



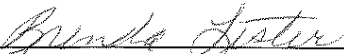
Upper Rogers kólii7 Conservancy Management Plan

March 2011



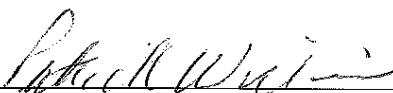
Upper Rogers kólii7 Conservancy Management Plan

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Acknowledgements

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

For the people of In-SHUCK-ch Nation the land is a gift of the Creator. There is a fundamental connection to the land which is the basis of In-SHUCK-ch culture. The In-SHUCK-ch people are stewards of their territory, including the Upper Rogers kó̓̓ii7 Conservancy. To reflect this, the term *management* when used in this management plan embodies an ethic of *stewardship* as it relates to the natural world. The purpose of this management plan is to guide the management of the Upper Rogers kó̓̓ii7 Conservancy. The management direction set out in this management plan is applied by protected area managers to make decisions regarding the ongoing management and operations within the conservancy.

This management plan:

- establishes long-term strategic direction for the conservancy;
- sets out a vision for the future state of the conservancy;
- addresses current issues affecting that long-term vision;
- identifies social, ceremonial and cultural uses by the In-SHUCK-ch Nation;
- defines appropriate levels and types of recreational activities and the location and kinds of facilities that will be developed to accommodate those uses; and,
- identifies acceptable uses of the conservancy's natural resources.

1.2 Planning Area

The Upper Rogers kó̓̓ii7 Conservancy is 3,605 hectares in size and is situated in the headwaters of Rogers Creek watershed, which drains into the Lillooet River approximately 18 kilometres south of Lillooet Lake (Figure 1). The conservancy includes the upper portion of the Rogers Creek watershed, adjacent to the drainage of Lizzie Creek.

The conservancy encompasses pristine alpine lakes and subalpine meadows, montane forest ecosystems, and portions of the Skook Jim and Caltha glaciers. The word “kó̓̓ii7” (pronounced *ko-leh*) is Ucwalmicwts for “high green meadow” and reflects the alpine environment of the conservancy.

The conservancy borders the western boundaries of Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park and Mehatl Creek Park, and protects a transition zone between the interior and coastal mountain ranges. Garibaldi and Joffre Lakes provincial parks, and K'zuzalt/Twin Two and Nlaxaxten/Cerise Creek conservancies are all within 20 kilometres of Upper Rogers kó̓̓ii7 Conservancy.

The conservancy is within the traditional territory of In-SHUCK-ch Nation (Figure 2). The conservancy protects an In-SHUCK-ch cultural site and was identified as a significant cultural area within the In-SHUCK-ch Land Stewardship Plan.

The conservancy is a well-known destination for hiking and camping, and access is via the In-SHUCK-ch Forest Service Road which travels along the east side of Lillooet Lake.

1.3 Cultural Context

It is useful to view the conservancy as a component in a larger matrix of watersheds used and occupied by the people of the lower Lillooet River, now collectively known as In-SHUCK-ch Nation. The conservancy area falls within the traditional territory of the In-SHUCK-ch Nation (especially Samahquam First Nation, but the area is also used by members of Skatin First Nation).

The northern section of the conservancy is at the boundary of the Lil'wat First Nation's traditional territory. The area at the boundary of the Lil'wat Nation traditional territory is an area of shared knowledge and use.

The eastern boundary adjoins the Stein River valley, which is associated with the Lytton First Nation who are Nlaka'pamux people from the Lytton area on the Fraser River. Historically the Nlaka'pamux people used the conservancy area as a travel route from the Stein River valley to the Lillooet Lake area. The Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park is managed collaboratively by the Lytton First Nation and BC Parks.

1.4 Management Commitments

The Upper Rogers kólji7 Conservancy was established as an outcome of the Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan. In June 2007, In-SHUCK-ch Nation and British Columbia entered into a strategic land use planning agreement. Under the Strategic Land Use Planning Agreement between In-SHUCK-ch Nation Interim Government and the Province of British Columbia (SLUPA), the Province agreed to establish the Upper Rogers kólji7 Conservancy and prepare a management plan for the conservancy once it was established.

The Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan and the SLUPA provide high-level direction for land use in the conservancy and on adjacent lands. These processes were informed by the In-SHUCK-ch Nation's Seven Generations Plan and Land Stewardship Plan which both articulate the Nation's vision for the use and management of lands within the In-SHUCK-ch traditional territory.

The Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan sets out the following general management direction for the conservancy:

- maintain a pristine natural environment;
- no development is to be allowed that would endanger or jeopardize pictographs and petroglyphs. This precludes logging and other development such as exploration, mining, roads, or tourism facilities; and,
- maintain the remote and wild character of the area and opportunities for cultural experience, with no new motorized access for commercial recreation purposes, or development of commercial lodges. The Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan defines a lodge in this case to mean a commercial recreation facility with accommodation for more than 12 people.

The land use agreement reiterates the direction provided in the Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan and further states:

- This conservancy will be established to protect the many values associated with kó̓jii7as an In-SHUCK-ch Nation cultural site; and,
- This is a permanent protected area.

The In-SHUCK-ch Nation and the Government of British Columbia are in negotiations to enter into a collaborative agreement for the management of protected areas in In-SHUCK-ch Nation's traditional territory. The purpose of this agreement would be to promote collaboration and communication between both parties in the management and planning of protected areas in In-SHUCK-ch Nation's traditional territory. While the collaborative management agreement has not been finalised, the management plan for the Upper Roger kó̓jii7 Conservancy has been developed in the collaborative spirit of the agreement.

Where applicable, the management direction established for the Upper Rogers kó̓jii7 Conservancy is consistent with the direction for adjacent lands (e.g., Rogers Landscape Unit Plan wildlife and habitat objectives, the direction for Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park and Mehatl Creek Park).

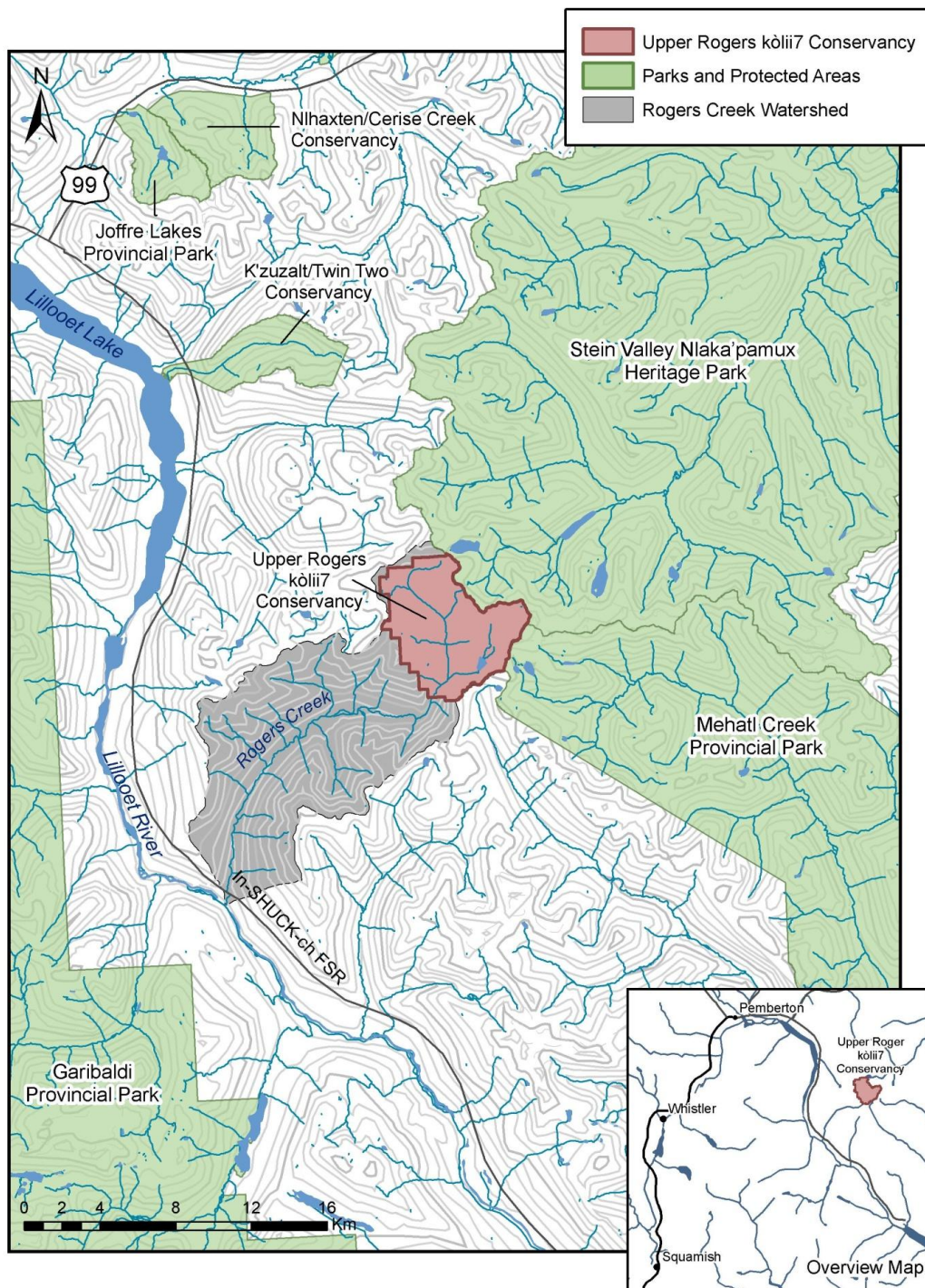


Figure 1: Regional Context Map

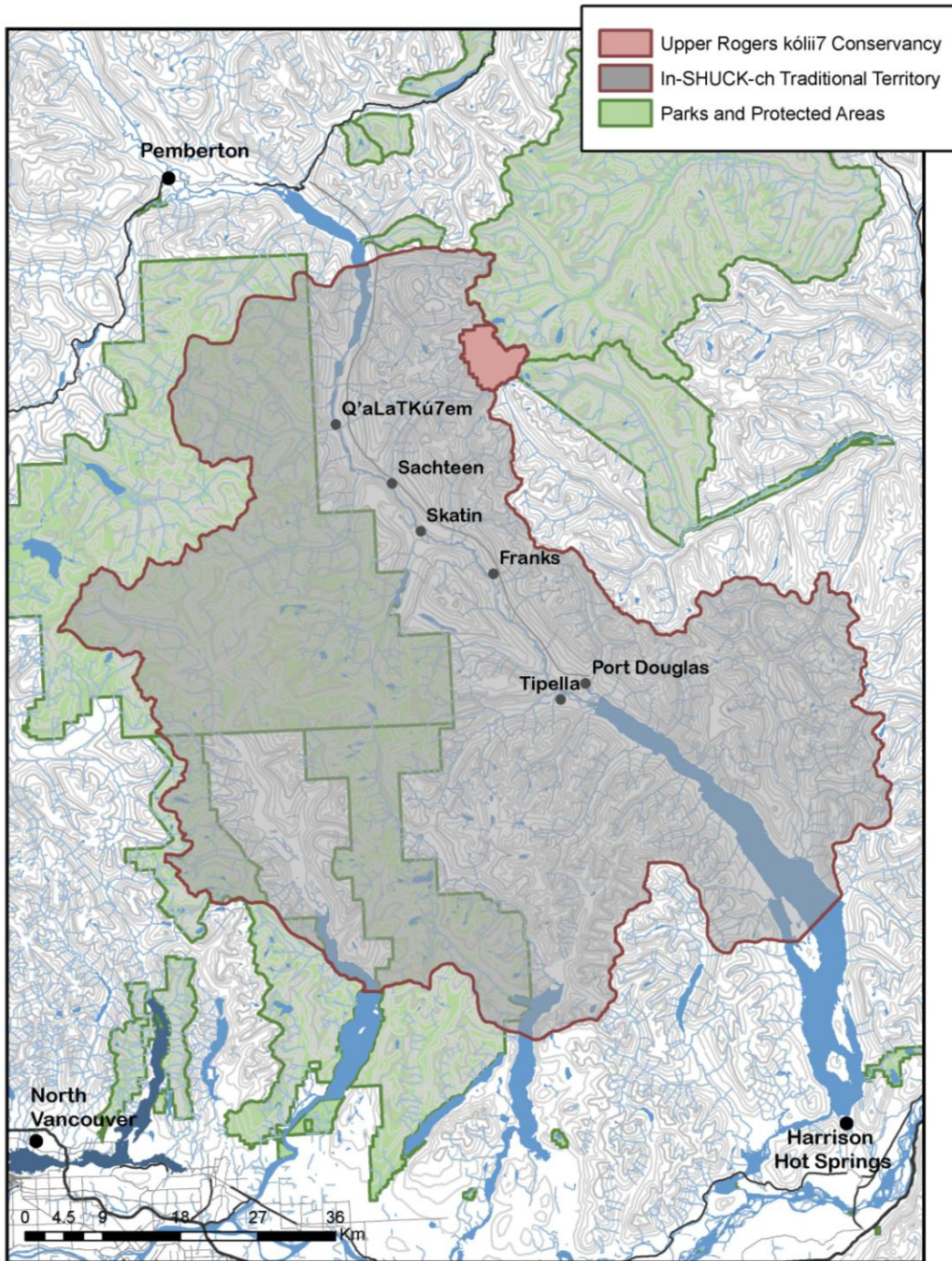


Figure 2: In-SHUCK-ch Traditional Territory Map

1.5 Legislative Framework

The conservancy was established in 2008 and is named and described in Schedule E of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

The management of the natural and cultural values of the conservancy will be based upon land use and collaborative management agreements between British Columbia and the In-SHUCK-ch Nation, the *Park Act* and the *Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulation*.

The *Park Act* provides for the management of conservancies. Section 8 of the *Park Act* directs that any interest in land in a conservancy must be authorized by a park use permit. Section 9 directs that most uses of a natural resource in a conservancy must be authorized by a park use permit.

A park use permit can only be issued if the use or activity will not hinder, restrict, prevent or inhibit the development or use of the conservancy in accordance with the four reasons for setting aside a conservancy, which are:

- a) The protection and maintenance of their biological diversity and natural environments;
- b) The preservation and maintenance of social, ceremonial and cultural uses of first nations;
- c) The protection and maintenance of their recreation values; and,
- d) To ensure that development or use of their natural resources occurs in a sustainable manner consistent with the purposes of paragraphs (a), (b) and (c).

The *Park Act* further states that a park use permit must not be issued to authorize commercial logging, mining, or hydro electric power generation, other than local run-of-the-river projects in a conservancy. "Local run-of-the-river projects" in relation to a conservancy, means run-of-the-river projects supplying power for use (a) in the conservancy, or (b) by communities, including first nation communities, that do not otherwise have access to hydro electric power.

1.6 Planning Process

In advance of the management planning process, a background report was prepared by Timberline Natural Resource Group Ltd. on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and In-SHUCK-ch Nation. The purpose of the project was to engage the In-SHUCK-ch Nation community in the early stages of the planning process and to gather information on the cultural, ecological and recreation values associated with the Upper Rogers kóljii7 Conservancy. The final report documented the outcomes of the community consultation sessions and information gathering, and made recommendations regarding the management planning process.

A Terms of Reference was developed by the Ministry of Environment (BC Parks) and In-SHUCK-ch Nation to guide the management plan development.

1.7 Adjacent Land Uses

Mining Tenures

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has rated the industrial mineral and metallic mineral potential of the Rogers Creek area as “moderate” and the geothermal potential as “high” (George et al 2004). There are eight mineral claims adjacent to the conservancy; five of which are still active. A summary listing and map of the active claims is included in Appendix B. When the Upper Rogers kólii7 Conservancy was designated, portions of these mineral tenures overlapping the proposed conservancy were excluded from the conservancy.

Commercial Recreation

There are two licences for commercial recreation adjacent to the conservancy in the vicinity of Lizzie Lake. Activities covered under the licences include rafting, kayaking, rapelling, alpine skiing and guided mountaineering and rock climbing. One of these licenses also covers a portion of the conservancy.

Sea-to-Sky LRMP Zoning

The Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan has designated two Wildland Zones adjacent to the conservancy. Wildland Zones are identified under the Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan to recognise areas with First Nations cultural values, high wildlife values, backcountry recreation values, and remote wilderness characteristics (Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan, p. ii).

The North Lizzie Creek to Cloudraker Mountain Wildland Zone (#4) is situated directly to the north and east of the conservancy and has a cultural emphasis to recognise First Nations spiritual, cultural and traditional renewable resource harvesting activities in this area. The Rogers Creek Watershed Wildland Zone (#40) is situated to the south of the conservancy and covers a small portion of the Upper Rogers Creek watershed. This Wildland Zone has a wildlife emphasis to recognise this as an area providing important habitat for wildlife, including wintering Mountain Goat.

Protected Areas

The eastern portion of the conservancy is bordered by the Stein Valley Nlaka’pamux Heritage Park and Mehatl Creek Park.

Forestry

The western half of the conservancy is bordered by the Soo Timber Supply Area (TSA) which is administered by the Ministry of Forests and Range.

Trapping

There is an active trapline in the lower elevations in the Rogers Creek watershed.

2.0 Roles and Values of the Conservancy

2.1 Significance in the Parks and Protected Areas System

The conservancy contributes to the network of provincial protected areas by:

- protecting key headwaters of tributaries of the Fraser and Lillooet rivers. These headwaters function as a corridor for wildlife migrating between the coast and interior ecological regions;
- contributing to regional-scale biodiversity protection provided by the complex of contiguous and roadless protected areas that includes Mehatl Creek Park and Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park;
- protecting significant habitat for species at risk including the threatened Stein-Nahatlatch Grizzly Bear sub-population and endangered Northern Spotted Owl. It also protects winter range of Mountain Goat, a species of regional conservation concern; and,
- making an important contribution to the representation of cultural values in the parks and protected areas system by protecting pictographs and petroglyphs, traditional In-SHUCK-ch hunting grounds, and a significant historic travel and trading route into the interior.

2.2 Cultural Heritage

Values

Historical Use

The conservancy is a component in a larger matrix of watersheds used and occupied by the people of the lower Lillooet River, now collectively known as In-SHUCK-ch Nation. There was a village at or near the confluence of every major tributary (e.g., Rogers Creek) along the Lillooet River, and the resources of the watershed were used, from the river valley to the highland areas.

The Upper Rogers kóljii7 Conservancy area was used for gathering and hunting, as a place of spirit quests, and as a travel route from the Lillooet River watershed to the Stein River valley – with routes through both the Rogers Creek and Lizzie Creek watersheds. The exact locations of these routes have yet to be worked out, although the main route appears to have been across the top of the Upper Rogers kóljii7 Conservancy, with other access via the Rogers Creek drainage.

Most of the archaeological research associated with the Lillooet people has been focused on the Fraser River, around Lillooet. A 7,500-year record has been established outside of the lower Lillooet River watershed, but no similar sequence of occupation has been developed for the study area.

No detailed archaeological work has been carried out in the Rogers Creek watershed, but based on archaeological investigations so far, it appears that the archaeological record in the lower Lillooet River valley spans a period of between 1,250 and 6,200 years.

The Upper Rogers kóljii7 Conservancy is part of an important highland area. In general, the meadows above the treeline were used for travel and hunting deer and mountain goats. In some places, piles of rocks represent deer blinds, places where hunters hid while stalking deer.

Trails often started in the river valleys and ascended above the treeline to clear areas where passage was easier. Camps were located by small alpine lakes or rock shelters – either built by piling rocks up or by using existing rock formations. Trails along ridges were easier to use and were referenced by using recognisable natural features. For example, the location of a trail above Rogers Creek is described by referencing a clearing that at a distance looks like an eye.

Many of the resource use activities were - and are - focused on the Lillooet River valley and a few key tributaries, such as Sloquet Creek, Rogers Creek, and Glacier Lake. The economic and settlement pattern in place in the late 1700s and early 1800s involved semi-sedentary or sedentary villages along river terraces, adjacent to key salmon fishing areas, and were occupied for most of the year. This formed the basis of the contemporary social and economic system. From the villages, family groups or small specialized task groups went on one day or extended trips to hunting, gathering, or trapping areas, or traveled to other watersheds to trade. Women gathered berries and roots, and men hunted deer, mountain goats, and elk. The conservancy was an important area for these uses.

The lower Lillooet River was connected to the larger region by a number of trails. The lower Lillooet River people traveled up and down Harrison and Lillooet lakes to trade with the Sto:lo at the mouth of the Harrison River (Teit 1906:232), and with the Upper Lillooet at Anderson Lake. Trails and trading networks also connected the lower Lillooet people with resources and groups in adjacent areas such as the Stein River Valley and the Pitt Lake system. Some of these trails were used to gain access to hunting and gathering areas; others were used to go to other villages to trade. Interviews carried out in 1994 (Hudson 1994) in the Lillooet River area indicated that Rogers Creek was an important route from the Lillooet River to the Stein Valley, and that caves or rock covers were used as camps. There are also reports that horses were used as riding and pack animals to facilitate travel and trade through the conservancy, in to the interior by way of the Stein Valley.

Rogers Creek Village Site

West of the conservancy, around the confluence of Rogers Creek and Lillooet River, is the location of a former village. This has been corroborated by preliminary archaeological work and documented in place name lists and maps from the 1880s. Today this is an Indian Reserve and the present location of several residences of members of the Samahquam First Nation. The Rogers Creek village site is a well documented archaeological site that may date from 1,250 to 6,200 years old. This site was identified within the In-SHUCK-ch Land Stewardship Plan as a site of cultural significance to the In-SHUCK-ch Nation. Given its proximity, this village site is important to the cultural context of the conservancy.

Pictographs (Rock Paintings)

Few pictographs have been reported for the lower Lillooet River area, although several are located along Lillooet Lake. Other paintings have been reported up some of the creeks, but these have not been verified. A series of rock bluffs between the hot springs and Skookumchuck may also contain pictographs. Other pictographs have also been reported in the Rogers Creek watershed, on a bluff behind Skookumchuck, and along Gowan Creek. There are believed to be some pictographs in the conservancy, but their location is unknown and will require further investigation.

Teit (1906: 282) wrote that rock paintings were painted during puberty ceremonies by boys and girls, or by men to represent what he calls 'dream records'. Teit also wrote that there were several rocks on which each person passing by for the first time had to paint a picture (Teit 1906:282). The locations of these were not identified. Studies of rock art in the Stein Valley indicate that such pictures, known as *ts'ets'ekw*, were located mainly at the base of rock talus slopes beside trails, and in caves (York, Daly, and Arnett 1993:2). According to Teit, trees were also carved with figures, or painted (after the outer bark was removed). Such trees may have been used to indicate ownership of fishing places (Teit 1906:256). One such modified tree has been located in the adjacent Stein Valley (see the photograph in M'Gonigle and Wickwire 1988:38). It is possible that similar paintings may be found in the conservancy.

This area in the conservancy where there may be pictographs or petroglyphs is referred to as the kól̓ji7 cultural site and is referenced in the In-SHUCK-ch Land Stewardship Plan.

Hunting and Trapping

Extensive use was made of the highland areas in the conservancy for hunting and gathering. A number of game animals were obtained, including Black-tailed Deer which were killed at salt licks, at drinking places, at stream crossings and using pitfall traps. Mountain Goat and Hoary Marmot were also hunted. Bears were hunted in the fall from platforms in trees (Teit 1906:226). The following comments from interviews indicate some aspects of resource use: “The highlands were used for ground hog [marmot], mountain goat, roots, [and] berries. Areas closer to river were used for deer.”

Current hunting effort in the conservancy is not known, but based on the remoteness of the area it is expected to be low. There is an active trapline area encompassing the conservancy, but trapping occurs only at lower elevations in the Rogers Creek watershed and not within the conservancy.

Role

The role of the conservancy is to conserve the cultural values associated with the kól̓ji7 cultural site, to raise public awareness of the cultural values and importance of the area to In-SHUCK-ch Nation, and to recognise and preserve the First Nation's harvest of non-timber forest products for social, ceremonial and cultural purposes.

2.3 Biological Diversity and Natural Environment

Values

Upper Rogers kól̓ji7 Conservancy contributes to regional biodiversity protection provided by the complex of contiguous and roadless protected areas that includes Mehatl Creek Park, and Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park. Together these protected areas protect over 134,000 hectares of wilderness which bridge between the Pacific and the Interior Transition ranges. This complex of protected areas protects an important corridor for wide-ranging mammals including Grizzly Bear, American Black Bear, and Wolverine, all of which have been confirmed in the area. During consultations with the In-SHUCK-ch community, Hoary Marmot was identified as a culturally important species known to occur in the area. The lower elevations within the conservancy provide winter habitat for Black-tailed Deer.

The Upper Rogers kóljii7 Conservancy is situated in a transitional zone between the Coast and Mountain, and Southern Interior ecoprovinces. The conservancy covers three biogeoclimatic (BEC) zones, all within the Eastern Pacific Ranges Ecosection: Coastal Mountain-heather Alpine, Mountain Hemlock, and Coastal Western Hemlock. The conservancy contributes to the protection of old-growth forests within these zones. In recognition of the values, old-growth management areas (OGMA)¹ were established in the conservancy area (Figure 3) prior to the establishment of the conservancy.

The old-growth forests provide important habitat for species dependent on old-growth, including the endangered Northern Spotted Owl. Two breeding pairs of Northern Spotted Owl are known to occur in the neighbouring Stein Valley. For a full summary of the ecological representation associated with Upper Rogers kóljii7 Conservancy, see Appendix A.

Grizzly Bears in the Rogers Creek watershed are within the threatened Stein-Nahatlatch Grizzly Bear population unit. In 2006, two Grizzly Bear Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA) were established in the headwaters of Rogers Creek (2-172 and 2-204), totalling almost 700 hectares (Figure 3)². A recovery plan for this population has yet to be drafted, but will include additional objectives and strategies to protect and enhance Grizzly Bear habitat.

Mountain Goat winter range³ (RO-1, RO-5, RO-7) has been identified in the conservancy based on inventory work completed in the 1990s. Mountain Goat is a species of high conservation priority under B.C.'s Conservation Framework and is the top provincial priority under the framework's Goal 2 which is to "prevent species and ecosystems from becoming at risk." The conservancy is helping to protect known wintering habitat for Mountain Goat.

The conservancy contributes to the network of protected areas protecting important headwaters of the Fraser and Lillooet rivers. These headwaters function as a corridor for wildlife migrating between the Coast and Interior ecological regions. The conservancy contributes to the protection of the headwaters of Rogers Creek and protects alpine lakes and glaciers, including Caltha Lake, Rainbow Lake, Figure Eight Lake, and Iceberg Lake. Rogers Creek is reported to contain anadromous fish in its lower reaches and resident fish populations above the falls (Ecocat, Fisheries Notes, 1976 and 1996). There is no known inventory of fish species in the upper sections of Rogers Creek or the conservancy's alpine lakes, although the lakes are likely barren.

The conservancy's landscape has been altered by glacial processes, evidenced by such features as glacial moraines, cirques, eskers, and perched lakes which are found in the alpine area. While not unique to the area, these features contribute to the stark and rugged beauty of the conservancy's alpine landscape. Melt waters from the conservancy's glaciers, including the Skook Jim and Caltha glaciers, sustain water levels in Rogers Creek throughout the dry summer months.

¹ Although this designation now only formally applies to the areas outside of the conservancy, the original designated area is shown on Figure 1 to highlight the significant values.

² Same as above.

³ Same as above.

Role

The role of the conservancy is to protect the significant natural features associated with the upper Rogers Creek area, including sensitive alpine lakes and headwaters, habitat for species at risk and of conservation concern (e.g., Northern Spotted Owl, Stein-Nahatlatch Grizzly Bear sub-population and Mountain Goat) and species relying on this remote protected area as an important travel corridor (e.g., Wolverine).

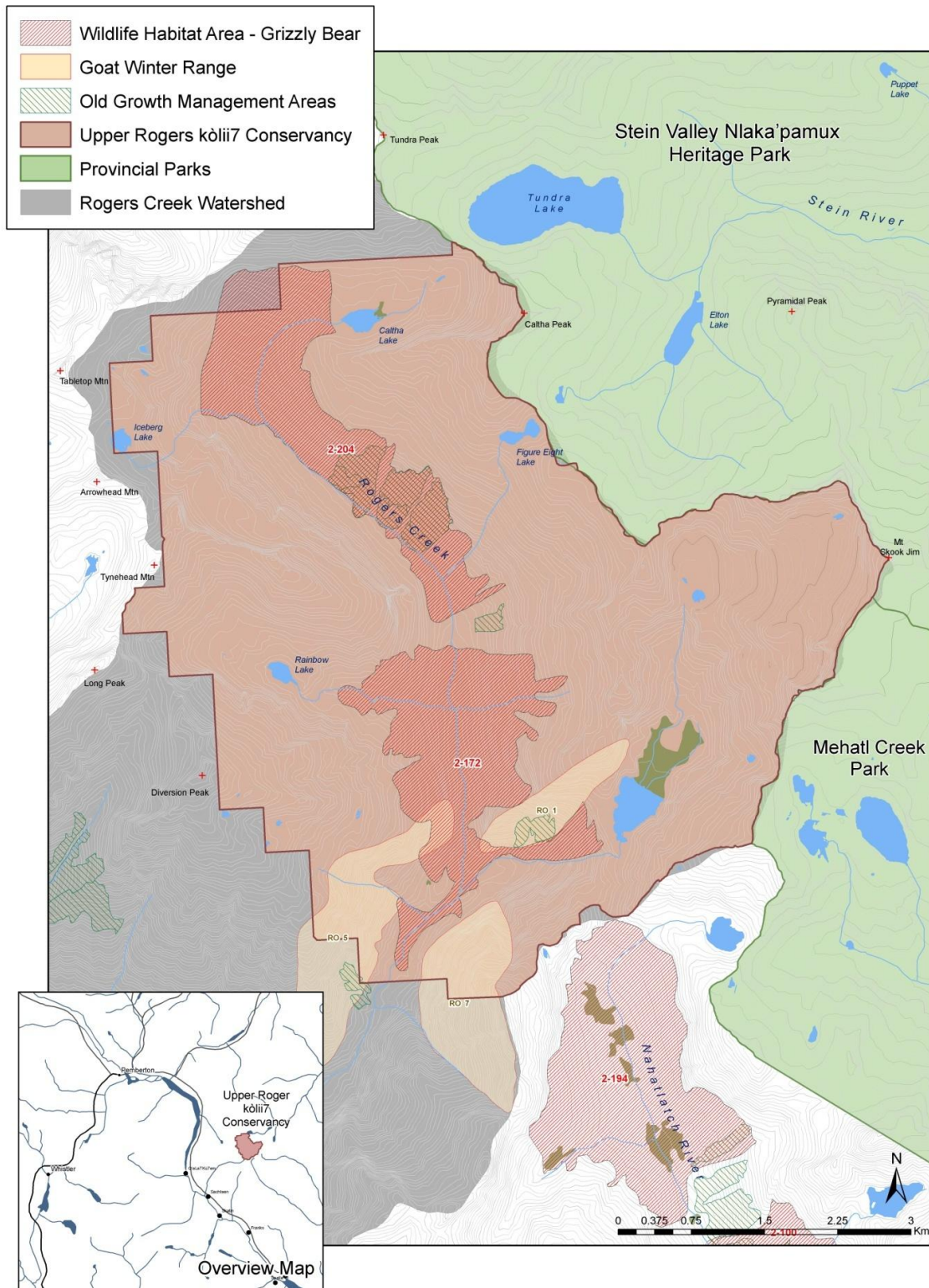


Figure 3: Wildlife Habitat Map

2.4 Recreation

Values

Upper Rogers kóljii7 Conservancy protects a remote destination that provides opportunities for wilderness recreation where visitors can appreciate nature and find inspiration.

Access to Upper Rogers kóljii7 Conservancy is via the In-SHUCK-ch Forest Service Road (FSR) which travels along the east side of Lillooet Lake. This FSR provides access from Highway 99 east of Mount Currie to the In-SHUCK-ch communities situated in the vicinity of the conservancy: Q'aLÁTKÚ7em, Sachteen, and Skatin.

There are two decommissioned Forest Service Roads branching eastward off of the In-SHUCK-ch FSR which provide access to valleys adjoining the conservancy:

- **Lizzie Lake FSR:** Lizzie Lake FSR follows the Lizzie Creek drainage up to Lizzie Lake. The Lizzie Lake FSR is used by recreationists to access the Lizzie Lake area and as a starting point for backcountry trips into the Upper Rogers Creek area and the Stein River valley. In 2003, the FSR washed out one kilometre from the In-SHUCK-ch FSR and is impassable by vehicle. Anyone accessing the conservancy along this route must hike on the FSR from this point to trailhead, approximately 12 kilometres.
- **Rogers Creek FSR:** Rogers Creek FSR follows the Rogers Creek drainage to the southeast slope of Cloudraker Mountain. Access to the conservancy via the Rogers Creek FSR is less common as the road terminates at the base of the southeast ridge of Cloudraker Mountain. While this route is used by members of the In-SHUCK-ch Nation to access hunting grounds and trapping sites there are no established trails into the conservancy.

There is an established recreation site at Lizzie Lake and an old public cabin is situated nearby called the Lizzie Creek Cabin. The cabin, which is outside the conservancy, was built by volunteers in 1968. It is a user-maintained cabin that is without any tenure.

The northern half of the conservancy is a popular destination for recreationalists seeking a remote, backcountry experience. The majority of visitors are hikers and mountaineers who initiate their trips into the conservancy from Lizzie Lake trailhead and use the cabin at Lizzie Creek as either a base for day trips or as a starting point for longer trips into the Stein Valley, including completion of the Stein Traverse (Figure 4).

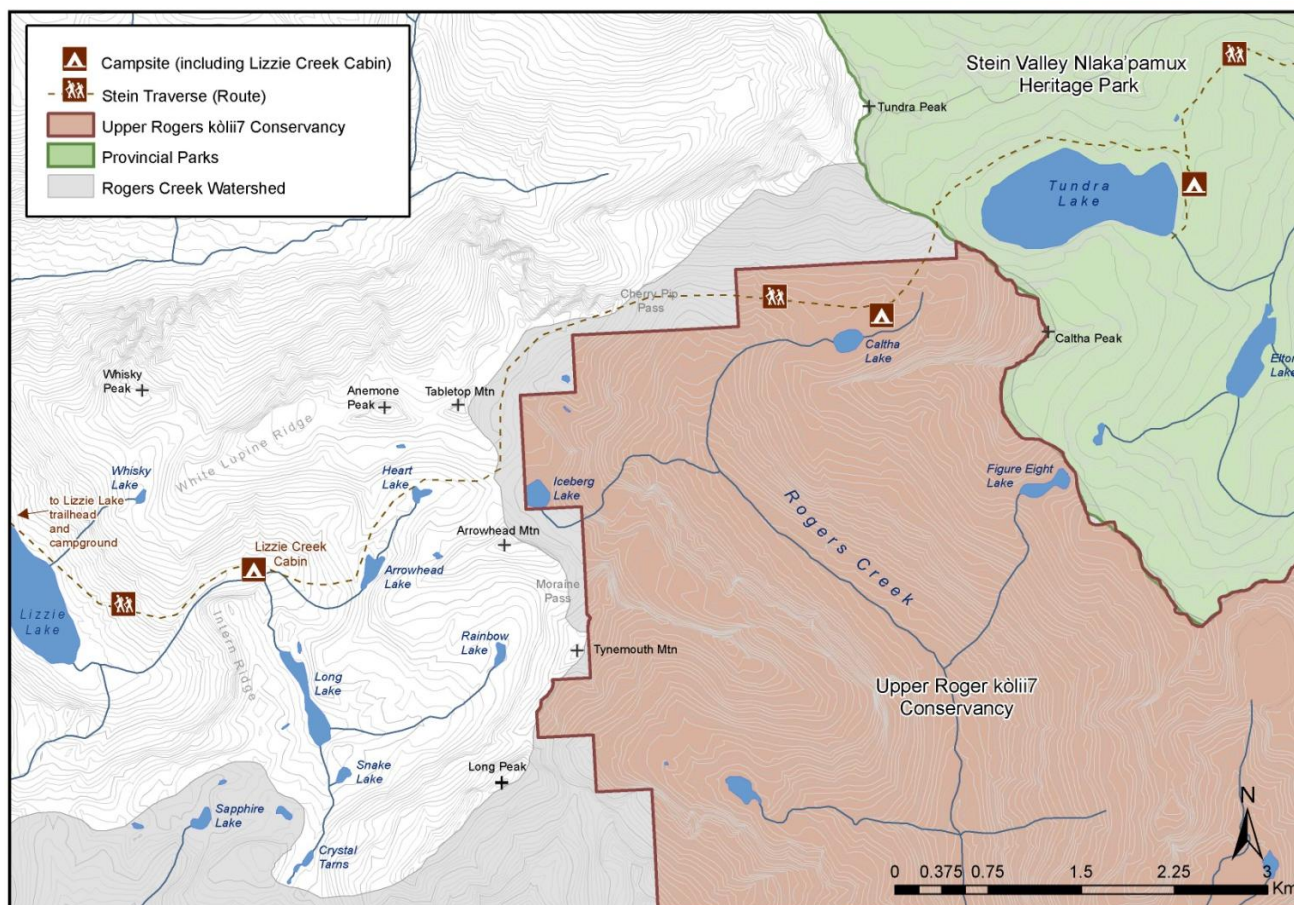
The conservancy encompasses a section of the Stein Traverse – also called the Stein Divide Trail and Stein Heritage Trail. This follows a historical trading route used by First Nations. It is now a popular hiking route which traverses from Lizzie Lake into the Stein River valley. Caltha Lake is situated on the Stein Traverse approximately 10 kilometres from Lizzie Lake through the Cherry Pip Pass and is used as a camping site. While impacts from camping are not widespread, there is evidence of fire rings and some damage to vegetation. There is a backcountry campsite at Tundra Lake which is within the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park and less than a day's hike from Caltha Lake. There are hiking routes to Figure Eight Lake which originate from Caltha Lake and/or Tundra Lake.

Day trips into the conservancy and surrounding area are usually focussed on travel to Heart Lake, Long Lake, Iceberg Lake, Figure Eight Lake and Caltha Lake – the latter three lakes being within the conservancy boundary (Figure 4). All hiking access to, and through, the conservancy is via unmarked routes. Other activities occurring in the conservancy include mountaineering, ski-touring and rock climbing.

Under the Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan the adjacent Crown lands within the Lizzie Creek and Rogers Creek watersheds have been zoned for non-motorised recreation uses, with aerial transport allowed, including for heli-skiing. There is a licence for commercial recreation for a large area of which a portion overlaps the conservancy. Activities covered under this licence include guided rafting, kayaking, rappelling, alpine skiing and mountaineering. There is also a commercial recreation tenure adjacent to the conservancy in the vicinity of Lizzie Lake for guided mountaineering and rock climbing excursions.

Role

The role of the conservancy is to protect an area that is a well-known destination for hiking and other forms of backcountry recreation, and to promote recreation in areas where there is minimal impact to the cultural values and where impacts to water quality and wildlife are minimal and can be mitigated. This may include the development of a backcountry hut where there is a proposal that is consistent with the conservancy’s management objectives and vision.



2.5 Development or Use of Natural Resources

Values

The conservancy is dedicated to conservation, cultural use by First Nations, and low-intensity, non-motorised backcountry recreation.

Role

It is not part of the role of this conservancy to provide for the development or use of natural resources beyond those activities listed above.

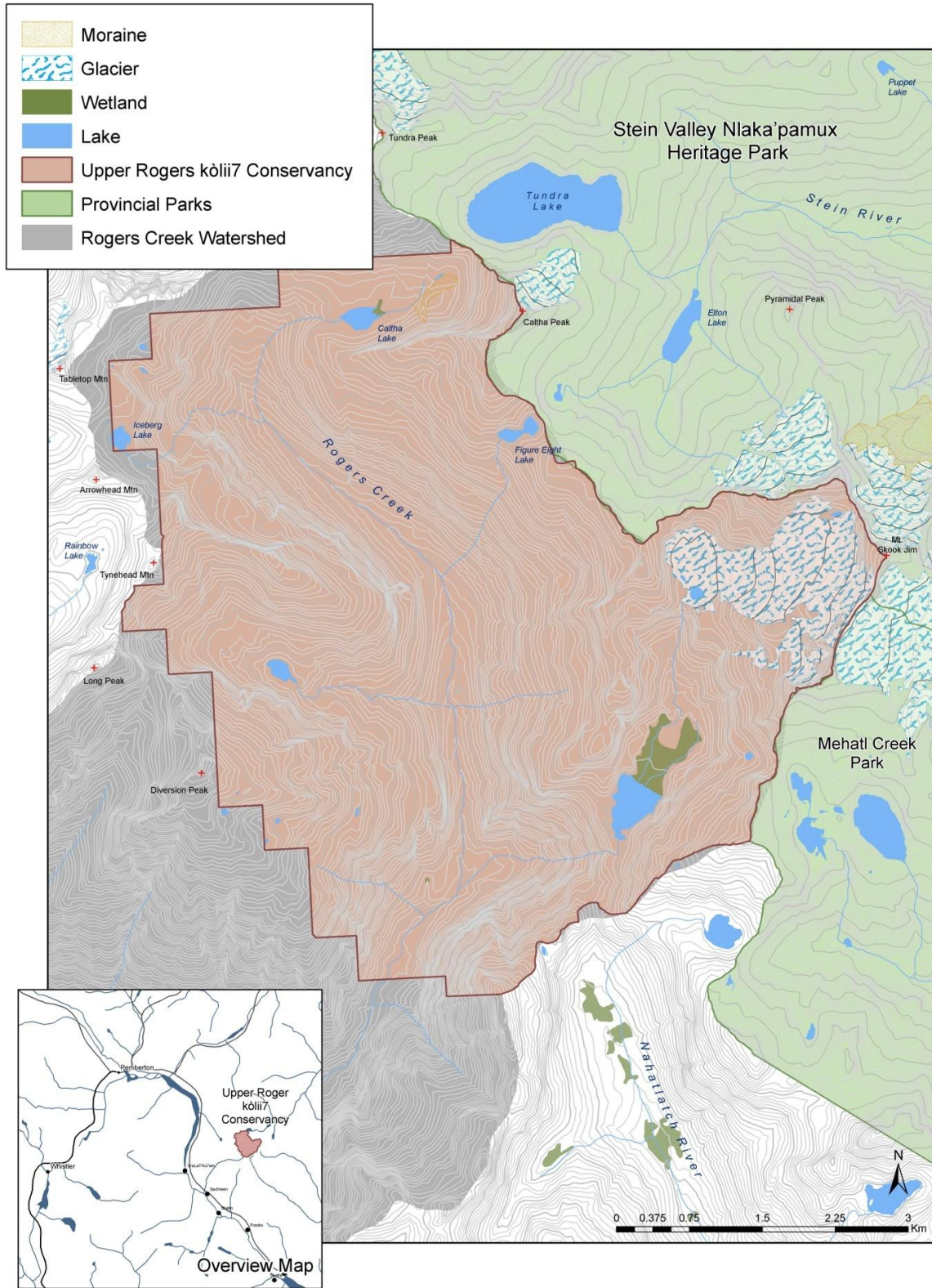


Figure 5: Key Lakes, Mountains, and Other Natural Features Map

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Conservancy Vision

The Upper Rogers kółii7 Conservancy is managed in a manner that protects and maintains the wilderness qualities of the upper Rogers Creek watershed.

The conservancy provides a sanctuary for social, ceremonial and cultural use by the In-SHUCK-ch Nation and preserves the values of the kółii7 cultural site.

The conservancy is managed to limit impacts to natural and cultural values while providing backcountry recreation opportunities for visitors to appreciate those values.

3.2 Management Issues, Objectives and Strategies

Overall Management Objectives	
1	Raise awareness of cultural values and importance of the area to In-SHUCK-ch Nation.
2	Recognise the First Nation's harvest of non-timber forest products for social, ceremonial and cultural purposes.
3	Provide opportunities for recreation that respect cultural values, sites, and uses.
4	Provide recreation opportunities that have minimal negative impact on sensitive alpine ecosystems and headwater areas, and species and communities of concern including Northern Spotted Owl, Grizzly Bear and Mountain Goat.
5	Maintain and promote access to a range of low impact recreation opportunities in the conservancy.
6	Promote safety for visitors travelling in backcountry areas.
7	Identify key data needs and increase awareness of research and monitoring opportunities
8	Increased protection of the conservancy's significant natural values.

Management Opportunities/Stressors	
A	There is limited cultural values information. An increased understanding of the cultural values would improve the management of these values.
B	The alpine ecosystems and species at risk are vulnerable to disturbance by some types of use (e.g., motorized use).
C	Recreational access and opportunities in the conservancy may be impacted by adjacent land use.
D	There are inherent safety risks associated with the conservancy's remote alpine environment.
E	There are important research and monitoring opportunities which potential partners are not aware of.
F	There may be opportunities to improve protection of the conservancy's values by adding adjacent lands.

Management Strategies	Associated Key Objectives	Associated Opportunities/Stressors
Incorporate In-SHUCK-ch messaging into conservancy signage (e.g., Lizzie Creek cabin, Stein Trail trailheads) and communications (e.g., BC Parks website, brochures, In-SHUCK-ch newsletter).	1, 2	A
Include messages on the conservancy's cultural values and include conservancy mapping in information sources for Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park. Focus interpretive themes on the remote, undisturbed qualities of the Rogers Creek watershed, and the importance of the area for First Nation cultural uses.	1, 2	A
Build working relationships and communications with In-SHUCK-ch Nation for conservancy management and operation.	1, 2	A, E
Seek opportunities for In-SHUCK-ch Nation youth, Elders and other members to visit the conservancy.	1, 2	A, E
Limit public access to sensitive cultural areas by closing areas and erecting signage as required.	1, 3	A
Do not allow motorized access or use.	4	B, F
Recommend regulatory changes to prohibit aircraft landings.	4	B, F
Do not allow fish stocking or fish introductions in alpine lakes.	4	B, F
Mark the Stein Traverse trail where it traverses through sensitive areas (e.g., Caltha Lake corridor). Use signage and cairns to encourage visitors to stay on the existing trail and to use designated campsites at Caltha Lake.	4	B, F
Include messaging about the ecological sensitivity of the Caltha Lake area in brochures, on the BC Parks' website and on maps.	4	B, F
Do not allow campfires in the Caltha Lake area.	4	B, F
Do not allow mountain biking.	4	B, F
Develop maps of potential habitat for species at risk and communities of conservation concern.	4	B, E
Work with the appropriate government agencies to explore reactivation of Lizzie Lake Forest Service Road to facilitate non-motorised access to the conservancy.	5	C
Encourage the appropriate other government agency to pursue tenure for the Lizzie Creek cabin and support its continued public use.	5	C
Allow for a minimal number of designated backcountry campsites to be developed at Caltha Lake.	5	B
Allow a backcountry hut. ⁴	5	B, C
Provide messaging about safety in the backcountry at trailheads, website and in brochures.	6	D
Encourage the government agencies responsible for the Lizzie Creek cabin to implement a visitors' log book at the cabin.	6	D
Encourage research (e.g., archaeological survey) to identify cultural features and sites.	7	A, E
Encourage research on species and communities at risk in the conservancy.	7	B, E
Work with Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park managers and other agencies to monitor use.	7	B, C, E
Monitor the status of overlapping mineral tenures.	8	F
Recommend that the boundary be modified as a result of changes in mineral tenure status.	8	F
Do not allow for the development or use of natural resources beyond the activities required for conservation, cultural use by First Nations, and low-intensity, non-motorised backcountry recreation.	2, 3, 4, 8	

⁴ Backcountry hut refers to a small, rustic structure with basic amenities and a capacity up to eight people.

3.3 Conservancy Zoning

Zoning is a management tool that divides a protected area into logical management units based on common management objectives. Zones are used to describe the conditions for the natural environment and the visitor experience for any given landscape within a protected area.

Upper Rogers kółii7 Conservancy is bordered by a wilderness recreation zone in the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park and a wilderness conservation zone in Mehatl Creek Park. These zoning applications emphasise protection of remote, undisturbed natural landscapes while providing for backcountry recreation opportunities.

A wilderness recreation zone will be applied to the entire Upper Rogers kółii7 Conservancy. This zoning is consistent with the conservancy's goals to provide recreational opportunities while maintaining a pristine natural environment and protecting cultural values. It is also consistent with the zoning in the adjacent protected areas. The intent of the wilderness recreation zoning is to place a high priority on conserving the natural environment while providing for wilderness recreation. Facility development will be minimal and limited to maintaining the Stein Traverse trail and managing visitor use at Caltha Lake. No new trails or routes will be developed. All trails and facilities will be developed to minimum standards to ensure public safety and to protect cultural features and the environment. Ecological processes will be allowed to occur without human interference.

If future archaeological field work identifies cultural features (e.g., petroglyphs, pictographs or other sites), a cultural zone may be applied to the area associated with such features. This zone is used for areas requiring specific objectives to protect culturally sensitive features or sites.

4.0 Plan Implementation

4.1 Policy Context

In addition to any protected area specific policies highlighted in the management plan, there are numerous other provincial/regional policies and guidelines which will be considered during management plan implementation.

4.2 Collaborative Relationship

In-SHUCK-ch Nation and BC Parks will work together to plan, administer and manage the conservancy.

As part of this collaborative relationship, BC Parks and In-SHUCK-ch Nation will:

- Meet annually, or more frequently at the discretion of both parties, to discuss conservancy management, address management issues, and jointly develop operational plans;
- Assign a primary contact for management issues and questions that may arise in the interim;
- Plan shared trips in to the conservancy, whenever feasible;
- Keep each other informed of any issues, or policy and procedural changes that may affect conservancy management; and,
- Work to complete the collaborative management agreement to formalise procedures.

4.3 Priority Management Strategies

The highest priority strategies are:

- Incorporate In-SHUCK-ch messaging into conservancy signage (e.g., Lizzie Creek cabin, Stein Trail trailheads) and communications (e.g., BC Parks website, brochures, In-SHUCK-ch newsletter).
- Include messages on the conservancy's cultural values and include conservancy mapping in information sources for Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park. Focus interpretive themes on the remote, undisturbed qualities of the Rogers Creek watershed, and the importance of the area for First Nation cultural uses.
- Limit public access to sensitive cultural areas by closing areas and erecting signage as required.
- Do not allow motorized access or use.
- Recommend regulatory changes to prohibit aircraft landings.
- Do not allow campfires in the Caltha Lake area.
- Provide messaging about safety in the backcountry at trailheads, website and in brochures.
- Encourage the government agencies responsible for the Lizzie Creek cabin to implement a visitors' log book at the cabin.
- Encourage research (e.g., archaeological survey) to identify cultural features and sites.
- Encourage research on species and communities at risk in the conservancy.
- Work with Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park managers and other agencies to monitor use.

Implementation of these actions is dependent upon the availability of BC Parks and In-SHUCK-ch Nation financial and staff resources, and will be affected by the needs of other BC Parks managed parks and protected areas. Approval of this management plan does not constitute automatic approval of funding for implementation. In addition, BC Parks and In-SHUCK-ch Nation will seek community, interagency and/or corporate partnerships to implement many of the actions in this management plan.

4.4 Adaptive Management

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

The management plan will be reviewed as required by In-SHUCK-ch Nation and BC Parks. A review of the management plan should generally be triggered by the complexities of the management issues in the protected area and/or a significant change in circumstances (e.g., a natural disaster, major environmental change or discovery of a major new archaeological site), and not a by a specific time period.

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

Currently, In-SHUCK-ch Nation is involved in treaty negotiations with senior levels of government. In-SHUCK-ch Nation's contributions to this management plan are recognized and understood to be without prejudice to future treaty negotiations.

Once formal treaty agreements have been reached with In-SHUCK-ch Nation, this management plan will be reviewed to determine whether it is in compliance with treaty. If it is not in compliance, then this management plan will be amended accordingly. Any significant changes to the intended direction of the management plan will be made through an open public review process to build understanding of what these changes mean to the conservancy and its use.

5.0 References

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M'Gonigle, M., and Wickwire, W. (1988). *Stein: The Way of the River*. Vancouver: Talonbooks.

Teit, James (1906). *The Lillooet Indians*. *Memoir of the American Museum of Natural History* 2:5:193-300.

Appendix A: Biogeoclimatic Zone Representation

Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification	Representation within the Eastern Pacific Ranges (EPR) Ecosection	Significance
Coastal Mountain-heather Alpine. Undifferentiated and parkland (CMAunp)	30% of the EPR CMAunp is protected. The conservancy contributes to less than 2%, totaling 2,408 hectares.	Insignificant as stand-alone conservancy, but contributes to regional representation through adjacent and/or contiguous protected areas.
Coastal Western Hemlock southern moist subarctic (CWHms1)	15% of the EPR CWHms12 is protected. The conservancy contributes less than 1%, totaling 257 hectares.	Insignificant as stand-alone conservancy, but contributes to regional representation through adjacent and/or contiguous protected areas.
Mountain Hemlock moist maritime variant (MHmm1)	20% of the EPR MHmm1 is protected. The conservancy contributes 1%, totaling 212 hectares.	Insignificant as stand-alone conservancy, but contributes to regional representation through adjacent and/or contiguous protected areas.

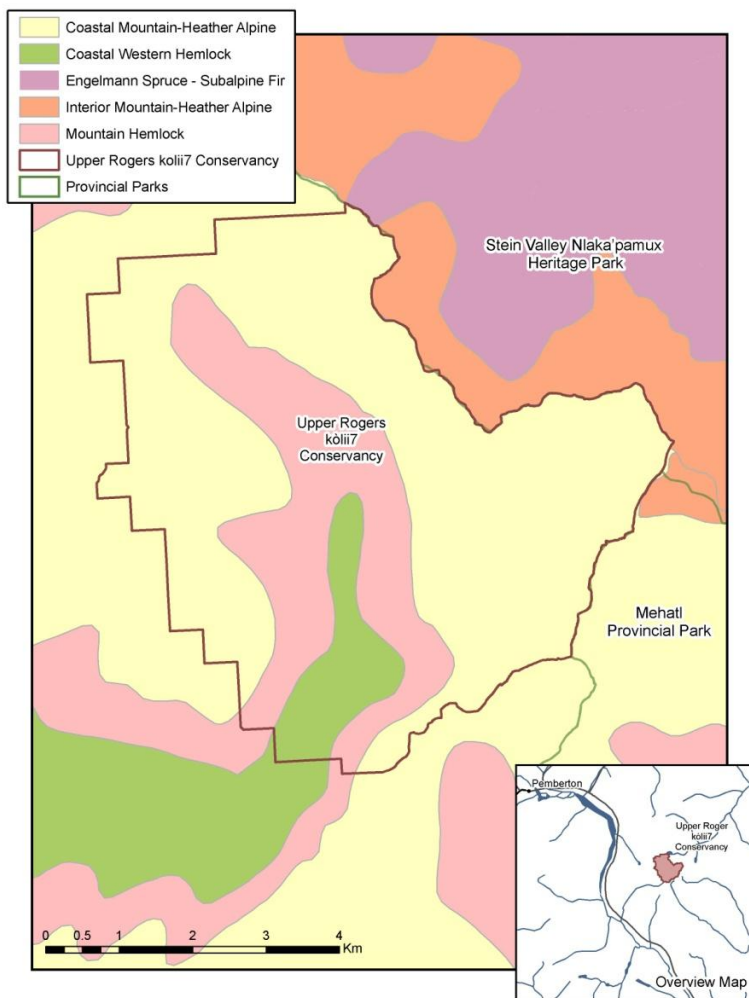


Figure 6: Mapping of Biogeoclimatic Zones