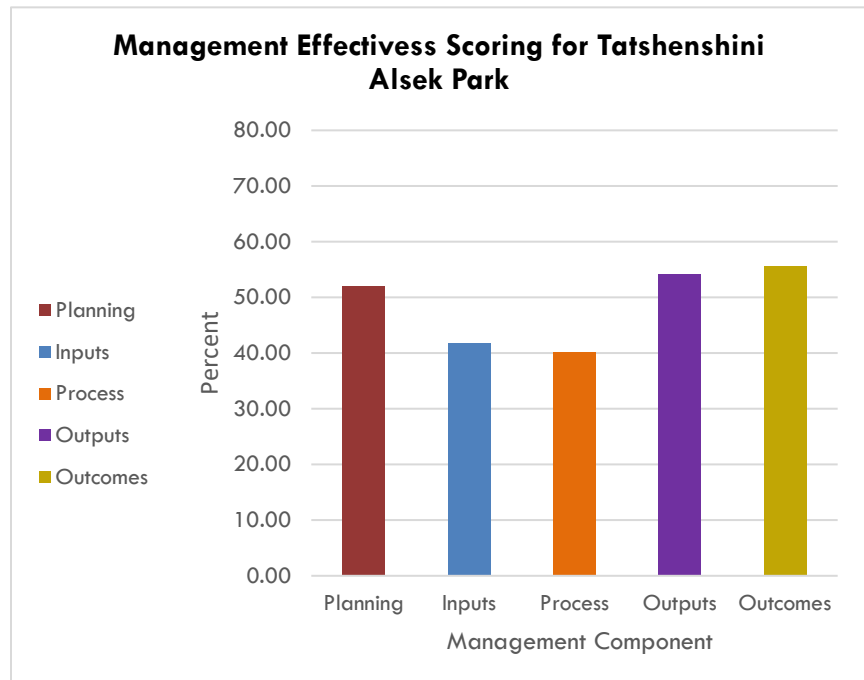


Tatshenshini-Elsek Park: Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (PAME) Summary

Evaluators:	BC Parks Skeena staff, staff and citizens of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN), and Confluence Consulting
Date:	February 2022
Evaluation Tool:	Canadian modification of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
Overall Score:	Basic with significant deficiencies

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Scoring Level Standard
Sound (67%-100%)
Basic (51%-66%)
Basic with significant deficiencies (34%-50%)
Clearly inadequate (0-33%)



Planning: <i>Where do we want to be and how will we get there?</i>		Explanation of Component: This component evaluates the design features of a protected area or system including the physical, legal and institutional factors which determine whether its management will be relatively straightforward or complicated. Assesses <i>regulations, policies, objectives,</i>
Score:	Basic	
Summary: The current Tatshenshini Elsek Park (TAP) management direction statement is dated, broad in direction and lacks detailed information. Recent assessments of TAP's cultural, ecological, and recreational values were completed. These assessments revealed that there is limited ecological and conservation data. The lack of inventory and documentation of values is partially due to the lack of consistent monitoring. There are significant amounts of information		

<p>from scientific research. There remains a gap between the research being conducted, and the application of the research into park planning and decisions. TAP Management Board and BC Parks have limited capacity (staffing) to use this data to inform planning and decisions.</p> <p>TAP is bordered on two sides by protected areas; cooperative management with other areas is limited and focused on the management of the Tatshenshini-Alsek watershed. COVID-19 has suspended some interagency river coordination over the past couple of years. The CAFN-BC Parks TAP Management Board has regular meetings to discuss park management concerns and provide direction to the Area Supervisor. A contract exists providing seasonal employment to two CAFN Guardians. CAFN –BC Parks TAP Management Board conducts regular annual planning however plans are not always implemented due to capacity constraints.</p> <p>How the Tatshenshini-Alsek Park Board is responding: The Park Management Board is in the process of developing a workplan to draft a new management plan for Tatshenshini-Alsek Park plan from a co-management perspective with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. Significant baseline work has been undertaken to assess values to inform the management planning process including this PAME evaluation.</p>	<p><i>design, management plan and broader land and water planning objectives.</i></p>
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Inputs: What do we need?		Explanation of Component:
Score:	Basic with significant deficiencies	<p>Assessments of protected area effectiveness repeatedly suggest that the level of resources available for management often has a major impact on effectiveness. This component attempts to evaluate inputs by developing a clear and unbiased picture of the inputs available and to identify gaps and shortfalls. <i>Assesses law enforcement, resources, staff numbers and training, budget, management equipment and facilities and fees.</i></p>
<p>Summary: Recent ecosystem, cultural and recreation assessments were completed for TAP, identifying many of the values present and what information is missing. Due to the vast size of TAP, and a lack of resources (e.g., funding/ staff) there are large gaps in our understanding of the ecological and cultural values.</p> <p>Part-time monitoring programs exist for the legacy contaminated sites that predated TAP establishment. Specific to the Rainy Hollow and Windy Craggy sites; BC Parks has legal obligations to monitor those sites, every five years, subject to their findings. Historically, contracts with the CAFN to manage the park were the norm. At the time this report was written, a contract was not in place though efforts are under way to develop a new contract. It is recognized by both CAFN and BC Parks that if CAFN citizens were more connected to the land, then there would be better information and knowledge to support management. The wide scope of expertise and skills present among CAFN members is underutilized due to a lack of time on the ground. BC Parks staff are equally skilled but lack general capacity. As a</p>		

<p>World Heritage site, there is an overall limited budget to support the necessary park management work.</p> <p>How BC Parks is responding: There is an interest in rethinking the old model of the CAFN-BC Parks staffing arrangement and identify deficiencies (in the old model) so CAFN members can monitor values on the ground in TAP. This in conjunction with new management direction from the pending management plan will elevate TAP as a priority area for potential new approaches or to seek new or alternative funding.</p>	
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<p>Processes: How do we go about it?</p>		<p>Explanation of Component:</p>
<p>Score:</p>	<p>Basic with significant deficiencies</p>	<p>Managers deal with a range of issues and sound management practices are needed to ensure protected areas are managed effectively. This component evaluates the processes that are in place to guide management. <i>Assesses the protection system, research and monitoring, resource management, and education.</i></p>
<p>Summary: The BC <i>Park Act</i> and associated regulations and policies are adequate however jurisdictional overlap (including transboundary with the Yukon) with other Ministries complicates their effectiveness (e.g., confusion re: hunting and commercial aviation in TAP and surrounding jurisdictions/lands). Direct <i>Park Act</i> enforcement responsibilities primarily rest with two BC Parks staff. Although enforcement staff from the Conservation Officers in both BC and the Yukon, and assistance from Parks Canada Wardens is also sporadically available. Guardian staff from CAFN patrol the Park and periodic patrols from other enforcement staff occur. These individuals are unable to routinely patrol the park. Most of the known issues revolve around motorized access to non-motorized areas and suspected wildlife poaching; however, climate change is the number one threat facing the park.</p> <p>TAP is co-managed via a joint CAFN-BC Parks management board and decisions are based on consensus however statutory decisions (Park Use Permits) are delegated to the designate for the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. Budget planning occurs via the board however much spending is in response to reactive issues versus proactive planning. Budget planning is also constrained by government’s fiscal year cycle.</p> <p>More work is needed with respect to education and awareness. Some visitors are not always understanding and/or respectful of the CAFN’s Indigenous rights while others express interest in learning more about the cultural values of the area.</p> <p>Cooperation between park agencies and neighbors is good with the tendency to focus on the river corridor. While recreation has resulted in some impacts (e.g., Chuck Creek parking lot/congestion issues/bear conflict issues), it also generates fees (from river rafters) that are used</p>		

<p>to assist in TAP management. Social media promotions of TAP are a concern.</p> <p>How BC Parks is responding: Preparation of the TAP management plan will focus on climate change as a major threat. The plan will consider adopting an ecosystem services framework or lens to examine potential management actions and clarify expectations and rules re: hunting, film/video/drone use, commercial and private aviation etc. both inside and outside of TAP.</p> <p>The current co-management structure and BC Parks' commitment to the <i>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> (DRIPA) will ensure the future management plan prioritizes Indigenous values. Educational signs are being developed to highlight TAP's cultural values in effort to enhance visitors' understanding of Indigenous rights, title and culture.</p>	
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Outputs: What were the results?		Explanation of Component:
Score:	Basic	This component evaluates whether protected area managers achieved what they set out to do. <i>Assesses work planning and visitor facilities.</i>
<p>Summary: TAP is the second largest protected area in British Columbia, and it represents a large portion of CAFN's territory. Its vast size helps protect most species (except for salmon and other fish), habitats, and ecological processes of key conservation concern along with an abundance of recreational opportunities.</p> <p>Due to management philosophy and the lack of basic financial resources and scant ecological and cultural inventory data, management tends to be hands-off and guided by a philosophy of letting natural processes prevail. Climate change is the major threat to ecological values. Invasive species are actively being managed along roadsides.</p> <p>Targeted monitoring on specific issues exists (e.g., Windy Craggy, goats, sheep, and moose) but is lacking a comprehensive strategy. The structural connectivity of TAP is very good and there are currently no human barriers impeding species movement.</p> <p>TAP does not sustain livelihoods for CAFN citizens and only a small number of rafting and guide outfitters depend on the park for a portion or a significant portion of their business.</p> <p>Key to the future success of TAP will be supporting/defining appropriate human use in the park. Today, TAP represents a landscape with minimal use by people. Getting the right human use (i.e., cultural uses and monitoring) and user values, in the right places will improve the health of TAP and beyond. The recent absence of</p>		

<p>Indigenous peoples/historical practices on the land is considered a deterrent to a productive and healthy landscape.</p> <p>How BC Parks is responding: Preparation of the TAP management plan will elevate the unique management needs of the park’s ecological, cultural, and recreational values.</p>	
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Outcomes: <i>What did we achieve?</i>		Explanation of Component:
Score:	Basic	<p>This component evaluates whether management is maintaining the core values for which the protected area was established. <i>Assesses benefit to local community, condition of identified values and management actions to achieve identified values.</i></p>
<p>Summary: Since designation, the state of TAP’s ecological system is faring well, however there’s been limited investment in acquiring new information about park values.</p> <p>Concerns exist over climate change, the potential decline of key species such as moose, sheep, and goats, unauthorized motorized use and suspected poaching. A significant gap is the fact that some scientific research occurs in the park with a lens on climate change and while BC Parks obtains reports from researchers, the agency doesn't have designated staff to use these reports to inform management decisions.</p> <p>The current lack of human connection with the TAP landscape is further degrading park values; this risk increases as time goes on due to the loss of Elders and the knowledge they hold. Attention and resourcing of cultural values and practices could strengthen the CAFN’s connection to TAP and promote the conservation of ecological values.</p> <p>TAP offers a quality recreation experience that is superlative in nature however the threat of social media drawing unsustainable visitation is a concern.</p>		

Appendix A – Key values in Tatshenshini-Alsek Park

Variables	State of value
Ecosystem Representation	
Terrestrial Ecosystems (Representation)	Excellent
Diversity	
Diversity of Terrestrial Ecosystems	Excellent
Diversity of Marine Ecosystems	
Species of Concern	
Significance of Rare/Tracked Species (Species of Conservation Concern)	Excellent
Diversity of Rare/Tracked Species	Excellent
Degree of Endemism (Uniqueness)	Excellent
Range Extension Species	Unknown
Remnant Species or Communities	Unknown
Species Composition	
Species Loss	
Keystone Species	Excellent
Trophic Cascades and Apex Predators	Excellent
Special or Unique Habitats	
Rare Habitats	
Significance of Rare Habitats/Ecological Communities	Excellent
Diversity of Rare Habitats/Ecological Communities	Excellent
Legal or Policy Defined Critical Habitats	
Significance of Legally Defined Critical ('Essential') Habitat	
Diversity of Legally Defined Critical ('Essential') Habitat	
Significance of Wildlife Habitat Features/Focal Habitats	Moderately high
Diversity of Wildlife Habitat Features/Focal Habitats	Moderately high
Special Features	
Rarity of Special Landforms/Features	Excellent
Diversity of Special Landforms/Features	Excellent
Ecological Function	
Number of Movement Corridors	Excellent
Significance of Movement Corridors	Excellent
Source/Sink	Excellent
Hydrologic Function	
Watershed Completeness	Excellent
Lotic Connectivity	Excellent

Appendix A - Staffing

Twenty years ago, the IUCN World Conservation Monitoring Centre conducted a global review of protected areas budgets and staffing.¹ At that time, the average number of staff per 1000 km² for developing countries was 27 and just slightly below that (26.9) for developed countries. Comparing 2022 staff numbers for TAP, the ratio of staff is 0.3/1000 km² (or ~1/1000km² when Park staff are included).² These staff ratios are below IUCN averages from twenty years ago. Within the broader protected area system, Canada under-resources staffing for protected areas. Nationwide 1991 figures showed Canadian protected areas had on average 13 staff/1000km². These numbers, while half of the international ratios are still significantly higher than the staff ratios for the parks and protected areas in Tatshenshini-Alsek Park.

Staffing estimates for TAP

Protected Area	BC Parks FTE	Planner	Conservation Specialist	Area Supervisor	RSO	Sr. Ranger (Full time)	Park Ranger (Seasonal, 6-7-month term)	Section Head	Total
	FTE	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	
TAP	%	10%	3%	40%	0%	40%	10%	5%	
	Actual FTE	0.1	0.03	0.40	0	.40	0.1	.05	

Note: FTE = Full time equivalent.

¹ James, A., Green, M. & Paine, J. A global review of protected area budgets and staff. World conservation Monitoring Centre, 1999. <https://www.cbd.int/financial/expenditure/g-spendingglobal-wcmc.pdf>