

## NORTHEAST ROUNDTABLE VIRTUAL – MEETING NOTES

**Date:** May 6, 2026  
**Time:** 9:00 AM – 3:15 PM (MST)  
**Location:** Virtual MS Teams

### Attendees:

#### Municipal:

- Lisa Thompson (NRRM)
- Hillary Sheppard (NRRM)
- Helen Gilbert (School District)
- Brent Taillefer (Mayor of Taylor)
- Rob Fraser (Mayor of Fort Nelson)
- Tiffany Hetenyi (FSJ Chamber of Commerce)

#### First Nations:

- Jim Webb (WMFN)
- Katherine Wolfenden (FNFN)
- David Crampton (Kaska)
- Bill Lux (Kaska)
- Melissa Kotchea (FNFN)
- Lisa Hardy (Saulteau)
- Percy Wright (FNFN)

#### Stakeholders:

- Jim Little (NE Stakeholders)
- Gerry Paille (BC Wildlife Federation)
- Mark Phinney (West Fraser)
- Addison Frayn (Petronas)
- Carmen Anderson (Canfor)
- Bridget Zohner (Petronas)
- Craig Sutherland (Muskwa Kechika Advisory Board)
- Griffin Slimkowich (BC Parks Foundation)
- Jonathan Buchanan (AMEBC)
- Lauren Whyte (Arbutus Consulting)
- Mae Whyte (SERN BC)
- Stan Troyer (FSJ Trappers Assoc)
- Tom Horvath (Petronas)
- Wayne Sawchuk (Muskwa Kechika Advisory Board)

#### Government:

- Jason Lawson (WLRS)
- Shayla Blue (WLRS)
- Joelle Ward (ENV)
- Anna Regnier (WLRS)
- Emily Baker (FOR)
- Ian Curtis (WLRS)

- Elizabeth Johnson (ECS)
- Dylan Brassard (WLRS)
- Alanna Schroeder (MIRR)
- Michael Bridger (WLRS)
- Al-Nashir Charania (WLRS)
- Rudi Mayser (WLRS)
- James Morgan (WLRS)
- Brendan Brabender (ECS)
- Jennifer Chermesnok (WLRS)
- Ian Curtis (WLRS)
- Darius Low (FOR)
- Ayrilee McCoubrey (ECS)
- Heather McGibbon (WLRS)
- Dale Morgan (MIRR)
- Chris Pasztor (MIRR)
- Jason Pederson (WLRS)
- Emily Pollington (FOR)
- Liia Schilds (WLRS)
- Andrea Somerville (ENV)
- Melissa Stewart (WLRS)
- Rob Stewart (WLRS)
- Uelun Tuvshinjargal (WLRS)
- Yvette Lizee (MIRR)

## Welcome, Agenda, Minutes

- Jason Lawson opened with a territorial acknowledgement, welcome, and agenda review.
- Meeting minutes from the last meeting have been posted online. New NE Roundtable direct email address: [neroundtable@gov.bc.ca](mailto:neroundtable@gov.bc.ca).
- Shayla Blue led participant introductions.

## 1. Fish and Wildlife

- James Morgan and Dylan Brassard- Ministry of Water, Lands and Resources Stewardship, Resource Stewardship Division Team.
- **Fish and Wildlife update in the NE Presentation**
  - **Q:** Is there a timeline for the Bison Regional Management Plan? Bison are causing a problem on the highways, damaging fences, and getting mixed up with domestic stock.
    - **R:** Yes, planning for it to be completed March 2027.
  - **Q:** The population of elk in Fort Nelson is very problematic for agriculture. Do you see a management plan for Elk? Perhaps an open season in prescribed agriculture areas?
    - **R:** MU 7-49 encompasses most of the agriculture zone in Fort Nelson, there was a proposal to open a general opportunity for 3-point elk in that area. We are hoping to see how that opportunity lessens the elk impact.

- **Q:** Did the Haystack Fencing program work in the Peace and who can we speak to about getting it in Fort Nelson?
  - **R:** James to send (**sent**) contact information of a Ministry of Agriculture Rep to discuss Haystack Fencing with Rob Fraser.
- **Q:** Is there a resolution to the dam issue at Inga Lake?
  - **R:** Not yet, details are currently being confirmed however discussions with potential funding opportunities continue.
- **Q:** Why are we doing grizzly bear plans, we know we have a lot of grizzly bears, money seems to be hard to get, why aren't we looking into other species that are more important?
  - **R:** All the funding is coming from Blueberry River First Nations, while the regional staff are providing in-kind support with field time. BRFN has concerns with a potential increase in the Grizzly Bear population in these WMUs (7-57, 7-58 and 7-43) and seeks to quantify this population.
- **Q:** Last year you sent out a great report on the region, would you be doing it again for 2025?
  - **R:** The Peace Wildlife Update is coming.

## 2. Water Conditions

➤ [Liia Schilds – Ministry of Water, Land and Resources Stewardship](#)

➤ [Flood, drought and snow in the NE Presentation](#)

➤ [BC Snow Bulletins](#)

- **Q:** Why is there no snow data for Fort Nelson in February?
  - **R:** The Fort Nelson snow season is longer, so there will be updates in the May bulletin because Fort Nelson still has a couple months of snow.
    - **Comment:** The Fort Nelson First Nation Guardians took samplings in February, March and April.
    - **Follow up info:** A snow survey station did not have data collected in February which resulted in too few data points to conduct statistical analysis for percent of normal. Monthly raw data is available at [Snow Conditions and Water Supply Bulletin - Province of British Columbia](#). More details were provided to the questioner and are available upon request.
- **Comment:** Here in east Rolla our smaller dugouts are filled, but our big dugout is only at 75% or so after 3-4 years of deficit.
  - **R:** There is geographic variability in snow melt and accumulation across the region, but overall dugouts have recharged more this spring than in the past few years.

### 3. Land Use Planning

- [Blueberry Watershed Management Basin Planning Presentation](#) – [Ian Curtis](#) - *Ministry of Water, Lands and Resources Stewardship*
- No Questions or Comments
- [Kaska-BC Land Use Planning Project Presentation](#) – [Rudy Mayser](#) (WLRS), [Jennifer Chermesnok](#) (WLRS), [David Crampton](#) (Kaska) and [Bill Lux](#) (Kaska)
- [Kaska- BC LUP Project webpage](#)
- [Dene Kayeh Institute Webpage](#)
  - **Q:** Where is public engagement in your timeline
    - **R:** Public Engagement is 5 weeks from June to July 2026 for public review and comment. Combo of What we Heard and Draft Plan.
  - **Q:** We have registered trapline holders within the proposed area, the trappers have concerns whether their lines will be impacted when this agreement goes into place?
    - **R:** There will be no immediate impact, we will make our recommendations. During implementation as we switch over to a conservancy designation, it will be tenure specific. Those permitted activities under a tenure or license may have to move to a Park Use Permit. That is more of an administrative process and is not intended to impact your ability to continue activity under your existing license.
  - **Comment:** I'd like to comment that the Kaska were involved in the Fort Nelson Land and Resource Management Plan. There were meetings held at Lower Post and they signed off on it.
    - **R:** Thank you, I appreciate that. I don't want to dive into what happened or didn't happen. Kaska was involved in signing off and negotiated a letter of understanding to support the designation of the MK, to be recognized as participants, and needed to have seats at the board to be part of the MK. My view is that we did not participate in the Fort Nelson LRMP process, we were engaged. I'd love to reach out and go for coffee to further the discussion.
- [Draft Wildlife Habitat Feature Order Presentation](#) – [Jason Lawson](#) - *Ministry of Water, Lands and Resources Stewardship*
  - **Comment:** The South Peace is looking to include the relevant Wildlife Habitat Features from the Kootenay Boundary Order in our next Forest Stewardship Plan.

### 4. Sustainable Forest Management Plan #4

- [Carmen Anderson](#) – *FSJ Pilot Project Participants*
- [Key changes to the Sustainable Forest Management Plan #4 Presentation](#)
  - **Q:** Did you say there are road density objectives (ex 0.6 per square km)
    - **R:** We decided not to go that route because we are one industry (forest), and there are many industries already managing road density and cumulative effects. So, we decided against it for this plan.

- **Q:** The social aspect component of your value, what would an example and who informed this?
  - **R:** We incorporate the social piece of Sustainable Forest Management through the design of the SFMP #4 update process; primarily the collaborative approach with First Nations and Government throughout the process, as well as the 90 day public review, First Nations info share and stakeholder referral period as well as feedback from Government's technical review and Consultation, all of which informed and shaped SFMP #4.
- **Q:** Will there be any future commitment for wood harvested in this area to be used in the area manufactured? (From the chat)
  - **R:** There is no commitment for wood harvested in the Defined Forest Area (DFA) to be used/processed in the Defined Forest Area under SFMP#4. Indicator #47 – Timber Processing, which is a non-legal indicator, was updated to remove the target of 70% of the DFAs harvested volume to be processed in the DFA. Unfortunately, with no conifer mill operational in the DFA, and the need for LP to move volume between the Dawson TSA and FSJ TSA, this was no longer achievable. The updated indicator still reports out on the processing location for volume that was harvested within the DFA as we heard from the SFMP#4 Planning Team and the Public Advisory Group this was knowledge they still wanted provided and it is available to the public in annual reports.

## 5. NE Land Transfers

- [Alanna Schroeder](#) – *Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation*
- [TLE/TLA Transfers Presentation](#)
- Upcoming engagements
- [NE Land Transfers govTogether](#) and Direct Email: [mirr.northeast@gov.bc.ca](mailto:mirr.northeast@gov.bc.ca)
  - **Q:** Prophet River FN added 372 ha ATR in 2025. Just curious why you have not included that as part of the stats? Was that undertaken through a different process?
    - **R:** It was done through a different process through a TLE claim settled through Canada several years ago. Prophet River FN negotiated directly with the federal government for their TLE settlement a number of years ago. Through that agreement they were provided money to purchase Crown Lands from BC. BC was not a party to that agreement, but our understanding is that the agreement had some allowances that if PRFN acquired a certain amount of land it could be added to reserve. PRFN worked directly with the Crown lands (in FLNRO at the time) to purchase the land in fee-simple and then went through Canada's Addition To Reserve (ATR) process to add those lands to reserve. So the Province was not directly involved in the ATR, the way we are with the five Nations we have TLE Agreements with.
  - **Q:** Can you expand on Halfway River trail engagement means? Specifically Pink Mountain.

- **R:** We are figuring out what routes are available, and then we do engagement with user groups who frequent that area and the trails to come up with a solution. Those specific discussions have not been started yet.
- **Q:** Will there be an option for us to see Doig's Site C parcels before they are final?
  - **R:** Doig has not made any selections on the Site C Quantum yet. However, there will be a public engagement when those selections are made.
- **Q:** Is there a Land selection that took place near Williston Lake by Moberly? How do these parcels affect registered trapline owners that hold the rights to trap or have infrastructure in those areas?
  - **R:** Letters are sent out to identify cabins or infrastructures, once the transfer is complete the trapline holder will need permission from the property owner to access that parcel. We try to work these things out before hand when it comes to cabins and continued access.

## 6. Predator Management

➤ Mike Bridger – *Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.*

➤ **Predator Reduction Program Presentation**

- **Q:** Is anything being done with grizzlies? It is known that bears eat a number of calves most years. It seems that there could be a need to limit the growth of bears in areas of high wildlife populations.
  - **R:** Grizzly Bear is out of scope of our predator reduction proposals. While we recognize that grizzly bears are a predator of caribou, our research does not suggest that they are driving caribou population declines. Therefore, it is unlikely that by reducing the grizzly bear population, we would see a significant uptick in caribou population growth beyond what we are already achieving by reducing wolf population densities.
- **Q:** Can you give us an update on the Boreal Caribou Plan Management Type 2, 3, 4 management areas?
  - **R:** The next steps are delayed right now; you could reach out to Scott Schilds for an update. [Scott.Schilds@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Scott.Schilds@gov.bc.ca)
- **Q:** Is there an update about Northern Caribou?
  - **R:** They are generally out of scope of our Caribou Recovery Program because they aren't Federally listed as 'threatened'. Management and monitoring of these herds is led by regional wildlife sections. These populations are generally faring well, as they are not under the same habitat and predation pressures that southern or boreal caribou populations are experiencing. There are monitoring efforts occurring for these herds, but little in the way of population recovery efforts at this time.

## 7. BC Wildlife Services

- [Emily Baker – Ministry of Forests](#)
- [2025 Recap and 2026 Outlook Presentation](#)
  - **Q:** The BC Wildfire Service completed a few prescribed burns in the Dawson Creek Zone this spring.
    - **R:** A prescribed burn along the Highway 29 right of way (ditch) for cross training and wildfire risk reduction with the Moberly Lake Fire Department.
    - A 50 hectare burn on the Moberly Lake Hillside in collaboration with Saulteau First Nation and the Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction program for cultural objectives and reducing grass fire risk.
    - A 20 hectare burn on Saulteau First Nation Reserve Land in collaboration with Saulteau First Nation and the Moberly Lake Fire Department for grass fire risk reduction, pasture enhancement, and cross-training.
  - **Q:** Northern Rockies Regional Municipality are looking for information about prescribed fire; we have a lot of interest in Fort Nelson.
    - **R:** BC Wildfire will be hosting a community meeting in Fort Nelson, mid-June, with the Zone, Bob Warner (Director of Wildfire Recovery), and the Deputy Fire Centre manager to share thermal scanning imaging of overwintering fires and more. With community interest in prescribed fire, we will aim to share more information about prescribed fire plans with the public and Fort Nelson Fire Smart Committee.

## 8. BC Parks Update

- [Andrea Somerville – Ministry of Environment](#)
- [Parks Planning in the MKMA Presentation](#)
- [Backcountry Management Plan](#)
- [Home | Let's Talk BC Parks](#)
  - No questions or comments

## Meeting Wrap Up

- [Jason Lawson – Ministry of Water, Land and Resources Stewardship](#)
  - Next meeting date will be in the Fall, to be determined.
  - **Comment:** Request for a one-page summary to be sent out prior to full notes
    - **Follow up:** Here is a link to a 2-page [AI Executive Summary](#) posted on the NE Roundtable website.