

Atlin Taku

Land Use Planning

NEWSLETTER · July 2010



Recent Progress

Community and Stakeholder Workshop

The seventh and final community and stakeholder workshop was held in Atlin on June 11th and 12th. This workshop provided stakeholders an opportunity to discuss and offer comments on the draft planning package. This package included a zoning map, as well as general management direction for 7 resource management areas, and management direction for proposed protected areas and resource management zones. Workshop participants had questions and concerns addressed by Technical Working Group representatives, offered presentations and perspectives to the whole group, and had open discussions. The technical working group continues to carefully consider all input received, and a summary of input will be released with the final land use plan in August.

At the end of the workshop, the representatives from the Technical Working Group and the Joint Land Forum expressed their thanks and appreciation for all the ongoing hard work from workshop participants through the entire process—the dedicated and respectful involvement is a testament to the value participants put on living and working in Atlin.

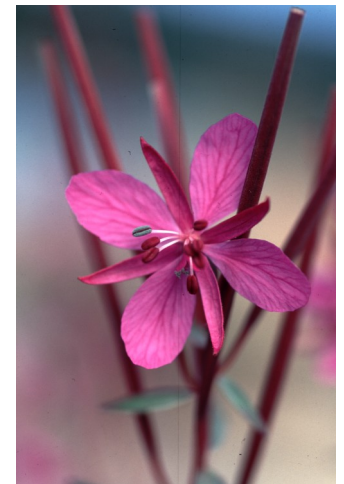
For a detailed summary of the workshop, and associated workshop materials, please refer to our webpage, or contact Katie von Gaza at Katie.vongaza@gov.bc.ca

Joint Land Forum Meeting

The 10th Joint Land Forum (JLF) meeting was held on July 6-8 on Tutshi Lake. The JLF spent considerable time reviewing stakeholder input to the June 4th draft of the land use plan—discussing changes to the GMD's and exploring options to modify and refine the land use zones and configurations to address stakeholder input. Discussion on zoning adjustments is ongoing and the JLF is scheduled to reconvene by conference call on August 16th to discuss further changes. A summary of the July JLF will be posted online.

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- Next Steps



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Status of Planning Documents and Next Steps

Land Use Plan

The Technical Working Group has received many comments on the draft land use plan—both on the zoning proposal and the management direction text. The TWG has been hard at work considering all comments and incorporating appropriate changes to the management direction text. Additionally, boundary refinements on the zoning map are under consideration. Work will continue on the land use plan (both the management direction and the zoning configuration) until the next JLF in mid-August. After August JLF, the “final” draft land use plan and zoning map will be released for public review, along with a table tracking all input received and how it has been considered and/or addressed.

Ongoing Government to Government Arrangements

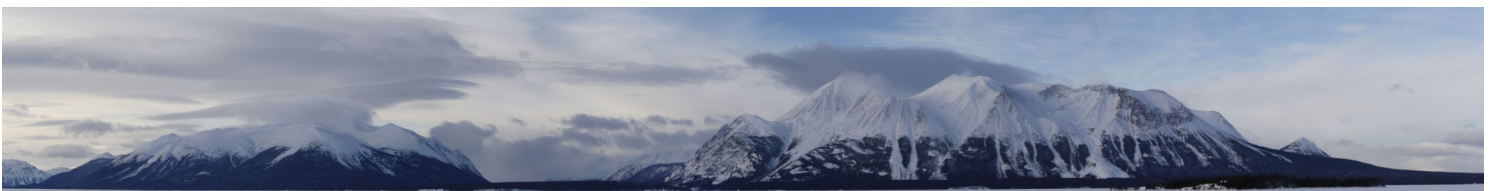
In addition to the land use plan, the Province and the TRTFN are working on elements of an ongoing government-to-government relationship once the land use plan is completed, to build on the success of the Framework Agreement. These arrangements would establish structures and processes for ongoing shared decision-making in the spirit of the *New Relationship*. Elements being contemplated include a new and enduring forum to replace the Joint Land Forum, which would provide a strategic-level venue for G2G discussions and problem solving, would oversee the implementation of the LUP and other plans, and would undertake collaborative projects, such as protected area management plans. A core principle for these arrangements is to ensure effective and meaningful stakeholder involvement in all joint initiatives, and BC is exploring the option of an Atlin community seat on the forum.



The G2G arrangements being discussed also include an engagement model which is a consistent, coordinated and efficient process by which BC and the TRTFN will review applications and make resource management recommendations. The engagement process would enable BC and TRTFN to more efficiently allocate limited resources by focussing efforts on the most significant issues (such as activities with greater impacts in areas of higher sensitivity) and by streamlining the review of simpler applications. Applications would continue to be received by the appropriate government agency, such as MEMPR or FrontCounterBC, then both governments will review the information and engage at a level consistent with the nature of the decision at hand, within agreed to timeframes.

Overall, this new arrangement would provide clarity as to how BC and the TRTFN would undertake shared decision making and create a more predictable process for application review. It would result in better quality decisions based on more complete information, and decrease the likelihood that decisions within TRTFN territory are inconsistent with either BC or TRTFN interests.

It is important to note that the agreement is not a treaty, does not establish veto rights over government decisions, and does not delegate authority to the newly formed Forum. BC decision-makers would remain responsible and accountable for their own decisions. The arrangements would, however, represent a tangible and incremental step towards long term reconciliation and provide a platform for an ongoing and respectful government-to-government relationship.



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Next Steps

In response to stakeholder input, the technical working group will continue to work on refining the land use plan text and zoning configurations. The Joint Land Forum will review changes on an August 16th conference call and approve a final draft to be released at the end of August for public review through September.

Through September, the TWG will consolidate public comments and make further refinements to the final draft for a JLF in October. At this JLF, the co-chairs will approve a final draft to be submitted for BC and TRTFN approvals.

For more information, please refer to our website, or contact any of the individuals listed below.

http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/slrp/lrmp/smithers/atlin_taku/index.html



For more information please contact:

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