



Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area Management Plan

April 2018



Uchucklesaht




BC Parks

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Thunderbird's Nest (T'iitski'in Paawats) Protected Area
Management Plan

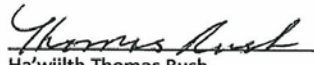
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Thunderbird's Nest (T'iitsk'in Paawats) Protected Area Management Plan

Acknowledgements

This management plan is the result of a collaborative process between Uchucklesaht Tribe Government¹ and BC Parks. The management plan was developed by the Uchucklesaht Tribe/BC Parks Joint Committee, which was established under the *Management of Provincial Protected Areas Memorandum of Understanding* between the Maa-nulth First Nations and the Ministry of Environment. The committee members included: Chief Councillor Charlie Cootes (Uchucklesaht Tribe), Tyee Ha'wiilth Clifford Charles (Uchucklesaht Tribe), Executive of Lands and Resources Wilfred Cootes Jr. (Uchucklesaht Tribe) and Director of Lands and Resources, Ryan Anaka (Uchucklesaht Tribe), Sharon Erickson (BC Parks) and Michael Grandbois (BC Parks).

Other Uchucklesaht Tribe representatives, including Carla Halvorsen, Ha'wiilth Thomas Rush and Scott Coulson, also assisted with the development of this management plan. Members of the BC Parks planning project team, including Peggy Burfield, Carl Wilson, Dave Forman, Kathryn Ryan-Wilson, Erica McClaren, Andy Macdonald and Tim Janzen, also made important contributions to this management plan.

BC Parks would like to thank Uchucklesaht Tribe members who provided their input during Uchucklesaht Tribe People's Assembly.

Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and BC Parks would like to thank those who put time and effort into preparing and reviewing this management plan. Whether input was provided by government agencies, non-government organizations or interested individuals, these comments and suggestions are a necessary and helpful contribution to the planning process.

¹ Uchucklesaht Tribe Government is the legal name by which the governing entity of the Uchucklesaht Tribe is known and is used in that context in this management plan.

Vision Statement

Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area continues to support Uchucklesaht Tribe's cultural heritage, highlighting their deep social and spiritual connection to the *T'iitsk'in Paawats*. This protected area continues to offer spiritual and physical nourishment for present and future generations.

The protected area also contributes to the conservation of old growth forests, important western Vancouver Island forest ecosystems and habitat for many regionally significant species.

Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and BC Parks continue to work collaboratively for the protection and management of Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area. This includes ensuring that any recreational facilities are developed in a manner to protect Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area's significant cultural and ecological values.



Plan Highlights

This management plan was developed over several years through the collaborative efforts of members of the Uchucklesaht Tribe/BC Parks Joint Committee². Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and staff were important partners in the planning process, playing a role in information gathering and the development of management direction for the Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area.

The protected area was established as a result of obligations detailed in the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement (the Final Agreement) to protect T'iitsk'in Paawats, a sacred and spiritual place for Uchucklesaht Tribe and the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations. T'iitsk'in Paawats is a place name in the dialect of the Nuu-chah-nulth language (Nuučaañuł) which translates in English to "Thunderbird's Nest." T'iitsk'in Paawats is where the last remaining Thunderbird lives, a creature of tremendous importance to Uchucklesaht Tribe and Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations and their mythology.

The overarching intention and goal of the Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area for Uchucklesaht Tribe is the preservation of key cultural and ecological features for which the protected area was established. The purpose of the management plan is to allow for protection of the T'iitsk'in Paawats while managing for limited backcountry recreation and the development and utilization of Uchucklesaht Tribe Government's commercial recreation opportunities.

The protected area provides for the gathering rights of Maa-nulth First Nations as set out in Chapter 24 of the Final Agreement. The Uchucklesaht Tribe Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area Monumental Cedar and Cypress Harvest Agreement also provides for limited harvesting of monumental cedar and cypress³ within the protected area. Any potential harvesting of renewable resources for commercial purposes needs to be authorized by park use permit.

² The committee was formed under the direction of the Management of Provincial Protected Areas Memorandum of Understanding between the Maa-nulth First Nations and the Ministry of Environment on December 9, 2006

³ The Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area Order in Council (OIC) defines Monumental Cedar and Cypress as a *Thuja plicata* (western red cedar) or a *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* (yellow cedar) that is at least
(a) 250 years old; and
(b) 100 centimetres diameter at 1.3 metres above germination point.

The management plan recommends strategies to protect cultural values, and to increase visitors' understanding regarding the importance of these areas to First Nations, including supporting Uchucklesaht Tribe Government's proposals for geographical name changes for locations significant to Uchucklesaht Tribe.

This management plan provides direction that takes into consideration the potential effects of climate change on protected area values and highlights the opportunity to use the protected area to monitor naturally functioning ecosystems adapting to a changing climate.

The management plan recognizes the significance of the adjacent Uchucklesaht Tribe lands and provides for collaboration for compatible land use planning of Uchucklesaht Tribe lands immediately adjacent to the protected area. Furthermore, the management plan reinforces commitments in the Final Agreement related to the implementation of Uchucklesaht Tribe Treaty Rights.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to guide the management, use and protection of Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area. This management plan:

- articulates the key features and values of Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area;
- identifies appropriate types and levels of management activities;
- determines appropriate levels of use and development;
- establishes long-term vision and management objectives for Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area; and
- responds to current and predicted threats and opportunities by defining a set of management strategies to achieve the management vision and objectives.

This management plan is being developed by the Uchucklesaht Tribe/BC Parks Joint Committee, who provide recommendations to the Province and the First Nation on the planning and management of Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area.

Uchucklesaht Tribe identifies the Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area Management Plan as a means to protect a culturally, ecologically, and spiritually significant place, while achieving land use certainty for its people, and establishing recreational and commercial opportunities. Through the treaty process and Final Agreement, Uchucklesaht Tribe have established self-determination through self-governance. Uchucklesaht Tribe Government's treaty vision for the future continues to mirror that of their ancestors, and Uchucklesaht Tribe Government will continue to work hard to maintain that vision. Land use certainty is an important factor in Uchucklesaht Tribe members' ability to survive and prosper within their traditional territory. The protection of the *T'iitsk'in Paawats* will secure the link to the past and provide guidance into the future.

1.2 Planning Area

Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area was established as a result of obligations detailed in the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement to protect T'iitsk'in Paawats, a sacred and spiritual place for the people of Uchucklesaht Tribe and the Nuuchah-nulth First Nations. T'iitsk'in Paawats is a place name in the dialect of the Nuuchah-nulth language (Nuučaañuł) which translates in English to "Thunderbird's Nest". The protected area was established by Order in Council No. 100/2011, which came into force on April 1, 2011, the same date as the Final Agreement.

Geographic Setting

The Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area is located on the western shore of Henderson Lake, upstream of Uchucklesit Inlet near the mouth of Alberni Inlet, roughly 23 kilometres southwest of Port Alberni on Vancouver Island (Figure 1). The protected area is approximately 2,338 hectares in size including 2,163 hectares of land and 175 hectares of Henderson Lake foreshore⁴ (Figure 2).



Henderson Lake and Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area

⁴ The foreshore area extends 200 metres out from the shoreline into Henderson Lake.

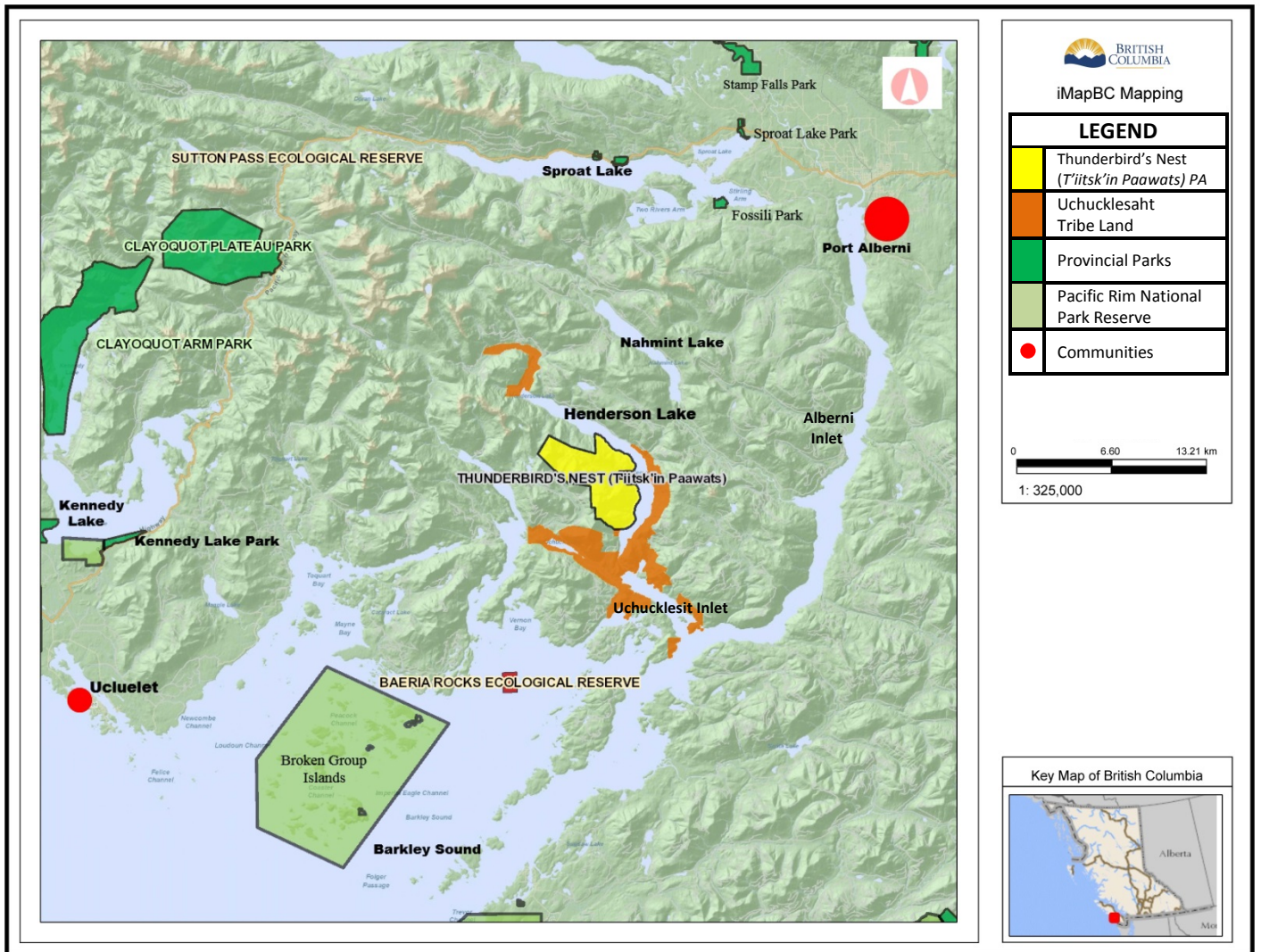


Figure 1: Context Map for Thunderbird's Nest (T'iitsk'in Paawats) Protected Area

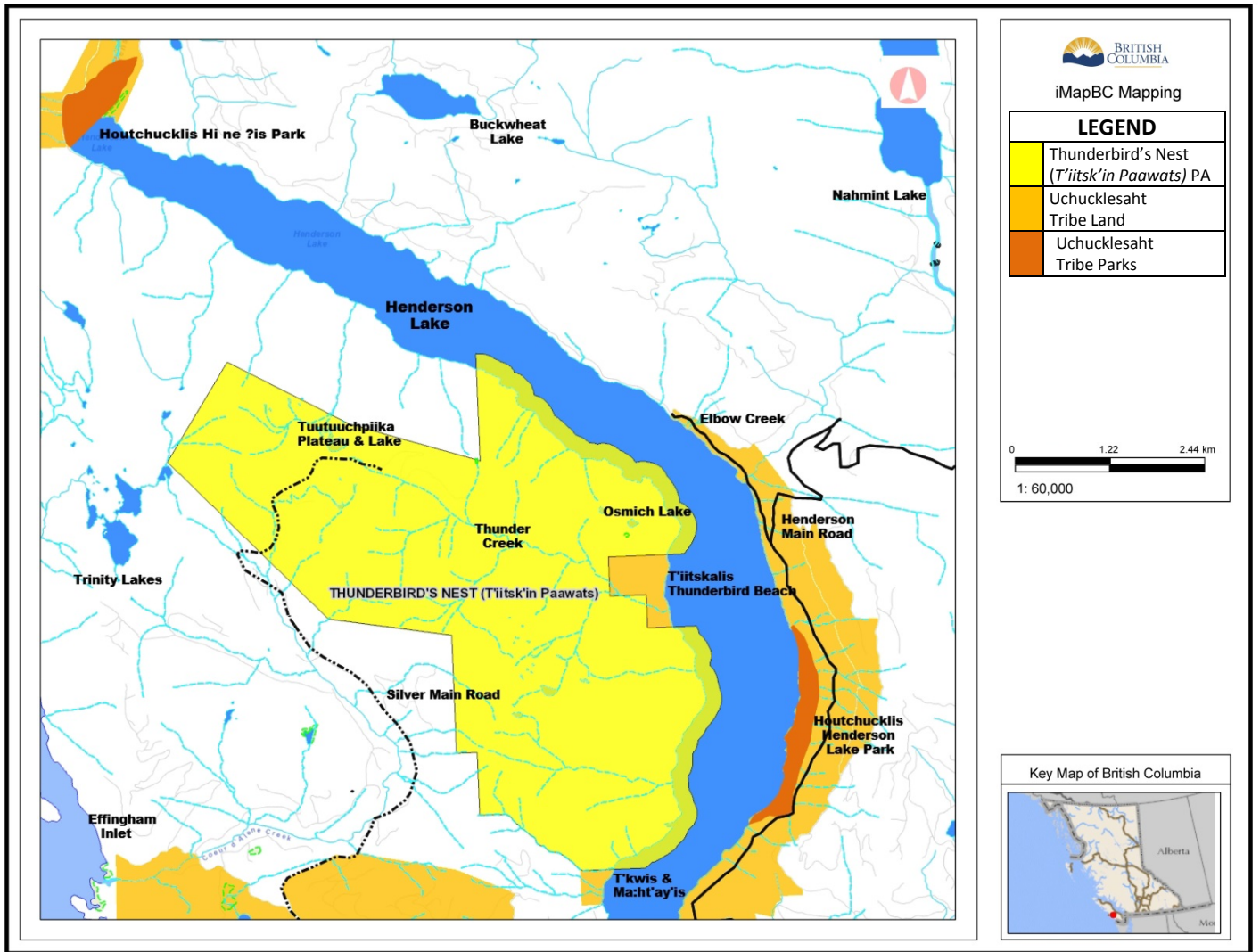
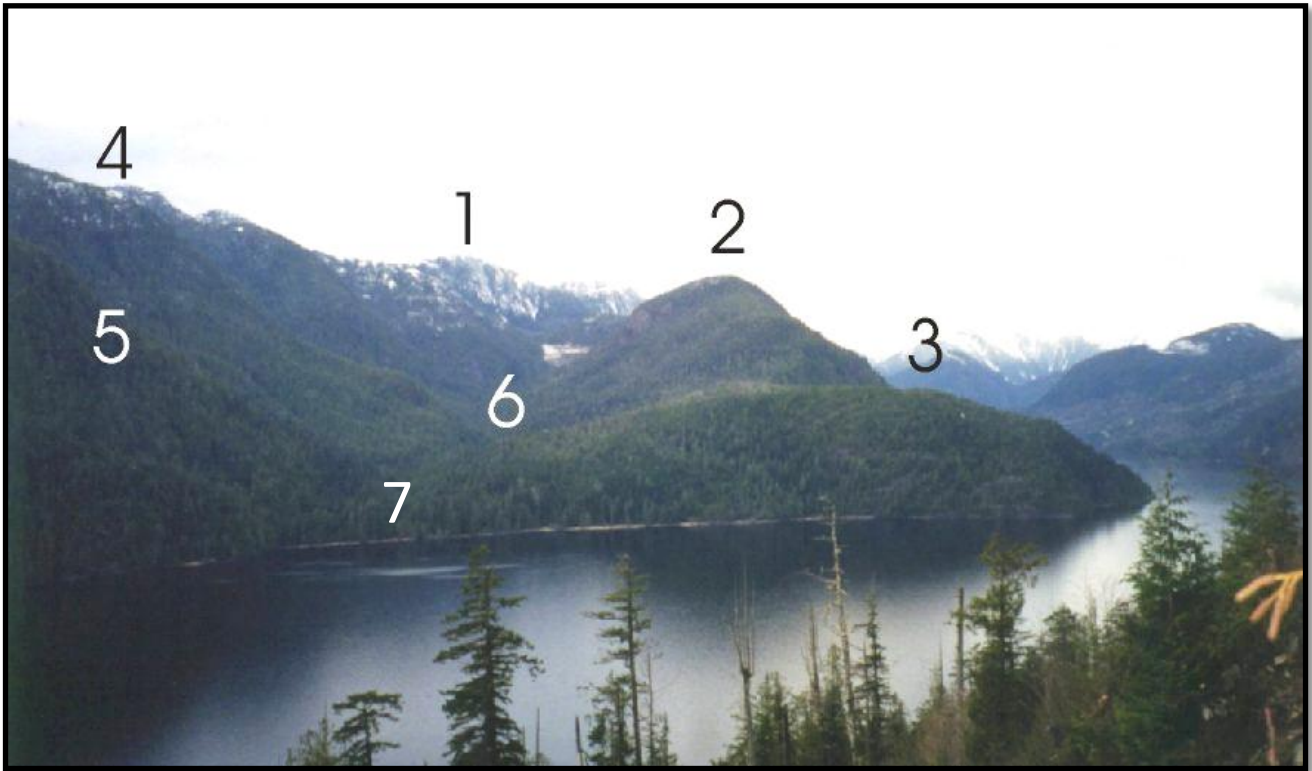


Figure 2: Map of Thunderbird's Nest (T'iitsk'in Paawats) Protected Area

Significant Geographic Features

The T'iitsk'in Paawats is comprised of five named mountains, a creek, bathing pools, and waterfalls. It is a natural place of old growth forests of western redcedar and Douglas-fir without any permanent structures. Archaeological and cultural sites are also present in the protected area.



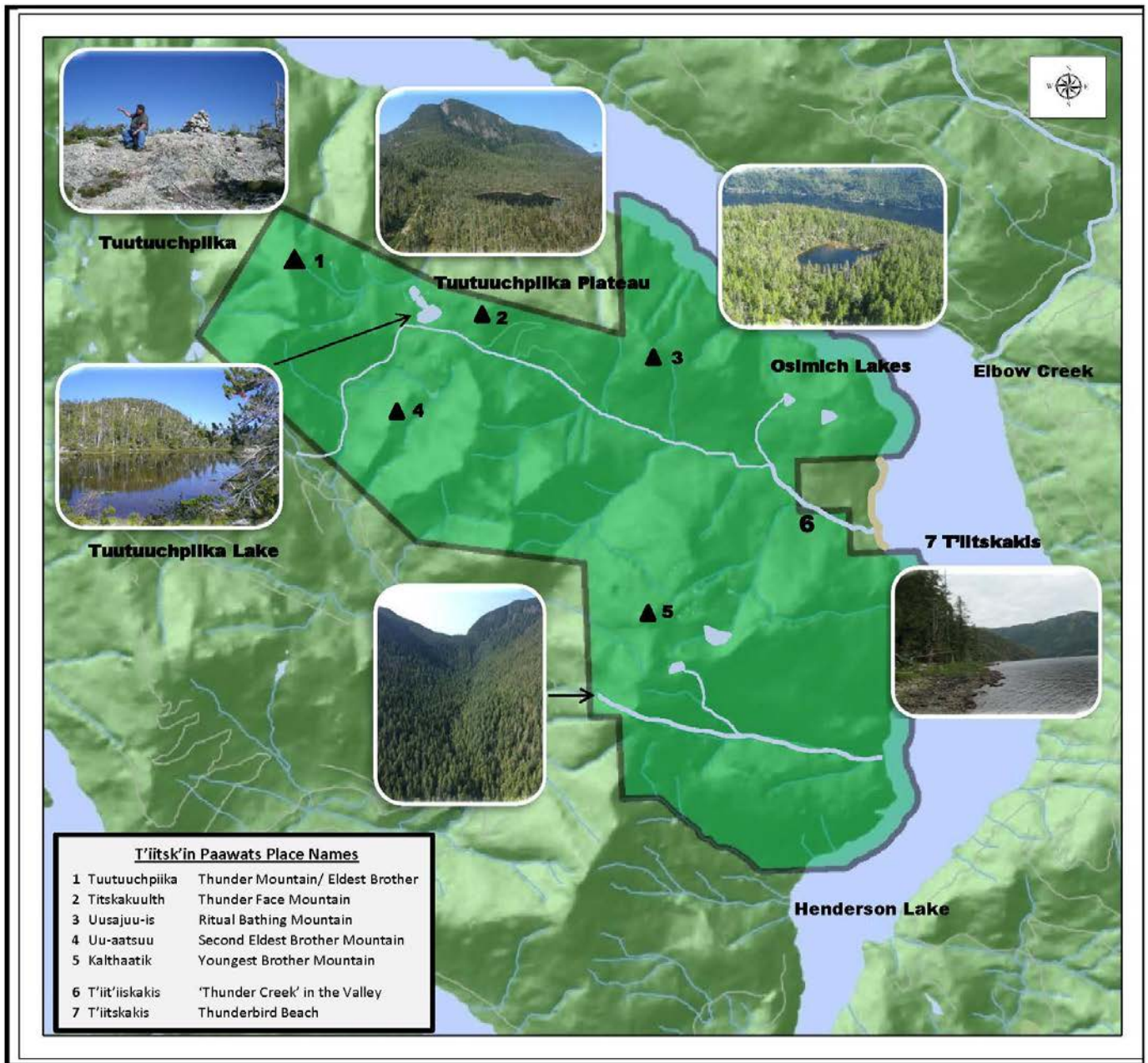
T'iitsk'in Paawats

The five named mountains that comprise the T'iitsk'in Paawats:

1. *Tuutuuchpiika* – 'Thunder Mountain/Eldest Brother'
2. *Titskakuulth* – 'Thunder Face Mountain'
3. *Uusajuu-is* – 'Ritual Bathing Mountain'
4. *Uu-aatsuu* – 'Second Eldest Brother Mountain'
5. *Kalthaatik* – 'Youngest Brother Mountain'

Other significant sites:

6. *T'iit'iiskakis* – 'Thunder Creek' in the valley
7. *T'iitskakis* – 'Thunderbird Beach'



Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area Significant Geological Features

Local Communities

Port Alberni is the closest city to the protected area and is located approximately 23 kilometres to the northeast (Figure 1). Port Alberni is a deep port city located within the Alberni Valley at the head of the Alberni Inlet, one of Vancouver Island’s longest inlets. Many members of Uchucklesaht Tribe live in and around the Port Alberni area.

Uchucklesaht Tribe Villages

Uchucklesaht Tribe has two villages that are situated approximately 40 kilometres down the Alberni Inlet from Port Alberni in Barkley Sound and southeast of the protected area (Figure 3). The first village, Cowishulth, is immediately past the Uchucklesit Inlet on the west side of Barkley Sound and presently has no full time residents living there. The second village, Hilthatis or Ehlhateese⁵, is located at the head of Uchucklesit Inlet. A few members of Uchucklesaht Tribe continue to live full time in Ehlhateese.



Village of Ehlhateese (present)

⁵ Uchucklesaht Tribe Government Website at <http://www.uchucklesaht.ca/>

Kildonan

Kildonan is located southeast of the protected area on the north shore of Uchucklesit Inlet (Figure 3). In 1903, Alberni Packing Company built a fish cannery on this location. In 1910, the Wallace Brothers bought the existing fish cannery and established Kildonan, British Columbia, named after their home in Kildonan, Scotland. The fish cannery and associated buildings stood on pilings next to the shore. During the peak pilchard fishery (small, edible, marine fish of the herring family also called sardine) in the 1920s and 1930s, the population at Kildonan reached around 300 people. BC Packers bought the fish cannery in 1928 and built a new manager's home in the 1940s. BC Packers shut down the fish cannery in 1960 and the cannery building and many of the surrounding buildings were torn or burnt down. All that remains of Kildonan today is a dock, a few old buildings, the privately owned Kildonan Lodge (the BC Packers Manager's old house) and a floating post office. The passenger and freight vessel Francis Barkley delivers the mail to Kildonan on its regular schedule to Bamfield and Ucluelet⁶.



Kildonan Cannery (1940)



Kildonan Post Office (present)

Other Protected Areas

Several other protected areas are located in the surrounding area (Figure 1). Pacific Rim National Park Reserve's Broken Group Islands is a group of small islands and islets located at the mouth of the Alberni Inlet in Barkley Sound. The Broken Group Islands offers small boat and camping opportunities. Other protected areas closer to Port Alberni include Sproat Lake Provincial Park (43 hectares), located 13 kilometres northwest of Port Alberni on the north shore of Sproat Lake. This park can be reached via Highway #4 and offers camping and day use facilities. Fossli Provincial Park (52 hectares) is situated on the south side of Stirling Arm on the south shore of Sproat Lake providing hiking and day use lake activities.

⁶ Kildonan Cannery Lodge website at <http://kildonancannerylodge.blogspot.ca/>

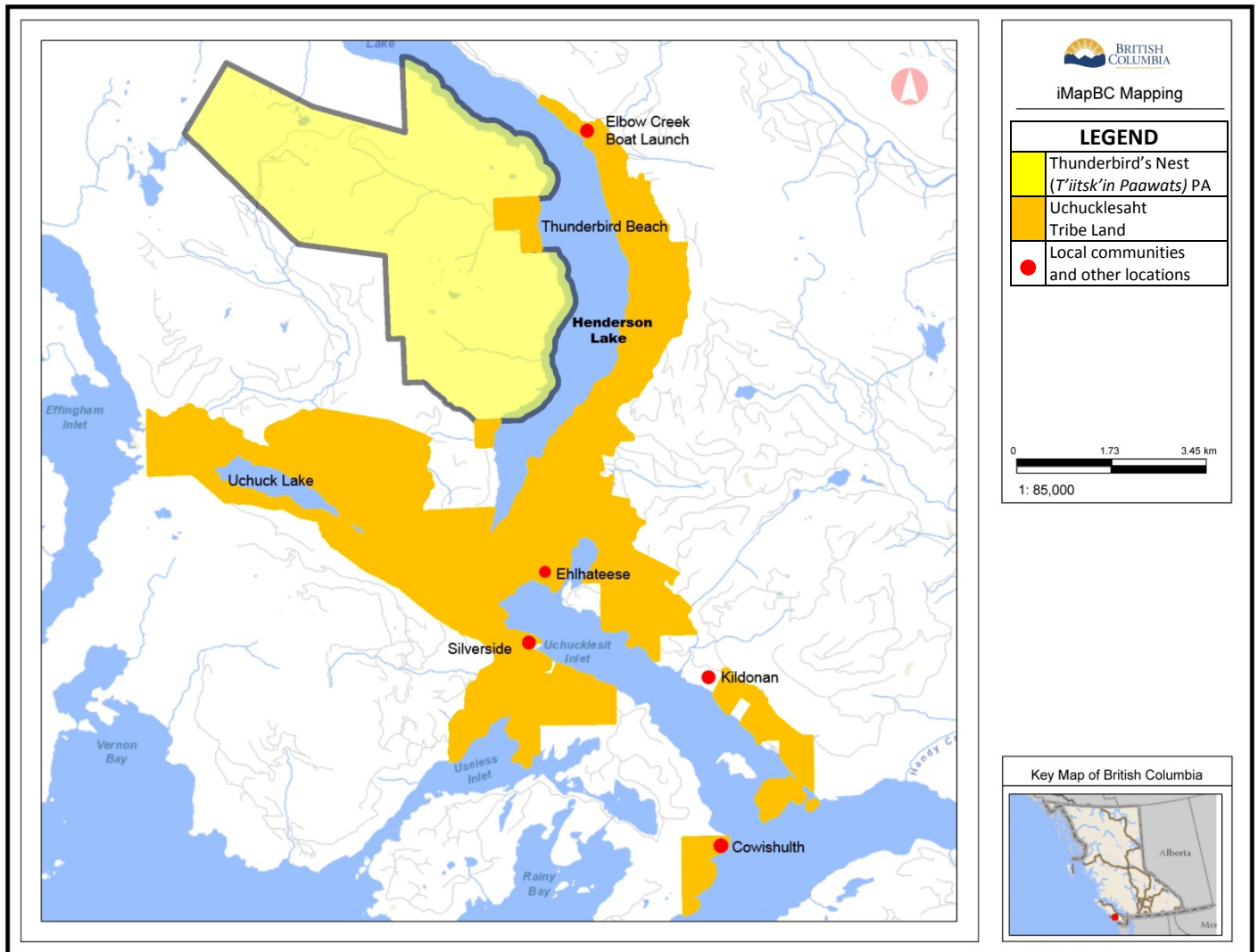


Figure 3: Map of Thunderbird's Nest (T'iitsk'in Paawats) Protected Area Surrounding Locations

Access

The remote Thunderbird's Nest (T'iitsk'in Paawats) Protected Area is accessible in several ways, generally by way of Port Alberni (see Figure 1). The access points are outlined below:

- Port Alberni to Elbow Creek Boat Launch: travel approximately 55 kilometres on industrial forestry roads from Port Alberni to the eastern shore of Henderson Lake and Elbow Creek boat launch. Road conditions may vary depending on season and logging activities. From the boat launch, there is a 2-kilometre boat trip across the lake to T'iitskakis – Thunderbird Beach on Uchucklesaht Tribe land. The protected area can be accessed by hiking a rustic steep trail following T'iit'iiskakis – Thunder Creek.

- Port Alberni to the Uchucklesaht Village of Ehlhateese: travel approximately 65 kilometres on industrial forestry roads from Port Alberni to the Village of Ehlhateese. Road conditions may vary depending on season and logging activities. From the village, there is a 1.5-kilometre boat trip across the Uchucklesit Inlet to Silverside. Access to the protected area and Tuutuuchpiika Plateau is possible by hiking or biking approximately 15 kilometres on Silver Main Road from Silver Main Landing. This provides access to Tuutuuchpiika Plateau.
- Port Alberni to Silverside: depart from Port Alberni by boat and travel south down Alberni Inlet to Uchucklesaht Inlet. Silverside is located on the south side of Uchucklesaht Inlet near the head of the inlet (across the Uchucklesit Inlet from Village of Ehlhateese and Kildonan). Access to the protected area and Tuutuuchpiika Plateau is possible by hiking or biking approximately 15 kilometres on Silver Main Road from Silver Main Landing. This provides access to the upper level plateau of the protected area.



Elbow Creek looking across Henderson Lake to T'iitskakis – Thunderbird Beach

1.3 Legislative Framework

Designation

Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area was established on April 1, 2011 by Order in Council No. 100/2011, under the *Environment and Land Use Act*. Order in Council No. 100/2011 directs that Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area be managed as though the protected area was established as a conservancy established under the *Park Act*.

1.4 Adjacent Land and Aquatic Use

Uchucklesaht Tribe Lands

There are several parcels of Uchucklesaht Tribe land around Henderson Lake and adjacent to the protected area as well as Henderson Lodge at the north end of the lake (Figure 2).

- T'iitskakis – Thunderbird Beach is located on the western shore of Henderson Lake and is surrounded by the protected area on three sides. The parcel includes 200 metres of Henderson Lake foreshore.
- T'kwis and Ma:ht'ay'is are located to the south of the protected area along the shore of Henderson Lake. This parcel includes 200 metres of Henderson Lake foreshore.
- Houtchucklis Henderson Lake Park⁷ is located across Henderson Lake from the protected area and is included in a large parcel on Uchucklesaht Tribe Lands. This park protects a large stand of old growth Douglas-fir forest and several culturally significant sites.
- Houtchucklis Hi ne ?is (End of Lake) Park and the Thunderbird House (formally Henderson Lodge) are located at the north end of Henderson Lake. The park is part of Uchucklesaht Tribe lands and protects a stand of old growth forest and several culturally significant sites. The Thunderbird House operates as a retreat for Uchucklesaht Tribe members and as a recreational rental property. The lodge was once a part of the Henderson Lake Fish Hatchery, which was operated by Uchucklesaht Tribe from 1993 to 1998 (Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), 1999). Historically, this location was the site of a federal government Sockeye Salmon hatchery operated from 1909 to 1935 (DFO, 1999).

⁷ Established by Uchucklesaht Tribe Government under UTS 39/2014 Uchucklesaht Tribe Park Act.



The Thunderbird House (formally Henderson Lodge)

Adjacent Crown Land Tenures and Land Uses

The remaining land adjacent to the protected area consists of forestry interests including Western Forest Products (WFP) Tree Farm Licence 44. WFP continues to harvest on these lands by conventional harvesting techniques as well as by helicopter harvesting using Henderson Lake for water drop off. Historically, logs were floated to Elbow Creek Beach where they were removed from the lake and loaded onto logging trucks.

1.5 Management Commitments/Agreements

A number of commitments pertaining to the management of Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area stem from the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement, which was concluded under the British Columbia Treaty process in 2009 and came into effect on April 1, 2011.

On December 9, 2006, the Maa-nulth First Nations and BC Parks signed the Management of Provincial Protected Areas Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU provides the framework for Maa-nulth First Nations and BC Parks to collaborate on the development of management plans for protected areas within Maa-nulth First Nations traditional territories.

Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and BC Parks formed the Uchucklesaht Tribe/BC Parks Joint Committee in the fall of 2011, following the establishment of the Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area as the working group for the protected area management planning project. The committee has been working together since then on the planning and management of Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area.

The Final Agreement also describes Uchucklesaht Tribe’s rights to fishing, gathering, wildlife harvest, and migratory bird harvest in broader areas that include Thunderbird’s Nest (*T’iitsk’in Paawats*) Protected Area. In addition, the Final Agreement includes provisions for the harvest of monumental cedar and cypress trees in the Thunderbird’s Nest (*T’iitsk’in Paawats*) Protected Area. The Minister responsible for the *Park Act* may issue a park use permit authorizing Uchucklesaht Tribe to harvest in each calendar year from the protected area up to two monumental cedar and cypress trees for cultural purposes, on terms consistent with the Final Agreement and the Monumental Cedar and Cypress Plan.



Western redcedar



Yellow-cedar (Cypress)

Uchucklesaht Tribe Government Commercial Recreation Sites

As part of the Maa-nulth First Nations Treaty process, Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and the Province entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in 2006 to address Uchucklesaht Tribe Government’s interest in economic opportunities related to commercial recreation on Crown lands⁸. Seven sites were established on Crown land for future commercial recreation opportunities (Figure 4). This included three sites which are now located within Thunderbird’s Nest (*T’iitsk’in Paawats*) Protected Area (Tuutuuchpiika Plateau and Osimich Lakes). These sites and other commercial recreation

⁸ The Uchucklesaht Band Commercial Recreation Opportunities Memorandum of Understanding was signed on December 9, 2006 between Uchucklesaht Band and Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts.

sites on Crown land outside the protected area will allow Uchucklesaht Tribe the opportunity to build capacity to operate a commercial recreation business creating local jobs and expanding Indigenous tourism in British Columbia.

These and other key management commitments arising from the Final Agreement and MOU are summarized in Appendix 1.

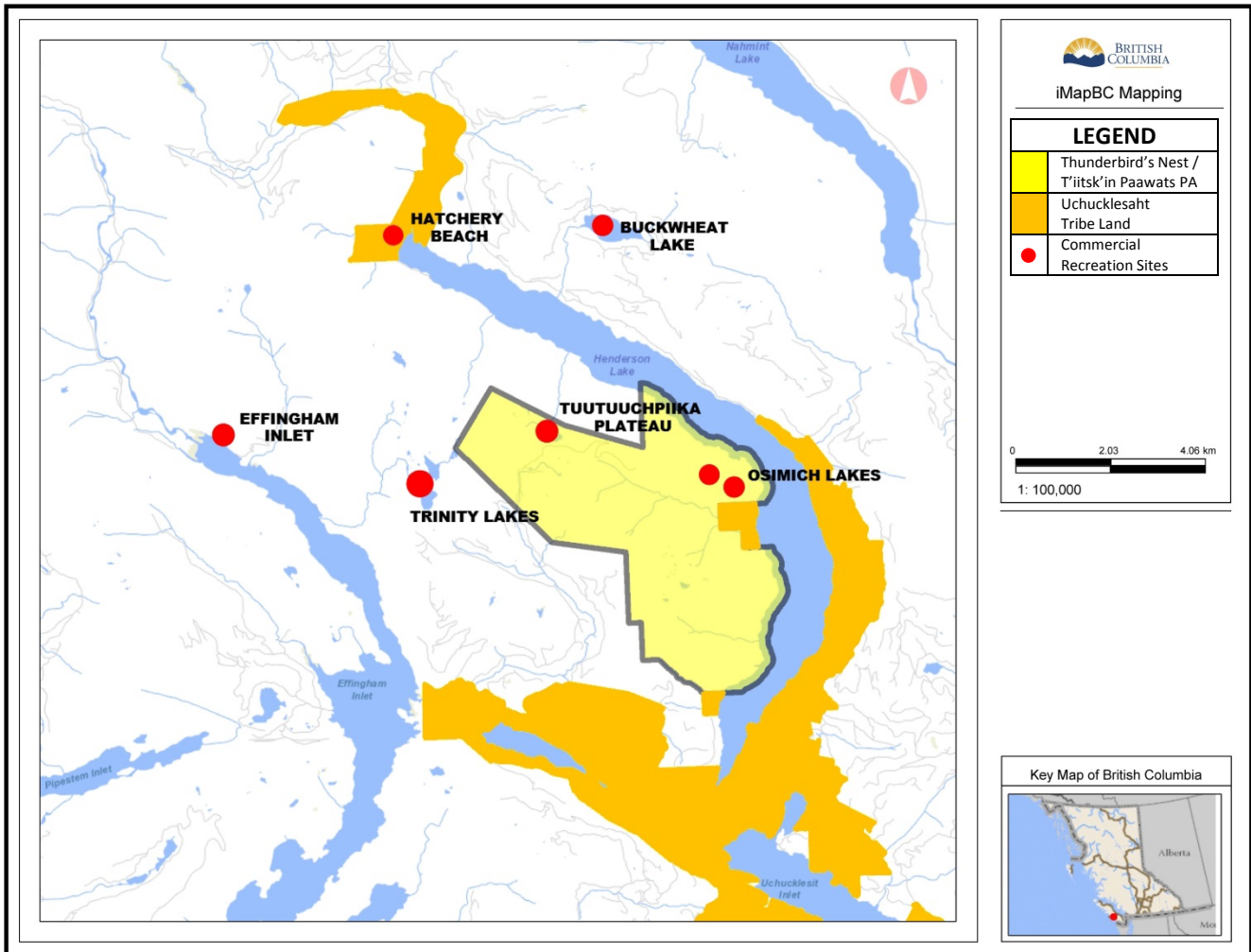


Figure 4: Map of Uchucklesaht Tribe Government Commercial Recreation Sites

1.6 Management Planning Process

This management plan is being developed through the collaborative efforts of members of Uchucklesaht Tribe Government, Uchucklesaht Tribe staff members, BC Parks staff and the Uchucklesaht Tribe/BC Parks Joint Committee for Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area.

Field Visits and Research Projects

Several field visits and a Lidar⁹ project were conducted during the management planning process. BC Parks staff and Uchucklesaht Tribe members had the opportunity to visit the area by boat across Henderson Lake from Elbow Creek Beach to T'iitskakis – Thunderbird Beach, and twice by helicopter, including flights over the protected area and landing on the Tuutuuchpiika Plateau.

In June 2012, BC Park staff and Uchucklesaht Tribe members travelled by boat across Henderson Lake from the Elbow Beach boat launch to T'iitskakis - Thunderbird Beach. The group was looking at the access routes into the protected area from Henderson Lake and Uchucklesaht Tribe lands at T'iitskakis – Thunderbird Beach.



June 2012 Field Visit to T'iitskakis - Thunderbird Beach



August 2012 Field Visit to Tuutuuchpiika Plateau

In August 2012 and 2015, BC Parks staff and Uchucklesaht Tribe members used helicopter access to the protected area, landing at Tuutuuchpiika Plateau. These field trips allowed staff to view the cultural and ecological values in the protected area and assess the location of the proposed Uchucklesaht Tribe Government commercial recreation opportunities. In addition, the field visit provided information on potential zoning in the protected area and a review of ecological considerations in facility design. The ecological values identified during these visits are included in the discussion of natural values in section 2.3 of this management plan.

⁹ Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges to the earth. These light pulses combined with other data recorded by the airborne system to generate precise, three-dimension information about the shape of the earth and its surface characteristics.

In the fall of 2015, Uchucklesaht Tribe Government conducted a Lidar project on their lands and included Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area. BC Parks received a copy of the Lidar results for the protected area. The Lidar project provides detailed elevational profiles up to 0.5-metre accuracy. These data will be used to create ecosystem mapping and will assist in the future planning for trail and facility development.



August 2015 Field Visit to Tuutuuchpiika Plateau

Uchucklesaht Tribe Government People's Assembly

BC Parks staff attended the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government People's Assembly in March 2016 to introduce the Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area management planning process and invite input into the development of the draft management plan. Community members were given the opportunity to ask questions about the protected area and the management planning process, and were asked to provide their comments through a questionnaire. Appendix 2 provides a summary of the initial input Uchucklesaht Tribe members gave about the key values, activities and management issues specific to Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area. Information obtained during the meeting and from the questionnaires was used in the development of this protected area management plan.

In January 2018, the Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitski'in Paawats*) Protected Area Draft Management Plan was posted on the BC Parks website for public review and comment. Information from the public process was considered in the development of the final management plan. In addition, the management plan was sent to the members of the Uchucklesaht Tribe/BC Parks Joint Committee for their review and provided further information used in this management plan.

2.0 Values and Roles of the Protected Area

2.1 Significance in the Protected Areas System

Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area is significant to British Columbia's protected areas system because it protects:

- A highly significant cultural landscape important to the people of Uchucklesaht Tribe and other Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations, where spiritual places exist, ritual activities are conducted and traditional practices occur.
- A largely undisturbed old growth coastal forest and sensitive sub-alpine bog ecosystem.
- One of the wettest places in North America (Weather Network, 2017).

2.2 Significance for Uchucklesaht Tribe

Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area is significant to the people of Uchucklesaht Tribe and other Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations on Vancouver Island because it is part of their oral history and it:

- Protects the cultural landscape where the Thunderbird lives and nests according to Nuu-chah-nulth legend. Thunderbirds are central figures in Uchucklesaht and Nuu-chah-nulth mythology as they control the rain and thunderstorms. They are also spiritually connected to whales, whaling and whaling power. Nuu-chah-nulth whalers visited the *T'iitsk'in Paawats* to pray, bathe and cleanse themselves before undertaking dangerous hunts.
- Contains numerous recorded places of cultural importance including traditional use sites, spiritual places, named places, storied places, ritual areas as well as materials for making baskets and food collection locations including plants, animals and fish.



Thunder Creek Bathing Pools

2.3 Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Values

Landscape and Climate

Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area is located on the west shore of Henderson Lake. Henderson Lake has a surface area of 1,545 hectares, and is approximately 17 kilometres in length. It averages one kilometre in width, and the mean depth is 97 metres, with a maximum depth of 250 metres. Clemens Creek, located at the head of the lake is the largest watercourse entering Henderson Lake. Numerous small streams drain the steep sided, mountainous shores of the lake; these streams are ephemeral in nature and predominately channel surface run-off and flow only during periods of heavy precipitation (Aquaparian, 2013).

The temperate rainforest along the Pacific coast, including Vancouver Island, consistently receives more rainfall than any other North American region. The Coast Mountains result in orographic precipitation, whereby the clouds and moist air are forced up into the colder atmospheric temperatures causing the moisture to condense and fall as rain. Henderson Lake has been recorded as the wettest spot in Canada and one of the wettest places in North America. Records show that Henderson Lake has an average annual precipitation of 7,152 millimetres¹⁰ (Weather Network, 2017). In 1997, Henderson Lake set an all-time Canadian rainfall record of 9,307 millimetres in one year (Discovery, 2015).

The Henderson Lake area has a moist, cool climate with abundant rainfall, low snowfall and mild winter temperatures. The summers are cool and relatively drier than the winters. According to Weather Network records, the average summer temperature at Henderson Lake is 15°C with an average monthly rainfall of 179 millimetres. The winter average temperature for this area is 4°C with an average monthly rainfall of 988 millimetres and an average of 28 centimetres of snow during the months of November to March. Soils are moist to wet over most of the year and rarely freeze to any significant depth. This area tends to have a long growing season, which supports some of the most productive forests in British Columbia (Aquaparian, 2013).

¹⁰ Weather Network statistics for Henderson Lake represent the value of each meteorological parameter for each month of the year along with the annual average. The sampling period for this data covers 30 years.

Ecosystems Representation

The British Columbia Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification System divides the province into 16 biogeoclimatic zones based primarily on climate, vegetation and soil data and areas under the influence of similar regional climate. The most common biogeoclimatic zones on Vancouver Island are Coastal Douglas-fir, Coastal Western Hemlock and Mountain Hemlock.

Biogeoclimatic zones can be further classified into subzones, which themselves can be further classified into variants. Biogeoclimatic subzones consist of unique sequences of geographically related ecosystems where climatic climax ecosystems are members of the same zonal plant association. Variants reflect differences in regional climate and are characterized by slightly drier, wetter, snowier, warmer or colder conditions. Differences in plant productivity can usually be noted between variants.

Thunderbird’s Nest (*T’iitsk’in Paawats*) Protected Area includes 2,160 hectares of mostly undisturbed old growth forests in the Windward Island Mountains Ecoregion. The protected area protects the Coastal Western Hemlock Very Wet Maritime Submontane variant (CWHvm1), and the Coastal Western Hemlock Very Wet Maritime Montane variant (CWHvm2) at the higher elevations. As well, it protects a series of ecological communities associated with these biogeoclimatic zones.

Table 1 summarizes the representation of the CWHvm1 and CWHvm2 in Thunderbird’s Nest (*T’iitsk’in Paawats*) Protected Area and shows its contribution to the provincial protected areas system (BC Parks, 2017).

Table 1: Ecosystem Representation

Biogeoclimatic (BGC) Subzone variant	Total Area of Biogeoclimatic subzone variant in B.C. (ha)	Total Area of Biogeoclimatic subzone variant protected in the BC Parks protected area system (ha)	Percent of Biogeoclimatic subzone variant in the Province that is protected in BC Parks protected areas system	Total Area of Biogeoclimatic subzone variant in Thunderbird’s Nest (<i>T’iitsk’in Paawats</i>) Protected Area (ha)	Percent of BC Parks Biogeoclimatic subzone variant protected in Thunderbird’s Nest (<i>T’iitsk’in Paawats</i>) Protected Area
CWHvm1	2,385,486	555,193	23%	1,326	0.24%
CWHvm2	1,740,399	502,697	29%	839	0.17%

Tuutuuchpiika Plateau represents a unique and sensitive sub-alpine bog ecosystem. At 520 metres elevation, it is an unusually low elevation sub-alpine community. The plateau area consists of large and small bogs interconnected with cascading streams along with two larger sub-alpine lakes. Typical bogs require a constant influx of water and saturated conditions to maintain the unique plant associations they support (South Coast Conservation Program, 2016).



Cascading Stream

Bog communities require a narrow range of water chemistry, soil and flow conditions to persist. Most typically they are the result of long-term accumulations of decomposing mosses ("peat") in highly saturated, anaerobic conditions. Bogs are characterized by a low pH environment which limits the diversity of plant associations that occur. However, the low nutrient conditions have led to the evolution of adaptive plant species such as carnivorous plants like great sundew¹¹. The acidity and decomposing vegetation generates tannins which give surface and outlet flows of water a tea colour. The water levels in bogs are generally sustained via precipitation and they serve a significant role in holding and slowly releasing surface runoff and reducing flooding, while providing natural filtration (South Coast Conservation Program, 2016).



Tuutuuchpiika Plateau Bog



Tuutuuchpiika Plateau Bog Forest

¹¹ List of identified plants and birds with Latin names found in Appendices 3 and 4.

Vegetation

Western hemlock, Douglas-fir and western redcedar dominate the thick forest cover at the lower elevations of the protected area with lesser amounts of amabilis fir and red alder. The understorey has a well-developed shrub layer dominated by salal, red huckleberry and evergreen huckleberry, along with sword fern, deer fern and a variety of lichens and mosses.

At the higher elevations, and around the bogs and mountain lakes, the forest cover is more sparse and is dominated by mountain hemlock, amabilis fir, shore pine and yellow-cedar. Oval-leaved blueberry, false azalea, copperbush, white-flowered rhododendron and black huckleberry dominate the sparse shrub layer. In the area of sub-alpine bogs and mountain lakes, great sundew, bunchberry, mountain heather, bog blueberry, king and swamp gentian, skunk cabbage and Labrador-tea grow. A list of the plant species identified in field visits to Tuutuuchpiika Plateau Lake can be found in Appendix 3.



swamp gentian



king gentian



great sundew

Birds

The Henderson Lake area, including the protected area, provides habitat for several species of birds including Bald Eagle, Osprey, Northwestern Crow, Common Raven, Steller's Jay and Gray Jay. During the site visit to the Tuutuuchpiika Plateau in summer of 2015, several birds were either seen or heard including Red Crossbills, Pied-billed Grebe, Cedar Waxwing, Steller's Jay, Sooty Grouse and the Chestnut-backed Chickadee. A list of the bird species identified in field visits to Tuutuuchpiika Plateau Lake can be found in Appendix 4.

Much of the protected area is undisturbed old growth forests of large Douglas-fir and western redcedar. This old growth forest is important habitat for the red-listed Northern Goshawk *laingi* subspecies (federally listed as Threatened). The area provides moderate to high value nesting and foraging habitat types for Northern Goshawk¹². In addition, the old growth forests provide suitable nesting sites for the blue-listed Marbled Murrelet (federally listed as Threatened). Marbled Murrelet is a small north Pacific seabird that needs coastal old growth trees with large mossy platforms to nest (Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, 1998).

Fish

Henderson Lake is a significant fish bearing lake supporting a variety of fish species including several species of Pacific Salmon (Coho, Pink, Sockeye and Chum), Threespine Stickleback, and Rainbow Trout (anadromous Steelhead and resident), as well as Dolly Varden and the blue-listed Cutthroat Trout.

One of the first salmon hatcheries in Canada was located at the upper end of Henderson Lake and operated by the federal Fisheries Branch from 1909 to 1935. This hatchery (once known as the Anderson Lake Hatchery) produced mainly Sockeye Salmon to supplement the natural production in the lake (Labelle, 2009). The hatchery was idle for many years but was reopened and operated by Uchucklesaht Tribe from 1993 to 1998. Although the hatchery is now closed, a few of the old Department of Fisheries and Oceans buildings remain.

¹² Suitable goshawk nesting areas have mature, old-growth stand structure, high canopy closure and an open understory (sub-canopy flyways). Suitable habitat was identified using a habitat suitability model, following methods outlined in: Mahon, T., McClaren, E., and F. Doyle. 2008. Parameterization of the Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis laingi*) Habitat Model for Coastal British Columbia. Nesting and Foraging Habitat Suitability Models and Territory Analysis Model. Model results are described in Smith, J. and G. Sutherland. 2008. Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis laingi*) Habitat and Territory Models. Modelling Methodology and Implementation & Scenario Results for Coastal British Columbia. Prepared for the Northern Goshawk Habitat Recovery Implementation Group.

The provincial fisheries department stocked Henderson Lake with Rainbow Trout from 1939 to 1963, Cutthroat Trout from 1965 to 1968 and anadromous Rainbow Trout (Steelhead) in 1956. In addition, Henderson Lake was fertilized to enhance Sockeye Salmon production from 1976 to 1998 (DFO, 1999).

Mammals

The west coast of Vancouver Island supports a large diversity of wildlife. Large mammals found in the protected area include American Black Bear, Columbia Black-tail Deer¹³, Roosevelt Elk, Grey Wolf and Cougar. Small mammals found in the area include Raccoon, American Mink, Red Squirrel, Ermine, Pacific Marten, North American River Otter as well as a variety of mice and vole species.

Amphibians

The forested areas, wetland meadows, bogs and mountain lakes within the protected area support several amphibian species including Northwestern Salamander, Pacific Tree Frogs and Roughskin Newts. Several species of Damselflies and Dragonflies have been observed around Tuutuuchpiika Plateau Lake.



Roughskin Newt in Tuutuuchpiika Lake

¹³ Columbian Black-tail Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*) are a subspecies of Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) that live on Vancouver Island and the surrounding Gulf Islands.

2.4 Cultural Heritage Values

The Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area provides protection for a cultural landscape encompassing not only the T'iitsk'in Paawats (the nest of the Thunderbird) but a larger area of significance, containing multiple spiritual sites.

The Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area is the home and nesting place of the Thunderbird. T'iitsk'in Paawats translates to 'Thunderbird's Nest' and according to Nuu-chah-nulth legend it is where the last remaining Thunderbird lives. Thunderbirds are central figures in Uchucklesaht and Nuu-chah-nulth mythology. They control the rain and thunderstorms.

Thunderbirds also have a connection to whales, whaling, and whaling power. The Uchucklesaht and other Nuu-chah-nulth peoples are whaling people by heritage and whalers went to pray, bathe, fast and to cleanse themselves in ritual preparation at the T'iitsk'in Paawats before undertaking the dangerous activity of hunting whales. Ritual activities related to whaling and to individual healing and purification are conducted here. Spiritual sites within the T'iitsk'in Paawats are places that Uchucklesaht and other Nuu-chah-nulth people go to 'osimich', a process crucial to the proper preparation for persons seeking to cleanse themselves spiritually.

The area is comprised of numerous traditional use sites and named places, which together create a complete landscape of enormous cultural value to the Nuu-chah-nulth people. Plant foods, materials for making baskets and fish are also collected in the T'iitsk'in Paawats.

Oral tradition from the Nuu-chah-nulth peoples clearly identifies what Thunderbirds are, and their place in local cosmology:

"When the Thunderbird flaps his wings or even moves a quill, the thunder peals. Then he blinks his eyes, the lightning strikes. Upon his back a lake of large dimensions lies, from which the water pours in thunderstorms. He is the lone survivor of four great Thunder Birds, which dwelt upon the mountains. The mighty birds sustained themselves on whales, which they would carry to the mountain peaks, where Indians say, the bones of many whales have been found" (Carmichael, 1922, p. 29).

2.5 Recreation Values

Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area provides for remote wilderness recreation in a rugged wilderness setting with no facilities. Visitors planning to visit the protected area should obtain updated access and area information by contacting the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government office. Recreational opportunities include boating, fishing, nature appreciation, cultural experiences, hiking, camping and cycling (via access from Silverside along the Silver Main Road, an old logging road).

Boating and Fishing

Henderson Lake (14.45 square kilometres) can be accessed from the Elbow Creek boat launch off Henderson Main Road. Henderson Main Road is approximately 55 kilometres from Port Alberni and can be accessed from industrial forestry roads. Road conditions can vary depending on season and logging activity. This large lake is good for boating and freshwater fishing¹⁴.

Hunting and Trapping

Recreational hunting is open within and adjacent to the protected area for certain wildlife species, in season, as outlined in the British Columbia Hunting and Trapping Regulations¹⁵. There is also a Guide Outfitter Area Certificate that encompasses the protected area. Two trapline areas overlap the protected area.

Recreation

The protected area plays a role in protecting cultural and natural values that may attract recreational interest in wilderness and nature appreciation. However, due to its remote location and cultural and ecological sensitivity, the protected area does not play a significant role in providing recreational opportunities.

There are currently no recreational facilities or designated campsites in the protected area; however, wilderness camping is allowed. Silver Main Road, which is accessible only by boat from Uchucklesit Inlet, provides access into the protected area by hiking or mountain biking from the west.

¹⁴ For updated information, refer to the most recent provincial Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis, available at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations/>

¹⁵ For updated information, refer to the most recent provincial Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife/hunting/regulations/>

Uchucklesaht Tribe Government has proposed to build several recreational facilities at Tuutuuchpiika Plateau and Osmich Lakes enhancing recreational use in the protected area. Facilities proposed on these sites include campsites, cabins, washroom facilities, sweat lodge and supporting structures/buildings.

The remote location of the protected area poses access challenges. The use of 4x4 vehicles, ATVs, motorcycles and horse/pack animals will be permitted, but their use will be restricted to the Silver Main Road. Air access to the protected area will also be permitted.



Tuutuuchpiika Plateau

2.6 Development and Use of Natural Resources

Natural resource use (e.g. botanical forest products)¹⁶ and development may be permitted in the protected area if this activity occurs in a sustainable manner and is consistent with the protection and maintenance of biodiversity and natural environments, First Nations social, ceremonial and cultural uses, and recreational values.¹⁷

¹⁶Non-timber-based products gathered from forest and rangeland. There are seven recognized categories: wild edible mushrooms, floral greenery, medicinal products, fruits and berries, herbs and vegetables, landscaping products, and craft products.

¹⁷Note: The *Park Act* prohibits commercial logging, mining and hydro-electric power generation, other than local run-of-the-river projects, in conservancies and this protected area.

Given the primary roles of the Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area in providing for First Nations cultural use and protecting biodiversity values, no specific resource uses have been identified for the protected area. Commercial uses of natural resources require park use permit authorization.

An existing guide outfitter area and two trap lines overlap with the protected area.

2.7 Climate Change

Climate change in this area is predicted to cause warmer temperatures, greater temperature extremes, an increase in high intensity precipitation and drier summers (Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium, 2016). These changes, combined with increasing frequency and magnitude of storm events and rising sea level, are likely to result in changes to species composition and ecosystem function across the landscape in the future.

As warming trends continue, Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area may experience greater disturbance from wind throw, higher risk of fire and drought, erosion from high precipitation events and water level rise/storm surge, greater threats from invasive species (in areas of disturbance, such as Silver Main Road) and other impacts on species and ecosystems. The severity and extent of these changes will likely accelerate if current greenhouse gas emission trends continue.

Protected areas have a role in mitigating the impacts of climate change by naturally storing carbon and providing a refuge for species that migrate (to higher elevations or across landscapes) when conditions become unfavourable in their existing habitats. Intact forest ecosystems such as those found in Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area also moderate the local climate and make invasive species intrusions less likely, which helps species survive the effects of climate change. By protecting connected, large, intact areas that support a range of habitats, protected areas play a significant role in species and ecosystem adaptation in the face of natural disturbances and impacts associated with climate change.

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Management Objectives and Strategies

The management objectives and strategies to address the key management issues in the protected area are outlined in the tables below. Implementation of these strategies is dependent on available resources. The Plan Implementation section (Section 4.0) prioritizes these strategies and provides important context regarding their implementation.

Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
Cultural and spiritual sites, traditional use sites and archaeological sites may be vulnerable to human disturbance.	<p>Management Objective: Ensure First Nations cultural and archaeological sites and features are protected.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with Uchucklesaht Tribe Government, monitor cultural heritage sites for human disturbance and natural impacts. Focus monitoring efforts on sites more likely to receive visitors. • Continue building relationships with Uchucklesaht Tribe Government to assist in the identification and protection of cultural sites and values as well as First Nations’ cultural use of the protected area. • Ensure appropriate <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i> protocols are followed where any new cultural sites and values are identified • Protect culturally sensitive sites by focusing recreation facility development and recreational activities in alternate locations. • As necessary, develop site-specific, culturally appropriate strategies to mitigate impacts to cultural sites subject to human or natural disturbances.
Visitor experiences may be enriched through a greater understanding of First Nations cultural values, which may also lead to increased protection of cultural values.	<p>Management Objective: Provide opportunities for visitors to gain a greater understanding of cultural heritage values in the protected area.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include appropriate information on cultural values in public communications materials (e.g., BC Parks and Uchucklesaht Tribe Government websites, interpretive signage, etc.) following the guidelines established in the Final Agreement and MOU regarding the depiction of cultural information as summarized in Appendix 1. • Provide contact information for the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government office on the BC Parks website and encourage members of the public to contact the office prior to visiting the protected area.
Uchucklesaht Tribe place names differ from the currently established names for geographic locations in the area.	<p>Management Objective: Geographic place name changes for locations in the area to reflect the First Nations’ historic and preferred names.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Uchucklesaht Tribe Government’s name change proposals for geographic places and important locations within their area including the proposed name change of Henderson Lake to Hucuktliis Lake.

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
Integrating traditional ecological knowledge in protected area management is expected to improve protection of cultural and natural resources	<p>Management Objective: Integrate traditional ecological knowledge with contemporary scientific knowledge in protected area management.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support research that helps to document and integrate traditional ecological knowledge into protected area management. • Continue to exchange information on traditional ecological knowledge that is relevant to protected area management through face-to-face meetings and other means. • Ensure early involvement of Uchucklesaht Tribe Government in any research projects and activities.

Sensitive Ecosystems, Species and Plant Communities

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
Ecological communities and plant species in the low elevation sub-alpine bog habitats at Tuutuuchpiika Plateau and Osimich Lake Plateau are sensitive to disturbance.	<p>Management Objective: Protect species and ecological communities at risk or of special concern.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support research and inventory projects, with the assistance of external partners, to improve knowledge of species at risk and their habitats and for sensitive and rare ecosystems. • Use local, scientific and traditional ecological knowledge to fill information gaps. • Conduct monitoring and research in the protected area to support future management decisions. • Support the implementation of recovery plans for species at risk including Northern Goshawk, Marbled Murrelet and Cutthroat Trout. • Design and locate any future facilities proposed in the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government commercial recreation sites in the protected area in a way that ensures the protection of the unique and fragile ecosystems. Facilities proposed may include campsites, cabins, washroom facilities, sweat lodge and supporting structures/buildings. • Protect sensitive areas from human trampling by controlling access with the development of designated trails and/or raised boardwalks, as required.
Recognize the uncertainties posed by climate change and ensure adaptive management techniques are employed.	<p>Management Objective: Improve knowledge and understanding of the potential implications of climate change on the protected area's ecological values, as well as the protected area's role in species adaptation to climate change.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage research on ecological communities and species at risk and special concern to gain a better understanding of anticipated effects of climate change on the protected area values and sensitive ecosystems. • Limit human influence and impacts in sensitive areas to avoid adding to the effects of climate change, and to allow for monitoring of the protected area's species and ecosystems naturally adapting to climate change.

Fish and Wildlife

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
Some fish and wildlife species are at risk and many species are also culturally significant (e.g. Northern Goshawk, Marbled Murrelet, etc.)	<p>Management Objective: Protect at risk and culturally significant fish and wildlife species.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Maa-nulth Wildlife Committee and/or the Joint Fisheries Committee to develop and implement strategies for wildlife and fish management in the protected area if required. • Work with provincial and federal species at risk recovery teams to protect Northern Goshawk and Marbled Murrelet as well as any additional identified species at risk in the protected area in accordance with their recovery plans.

Recreation Use

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
There are opportunities for wilderness hiking and backcountry camping.	<p>Management Objective: Provide visitors with a wilderness hiking and camping experience that is consistent with the protection of natural and cultural values.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage “leave no trace” hiking and camping through signage and BC Parks and Uchucklesaht Tribe Government websites. • Work with Uchucklesaht Tribe Government to minimize impacts on cultural and natural values.
Commercial Recreation Opportunity Sites	<p>Management Objective: Ensure Uchucklesaht Tribe Government has the opportunity to address economic opportunities through their commercial recreation sites.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Uchucklesaht Tribe Government regarding any planned development within the identified commercial recreation opportunities sites at Tuutuuchpiika Plateau and Osimich Lakes to ensure protection of cultural and ecological values. • Commercial recreation opportunities must be authorized under park use permit(s).
Signage	<p>Management Objective: Improve public knowledge and understanding of the protected area by providing information signs and maps.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Uchucklesaht Tribe Government to develop interpretive and informational signage to deliver protected area messages on public safety, First Nations cultural values and appropriate activities in the protected area and on Uchucklesaht Tribe lands adjacent to the protected area.

Natural Resource Use

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
Manage natural resource use in a manner consistent with the management intent for the protected area.	<p>Management Objective: Allow for economic/commercial use (e.g. harvesting forest botanicals, mushrooms, etc.) opportunities in the protected area.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support low impact economic/commercial use of natural resources if proposed, subject to authorization under park use permit (e.g. harvesting forest botanicals, mushrooms, etc.). • Work with Uchucklesaht Tribe Government to ensure that this use does not conflict with or impact the gathering rights of the Uchucklesaht Tribe members under provisions of Section 24.6.0 of the Final Agreement.

Compatible Land Use Planning for Protected Area and First Nations Lands

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
<p>Visitors require information to understand changes in land administration.</p> <p>Visitors unaware of the locations of Uchucklesaht Tribe lands that are directly adjacent to the protected area may inadvertently visit sites that require permission of the First Nation to access (e.g. T'iitskakis – Thunderbird Beach)</p>	<p>Management Objective: Ensure visitors are aware of changes in land administration resulting from implementation of the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Uchucklesaht Tribe Government to improve visitor information (e.g., signage at Elbow Beach and BC Parks and Uchucklesaht Tribe websites, etc.). • In any communications materials created for the protected area (e.g., website, signs, etc.): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Show the boundaries of the protected area and Uchucklesaht Tribe lands, and; ○ Provide contact information for the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government office.
Because Uchucklesaht Tribe lands and the protected area are directly adjacent to each other, land use decisions by either party may impact interests or activities of the other party.	<p>Management Objective: Ensure adjacent land uses and management in the protected area and Uchucklesaht Tribe lands are compatible.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to minimize conflict among directly adjacent land uses and activities. • Continue to provide complementary public recreational opportunities and support tourism development in the area. • Implement a coordinated approach with Uchucklesaht Tribe Government if they have interest in building recreational facilities on their lands adjacent to the protected area.

Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement and MOU Implementation

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
<p>Implementation of the Final Agreement on April 1, 2011 established a number of Treaty Rights and other provisions for Uchucklesaht Tribe members in the protected area.</p>	<p>Management Objective: Ensure Maa-nulth Treaty Rights and other applicable provisions, as summarized in Appendix 1 (e.g., gathering, hunting, fishing, migratory bird harvest, monumental cedar and cypress harvest) are respected in the Thunderbird’s Nest (<i>T’iitsk’in Paawats</i>) Protected Area.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uchucklesaht Tribe/BC Parks Joint Committee members work with other relevant agencies to understand and guide implementation of Treaty Rights and other applicable provisions in the Final Agreement within the protected area. • Follow Uchucklesaht Tribe Thunderbird’s Nest (<i>T’iitsk’in Paawats</i>) Protected Area Monumental Cedar and Cypress Harvest Agreement and/or the Monumental Cedar and Cypress Plan specified in the Order in Council.



Uchucklesaht Tribe/BC Parks Joint Committee

3.2 Zoning Plan

In general terms, a zoning plan divides a protected area into logical management units within which certain activities/uses are permitted and a particular set of management objectives apply. Zoning is often used to physically separate incompatible activities or uses within the protected area and provide visitors and managers with a quick visual representation and appreciation of how a particular protected area is managed. Zones are designed to reflect the physical environment, existing patterns of use and the desired level of management and development in a given management unit.

Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area contains two zones: Nature Recreation Zone and Cultural Zone. Within the Nature Recreation Zone, there are management areas, which include terrestrial and aquatic (Figure 5). The management areas are described separately to assist with defining the management strategies for each.

In addition to the zoning descriptions below, the types of activities considered appropriate in these zones are further described in Section 3.3: Appropriate Uses Table.

Nature Recreation Zone

Terrestrial

Description

Two Nature Recreation Zones – Terrestrial have been applied in the area of the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government Commercial Recreation Sites and encompass approximately 60 hectares (~2.5%) of the protected area.

Objective and Management Intent

The objective of the Nature Recreation Zone – Terrestrial is to encourage backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment while protecting cultural and ecological values. A specific objective of this zone is to enable the potential development of commercial recreation opportunities by Uchucklesaht Tribe Government per the provisions of the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement (Section 2.13.4).

Facility development is appropriate in this zone to support visitor safety and convenience and to minimize the potential impacts of recreational use on the cultural and ecological environment. Uchucklesaht Tribe Government is considering the development of commercial recreation opportunities on the three sites within this

zone. Commercial recreation opportunities may include development of facilities including campsites, cabins, washroom facilities, sweat lodge and supporting structures/buildings as well as recreational activities such as hiking, wildlife viewing and natural/cultural heritage appreciation.

Aquatic

Description

The Nature Recreation Zone – Aquatic is located along the Henderson Lake foreshore and encompasses approximately 175 hectares (~7.5%) of the protected area.

Objective and Management Intent

The objective of the Nature Recreation Zone – Aquatic is to protect the key aquatic ecological values along the foreshore environment of Henderson Lake. Wilderness recreational activities, such as boating, canoeing, kayaking and fishing, are appropriate in this zone.

Cultural Zone

Description

The Cultural Zone has been applied to the remainder of the Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area and encompasses approximately 2,103 hectares (~90%) of the protected area.

Objective and Management Intent

The objective of the Cultural Zone is to protect significant cultural places and activities, including First Nations traditional uses. A key objective in this zone is to protect First Nations cultural values and sites as well as the ecological values within the protected area.

Wilderness recreational activities, such as hiking, cycling (Silver Main Road only), wildlife viewing and natural/cultural heritage appreciation are appropriate in this zone. Development of recreational facilities other than the potential development of hiking trails is not envisioned in the Cultural Zone.

The harvest of monumental cedar and cypress (western redcedar and yellow-cedar) according to the provisions in the Final Agreement (Section 21.3.4) can occur in the two Nature Recreation Zones – Terrestrial or in the Cultural Zone.

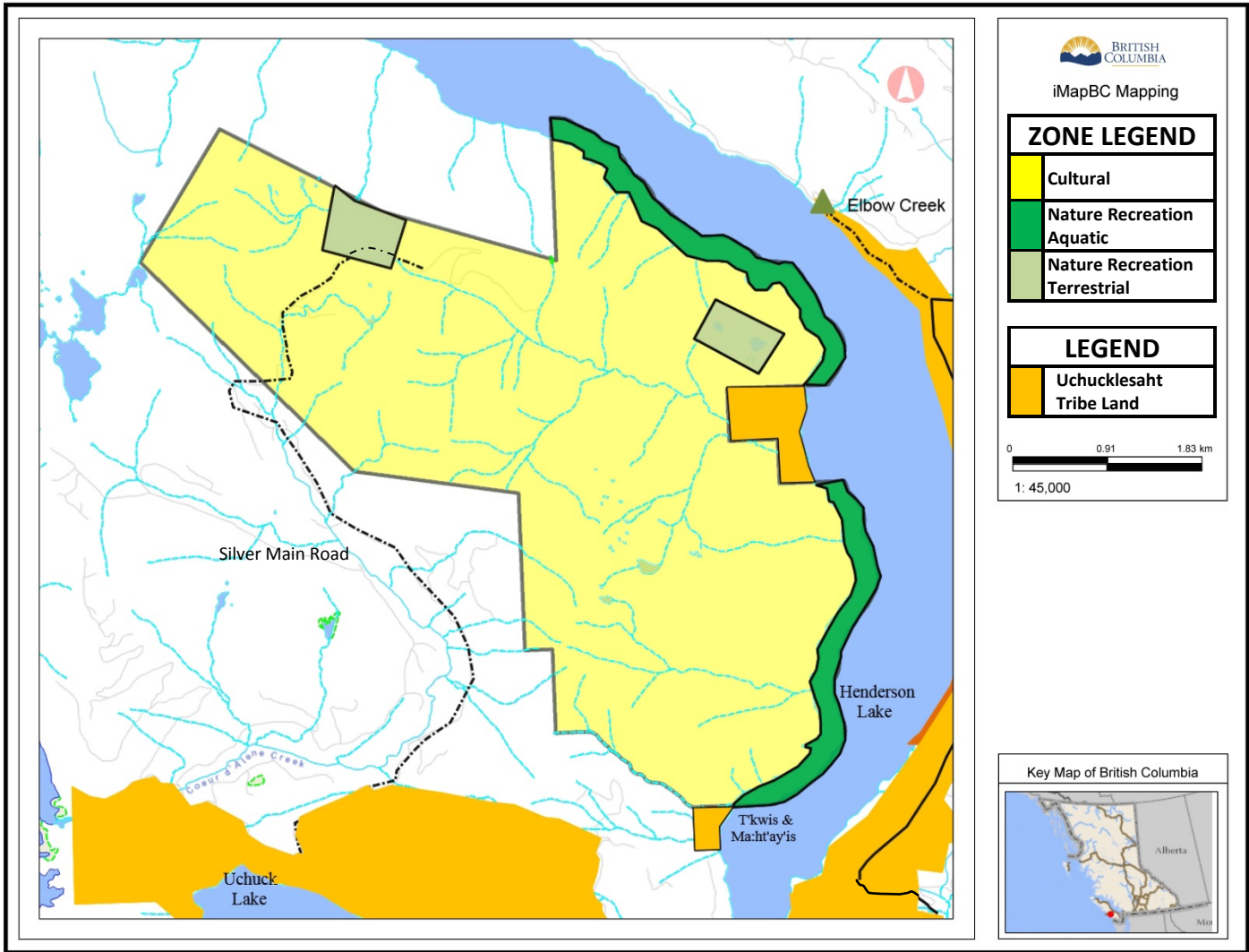


Figure 5: Zoning Plan for Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area

3.3 Appropriate Use

The following table summarizes existing and potential future uses in the Thunderbird’s Nest (*T’iitsk’in Paawats*) Protected Area 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 the protected area in the future.

Please note that appropriate uses may be geographically restricted (i.e., only allowed in certain areas of the protected area or are only appropriate at certain times of the year). Protected area users must be well informed of any use restrictions as indicated in the table. It is also important to review relevant sections of the management plan when interpreting the table.

Table 2: Appropriate Use Table

Activity/Facility	Terrestrial Nature Recreation Zone	Aquatic Nature Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Comments
Recreational Activities/Uses				
Aircraft Landing/Takeoff (e.g. helicopter and float plane)	Y	Y	Y	BC Parks authorization for commercial use
Boating (i.e. kayak and canoe)	Y	Y	N	
Boating (power boats)	N/A	Y	N/A	
Camping (designated sites)	Y	N/A	N	
Camping (wilderness style-undesignated sites)	Y	N/A	Y	
Fish Stocking	N	Y	N	Native species only
Fishing	Y	Y	Y	
Guide Outfitting	Y	Y	Y	
Hiking	Y	N/A	Y	
Hunting	Y	Y	Y	
Land-based Mechanized Activity (e.g., mountain biking)	Y	N/A	Y	Silver Main Road only
Land-based Motorized Activity (e.g. 4x4 vehicles, motorcycles and ATVs)	Y	N/A	Y	Silver Main Road only
Horse and Pack Animal Use	Y	N/A	Y	Silver Main Road only

Activity/Facility	Terrestrial Nature Recreation Zone	Aquatic Nature Recreation Zone	Cultural Zone	Comments
Recreation Facilities/Infrastructure				
Cabins, washroom facilities, sweat lodge and supporting structures and buildings	Y	N/A	N	BC Parks authorization
Mooring Buoys	N/A	N	N/A	
Roads	Y	N/A	Y	Silver Main Road Only
Trails	Y	N/A	Y	
Other Activities/Infrastructure				
Low impact economic commercial use of natural resources (e.g. botanical forest products)	Y	Y	Y	BC Parks authorization
Commercial Filming	Y	Y	Y	BC Parks authorization
Monumental Cedar/Cypress Harvesting	Y	N/A	Y	This activity is only appropriate within Thunderbird's Nest (<i>T'iitsk'in Paawats</i>) Protected Area. Final Agreement provisions on harvest of monumental cedar and cypress apply.
Trapping	Y	N/A	Y	
Appropriate Use Table Legend				
N	Not an appropriate use in this zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has been confirmed during the management planning process that this use is not appropriate in this zone. 		
Y	<u>May be</u> an appropriate use in this zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This indicates that some degree or scale of this use may be appropriate. For existing uses, the management plan will provide guidance on the appropriate level or scale of this use (e.g., direction to reduce, restrict or increase the current level of this activity) and may address specific restrictions or enhancements (e.g., capacity, appropriate sites, designated trails, purposes, party size, time of year, etc.). For new or expanded uses, this does not constitute approval. This indicates that the use <u>may be considered</u> for further evaluation and possible approval (e.g., Park Use Permit adjudication, completion of a review as part of the BC Parks' Impact Assessment Process). In some cases, the appropriateness may not be confirmed until further assessments are completed. 		
Definition of BC Parks' authorizations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park Use Permit Contract Partnership Agreement Volunteer Agreement Stewardship Agreement Letter of Authorization Memorandum of Understanding 		

4.0 Plan Implementation

4.1 Implementation Plan

Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area will be managed for the benefit of all British Columbians. Following the MOU between the two Parties, Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and BC Parks will continue to strengthen their relationship and to build capacity for Uchucklesaht Tribe Government to participate in the management of the protected area.

BC Parks, through regular operational processes, will fund important priority strategies involving the development of signage and any public safety issues that may arise (i.e. high priority strategy #1 below). Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and BC Parks will work collaboratively to seek funding for other strategies or initiatives identified in the management plan.

In addition to any legislation or policies highlighted in the management plan, there are numerous other provincial policies and guidelines, which will be considered during management plan implementation. This includes items such as: BC Parks' policies on permitting, conservation, commercial recreation/tourism guidelines and policies, BC Parks *Bear-People Conflict Prevention Plan*, cultural tree harvest and impact assessment processes.

4.2 High Priority Strategies

Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and BC Parks will work together on an operations plan to identify the sequence and timing of priority needs for the protected area. This will include, but is not limited to, the following strategies, which have been identified as high priorities for implementation.

1. Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and BC Parks will work together to improve visitor information including developing interpretive and informational signage to deliver protected area messages on public safety, First Nations cultural values and appropriate activities in the protected area and on Uchucklesaht Tribe lands adjacent to the protected area (e.g., signage at Elbow Beach and BC Parks and Uchucklesaht Tribe Government websites, etc.).
2. In partnership with Uchucklesaht Tribe Government, monitor known archaeological and cultural heritage sites for human disturbance and natural impacts. Focus monitoring efforts on sites more likely to receive visitors.
3. Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and BC Parks will continue to exchange information on traditional knowledge that is relevant to protected area management through face-to-face meetings and other means.

4. Work with Uchucklesaht Tribe Government regarding any planned development within the identified commercial recreation opportunities sites at Tuutuuchpiika Plateau and Osimich Lakes to ensure protection of cultural and ecological values.
5. Support research and inventory projects, with the assistance of external partners, to improve knowledge of species at risk and their habitats and for sensitive and rare ecosystems.
6. The Uchucklesaht Tribe/BC Parks Joint Committee members work together with other agencies to understand and guide implementation of Treaty Rights and other applicable provisions in the Final Agreement within the protected area.

4.3 Plan Assessment

To ensure that the management direction for Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area remains relevant and effective, BC Parks staff will ensure that the management plan is assessed by BC Parks staff in association with Uchucklesaht Tribe Government on a regular basis (i.e., at least 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), 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 Uchucklesaht Tribe Government/BC Parks Joint Committee 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 management plan includes an opportunity for public input.



Cairn on Tuutuuchpiika - 'Thunder Mountain/Eldest Brother'

5.0 References

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6.0 Glossary of Terms

Blue List	List of ecosystems, and indigenous species and subspecies of special concern (formerly vulnerable) in British Columbia.
Biogeoclimatic Units (BGC)	Biogeoclimatic (BGC) units represent classes of ecosystems under the same regional climate. There is a hierarchy of units with the Biogeoclimatic subzone being the basic unit. The 76 subzone are grouped into 14 zones and divided into variants and phases, based on similarities and differences in regional climate. Biogeoclimatic units are meant to be mapped a large scale (1:100,000) for higher-level biodiversity planning and medium to large scales for ecosystem mapping but the boundaries have been drawn at a large scale 1:20,000.
Botanical Forest Products	“Non-timber-based products gathered from forest and range land. There are seven recognized categories: wild edible mushrooms, floral greenery, medicinal products, fruits and berries, herbs and vegetables, landscaping products, and craft products.”
Ecological Communities	The BC Conservation Data Centre and NatureServe use this term to include natural plant communities and plant associations and the full range of ecosystems that occur in British Columbia. These may represent ecosystems as small as a vernal pool, or as large as an entire river basin, an Ecoregion or a Biogeoclimatic Zone.
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.
COSEWIC List	List of elements considered to be extinct, extirpated, endangered or threatened, special concern or not at risk in Canada. See list on page 37.
Ecoregion	The Ecoregion Classification system is used to stratify British Columbia's terrestrial and marine ecosystem complexity into discrete geographical units at five levels. For a complete explanation of this complex classification system, visit http://www.env.gov.BC.ca/ecology/ecoregions/index.html/ .
Ecosystem or Ecological Communities	An ecosystem or ecological communities are a dynamic complex of plant, animal and microorganism communities and the nonliving environment interacting as a functional unit. Ecosystems vary enormously in size: a temporary pond in a tree hollow and an ocean basin can both be ecosystems.
Ecosystem-at-risk	An extirpated, endangered or threatened ecosystem or an ecosystem of special concern (formerly called vulnerable).
Extirpated	Species that no longer exist in the wild on Vancouver Island and/or British Columbia, but do occur elsewhere.
Herbaceous	An ecosystem group in British Columbia Species and Ecosystems Explorer: ecosystems dominated by herbaceous vegetation. Shrubs generally account for less than 20% of vegetation cover, and tree cover is generally less than 10%.
Invasive Species	Species those are not native to an area and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
Red List	List of ecosystems, and indigenous species and subspecies that are extirpated, endangered or threatened in British Columbia Red-listed species and sub-species may be legally designated as, or may be considered candidates for legal designations as Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened under the <i>Wildlife Act</i> (see http://www.env.gov.BC.ca/wld/faq.htm#2). Not all Red-listed taxa will necessarily become formally designated. Placing taxa on these lists flags them as being at risk and requiring investigation.
Riparian	An ecosystem group in British Columbia Species and Ecosystems Explorer: ecosystems influenced by proximity to water bodies (rivers, streams, lakes) and processes associated with moving water.
Riparian Habitats	Areas situated, or dwelling on the bank of a river or other body of water
Special Concern	Particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events but not endangered or threatened (as used by COSEWIC - A wildlife species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats). Special concern was formerly referred to as "Vulnerable."
Species at Risk	An extirpated, endangered or threatened species or a species of special concern (formerly called vulnerable).
Terrestrial	On the land or earth – land based.

British Columbia Provincial List

Species are assigned to provincial lists depending on their Provincial Conservation Status (see table below). The lists are as follows:

Extinct: Species that no longer exist. This status is only assigned if the Global Conservation Status rank is GX.

Red: Includes any indigenous species or subspecies that have, or are candidates for, Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened status in British Columbia. Extirpated taxa no longer exist in the wild in British Columbia, but do occur elsewhere. Endangered taxa are facing imminent extirpation or extinction. Threatened taxa are likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed. Not all Red-listed taxa will necessarily become formally designated. 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. Blue-listed taxa are at risk, but are not Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened.

Yellow: Includes species that are apparently secure and not at risk of extinction. Yellow-listed species may have red- or blue-listed subspecies.

Invasive (Exotic): Species that have been moved beyond their natural range as a result of human activity. Exotic species are also known as alien species, foreign species, introduced species, non-indigenous species and non-native species. Exotic species are excluded from the Red, Blue and Yellow Lists as a Provincial Conservation Status Rank is not applicable (i.e. SNA)

Accidental: Species occurring infrequently and unpredictably, outside their usual range. Accidental species are excluded from the Red, Blue and Yellow Lists as a Provincial Conservation Status Rank is not applicable.

Unknown: Includes species or subspecies for which the Provincial Conservation Status is unknown due to extreme uncertainty. It will also be 'Unknown' if it is uncertain whether the entity is native (Red, Blue or Yellow), introduced (Exotic) or accidental in B.C. This designation highlights species where more inventory and/or data gathering is needed.

No Status: Includes species that have not been ranked.

COSEWIC List

Species are assigned to COSEWIC list depending on their ranking (see table below). The lists are as follows:

XX = EXTINCT: A species that no longer exists.

XT = EXTIRPATED: A species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but occurring elsewhere.

E = ENDANGERED: A species facing imminent extirpation or extinction.

T = THREATENED: A species that is likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed.

SC = SPECIAL CONCERN: A species of special concern because of characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events.

NAR = NOT AT RISK: A species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk.

C = CANDIDATE: A species that is on the short-list for upcoming assessment.

DD = DATA DEFICIENT: A species for which there is insufficient scientific information to support status designation.

7.0 Uchucklesaht Tribe (Nuučaañuł - Nuu-chah-nulth) Place Names and Terms

Uchucklesaht Name	Pronounced	Location	Uchucklesaht Tribe Meaning/Significance
Che:k'tles7et'h'			Place to gather strength
Chekwitltoo	Check wol too	Elbow Creek	
Cowishulth		The first village of the Uchucklesaht Tribe is located immediately past the Uchucklesit Inlet on the west side of Barkley Sound.	
Ethlateese		The second village is located at the head of Uchucklesaht Inlet. Also known as Hilthatis	Elevated Flat Area
Ha'houlthee			Traditional territory
Ha'wiih			All Hereditary Chiefs (plural)
Ha'wilth			Hereditary Chief (singular)
Hahoulth			Area of governance
Hii na?is Hi ne ?is	hee nay is hin e ehis	Located at the head of Henderson Lake and was a summer village and a fishing station for sockeye	End of the lake
Hilthatis	eeth lah TEES	The second village is located at the head of Uchucklesit Inlet. Also known as Ethlateese	Elevated Flat Area
Ho:choqtlis	ho chockt lis	Uchucklesit	
Hucuktlis Inlet	ho CHUCK lis	Uchucklesit Inlet or Kildonan	
Hucuktlis Lake	ho CHUCK lis	Henderson Lake	Place way inside
Hucuktlis River	ho CHUCK lis	Henderson River	Spiritual water supply bathing site cold water under stream calm place behind rocks
Kalthaatik	kal th a tick	Youngest Brother Mountain	

Uchucklesaht Name	Pronounced	Location	Uchucklesaht Tribe Meaning/Significance
Kildonan		Old cannery site that was named after the first cannery owner's home in Scotland. The name is often referred to as the whole of Uchucklesit Inlet, in the large portion of the bay from the mouth of the harbour to the end of the harbour. Kildonan is also used as the local mailing address.	
Nuu-chah-nulth			All along the mountains and sea
T'iit'iiskakis	teet ees kak is	Thunder(bird) Creek	
T'iitsk'in	TITS kin		Thunder or Thunderbird
T'iitsk'in Paawats	TITS-kin pow-WATS	West side of Henderson Lake	Thunderbird's Nest
T'iitskakis	tits KAK iss teets kak is	Thunder(bird) Beach	The name refers to the sound when rain falls on the pebbles
Tiitskakuulth	tits KAK oolth teets ka kuul th	Thunder Face Mountain	Burnt face (referring to the colour of the rock – iron ore)
Tuutuuchpiika	too tooch PEEKA	Within the protected area	Thunder Mountain/Eldest Brother
Tyee Ha'wilth			Head Chief
Uchucklesaht	u CHUCK le sat		The people in a safe sheltered place-the inner bay
Uu-aatsuu	oo AT soo	Second Eldest Brother Mountain	
Uusajuu-is	oo sa KOO iss oos a joo is	Ritual Bathing Mountain	

Appendix 1: Maa-nulth Final Agreement and MOU Management Commitments

The following table summarizes items from the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement (2011) and the Management of Protected Areas Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Maa-nulth First Nations and the Province (2006) that are referenced within this management plan. This list is included for information purposes only.

Topic	Commitment
Gathering Rights in Provincial Protected Areas	The Final Agreement (24.6.0) ensures Uchucklesaht Tribe members' Rights to Gather and to Trade and Barter Plants and the boughs, burls and roots of Timber for Domestic Purposes in Provincial Protected Areas within the First Nation's Area, subject to measures necessary for conservation, public health or public safety.
Hunting, Fishing and Migratory Bird Harvest Rights	The Final Agreement ensures members' Rights such as Fishing, Wildlife Harvest and Migratory Bird Harvest in the Domestic Fishing Area, Wildlife Harvest Area and Migratory Bird Harvest Area, respectively. Thunderbird's Nest (<i>T'iitsk'in Paawats</i>) Protected Area is within each of these defined Areas.
Depiction of Cultural Information	The Final Agreement (24.5.6) commits the Province to consult on a) the depiction of Nuu-chah-nulth culture or heritage in the Protected Area; and, b) the importance of Nuu-chah-nulth culture and heritage to the purpose of the Protected Area. The MOU (p.4) commits the Province to receive the First Nations' approval prior to depiction of language, use of place names, and interpretation of the First Nations' history.
Harvest of Monumental Cedar and Cypress	The Final Agreement (21.3.5) states that: Uchucklesaht Tribe <i>may harvest each year an annual allocation of up to two Monumental Cedar and Cypress for Cultural Purposes from the Thunderbird's Nest (T'iitsk'in Paawats) Protected Area.</i> Sources of Monumental Cedar and Cypress must be sought on First Nation Lands and any other sources, including tenures, available to Uchucklesaht Tribe. Uchucklesaht Tribe must provide reasons to British Columbia why Monumental Cedar and Cypress are not suitable or adequate for Cultural Purposes from the above sources, before harvesting Monumental Cedar and Cypress from the Thunderbird's Nest (<i>T'iitsk'in Paawats</i>) Protected Area.
Encourage Economic Opportunities	The MOU defines as one of its objectives (p.3): <i>To encourage economic opportunities and to provide enhanced access for the Maa-nulth First Nations and other residents of the area, in a manner that is consistent with applicable provincial and federal legislation, this Understanding, the Treaty after effective date and any subsequent management plans.</i>
Commercial Recreation Opportunities Memorandum of Understanding	The MOU acknowledges that under this MOU (with Uchucklesaht Tribe Government) Uchucklesaht Tribe Government has access to commercial recreation opportunities as contemplated under the Final Agreement at the designated sites of Tuutuuchpiika Lake and Osimich Lakes within Thunderbird's Nest (<i>T'iitsk'in Paawats</i>) Protected Area.

Appendix 2: Summary of Uchucklesaht Community Input

Through input provided at the Uchucklesaht Tribe People's Assembly March 19, 2016, the community showed overall support for the key values and management issues identified for this protected area.

The community input for the Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area Management Plan is best summarized as diverse and passionate. The community's main concerns were natural and cultural values protection balanced with any recreational use. Most of the community input showed a preference for providing little or no recreational infrastructure allowing for the preservation of the area.

There was significant concern expressed for the protection of the sacred place for the Uchucklesaht People.

Key values, activities and management issues identified through the management planning process included:

Key Park Values:

- archaeological sites
- cultural history
- First Nations traditional uses
- old growth forest
- sensitive ecosystems
- species-at-risk
- wildlife, birds and amphibians

Key appropriate activities:

- hiking
- cultural tourism
- First Nations traditional use

Key management issues:

- keeping the area protected by only allowing minimal or controlled recreational use
- protection of natural and cultural values
- protecting the sensitive environment including rare plants and habitats
- maintaining a small human footprint in the protected area

Appendix 3: List of Identified Plants

The following list is the plant species recorded on August 2012 and August 2015 field visits in Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Alaskan blueberry	<i>Vaccinium alaskaense</i>
amabilis fir	<i>Abies amabilis</i>
bog blueberry	<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>
bracken fern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
bunchberry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>
great burnet	<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>
deer fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>
great sundew	<i>Drosera anglica</i>
green false-hellebore	<i>Veratrum viride var. eschscholzianum</i>
king gentian	<i>Gentiana sceptrum</i>
Labrador-tea	<i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>
mountain hemlock	<i>Tsuga mertensiana</i>
pond-lily (spp.)	
red alder	<i>Alnus rubra</i>
red huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>
salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>
skunk cabbage	<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>
shore pine	<i>Pinus contorta var. contorta</i>
swamp gentian	<i>Gentiana douglasiana</i>
tiger lily	<i>Lilium columbianum</i>
Wallace's selaginella	<i>Selaginella wallacei</i>
western hemlock	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>
western white pine	<i>Pinus monticola</i>
white-flowered rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron albiflorum</i>
yellow-cedar	<i>Xanthocyparis nootkatensis</i>

Appendix 4: List of Identified Birds

The following list is the birds species recorded on August 2015 field visit in Thunderbird's Nest (*T'iitsk'in Paawats*) Protected Area.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
Steller's jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>
Sooty Grouse	<i>Dendragapus fuliginosus</i>