tā Ch'ilā is *'like a blanket full of holes'* which describes the area when viewed from above, due to the number of small lakes and inlets that make up the area. This area was an important area to the Kaska Dena as it connects to the Ne'āh', via the crossing that was used to ford the Dease River at its shallowest point. These wetlands provided habitat for Moose and Caribou and fish that Kaska relied on seasonally and continue to use today.

Ne'āh' Conservancy

A long north-south range, spanning 40 kilometres, the Kaska name for the Horseranch, Ne'āh', means *'laying down long/long stick walking'*. This is thought to reflect the sprawling alpine

benches on the mountain range that allows for easy walking of the length of the conservancy. The Elders have spoken of the area as being a place to go when times were lean because it was a place food could be reliably found. The Ne'āh' is an area of great cultural and spiritual importance to the Kaska Dena-who have called it their home for generations. This area, rich in wildlife, presented a good place for a rest during long trips on the Mcdame -*Duna Za* and *Atse Dena* - *Tunna* trails.

The Kaska Dena have worked for over thirty years to protect the Ne'āh' Conservancy and they were successful through collaborative efforts with the Province of British Columbia. It was achieved through mutual respect and understanding of the spiritual, cultural, social, and environmental values the Kaska attribute to the Ne'āh'. It is also the common goal to manage the conservancy to protect important Kaska Dena cultural sites and landscapes; sustain biological diversity and wildlife habitats and protect landscapes for recreation and tourism. Protecting the conservancy supports the Kaska Dena way of life.

The B.C. Government has passed legislation to bring the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into provincial law. This new legislation – the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* – serves as the legislative framework for reconciliation, recognizing the constitutional and human rights of Indigenous peoples and aligning B.C.'s laws with the internationally recognized standards of the U.N. Declaration, as well as the legal rights of Indigenous peoples.

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"One Land, One People"

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Plan Highlights

Both Tā Ch'ilā Park (a.k.a. Boya Lake Park) [hereafter referred to as Tā Ch'ilā Park in this document] and Ne'āh' Conservancy are within the Kaska ancestral territory, which is an area of cultural, sacred, social, and environmental significance to the Kaska Dena.

The plan focuses on objectives and strategies identified in the Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan (D-LSRMP) and the Kaska Dena strategic land use reports, including:

- protecting ancestral and current Kaska Dena ways of life, harvesting and hunting areas and activities, and associated cultural, social, economic, and environmental values;
- protecting these areas for present and future use by both Kaska Dena and the public;
- maintaining the ecological integrity of the park and conservancy, including the protection of at-risk plant communities, ecosystems, wildlife species and the special kettle and esker glacial landscape with the spectacular, turquoise-coloured lakes;
- increasing the awareness of the Dena nan yé dāh (land guardians – DNY) network, including their work monitoring allowable land uses/activities;
- protecting the wilderness values associated with key recreational activities and sites that, in turn, support opportunities, such as wildlife viewing and wilderness-based tourism; and,
- promoting the park as a regionally important destination for recreation opportunities including camping, swimming, hiking, and boating (canoe, small motor).

Table of Contents

Figures

Tables

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The Tā Ch'ilā Park [a.k.a. Boya Lake Park] and Ne'āh' Conservancy Management Plan has been jointly developed by the Kaska and BC Parks as part of the work identified in the Kaska - BC Strategic Engagement Agreement. A single management plan was prepared for both protected areas due to their adjacency, and similarities in their natural values, ecosystems, and stakeholders. This management plan sets out the long-term, strategic direction for both protected areas and provides guidance for how both Tā Ch'ilā Park and Ne'āh' Conservancy will be managed into the future. Unless otherwise stated, the contents of this plan apply to both the park and conservancy.

The completed management plan will be an operational tool that:

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

1.2 Planning Area

Tā Ch'ilā Park (4,597 hectares) and Ne'āh' Conservancy (233,304 hectares) are in northern British Columbia along the Stewart-Cassiar Highway (Hwy 37) near the community of Good Hope Lake (Figure 1). The park is bordered by the conservancy to the east and Highway 37 to the west; 150 Km north of Dease Lake/*Tine ah*[1], and 82 Km south of the Yukon / British Columbia border (Figure 2).

The park features one of the most iconic esker and kettle glacial deposition landscapes in northern British Columbia, which has resulted in it becoming one of the most significant destination and day use parks north of Dease Lake. One of these kettle glacial depositions (lakes) is Boya Lake, covering 572 hectares.

The conservancy includes an 'island' mountain range known as the Horseranch Range. The mountain range is the dominant feature of the conservancy landscape. The western foot of the range lies approximately 16 km east of the Stewart-Cassiar Highway (Highway 37) and the northern foot of the range is approximately 60 km from the Yukon border (Figure 1).

The north end of the conservancy consists of chains of lakes, eskers, and numerous rich and diverse wetlands. In the south end of the conservancy there is Deadwood Lake/ *Ah' dini su'eh* and Looncry Lake/*Tuezeh sah gheh*, which drain into the Red River/*Sihi* or *Ts eh Tueh* to the east of the mountain range,

[1] Kaska language names appear through out the document in *italics.* A full list of Kaska traditional place and wildlife names are included in Appendix B.

and then flow into the Turnagain River/*Gah Cho*. At the very south end of the conservancy is the Major Hart River/*Tsihe Tu* which drains into the Turnagain River/*Gah Cho*. Several Kaska Dena Indian Reserves are located on the Major Hart River/*Tsihe Tu* and near Horseranch Lake[2].

Where the conservancy borders the Dease River (northwest end of the conservancy), the boundary includes the portion of the river that lies to the east of the centerline. Park and conservancy boundaries, where they border the river (the entire east boundary of the park, and that portion of the west side of the conservancy that borders the park), are shared down the middle of the Dease River (Figure 2).

The nearest community is Good Hope Lake/*Kidizah,* approximately 20 km southwest of the Range, and other nearby communities include Dease Lake/*Tine ah* 125 km to the southwest, Lower Post/*D'aelyu'* 65 km to the northeast and Watson Lake/*Tets'élūgé'* 80 km to the north.

[2] Horseranch Lake was noted as a Goal 2 Study Area in the Prince Rupert Protected Area (PRPA) Strategy for having 'special features' (elements which are rare, scarce or unique). Horseranch Lake was designated for its outstanding esker formations, lakes and rich wetlands (orchids). Written in 1996, the PRPA is a technical assessment of the conservation, recreation, and cultural heritage priorities within the Prince Rupert Inter-Agency Management Committee Region.

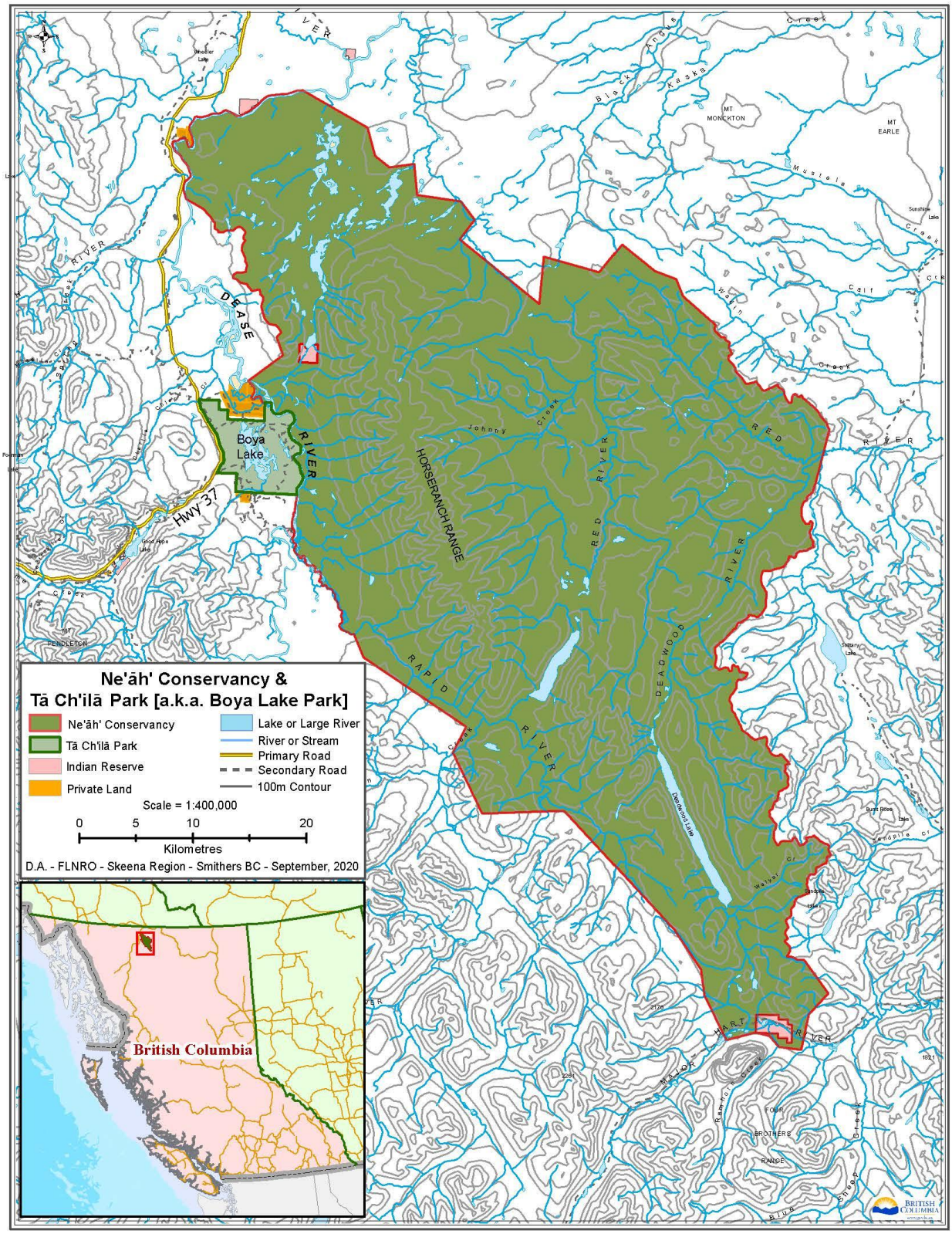

Figure 1. Location of Ne'āh' Conservancy and Tā Ch'ilā Park [a.k.a. Boya Lake Park]

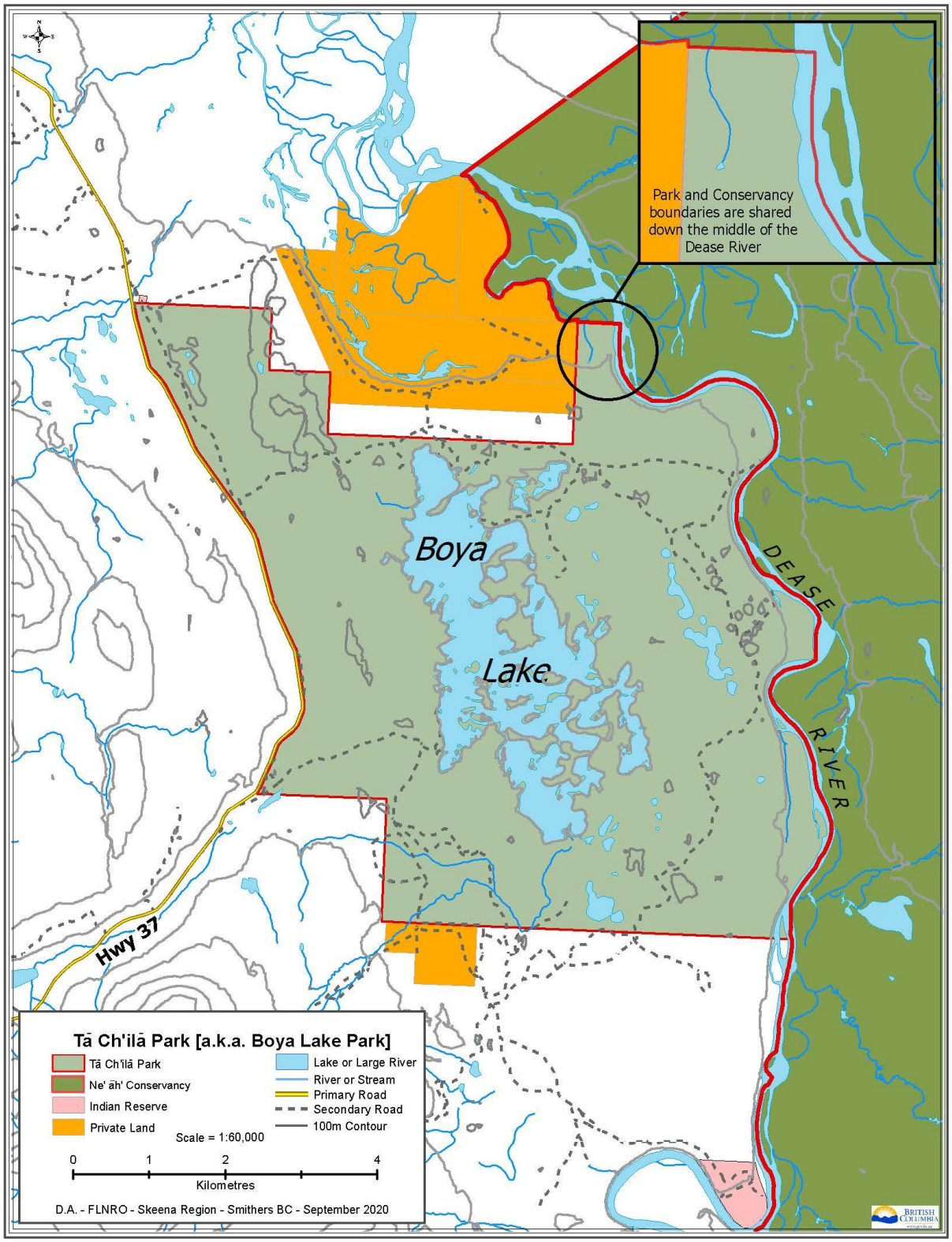

Figure 2. Tā Ch'ilā Provincial Park [a.k.a. Boya Lake Park]

1.3 Significance in the Protected Areas System

Both protected areas are culturally significant to the Kaska Dena and continue to be used for spiritual, social, and ceremonial purposes.

Tā Ch'ilā Park fulfills regionally important recreation and cultural heritage roles within the province's protected areas system. Some of these roles include:

- protecting the special kettle and esker glacial landscape with a spectacular, turquoise-coloured lake;
- conserving the best representation of the Liard Plain Ecosection of British Columbia;
- providing lakeside destination camping for regional residents and Highway 37 travellers; and,
- recreation opportunities such as swimming, picnicking, play areas, hiking trails, boat access, and nature appreciation.

Ne'āh' Conservancy is significant within the protected area system as it:

- protects many unique landscape features including chains of lakes, esker complexes, numerous rich and diverse wetlands, and the Horseranch Range;
- provides backcountry recreation opportunities for local communities and visitors; and,
- is a part of a provincially significant area of cultural and ecological importance as identified in the Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan (D-LSRMP) (the Gu Cha Duga Zone) and the Muskwa Kechika Management Area (Appendix C).

1.4 Legislative Framework

Tā Ch'ilā Park and Ne'āh' Conservancy, like all protected areas in British Columbia, are subject to the constitutionally protected Aboriginal rights, title and interests of affected First Nations (section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*). This conservancy was established without prejudice to treaty negotiations. Members of the Kaska Nation continue to exercise their rights to access and practice their culture in these protected areas.

Provincial Land Use Plan and Provincial Legislative Framework

Tā Ch'ilā Park [a.k.a. Boya Lake Park]

The provincial government designated Tā Ch'ilā (then known as 'Boya Lake Park') as a Class A provincial park in November 1965 by Order in Council under the *Park Act.* It is listed in Schedule C of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act (PABCA)*.

Class A parks are dedicated to the preservation of their natural environments for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public. Development in a Class A park is limited to that which is necessary for the maintenance of its recreational values. Activities such as grazing, hay cutting and other uses (except

commercial logging, mining, or hydroelectric development) that existed at the time the park was established may be allowed to continue in certain Class A parks.

In 2018, the name of Boya Lake Park was repealed and replaced with its current name.

Ne'āh' Conservancy

Ne'āh' Conservancy was established on March 31, 2013, following the recommendations of the approved D-LSRMP (2012) and the implementation of the Kaska-BC Strategic Land Use Plan Agreement (2012)[3]. 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).

Conservancies may provide for a wider range of low impact economic development opportunities than Class A parks, but commercial logging, mining, and hydroelectric power generation (other than local run-of-the-river projects) are prohibited in a conservancy.

1.5 Management Planning Commitments/Agreements

Strategic Engagement Agreement

In 2018, the Province of British Columbia and the Kaska Dena Council signed a Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA). The agreement establishes a framework for the government-to-government relationship that enables both parties to work collaboratively and engage in shared decision-making. Appendix F of the SEA provides a collaborative framework for BC Parks and the Kaska Dena to work together to develop, review and implement management plans and conduct joint operational activities within conservancies, parks, ecological reserves, and protected areas.

1.6 Relationship with First Nations

Tā Ch'ilā Park and Ne'āh' Conservancy are within the traditional territory of the Kaska Dena, the western boundary of Fort Nelson First Nation at the Liard River Basin, and the territories of the Treaty 8 First Nations.

The Province, the Kaska Dena, Fort Nelson First Nation and Treaty 8 First Nations are committed to government-to-government collaboration. BC Parks recognizes and respects the right to Indigenous self-

[3] The Kaska Dena identified the Ne'āh' as a priority area for protection during the Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan (D-LSRMP) process. The D-LSRMP provides general management direction while allowing for this management plan to further define management objectives and define acceptable uses and provide specific direction on acceptable activities.

determination and is working towards the collaborative management of Tā Ch'ilā Park and Ne'āh' Conservancy.

1.7 Adjacent Land Use

Surrounding the park and conservancy, the Kaska Dena have identified the Gu Cha Duga Zone[4] (meaning '*for the grandchildren*') in the D-LSRMP. The Gu Cha Duga Zone has significant concentrations of cultural values, several sacred areas, high wildlife diversity and abundance, and is of current and historical importance. This zone provides linkages and connectivity to other areas in Kaska ancestral territory via the adjacent Kaska Identified Watersheds and Large River Corridors. It also connects with the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA) to the east. The management of the Gu Cha Duga area is based on the goal of co-management and shared decision making.

The M-KMA is 6.4 million hectares and was created as a world class management model in legislation by the Provincial Government in 1998. It was determined that the area was unique, particularly due to its considerable size, largely unimpacted nature and its cultural, ecological, and geographical diversity and that it should be managed as a special management area[5].

There are three Indian Reserves (IRs) in and adjacent to the conservancy (Figure 1). These are: Mosquito Creek 5, Dease River 3 (Liard) and Horse Range Pass 4. There is one IR adjacent to the park: Dease River 2 (Dease) (Figure 2).

There is private land located adjacent to both the park and conservancy (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

A Section 16 *Land Act* map reserve[6] (Crown Lands file number 0314250) for the purposes of Use, Recreation and Enjoyment of the Public (UREP) covers the Dease River from the north end of Dease Lake to Lower Post (see Appendix D, Figure C1 for map). This Dease River corridor is identified in the D-LSRMP as being in the tourism zone with an objective for wilderness-based tourism. The corridor passes through Chickens Neck Mountain Ecological Reserve, Tā Ch'ilā Park and Ne'āh Conservancy. The area covered by the UREP is considered to have high recreation values for paddling and float trips.

1.8 Land Uses, Tenures, and Interests

Tā Ch'ilā Park

Some land uses, tenures and interests predate park establishment. In the park there is currently:

- one grazing license (associated with Guide Outfitting);
- one trapline license;
- one commercial recreation (multi-year) permit for air transport;
- one commercial recreation (muli-year) permit for Guide Outfitting; and,

4 See Appendix 2 for more information on the Gu Cha Duga Zone and map from the D-LSRMP.

5 For more information, visit: www.muskwa-kechika.com/

6 "Map Reserve" means a reserve, established by the Ministry on behalf of the Minister, to temporarily withdraw or withhold Crown land from disposition. It is established pursuant to Section 12 of the *Land Act* and places a formal reserve on the records of the Ministry.

- one weather station owned by BC Wildfire Service.

Ne'āh' Conservancy

Some land uses, tenures and interests predate conservancy establishment. In the conservancy there are currently:

- two active grazing licenses (one associated with Guide Outfitting);
- six trapline licenses;
- one commercial recreation (multi-year) permit for Guide Outfitting; and,
- one commercial recreation (multi-year) permit for air transport.

There are four Designated Placer Areas that overlap the park and conservancy. There is the Dease Designated Placer Area (tenure no. 329576) covering the west half of Ne'āh' and all of Tā Ch'ilā, the Area #2 Designated Placer Area (tenure no. 330208) that covers the east half of the Ne'āh', and two Walker Creek Designated Placer Areas (tenure no(s).333795 and 333792) located on Walker Creek at the south end of Deadwood Lake. These Designated Placer Areas do not provide mining rights, and mining is prohibited under the *Park Act* in both conservancies and Class A parks.

1.9 Management Planning Process

A Kaska representative and a BC Parks Planning Section Head were identified as Parks Coordinators, and together they reported to the Natural Resource Council[7] (NRC) on a regular basis (Appendix F, Kaska BC SEA, 2018). These Parks Coordinators were responsible for implementing Appendix F, which includes collaboration on parks, protected areas, conservancies, and ecological reserves in the Kaska Dena ancestral territory. The specific initiative for the conservancy was the development of a management plan. Similar provisions were set out for the park.

This management planning process was completed collaboratively between BC Parks and the Kaska Dena. Since the designation of the conservancy in 2013, BC Parks and Kaska Dena have conducted the following supporting initiatives: completed a contract for the development of Tā Ch'ilā Park (a.k.a. Boya Lake) and Ne'āh' Conservancy ecosystem overview assessment reports; completed a Kaska Dena community and cultural background summary report; legally changed the park name from Boya Lake Park to Tā Ch'ilā Park [a.k.a. Boya Lake Park] and developed a Kaska Dena information kiosk in the park.

The development of the draft management plan was first initiated in 2013 and after some delays, a project plan was circulated for review in early 2019. BC Parks and Kaska Dena engaged the public, stakeholders and other Nations on a draft management plan in 2023. During the process, both Parks Coordinators provided regular updates to the Natural Resource Council on the management plan development.

[7] In 2012, the Kaska Dena and the Province signed a Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA), which established a Shared Decision-making process and a government-to-government body. This body is known as the Natural Resources Council (NRC). The NRC is the body for engagement on land and resource management matters including Tā Ch'ilā Park and Ne'āh' Conservancy.


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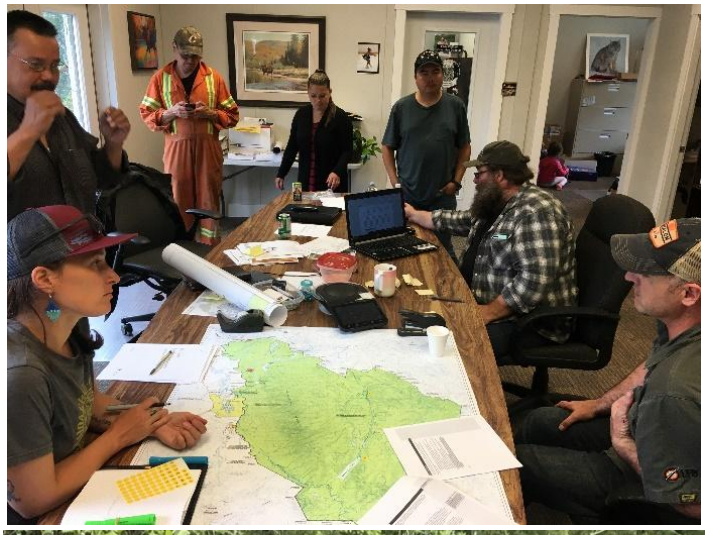


2.0 Park and Conservancy Values

2.1 Kaska Dena History and Cultural Heritage

The Kaska Dena ancestral territory is 24 million hectares (93,000 square miles) in size. It spans three provinces and territories (British Columbia (BC), Yukon and Northwest Territories) and constitutes fully 25% of the Yukon Territory, and 10% of the entire land area of BC. Within the Kaska Dena's ancestral territory, the long north-south oriented conservancy spans 40 km and is known by the Kaska Dena name for the Horseranch, Ne'āh', meaning 'long laying down, and long stick walking mountain.' This is thought to reflect the sprawling alpine benches on the mountain range that allows easy walking the length of the conservancy. Kaska Dena Elders have spoken of the area as being a place to go when times were lean because it was a place food could be reliably found. Ne'āh' is an area of great cultural and spiritual importance to the Kaska Dena. It is a culturally important area where wildlife thrives, where Kaska Dena have had land use occupancy for generations and is a resting area for Kaska Dena traveling the Mcdame/*Duna Za* and Atse *Dena Tunna* (Ancient People's Trail-known as Davie trail (KDC 2000)) over time.

Cultural Heritage Values

From the Dease-Liard SRMP (2002):

Cultural heritage resources in the Dease-Liard planning area reflect past and present uses by both aboriginal and non-aboriginal people. Three categories of resources are considered cultural heritage resources: (1) archaeological sites containing physical remains of past human activity such as, old grave sites, rock art, old village sites, lithic scatters (rock chips--often obsidian-- from making stone tools, etc.); (2) historic sites such as pioneer settlements, historic buildings, and pioneer trails; and (3) First Nations traditional use sites which may or may not show physical evidence of human-made artifacts or structures but maintain significance to living communities. These include fishing sites, hunting camps, traditional trails, berry picking areas, legend/sacred sites, etc.

There are over five hundred Kaska Dena traditional use sites (Cultural Heritage Resources) in the park and conservancy (Table 1).

Trails cover the entire conservancy with several core travel corridors:

- From the park across the Dease River/*Tu cho*, then northeast to the Chain Lakes and on to Lower Post/*D'aelyu'*;
- From the park across the Dease River/*Tu cho* southeast along the Rapid River/*Gacho Tue* to Looncry/*Tuezeh sah gheh* or Deadwood/*Ah' dini su'eh* lakes;
- From the lakes either east to the Red River/*Sihi or Ts eh Tueh*, Turnagain River/*Gah Cho* onto the Davie Trail/*Atse Dena Tunna* in the Kechika Trench or south to the Major Hart River/*Tsihe Tu* where a Kaska Dena assembly site is located; and,
- The Mcdame/*Duna Za* trail from Mcdame/*Duna Za Post* east to connect to Rapid River/*Gacho Tue* and east to the lakes.

Table 1. Number of Kaska Dena traditional sites in Tā Ch'ilā Park & Ne'āh' Conservancy

Site Use	Number of Sites in both Tā Ch'ilā Park and Ne'āh' Conservancy
Assembly Site	2
Berry Source	18
Burials	1
Cabin	63
Camp	57
Firewood	11
Fishing Site	9
Food Preparation Site	3
Harvest Site	351
Logging	5
Reserve	8
Trapping Site	44
Total	573

The Kaska Dena uses and sites in the park and conservancy reflect the wildlife diversity and their movements. In the winter, Woodland Caribou/*whūdzī* and Moose/*kadā* use low elevation habitats in and around the lakes but access the mountain slopes as well. The distances between these habitats are relatively short. This is reflected in the number of cabins at lower elevations, with camps on the mountain range. Thinhorn Sheep/*débē* and Mountain Goats/*ásbā* are found on the mountain within a relatively short distance to the cabins. Medicinal and plant gathering areas are found at all elevations. Furbearers are found as well in the conservancy and support trapping in the winter.

2.2 Biological Diversity and Natural Environment[8]

The majestic northern boreal forest regions of interior BC and the Yukon have some of the continent's most expansive and impressive wilderness areas, with a great diversity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Extensive mountain ranges and wild rivers frame pristine boreal forest watersheds. Large free ranging populations of Woodland Caribou, Moose, Stone Sheep, a full suite of large carnivores, and hundreds of thousands of migrating neo-tropical songbirds and waterfowl make their home in these diverse boreal landscapes. Only a few roads cross this region, one of the wildest landscapes on the North American continent.

Biogeoclimatic Zones

Both the park and the conservancy are dominated by Boreal White and Black Spruce moist cool (BWBSmk) biogeoclimatic zone, with substantial areas of Spruce-Willow-Birch moist cool and moist cool scrub

[8] Information in this section is from Ecosystem Overview Assessments prepared for Boya Lake (2016) and Ne'āh' (2016), by Adrian de Groot [Drosera Ecological Consulting Ltd.]. All references contained in that document.

(SWBmk and SWBmks) and Boreal Altai Fescue Alpine undifferentiated (BAFAun) within the conservancy (See Appendix 5, Figure A1). The BWBSmk is found at low elevations in the conservancy, with the SWBmk and SWBmks at progressively higher elevations, and BAFAun on the highest mountains.

Ecological Communities

The BC Conservation Data Centre's Species and Ecosystem Explorer identified two Red listed and 11 Blue listed ecological communities within BEC subzones that occur in the conservancy (Appendix E, Table E2). Most of these ecological communities have not been confirmed as occurring in the conservancy but have the potential to occur based on their presence in the subzones that occur in the conservancy. Of the 12 ecological communities, eight are bog, fen, swamp, or marsh wetlands, and four are low-bench, mid-bench, or high-bench floodplain ecological communities.

Forests

The forests of the park and the conservancy are dominated by white or Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine leading forests, with lesser amounts of black spruce, trembling aspen, subalpine fir and cottonwood. Forest fires have been a dominant disturbance in the park and conservancy. Historically, these ecosystems experienced frequent wildfires that ranged from spot fires to tens of thousands of hectares. Non-forested areas cover approximately 1/3 of the conservancy.

Frequent forest fires have formed a mosaic of upland forests of different ages in the BWBS. Sixty-five forest fires have been recorded since 1944, covering a total of approximately 108,322 hectares. Conifers are often slow to re-establish after fire and deciduous forests of aspen and willow are commonplace and persistent.

One insect pest and two tree diseases have been recorded in the area. Aspen Leaf Miner (*Phyllocristis populiella*) was recorded in 2013 and 2014 with all the forests in the park being affected. Aspen and poplar twig blight (*Venturia populina*) was recorded in the park in 2001 and 2002 covering several areas in the park that totaled 591 hectares. Finally, Pine Needle Cast (*Lophodermella concolor*) was recorded in 2009 covering 880 hectares along the western edge of the park.

Grasslands, a rare sight on the northwestern BC landscape, are present in the park and can be seen primarily on south-facing slopes of the glaciofluvial deposits.

Terrestrial Environment

There are 42 animal species and 135 plant species that are either Red or Blue-listed[9] or listed under the Species at Risk Act that the BC Species Explorer[10] indicates as occurring in the Skeena Stikine Forest District – Cassiar, and in the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) zones of both the park and the

[9] **Red:** Includes any indigenous species or subspecies that have, or are candidates for, Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened status in British Columbia. Placing taxa on these lists flags them as being at risk and requiring investigation. **Blue**: Includes any indigenous species or subspecies considered to be of Special Concern (formerly Vulnerable) in British Columbia. Taxa of Special Concern have characteristics that make them particularly sensitive or vulnerable to human activities or natural events.

[10] The risk status for each species was obtained from the BC Species and Ecosystem Explorer tool, BC Conservation Data Centre located at http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp/

conservancy (Appendix 5, Table E2). The conservancy is poorly inventoried for plant and animal species and ecological communities. There is high probability that additional at-risk animal and/or plant species, or ecological communities will occur in the conservancy. This is partly due to the calcium-rich bedrock that covers much of the area, which influences the terrestrial and aquatic species and ecosystems.

Plants

There are 135 plant species that are either Red or Blue-listed, listed under the *Species at Risk Act*, or listed as species the BC Species Explorer indicates as occurring in the Skeena Stikine Forest District – Cassiar and in the BEC zones of the park and conservancy (Appendix 5, Table E2). In the park, this includes 48 vascular plant species, nine mosses, three at-risk plant or lichen species; a further two at-risk plant species are located near the park. There may be more at-risk species associated with limestone bedrock in the park.

In the conservancy, this includes 93 vascular plant species and 42 mosses. There are eight records of plant species listed under the *Species at Risk Act*, occurring in the conservancy. As the area is very poorly inventoried, more Red or Blue listed plant species are very likely to occur in the conservancy.

Wildlife

Despite a harsh climate, the BWBS zone is surprisingly rich in wildlife. The BWBS has the least snowfall of all the northern zones and consequently is very important for wintering ungulates. Moose, Caribou, Elk and, to a lesser degree, Mule Deer are distributed throughout. Stone's Sheep and Mountain Goat occur sporadically, wherever suitable rugged terrain exists. Large carnivores such as Black Bear and Gray Wolf are widespread and abundant, while Grizzly Bear are common in the mountainous regions of the BWBS. A group of six Bison were observed in the park in 2008, and two bull Bison in 2014. These Bison are likely from the Nordquist herd that are normally found along the Alaska Highway corridor in the Liard hot springs and Muncho Lake area. Within the Spruce-Willow-Birch (SWB) and Boreal Altai Fescue Alpine (BAFA) zones, there are additional species of interest (focal species), such as Wolverine (Blue listed), Marmot, Artic Ground Squirrel, Golden Eagle, Gyrfalcon, and multiple species of Ptarmigan.

Frequent forest fires have formed a mosaic of upland forests of different ages. Conifers are often slow to re-establish after fire and deciduous forests of aspen and willow are commonplace and persistent. These deciduous forests are very productive habitats for ungulates, a wide selection of birds (including many of the warblers, thrushes, vireos, and flycatchers), and a variety of small mammals.

Smaller mammals include the Lynx, Red Squirrel, Ermine, Snowshoe Hare, Beaver, Muskrat, Marten, and Deer Mouse. Birds such as the Northern Goshawk, Great Horned Owl, Ruffed Grouse, Common Raven, Gray Jay, Downy Woodpecker, and Black-capped Chickadee are characteristic residents. Other birds such as the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Purple Finch, and Dark-eyed Junco are commonly found in these areas in summer.

Bogs and fens, intermixed with forest, make up one of the most common habitats in the BWBS. Often referred to as ''muskeg,'' these peatlands are particularly extensive in the northeastern corner of the

province. Moose, Caribou and Black Bear are the most common large mammals of muskeg habitats. The Great Gray Owl and Sharp-tailed Grouse are characteristic year-round residents, while migratory species such as the Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Palm Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Swamp Sparrow and Blackpoll Warbler select these areas for breeding during summer. Waterfowl species found in these protected areas include Canada Geese, Mallards, Northern Pintail, Barrow's Goldeneye, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Ducks and Loons.

Moose (*Alces americanus*) are common in the valleys of the Horseranch Range area and can also be found on alpine benches when weather and/or snow conditions are appropriate. Within the park and conservancy, high value Moose habitat has been mapped, mostly along the major rivers and scattered among the lakes on the northern end of the conservancy (Appendix E, Figure E2). The Moose population of the area is considered stable, and as having a population density like other boreal areas, but lower than provincial benchmark populations.

The Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) of the Horseranch Range are a Northern Mountain Population of Woodland Caribou and have been identified as a species of Special Concern by COSEWIC (2014) and are Blue-listed by the British Columbia Conservation Data Centre. Winter range mapping of the area, based on the locations of collared Caribou, showed that alpine areas of Horseranch Range are core alpine winter range, with core forested winter range on the northern edge of the conservancy, although most of this habitat is outside the conservancy (Appendix E, Figure E3). The Horseranch caribou migrate south from their winter range to natal range on the Horseranch Range or the Cassiar Ranges from early April to Early May. High value natal and summer habitat consists of windswept ridges and permanent snow/ice patches for insect and thermal relief. They remain in these areas until fall when they move to lower elevations in the sub-alpine for the rut.

Grizzly Bears (*Ursus arctos*) are distributed across the Dease Liard region and have been identified as a species of Special Concern by COSEWIC and are Blue-listed by the British Columbia Conservation Data Centre. Two areas of high value Grizzly Bear habitat covering 12,412 hectares have been identified in the conservancy (Appendix E, Figure E4).

Steep, south-facing grass/shrub communities found along the major valleys provide critical wintering habitats for several ungulate species. Though relatively minor in extent, these habitats have low snow depths and provide winter range for Mule Deer and in some areas for Stone's Sheep and Mountain Goat (Appendix E, Figure E5). Kinnikinnick and Saskatoon berries attract Black Bear to these slopes in the autumn.

Northern Myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a bat species found in the northern reaches of the Skeena Region is listed as endangered by COSEWIC (2013), endangered under the Species at Risk Act (2014), and blue-listed provincially (at risk). Another bat species found in the Skeena Region is the Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), is listed as endangered by COSEWIC (2013), endangered under the *Species at Risk Act* (2014), and yellow-listed provincially (secure species, not at risk of extinction).

No reptiles occur in these BEC zones and amphibians such as the Western Toad, Wood Frog and Spotted Frog are widely distributed throughout the many wetlands and moist upland habitats.

Water

All drainages in the plan area are tributaries to the Liard River, and therefore part of the Arctic drainage system via the Mackenzie River.

Boya Lake covers 572 hectares and is noted for its colour and clarity. The bottom is composed of marl, a mixture of silt and shell fragments. The crystal-clear waters and aqua-marine lake colour are a result of the light reflecting from the marl bottom. The marl lakes of the Middle Dease River, including some of those in the northern part of the conservancy, can be calcium-rich, and have unique invertebrate fauna that reflects this abundance of calcium (an important component of their diet). An inventory of the invertebrate fauna of lakes in the park and conservancy has not been completed.

A reconnaissance inventory of the fish of Boya Lake has not been completed, with the inventories information that exists being incomplete. Despite this lack of inventory, fishermen have recorded that Boya Lake contains several species of fish, including Lake Trout, (*Salvelinus namaycush*), Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*), Burbot (*Lota lota*), Suckers (*Catostomus* sp.), Sculpins (*Cottus* sp.) and Whitefish (*Coregoninae* subfamily).

There are four large lakes within the conservancy, Deadwood/*ah' dini su'eh*, Horseranch, Looncry/*tuezeh sah gheh* and Vincent Lakes, as well as numerous smaller lakes. These lakes are primarily used as access points via floatplane by hunters, guide-outfitters, and trappers. Fish counts done in the conservancy on Deadwood, Horseranch, Looncry and Vincent Lakes found Burbot, Arctic Grayling, Lake Chub *(Couesius plumbeus)*, Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush),* Lake Whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis),* Mountain Whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), Northern Pike *(Esox lucius)*, Peamouth Chub (*Mylocheilus caurinus*), Round Whitefish (*Prosopium cylindraeum*) and Sculpins.

2.3 Recreation and Tourism Values

Ta Ch'ilā' Park

The park is located on Highway 37, an alternate route for travellers to the Yukon and Alaska where it provides regionally important recreational opportunities. Within the park is a 45-unit campground[11] with outhouses, picnic areas, a day-use area, playground; and signage to share Kaska culture, history, information about communities, and language vocabulary with park visitors.

The park offers several recreation opportunities, including lake swimming, two short interpretive hiking trails and boating/water sports (canoe, kayaks, small motor, paddle boarding). There are limitless bays and islands to discover by boat. Other opportunities within the park include angling on Boya Lake and the Dease River, and bird watching.

[11] Managed by a Park Operator (PO) with a PO agreement in place.

Ne'āh' Conservancy

The conservancy offers backcountry recreation opportunities including hunting, angling and hiking. There is no BC Parks infrastructure (designated trails, camps, etc.).

Guide outfitting is currently the area's most established backcountry commercial tourism pursuit, drawing visitors primarily from Europe, the United States and Canada. Guide outfitting is an important contributor to the local economy and employment base.[12] Big game species are hunted in the conservancy by resident and non-resident hunters. Non-resident hunters must be accompanied by a licensed guide outfitter.

In addition to its significant role in conserving natural and cultural values, the conservancy provides economic benefits for local communities and the province. The dramatic beauty of the watershed, as well as the opportunity to experience fishing, hunting or wildlife viewing in a remote wilderness setting, draws visitors from the local area and around the world.

2.4 Natural Resource Development and Use

There is no natural resource development within the park and the conservancy apart from the existing tenures and permits for guide outfitting, trapping and grazing.

2.5 Access Management

2.5.1 Access by Air

Ta Ch'ilā Park

Currently, floatplanes landing on Boya Lake are primarily used for commercial guide outfitter operations.

Ne'āh' Conservancy

With no roads into the conservancy, floatplanes are recognised as an important means of access,

2.5.2 Access by Road

Ta Ch'ilā Park

Road access to the park is limited. There are several roads within the park. These are labelled as "secondary roads" on the park maps in this management plan. These include the following:

- The primary park road that provides access to campsites and a day use area;
- A road that turns south from the primary campground access road and provides access to a private property and to the Dease River 3 (Liard) IR;

[12] From the Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan: https://kaskadenacouncil.com/download/dease-liard-sustainable-resource-management-plan-2012/?wpdmdl=3603&refresh=5c479b87511361548196743

- A road in the northern part of the park that is accessed off Hwy 37; and,
- Several other overgrown old “roads”.

The only road maintained by BC Parks is the primary park road into the campground and day-use area. Visitors are advised to use all other park roads at their own risk.

Ne’āh’ Conservancy

There is no road access in the conservancy.

2.5.3 Access by Water

Water access to both the park and the conservancy is via the Dease River. The Dease River is important to people who access the protected areas system in this manner, including access to sites of cultural importance.

Ta Ch’ilā Park

Some motorboat use occurs on Boya Lake, primarily by recreationists. Signs are posted to request motors used are 9.9 horsepower (Hp) or less. Boating on the lake is typically non-motorized (canoe/kayak/paddle board) and compatible with the protection of conservation and recreation values.

Ne’āh’ Conservancy

Motorboat use occurs on the Dease River.

2.5.4 Access by Snowmobile

The *Park Act* and its regulations generally prohibit the use of snowmobiles in protected areas except under specific authorization. In both the park and the conservancy, trapline holders can use snowmobiles, and some guide-outfitters have permission to use snowmobiles related to their operations (e.g., maintenance and collection of firewood in the winter).

3.0 Climate Variation and Change

Climate change has been identified as a significant stressor that may affect values and activities in protected areas in a variety of ways. The future of protected areas management will be in maintaining functioning ecosystems and facilitating the movement of species within and across boundaries.

Predicted climate change from the baseline historical period (1961 to 1990) to the 2050s for the Northern Boreal Mountain EcoProvince[13] includes the following:

- an increase in annual mean temperature of approximately +3.5 °C;
- a significant decrease in precipitation as snow annually (-13%);
- an annual increase in precipitation (15%) with a general warming trend adding +40 days of frost-free days annually[14];
- increasingly mild winters, longer droughts, and land disturbance, are projected to increase the spread of insects and invasive plants[15]; and,
- with earlier snowmelt and warmer summers, there is projected to be a longer fire season with severe fires across more of the landscape[18].

How these changes will impact the park, or the conservancy is not well understood; however, it is likely they will affect the hydrology of the area. It is suggested that a transition to rainfall dominant watersheds combined with potential loss of snow melt dominant watersheds and longer dry seasons within the region could mean late spring and/or summer flows may decrease causing water storage issues. For example, within the park and conservancy this could mean shorelines of the Kettle Lakes could continue to grow resulting in a loss of recreational usability and increased risk of wildfire.

Future planning for infrastructure and recreation opportunities will need to take into consideration water levels for the area, specifically for recreation uses, wildfire potential and fish habitat. Planning should further include public education component for protected area users on best practices around the spread of invasive plants and insects. Considerations should be taken regarding existing cultural sites, current and future facilities development, archaeological features, structures, and important cultural sites in and around the lakes and wetland areas.

[13] Climate trend information for the Northern Boreal Mountains Ecoprovince was generated using the Plan2Adapt tool of the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium: https://services.pacificclimate.org/plan2adapt/app/

[14] Frost-free days is a derived variable referring to the number of days that the minimum daily temperature stayed above 0°C, useful for determining the suitability of growing certain crops in each area.

[15] From the report: The Greater Muskwa-Kechika: Building a Better Network for Protecting Wildlife and Wildlands. Report can be found here: https://www.wcscanada.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?EntryId=36766&PortalId=96&DownloadMethod=attachment

4.0 Management Direction

4.1 Management Objectives and Strategies

Expectations from the D-LSRMP were incorporated into this management plan. This included direction to honour pre-existing rights and tenures, and integrated commercial and public recreational activities, with a high emphasis on ecological integrity.

Management strategies for key issues in the park and conservancy have been identified, based on First Nation land use plans, collaboration with Kaska Dena, and public input. As it is difficult to plan for all future outdoor recreation possibilities, the precautionary principle will be applied where potential risk to natural, cultural heritage and outdoor recreation values exists.

4.1.1 Ecosystems and Natural Values

Protection of natural or ecological values are a high priority due to:

- the high diversity of species and important habitats in this area;
- ecological values that are not yet known, due to incomplete inventories;
- the important role that this park and conservancy play in ecological connectivity on the landscape;
- the strong connection between ecological values and the vitality of Kaska culture;

- both park and conservancy have Marl Bottom lakes at risk for rapid shift to eutrophic conditions because of lake siltation and more recently observed record low water levels within Boya Lake (specifically important as it is a major draw to the area);
- impacts of climate change that can affect vegetation patterns;
- insect outbreaks and forest stand age patterns;
- potential for overgrazing by domestic livestock (horses);
- invasive species potentially spread by recreational activities and grazing;
- protection of key species including loons (Common Sp., and Pacific Sp.) in the park who are at risk with ongoing motorized motorboat use and aircraft access; and,
- the need for ongoing monitoring and protection of important wildlife habitats.

Management Objective	**Management Strategy**
Increase knowledge of the park and conservancy's ecosystems and ecosystem components (plants, animals, etc.) using all sources of knowledge	• Support research programs to ensure appropriate and up-to-date ecological and species information is available. • Encourage species inventory on those areas that have species-at-risk occurrences or unusual species diversity, or that may be particularly sensitive to climate change. • Encourage the use of existing citizen science programs (e.g., iNaturalist) to enable visitors and volunteers to assist with monitoring and research.
Protection and monitoring of the park and conservancy's natural and ecological values	• Dane Nan Yǝ́ dāh network (Land Guardians) and BC Parks to collaboratively undertake monitoring, compliance, and enforcement activities in the park and conservancy. • Monitor the impact of recreational uses, aircraft, boat, and other activities (e.g., grazing) on Red and Blue-listed species (see Appendix E, Table E2 for Red and Blue-listed animal, and plant species).
Prevent the spread of invasive flora and fauna	• Horses/mules must be fed weed/invasive species free feed for 72 hours before entering the park or conservancy; only weed/invasive species free feed or concentrated weed/invasive species free pellets can be packed in; and winter feed will be free of weed/invasive species. • Provide invasive species messaging to users. E.g., "Clean Drain Dry" and "Play Clean Go" (boot brush kiosks). Information should be provided about not transporting and using firewood from other locations. Take proactive measures to inventory, manage and monitor invasive flora and fauna species. For plant

	species, utilize treatment methods (mechanical, chemical, or biological) that have the highest rates of success while limiting external impacts on native species and habitats.
Ensure healthy and thriving wildlife populations	• Do not allow domestic camelids, sheep, and goats within the park or conservancy to reduce the possibility of disease transmission to wildlife. • Work with other agencies to co-ordinate wildlife management within and adjacent to the park and conservancy to protect populations and habitats, specifically for species-at-risk including Caribou and Grizzly Bear populations. • Ensure Bear Aware education is visible within the campground area and bear management strategies are employed to prevent bears from habituating to human presence.
Seek to ensure the coexistence of healthy, fully functioning ecosystems and human communities	• Apply an ecosystem-based management approach to managing human activities. The intention behind this approach is to maintain those spatial and temporal characteristics of ecosystems such that component species and ecological processes can be sustained, and human well-being supported and improved.[16]
Expand the protected area complex where opportunities exist	• Recommend the addition of the six private parcels (north of the park) to the park or conservancy (015-625-435, 015-625-486, 015-626-091, 015-732-037, 015-732-045, 015-732-053) • Recommend that Crown parcels DL6969 and DL6868 be added to the park or conservancy. These lands are located adjacent to the private northern parcels and the existing park.

[16] Definition from the Coast Information Team was an independent body that provided resource information and analysis to the North Coast Land and Resource Management Plan Table.

4.1.2 Cultural Heritage Values

A key management intent for these protected areas is to protect cultural and heritage resources and maintain cultural sites that have special significance to the Kaska Dena. The Kaska Dena have a rich history in both the park and conservancy associated with traditional uses, including hunting, gathering and social/ceremonial assemblies.

Management Objective	Management Strategy
To honour and protect the traditional use and cultural heritage values of the park and conservancy by First Nations	• Work with local Kaska Dena to identify, protect and maintain cultural heritage sites and features. Protective measures may include but are not limited to (as necessary): site maintenance, marking areas off-limits, directing use away from sites, and/or public information initiatives. • Support Kaska Dena Archaeological Standards, Archaeological Overview Assessments, Preliminary Field Reconnaissance, Archaeological Impact Assessments, and other detailed site-specific archaeological research that contributes to historical and ethnographic knowledge; and inventories of Kaska Dena harvesting and gathering areas and resources.

4.1.3 Access

With most of the area being without roads, access management is a key issue. Access management is critical to the protection of natural and cultural heritage, recreation experience, cultural and wilderness values. Inappropriate levels or modes of access can affect fish and wildlife populations, assist the introduction of invasive/exotic plants and animals, damage special cultural and geological features, and degrade the wilderness experience. The careful management of access can maintain these values while still providing outdoor recreation use of the protected areas.

Management Objective	Management Strategy
Maintaining the wilderness experience and values as a priority for both the park and conservancy	• Public boat launches and docks will be restricted to the Intensive Recreation Zone and/or the existing infrastructure already in place. Undertake investigation of the current boat launch on Boya Lake to determine appropriate use into the future. • Motorboat use will be managed to ensure that impacts on wildlife, cultural heritage and recreational experiences are minimal. • If larger boat use of the lake continues to be a problem, recommend that the Federal government implement a regulatory restriction of 9.9 Hp motors on Boya Lake.

	• Off road vehicle use (4x4, motorcycles, ATVs) is only allowed by the public in the Intensive Recreation Zone. Motorized off-road vehicle access in other areas of the park or conservancy may be allowed for specific authorized purposes. All ATVs are subject to the Off Road Vehicle regulations. • Motor vehicle use is limited to the established primary roads inside the park's Intensive Recreation Zone and are only allowed if licensed. • No roads should be built in the conservancy, and the construction of new roads is prohibited within the park. • New trail development is not generally supported in the protected areas, but specific proposals will be considered by Kaska Dena and BC Parks in the context of maintaining cultural and natural values. Any supported trail development would be consistent with the area's zoning intent. • Within the park, mountain bikes are allowed to be used on the routes labelled as "secondary roads". Mountain biking is not an appropriate use in the conservancy. • Snowmobile use is not allowed by the public in any area of the park or conservancy. Snowmobile access may be allowed for specific authorized purposes through a permit (e.g., trapping). In the conservancy the area where use may be authorized is below treeline (Appendix E, Figure E1). • Work with Kaska Dena, trapline holders and guide-outfitters to minimize the impacts of continued limited snowmobile access on natural, outdoor recreation and cultural values.
Subject to economic, safety and ecological constraints enable continued motor vehicle use of the unmaintained roads that do not lead into the campground	• BC Parks will only maintain the road that leads to the campground and day use area. BC Parks will not maintain the other roads in the park. • BC Parks will monitor the condition of the other unmaintained roads over time, and if deemed unsafe, will post signage advising the public not to use them. • Explore options with other agencies for a long-term solution for the access road to IR3.
Monitor flight traffic on Boya Lake	• Work with the current commercial floatplane operators to minimize disturbing/harassing wildlife and to support the maintenance of a feeling of solitude for visitors. Considerations should be given to timing, number, and locations of flights. • Any new commercial aircraft charter permit applications for Boya Lake will be seasonally restricted.

	Landings and take offs will only be permitted when the campground is closed. • Monitor flight traffic on Boya Lake and if required, BC Parks will recommend appropriate flight restrictions under Section 27 of the *Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulations.* This could include seasonal restrictions or complete prohibition unless authorized by a park use permit or a Park Officer.

4.1.4 Outdoor Recreation Opportunities and Facilities

Management Objectives	Management Strategies
Provide for a range of high-quality frontcountry recreational activities and camping experiences within the park consistent with the natural setting	• Encourage the use of canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards on Boya Lake as non-motorized recreation opportunities. • Monitor campground use through satisfaction surveys, comments, and user trends to determine future frontcountry camping needs. • Commercial or competitive sporting events and aerial sports, such as but not limited to hang-gliding and parapenting, are inappropriate and are not allowed.
Manage visitor use in the park to an acceptable level of capacity	• Continue to implement visitor management systems to maintain acceptable capacity (e.g., campsite reservation).
Manage backcountry camping to be consistent with the wilderness setting	• Provide messaging to backcountry campers that “pack in pack out” principle applies and that where possible they should camp in established camping areas.

4.1.5 Natural Resource Development and Use

Management Objectives	Management Strategies
Continue to work with the Kaska Dena to ensure the harvest of non-timber forest products (including mushroom harvest) is done in a sustainable manner	• Commercial harvesting for mushrooms is not allowed in the park. It is allowable in the conservancy with a permit. • Develop messaging on the harvest of non-timber forest products (including mushroom harvest) within the protected areas. Once developed, work collaboratively with Kaska Dena to implement and to ensure consistent messaging and direction on both sustenance and commercial harvest. • Specific proposals for permits to commercially harvest non-timber forest products will be considered by Kaska Dena and BC Parks in the context of maintaining cultural and natural values. To guide conditions for commercial permit approvals, consider method and scale of harvest (quantity over area), location (to gauge

	degree of compatibility with traditional or recreational users), and level of benefit to local economy.
Manage grazing to be sustainable	• Continue to work with the Ministry responsible for authorizing grazing and monitoring rangeland stewardship within the park and conservancy.
Administrative clean up of Designated Placer Areas	• Work with the Ministry responsible for mining to remove the legacy designated placer areas from the conservancy and park boundary (see Section 1.7).

4.1.6 Climate Variability and Change

Management Objectives	Management Strategies
Monitor the progression of climate change using all available information and knowledge	• Develop key indicators and record observations on the status and trends of key environmental, cultural, social, and economic variables that may be influenced by climate change. • Support climate change researchers who are interested in progressing the current state of knowledge on the impacts of climate change in both protected areas.
Utilize adaptative management and implement precautionary measures to mitigate the effects of climate change	• Apply adaptive management practices to ensure management objectives are being met over time.
Encourage commercial operators (in renewal and for new operators) to find alternative power sources with the intention to reduce fossil fuel consumption	• Encourage commercial operators (e.g., guide outfitters and other commercial users) to invest in technology to reduce carbon footprint (e.g., diesel generators replaced by alternative sources such as solar panel) where possible.

4.2 Zoning Plan

This plan includes zoning to help support implementation of the goals and management objectives of the park and conservancy.

4.2.1 Tā Ch'ilā Park Zoning

Intensive Recreation Zone

Objective: To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Zone Description: This zone covers 67 hectares of the park and includes the campground and day use facilities. The zone also includes: (1) the park road that leads to the campground[17], (2) a road that splits from the campground access road and goes south providing access to a private property and a Kaska Dena cultural camp; and (3) a road in the northern part of the park and that is accessed off Hwy 37.

Management Guidelines: Oriented towards maintaining a high-quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resources and/or control of visitor activities. Operational facilities will be designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor.

Use level: Seasonal, with majority of visits in the summer months.

Means of Access: Motorized and non-motorized access.

Zone facilities: Developed for user convenience. Trails, drive-in and walk-in campsites, facilities for day-use (e.g., picnic shelter and playground) and boat access (e.g., docks/ramps).

Nature Recreation Zone

Objective: To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Zone description: This zone covers 4,530 hectares and includes all of the park area outside of the Intensive Recreation Zone.

Management Guidelines: Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and a high-quality recreation experience. Designation of access methods and limits on use may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts or minimize impacts (e.g., horse trails, aircraft landing, etc.).

Use level: Limited, with higher visitation in the summer months.

Means of Access: Primarily non-motorized. Motorized access is limited to aircraft and motorized boats. Commercial aircraft access is only allowed to designated drop-off and pick-up points. Snowmobile and ATV access only allowed for authorized permit holders for specific purposes outlined in their permits.

[17] The road that leads to the campground is the only designated and maintained park road.

Zone facilities: Minimal facility development for safety and protection of the environment. No facilities at access points.

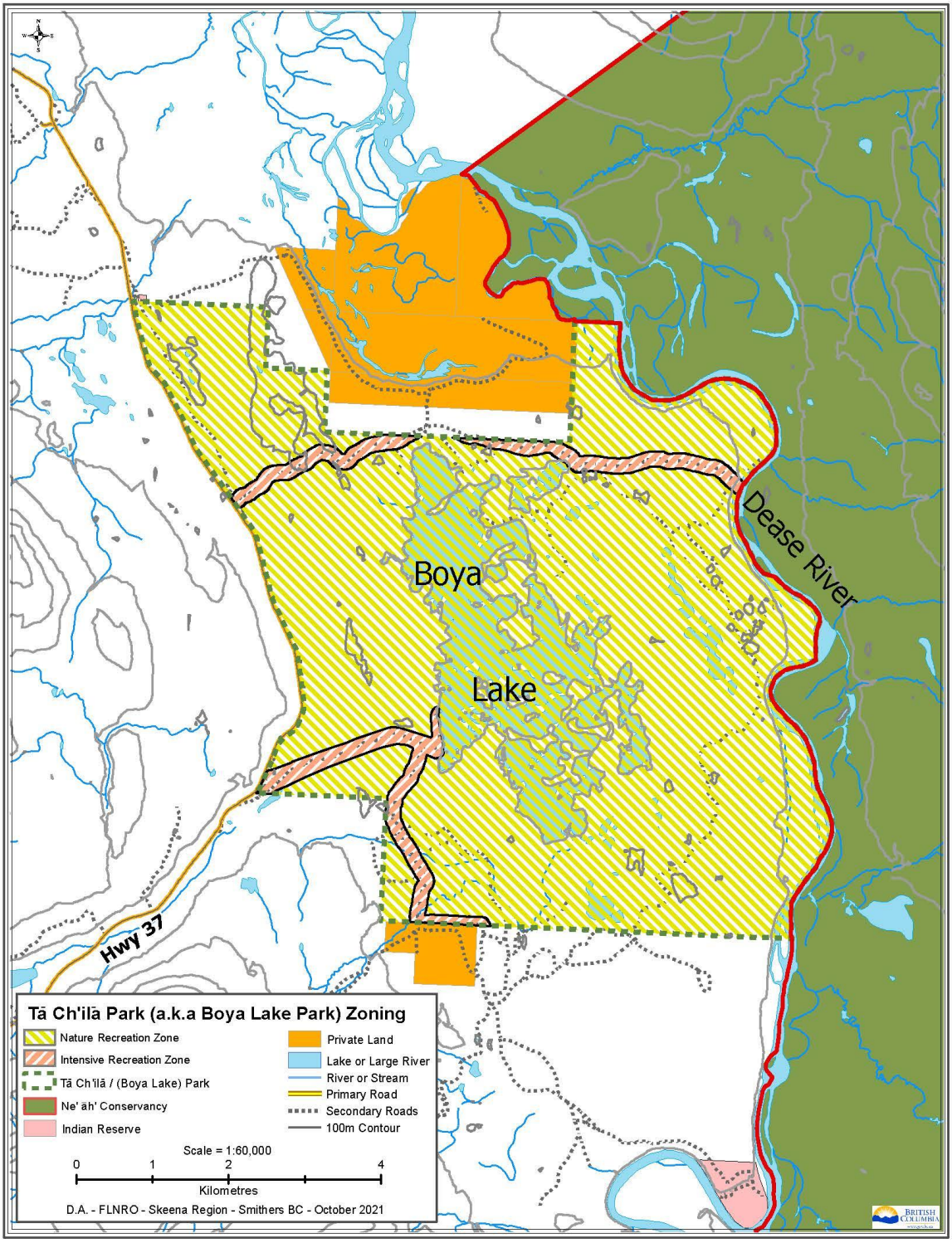


Figure 3. Zoning for Tā Ch'ilā Park (a.k.a. Boya Lake Park)

4.2.2 Ne'āh' Conservancy Zoning

Cultural Zone

Objective: To protect the scenic, cultural, and spiritual values of the Ne'āh'/ Horseranch Range, to provide for Kaska Dena cultural tourism opportunities, to provide potential backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed, natural environment, and to conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat (see Figure 4).

Management Guidelines: Oriented to protect cultural values, enable cultural activities, and to maintain a natural environment and high-quality visitor experience. Commercial tourism practices and guidelines will be approved by both governments. Visitor access may be restricted to protect cultural values, maintain the recreation experience, and or, to limit impacts. Permanent infrastructure only allowed below treeline, in the BWBS zones (see Appendix E, Figure E1).

Description: This zone covers the entire conservancy.

Use level: The use level for this zone is to be moderate to low. Use may be controlled if required to protect cultural values.

Means of Access: Motorized access is limited to aircraft and motorized boats. Commercial aircraft access is only allowed to designated drop-off and pick-up points. Snowmobile and ATV access only allowed for authorized permit holders for specific purposes outlined in their permits. Other access will be non-mechanized (canoe, horse, foot) only.

Zone facilities: Facilities may be minimally developed for user convenience, such as trails, walk-in campsites and small shelters.

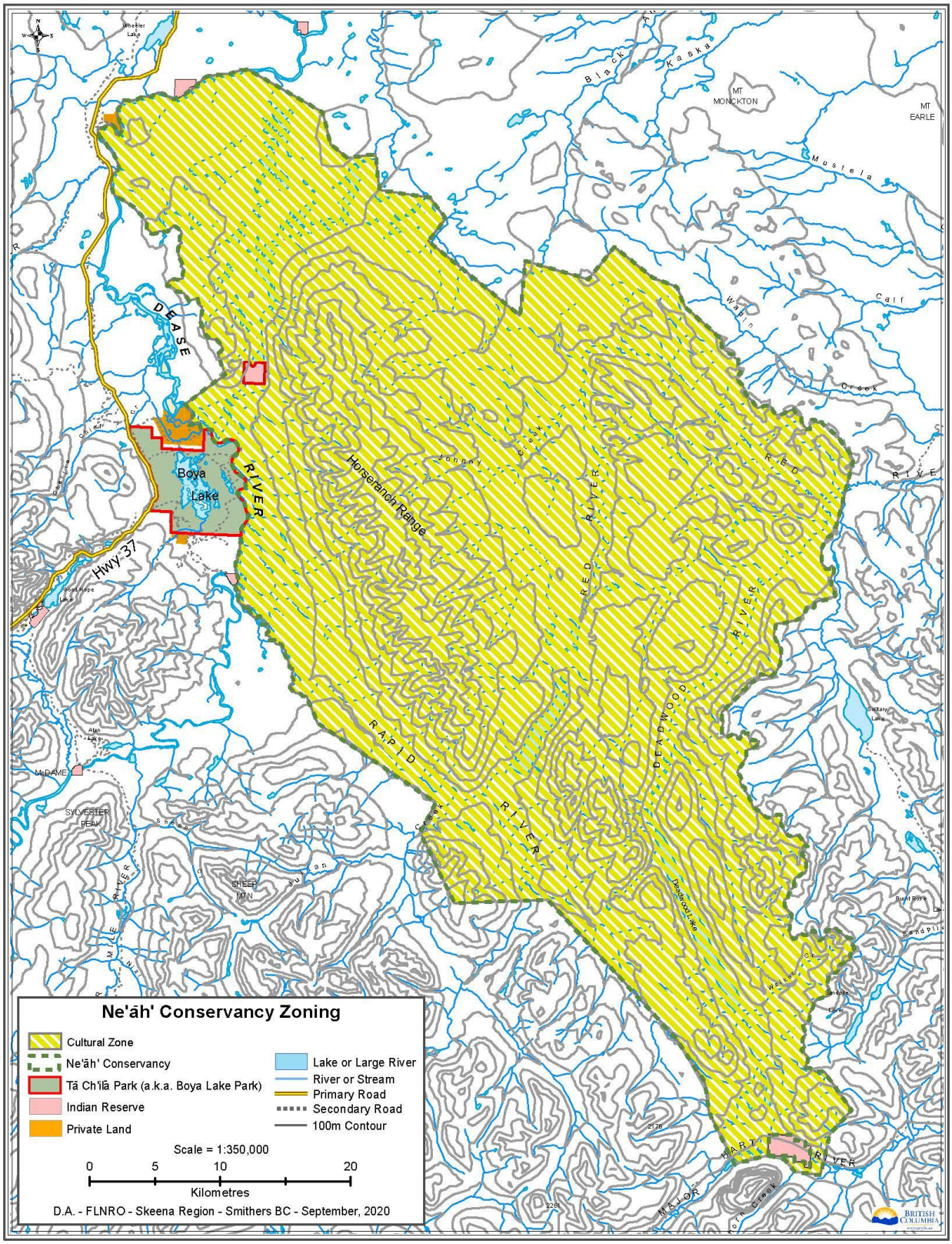


Figure 4. Zoning for Ne'āh' Conservancy

5.0 Plan Implementation

BC Parks is committed to strengthening our relationship with Indigenous Peoples, by nurturing our common interests in stewardship, management and appreciation of the many values maintained and revered within protected areas. Working with Indigenous people is an integral part of land management. Implementation of the management plan offers BC Parks and Kaska Dena an opportunity to continue to collaborate and protect the parks values. Both BC Parks and Kaska Dena plan to engage with one another in ways that acknowledge and address our shared commitment to reconciliation and manage this area consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

This management plan provides the guidance for the management of Tā Ch'ilā Park and Ne'āh' Conservancy. The management plan forms the basis from which BC Parks and other agencies can set priorities to meet management objectives.

Kaska Dena and BC Parks will work together to prioritize strategies within Tā Ch'ilā Park and Ne'āh' Conservancy. Priority strategies will be assessed for available resourcing, cost, feasibility, workloads, and overall benefit to both the park and conservancy objectives and evaluated for priority in relation to the overall protected areas system. BC Parks and the Kaska Dena will seek project-specific funding and resources to implement priority strategies to support the shared values outlined in the management plan. Many of the strategies presented within this management plan are not funded as part of core BC Parks or core Kaska Dena activities; therefore, jointly seeking funds from available sources may be required.

BC Parks and Kaska Dena will ensure that public interest groups, individuals and stakeholders are consulted where appropriate in the implementation of the management strategies. Any required changes in use, as well as incorporating new information in development of alternate zoning, will be implemented over reasonable timeframes and with full consultation with affected interests. The aim will be to minimize impacts on users and explore options with stakeholders. A cooperative model will be the preferred approach where possible if there are changes to the strategies in the future.

In addition to any park specific policies highlighted in the management plan, there are numerous other provincial/regional policies and guidelines which will be considered during management plan implementation. This includes items such as BC Parks' policies on conservation, permitting processes, and the BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy.

5.1 High Priority Strategies

The following strategies have been identified as high priorities for implementation:

- Dane Nan Yé dāh network (Land Guardians) and BC Parks to collaboratively undertake monitoring, compliance, and enforcement activities in the park and conservancy.
- Encourage the use of existing citizen science programs (e.g., iNaturalist) to enable visitors and volunteers to assist with monitoring and research.
- Work with other agencies to co-ordinate wildlife management within and adjacent to the park and conservancy to protect populations and habitats, specifically for species-at-risk including Caribou and Grizzly Bear populations.

- Develop messaging on the harvest of non-timber forest products (including mushroom harvest) within the protected areas. Once developed, work collaboratively with Kaska Dena to implement and to ensure consistent messaging and direction on both sustenance and commercial harvest.
- Monitor flight traffic on Boya Lake and if required, BC Parks will recommend appropriate flight restrictions under Section 27 of the Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulations. This could include seasonal restrictions or complete prohibition unless authorized by a park use permit or a Park Officer.

5.2 Plan assessment

To ensure that the management direction for Tā Ch'ilā Park and Ne'āh' Conservancy remains relevant and effective, BC Parks staff will ensure that the management plan is assessed by BC Parks staff and Kaska Dena on a regular basis (i.e., every 5 years). Minor administrative updates may be identified and completed at any time (e.g., correct spelling errors, update protected area details where needed, etc.), and will be documented according to BC Parks guidelines.

If an internal assessment reveals that the management plan requires updating or substantial new management direction is needed, a formal review by BC Parks and Kaska Dena may be initiated to determine whether the plan requires an amendment or if a new plan is required.

The management plan amendment process or development of a new plan includes an opportunity for public input.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix A. Appropriate Uses Table

The following table summarizes existing and potential future uses in Tā Ch'ilā Park and Ne'āh' Conservancy that are and are not appropriate in each zone. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all uses that may be considered in this protected area in the future.

Please note that appropriate uses may be geographically restricted (i.e., only allowed in certain areas of Tā Ch'ilā Park and Ne'āh' Conservancy) or are only appropriate at certain times of the year. Please ensure that you are well informed of any use restrictions as indicated in the table. It is important to review relevant sections of the management plan when interpreting the table.

Summary of Allowable Land and Resource Uses	**Tā Ch'ilā Park**			**Ne'āh' Conservancy**	
Activity/Facility	**Intensive Recreation Zone**	**Nature Recreation Zone**	**Comments**	**Cultural Zone**	**Comments**
Natural Heritage					
Forest Insect/Disease Control	Y	Y	Nonchemical methods. Spot applications. Review on a case-by-case basis.	Y	Nonchemical methods. Spot applications. Review on a case-by-case basis.
Habitat Restoration (aquatic and terrestrial)	Y	Y		Y	
Research - Indigenous and Scientific	Y	Y		Y	
Kaska Cultural Tourism	Y	Y	If commercial, subject to permitting	Y	If commercial, subject to permitting.

Summary of Allowable Land and Resource Uses	Tā Ch'ilā Park			Ne'āh' Conservancy	
Activity/Facility	**Intensive Recreation Zone**	**Nature Recreation Zone**	**Comments**	**Cultural Zone**	**Comments**
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	Y	N		N	
Aircraft take off/landing	N/A	Y	Restrictions may be implemented on Boya Lake. See Section 2.5- Access Management for more information.	Y	
Commercial Cabins, Huts, and Shelters - New	N	N		Y	Subject to permitting
Indigenous Owned structures (non-commercial)	N	Y		Y	
Boating (Motorized)	N/A	Y	9.9Hp limit recommended See Section 2.5 – Access Management for more information	Y	Section 2.5 – Access Management for more information.
Boating (Non-motorized or Electrical)	N/A	Y		Y	
Public Boat Launch and Docks	Y	N		Y	Unmaintained boat access to the Dease River exists. No new dock or boat launch infrastructure is appropriate.

Summary of Allowable Land and Resource Uses	Tā Ch'ilā Park			Ne'āh' Conservancy	
Activity/Facility	**Intensive Recreation Zone**	**Nature Recreation Zone**	**Comments**	**Cultural Zone**	**Comments**
Campgrounds (vehicle accessed)	Y	N		N	
Camping – Backcountry	N/A	Y		Y	
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	N	Y	Subject to permitting.	Y	Subject to permitting.
Exotic Animal Use	N	N		N	
Fish Stocking	N	N		N	
Fishing	N/A	Y		Y	
Heli-hiking/assisted skiing/assisted mountain biking/ pack rafting (drop off for recreational activities)	N	N		N	
Heli/cat-skiing (commercial operator)	N	N		N	
Skiing (non-assisted)	Y	Y	Self propelled/not groomed	Y	Self propelled/not groomed
Hiking/Backpacking /Walking	Y	Y		Y	
Hunting	N	Y	Refer to the Hunting and Trapping Regulations	Y	Refer to the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis for

Summary of Allowable Land and Resource Uses	Tā Ch'ilā Park			Ne'āh' Conservancy	
Activity/Facility	**Intensive Recreation Zone**	**Nature Recreation Zone**	**Comments**	**Cultural Zone**	**Comments**
			Synopsis for further information.		further information.
Interpretation and Information Signs	Y	Y		Y	
Mechanized Off-road Access (non-motorized – i.e., mountain biking)	Y	Y	Only on existing secondary roads.	N	
Motorized Off-road Access (i.e., 4x4, motorcycles, ATVs not including snowmobiles, snowcats)	Y	N	Intensive Recreation zone: Vehicle must be licensed; ATVs are subject to Off Road Vehicle (ORV) regulations. Nature Recreation Zone: Not considered an appropriate activity but is allowed as per Section 4.1.3 for specific authorized purposes through a park use permit	N	Not considered an appropriate activity but is allowed as per Section 4.1.3 for specific authorized purposes through a park use permit. ATVs are Subject to ORV regulations.
Pack Animal Use (donkeys, mules, and horses only)	N	Y	Take measures to avoid invasive species introduction.	Y	Take measures to avoid invasive species introduction.
Picnic Areas (vehicle accessed)	Y	N		N/A	
Snowmobiling	N	N	Not considered an appropriate activity but is allowed as per	N	Not considered an appropriate activity but is

Summary of Allowable Land and Resource Uses	Tā Ch'ilā Park			Ne'āh' Conservancy	
Activity/Facility	**Intensive Recreation Zone**	**Nature Recreation Zone**	**Comments**	**Cultural Zone**	**Comments**
			Section 4.1.3 for specific authorized purposes.		allowed as per Section 4.1.4 for specific authorized purposes. Snowmobiles must stay below treeline (~1100m). See section 4.1.4 and Appendix E, Figure E1.
New Trail construction	Y	Y	New trail development may be appropriate but specific proposals will be considered by Kaska Dena and BC Parks in the context of maintaining cultural and natural values.	Y	New trails may be minimally developed. Specific proposals will be considered by Kaska Dena and BC Parks in the context of maintaining cultural and natural values.
Wildlife/Nature Viewing	Y	Y		Y	
Visitor Information Buildings	Y	N		N	
Development and Use of Natural Resources					

Summary of Allowable Land and Resource Uses	Tā Ch'ilā Park			Ne'āh' Conservancy	
Activity/Facility	**Intensive Recreation Zone**	**Nature Recreation Zone**	**Comments**	**Cultural Zone**	**Comments**
Angling Guiding	N	Y	Subject to permitting. Restricted to the Dease River corridor. Not appropriate on Boya Lake.	Y	Subject to permitting
Gathering of botanical / non-timber forest products for commercial purposes (including mushroom picking).	N	N		Y	Subject to permitting
Guide Outfitting (hunting) and Transporting (e.g. Packing)	N	Y	Subject to permitting.	Y	Subject to permitting
Commercial Filming	Y	Y	Subject to permitting. Only appropriate if compatible with protected area objectives.	Y	Subject to permitting.
Communication Sites & Towers	N	N		Y	Subject to permitting.
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N	Y	Commercial use is subject to permitting. Recreational grazing (short term, hike ins, etc.) is allowed in the Nature Recreation Zone Not allowed in Intensive Recreation	Y	When associated with a guide outfitter permit. See section 4.1.1 for more information.

Summary of Allowable Land and Resource Uses	Tā Ch'ilā Park			Ne'āh' Conservancy	
Activity/Facility	**Intensive Recreation Zone**	**Nature Recreation Zone**	**Comments**	**Cultural Zone**	**Comments**
			zone due to safety concerns.		
Commercial Trapping	Y	Y	Subject to permitting.	Y	Subject to permitting
Roads	Y	N	The construction of new roads is prohibited within the park.	N	
New Motorized Trail Construction	N	N		N	
Wildlife Inventory with Helicopter/ Floatplane	Y	Y	Notification should be provided to Kaska Dena.	Y	Notification should be provided to Kaska Dena.

Appropriate Use Table Legend		
N	**Not an appropriate use**	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).
Y	**<u>May</u> be an appropriate use**	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 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.
N/A	**Not an applicable use in this zone**	It is not feasible for the use to take place in this zone (e.g., mooring buoys in a terrestrial zone).

Appendix B. Kaska Traditional Place and Wildlife Names

English Name	Kaska Name
Dease Lake	*Tine*
Good Hope Lake	*Kidizah*
Lower Post	D'aelyu'
Watson lake	*Tet'egeluge*
Deadwood Lake	*Ah' dini su'eh*
Looncry Lake	*Tuezeh sah gheh*
Red River	*Sihi*
Turnagain River	*Gah Cho*
Major Hart River	*Tsihe Tu*
Dease River	*Tu cho*
Liard	*Tahghah' Tueh*
Mcdame	*Duna Za*
Atse	*Dena Tunna*
Woodland caribou	*whūdzī*
Moose	*kadā*
Thinhorn sheep	*débē*
Mountain goats	*ásbā*

Appendix C. Management Direction for Protected Areas from the Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan 2012

2.2 Protected Areas

The majestic northern boreal forest regions of interior British Columbia and the Yukon have some of the continent's most expansive and impressive wilderness areas, with a great diversity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Extensive mountain ranges and wild rivers frame pristine boreal forest watersheds. Large free ranging populations of woodland caribou, moose, Dall's sheep, Stone sheep, a full suite of large carnivores, and hundreds of thousands of migrating neo-tropical songbirds and waterfowl make their home in these diverse boreal landscapes. Only a few roads cross this region, one of the wildest landscapes on the North American continent.

The Kaska Dena view their entire traditional territory as important and believe that shared decision-making is required throughout. In order to maintain the Kaska way of life, there are large concentrations of areas of Kaska cultural and sacred values, high wildlife diversity and abundance, and of current and historical importance that they feel need to be protected. These areas are different from Kaska Identified Watersheds (see Table 1) in which major watersheds include lower order watersheds where high concentrations of Kaska values are located. It is a difference in scale wherein landscapes need to be maintained across several major watersheds.

The first phase of the Dease-Liard SRMP (2004) was primarily concerned with the management of forestry activities; it did not deal with the establishment of protected areas. However, it did legally establish the Horseranch Zone to conserve cultural and historical values by not allowing timber harvesting within the zone.

Subsequent discussions with the Kaska Dena and stakeholders during the second phase of the SRMP have led to a recommendation for the Ne'āh' -- Horseranch Range/Deadwood Lake [- Ah' dini su'eh] area (Ne'āh') to be protected. Of note is that the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society has promoted protection of the Horseranch Range.

2.2.1 Ne'āh' Protected Area

The Kaska have identified the Ne'āh' – Horseranch Range/Deadwood Lake –[Ah' dini su'eh]area (Ne'āh') as a priority area for protection. It is approximately 231,300 hectares in size and includes the Horseranch Range, Horseranch Lake, Deadwood Lake –[Ah' dini su'eh], and Looncry Lake – [Tuezeh sah gheh]. It is considered a place worth protecting for future generations of Kaska, where the protection and co-management of all values is of high priority to them. This area is seen as a core area that provides linkages to other areas in the traditional territory via adjacent Kaska Identified Watersheds or Large River Corridors. It has been and continues to be a very important place for the Kaska Dena.

Ne'āh' is an 'island' mountain range nestled between the Cassiar Mountains and the Liard Plains in northern British Columbia. It is an area of great cultural and spiritual value to the Kaska Dena. The area is comprised of high-value habitat for caribou, moose, Stone's sheep, mountain goat, bears,

groundhogs and small furbearers. The Deadwood Lake –[Ah' dini su'eh] portion of the area overlaps the western third of the Lower Kechika watershed. Similar to the Horseranch Range, the Deadwood Lake – [Ah' dini su'eh] portion is important to the Kaska as it contains high-value habitat for wildlife. Protection of this part of the Lower Kechika watershed also enhances the linkage to the adjacent Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

Since the Kaska Dena were neither involved in the Regional Protected Areas Strategy nor in the designation of Boya Lake – [*Tā ch' ilā̱]Park, they are looking at their current involvement as a first step in collaboratively designating and making shared decisions for these areas. Their management goals for the Ne'āh' are:Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan 15*

1. Security for the Ne'āh' over time through a combination of processes;

2. Collaborative management of the area through management agreements;

3. Maintaining the ecosystem integrity of the area by applying a light footprint of human activities and focusing on conservation. This will leave large areas of undisturbed ecosystems influenced only by natural disturbance regimes.

A protected area management plan may further define management objectives for this area, as well as define acceptable uses and levels of use, zoning and other strategies to minimize conflicts and help to ensure the integrity of the protected area values. It is to be developed collaboratively with stakeholders, First Nations, the public, and government agencies.

Activities within the protected area will be managed with the intent to avoid impacts on wildlife and fish habitat, and on First Nations cultural values and uses. Commercial logging and mineral exploration and development are not permissible within the protected area, nor is hydroelectric development (other than for small-scale initiatives designed to supply power to approved uses within the protected area such as cabins or lodges, or nearby communities that do not otherwise have access to hydro-electric power). Existing tenures including licenses and leases that are eligible to continue under the Park Act will be allowed to continue and be converted into park use permits for the newly established protected area, where consistent with the management direction. Air access will continue to be allowed into and within the protected area, but there will be no development of new roads in the protected area.

Trapping, guide outfitting and commercial recreation are acceptable activities within the protected area, as are hunting, fishing and non-commercial recreation. Further specific direction for these activities may be provided in the protected area management plan.

There are currently no plans by government to implement limited entry hunting or change any regulations related to hunting. If this were to change in the future, all established consultation channels would be followed before any changes would be implemented.

2.2.2 Goal 2 Areas

As part of the Protected Areas Strategy, the Blue River – [Tu Detlse Tue] Warm Springs and Liard – [Tahghah' Tueh] Eskers were identified as Goal 2 areas. While not formally protected in this land use plan, they have key ecological and cultural values that will require further consideration through implementation. Within the first year after plan approval, a process will be established that engages interested parties (i.e. FLNRO, Kaska, CPAWS, AMEBC) to determine appropriate measures to conserve key ecological and cultural values. Formal protection will not be considered.

2.8 Gu Cha Duga Zone

2.8.1 Resource Values

Gu Cha Duga means "for the grandchildren" in a Kaska Dena dialect. This name describes areas within the Kaska traditional territory that have a large concentration and diversity of cultural sites, sacred areas and wildlife, and are of current and historical importance to the Kaska Dena to maintain their way of life.

The Ne"āh" area to be protected is considered a core Gu Cha Duga area. Surrounding the core area, extending north to the Yukon border east of the Dease River and south towards Rapid River, is the Gu Cha Duga Zone (Map 8: Gu Cha Duga Zone). It is approximately 370,000 hectares, which represents approximately 16% of the Dease-Liard SRMP area, and 4% of the Kaska traditional territory.

This zone provides linkages and connectivity to other areas in Kaska traditional territory via the adjacent Kaska Identified Watersheds and Large River Corridors. It also connects with the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area to the east.

2.8.2 Management Direction for the Gu Cha Duga Zone

The primary goal for management within the Gu Cha Duga Zone is to maintain its cultural values, ecosystem integrity and natural backcountry characteristics. It is also intended to provide opportunities for tourism, commercial recreation, guide outfitting, mineral exploration and oil and gas exploration, so long as these activities recognize and respect the main purpose of the area. The Gu Cha Duga Zone is further intended to emphasize and market non-traditional and innovative uses of the commercial forests such as for carbon credits or biodiversity offsets.

A number of Kaska Dena interests and concerns for the Gu Cha Duga Zone, including access, maintenance of traditional use areas, and resources important for sustenance activities, are addressed in other chapters of the SRMP. In accordance with provincial legislation and policy, access roads are to be reclaimed after the conclusion of industrial activities. Forestry regulations specify that road deactivation must occur following the completion of harvesting activities. Finally, Kaska Dena cultural and sacred areas will be avoided as specified by the Cultural Heritage Resources chapter in phase one of the SRMP.

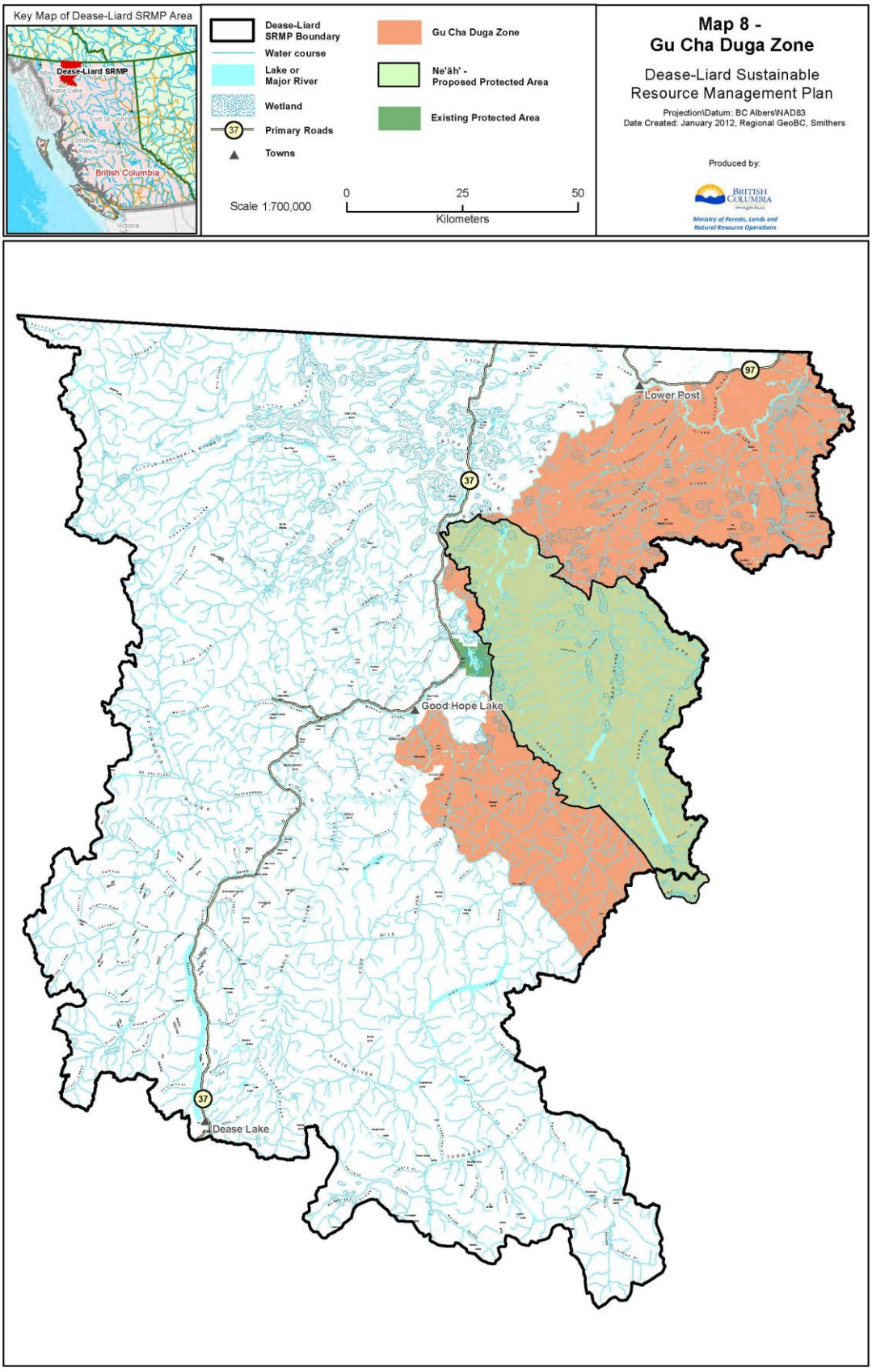
The Kaska Dena see the Gu Cha Duga Zone as an important place which warrants, establishing it as a distinct zone to provide direction for the values to be maintained. Over time, the Kaska are interested in establishing a legal designation for wildlife in this area, such as a Wildlife Management Area or a Land Use Objective, with shared decision making on the lands around the core Ne'āh' protected area.

This approach would, in Kaska's view, maintain the goals for this zone by:

- *Placing an emphasis on its remote and natural backcountry characteristics as well as a priority for ecological and cultural conservation;*
- *Emphasizing marketing the conservation and cultural values of the area while supporting alternate uses of the commercial forest such as for carbon credits or biodiversity offsets;*
- *Supporting preferred activities such as tourism, commercial recreation, guide outfitting and mineral exploration that does not include permanent road access;*
- *Allowing temporary road development and once industrial activities are completed, deactivating and reclaiming roaded areas;*
- *Avoiding Kaska cultural and sacred areas; and,*
- *Maintaining the ecosystem integrity and cultural values of the area.*

Plan Goal for the Gu Cha Duga Zone

To recognize and respect the areas that have a large concentration and diversity of cultural sites, sacred areas and wildlife, and are of current and historical importance to the Kaska Dena to maintain their way of life.


Key Map of Dease-Liard SRMP Area
Dease-Liard SRMP
British Columbia
Dease-Liard SRMP Boundary
Water course
Lake or Major River
Wetland
Primary Roads
Towns
Gu Cha Duga Zone
Ne'ăh' - Proposed Protected Area
Existing Protected Area
Scale 1:700,000
0
25
50
Kilometers
Map 8 - Gu Cha Duga Zone
Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan
Projection\Datum: BC Albers\NAD83
Date Created: January 2012, Regional GeoBC, Smithers
Produced by:
BRITISH COLUMBIA
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Lower Post
Good Hope Lake
Dease Lake
37
97

Appendix D. Section 16 *Lands Act* UREP Map – Dease River

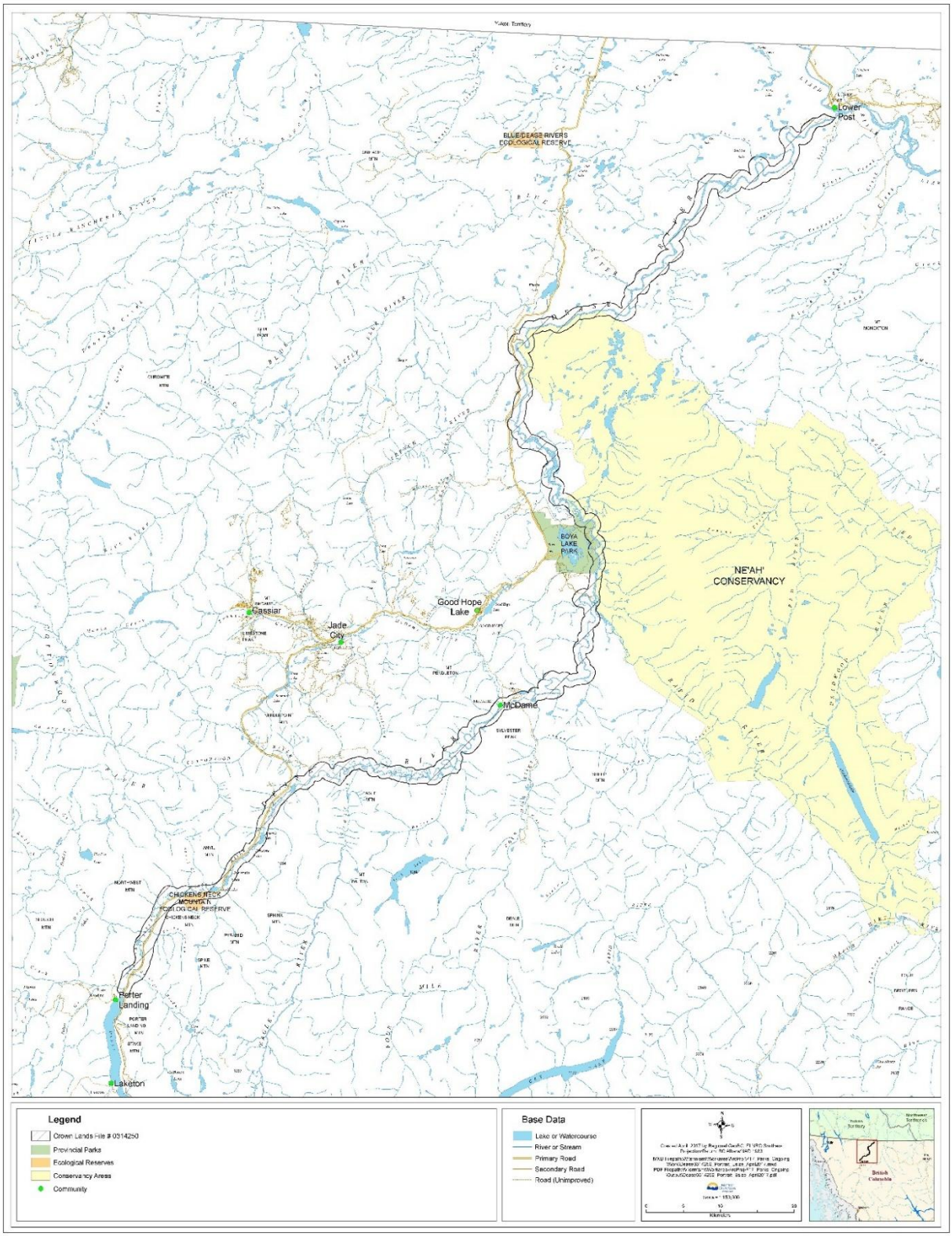


Figure D1. Section 16 Lands Act *UREP Map – Dease River*

Appendix E. Ecosystem Overiew Assessment Information – Tā Ch'ilā Park [a.k.a. Boya Lake Park] and Ne'āh' Conservancy

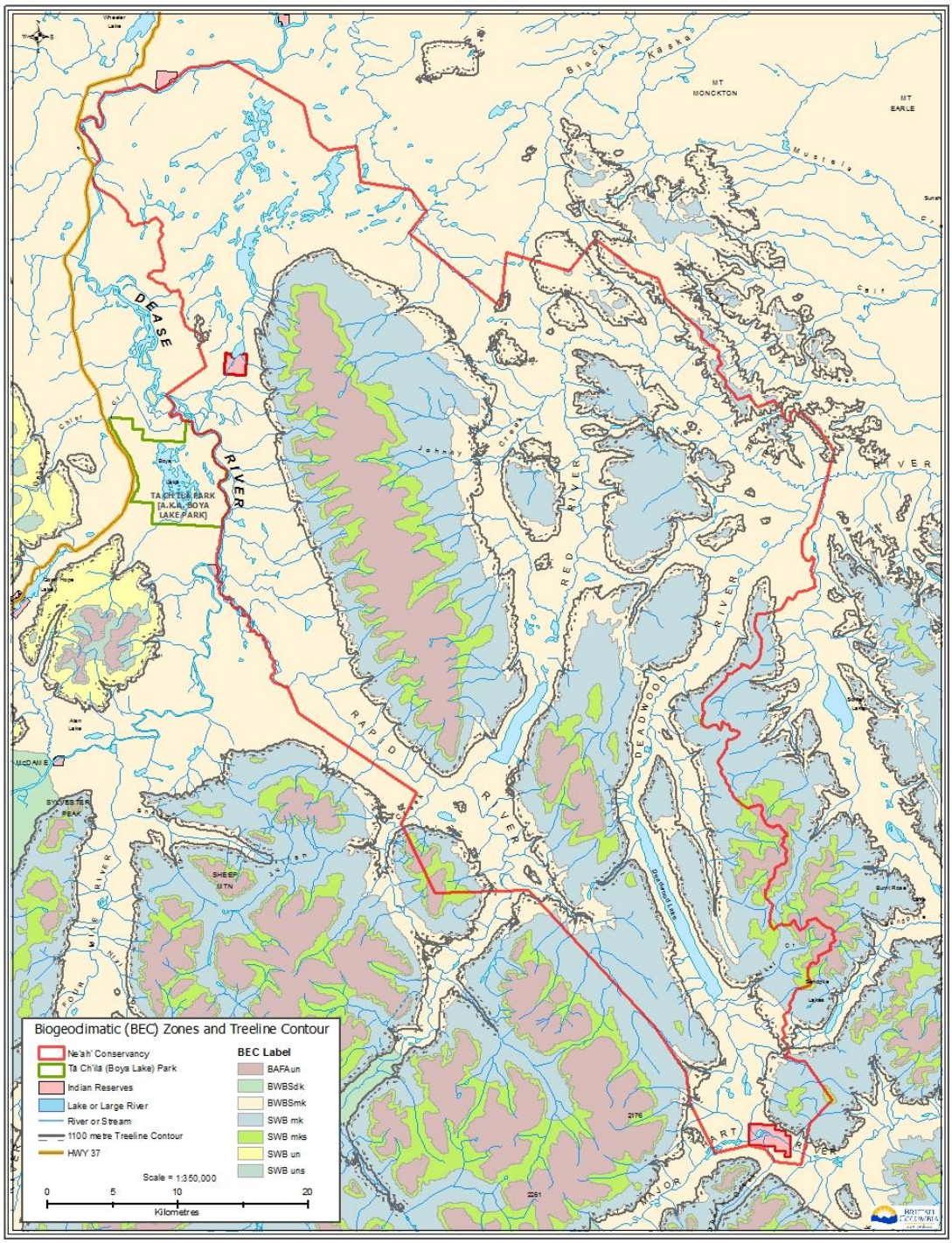


Figure E1. Biogeoclimatic (BEC) Zones and treeline contour (1100m) - Tā Ch'ilā Park [a.k.a. Boya Lake Park] and Ne'āh' Conservancy

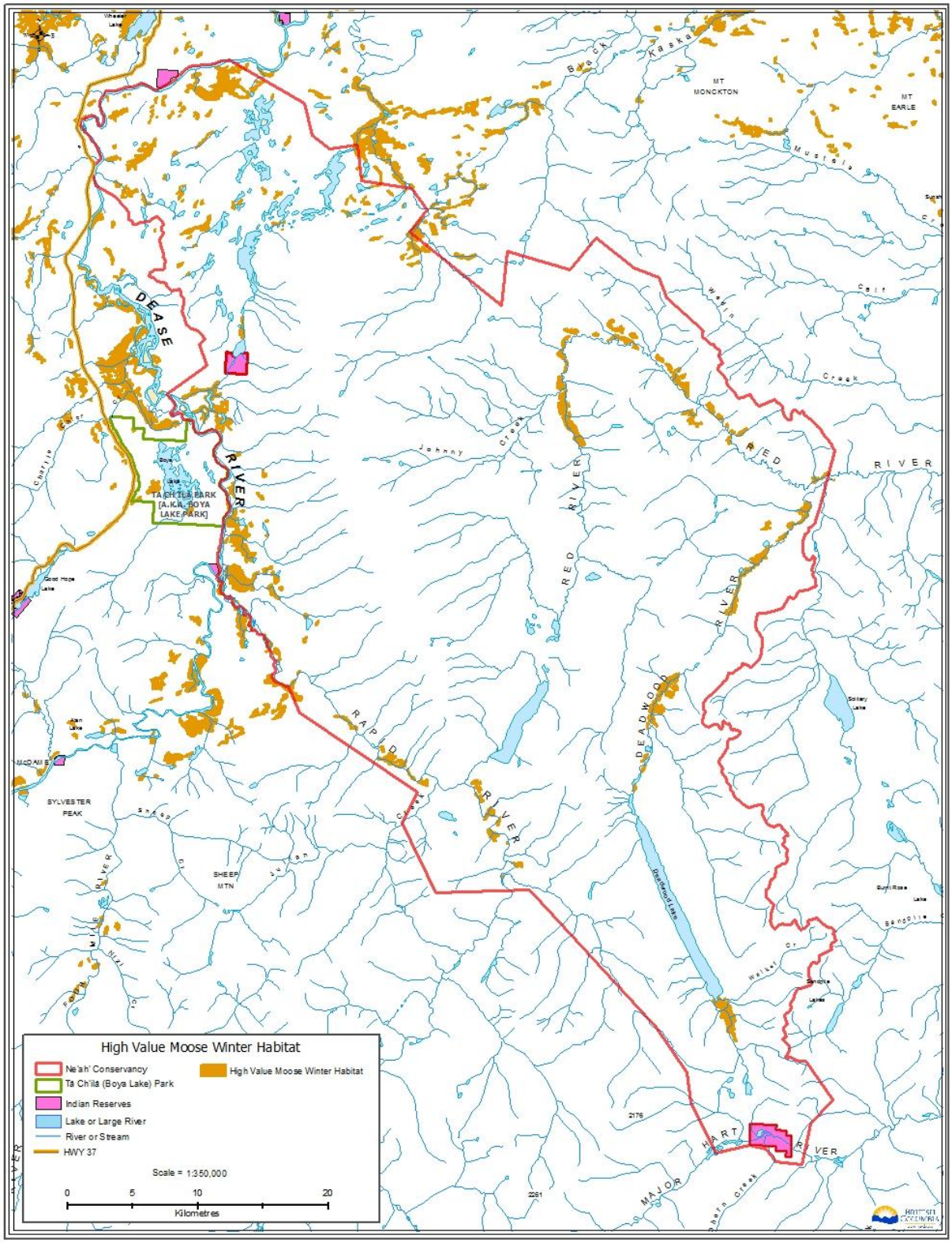


Figure E2. High value moose habitat - Tā Ch'ilā Park [a.k.a. Boya Lake Park] and Ne'āh' Conservancy

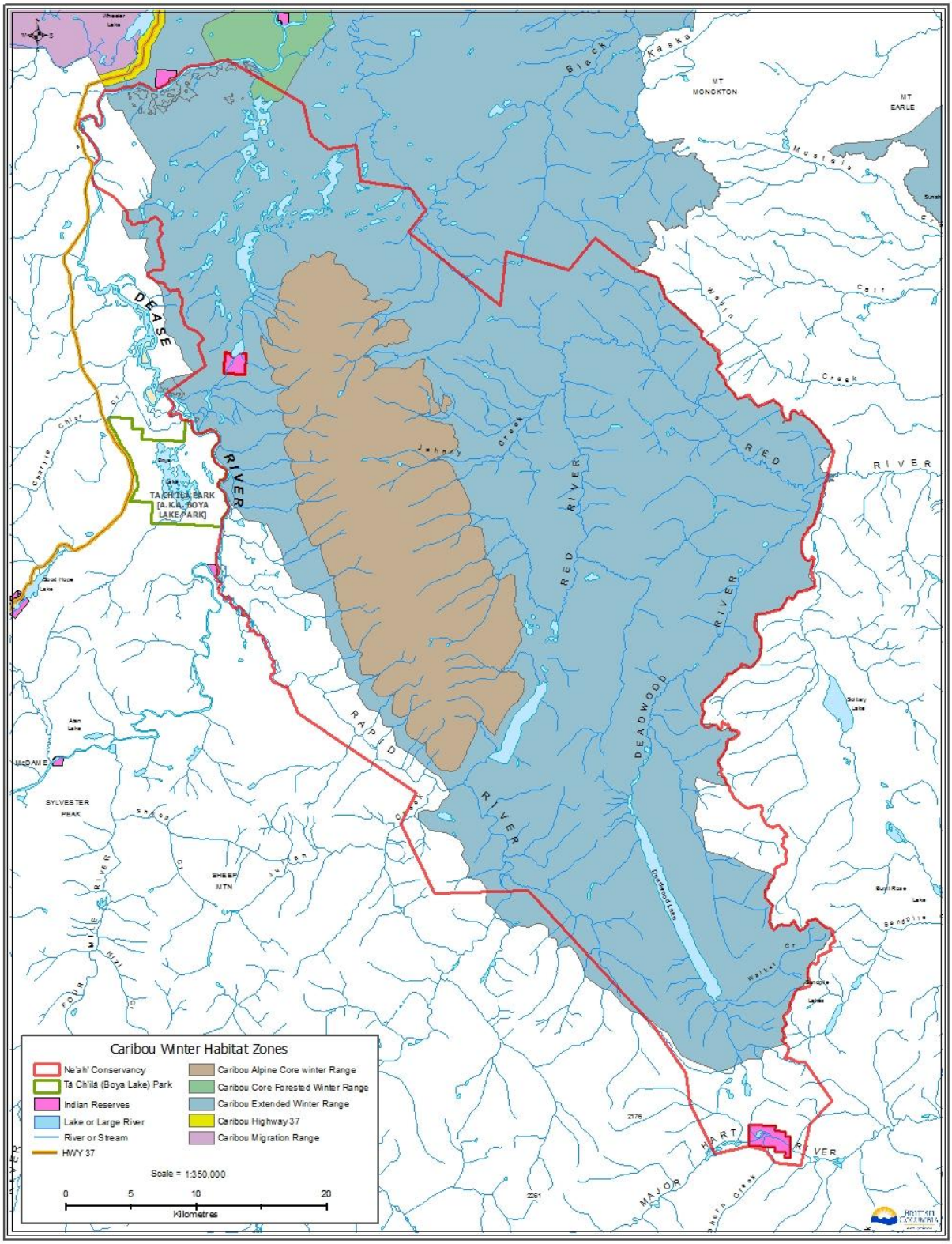


Figure E3. Caribou Winter Range - Tā Ch'ilā Park [a.k.a. Boya Lake Park] and Ne'āh' Conservancy

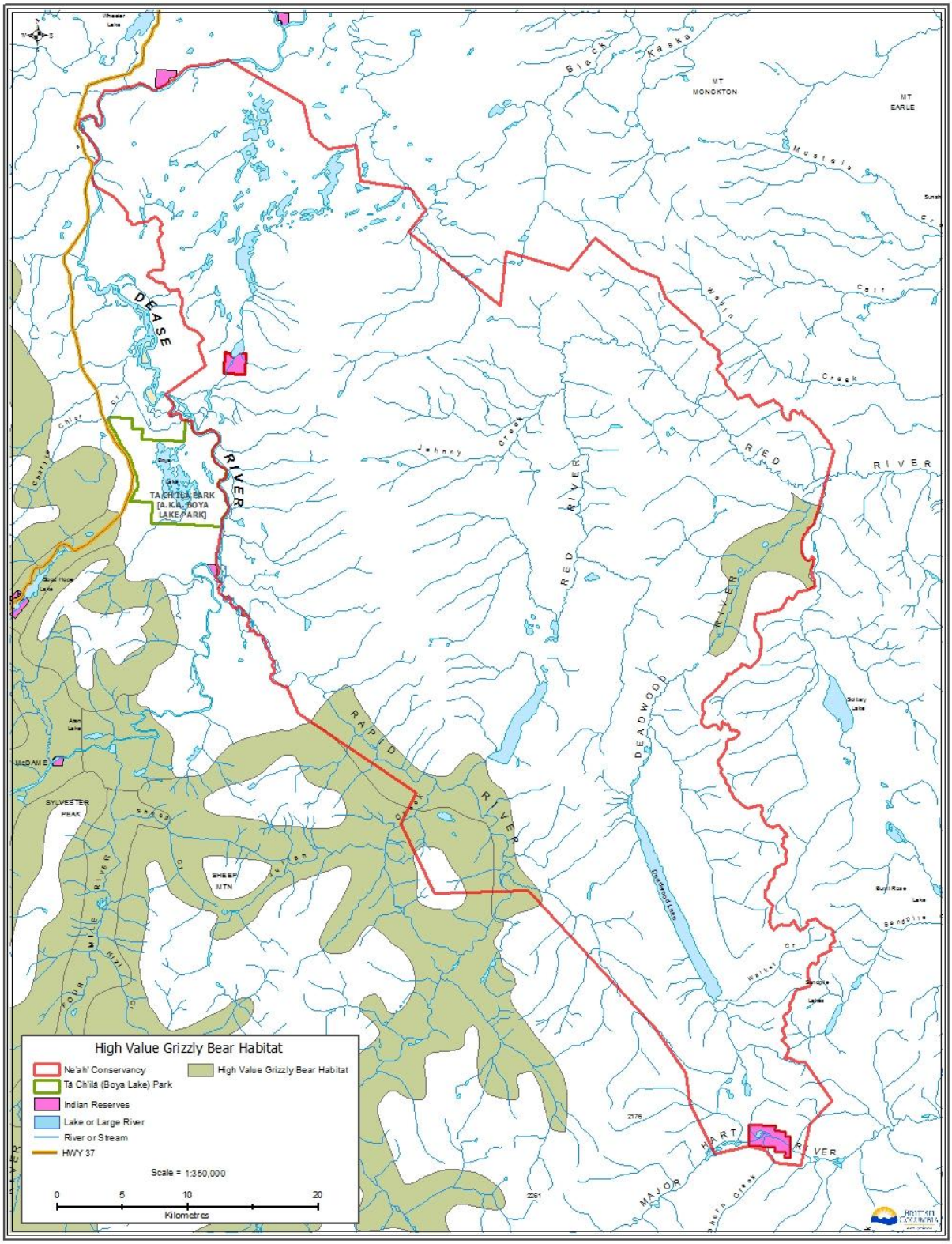


Figure E4. High value grizzly bear habitat - Tā Ch'ilā Park [a.k.a. Boya Lake Park] and Ne'āh' Conservancy

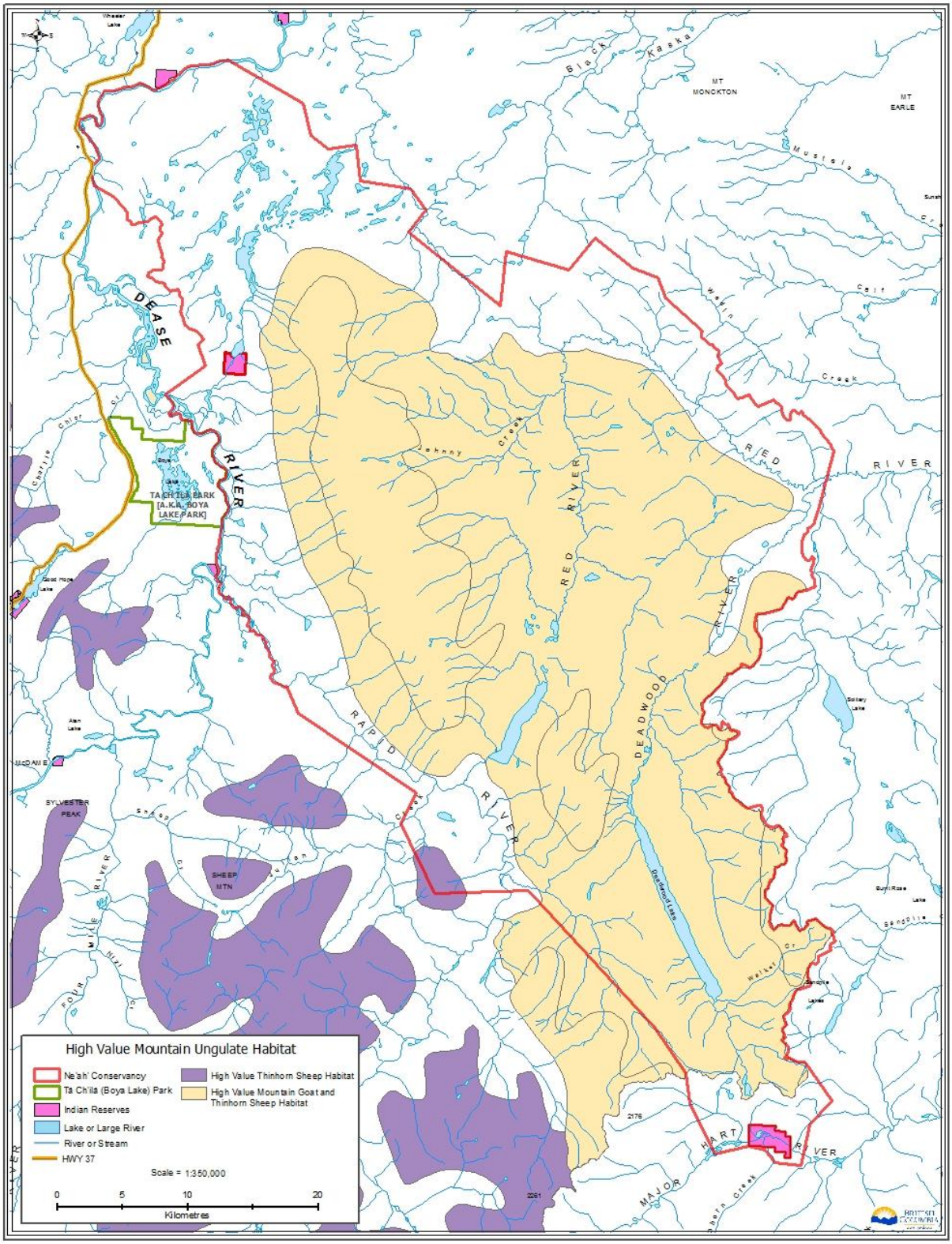


Figure E5. High value mountain ungulate habitat - Tā Ch'ilā Park [a.k.a. Boya Lake Park] and Ne'āh' Conservancy

Table E1. Blue and Red listed ecosystems that the Conservation Data Centre lists as occurring in the BEC subzones that occur in Ne'āh' Conservancy (2016)

Ecosystem Group	Biogeoclimatic Units	Scientific Name	English Name	BC List
Flood Highbench	BWBSmk/110	*Picea glauca / Ribes triste / Equisetum* spp.	white spruce / red swamp currant / horsetails	Blue
Flood Midbench (Fm)	BWBSmk/112 SWBmk	*Populus balsamifera - Picea glauca / Alnus incana - Cornus stolonifera*	balsam poplar - white spruce / mountain alder - red-osier dogwood	Blue
Flood Lowbench (Fl)	BWBSmk/Fl03	*Salix lasiandra* var. *lasiandra / Cornus stolonifera / Equisetum* spp.	Pacific willow / red-osier dogwood / horsetails	Red
	BWBSmk/Fl06 SWBmk/Fl06	*Salix exigua* Shrubland	narrow-leaf willow Shrubland	Red
Wetland Bog (Wb)	BWBSmk/Wb03 SWBmk/Wb03	*Picea mariana / Vaccinium vitis-idaea / Sphagnum spp.*	black spruce / lingonberry / peat-mosses	Blue
	BWBSmk/Wb06	*Larix laricina / Carex aquatilis / Tomentypnum nitens*	tamarack / water sedge / golden fuzzy fen moss	Blue
	BWBSmk/Wb09 SWBmk/Wb09	*Picea mariana / Equisetum arvense / Sphagnum spp.*	black spruce / common horsetail / peat-mosses	Blue
Wetland Fen (Wf)	BWBSmk/Wf02 SWBmk/Wf02	*Betula nana / Carex aquatilis*	scrub birch / water sedge	Blue
	BWBSmk/Wf05	*Carex lasiocarpa / Drepanocladus aduncus*	slender sedge / common hook-moss	Blue
	BWBSmk/Wf08	*Carex limosa - Menyanthes trifoliata / Drepanocladus* spp.	shore sedge - buckbean / hook-mosses	Blue
	BWBSmk/Wf18	*Larix laricina / Betula nana / Menyanthes trifoliata*	tamarack / buckbean - shore sedge	Blue
Wetland Marsh (Wm)	BWBSmk/Wm02	*Equisetum fluviatile - Carex utriculata*	swamp horsetail - beaked sedge	Blue
Wetland Swamp (Ws)	BWBSmk/Ws15	*Picea glauca - Picea mariana / Rhododendron groenlandicum / Aulacomnium palustre*	white spruce - black spruce / Labrador-tea / glow moss	Blue

Table E2. Red and Blue listed animal and plant species found in Tā Ch'ilā Park and Ne'āh' Conservancy (2016)

Scientific Name	English Name	BC List	SARA	Life form
Anaxyrus boreas	Western Toad	Blue	1-SC (Jan 2005)	Amphibian
Asio flammeus	Short-eared Owl	Blue	1-SC (Jul 2012)	Bird
Bartramia longicauda	Upland Sandpiper	Red		Bird
Calcarius pictus	Smith's Longspur	Blue		Bird
Contopus cooperi	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Blue	1-T (Feb 2010)	Bird
Cypseloides niger	Black Swift	Blue		Bird
Euphagus carolinus	Rusty Blackbird	Blue	1-SC (Mar 2009)	Bird
Falco rusticolus	Gyrfalcon	Blue		Bird
Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow	Blue		Bird
Limnodromus griseus	Short-billed Dowitcher	Blue		Bird
Limosa haemastica	Hudsonian Godwit	Red		Bird
Phalaropus lobatus	Red-necked Phalarope	Blue		Bird
Pluvialis dominica	American Golden-Plover	Blue		Bird
Tringa incana	Wandering Tattler	Blue		Bird
Boloria astarte distincta	Astarte Fritillary, *distincta* subspecies	Blue		Butterfly
Boloria epithore sigridae	Western Meadow Fritillary, *sigridae* subspecies	Blue		Butterfly
Colias gigantea gigantea	Giant Sulphur, *gigantea* subspecies	Blue		Butterfly
Colias hecla	Hecla Sulphur	Red		Butterfly
Euchloe naina	Green Marble	Blue		Butterfly
Oeneis jutta alaskensis	Jutta Arctic, *alaskensis* subspecies	Blue		Butterfly
Oeneis polixenes yukonensis	Polixenes Arctic, *yukonensis* subspecies	Red		Butterfly
Parnassius phoebus	Phoebus Parnassian	Red		Butterfly
Pieris marginalis guppyi	Margined White, *guppyi* subspecies	Blue		Butterfly
Plebejus optilete	Cranberry Blue	Blue		Butterfly
Polites draco	Draco Skipper	Blue		Butterfly
Somatochlora kennedyi	Kennedy's Emerald	Blue		Dragonfly
Coregonus nasus	Broad Whitefish	Blue		Fish
Coregonus sardinella	Least Cisco	Blue		Fish
Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii	Cutthroat Trout, *clarkii* subspecies	Blue		Fish
Salvelinus confluentus	Bull Trout	Blue		Fish
Stenodus leucichthys	Inconnu	Blue		Fish
Gulo gulo luscus	Wolverine, *luscus* subspecies	Blue		Mammal
Myotis keenii	Keen's Myotis	Blue	3 (Mar 2005)	Mammal
Ochotona collaris	Collared Pika	Blue		Mammal
Ovis dalli dalli	Dall's Sheep	Blue		Mammal
Pekania pennanti	Fisher	Blue		Mammal
Rangifer tarandus pop. 15	Caribou (northern mountain population)	Blue	1-T/SC (Jan 2005)	Mammal
Sorex tundrensis	Tundra Shrew	Red		Mammal
Ursus arctos	Grizzly Bear	Blue		Mammal
Zapus hudsonius alascensis	Meadow Jumping Mouse, *alascensis* subspecies	Blue		Mammal
Galba truncatula	Attenuate Fossaria	Blue		Mollusc
Lymnaea atkaensis	Frigid Lymnaea	Blue		Mollusc

Amblyodon dealbatus		Blue		Moss
Scientific Name	**English Name**	**BC List**	**SARA**	**Life form**
Andreaea rupestris var. *papillosa*		Red		Moss
Brachythecium trachypodium		Blue		Moss
Bryobrittonia longipes		Blue		Moss
Bryoerythrophyllum ferruginascens		Red		Moss
Bryum arcticum		Red		Moss
Cinclidium arcticum		Blue		Moss
Cynodontium glaucescens		Blue		Moss
Cynodontium schisti		Blue		Moss
Didymodon asperifolius		Red		Moss
Didymodon johansenii		Blue		Moss
Encalypta brevicollis		Blue		Moss
Encalypta brevipes		Blue		Moss
Hygrohypnum alpestre		Blue		Moss
Hygrohypnum alpinum		Blue		Moss
Hygrohypnum polare		Blue		Moss
Hypnum holmenii		Blue		Moss
Lescuraea saxicola		Blue		Moss
Mnium arizonicum		Blue		Moss
Myurella sibirica		Red		Moss
Oreas martiana		Red		Moss
Orthothecium strictum		Blue		Moss
Orthotrichum pylaisii		Blue		Moss
Pohlia crudoides		Blue		Moss
Pohlia elongata		Blue		Moss
Pseudobryum cinclidioides		Red		Moss
Pseudocalliergon turgescens		Blue		Moss
Psilopilum cavifolium		Red		Moss
Racomitrium pygmaeum		Blue		Moss
Schistidium atrichum		Red		Moss
Schistidium boreale		Blue		Moss
Schistidium pulchrum		Blue		Moss
Sphagnum balticum		Blue		Moss
Splachnum vasculosum		Blue		Moss
Tayloria froelichiana		Blue		Moss
Tetraplodon pallidus		Red		Moss
Timmia norvegica		Blue		Moss
Tortula leucostoma		Blue		Moss
Tortula systylia		Red		Moss
Ulota curvifolia		Blue		Moss
Warnstorfia trichophylla		Blue		Moss
Warnstorfia tundrae		Red		Moss
Aphragmus eschscholtzianus	Eschscholtz's little nightmare	Blue		Vascular plant
Arctophila fulva	pendantgrass	Blue		Vascular plant
Arenaria longipedunculata	low sandwort	Blue		Vascular plant

Artemisia alaskana	Alaskan sagebrush	Blue		Vascular plant
Scientific Name	**English Name**	**BC List**	**SARA**	**Life form**
Astragalus umbellatus	tundra milk-vetch	Blue		Vascular plant
Botrychium ascendens	upswept moonwort	Blue		Vascular plant
Botrychium crenulatum	dainty moonwort	Blue		Vascular plant
Botrychium spathulatum	spoon-shaped moonwort	Blue		Vascular plant
Callitriche heterophylla var. heterophylla	two-edged water-starwort	Blue		Vascular plant
Carex bicolor	two-coloured sedge	Blue		Vascular plant
Carex fuliginosa ssp. misandra	short-leaved sedge	Blue		Vascular plant
Carex incurviformis var. incurviformis	curved-spiked sedge	Blue		Vascular plant
Carex membranacea	fragile sedge	Blue		Vascular plant
Carex rupestris ssp. rupestris	curly sedge	Blue		Vascular plant
Castilleja hyperborea	northern paintbrush	Blue		Vascular plant
Chamaerhodos erecta ssp. nuttallii	American chamaerhodos	Blue		Vascular plant
Chrysosplenium wrightii	Wright's golden-saxifrage	Blue		Vascular plant
Cnidium cnidiifolium	northern hemlock-parsley	Blue		Vascular plant
Descurainia sophioides	northern tansymustard	Blue		Vascular plant
Diapensia obovata	diapensia	Blue		Vascular plant
Douglasia gormanii	Gorman's douglasia	Blue		Vascular plant
Draba cinerea	gray-leaved draba	Blue		Vascular plant
Draba corymbosa	Baffin Bay draba	Blue		Vascular plant
Draba fladnizensis	Austrian draba	Blue		Vascular plant
Draba lactea	milky draba	Blue		Vascular plant
Draba palanderiana	Palander's draba	Blue		Vascular plant
Draba porsildii	Porsild's draba	Blue		Vascular plant
Draba ruaxes	coast mountain draba	Blue		Vascular plant
Draba stenopetala	star-flowered draba	Red		Vascular plant
Draba thompsonii	lance-fruited draba	Blue		Vascular plant
Draba ventosa	Wind River draba	Blue		Vascular plant
Epilobium davuricum	northern swamp willowherb	Red		Vascular plant
Epilobium halleanum	Hall's willowherb	Blue		Vascular plant
Epilobium hornemannii ssp. behringianum	Hornemann's willowherb	Blue		Vascular plant
Erigeron uniflorus var. eriocephalus	northern daisy	Blue		Vascular plant
Eutrema edwardsii	Edwards wallflower	Blue		Vascular plant
Festuca minutiflora	little fescue	Blue		Vascular plant
Gentianella tenella ssp. tenella	slender gentian	Red		Vascular plant
Geum rossii var. rossii	Ross' avens	Blue		Vascular plant
Glyceria pulchella	slender mannagrass	Blue		Vascular plant
Juncus albescens	whitish rush	Blue		Vascular plant
Lomatogonium rotatum	marsh felwort	Blue		Vascular plant
Lupinus kuschei	Yukon lupine	Blue		Vascular plant
Luzula confusa	northern wood-rush	Blue		Vascular plant
Micranthes hieraciifolia	hawkweed-leaved saxifrage	Red		Vascular plant
Micranthes nelsoniana var. carlottae	dotted saxifrage	Blue		Vascular plant
Micranthes razshivinii	large-petalled saxifrage	Red		Vascular plant
Minuartia arctica	Arctic sandwort	Red		Vascular plant
Minuartia stricta	rock sandwort	Blue		Vascular plant

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Montia bostockii	Bostock's montia	Red		Vascular plant
Oxytropis campestris var. *davisii*	Davis' locoweed	Blue		Vascular plant
Oxytropis campestris var. *jordalii*	Jordal's locoweed	Blue		Vascular plant
Oxytropis maydelliana	Maydell's locoweed	Blue		Vascular plant
Oxytropis scammaniana	Scamman's locoweed	Blue		Vascular plant
Packera ogotorukensis	Ogotoruk Creek butterweed	Red		Vascular plant
Papaver alboroseum	pale poppy	Blue		Vascular plant
Parrya nudicaulis	northern parrya	Red		Vascular plant
Pedicularis parviflora ssp. *parviflora*	small-flowered lousewort	Red		Vascular plant
Pedicularis verticillata	whorled lousewort	Blue		Vascular plant
Penstemon gormanii	Gorman's penstemon	Blue		Vascular plant
Phippsia algida	frigid phippsia	Blue		Vascular plant
Physaria arctica	arctic bladderpod	Blue		Vascular plant
Pinguicula villosa	hairy butterwort	Blue		Vascular plant
Plantago eriopoda	alkali plantain	Blue		Vascular plant
Poa abbreviata ssp. *pattersonii*	abbreviated bluegrass	Blue		Vascular plant
Poa pseudoabbreviata	polar bluegrass	Blue		Vascular plant
Polemonium boreale	northern Jacob's-ladder	Blue		Vascular plant
Polygonum humifusum ssp. *caurianum*	Alaska knotweed	Red		Vascular plant
Potamogeton perfoliatus	perfoliate pondweed	Blue		Vascular plant
Potentilla biflora	two-flowered cinquefoil	Blue		Vascular plant
Potentilla elegans	elegant cinquefoil	Red		Vascular plant
Potentilla nivea var. *pentaphylla*	five-leaved cinquefoil	Blue		Vascular plant
Primula cuneifolia ssp. *saxifragifolia*	wedge-leaf primrose	Blue		Vascular plant
Ranunculus pedatifidus ssp. *affinis*	birdfoot buttercup	Blue		Vascular plant
Ranunculus sulphureus	sulphur buttercup	Blue		Vascular plant
Rumex arcticus	arctic dock	Blue		Vascular plant
Sagina nivalis	snow pearlwort	Blue		Vascular plant
Salix petiolaris	meadow willow	Blue		Vascular plant
Salix raupii	Raup's willow	Red		Vascular plant
Salix setchelliana	Setchell's willow	Blue		Vascular plant
Saussurea angustifolia var. *angustifolia*	northern sawwort	Red		Vascular plant
Saxifraga serpyllifolia	thyme-leaved saxifrage	Blue		Vascular plant
Senecio sheldonensis	Mount Sheldon butterweed	Blue		Vascular plant
Silene drummondii var. *drummondii*	Drummond's campion	Blue		Vascular plant
Silene involucrata ssp. *involucrata*	arctic campion	Blue		Vascular plant
Silene ostenfeldii	Taimyr campion	Blue		Vascular plant
Stuckenia vaginata	sheathing pondweed	Blue		Vascular plant
Tephroseris frigida	purple-haired groundsel	Blue		Vascular plant
Tephroseris lindstroemii	northern groundsel	Blue		Vascular plant
Tephroseris palustris	marsh fleabane	Blue		Vascular plant
Tephroseris yukonensis	Yukon groundsel	Blue		Vascular plant
Tofieldia coccinea	northern false asphodel	Blue		Vascular plant
Woodsia alpina	alpine cliff fern	Blue		Vascular plant