



July 2, 2024

Re: BC Parks management planning within the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area

I am writing to inform you that BC Parks, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, has developed a draft strategic management plan for multiple backcountry protected areas in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA). You were identified as a stakeholder with interests in one or more of the protected areas included in this plan. As an important stakeholder, we would like to notify you of opportunities to engage in the management planning process and provide feedback on the proposed management direction.

The *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act* (M-KMA Act) established the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area in 1998. The overall goal for protected areas in the M-KMA is to maintain in perpetuity the wilderness quality, diversity, and abundance of wildlife and the ecosystems on which wildlife depend. The protected areas are part of a network of ecosystems with related management issues and goals. The protected areas that are included in this draft plan are remote, backcountry areas with limited access. The strategic, combined management planning approach creates one guiding document that also considers the uniqueness and specific values of each protected area.

A management plan is a BC Parks operational tool that will include direction on acceptable uses and threshold of uses, zoning, and other strategies to minimize conflicts and to help ensure the protection of important protected area values. Visit the BC Parks management planning webpage for more information on the general planning process (<https://bcparks.ca/about/management-plans/planning-process/>). The draft plan has been developed and is open for public review and feedback until September 6, 2024.

The strategic management plan includes backcountry parks, protected areas, and ecological reserves located in and adjacent to the M-KMA, as listed below.

- Dall River Old Growth Park
- Denetiah Park & Denetiah Corridor Protected Area
- Dune Za Keyih [a.k.a. Frog-Gataga] Park & Protected Area
- Finlay Russel Park & Protected Area
- Kwadacha Wilderness Park
- Liard River Corridor Park, West Corridor Park & Protected Area
- Ospika Cones Ecological Reserve
- Prophet River Hot Springs Park
- Scatter River Old Growth Park
- Sikanni Chief River Ecological

- Graham-Laurier Park
- Horneline Creek Park
- Reserve
- Toad River Hot Springs Park

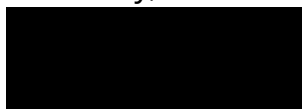
You are invited to participate in the management planning process by accessing the BC Parks' [Let's Talk BC Parks](https://helpshapebc.gov.bc.ca/m-k-backcountry-management-plan) (<https://helpshapebc.gov.bc.ca/m-k-backcountry-management-plan>) webpage to review the draft plan, project information and respond to a survey that will be posted until September 6th, 2024. The webpage will be the main source for updates and opportunities for input as the project moves through the planning process. Opportunities to participate are detailed in the following table and on the webpage:

Engagement Opportunity	Date/Time
Online posting of draft plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently posted
Virtual open houses RSVP for Teams Meeting invite to: Andrea.Somerville@gov.bc.ca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 23, 1-2:30 pm • August 14, 10:30 am - noon • September 5, 7-8:30 pm
Community open houses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toad River – Wednesday, August 21 (4-8pm), at Community Hall • Fort Nelson – Thursday, August 22 (4-8pm), at Recreation Centre • Fort St. John – Friday, August 23 (1-5pm), at Festival Plaza
End of engagement period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 6

Webpage will remain visible to share engagement summary and additional project updates after Sept. 6.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information on the management planning process, if you would like to set up an individual meeting, or if you would like to submit your comments directly to me.

Sincerely,



Andrea Somerville, Planning Section Head
 BC Parks – Omineca Peace Region