

Watershed Management Basin and High Value Zone1 Planning

Province of British Columbia and Blueberry River First Nations

NERT February 26, 2025

Background



Yahey v. British Columbia, 2021 BCSC 1287

Court confirmed that impacts of industrial development have significantly impacted Blueberry River First Nations' ability to meaningfully practice their way of life as promised in Treaty 8.

BC-BRFN Discuss measures to address impacts to Treaty Rights

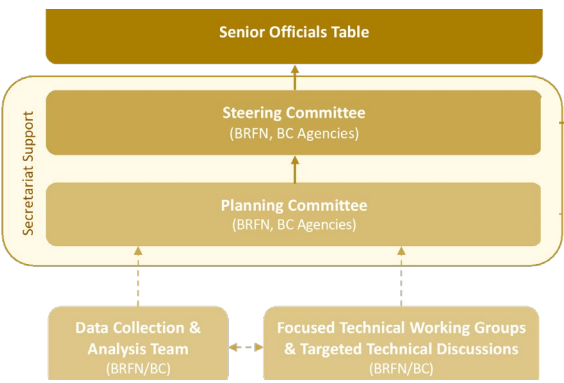
BRFN Implementation Agreement Signed

The BRFN IA was signed in Jan 2023, providing a framework for change – protecting Treaty Rights and promoting responsible resource development.

The First HV1-C Plan was drafted in 2023-24.

A Joint BRFN-BC Planning Committee was established in September 2024, with a mandate to work collaboratively in the joint development of HV1 & Priority WMB plans. PNG development plans for HV1 areas obtained for consideration in PZ/DZ mapping.

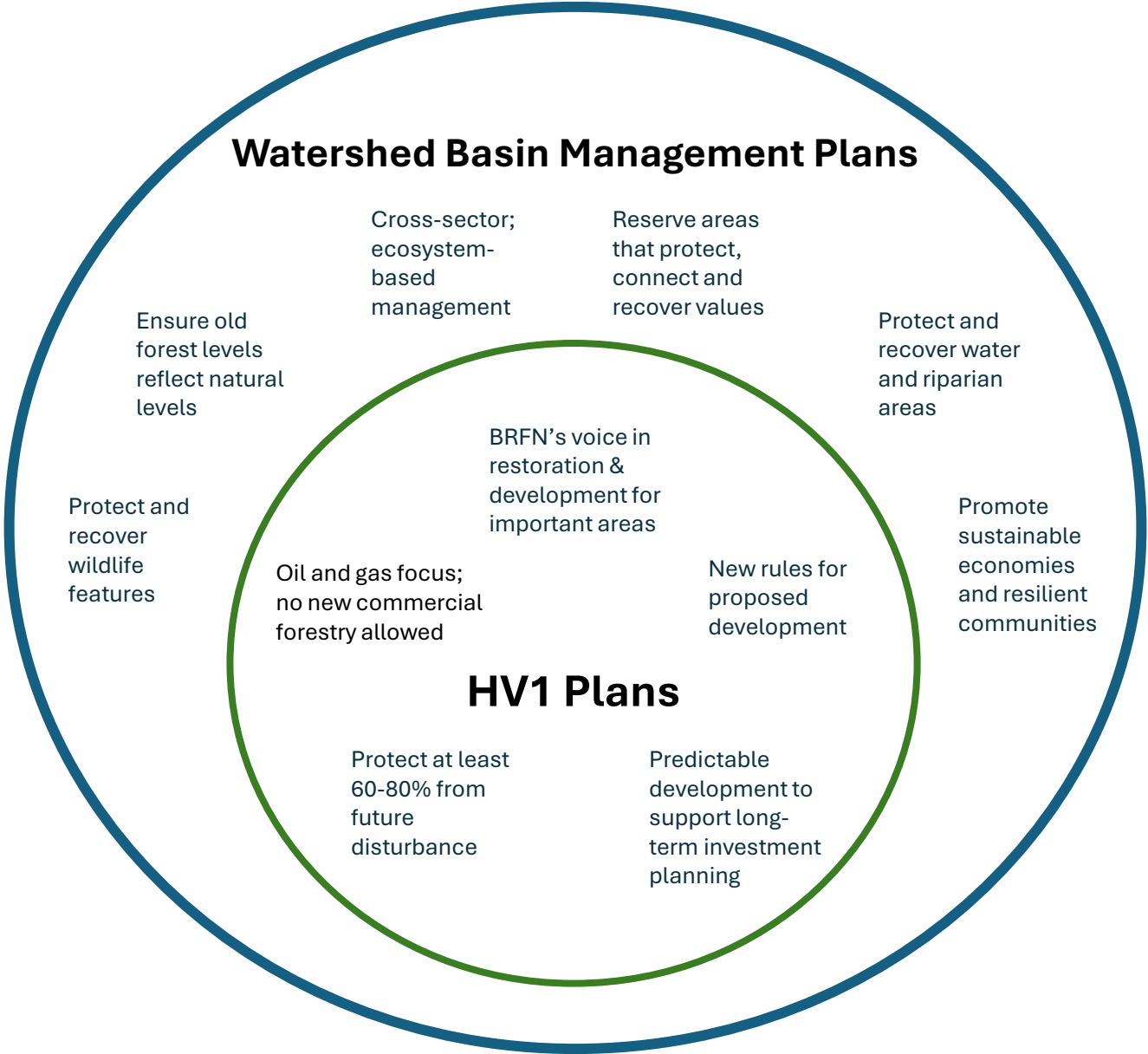
Joint BC-BRFN Land Use Planning Initiated



HV1 & Priority WMB Planning Underway

HV1 and Priority WMB planning underway. HV1-C plans are targeted for March 31, HV1-B plans are targeted for July 31, and Priority WMB plans targeted for December 31.

Watershed Basin Management Plans



Cross-sector;
ecosystem-
based
management

Reserve areas
that protect,
connect and
recover values

Ensure old
forest levels
reflect natural
levels

Protect and
recover water
and riparian
areas

BRFN's voice in
restoration &
development for
important areas

Protect and
recover
wildlife
features

Promote
sustainable
economies
and resilient
communities

Oil and gas focus;
no new commercial
forestry allowed

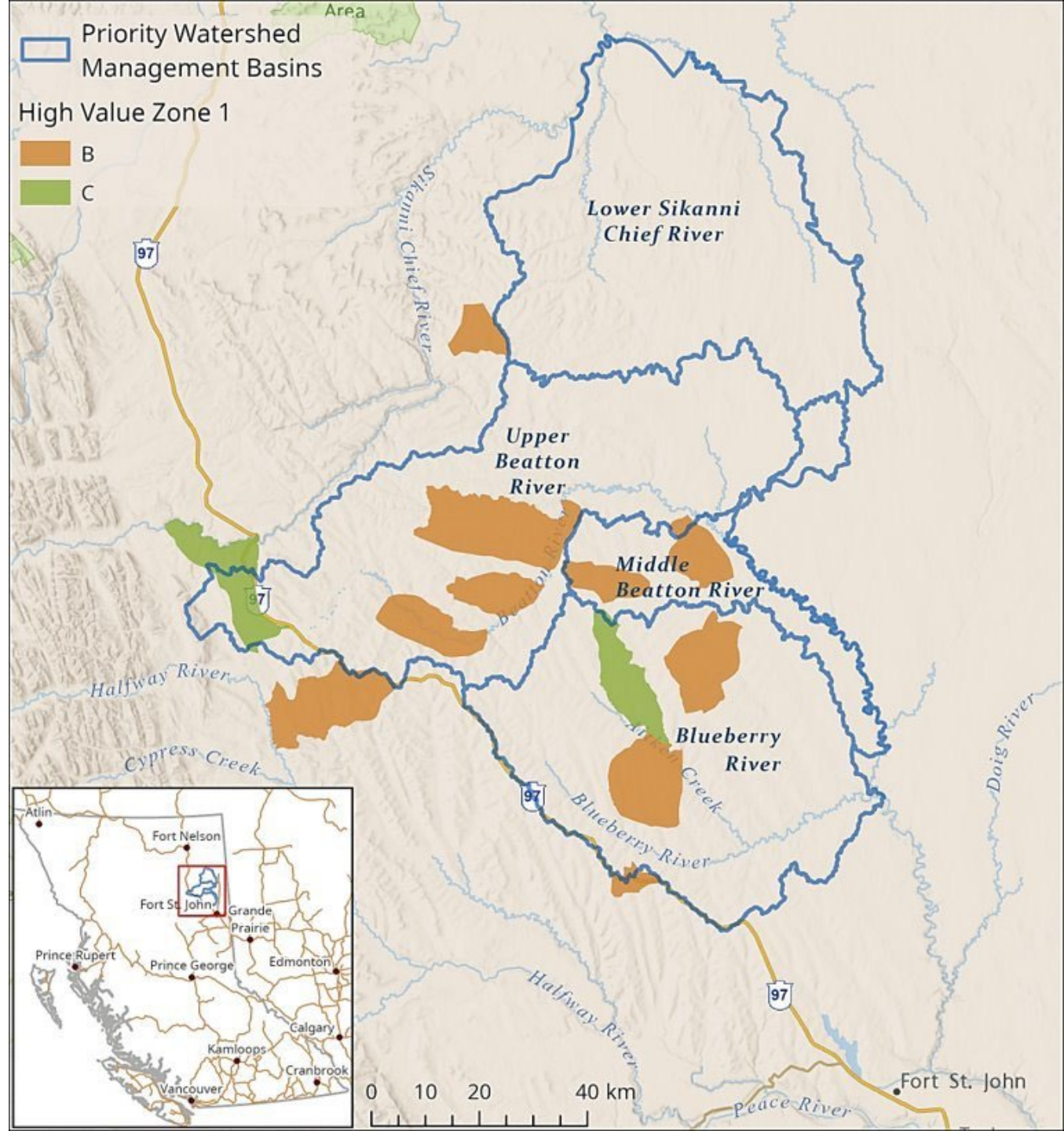
New rules for
proposed
development

HV1 Plans

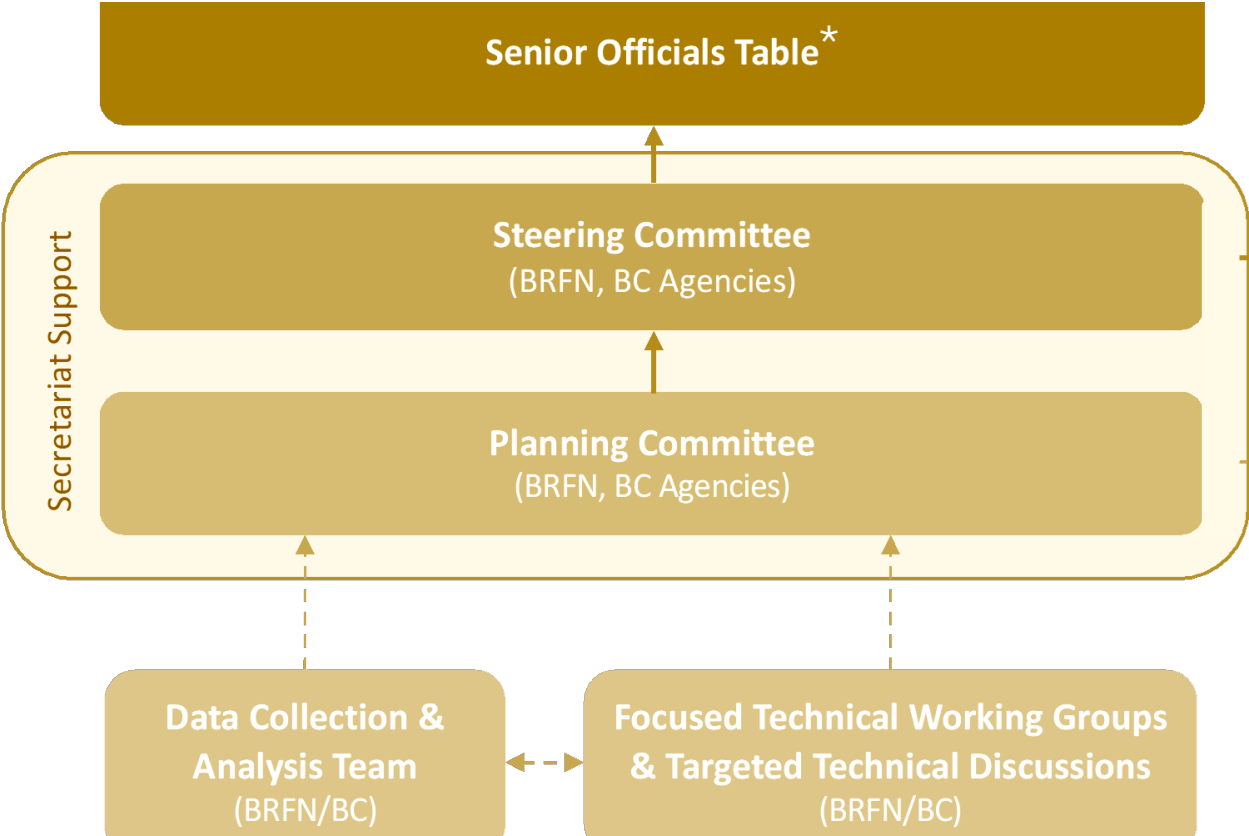
Protect at least
60-80% from
future
disturbance

Predictable
development to
support long-
term investment
planning

Current Focus on
HV1C, HV1B, and Priority WMB



TEAM STRUCTURE

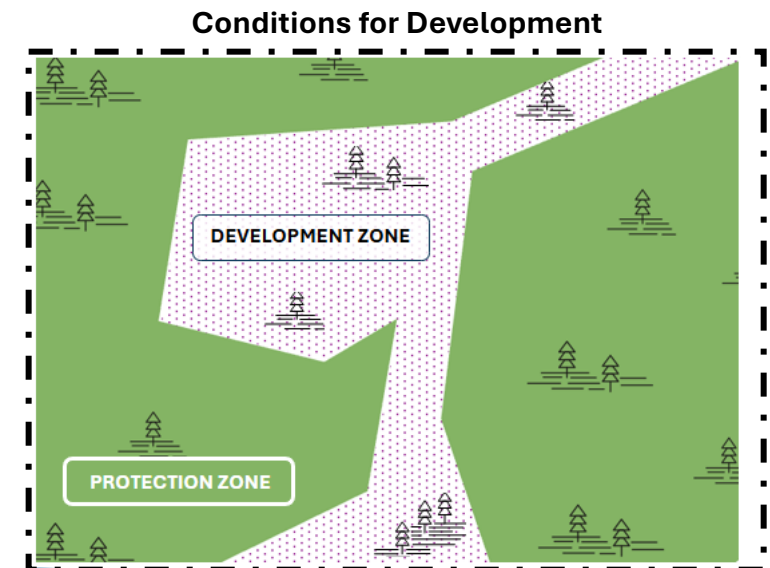


*BRFN Council and BC Deputy Ministers

Current Focus: HV1C and HV1B Planning

BRFN and BC are committed to seeking **collaborative development** and approval of the HV1 Plans as provided for in the BRFN IA. The overarching (summarized) **objectives** of HV1 Plans are:

1. **The Protection Zone** represents $\geq 60\%$ of each HV1-C area, $\geq 80\%$ of HV1-B areas, and 100% of HV1-A areas and is protected from New Disturbances from Oil and Gas Activities, providing for long-term protection of identified values to restore Treaty Rights and associated practices.
2. Disturbed areas are identified, restored, and recovered with a priority on **restoration activities** within the Protection Zone.
3. **New Oil and Gas Activities** occur within the Development Zone, which comprises a maximum of 40% of each HV1-C area and 20% of HV1-B areas, with operational conditions and measures that support responsible development and protect ecological and cultural values.
4. The cumulative effects of past and future Oil and Gas Activities are addressed and managed to improve the experience and opportunities for BRFN land users to **exercise their Treaty Rights**.



Current Focus: HV1C and HV1B Planning

- PNG sector specific engagement to collect feedback on draft conditions for development and seek to adjust areas of overlap between draft protection zone and proposed development activities
- First Nations consultation to seek feedback on how plan content/maps could be improved upon to better reflect their rights, values, and perspectives.
- Incorporate industry and First Nation engagement feedback into final drafts for BC-BRFN approval March 31st (HV1Cs) and July 31st (HV1Bs).
- Refocus efforts into advancing WMB planning in Spring 2025.

STRUCTURED EVENTS (OPEN INVITE WORKSHOPS)

Schedule	Description	Approach
Winter 2024	Introduce WMB/HV1 planning approach and engagement opportunities	Inform
Spring 2025	Review and seek feedback on initial draft WMB plan(s)	Involve
	Provide an overview of complete HV1C plans	Inform
Summer 2025	Review and seek feedback on advanced draft WMB plan(s)	Involve
	Provide an overview of complete HV1B plans	Inform
Fall 2025	Review and seek feedback on final draft WMB plan(s)	Involve

ROUTINE EVENTS

Schedule	Description	Approach
Ongoing	Routine updates and discussions with other First Nations, licensees, associations, non-government environmental organizations, and Northeast Roundtable.	Inform Involve Consult (s.35)