



Conservation and land use planning in Kaska Ancestral Territory in B.C.



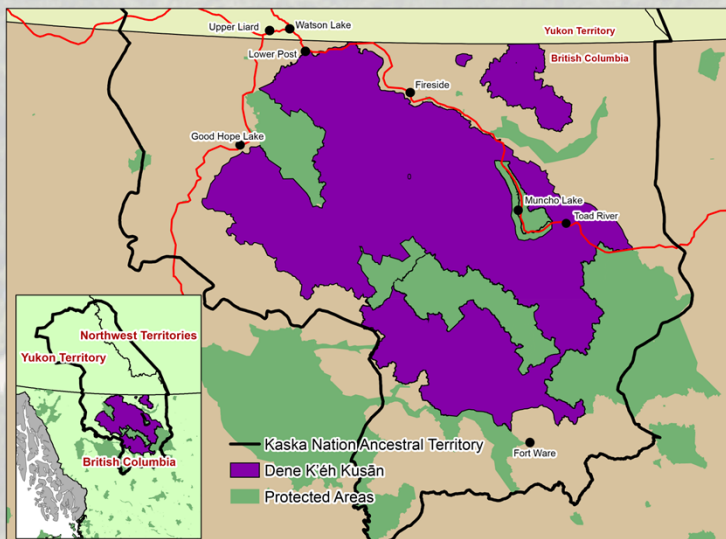
2024 Kaska-B.C. Process Agreement

Kaska and B.C. signed a process agreement in 2024 that commits to two tracks of work:

1. Establish an Indigenous-led **conservation area** called Dene K'éh Kusān
2. Complete **land use planning (reviewing and updating)** in areas of Kaska ancestral territory outside Dene K'éh Kusān and existing Parks and Protected Areas



Track 1 - Dene K'éh Kusān The Proposal at a Glance



- 3.9-million-hectare area that includes the most important Kaska cultural areas as well as critical ecosystems and habitat
- Will contribute 4% to B.C.'s commitment to protect 30% of land base by 2030
- Boundary design leaves existing major mining and forestry interests unaffected
- Builds on vision of Muskwa-Kechika Management Area
- Will be established under both B.C. law and Kaska law
- Co-managed by B.C. and an Indigenous Governance Body through consensus decisions



Kaska vision for Dene K'éh Kusān

Included Uses	Excluded Uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Cultural uses➤ Ecosystem restoration➤ Tourism development (trails, etc)➤ Hunting and fishing➤ Guide outfitting➤ Trapping➤ Public access➤ Outdoor recreation (hiking, paddling, camping, etc)➤ Potentially carbon offsetting➤ Forest health management➤ Peaceful enjoyment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Mineral exploration and mining➤ Oil and gas➤ Renewable energy➤ Commercial forestry➤ New roads

Track 2: Land Use Planning History in the Region



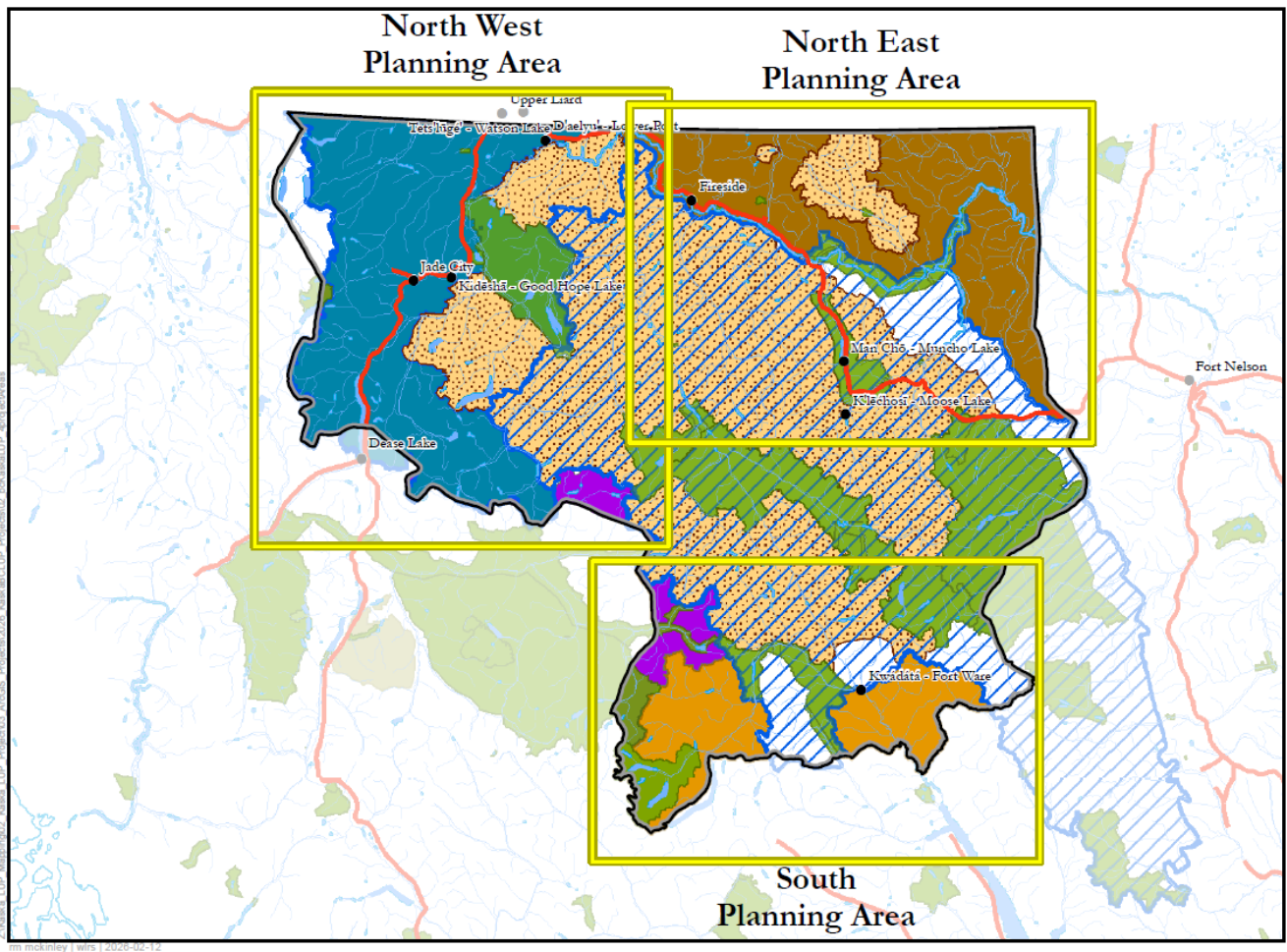
- ▶ Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMPs) took place in 90s and early 2000s to resolve land use conflicts, and have served the region well
- ▶ Included industry, environmental groups, local residents
- ▶ A direct outcome of the LRMPs was the creation of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area
- ▶ First Nations present at some LRMP tables
- ▶ Kaska participated in Mackenzie LRMP, co-developed Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP)
- ▶ Kaska did not participate in Fort Nelson LRMP



Building on Existing Plans

Geographic Areas of Focus	Existing Plans
Dene K'éh Kusān	Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (1997) + Dease-Liard SRMP (2004) + Dease-Liard SRMP (2012) + Fort Nelson LRMP (1997) + Mackenzie LRMP (2000)
Northwest	Dease-Liard SRMP (2004) + Dease-Liard SRMP (2012) + small portion of Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP (2000)
Northeast	North Liard SRMP (2016) & Fort Nelson LRMP (1997)
South	Kwadacha Nation Land Use Plan (2017) + Mackenzie LRMP (2000) + small portion of Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP (2000)

Kaska-BC Land Use Planning Area, Featuring Dene K'éh Kusān (Proposed IPCA*): ~ Planning Areas ~



Legend

- Kaska Ancestral Territory in BC: Project Area
- Parks, Protected Areas, Conservancies
- Communities
- Highway

Feature Key

- Dene K'éh Kusān Proposed IPCA
- Muskwa-Kechika Management Area
- North West
- North East
- South
- Cassiar-Iskut-Stikine

*Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area

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Kilometers

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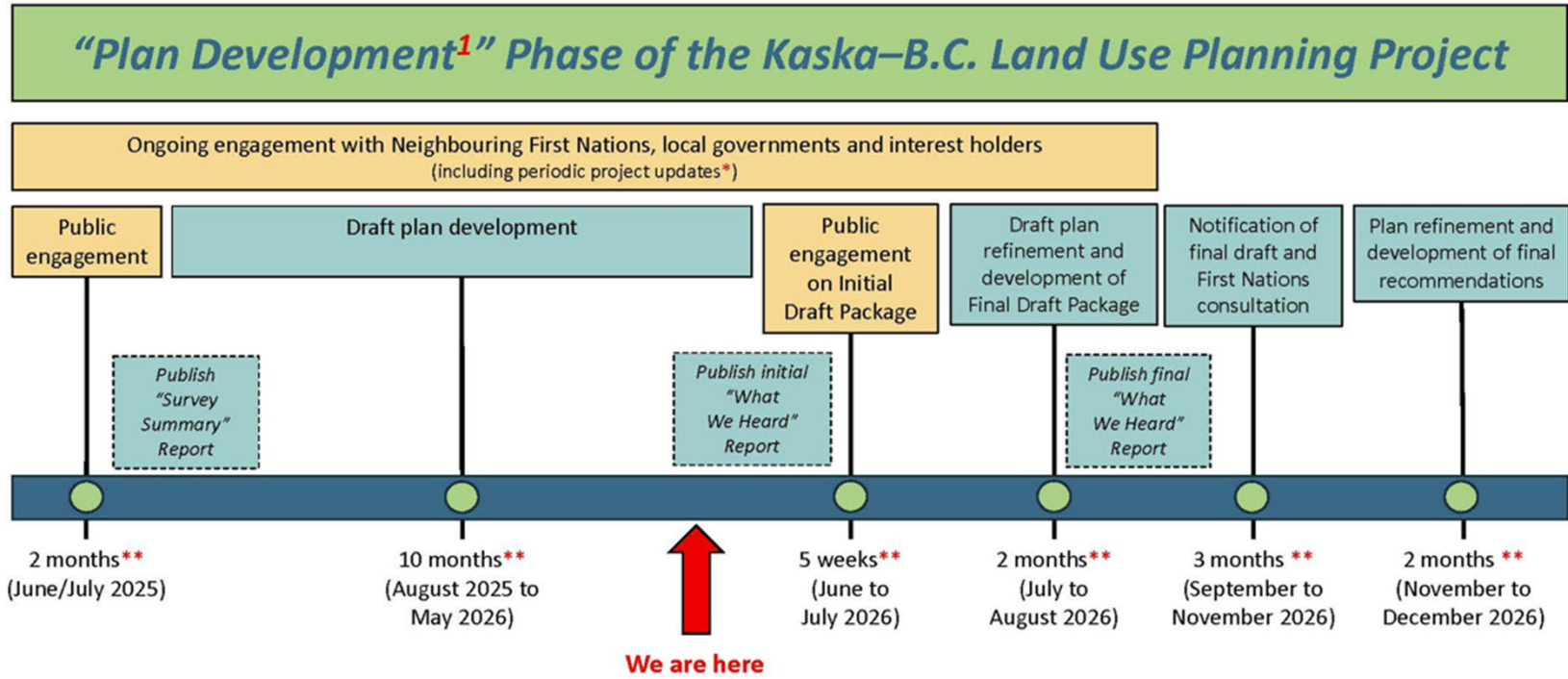
Area of Interest

in mckinsey | wfs | 2020-02-12



Timeline

Updated Timeline:



¹ The “Plan Development” Phase is the 2nd of the 4 phases of land use planning.

* Check Project website or sign up to receive updates via email.

**Timelines are estimates and may be subject to change.



Progress to date

- Review of existing plans, land use guidance, and analysis
- Project Website, Summer 2025 Public survey, Fall 2025 Dialogue sessions, and ongoing engagement with local governments
- Collection and review of Interest Statements
- Consideration of designating Dene K'éh Kusān as a conservancy under the *Parks Act*
- Engagement with neighbouring Nations



Next Steps

- ▶ Prepare interim “What We Heard” report for spring 2026
- ▶ Release an Initial Draft Package for 5 weeks of public review and comment (June/July)
 - ▶ Engagement will focus on areas of updates and change in land use plan objectives and strategies
- ▶ Review feedback and comments and develop a final draft package
- ▶ Release the Final Draft Package for information (Fall)
- ▶ Submit recommendations for approval (December)



Thank You!