

Aboriginal Experiences in Conservation

Conseil Canadien Des Aires Ecologiques

CCEA

Canadian Council on Ecological Areas

JP Gladu, BScF
Canadian Boreal Initiative



Presentation Outline

- The Canadian Boreal Initiative
- Introduction to Boreal Aboriginal People
- Aboriginal and Treaty rights
- Experiences
 - Gwaii Hannas (Achieving 50% protected)
 - Dehcho (Striving for 50%)
 - Manitoba Lowlands (potential)
 - Innu (>50%)
- Summation of CBI Aboriginal partners

Canadian Boreal Initiative

- Fostering a national vision
- Supporting conservation on the ground
- Committed to science
- Communicating with Canadians
- Supporting policy innovations



Boreal Forest Conservation Framework Vision

- Sustain ecological and cultural integrity in perpetuity
- Conserve cultural, sustainable economic and natural values by:
 - Minimum 50% in large interconnected protected areas
 - World-leading stewardship in remaining landscape
- Framework recognizes solutions differ in different places and contexts



Boreal Aboriginal People



Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

- Recognized in the Constitution
- What are they?
- Backed up by Supreme Court Decisions
- Aboriginal people are not going to give them up

Gwaii Haanas



New protected areas to reflect ecological, cultural conservation, spiritual and recreation purposes, totalling 254,000 hectares to be managed collaboratively with the Province. The new areas equal 25.3 per cent of the total land base and, with the Gwaii Haanas, Naikoon and other existing protected areas, bring the total protected area on the Islands to about 50%

Gwaii Haanas

Through treaties and other agreements with First Nations, the Province has said that it is committed to closing the socio-economic gap that separates Aboriginal people from other British Columbians and to building a new relationship with First Nations based on respect, recognition and reconciliation.

Gwaii Haanas

“After 50 years of intensive forestry without holistic planning, this land-use agreement now starts to bring cultural, environmental, and economic interests into balance. It provides a firm footing to take the next steps in reconciliation of our competing yet coexisting Titles.”

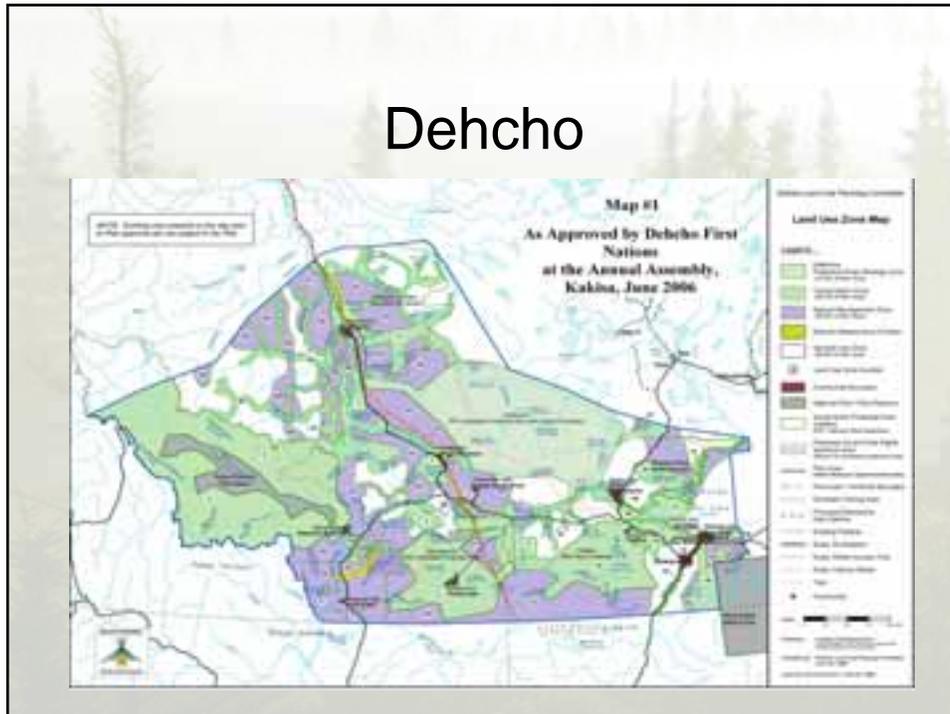
Guujaaw, President of the Haida Nation

Manitoba Lowlands

- In 2005, Manitoba and the Federal governments commit to establishing a 4,500 km² National Park
- First Nation concerns
 - Concerned with past track record of National Parks (Wood Buffalo)
 - Infringement of Aboriginal and Treaty rights
 - Limit economic opportunities



Dehcho



Dehcho Land Use Planning Chronology

- May 2001: Interim Measures Agreement signed by DFN, Canada, and GNWT that establishes Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee (DLUPC).
- Feb 2002: DFN, Canada, GNWT appoint representatives to DLUPC. Office established in Fort Providence and staff recruitment begins.
- June 2005: DLUPC releases "Draft Land Use Plan." DFN and Canada sign Pipeline Settlement Agreement that commits Canada to implement plan as soon as possible after it is approved.

Dehcho Land Use Planning Chronology

- June 2006: DLUPC releases “Final Draft Land Use Plan” based on over 140 meetings with communities and stakeholders, 2 regional forums, and 117 written submissions. DFN unanimously approves plan at Annual Assembly.
- Nov 2006: Canada writes a letter to DFN stating its intent to terminate the DLUPC and to consider the Land Use Plan only after the completion of an “Agreement-in-Principle” (AiP).
- April 2007: DFN, Canada, and GNWT sign “Dehcho Land Use Plan Revisions – Terms of Reference and Workplan” and agree to prepare an “Interim Land Use Plan”

Dehcho Land Use Planning Chronology

- Oct 2007 → June 2008: DLUPC revises land use plan. Seven three-day workshops/technical sessions and three “working group” meetings held. Progress reports presented to Dehcho Process Main Table in Nov 2007 and Dehcho Leadership Meeting in March 2008.
- June 2008: Present as much of completed draft Interim Land Use Plan as possible to Dehcho Annual Assembly
- July → Fall 2008: Complete final draft Interim Land Use Plan for recommendation to DFN Special Assembly for approval. If approved, submit Interim Land Use Plan to GNWT and Canada for consideration and approval.

Innu Nation



Artist: Mary-Ann Penashue

Key Outcomes - Innu

- Application of conservation science and traditional knowledge resulted in 60% of 7 million hectare planning area being reserved within ecological or cultural protection zones;
- new harvesting guidelines developed to minimize ecological and cultural impacts of timber harvesting;
- AAC under ecosystem-based approach approximately 50% of 'conventional' planning estimates;
- co-management regime established between Innu Nation and Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for duration of 5-year plan;

Vision

- The Innu have a vision of an ecosystem-based forest economy which will protect the land for future generations and ensure that Innu can meet their subsistence needs while providing for a contemporary Innu economy. Innu will be involved in forestry, ecotourism and other activities that respect and protect the land. This vision is based on respect for the needs of the forest, the needs and rights of the Innu, and on their willingness to share their land with the people of Labrador.



Background

- Innu Nation has opposed large-scale forestry developments on their land.
- Government of Newfoundland & Labrador originally proposed a high cut level (400,000 m³) and a Clear-Cut only harvesting regime (80 -300ha in size)
- Innu Nation and Provincial Government have been working for over 7 years to resolve this conflict.



Large Landscape Scale

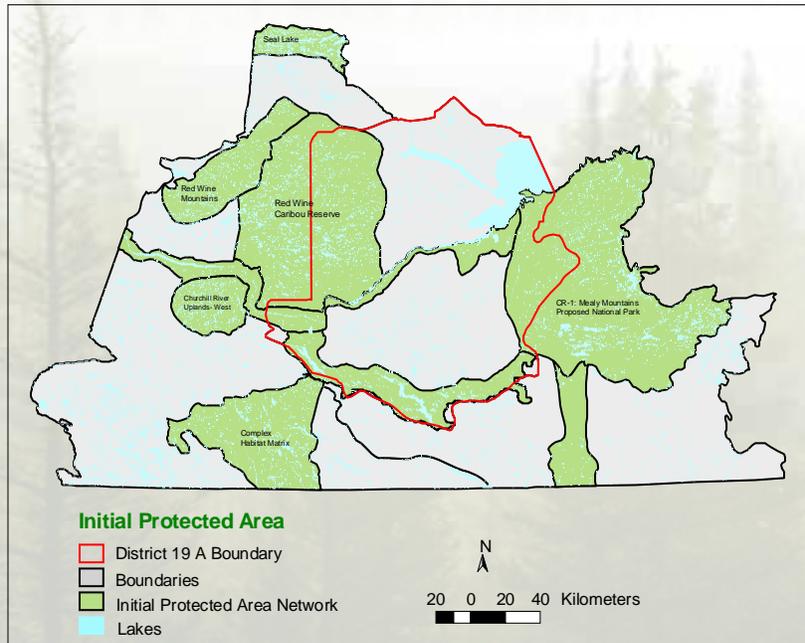
(1:500,000 to 1:150,000)



- Develop an ecological and cultural **Protected Area Network** that focuses on:
 - Core Reserves
 - Unique habitats/ecosystems
 - Linkages between reserves and unique habitats
 - Cultural sensitive Areas
 - Other non-timber harvesting areas



**Consider protection of species such as Caribou and Innu Land Use data.*



- CBI **recognizes and respects** the rights of Aboriginal peoples over their lands, territories and resources.
- CBI is committed to the principle that Aboriginal people should **control the direction and the outcomes of resource management and conservation planning decisions on their lands and within their traditional territories.**



www.borealcanada.ca