



NORTHEAST BC CONSERVATION LANDS REVIEW PROJECT

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Northeast BC Conservation Lands Review Project

Executive Summary

Conservation lands are lands formally identified as important for the protection and management of specific environmental values. In British Columbia there are two categories of conservation lands; administered lands and non-administered lands. Non-administered conservation lands are established under the Land Act. In these areas, the interest holder has a recorded interest in the area but does not have administrative or management authority. There are four types of non-administered conservation lands established under the Land Act:

- Order-in-Council (OIC) reserves (Land Act section 15)
- Map Reserves (MR) (Land Act section 16)
- Designated Use Areas (DUA) (Land Act section 17)
- Notations of Interest (NOI) (Crown Land)

All industrial activities proposed within a non-administered conservation land require referral to the interest holder for review and comment resulting in a significant work load for both the Land Act administrators and the interest holders. It is therefore essential to ensure that conservation land files remain pertinent to the current values and priorities of the interest holder.

For this review project, conservation lands have been defined as all Land Act files with a purpose code of Environment Conservation and Recreation. The project consists of a file review of all non-administered conservation lands in the Peace sub-region with an emphasis on the identification of files intended for the protection and management of fish and wildlife habitat.

A total of 292 files were reviewed with a combined gross total area of 2,487,453 hectares. Files administered through the Fort St. John office of FLNRO were reviewed in an attempt to determine the:

- original values and management intent for the designated area;
- original interest holder;
- appropriate current interest holder (point of contact for referrals); and
- current values and management options.

Recommendations were made for administrative actions (cancellation, retention, changes of sub-purpose, transfer of interest holder, etc.).

There are a total of 25 OIC files covering a total area of approximately 205,554 ha. It is recommended that 2 UREP (Use, Recreation and Enjoyment of the Public Reserve) files be considered for possible transfers to F&W Mgmt. No files are recommended for cancellation at this time. There are a total of 10 DUA files covering a total area of 825,517 ha. There are no files recommended for cancellation at this time. There are a total of 204 Map Reserve files covering a total area of 495,467 ha. Six F&W Mgmt. files and 32 UREP files are recommended for cancellation covering a total area of 172,823 ha. Twenty UREP files, 5 Watershed files and 1 Planning/Marketing/Development file are recommended for transfer to F&W Mgmt. There are a total of 53 NOI files covering a total area of 975,295 ha. Twenty six F&W Mgmt. files are recommended for cancellation covering a total area of 627,352 ha.

All 81 files with a sub-purpose for Fish and Wildlife Management were reviewed in detail to determine the original intent and current values. The review has identified 30 F&W Mgmt. files that no longer meet the original intent or are considered redundant and are recommended for cancellation. There are 51 files that are currently recommended for retention.

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A number of actions are required to further the review of conservation lands in the Peace sub-region. Procedures for cancellation, retention and transfer of administration need to be completed where indicated. Management directions for conservation lands retained need to be developed. During the review of conservation lands, several priority areas were identified that should be included as conservation lands.

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