



Mackenzie Area Added to M-K

On November 14, 2000 the British Columbia provincial government approved the Mackenzie Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), adding over 19,000 sq. km to the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area. The M-K Management Area is now 63,000 sq. km (6.3 million hectares) - almost the size of Ireland.

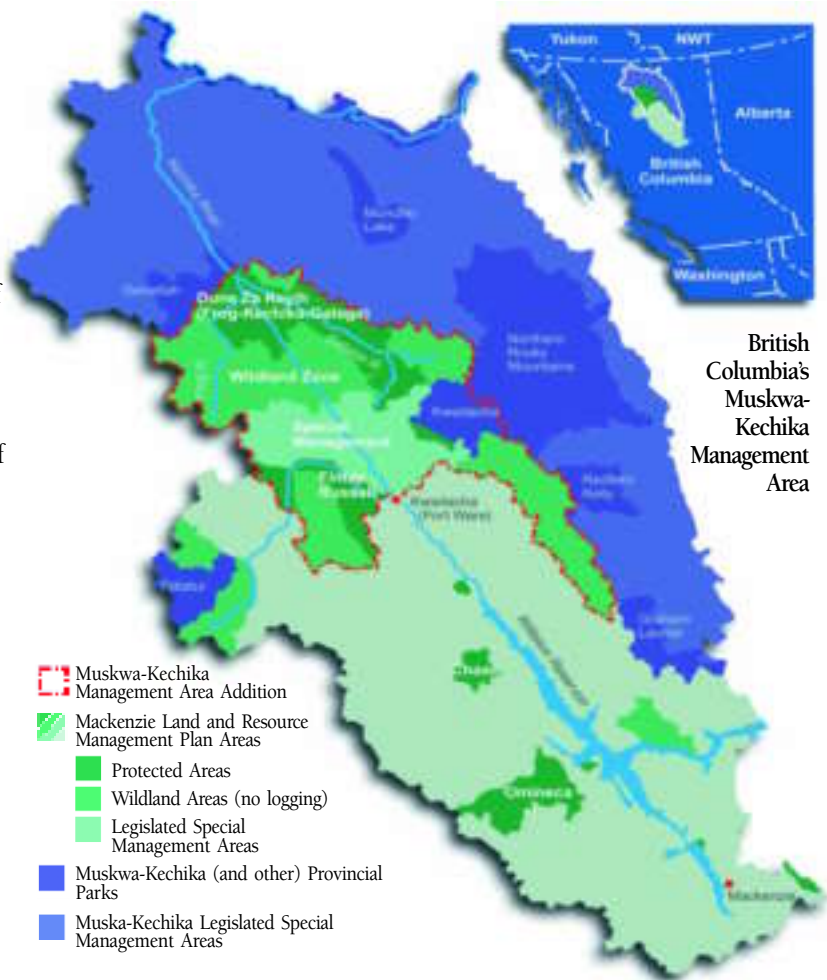
"The addition of the Mackenzie lands makes the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area even more exceptional," said John Cashore, Chair of the M-K Advisory Board. "The area is a rich reflection of environmental and cultural values, supported by a strong commitment to sustainability."

The Mackenzie planning process began in August 1996, involving 40 representatives from communities, First Nations, industry and local government. The Mackenzie LRMP, which was ratified earlier this year, provides direction for sustainable use of Crown land and resources. Based on the LRMP recommendations, the provincial government added special areas to the Muskwa-Kechika, including the spectacular Gataga-Frog-Kechika river complex, known in the Sikanni language as the Dune Za Keyih or "Land of the Original People."

The Mackenzie contribution to the M-K Management Area includes:

Protected Areas	475,264 hectares
Wildland Zones	928,296 hectares
Special Management Zones	409,634 hectares
Total Addition	1,929,204 hectares

With the Mackenzie addition, British Columbia has met the United Nations goal of protecting 12 per cent of the land base for future generations. In 1991 about 6 per cent of the province was protected.



British Columbia's Muskwa-Kechika Management Area

"Protecting 12 per cent of our province and meeting the UN goal sets a global example and it's good for our economy," said Environment, Lands and Parks Minister Ian Waddell. "This magnificent new addition to the Muskwa-Kechika will bring new economic activity to the North while the land use plan provides stability for existing resource based jobs."

The province is adding \$1 million to the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund to expand planning, research and conservation work. Two additional seats on the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board will be dedicated to represent the Mackenzie region.

Wildland zones, unique to the Mackenzie LRMP, reflect remote and natural backcountry characteristics. These zones recognize the importance of ecological conservation while providing opportunities for commercial and industrial activities - particularly mineral and oil and gas development. Timber harvesting is not allowed and timber lands are excluded from the timber harvesting land base. Only temporary roads are permitted.

The M-K Management Area Vision...

The Advisory Board, in partnership with the Provincial government, will:

- be stewards of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, providing direction and leadership in balancing industrial and other human activity with sensitive management and protection of the natural environment
- ensure that the fisheries, wildlife and wilderness values of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area will be maintained by promoting and encouraging effective and innovative resource management, based on the highest quality of research
- seek world-class management, monitoring, and mitigation to minimize the human footprint
- raise awareness about the Muskwa-Kechika's globally significant environmental values and the cultural histories of Muskwa-Kechika's aboriginal and non-native inhabitants



Integrated Management in Action

Rich with spectacular beauty, natural resources and cultural history, the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area has national and global significance. It features large boreal forests, spectacular geological formations, exceptional wildlife populations, traditional First Nation territories and many resource development opportunities. Managing an area with this significance calls for innovation.

A public board advises the provincial government about management of the area. Board members represent a range of perspectives and work cooperatively to contribute advice, providing an excellent example of the co-existence of diverse interests.

The M-K Management Area is characterized by a network of protected areas surrounded by legislated special management zones where innovative and environmentally responsible development is permitted. This



zoning helps protect wilderness and cultural values while allowing resource development to continue. Provincial parks afford the highest level of protection while other areas are designated for recreation, hunting, trapping, timber harvesting, mineral exploration and mining, oil and gas exploration and development.

Management of this size and scope of area requires thoughtful balancing to ensure protection of the natural and cultural values while supporting sustainable economic growth in the region.



John Cashore

Chair, M-K Advisory Board

John Cashore brings a rich and varied experience to his role as Chair of the M-K Advisory Board, a position he has held since 1998. He has extensive experience working with Aboriginal people, environmental concerns and labour issues.

"I am honoured to chair the Board responsible for overseeing such a remarkable area. The M-K Management Area is an exceptional place for Canada and the world. To be involved in protecting this area and respecting the various interests is both a challenge and a privilege."

Ross Peck, Vice Chair of the M-K Advisory Board said, "John is ideally suited to his role – his personality and experience are wonderful attributes. He understands environmental, social and economic issues, has a respect for various perspectives and a strong sense of fairness."

When asked about the challenges of chairing a multi-stakeholder board, John said,

"The people involved with the M-K Management Area have a reverence and appreciation for the area. This has enabled us to look past individual interests and focus on our vision for area."

John is currently the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier of British Columbia. He was first elected as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Coquitlam-Maillardville in 1986 and was re-elected in 1991 and 1996. John has served as the Minister responsible for three provincial departments - Aboriginal Affairs, Labour, and Environment, Lands and Parks.

Before his election to the Legislature, John worked as a United Church Minister in Vancouver's downtown eastside and various other communities throughout the province.

In his spare time John enjoys hiking, fishing, gardening, boating, and cabin building. John is married to Sharon Cashore and they have four children and seven grandchildren. Since 1973 they have lived in Coquitlam, BC.



Did You Know?

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area:

- includes 63,000 sq. km of land located in northeastern BC near Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and Mackenzie
- is one of the most significant natural areas in North America - the largest intact, non-roaded wild area south of the 60th parallel.
- supports vast boreal forests, the only Plains bison population in BC and an extensive population of ungulates, carnivores and other wildlife
- has been traditionally used by First Nations for thousands of years, for hunting, gathering and fishing
- is within the traditional territories of the Kaska Dena, Slavery, Beaver and Sekani Cultures
- has significant oil, gas, timber and mining resources that contribute to the local economy

M-K Management Area Milestones

1997 The BC government approved land and resource management plans for the Fort Nelson and Fort St. John areas. These plans, developed by multi-stakeholder teams, recommended that the Muskwa-Kechika should be managed as a special management area and that an advisory board and a special trust fund be established.

1998 The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act was passed, formally establishing the M-K area and creating the M-K Advisory Board and a \$2.4 million trust fund. The M-KMA encompassed 4.4 million hectares.

1999 \$1.7 million from the Trust Fund was approved for 35 conservation projects in 1999-2000. The *Park Act* was amended creating ten new Class A parks totaling nearly one million hectares in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

2000 On November 14 the BC government approved the Mackenzie Land and Resource Management Plan, adding over 19,000 sq. km (1.9 million hectares) to the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area. The M-KMA now totals approximately 6.3 million hectares.



Faces of the M-K Management Area Advisory Board and Staff

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board ensures that activities within the M-K Management Area are consistent with the objectives of various management plans. Board members also review trust fund proposals and recommend projects to the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks, who is the trustee for the fund.

The Premier appoints board members for a term of one to three years. Recognizing the addition of the Mackenzie, two new board members are being added to represent this area.

Board Members

John Cashore

Chair of Advisory Board, Provincial MLA

Ross Peck

Vice-Chair of Advisory Board, Guide Outfitters, Trappers

Karen Goodings

Peace River Regional District

Barry Holland

British Columbia Wildlife Federation

Bobby Jackson

Halfway Treaty 8 First Nation

Liz Logan

Fort Nelson Treaty 8 First Nation

Bill Lux

Dease River Band, Kaska Dena Council

Bruce McKnight

British Columbia and Yukon Chamber of Mines

Neil Meagher

International Woodworkers' Association (IWA) Canada

Paul Mitchell-Banks

Ex-Officio Board Member, Muskwa-Kechika Management Area

Dave Porter

Kaska Dena Council

Dennis Porter

Lower Post Band, Kaska Dena Council

Wayne Sawchuck

Chetwynd Environmental Society

Mel Sherlock

District of Mackenzie

Jack Sime

Northern Rockies Regional District

George Smith

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

Jim Stephenson

Forestry, Canfor Corporation

Peter Stone

Kaska Dena Council

David Stuart

Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)

Brian Wolf

Prophet River Treaty 8 First Nations

Staff

The following support the M-K Advisory Board.

Warren Mitchell

Director, Land Use Coordination Office (LUCO), Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations

Paul Mitchell-Banks

Muskwa-Kechika Program Manager, LUCO

Kathleen O'Neill

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Coordinator

Dan Gauvin

Coordinator-Assistant

You Are Invited!

Opening Reception

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Information Office has opened in Fort St. John. Please come and meet the Board and staff.

Thursday, February 15, 2001

7:00-9:00 p.m.

9908 - 100th Ave., Fort St. John.

Public Presentation

"Conservation Area Design - Using Conservation Biology to Inform Land-Use Decisions"

Round River Conservation Studies staff, Kim Heinemeyer, Dr. M.A. Sanjayan and Bruce Baizel, will be sharing their experiences with conservation area design. This approach provides a scientifically well-grounded basis for land use planning efforts. The presenters will talk about the use of conservation areas design on the mid-coast and by the Taku River Tlingit First Nation.

Friday, February 16, 2001

7:00-8:30 p.m.

North Peace Cultural Centre, Fort St. John.

We're Online!

Check our website at: www.muskwa-kechika.com
Our website has up-to-date news about the M-K as well as a visual gallery and other information about the area.

How to Contact Us:

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