

# AI Executive Summary – NE Roundtable

## Overview

- Multi-stakeholder meeting (government, First Nations, stakeholders) covering natural resource management.
- Strong emphasis on collaboration, ecosystem-based management, and adaptive planning.

## Fish and Wildlife

- Wildlife surveys show stable/increasing moose, updated sheep/caribou estimates, and growing bison population.
- Mountain goat surveys nearing completion; bison plan targeted for 2027.
- Regulatory changes pending; elk conflict mitigation strategies being explored.

## Water Conditions

- Above-average snowpack with potential flood risk depending on melt timing.
- Drought monitoring highlights ecosystem, agricultural, and community impacts.

## Land Use Planning

### **Blueberry Watershed Management Basin Planning Update**

- Described the planning process, describing the implementation agreement, governance structure, ecosystem-based management framework, draft value categories, and engagement activities, with plans for further public input and draft product release.

### **Kaska-BC Land Use Planning Project**

- The 2024 process agreement between Kaska and BC commits to two tracks: establishing the Dene K'éh Kusān Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area and updating land use plans across Kaska territory.
- Outlined the approach to updating existing strategic land use plans, building on past LRMPs and SFMPs, and the timeline includes public engagement.

### **Wildlife Habitat Feature**

- Introduced work to develop a wildlife habitat features order for mineral licks and wallows in the Northeast, describing the regulatory framework, identification process, and plans for future engagement and draft guidance document.

## Sustainable Forest Management Plan#4

- Key changes in Sustainable Forest Management Plan #4 for the Fort St. John pilot project: new indicators for land use plan alignment, herbicide use, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, migratory birds, visual screening, moose guidelines, retention targets, river corridors, riparian features, and invasive species management.
- The SFMP #4 update involved extensive collaboration with First Nations, government, and stakeholders, using a planning team and gap analysis to address nearly 100 identified gaps from previous plans and guidelines.

## Northeast Land Transfers

- Agreements: TLE addresses historic Treaty 8 land shortfalls (ATR or fee simple) and Site C lands are transferred in fee simple (reserve status possible later).
- 12 TLE parcels and 1 Site C parcel transferred to date. Priority transfers underway for Blueberry River, Doig River, Halfway River, and West Moberly.
- Engagement includes open houses and comment periods

## Predator Management

- Continued predator reduction proposed with engagement of 70+ First Nations and stakeholders; decisions expected by fall 2026.
- Primarily aerial wolf reduction, limited cougar removal, following strict animal welfare standards.
- Results: Populations stabilized or increased in 14 of 15 herds. Approx. 52% increase in Southern Mountain Caribou

## BC Wildfire Service

- 2025 season: ~712,000 ha burned in the Northeast (82% of provincial total); recent years exceed previous 72 years combined.
- Enhancements:
  - 6 new crews for 2026
  - AI smoke detection trials
  - Night-vision helicopter capability
  - Increased use of drones and remote monitoring

## BC Parks Update

- Muskwa-Kechika Backcountry Plan in final internal review; implementation expected ~2027.

- Drafting underway for front country Parks (Liard, Mucho, Stone Mountain) with public engagement expected in 2027.
- Early planning underway with First Nations for Klin-se-za / Twin Sisters Park; engagement to begin after project launch.