

Kluane

National Park and Reserve of Canada

A UNESCO World Heritage Site



Management Plan

2024



Parks Canada Parcs Canada

Canada

2024

Kluane

National Park and Reserve of Canada

Management Plan

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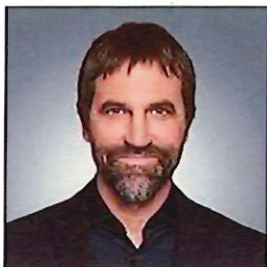
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Foreword



From coast to coast to coast, national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas are a source of shared pride for Canadians. They reflect Canada's natural and cultural heritage and tell stories of who we are, including the historic and contemporary contributions of Indigenous peoples.

These cherished places are a priority for the Government of Canada. We are committed to protecting natural and cultural heritage, expanding the system of protected places, and contributing to the recovery of species at risk.

At the same time, we continue to offer new and innovative visitor and outreach programs and activities to ensure that more Canadians can experience these iconic destinations and learn about history, culture and the environment.

In collaboration with Indigenous communities and key partners, Parks Canada conserves and protects national historic sites and national parks; enables people to discover and connect with history and nature; and helps sustain the economic value of these places for local and regional communities.

This new management plan for Kluane National Park and Reserve of Canada supports this vision.

Management plans are developed by a dedicated team at Parks Canada through extensive consultation and input from Indigenous partners, other partners and stakeholders, local communities, as well as visitors past and present. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this plan for their commitment and spirit of cooperation.

As the Minister responsible for Parks Canada, I applaud this collaborative effort and I am pleased to approve the *Kluane National Park and Reserve of Canada Management Plan*.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steven Guilbeault', written in a cursive style.

Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada

Recommendations

Recommended by:



Ron Hallman
President & Chief Executive Officer
Parks Canada



Dän nätthe äda K'úkhiá,
Chief Barb Joe
Shadhäla yè Ashèyi Kwädän
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations



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Parks Canada



Elsabe Kloppers
Chair
Kluane National Park Management Board

Executive summary

Kluane National Park and Reserve is an impressive place. The park includes many of Canada's tallest mountains. In addition to elevation, landscapes in the park are influenced by Pacific, Arctic, and boreal environments. Over thousands of years, First Nations peoples, including Southern Tutchone people of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kluane First Nation, have acquired and passed down the knowledge and skills needed to live off of the abundance of plants and animals in this land of climatic and geographic extremes.

Sharing knowledge and respecting the ways of First Nations' people as the original stewards of the land are key elements in the management of Kluane National Park and Reserve. The story of the park, and the game sanctuary that came before the park was established in 1976, includes a five-generation period where connections between First Nations and this portion of their territories were broken.

Following the completion of land claim agreements, Kluane National Park and Reserve is now managed cooperatively by Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kluane First Nation, and Parks Canada, through the Kluane National Park Management Board. The themes of reconnection, sharing, welcoming and cooperation are woven throughout this management plan.

White River First Nation has not finalized a land claim agreement, and claims unceded Aboriginal title and rights to its asserted traditional territory in the northern part of Kluane National Park and Reserve. Parks Canada is engaging in negotiations with White River First Nation about their interests in the park.

Located in southwest Yukon, 160 kilometres west of Whitehorse, the town of Haines Junction is a convenient base for exploring the area. Along with adjacent protected areas across the borders in Alaska and British Columbia, Kluane National Park and Reserve is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Recognized for its impressive natural features, 10,000 years of cultural history, and world-class wilderness rafting, the 90-kilometre portion of the Alsek River that flows through Kluane National Park and Reserve is a Canadian Heritage River.

Like the varied environments found within Kluane National Park and Reserve, the park attracts a diversity of visitors. The Kluane area is known worldwide for its mountaineering opportunities. The park is also popular with experienced hikers and whitewater enthusiasts. Many visitors, however, enjoy the views from the highways, day-use areas, and campgrounds and prefer peaceful strolls or exhibits at the visitor centres.

In support of the vision and guiding principles, the management plan outlines the following four goals:

Goal 1: Dań k'è kwǎnjì'/The People's way is alive

This goal addresses the ongoing need to support Dǎn/The People in rebuilding a strong and enduring relationship to the lands, waters and resources within the park.

Goal 2: Dákeyi ukaanathì` jè/All of you watch over our country with your heart

This goal focuses on maintaining and improving the ecological integrity of ecosystems and the need to build resiliency for rapidly changing environments as a result of climate change.

Goal 3: Kwiyaajàl'/We are happy to welcome you

This goal focuses on creating opportunities for visitors with a range of abilities, interests and identities to learn about, experience and care for the park.

Goal 4: Dándāl dákundür hj/We will tell you all our story

This goal addresses outreach and education activities that share the stories of the park, including Southern Tutchone culture and cooperative management, raising the profile of Kluane National Park and Reserve.

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1.0 Vision

This is a living land; this is Dañ Keyı, the People's Country.

This is a place of healthy water, plants, animals and people, resilient in the face of a changing climate.

This is a home for sharing knowledge and reconnecting.

This is a place where wise decisions are made together and all knowledge is valued and considered.

This is a place where we all feel welcome.

Á'sía Keyi—Grandfather's Land

*Á'sía keyi,
nedjshjka dak'anuta du.
Á'sía keyi,
dach'anakwats'ä`n diyq
ughq yats'a säy na.
Á'sía keyi, nakwats'än diyq
äju yats'a säy, ak'an.
Á'sía keyi,
nakwanich'i ū
A'hı tashänıthj.
Kwänischis yadjnj.*

*Grandfather's country,
you take care of us.
Grandfather's country,
you were taken from us
and we cried for a long time.
Grandfather's country,
you came back to us
and we don't cry anymore.
Grandfather's country,
we are happy to see you again.
Thank you for everything.*

Source: Diyet van Lieshout, written for
Kluane National Park and Reserve,
December 12, 2011.

2.0 Däzhän Dákwändür Ch'e –This is our story

Kluane National Park and Reserve lies in the southwest corner of Yukon and protects a spectacular landscape of high mountain peaks, massive valley glaciers, boreal forests, northern wildlife, and rich cultural heritage.

In Southern Tutchone, the land is known as Dañ Keyı̄/the People's Country. The Kluane region has been home to Dän/The People for thousands of years and their knowledge is based on an interconnected relationship to the land. Dän lived as part of the natural cycles and their stewardship, based on generations of knowledge, has enriched the health of the land.

Many of the vital connections that Dän had to this place were severed when the Alaska Highway was built in 1942. In a misguided effort to protect wildlife along the highway, the government established the Kluane Game Sanctuary in 1943. With the stroke of a pen, Dän were evicted from their homeland – they could no longer live off the land by hunting and trapping. With the removal of Dän from their lands, the health of the land and people declined.

“When our people were told they couldn't use the land anymore, it was like being told you can't go into half of your house and you are not allowed to eat any of the food, so it was a pretty bad feeling for our people that we weren't allowed to go onto this side of the road or into the park. The place we call home.”

Luke Johnson, Kluane First Nation citizen

In 1973, a delegation of Yukon First Nation Chiefs presented the document *Together Today for our Children Tomorrow* to then Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau, which started land claims negotiations in Yukon. In 1976, Kluane National Park and Reserve was declared a national park reserve to protect a representative area of the Northern Coast Mountains Natural Region. The Government of Canada signed comprehensive land claim agreements with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kluane First Nation in 1993 and 2003, respectively.

The rights of the Lhù'ààn Mân Kwa Ch'ân'/Kluane Lake People and the Shadhäla yè Ashèyi Kwädän/Champagne and Aishihik People to hunt, trap, fish and gather plants in the park are defined in their respective final agreements and are protected under the Constitution of Canada. These modern-day treaties are the legal foundation for the cooperative management of Kluane National Park and Reserve, built upon a relationship of trust, mutual respect and shared values.

The Kluane Lake People and the Champagne and Aishihik People have been working to revitalize their culture through reconnection. Being on the land, re-establishing family connections, teaching traditional activities, revitalizing language, and creating a sense of belonging for new generations are priorities. An initiative called Healing Broken Connections began an important healing process between Parks Canada and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kluane First Nation.

Together, the Kluane National Park Management Board, Kluane First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Parks Canada protect and care for this special place, for today, and for generations to come. As stewards, First Nations' voices are an integral part of decision-making, bringing vital insights into caring for the land that are based on generations of knowledge. This plan was created by the cooperative management partners to guide the management of the park for the next ten years. The partners will report annually on progress toward achieving the plan objectives. The plan will be reviewed every ten years or sooner, as required by legislation.

3.0 Guiding principles

These values were identified by the cooperative management partners to provide guidance in the management of Kluane National Park and Reserve. (Artwork: Frances Oles. Translation: Chughäla [Lorraine Allen] and Ayedindaya [Margaret Workman].)

Kwiyaajäl' – Welcome

Kluane National Park and Reserve is a place for everyone, a place to learn and experience, and a place where connections can be made.

*Drums are a voice, of stories, celebration or sadness.
Drums welcome, invite dance or bookend stories.
Each drum has its own voice and together they speak for a time and place.*



Nàts' it'är – Respect

It is important to listen to and learn from each other so we can build strong relationships, trust each other and work together for our common goals.

A long time ago, it was a chaotic time in the world of animals. Beaverman organized the animals so they all had their own niche in the world and could interact and live with one another in a way that benefited all, over time.

Kwädäy kwändür jenīth'a k'e kīdän –

We listen and learn the long ago teachings

Sharing our knowledge is a circular process from Elder to youth and is based on generations of experiences that can be passed on to our future leaders.

A mother bear teaches her young how to thrive and survive in the world. This knowledge is passed on, generation to generation. The feather snare makes a background circle and represents Traditional Knowledge and technology. It is made of simple resources, but its application is effective. It is fragile, yet portable and replaceable.





Dazhän nän käy yè dàkeyi dághàshūr t'ù` ghàkwīnjì –

We are all thankful for our land, it gives us all that we need for life

Everything is connected and our strength and resilience comes from our connections to our land and water. We must work together to ensure that those connections remain to support a healthy environment and people.

A watershed. The air and mountains create a landscape that permits plants, animals and people to thrive. The mycelia encircling the landscape represents interconnectedness that nurtures. The bead floral design represents people and balance.

Nlaye uk' anīthät –

You people, you are thinking about it together

We guide our decisions by using land-based Traditional Knowledge and scientific information to form one vision.

*The two trees are separate species yet they support each other.
The ochre circles represent human ideas and tradition.
There are four, indicating the four directions.
The sprout represents new ideas that come from sharing.*



Shāwthän kuk' àts' ànätà dāzhän nän kay –

Everyone look after the land very well

As caretakers, we have a responsibility to ensure that our decisions reflect our values and that the connections between the land, the water and the people who live here remain forever.

Our hands on the land represent care and intent.

4.0 Significance

Since the last Ice Age, Southern Tutchone people have lived in the area that is now Kluane National Park and Reserve. Throughout the year, families travelled great distances to take advantage of seasonal abundances of wildlife and plants. Over 250 archaeological sites directly related to Southern Tutchone people have been identified in Kluane National Park and Reserve and the park encompasses a network of heritage trails interwoven with Indigenous place names. Dän strive to rebuild and maintain their deep cultural and spiritual relationship to the land as their ancestors have for millennia – teaching their youth, hunting and gathering, and passing on the stories of their country.

Kluane National Park and Reserve is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, along with its neighbours Wrangell-St. Elias and Glacier Bay National Parks in Alaska, and British Columbia's Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park (Map 1). Together, these parks form one of the world's largest internationally protected areas. In 1986, the 90-kilometre portion of the Alsek River that flows through Kluane National Park and Reserve was designated a Canadian Heritage River. The river is recognized for its impressive natural features, 10,000 years of cultural history, and world-class wilderness rafting.

The characteristics that define this part of the Northern Coast Mountains Natural Region include:

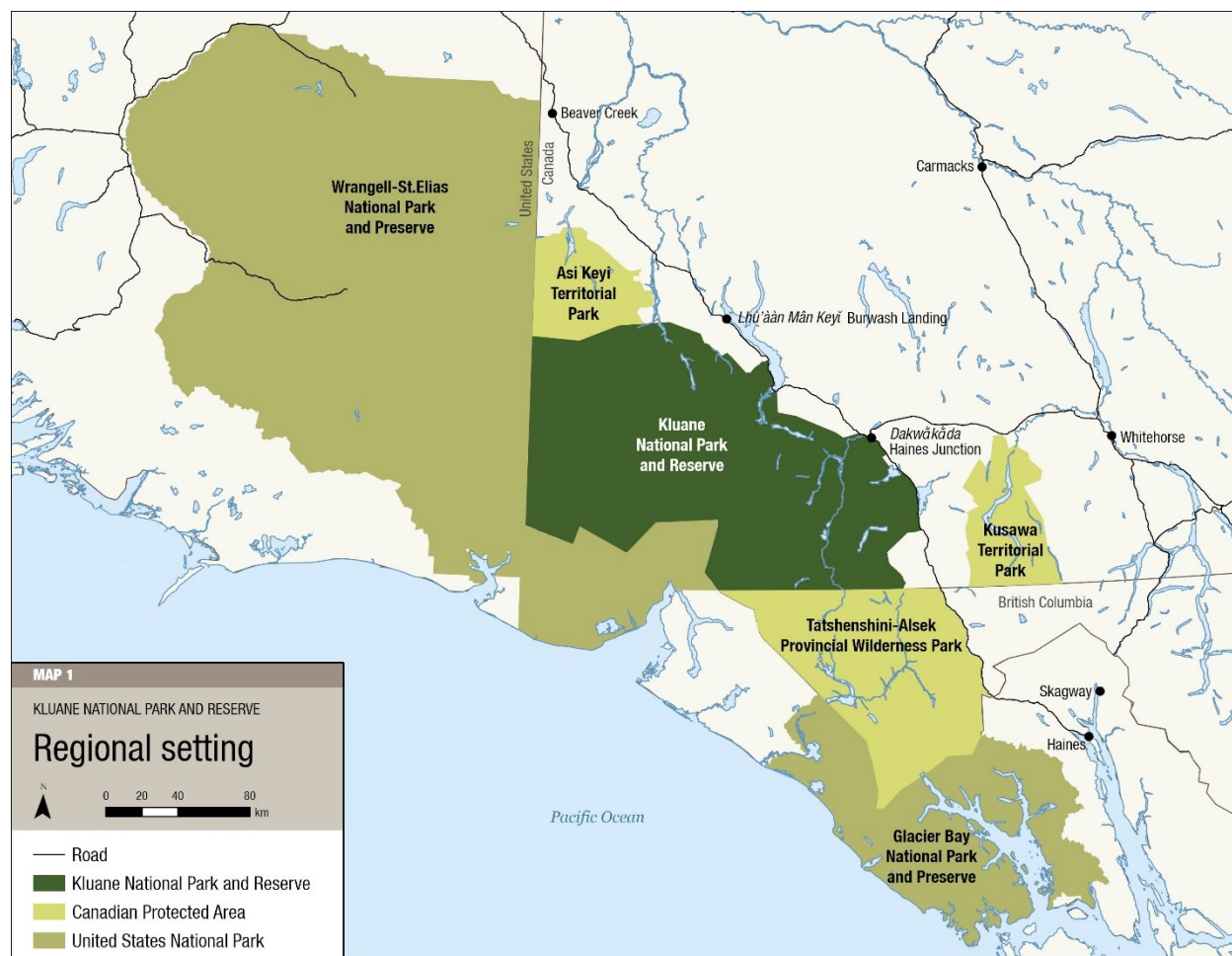
- The St. Elias Mountains, including Mount Logan, Canada's highest peak at 5,959 metres;
- One of the largest non-polar icefields in the world, with immense valley glaciers and wild rivers – a vestige of the last Ice Age;
- The most genetically diverse population of grizzly bears in North America, a significant population of Dall's sheep, and the only land-locked kokanee salmon population in a Canadian national park; and,
- An ecological crossroads of Pacific and Arctic influences, supporting tundra and boreal forest resulting in diverse vegetation communities.

Kluane National Park and Reserve is known worldwide for its outstanding recreation opportunities, attracting mountaineers, whitewater rafters and experienced hikers to its mountainous terrain and icy blue rivers. Visitors also come to experience the engaging exhibits at the park visitor centres, drive the picturesque Alaska Highway, take strolls and day hikes, view wildlife, and share peaceful moments with friends and family.

Kwiyaajàl'

We are happy to welcome you.

Map 1: Regional setting



5.0 Planning context

Final agreements

The *Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement* (1993) and the *Kluane First Nation Final Agreement* (2003) identify rights and responsibilities for First Nations' citizens and Canada, including:

- Reaffirming First Nations rights within the park;
- Recognizing the traditional and current use of the park;
- Ensuring Southern Tutchone language is used in the park;
- Providing economic and employment opportunities for First Nations citizens in the development, operation and management of the park; and,
- Using traditional and scientific knowledge in park management.

Self-government agreements

The *Kluane First Nation Self-government Agreement (2010)* and the *Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Self-government Agreement (1993)* recognize the inherent right of self-determination and outline the legislative authority on topics such as:

- Governance and the management and administration of rights and benefits for First Nations' citizens;
- Developing social, educational and economic services for First Nations' citizens; and,
- Enacting laws on their settlement land pertaining to resource use and management, harvesting, and licensing and regulating of activities that may occur on settlement land.

Cooperative management

A new era of cooperative management began with the signing of the final agreements. Parks Canada, Kluane First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations are engaged in an enduring effort to look after the land, based on strong mutual respect and a shared understanding of respective responsibilities. The Kluane National Park Management Board (the Board), mandated in both final agreements, is a key to cooperative management and may make recommendations on all matters pertaining to the development and management of the park, including revisions to the park management plan. The Board is comprised of six voting members: two nominees of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, two nominees of Kluane First Nation and two nominees of the Government of Canada. The park manager sits on the Board as a non-voting member. The Board's *Strategic Plan (2021–2024)* identified four goals:

1. Nighá shāw nīdhān dákéyi láádal yu– We are happy to have you come into our country. This goal is focused on strengthening relationships and making connections. Following the lead of the First Nations, help to create space and opportunities to incorporate Traditional Knowledge in all aspects of discussion and recommendations.
2. Dāzhān k'e ndasādiye–This is the way we work. This goal is focussed on actively fulfilling the mandate of the Board as outlined in the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kluane First Nation Final Agreements.
3. Shada`th'i k'è sòthān ghàkenādān– They all learn well sitting in a circle. This goal is focused on building a strong and effective board, advancing its capacity through streamlining internal processes and educating external communities.
4. Dān ts'ān kwishe k'è sòthān jennitth'a–When I talk to people, I understand well. This goal is focussed on enhancing communications and engagement by meeting people where they are at.

Realignment of the boundary

Parks Canada is working to realign the boundary of Kluane National Park and Reserve in certain areas.

- When Kluane National Park and Reserve was established, the boundary along the Alaska and Haines highways was set back 305 metres to allow for future realignment of the roads. The highway realignments have now been completed and administrative procedures will be completed for the inclusion of these lands into the park and park reserve. These areas include strips of land that parallel the highway from Khàr Shan Nij/Congdon Creek to 'A' äy Chù' Slim's River and from Bear Creek to Łu Ghā/Klukshu River.
- Consistent with the final agreements, the legal boundary will be corrected to reflect Kluane First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations settlement lands that were removed from Kluane National Park and Reserve.

Zoning changes

Several changes to park zoning are set out in this management plan. Zoning changes were made to:

- 1) Incorporate new information about ecosystem protection requirements, and the ecosystems' capability and suitability to provide opportunities for visitor experiences, and
- 2) Confirm and identify visitor experiences that are consistent with ecosystem protection requirements.

One zoning change is identified to accommodate the proposed Kluane First Nation ecotourism facility. Two zoning changes are identified to accommodate the proposed Champagne and Aishihik First Nations ecotourism facility. These ecotourism facilities are rooted in the final agreements, which speak to economic benefits for First Nations from the operations and development of the park. All zoning changes (and the management plan as a whole) were subject to a strategic environmental assessment, which concluded that zoning changes and corresponding potential activities are consistent with the ability to uphold ecosystem protection requirements (see Section 9.0–Summary of strategic environmental assessment). The area of the park zoned as Zone II (Wilderness) remains at 85 percent. This percentage has not changed from the 2010 management plan. These and other zoning changes are described in Section 8.0 – Zoning.

First Nations economic benefits

The final agreements outline specific and general approaches to economic opportunities in the park for both Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kluane First Nation. Kluane First Nation is moving forward with a proposal to develop an ecotourism facility in the park, near Bighorn Lake. A main lodge and cabins would accommodate tourists and staff for multi-night stays. Associated rudimentary cabins that are consistent with Zone II, may also be established. Champagne and Aishihik First Nations is moving toward developing an ecotourism facility on their settlement land outside of the park, beside Māt'ātāna Mān/Kathleen Lake, with many of the proposed activities to occur in the park. Supporting infrastructure in the park may include two mountain camps located on high points, one between Mush Lake and Bates Lake and one between Sockeye Lake and Johobo Lake. Associated rudimentary cabins, that are consistent with Zone II, may also be established. Activities for both developments may include experiencing Southern Tutchone culture, aircraft–assisted wildlife viewing and hiking, flight-seeing, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and dog sledding. Both of the proposed projects are at a conceptual stage.

White River First Nation and the park's “reserve” status

White River First Nation is one of three First Nations in the Yukon Territory that have not signed a final agreement under the *Umbrella Final Agreement* (1993). White River First Nation therefore claims unceded Aboriginal title and rights to its asserted traditional territory.

White River First Nation has asserted traditional territory in the northern portion of Kluane National Park and Reserve (Map 2). This accounts for the reserve status of the park. In accordance with the *Canada National Parks Act*, reserve status is applied to a national park when the area in question is subject to a claim in respect of Aboriginal rights that has been accepted for negotiation by the Government of Canada.

White River First Nation people are the descendants of Upper Tanana and Northern Tutchone ancestors, who had intermarried and shared lands and resources for many generations. Some of the linguistic and ethnic affiliations of White River First Nation are related to both the Upper Tanana from the Alaskan border area and the Northern Tutchone in the regions around Fort Selkirk, Stewart River, and other communities along the middle section of the Yukon River, while other individual families trace their roots to other neighbouring bands and linguistic groups, including Southern Tutchone, Ahtna, and Han.

In response to White River First Nation's assertions regarding traditional territory in Kluane National Park and Reserve, Parks Canada is engaging in negotiations with White River First Nation about their interests in the park.

Rapidly changing natural environment

The Kluane region is warming; the mean annual temperature in the Village of Dakwākāda/Haines Junction has increased by four degrees Celsius since 1945. This has caused the loss of over 230 small glaciers and 19 percent of the total area covered by glaciers. In 2016, the retreat of the Kaskawulsh Glacier caused the diversion of a river into a different watershed

and ocean, bringing immense landscape change. Climate change models predict further impacts in the region, including lengthening of the fire season, more rain-on-snow events, and increasing lake temperatures. Species and ecosystems may not be able to adapt to this rate of change.

Pressures adjacent to the park

Issues of concern in the Kluane region, which could adversely impact the natural and cultural resources and values of Kluane National Park and Reserve, include:

- Increased discharge of treated sewage effluent from Dakwākāda/Haines Junction into the Shadhāla Chù/Dezadeash River wetlands;
- Increased mining development; and,
- The potential for wood bison to expand their range into the park.

Findings of the state of the park assessment

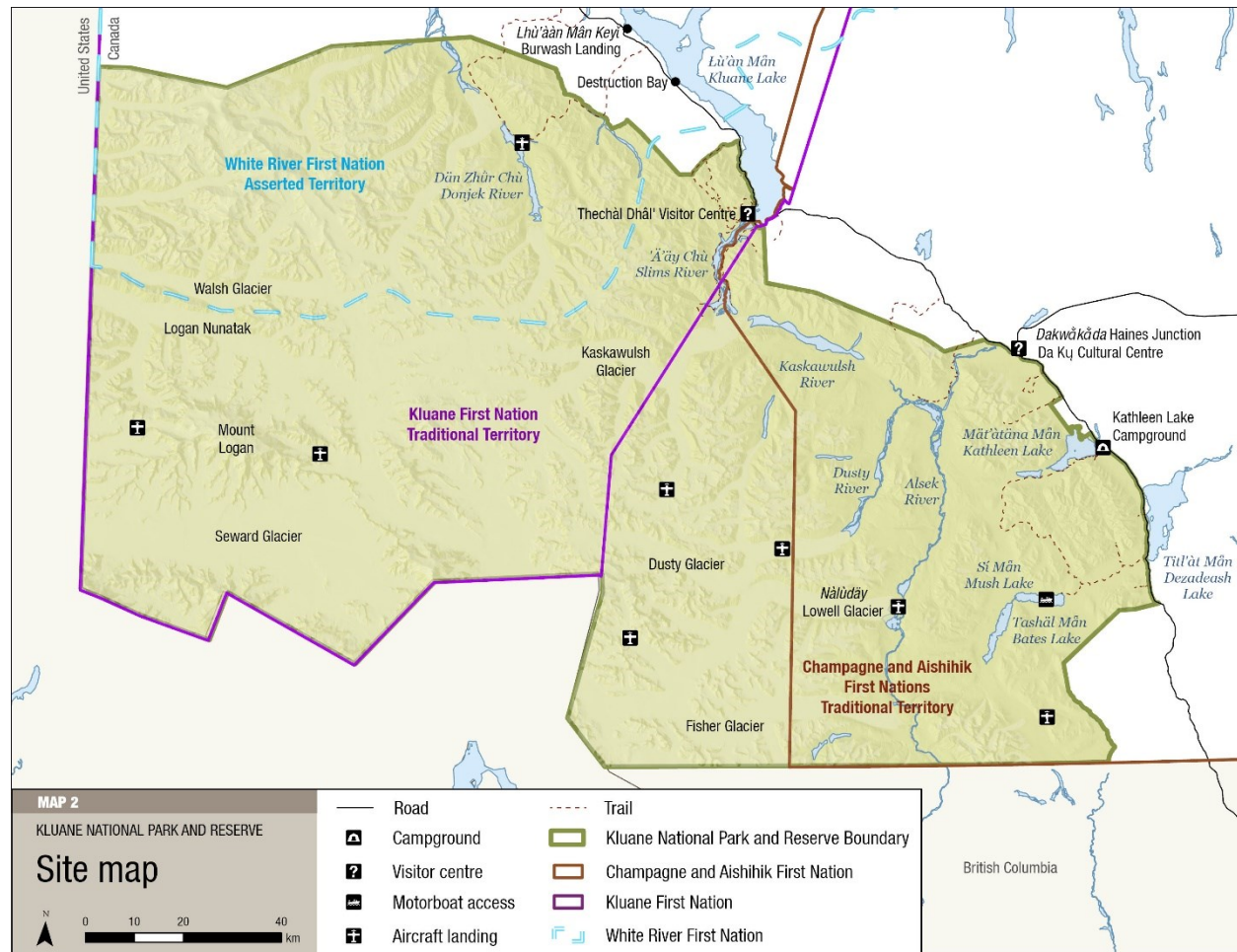
The *Kluane National Park and Reserve State of the Park Assessment* (2017) identified three key issues:

1. The need to further improve relations with First Nations and increase the use of Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous languages.
2. The need for a more strategic approach to visitor experience management, including greater use of social science to help understand visitor use patterns, help identify strategic markets, and support the development of a visitor use plan.
3. The need for more attention to, and research on, key ecological issues with highly visible impacts. Of particular importance over the life of this plan are: a) the diversion of the 'A' äy Chù'/Slim's River; b) slow recovery from an unprecedented spruce bark beetle outbreak; c) poor forest health and the need for a restoration plan that will improve ecosystem health and decrease the risks associated with high fuel loads and wildfire; and d) potential recovery of a kokanee salmon population thought close to extinction.

Visitation changes since the 2010 plan

In 2012, the Da Kų Cultural Centre was built by Champagne and Aishihik First Nations in Haines Junction. This facility houses a Parks Canada visitor centre and Yukon Government information centre, offering visitors an excellent place to begin their visit. In 2019, the Thechàl Dhâl' Visitor Centre was renovated and new exhibits developed, providing visitors with opportunities to engage with local First Nations people, culture and language. Since 2010, a significant decrease in organized tours has been met with an increase in independent travellers. The number of backcountry hikers and the number of campers at Māt'ātāna Mān/Kathleen Lake campground are increasing and some activities are gaining in popularity, such as pack rafting and cycling. In 2018, five oTENTik's, a Parks Canada brand of alternative accommodation, were built at Māt'ātāna Mān/Kathleen Lake Campground, offering a new visitor opportunity. Interpretive programs, special events and school programs have been increasing in recent years.

Map 2: Site map



6.0 Development of the management plan

This plan was co-developed by a working group made up of members of the Kluane National Park Management Board, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kluane First Nation and Parks Canada. Operating under the Board's mandate, several meetings of the working group were held to design the planning process and the approach to consultation, and to co-develop the plan content.

An initial round of consultation was held in June 2019 as the draft plan was being developed. A newsletter was circulated broadly and posted on the Parks Canada's web page for Kluane National Park and Reserve to support this round of consultation. The newsletter contained a draft vision for the park and reserve, and a series of questions related to park management. Public open houses were held in Haines Junction, Burwash Landing and Whitehorse. Meetings were held with Elders from Champagne and Aishihik First Nations in Haines Junction, and with Elders from Kluane First Nation in Burwash Landing. Parks Canada staff met with representatives from Yukon Tourism and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. A "What We Heard" report was produced in January 2020 which summarized the results of consultation. These results were considered by the working group as the draft plan was being prepared.

The second and final round of consultation was significantly delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and was held between September and November of 2022. The draft plan and a newsletter were circulated

broadly and posted on the Parks Canada web page for Kluane National Park and Reserve and the Government of Canada web page for *Consulting with Canadians*. Engagement opportunities took place in Haines Junction, Burwash Landing, and Whitehorse, and feedback was also collected through an online survey. All comments received were considered by the working group and a “What We Heard” report was completed. After public input on the draft management plan was assessed, Parks Canada completed the final revisions to the management plan in consultation with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kluane First Nation and White River First Nation.

The *Canada National Parks Act* and the *Parks Canada Agency Act* require Parks Canada to prepare a management plan for each national park. The *Kluane National Park and Reserve of Canada Management Plan*, approved by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada and tabled in Parliament, ensures Parks Canada’s accountability to Canadians, outlining how park management will achieve measurable results in support of Parks Canada’s mandate.

This plan is not an end in and of itself. Parks Canada and the Board will maintain an open dialogue on the implementation of the management plan, to ensure that it remains relevant and meaningful. The plan will serve as the focus for ongoing engagement and, where appropriate, consultation, on the management of Kluane National Park and Reserve in years to come.

7.0 Goals, objectives and targets

Management of Kluane National Park and Reserve for the next ten years will be based on the following goals and objectives. The goals outline high-level direction, and the objectives describe priorities in support of each goal. Targets allow measurement and reporting on progress toward each objective. Annual work plans will be based on the guidance provided in this plan.

Goal 1: Dañ k’è kwǎnji’/The People’s way is alive

After decades of exclusion from Kluane National Park and Reserve, Dän are re-establishing their presence in and connections to the park. This goal addresses the ongoing need to support Dän in rebuilding a strong and enduring relationship to the park, with a focus on engaging youth and future leaders. Parks Canada, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kluane First Nation will work together to identify barriers to reconnection and implement solutions. The revitalization of Southern Tutchone culture is strongly supported through the implementation of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kluane First Nation Final Agreements.

“We are not the leaders of tomorrow, we are the new leaders of today and we should be engaged and involved and out on the land helping our scientists come to a better conclusion for our community.”

Nadaya Johnson, Kluane First Nation citizen

Objective 1.1: Revitalize Southern Tutchone culture, traditions, and language.

Targets

- Dän are practicing and living their culture in the park, carrying out traditional activities such as camping, harvesting and holding cultural camps, reconnecting to cultural areas, and bringing youth and elders together.
- A cultural resource management approach that includes an inventory of known resources and management objectives is actioned within five years.
- Parks Canada, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kluane First Nation work together to establish a Guardian program in the park.

Objective 1.2: Parks Canada, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and Kluane First Nation collaborate to meet obligations set out in the final agreements.

Targets

- The history, culture and rights of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kluane First Nation are recognized in the operations of the park.
- Parks Canada facilitates economic and employment opportunities related to the management of the park, including the establishment of the proposed Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kluane First Nation ecotourism facilities.
- Traditional and scientific knowledge are interwoven, and guide park management.

Goal 2: Dákeyi ukaanathì jè/All of you watch over our country with your heart

This goal focusses on maintaining and improving the ecological integrity of ecosystems and the need to build resiliency for rapidly changing environments as a result of climate change. Management decisions will be founded on Indigenous, local and scientific knowledge, and informed by a robust monitoring program which is regularly reviewed and whose results are shared publicly. First Nation knowledge keepers, youth and researcher involvement are key elements. Dän cultural values toward land management are honoured and shared, and the traditional activities of Dän on the landscape are recognized as contributing to ecological integrity and the health of the land. These activities are recognized and reflected in park management. Through this, biodiversity and ecological integrity are enriched.

“I am proud to contribute to the knowledge and protection of my traditional territory.”

Kelsey Kabanak, Kluane First Nation citizen and
Parks Canada employee

Objective 2.1: Dásia keyi ukaanáthì jè/You look after our grandfathers’ country from your heart.

Targets

- A fire management plan that provides strategic direction on fire management activities, including the use of fire for cultural, ecological and risk reduction purposes, is developed within five years. The plan outlines planning and operational priorities and incorporates traditional practices into the following core elements: wildfire prevention, wildfire risk reduction, wildfire preparedness, wildfire management and response, and prescribed fire implementation.
- Agreements with neighbouring governments to manage and minimize the impact of wildland fire on resources in and outside of the park are in place within three years.
- A management strategy to address potential adverse environmental and cultural impacts of wood bison is developed within five years. The management strategy considers options to mitigate and reduce the risk of expansion of the population.
- There is no expansion of new and existing invasive plant species in the park.
- Monitoring of the Duke River moose population is providing useful information on the health of the herd.
- A landscape management unit approach, which minimizes cumulative disturbance to grizzly bears is implemented within five years. This approach includes a strategy to assess and manage aerial disturbance and landings in the park.
- Collaboration with regional partners to better understand and effectively manage ecological processes, disturbances, and species at the landscape scale is increased.

Objective 2.2: Chu ukaanáthì jè/You look after the water from your heart.

“When I first started to count Kokanee, Sockeye creek was alive—the forest was green, the water was moving with fish. Then one year we went back and counted only 20 sockeye, the spruce bark beetle had killed all the big trees and everything was completely quiet.”

Lloyd Freese, Long-time resident of Kluane region and retired Kluane National Park and Reserve Park Warden

Targets

- Awareness of Dän cultural values toward water management, including ceremonial aspects, is increased.
- Understanding of kokanee salmon improves, and their population is resilient.
- Lake trout populations in Mush, Bates and Mät’ätäna/Kathleen lakes remain resilient (within one standard deviation of the baseline catch-per-unit effort).
- Shadahäla Chù/Dezadeash River water quality remains high.
- There are no new aquatic invasive species or diseases in the park.
- Seventy percent of park anglers demonstrate awareness of their role in preventing the spread of invasive species.

Objective 2.3: Species at risk are looked after.

Targets

- An inventory of the distribution of newly listed species at risk in the park is completed.
- A multi-species site analysis is completed within two years.

Objective 2.4: Management approaches recognize the impacts of climate change and address potential emerging issues.

“No more Slims River! Well a small trickle compared to what it should be as the Kaskawulsh has claimed the lions share of water for the first time in decades.”

Lance Goodwin, Long-time resident of Kluane region,
Facebook post June 2016

Targets

- Vulnerability and risk assessment tools are used to identify impacts and prioritize adaptation options.
- Greenhouse gas emissions from park facilities (for example, heating fuel and electricity consumption) and vehicles (fuel consumption) are tracked and reduced from 2020 levels, in-line with Parks Canada’s national commitment.
- Non-climatic stressors are reduced to increase species’ ability to adapt to climate change; in particular sheep mortality along the Alaska Highway is reduced within five years.
- There is greater collaboration with partners and researchers to tackle complex problems and emerging issues, and to increase public awareness.
- Youth are involved in at least one monitoring activity every year.

Objective 2.5: The values upon which the World Heritage Site and Canadian Heritage River System designations are based, are intact.

Targets

- Collaboration and communication amongst World Heritage Site and Canadian Heritage River System partners is improved.
- The ten-year monitoring report for the Alsek River is completed within eight years.

- First Nations history, culture and rights are highlighted in information about the World Heritage Site and Canadian Heritage River System designations.

Goal 3: Kwiyaajàl'/We are happy to welcome you

This goal focusses on creating opportunities for visitors with a range of abilities, interests and identities to learn about, experience and care for the park. A strategic approach, using visitor experience planning tools and information about visitor's needs and interests, informs a high-quality suite of visitor services, facilities and programming. This diverse range of visitor experiences is grounded in stewardship and minimizes impacts to natural and cultural heritage. Everyone enjoying Kluane National Park and Reserve has the information needed for a safe and meaningful visit.

"Thank you for keeping these remote and pristine sites so informative, well staffed, professional. They made me proud of being Canadian."

Marilyn Strachan, Kluane National Park and Reserve visitor, Calgary, AB

Objective 3.1: Visitors are provided with opportunities to experience and learn about the park that reflect its natural and cultural values.

Targets

- Through working with diverse partners, the breadth of cultural and ecological stories of the park, encompassing deeper narratives of the place from a variety of perspectives, is increased.
- To support their offers and ensure messaging to visitors is grounded in the natural and cultural values of Kluane National Park and Reserve, collaboration with operators (and stakeholders) is maintained.
- Exhibits and programming are managed to provide engaging and up-to-date information on park priorities and associated work.

Objective 3.2: Visitors are provided with opportunities for high quality and safe experiences that are tied to target markets' needs and desires.

Targets

- Partnerships with tourism organizations, stakeholders and businesses, to promote the park and explore new visitor opportunities, are expanded.
- Needs and interests of visitors and local residents are reflected in the suite of available recreational activities and access points.
- Access to information about avalanche exposure and other risks to help park users make informed decisions about where to recreate is improved, within three years.
- Access to mountaineering opportunities in the Icefields region is strictly controlled in order to maximize the safety of visitors and staff and minimize the likelihood of rescue.
- The impacts of climate change are considered in visitor offers and messaging, in terms of challenges, new opportunities, and visitor safety.

Objective 3.3: Visitors and local residents feel welcome and report high levels of visitor satisfaction.

Targets

- Visitors with a range of abilities, interests and identities at the two key points of contact (Thechàl Dhâl' and Haines Junction) report general enjoyment and satisfaction with their visitor experience.
- Interpretive exhibits and signage are refreshed and incorporate traditional names.
- Park assets are strategically managed to support core visitor experiences and operational needs.
- Park infrastructure is more accessible and inclusive.

Objective 3.4: Visitor use is managed to minimize ecological impacts, while maintaining high quality visitor experiences.

Targets

- The impacts of backcountry visitor use are monitored, assessed and mitigated.
- Visitor management approaches for the 'A' äy Chù'/Slim's River Valley are revised as part of an overall visitor-use plan.

Objective 3.5: Dän cultural values and belief systems are integrated into the visitor offer.

Targets

- Parks Canada, Kluane First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations are working together to appropriately share Dän stories.
- Dän are in the park, sharing their stories and traditions with park staff and visitors.
- Signs and visitor materials contain Southern Tutchone and opportunities for park staff to learn Southern Tutchone language are increased.
- Visitor awareness increases about of the importance of Dän governance, stewardship, and park management, as well as harvesting, cultural activities, and rights.

Goal 4: Dándäl dákundür hj/We will tell you all our story

Public awareness and outreach activities are critical to achieving the vision for Kluane National Park and Reserve, regarded worldwide as an icon of wilderness protection. Current outreach efforts include attending and leading special events, developing social media content, and supporting film projects and media stories. These and other initiatives help to further raise the profile of Kluane National Park and Reserve regionally, nationally and internationally. Sharing our stories nurtures awareness, appreciation and support for the park and its international status as part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Priorities for the next decade include engaging more with youth and local communities, and highlighting the cooperative management structure of Kluane National Park and Reserve, Southern Tutchone culture, the vast wilderness and world class recreation opportunities in the park, natural and cultural heritage protection, and the impacts of climate change.

Objective 4.1: People are aware of and feel connected to Kluane National Park and Reserve at local, national and international levels.

Targets

- The virtual reach of Kluane National Park and Reserve increases by 25 percent (through website, social media and emerging technology).
- Youth engagement, through school and community programs, increases.
- The local communities are engaged and feel connected to the park.
- Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kluane First Nation and Parks Canada are working in partnership to build awareness of Southern Tutchone culture and cooperative management.
- Collaboration and engagement with local, regional and national tourism stakeholders (including federal, territorial, and local governments) are increased.

8.0 Zoning

8.1 Zoning framework

The national park zoning system is an integrated approach to the classification of land and water that designates where particular activities can occur. The zoning framework has several categories, five of which are used in Kluane National Park and Reserve (Map 3). The following zoning does not affect First

Nation access to culturally important areas, or rights under the Yukon Final Agreement, such as subsistence harvesting.

Zone I—Special Preservation

Zone I lands and waters deserve special preservation because they contain or support unique, threatened or endangered natural or cultural features, or are among the best examples of the features that represent a natural region. Preservation is the key consideration. Motorized access is not permitted. In Kluane National Park and Reserve, in all Zone I areas, public access is prohibited and motorized access is permitted only for park management purposes.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

In some cases, areas may warrant special protection and management but do not fit the zoning designations. Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) allow for protection of the full range of valued resources and complement the zoning system. Motorized access is not allowed except for park management purposes and strictly controlled public aircraft access.

Zone II—Wilderness

Zone II lands contain extensive areas that are good representations of the natural region and are conserved in a wilderness state. The perpetuation of ecosystems with minimal human interference is the key consideration. Zone II areas offer opportunities for visitors to experience firsthand the ecosystems within the park and require few, if any, rudimentary services and facilities. In much of Zone II, visitors have the opportunity to experience remoteness and solitude. Motorized access is not allowed except for park management purposes and strictly controlled public aircraft access.

Zone III—Natural Environment

Zone III areas are managed as natural environments, and provide opportunities for visitors to experience a park's natural and cultural heritage values through outdoor recreation activities requiring minimal services and facilities of a rustic nature. Strictly controlled motorized access is allowed.

Zone IV—Outdoor Recreation

Zone IV areas are capable of accommodating a broad range of opportunities for understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the park's heritage values and related essential services and facilities, in ways that impact the ecological integrity of the park to the smallest extent possible, and whose defining feature is direct access by motorized vehicles.

8.2 Kluane National Park and Reserve zoning

Zone I – Special Preservation (seven areas)

Fraser Creek Fen Zone I: Fraser Creek Fen is an important wetland complex. Lowland and marsh habitat is limited within the park due to the nature of the terrain and a lack of recent fire activity, which limits early succession vegetation. The Fraser Creek Fen is one of only a few areas in the park identified as exceptional habitat for moose.

Logan Nunatak Zone I: Nunataks are islands of life surrounded by the inhospitable environment of icefields. Logan Nunatak is the largest nunatak in the park. The western portion of the nunatak lies in Alaska and is protected by Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The extreme environment on the nunatak creates conditions for unique and rare alpine and arctic plants.

Gyū' Aan Nji/Steele Creek Alpine Zone I: Gyū' Aan Nji/Steele Creek Alpine area is the best representation of near-arctic alpine ecosystems (Northern Alpine Ecosystem) within the park. Protection

of this representative alpine area also ensures the preservation of several species of rare plants that are located here. Alpine areas are particularly sensitive to a variety of impacts.

Sockeye Lake and River Zone I: This area provides critical spawning grounds for kokanee salmon, the freshwater form of sockeye salmon. This population is one of only two wild populations in Yukon; the other population in Frederick Lake is now thought to be extirpated. The population of annual spawning kokanee, monitored since 1976, averaged 3,660 fish until the early 2000s when the population crashed and reached an all-time low of 20 fish in 2009. The population showed remarkable signs of recovery in 2015, but was followed by another crash, to 400 fish, in 2018. Preservation of the spawning beds is critical because the fish are vulnerable during spawning season, and because the boom-bust nature of the population is intolerant to disturbance. Spawners are also an important source of protein for wolves, grizzly bears and eagles. Sockeye Creek is recognized as important spring and summer habitat for moose cows and calves.

The Dats'aala Chù' / Bullion Creek Dunes Zone I: The Dats'aala Chù' / Bullion Creek Dunes, three square kilometres in area, are a feature formed by winds off the Kaskawulsh Glacier that redistribute sand from river sources. The dunes are largely unvegetated and susceptible to disturbance. It is one of the few sites in Yukon hosting the pale comandra, a rare plant. It is also one of the few sites in North America in which the dune tachinid fly is found, a species which is listed as Special Concern under the *Species at Risk Act*. The 'A' äy Chù' / Slim's River West hiking trail skirts the base of the sand dunes. Interpretative signs explaining the significance of the dunes will be posted, along with signs prohibiting access and camping.

Lower Alsek Dunes Zone I: Lower Alsek Dunes Zone I, and the upper Alsek Dunes protected in an ESA, contain the largest and most secure populations of Baikal sedge in Canada, a species which is listed as Special Concern under SARA. The dunes are also habitat for the dune tachinid fly.

Thechàl Dhâl' Zone I: The windswept south-facing slopes of Thechàl Dhâl' are one of the best year-round habitats for Dall's sheep in the park and support 300 to 400 sheep. The area is critical for winter range and spring lambing. Thechàl Dhâl' is also important for golden eagles that breed in this area, or migrate past every spring and fall in high concentrations. The loess (windblown glacial silt and dust) slopes are very sensitive to disturbance and are home to a mosaic of unique plants with origins to Beringia, the Great Plains and coastal ecosystems, including endemic and near-endemic species.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (seven areas)

Thechàl Dhâl' ESA: Thechàl Dhâl' ESA surrounds Thechàl Dhâl' Zone I, and in conjunction with 'A' äy Chù' Delta ESA and the area outside of the park around Man Chèti'äya Chù'/Silver Creek, is a hotspot of biodiversity. These areas combined host over 891 species, including a quarter of the vascular plants known to occur in Yukon.

Since the last management plan, increasing visitation to the area raises concerns about human activity in bear travel corridors. Sheep-Bullion Plateau has been identified as significant grizzly bear habitat, particularly for family groups of grizzly bears. A camping restriction has been in place since 1998, resulting in a significant decrease in human-bear interactions in the area.

In Thechàl Dhâl' ESA, the following apply:

- Hiking Thechàl Dhâl' Ridge Route is prohibited during lambing season (May 1 to June 16).
- Camping is restricted along Thechàl Chù'/Sheep Creek and the Dats'aala Chù'/Bullion Creek trails and on Sheep Bullion Plateau. In the northern portion of Sheep Bullion Plateau, camping is allowed for one night in the designated area.
- Hiking is allowed on the route to Shepherd's Knoll and Soldier's Summit. Access is not permitted to the south-facing slopes, which are Zone I.

'A' äy Chù' Delta ESA: 'A' äy Chù' Delta ESA is a flood plain at the base of Thechàl Dhâl', a unique ecosystem characterized by plant species that have adapted to the cycle of flooding and saline soil

conditions. 'A' äy Chù' Delta ESA, in conjunction with Thechàl Dhâl' ESA and the area outside of the park around Man Chèti'äya Chù'/Silver Creek, is a hotspot of biodiversity. These areas combined host over 891 species, including a quarter of the vascular plants known to occur in Yukon.

Since the last management plan, increasing visitation to the area raises concerns about human activity in bear travel corridors.

In 'A' äy Chù' Delta ESA, the following applies:

- Access to 'A' äy Chù' River Delta ESA is only through the existing 'A' äy Chù'/Slim's River West and East trailheads.

Shar Tägà'/Grizzly Creek ESA: Shar Tägà'/Grizzly Creek ESA protects a sensitive ecosystem. It has recently been identified as possible habitat for undocumented plant species unique to the area.

Lower Alsek River ESA: As a Canadian Heritage River, the Alsek River is nationally recognized for its outstanding heritage and recreational rafting values. This area of the park is influenced by a coastal climate, resulting in plant and animal communities not common to Yukon.

Goatherd Mountain ESA: The alpine area of Goatherd Mountain is the best representation of the coastal alpine ecosystem in the park. It also provides significant habitat with good escape terrain for mountain goats. A goat population of approximately 100 animals, representing 12 percent of the entire Yukon population, is present year-round in this range. The ESA recognizes existing recreational activities (day hiking by rafters, backpacking of the Goatherd overland route, and pack-rafters hiking to Bates Lake from the Alsek River).

In Goatherd Mountain ESA, the following apply

- All activity is prohibited on the face of Goatherd Mountain, other than hiking on the established access route.
- Camping is limited to two nights.

Alsek, Dusty, Disappointment and Kaskawulsh ESA: This area harbours the densest grizzly bear population in the park and possibly in Canada. The park itself is the second-largest protected area in North America that lies within grizzly bear range. The primary management objective of this ESA is to minimize human disturbance to grizzly bears (see objective 2.1 regarding landscape management units). Grizzly bears need large areas that are free of human and aircraft disturbance; the average female home range in the park is 300 square kilometres. Denning areas are found high in the alpine, and the valleys provide the diversity of habitats and food to support grizzly bears year-round. The ESA designation also recognizes the valuable habitat for Dall's sheep and mountain goats. The dunes at the confluence of Shadhäla Chù'/Dezadeash and Kaskawulsh rivers protect the largest population of Baikal sedge in Canada, which is a federally listed species at risk.

In Alsek, Dusty, Disappointment and Kaskawulsh ESA, the following apply

- Random camping is prohibited; camping is restricted to designated sites.
- Visitor registration is mandatory for day and overnight rafting.

Dän Zhùr/Donjek – Mt. Hoge ESA: The assemblage of animal and plant communities here are significant in the national parks system. The area supports over 1,000 Dall's sheep. Hoge and Atlas alpine passes are particularly important in the summer, containing up to 40 percent of the Dall sheep subpopulation. A wolf den in the valley has been in use since the 1980s. The alpine also protects some of the most northern mountain goats in Canada, caribou and collared pika, a species listed as Special Concern under SARA. The valley ponds provide breeding habitat for several SARA-protected birds, such as horned grebes and red-necked phalaropes, and the grasslands contain a sage endemic to Yukon.

In Dän Zhùr/Donjek – Mt. Hoge ESA, the following apply

- Camping in Hoge Pass is prohibited.

- Parks Canada will work with aircraft operators and local pilots to minimize impacts associated with flights through Hoge and Atlas passes. Restrictions may be established to minimize disturbance from hiking and aircraft to the wolf den in the area.

Zone II – Wilderness (85 percent of Kluane)

The majority of Kluane National Park and Reserve is Zone II – Wilderness. This includes Bates, Louise and Sockeye lakes, which remain non-motorized except for park management purposes.

Zone III – Natural Environment (eight areas)

Four park access roads are Zone III. These are Mush Lake Road, Alsek Road, 'A' äy Chù'/Slim's River East Road and 'A' äy Chù'/Slim's River West Road. Road access into Kluane National Park and Reserve is limited by seasonal closures, short-term or long-term closures related to bears, and the requirement for four-wheel drive vehicles. There has been a low level of motorized use on these roads since park establishment. Other Zone III areas are Mush Lake and campsite area, 'A' äy Chù'/Slim's River West trailhead, the abandoned pipeline right-of-way between Dakwäkäda/Haines Junction and Titl'at Män/Dezadeash Lake, and the Dezadeash River from the park boundary to Serpentine Creek.

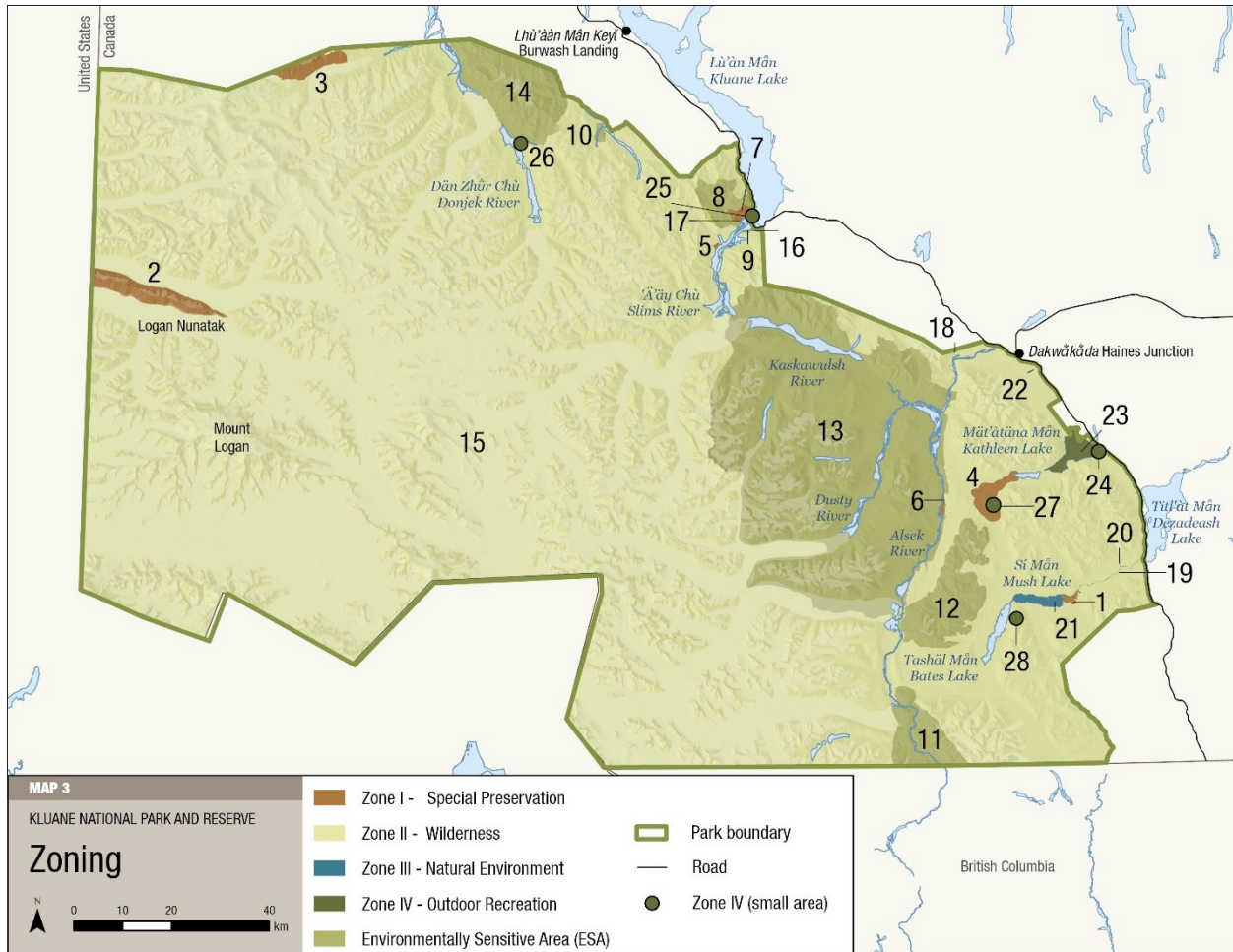
The management approach in past management plans has been to use Superintendent's Orders to allow recreational snowmobiling in certain Zone III and IV areas. Snowmobiling will continue on the Mät'ätäna Män/Kathleen Lake access road, the Mät'ätäna Män/Kathleen Lake day use area parking lot, the surface of Mät'ätäna Män/Kathleen Lake, and along the pipeline right-of way between Dakwäkäda/Haines Junction and Titl'at Män/Dezadeash Lake. To minimize vulnerability of moose to wolf predation resulting from snowmobile-compacted travel routes, public snowmobile use will not be permitted on the Mush Lake Road. Under special permits and formal agreements, snowmobiles may be used to track set cross-country ski trails on the Mush Lake Road, but only as far as Alder Creek. Any new proposed snowmobile access points along Zone III roads will be carefully considered and would only be enabled if strict ecological protection and visitor experience objectives can be met and maintained.

Zone IV – Outdoor Recreation (six areas)

Zone IV offers a broad range of opportunities for understanding and enjoying the essence of Kluane National Park and Reserve and the related essential services and facilities. The six Zone IV areas in Kluane National Park and Reserve are

- Mät'ätäna Män/Kathleen Lake
- Mät'ätäna Män/Kathleen Lake day use area, access road and campground
- Thechäl Dhäl' Visitor Centre
- Proposed Kluane First Nation-owned and operated ecotourism facility at Bighorn Lake
- Two proposed Champagne and Aishihik First Nations-owned and operated mountain camps located on high points, one between Mush Lake and Bates Lake and one between Sockeye Lake and Johobo Lake.

Map 3: Zoning



Map 3—References

ID	Type	Zone Name	ID	Type	Zone Name
1	I	Fraser Creek Fen	15	II	Zone II
2	I	Logan Nunatak	16	III	'A' 'ây Chù'/Slim's River East Road
3	I	Gyu' ' Aan Nji/Steele Creek Alpine	17	III	'A' 'ây Chù'/Slim's River West Road
4	I	Sockeye Lake and River	18	III	Alsek Road
5	I	Tthe Dats'aala Chù'/Bullion Creek Dunes	19	III	Mush Lake Road
6	I	Lower Alsek Dunes	20	III	Shorty Creek Road
7	I	Thechàl Dhâl' Zone I	21	III	Mush Lake
8	ESA	Thechàl Dhâl' ESA	22	III	Abandoned pipeline right-of-way
9	ESA	'A' 'ây Chù' Delta	23	IV	Mât'âtàna Mân/Kathleen Lake
10	ESA	Shar Tägà'/Grizzly Creek	24	IV	Kathleen Lake Day Use Area and Campground
11	ESA	Lower Alsek River	25	IV	Thechàl Dhâl' Visitor Centre
12	ESA	Goatherd Mountain	26	IV	Proposed Kluane First Nation ecotourism facility
13	ESA	Alsek, Dusty, Disappointment and Kaskawulsh	27	IV	Proposed Champagne and Aishihik First Nations mountain camp
14	ESA	Dân Zhùr/Donjek – Mt. Hoge	28	IV	Proposed Champagne and Aishihik First Nations mountain camp

9.0 Summary of strategic environmental assessment

All national park management plans are assessed through a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) to understand the potential for cumulative effects. This understanding contributes to evidence-based decision-making that supports ecological integrity being maintained or restored over the life of the plan. The SEA for the *Kluane National Park and Reserve of Canada Management Plan* considered the potential impacts of climate change, local and regional activities around the park, expected increases in visitation, and proposals within the management plan. The SEA assessed the potential impacts on different aspects of the ecosystem, including cultural reintegration, sachäl (Kokanee salmon), Shadhäla Chù/Dezadeash River, forests, alpine vegetation, mäy (Dall's sheep), 'a-mäy (mountain goats), and shar shäw (grizzly bear).

The management plan will result in many positive impacts on the environment, including the maintenance and improvement of ecological integrity within the park, and strategies to identify site-specific requirements for species at risk in the park. Proposed zoning changes and targets in the management plan to revitalize Southern Tutchone culture and traditions will improve cultural reintegration in the park.

Climate change is anticipated to be the biggest driver of change in Kluane National Park and Reserve over the next ten years. Objectives identified under Goal 2: Dákeyi ukaanathi` jè/All of you watch over our country with your heart, will ease the extent by which climate change affects the park by reducing non-climatic stressors on vulnerable ecosystem components. Ongoing monitoring and active management within the park will be used to mitigate potential cumulative effects on sachäl (Kokanee salmon), mbet (Lake trout), Shadhäla Chù/Dezadeash River, wetlands, alpine vegetation and moose. For example, mbet (Lake trout), are at risk due to climate change and potential increases in harvest pressures due to recreational fishery restrictions outside of the park. Continued monitoring of mbet (Lake trout) will identify if any declines in population are occurring and will inform adaptive management decisions.

Forest vegetation is at risk due to historical fire suppression and climate change. Developing and implementing a fire management plan and agreements with neighbouring governments on managing and minimizing the impacts of wildlife fire will help improve the forest condition and increase resiliency to climate change.

Mäy (Dall's sheep), 'a-mäy (mountain goats) and shar shäw (grizzly bear) are particularly vulnerable to cumulative effects. Climate change, projected changes in visitation, establishment of eco-lodges, and outside park stressors are anticipated to affect all three species. Mitigations in the management plan include collection and monitoring of visitor use of backcountry areas to better inform management decisions and developing a landscape management unit approach to managing grizzly bears. Proposed zoning changes will protect sensitive habitat for mäy (Dall's sheep), 'a-mäy (mountain goats) and shar shäw (grizzly bear) during important times of year. These mitigations will reduce the likelihood of human-bear encounters and minimize stress to mäy (Dall's sheep), 'a-mäy (mountain goats).

Parks Canada is proposing changes to zoning in Kluane National Park and Reserve. The management plan reflects changes made to zoning to: 1) incorporate new information about ecosystem protection requirements, and the ecosystems' capability and suitability for providing opportunities for visitor experiences; and 2) confirm and identify visitor experiences that are consistent with ecosystem protection requirements. The SEA found that the zoning changes and corresponding potential activities are consistent with Parks Canada's ability to uphold ecosystem protection requirements.

Kluane National Park and Reserve is part of the Kluane / Wrangell-St. Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek World Heritage Site. The world heritage values for which it was designated were evaluated to ensure the management plan adequately protects them.

First Nations, stakeholders and the public were consulted on the draft management plan and summary of the draft SEA. Feedback obtained through consultation was incorporated into the SEA and management plan as appropriate.

The SEA was conducted in accordance with *The Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals* and facilitated an evaluation of how the management plan contributed to the *Federal Sustainable Development Strategy*. Individual projects undertaken to implement management plan objectives at the site will be evaluated to determine if an impact assessment is required under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*, or successor legislation. The management plan supports the *Federal Sustainable Development Strategy* goals of Greening Government, Sustainably Managed Lands and Forests, Healthy Wildlife Populations, Connecting Canadians with Nature, and Safe and Healthy Communities.

While many positive environmental effects are expected, there are no important negative environmental effects anticipated from implementation of the *Kluane National Park and Reserve of Canada Management Plan*.