



Kusawa Park Management Plan



July 2025



ADDENDUM 2025

The Kusawa Steering Committee reconvened in 2024 to prepare the park management plan for approval. Through these discussions, the committee agreed that only essential edits would be made to the 2016 version of the park management plan. Additionally, they committed to undertake a full review of the management plan immediately following its approval.

This approved park management plan includes the following revisions:

- Reformatted layout, updated date and revised font
- New signature page featuring current elected officials
- Removal of the Park Management Committee Terms of Reference from the document
- Revised wording of the statement on page 12 regarding potential hydro-electric development, changed from:
“Any future consideration of potential hydro development would require consensus of the parks, in consideration of Final Agreements and the Parks and Land Certainty Act”
to:
“Potential hydro-electric development is an outstanding issue and will be resolved after approval of this park management plan.”

Members of the Kusawa Park Steering Committee – 2024/2025

Affiliation	Name	Position	Note
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	Frank James	Director, Heritage, Lands & Natural Resources	Member
	Loretta Johns	A/Lands Manager, Heritage, Lands & Natural Resources	Alternate
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations	Linaya Workman	Associate Executive Director	Member
	Ray Gunness	Director, Heritage, Lands and Resources	Alternate
Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Roy Neilson	A/Director, Heritage, Lands and Resources	Member
	Emily McDougall	Sustainability Planner	Alternate
Government of Yukon	Sharina Kennedy	Manager, Park Planning, Department of Environment	Alternate
	Shannon Trott	Director, Parks, Department of Environment	Member
	Brian Johnston	Park Planner, Department of Environment	Secretariat

Kusawa Park

Management Plan

This plan was prepared and recommended by the Kusawa Park Steering Committee with delegates of Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and Government of Yukon.

Approved by:



Maria Benoit

K̓aa Shaadé Hení (Chief)

Carcross/Tagish First Nation

Date: July 22/2025



Sean Smith

Uyenets'echja (Chief)

Kwanlin Dün First Nation

Date: July 22nd, 2025

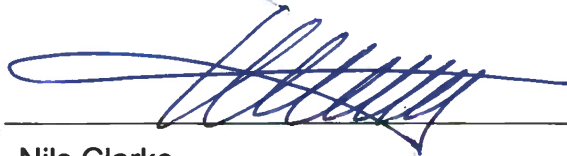


Barb Joe

Dän nātthe äda (Chief)

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

Date: July 22, 2025



Nils Clarke

Minister of Environment

Government of Yukon

Date: 22/7/25

Kusawa Park Management Plan



This 800 year-old arrow point, made from caribou antler, was found at the Texas Gulch ice patch in Kusawa Park in 2014.

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Note: Full-size versions of the maps on page 69–75 are included in the print version of the plan.

Front cover: Mount Vanier, Kusawa Park; Beadwork by CAFN Elder Sadie Brown.

Back cover: A njäl (brush house) in Kusawa Park.

Photo, page 3: Dan Paleczny; page 4: CAFN/Sarah Gaunt; page 16: Afan Jones; page 22: Geoff Cowie; page 25: Sarah Marsh; page 30: Richard Vladars; page 41: Beadwork by CAFN Elder Jessie Joe, photo by Lawrence Joe; back cover: CAFN/Sheila Greer; all other photos courtesy John Meikle

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Rose Creek Delta.

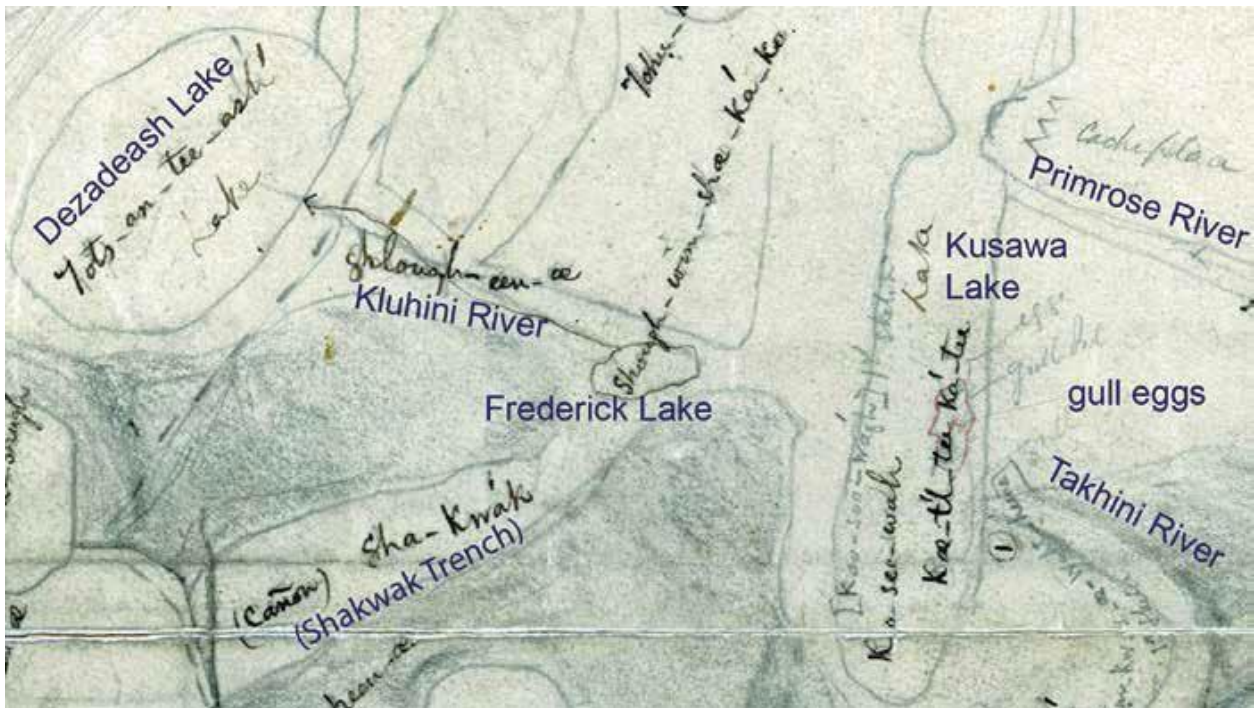


Background

Kusawa Park is a special place. The park is rich in history, and traditional use of the area — which can be traced back thousands of years — continues today. Yukon residents and visitors from around the world value the area for the beauty and the experiences it offers. This area is now protected as a natural environment park through Final Agreements.

Kusawa Park is mandated by the Final Agreements of two First Nations: Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Kwanlin Dün First Nation. Consistent with Final Agreements, a steering committee was formed to develop and recommend a management plan for Kusawa Park. Kusawa Park did not form part of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement. However, since Kusawa Park falls within their Traditional Territory, they are a member of the steering committee. Together, the three First Nations and Government of Yukon comprise the four parties responsible for the park management plan.

The park falls within the traditional territory of these three First Nations. This means that the traditional use, family ties and cultural stories of the three First Nations are inherent in the land. The steering committee includes a representative of each of the three First Nations, and three representatives of the Government of Yukon.



Portion of the map drawn by Tlingit Chief Kohklux in 1869 showing the area from Kusawa to Dezadeash, with handwritten Tlingit names by George Davidson; names in Arial font inserted by Yukon Native Language Centre; base map courtesy of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley: Bancroft Case XD G4370 1852.k6

The steering committee started work in 2008. In 2009 the steering committee drafted a vision of Kusawa Park, which included an explanation of why such a vision was important, and what kind of legislative and management structures would be needed to achieve it (see Section 2). The vision respects the objectives set out for the park in the two First Nation Final Agreements.

Kusawa Park planning was suspended in September 2009 to allow the parties to address how the park plan would be implemented. Planning resumed in September 2013 after the Government of Yukon and the three First Nations came to an agreement about establishing a Park Management Committee, which will be formed after the park is established pursuant to the *Parks and Land Certainty Act* (see Appendix 1).

Guided by the park vision, the steering committee developed management options to accommodate various forms of conservation initiatives, visitor activities and First Nation and heritage values, as well as other interests. The steering committee members consulted with members of the public and First Nations from February to April 2014.

The steering committee agreed on the management directions outlined in each section of this draft plan.

Table 1. Members of the Kusawa Park Steering Committee – 2016

Affiliation	Name	Position	Note
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	Frank James	Lands Manager	Member
	Bill Barrett Jr.	Lands Manager	Former Member
	Miles Johnson	GIS and Lands Technician	Alternate
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations	Lawrence Joe	Director, Lands and Resources	Member
	Paula Banks	Director, Education	Alternate
Kwanlin Dün First Nation	John Meikle	Senior Lands and Resource Planner	Member
	Tom Beaudoin	Director, Heritage, Lands and Resources	former Member
	Dave Sembsmoen	Director, Lands and Resources	Alternate
Government of Yukon	Jean Langlois	Manager, Park Planning, Department of Environment	Member
	Sarah Marsh	Manager, Industry Services, Department of Tourism and Culture	Member
	Dan Paleczny	Director, Parks, Department of Environment	Member
	Afan Jones	Park Planner, Department of Environment	Secretariat
	Cathryn Paish	Tourism Resource Coordinator, Industry Services, Department of Tourism and Culture	former Member
	Karen Clyde	Manager, Habitat Programs, Fish & Wildlife Branch, Department of Environment	former Member
	Bruce Downie	Manager, Park Planning, Department of Environment	former Member
Cambio Consulting	Mark Nelson		facilitator
	Angela Walkley		facilitator

A Park Management Committee will be established to facilitate the implementation of the management plan.

Acknowledgements

The steering committee acknowledges and thanks the many people who contributed to the development of this plan.





Members of CAFN and C/TFN at Nàkhū in August 1999.



1. Introduction

Why is Kusawa Park being established?

Kusawa Park was identified as a territorial park area of interest in 1979. The area was originally identified as suitable for a natural environment park because of its recreational and natural values. Campgrounds were developed at the current Takhini River and Kusawa Lake sites in the 1970s.

The park area was identified as a Special Management Area during land claim negotiations. These negotiations involved individual First Nations, the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada.

The establishment of Kusawa Park was finalized in Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the First Nation Final Agreements (FNFAs) for Kwanlin Dūn First Nation (February 2005) and Carcross/Tagish First Nation (October 2005). The schedule includes objective 2.1.3: “to protect for all time a natural area of territorial significance and of important cultural significance to the Three First Nations, which includes portions of the Yukon-Stikine Highlands, Ruby Ranges and Yukon Southern Lakes ecoregions, which contain important physical and biological features, as well as sites of archaeological, historical and cultural value” (see Appendix 2).

Purpose of the Plan

The plan provides a clear, long-term vision and direction for the future management and operation of Kusawa Park. It provides for the protection of the park's natural, historic and cultural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. After the plan is approved a Park Management Committee will be established to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the plan (see Section 3).

Natural setting

Glaciation has been a major force in shaping the landscape within the park, creating steep rugged peaks, raised beaches and dunes. Debris flows, which originate in gullies above tree line, are common on alluvial fans on the shore of Kusawa Lake.

Kusawa Park includes portions of 2 of Yukon's 23 ecoregions (an ecoregion is a landscape-level ecosystem; see Map 1). The northern part of the park is in the Yukon Southern Lakes ecoregion, which is characterized by large freshwater lakes with mountains to the south and plateaus and rolling forested hills to the north. The most extensive flat grasslands in Yukon are also found in Kusawa Park.

The southern part of the park falls within the Yukon Stikine Highland ecoregion and is dominated by steep mountain outcrops and heavily glaciated, forested valleys (see Map 1). The merging of coastal, alpine and boreal influences results in biological diversity that is strongly influenced by Pacific weather systems.

Map 1. Ecoregions in Kusawa Park area



The park region ranges from moist coastal mountains in the south to a dry interior. This is reflected in the glaciers to the south and the small ice patches in the north. Mountain goats are found in the south, and Dall's sheep in the north, with a wide variety of flora and fauna throughout the park.

Dall's sheep are the most abundant of the larger mammals, with moose a close second. Grizzly and black bear are found in some areas. The lbex woodland caribou herd is expanding its range west into the park. Wolves have been observed in the park's major valleys. A wide variety of furbearers is found, as is a large range of waterfowl and raptors. These include Golden eagle and gyrfalcon.

Eight species of freshwater fish are found in park waters, including lake trout, least cisco and lake, round and broad whitefish. Chinook salmon are

found in the Yukon River drainage of the park. At least 18 species of flora and fauna in the park are at some level of conservation concern.

First Nation context

Aboriginal use of the Kusawa Park region has a long history, going back approximately 9,000 years. The park incorporates a vital part of the Traditional Territories of three First Nations, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and Kwanlin Dün First Nation (see Map 2) with the territorial boundaries of the three First Nations overlapping in the eastern side of the park. Citizens of these First Nations continue to pursue traditional activities in the park today and are interested in seeing their peoples' connections to and history in the Kusawa area being maintained and kept alive, as outlined in the vision for the park (see Section 2).

Certain ecological features at lake and valley intersections in the park — such as Nàkhū (Primrose Narrows*) — were and continue to be a focus of traditional use. Kusawa Park also includes portions of three traditional coast-interior (south-north) travel routes which were important trading trails in the 19th century at least, and possibly in earlier times as well. The Dän (Southern Tutchone) referred to these routes as “Alur Dän tän,” or “the trail the coast peoples came on.” Kusawa’s historic trading trails are variants of the eastern Chilkat Trail, so-called because the southern starting point or destination was Chilkat Tlingit country, with the routes leading to and from various destinations in the interior country. The eastern part of the label distinguishes these routes from the western Chilkat Trail, which connected Chilkat country to Shäwshe/Neskataheen (Dalton Post) country to the west. The Chilkat Trail is recognized in the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement.

Melting ice patches in the park have yielded ancient hunting artifacts; these finds provide a long and continuous record of wildlife hunting by the region’s Aboriginal people. The first Yukon discovery of ancient ice patch artifacts was made at Thandlät ice patch, located in the park. At the outlet of Kusawa Lake, the easily accessible Kusawa Bluff site preserves evidence of occupation dating back more than 5,000 years. Also notable are the njäl (brush structures), traditional-style Aboriginal dwellings.

Box 1. Ice patches

Snow builds up year after year, although some melts each summer. The remaining snow is compressed into ice. Although the ice patch may grow in volume it never achieves sufficient mass to flow downhill. Because the ice does not move, any artifacts that are buried in it are not crushed — as they would be by a glacier — but are preserved. In recent years, archaeologists and palaeontologists have drawn international attention to the importance of Kusawa Lake. Melting ice patches have revealed ancient hunting weapons left there by the people who hunted caribou thousands of years ago. In some cases, objects are so well preserved that wood, sinew and feathers are still visible.

Recreational and commercial use

Kusawa Park sees a wide variety of year-round recreational uses on land and water, as described in Section 7. Most use occurs in the frontcountry (Kusawa Lake Road) portion of the park. Commercial uses, including outfitting, trapping and wilderness tourism, occur in the back-country area of the park. There are air access landings, primarily for floatplanes, for recreational and commercial purposes. There are no known landing sites for wheeled aircraft.



Legal context

Final Agreements

Kusawa Park was established in Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the First Nation Final Agreements (FNFAs) for Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Carcross/Tagish First Nation (see Appendix 2).

Schedule A to Chapter 10 provides objectives for the park, and a process to develop a management plan on a consensus basis (see Appendix 2). That process is further described in the terms of reference for the Kusawa Park Steering Committee (www.kusawapark.ca). The steering committee terms of reference outline the planning process and call for the four parties to reach consensus on a management plan based on a vision statement for the park (see Section 2).

Legislation

Kusawa Park will be managed pursuant to the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*.

See Section 3 for additional details on landholdings and land administration.

Landholdings

The boundaries of Kusawa Park are defined in Appendix B — Maps of the CTFN and KDFN Final Agreements and confirmed in the Administrative Plan of April 2014 (Canada Lands Surveys Records 102874; see www.kusawapark.ca/news). The Administrative Plan is a legal survey map depicting the precise boundaries of Kusawa Park. All First Nation Settlement Lands that lie within the park boundaries are excluded from the park: CAFN (19 parcels); CTFN (11 parcels); and KDFN (2 parcels).

In addition, 23 fee-simple land holdings are saved and excepted from the park. Six commercial leases, or portions of them, are included in the park.

Hunting and fishing

Licensed hunting and fishing will continue to be managed under the *Wildlife Act* and through Yukon Territory Fishery Regulations under the federal *Fisheries Act*. Hunting of migratory birds is managed under the federal *Migratory Birds Convention Act*. Activities indirectly related to licensed hunting and fishing — such as motorized access — will be managed under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act* or *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* as appropriate. First Nation citizens retain their harvesting rights within their Traditional Territories. First Nation Final Agreements provide guidance to First Nation citizens on hunting & fishing.



Primrose Lake.



2. Vision and Guiding Principles

The Kusawa Park Steering Committee drafted the vision and guiding principles in March 2009. These were reviewed by members of the public and First Nations in the spring of 2009 and again in the spring of 2014. The vision respects the objectives set out for the park in the First Nation Final Agreements, and the park's legislative designation, and incorporates the input received from individuals and organizations.

*Many hearts and hands
work together, tending a
campfire to which all are
welcomed.*

Kusawa Park Vision

Vision

A Dall's sheep dozes on a steep mountainside while on the lake below a kayaker pushes off the shore, seeking the solitude and the splendour of the lake's southern waters. Around a campfire, a woman shares her grandmother's stories about the caribou that once covered these mountains; she mentions too the mountaintop ice patches with caribou dung, where signs of the ancestors' hunting practices have been found.

Kusawa immerses visitors in a sense of escape and opportunity — only hours from Whitehorse, but worlds away. There are steep mountains and narrow valleys carved by glaciers, with the long, twisting lake at its heart. Kusawa forms a passage connecting the coast to the interior and the past to the present. Rich in Tlingit, Tagish and Dän (Southern Tutchone) history, the park honours the heritage and cultures of the Carcross/Tagish, Champagne and Aishihik, and Kwanlin Dün. Kusawa Park continues a tradition of cooperation and respect — for the land, the plants

and animals, and for each other.

As the wolf clan leader Nùlátà once welcomed his neighbours to gather here, three First Nations and Yukon Parks today share responsibility for managing this special place. Many hearts and hands work together, tending a campfire to which all are welcomed.

Guiding Principles

Kusawa Park will be managed according to the following guiding principles. The guiding principles respect the objectives set out for the park in the First Nation Final Agreements, and the park's legislative designation. These principles will guide management and decision-making in achieving the objectives of the plan. Principles 2 (Ecological Integrity) and 3 (First Nation Homeland) will take precedence and cannot be compromised.

1. Inclusive engagement and management

The management of Kusawa Park, as led by the Parties, is inclusive, transparent and uses innovative strategies. There are clear and meaningful opportunities for people to learn about and contribute to the management processes.

2. Ecological integrity

The management of Kusawa Park ensures ecological integrity. The well-being of ecosystems, biodiversity, fish and wildlife populations is considered in all management decisions.

3. First Nation homeland

First Nation people pursue traditional activities, honour sites and remnants from the past, and experience First Nation values, culture and language.

4. User experiences

Kusawa Park respects and sustains opportunities for park users to experience the natural beauty and cultural resources of the area.

5. Two ways of knowing

Kusawa Park management embraces two ways of knowing. It integrates modern and traditional approaches to research, knowledge and learning and communicating about the park environment, history and culture.

6. Economic benefits and opportunities

Kusawa Park provides economic benefits and opportunities. Park management supports First Nation citizens to participate in these benefits and opportunities.



False Canyon (left) and Primrose Canyon (right).



3. Park Governance

Overview

The establishment of a Park Management Committee (PMC) is a key feature of the ongoing management of the park. The PMC's terms of reference represent the governments' collective view of the role, functions, structure, and operational procedures of the Park Management Committee.

According to the Park Management Committee Terms of Reference: The Kusawa Park Management Committee will facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the approved management plan between the Government of Yukon, Champagne and Aishihik, Kwanlin Dün and Carcross-Tagish First Nations. The Committee will be the main way that the parties work together on the implementation of the management plan and other issues related to the park as they emerge.

The Committee will remain involved in the management of the park after the overall park management plan is approved by providing recommendations concerning:

- The implementation of the approved management plan; and
- Activities and issues that were not envisioned in the approved management plan.

More specifically, the Committee will work with the Director, Yukon Parks, who has the delegated authority to implement the park management plan.

The Park Management Committee (PMC) will be jointly chaired by Government of Yukon and the three First Nation governments, will use a consensus-based approach, and will make recommendations primarily to the Director, Yukon Parks, who is a member of the PMC. Yukon Parks will administer Kusawa Park. Specific provisions have been made for economic and employment opportunities for the three First Nations in the PMC terms of reference.

Nothing in the Kusawa Park Management Plan will, or is intended to, set aside the rights guaranteed under the Carcross/Tagish First Nation (CTFN), Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) and Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) Final Agreements or Self-Government Agreements. The interpretation of settlement agreements and common law is set out in 2.6 of the Umbrella Final Agreement (1993). The Umbrella Final Agreement states that “where there is any inconsistency or conflict between any federal, territorial or municipal law and a Settlement Agreement, the Settlement Agreement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.” This is also stated in section 27 of the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*.

Regional context

The Kusawa watershed continues upslope into British Columbia, and is part of the larger Yukon River watershed. Wildlife species move across the landscape. First Nation Traditional Territories span the boundaries. Traditional and recreational uses extend beyond the boundaries. It will be necessary, then, to work with authorities with mandates adjacent to the park, and those that also encompass the park.

Land administration

Various landholdings are located within the park and form part of the park (see also Section 1). There are six commercial leases in the park: one for big game outfitting; three for trapping; and two for commercial wilderness (see Map 1 and 2 at www.kusawapark.ca/news). All six commercial leases are located on park land and form part of the park; two commercial wilderness leases straddle the park boundary on the eastern side of Primrose Lake. All commercial leases will be managed under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act* after the park is designated.

All settlement lands and private lots in the park are listed in Appendix 3. Consistent with Final Agreements, CTFN and KDFN Settlement Lands that lie within the park boundaries are excluded from the park. Chapters 25 of the three First Nation Self-Government Agreements specify that land uses on settlement land and park land will not have a significant adverse impact on the peaceful use and enjoyment of adjacent land. In addition, consistent with Final Agreements, CTFN and KDFN settlement lands that lie within the park boundary will be managed consistently with adjacent parkland (Schedule A to Chapter 10, section 7.3 and 7.4).

Park zoning maps (Maps 3–5) show the location of all private lots and settlement lands.

All laws of general application apply within the park to the extent they are consistent with the three First Nation Final Agreements. See Appendix 4 for a list of some applicable legislation.

Big-game outfitting and commercial trapping will continue to be managed under the *Wildlife Act*.

Commercial wilderness tourism activity will continue to be managed under the *Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act*.

At the time the park was established there were no mineral claims. .

Potential hydro-electric development is an outstanding issue and will be resolved among the Parties after approval of this park management plan.

Management directions

- 3.1 Pursuant to Chapters 10, Schedule A, 2.1.3, of the CTFN and KDFN Final Agreements, this plan envisions a park free from industrial development. This plan confirms that the withdrawals and prohibitions pursuant to sections 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, and 3.11 Schedule A, regarding quartz mining; placer mining; oil and gas; coal and surface dispositions; respectively, will remain in place permanently for the entire park. The current withdrawals are made pursuant to the *Quartz Mining Act* (all mines and minerals), *Placer Mining Act*, *Oil & Gas Act* (oil and gas), *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* (TLYA) and *Lands Act* (surface land disposals). The current withdrawals will continue under the respective legislation upon park designation. The current withdrawals under the TLYA and *Lands Act* will be continued under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*. Further, permits for quarrying will be considered only for park purposes. Permits for commercial forestry within the park will not be considered.
- 3.2 Kusawa Park regulations under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act* may be developed to implement various aspects of the park plan.
- 3.3 Best efforts will be made to maximize opportunities for economic benefits for CAFN, CTFN and KDFN citizens. Best efforts will be made to maximize opportunities for Yukon public civil service employment for CAFN, CTFN and KDFN citizens. Contract opportunities to provide Kusawa Park related services and development will be consistent with section 3.2 of the PMC ToR and Chapter 10, Schedule A, section 12.
- 3.4 The park plan will be reviewed within five years and every ten years thereafter as specified in the Final Agreements and the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*.



Takhini River.



4. Park Zoning

Overview

Zoning is a tool to assist with managing human activities within a park. Zoning allows some areas of the park to be managed differently than others. The Parks and Land Certainty Act allows for the establishment of park zones with different types of management.

The management approach described in this plan outlines four zones:

- Multiple Recreation Use Zone (Kusawa Lake Road)
- Natural Zone (Kusawa Lake and shoreline)
- Wildland Zone; and Special Feature-Heritage Zone (includes two site-specific features: Nàkhū or Primrose Narrows, and Kusawa Bluff).

Please keep it wild and let people discover the wilderness for themselves.

Participant at Kusawa Park Whitehorse public meeting March 2014

–

The park zoning is based on the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy (www.env.gov.yk.ca/camping-parks/parkslandcertaintyact.php). The three park management zoning maps (Maps 3–5) illustrate the park zones.

The zones offer different visitor experience opportunities. Each of them will be managed to provide an appropriate range of diverse and compatible visitor experiences. Sensitive heritage sites and features will be managed for their protection (see Section 6). For example, the frontcountry areas will be managed for higher levels of multiple recreational uses, while the backcountry areas will be managed for lower levels of use with a high wilderness character.

Different park zones allow for more focused implementation of the park management plan. For example, zoning an area as special feature provides for greater protection and for enforcement by regulation, if needed. Park zoning is often used in conjunction with other measures, such as interpretation and communication, to manage and protect park values.

During the process of developing the management plan, the steering committee considered how best to manage and protect against risks to heritage areas and features, ecological features and natural values. The committee examined a variety of options. These ranged from taking no action to identifying general areas for special management to creating defined park zones with specific provisions.

The committee members considered both passive and active management methods. An example of passive management is allowing natural processes such as fire in the backcountry to run their course. An example of active management is protecting and interpreting the existence of a certain feature.

Deciding when to use active management is based on factors such as the vulnerability, accessibility and potential threat to the feature in question. The threat to grave features is of special interest and concern to First Nations. Because these sites are highly sensitive and culturally important, they will be actively managed.

When the steering committee developed the management directions related to zoning it considered whether use needed to be regulated. The main consideration in park zoning is the protection of natural and cultural values.

The park zones are described below and shown on Maps 3–5. Various parts of the management plan refer to these zones.

Management Directions

Multiple Recreation Use Zone

- This zone includes the Kusawa Lake Road, both existing campgrounds and the Takhini River north of Kusawa Lake. The zone extends two km west of Kusawa Lake Road and 100 m east of the Takhini River shoreline.
- This zone is characterized by road access and a relatively high level of recreational use, including camping, hiking and paddling.
- This zone will be managed to maintain these opportunities, consistent with the vision and guiding principles.

Natural Zone (Kusawa Lake and shoreline)

- This zone includes Kusawa Lake, as well as the land within 100 metres of the shoreline.
- This zone is characterized by boat access to the lake for touring, fishing and hunting, and by relatively low levels of low-impact shoreline camping.
- This zone will be managed to maintain these opportunities, consistent with the vision and guiding principles.

Wildland Zone

- This zone includes those portions of Kusawa Park outside the other zones.
- This zone is characterized by a low level of use, including ongoing traditional use and

self-reliant back-country use.

- This zone will be managed to maintain its wilderness character and related opportunities, consistent with the vision and guiding principles.

Special Feature-Heritage Zone

- This zone includes two locations:
 - Nàkhū (Primrose Narrows): the east and west side of Kusawa Lake at the outlet of Primrose River and
 - Kusawa Bluff: adjacent to the east side of the Kusawa Lake Road down to the outlet of Kusawa Lake, encompassing the sideroad loop
- This zone is characterized by highly valued heritage and cultural values.
- This zone will be managed primarily to protect these values, and also to understand and interpret them.



Upper Kluhini River.



5. Landscape and Ecological Values

Overview

Approximately 60 million years ago, rocks that formed in oceans to the southwest of the North American continent, along with sedimentary formations such as reefs, collided with North America and forced the coastal margin to lift. This uplift, which continues today, created the high mountains to the south of Kusawa Lake and north to the Frederick and upper Takhini valleys. North of the Shakwak Trench in Kusawa, rock formations were added to North America by a similar process. These are lower in elevation than the coastal ranges and form part of the extensive Yukon Plateau.

The high coastal mountains and lower interior mountains and plateau, along with the prevailing winds, result in a wide range of moisture levels throughout the park. Large amounts of snowfall near the coast contribute to the formation of alpine glaciers and deep snowpack. Coastal vegetation, and species such as mountain goat that can tolerate deep snow, live there. In the continental interior, the park features very dry boreal forest ecosystems and windblown alpine slopes that support a regionally high density of Dall's sheep.

The last major glaciation occurred 22,000–14,000 years ago. It deepened valleys, left behind rocks and other material and caused water to be dammed up, creating elevated beaches along the length of Kusawa Lake. A notable feature is the windblown lake deposit in the Takhini Valley that sustains open sand dunes.

These dunes contain remnant populations of plants that were more common in post-glacial times, before

the boreal forest expanded into the region.

Glacial lake sediments in valleys have created shallow-water wetlands and marshes that provide staging and nesting habitat for waterfowl shorebirds and songbirds. Trumpeter swans nest in the Mendenhall Wetland and feed on aquatic vegetation in Primrose Valley lakes during their fall migration.

In some places, the glacial deposits are subject to periodic slope failures, creating features such as the broad alluvial fan that the Kusawa Lake Campground is situated on.

Forests and wetland habitats support moose as well as a diversity of small mammals such as Pine marten, beaver, muskrat, and numerous mice, voles and shrew species. Common forest birds are typical of the Yukon southern lakes area, such as great horned owl, gray jay, Swainson's thrush, olive-sided flycatcher, yellow-rumped warbler, chipping sparrow, dark-eyed junco, pine siskin, and white-winged crossbill.

Standing dead trees and deadfall provides rich habitat for American three-toed and black-backed woodpeckers, and cavity nesters such as boreal owl, red-breasted nuthatch, and boreal chickadee. The subalpine and alpine are a summer home for the Ibex woodland caribou herd, which is expanding its range into the area. A large number of boreal and mountain mammal species, including hoary marmot, collared pika (see photo, page 39), arctic ground squirrel, and black and grizzly bears, live in the area.

The northern portion of the park is within the range of two introduced mammal species: elk and wood bison. During the park management planning consultations the steering committee heard community concerns about elk and wood bison expanding their ranges into the park. Concerns expressed included: the potential for spread of ticks from elk to moose; the widespread impacts of wood bison hunter access on vegetation; the cultural inappropriateness of introduced species on the landscape; and the impacts on wild species from scent, direct intimidation and habitat transformation. The steering committee attempted to address these issues with management directions.

Fish in Kusawa Park include lake trout, lake whitefish, round whitefish, arctic grayling and chinook salmon. A small southwest portion of the park drains into the Alsek River and may contain Kokanee salmon.

Glacial melt contributes silt to the upper Takhini River and Primrose River, filling lakes in these valleys. Snowpack and glacial melt bring lake and river levels up throughout spring; water levels crest in late July.

Small north-facing ice patches occur at high elevations (see Box 1, page 6). These globally significant features are found in the transition between the wetter coastal mountains and the drier interior. Caribou use ice patches during the summer for relief from heat and insects and have done so for millennia. Evidence of people hunting caribou on these ice patches extends as far back as the oldest preserved ice, which is approximately 9,000 years old.

The park has 18 species of plants, animals and insects that are of some level of conservation concern (see Appendix 5), such as Baikal sedge. A number of introduced plants have been observed within the park.

Wildland fires are a natural disturbance process, necessary to maintain the ecological integrity and mosaic of healthy forested ecosystems contained within the boundary of the Kusawa Park. Wildland fire management within Kusawa Park is undertaken with a coordinated approach as identified by Government of Yukon's Wildland Fire Management Zones Directive (2003) policy.

Management Directions

5.1 Sensitive areas

All park activities will give consideration to sensitive, vulnerable or otherwise important habitat areas and ecosystems.

Criteria will be developed to list, describe and map sensitive areas (such as dunes and Thandlät fen).

5.2 Species at risk/of concern

The recovery of species at risk/of concern that naturally occur in the park will be supported as required by working with relevant agencies such as the Canadian Wildlife Service and Yukon Conservation Data Centre.

A priority will be placed on habitat protection as a key tool to support species maintenance and recovery, using active intervention when necessary.

Whole ecosystems will be considered in management decisions and Principle 2 (Ecological Integrity) and 3 (First Nation Homeland) will be addressed in this respect.

5.3 Invasive species

The spread of invasive species in the park will be deterred by managing how they are spread (road, boats, horse feed/access, reseeding).

Best practices for avoiding the spread of invasive species will be used when carrying out park work.

5.4 Species management plans

Park values will be considered in the implementation and review of species management plans:

- 5.4.1 to assist with the implementation of the Management Plan for the Aishihik Wood Bison Herd in Southwestern Yukon: goal 4, objective 2, task 2, to establish a bison-free zone; and
- 5.4.2 to provide input to the Elk Species Management Plan to discourage elk from using the park (e.g., adjust the permit hunt area boundary to conform to the park boundary).

5.5 Wildland fire

Current fire management practices will be maintained through Government of Yukon Department of Community Services, Wildland Fire Management. This includes letting fires burn, while protecting public safety, property and specific values, particularly heritage sites.

Areas within the park containing values at risk (e.g., campgrounds, visitor use areas, heritage values) will generally receive a high level of protection, such as aggressive initial attack and sustained action until the fire is extinguished. Wildland fires that occur in other areas of the park, with few values, will generally receive a response commensurate with the values at risk; expected fire behaviour; and cost associated with the fire. This action may include managing the fire to steer or direct it away from threatened values, using suppression techniques such as burning out to keep the fire to a specific area or monitoring areas to ensure that it doesn't threaten park values. An inventory of known sites and values will be compiled and shared with Wildland Fire Management.

5.6 Forest ecosystem

Commercial forestry is not allowed in the park. Natural processes for forest insects such as spruce bark beetle will be allowed to run their course. Management interventions pursuant to the Forest Resources Act and the Parks and Land Certainty Act may be considered to protect important values inside or outside the park.

This plan recommends that the boundaries in the Integrated Landscape Plan for the Champagne and Aishihik Traditional Territory (2007) and Strategic Forest Management Plan for the Champagne and Aishihik Traditional Territory (2004) be modified to match the Kusawa Park boundary and exclude the park.

Fuelwood harvesting will no longer be allowed in the park, with the exception that fuelwood harvesting may be considered for property holders within the park, and for First Nation tree harvesting that is allowed pursuant to 17.3.1 of the Final Agreements.

Areas for harvesting trees may be identified to provide for these needs. When considering harvesting trees, the following factors will be taken into account:

- 5.6.3 avoidance of sensitive areas and special feature zones;
- 5.6.4 impacts on other users and park values; and
- 5.6.5 timing.



Elder Paddy Jim with an ice patch antler point.



6. Heritage and Cultural Values

Overview

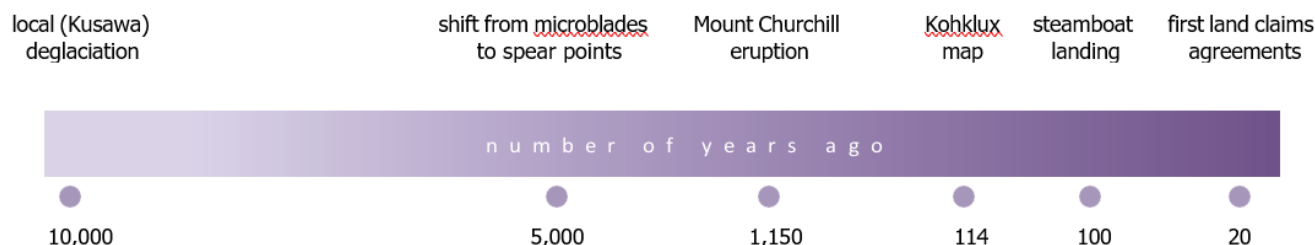
The cultural history of the Kusawa region goes back thousands of years (see Figure 1). Just as time has shaped the land, so has the land shaped the lives, lifestyles and world view of the people who have called this area home. Examples of their tangible and intangible heritage are identified in Box 2 below. Aboriginal stories about Kusawa refer back to the time when the land was still being shaped into what we see today. This is when the mythical being “Crow” tipped his wings, to make the waters draining directly into the Pacific flow one way; those flowing into the Yukon basin, go the opposite direction.

Kusawa Lake’s two Aboriginal language names reflect its more recent dynamic multicultural history. The lake’s modern official name, Kusawa, is Tlingit in origin, and means “long lake,” while the Dän (Southern Tutchone) name, Nàkhū Măn, means “raft crossing lake.” The latter name refers to the preferred means of crossing the lake, and the narrows, where this was done.

The long deep valley of Kusawa Lake, shaped by geology and climate, was a travel corridor, a place traversed by those journeying here from the north, south, east and west. Various points along the lakeshore were traditional meeting places as well as favoured hunting and gathering locales. The park’s various kwāḍay dān tăn (“long-ago peoples trails”) were used in times past on a regular daily basis by Dän (Southern Tutchone), the interior people who lived in the Kusawa area. These routes were also used

by neighbouring peoples who might be visiting the Dän for trade or other reasons or headed to other settlements further afield. Aboriginal people of the greater region, beyond Kusawa, came together here for social and economic reasons. This history is central to the three First Nations — Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kwanlin Dün First Nation — who now work together with Government of Yukon to manage this area.

Figure 1. Timeline, Kusawa region



Kusawa is known as an important hunting area, a place where the ancestors harvested *mazi* (caribou) and *mbay* (sheep) for thousands of years. In more recent times the area has become known for *kanay* (moose). Kusawa is also important for harvesting other bounties from the land — small game and game birds, berries and fish. While Kusawa is known as a hunting place, fishing was also very important traditionally, especially in places such as a s - Nàkhı (Primrose Narrows), which remained open water through the winter.

Like to see it made into park-use land.

Specific areas of the park beyond the lake corridor are known to be good places to harvest different kinds of things. The Takhini River valley, including the Takhini River valley, including The Kla Chù (Stony Creek) area, for example, is known for *säl* (gopher or Arctic ground squirrel). This little animal is a highly favoured food source and its fur is used to make clothing and blankets. The Takhini wetlands are good for waterfowl hunting. Knowledge of these special places continues to be passed on within First Nation families, who still harvest these nutritious and tasty country foods.

Elijah Smith

Evidence of ancient camps and more recent traditional use sites has been found along the lakeshore and throughout the park. More than 70 sites that preserve traces of Aboriginal history have been identified to date. These range in age from relatively recent back to the time when the land was just emerging from its mantle of glacial-period ice. The site named Kusawa Bluff, at the outlet of Kusawa Lake, is the most researched and accessible of the ancient sites. Seasonal use of this location has been going on for more than 5,000 years. Traditionally, alpine ice patches were locations where Dän (Southern Tutchone) hunters were often assured of finding caribou in the hot summer months. Finds of ancient hunting weaponry show that these patches have been used as hunting sites for thousands of years. The tools, made of wood, antler, bone and sinew, as well as animal and plant remains found frozen in the ice patches, are an exceptional record of past life and the earliest years of human presence in the Kusawa area. Animals extinct in Yukon by historic times, such as bison, are preserved in a number of ice patch sites. Of the 25 alpine ice patch sites identified in Yukon, eight are within the Kusawa Park boundaries (see Box 1).

Many of the Aboriginal cabins and caches located in the Kusawa area are situated on First Nation Settlement Land, and therefore are not within the park boundaries. One example is Dū Chù Gà, also

known as Steamboat Landing, a traditional family camping place located at the mouth of the Mendenhall River.

These log structures reflect the changing pattern of Aboriginal land use that occurred in the 19th and early 20th centuries, once local people had metal axes and began building more permanent structures.

Remains of *njäl* (brush structures), the older style of Aboriginal houses, have also been documented in some locales in the park. These kinds of structures are quite fragile, and it is suspected that they were formerly more abundant. They likely were once found at the park's main Kusawa Lake Campground, which is situated on what was once an important traditional family campsite.



William Smith at the outfitter cabin at Rose Lake.

In the early 20th century, as a result of a surge in prospecting and mining in the Kluane region and the 1913 Chisana Gold Rush, the first road was built through the Kusawa area. The Kluane Wagon Road, as it was known, went from Whitehorse west to the Kluane region. Most freight and passengers from Whitehorse travelled on small sternwheelers down the Yukon River to the Takhini River, and then up the Takhini River to the mouth of the Mendenhall River, from which point goods and travellers moved overland.

During the Second World War, the Kluane Wagon Road route was developed into the Alaska Highway. Access to the Kusawa region for outfitting and recreation increased, and it was following this time that the road south to Kusawa Lake was put in.

The Takhini River settlement, the closest to the park, is a more recent First Nation community, and includes many people who actively use park lands and the general area today. During the Kusawa Park consultations in February to April 2014 with First Nations and members of the public, some First Nation people expressed their concern about being able to continue to carry out traditional activities in the park.

Today, the Kusawa area remains home to individuals who are still deeply connected to living on the land, and to families and First Nations with generations of history in the area.

There is a strong desire among the First Nations and Government of Yukon to work together to celebrate, conserve and interpret heritage resources and cultural values within the park.

Box 2. Examples of tangible and intangible heritage

Tangible

stone/wood tools
camps: *njäl* (brush houses), hearths
culturally modified trees
graves, trails and structures
berry patches
sites, not just objects

Intangible

story places (*Kwanshalta* story)
place names
viewscales
connections (between people and places)
relationships (between people and the park)
timelines (where past, present and future are linked)

Management Directions

- 6.1 Intangible cultural values such as stories and place names will be supported through research and promoted through interpretation and other means (such as published park maps).
- 6.2 The parties will consider multiple perspectives on heritage and cultural management.
- 6.3 Table 2 lists specific management directions for three sites: *Nàkhŭ* (Primrose Narrows), Thandlät ice patch, and Kusawa Bluff (see also Section 4 and Maps 3–5).

For other heritage sites, when deciding whether to use a passive or active approach to management, these are some of the factors to consider:

- 6.3.1 importance of the site;
 - 6.3.2 accessibility;
 - 6.3.3 vulnerability or sensitivity; and
 - 6.3.4 risk of potential damage.
- 6.4 Kusawa Park is a place to celebrate and encourage First Nation traditional uses. First Nation cultural camps are an important activity in the park. Cultural camps will be supported by collaborating with First Nation people to address:
 - 6.4.1 infrastructure needs and impacts;
 - 6.4.2 appropriate timing and location of cultural camps (which may include existing campgrounds or other locations in the park); and
 - 6.4.3 other management considerations, including activities that could attract wildlife.

Note: Traditional use is also a key component of the interpretive strategy mandated in Section 10.

*Table 2. Management directions, 6.3: Nàkhū (Primrose Narrows),
Thandlät ice patch and Kusawa Bluff*

Area/ feature/site	Considerations	Management Directions
Nàkhū / Primrose Narrows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many heritage and cultural values - Accessible by boat - CAFN and CTFN Settlement Land encompasses heritage values <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and map heritage values - Preserve and protect brush camps, graves, values such as culturally modified trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designate the site as a special feature-heritage zone - Prohibit off-road vehicle (ORV) access except by park permit for pre-existing use - Designate areas for camping and firewood - Use park permits for fuelwood cutting to direct activity away from heritage and park values - Develop interpretation to communicate values of area
Thandlät ice patch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thandlät is the most prominent ice patch feature in the park and access to it is relatively easy. Annual melting of the ice patch may expose artifacts that would be at risk - The associated wetland/fen feature has not yet been properly mapped - The site has good interpretive potential - The site is protected under the Historic Resources Act (removal of artifacts is prohibited) - Eight ice patch sites are identified in the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management needs for Thandlät will be achieved through ORV access restrictions. - The ongoing monitoring of alpine ice patches is supported - Seek opportunities to interpret and communicate the value of ice patch sites
Kusawa Bluff at lake outlet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site is easily accessible and is therefore the most vulnerable archaeological site in the park - Has been subject to systematic investigation - The site may extend north and south - The site is being eroded by wind and water processes and by paddlers launching boats in the Takhini River - The site is surrounded by the Multiple Recreation Use zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designate as a special feature-heritage zone - Develop interpretive signage to share values and direct activity away from the trail/bluff - Seek opportunities to interpret and communicate the value of the site - Close motorized access route to Kusawa Bluff - Develop access for paddlers elsewhere



Recreational use by Kusawa Lake Campground



7. Recreational Uses, Facilities and Services

Recreational Uses

The number of people who visit Kusawa Park varies widely, depending on location, season and type of activity. Most recreational activity occurs along Kusawa Lake Road. According to the Department of Highways and Public Works an average of 100 vehicles per day use the road in the summer.

I want to keep Kusawa quiet and beautiful.

Participant at public meeting

During consultations with First Nations and members of the public in February to April 2014 people said they wanted to continue using Kusawa Park for traditional use and camping. Some people had concerns about increasing levels of use and wanted the number of park visitors to remain at or below current levels. These desires are partly reflected in the park vision and guiding principles. See Section 3, specifically Principle 3 (First Nation Homeland) and Principle 4 (User Experiences). The park plan aims to balance these concerns as well as camper experience, campground capacity and First Nation traditional use.

Kusawa Park consultations were held from February to April 2014 with First Nations and members of the public. Comments included:

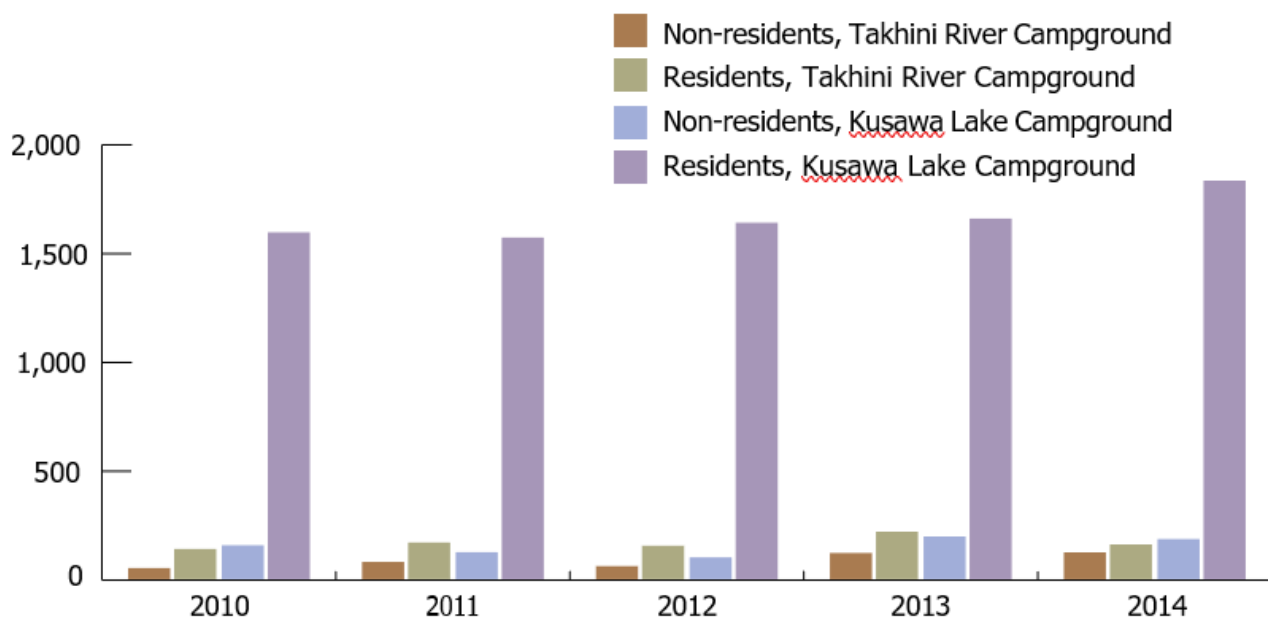
- many people noted that more visitors were starting to use the park;
- some people noted that the two campgrounds were established at the site of traditional First Nation fishing sites;
- some commercial users feel displaced;
- some people wanted to maintain the existing scale of campground services and operations;
- some people wanted the number of visitors to decrease; and
- some people wanted the campgrounds to be enlarged to meet the increasing demand.

Camping

There are two territorial campgrounds in Kusawa Park (see Map 4):

- Kusawa Lake Campground, with 56 sites in three loop roads (km 24, Kusawa Lake Road), generally fills up on warm summer weekends. The campground is less full on cooler summer weekends and during the week. Most campers are Yukon residents, primarily from Whitehorse. Peak use occurs in July (see Figure 2).
- Takhini River Campground (km 15, Kusawa Lake Road) has 13 sites and is less well used than Kusawa Lake Campground. Yukon residents account for two-thirds of use. Peak capacity weekends occur in late May and early June, when paddling on Takhini River is popular.

Figure 2. Visitation in Kusawa Park campgrounds, 2010-2014



Traditional and recreational uses also occur along the length of Kusawa Lake Road in many places.

A conservation officer cabin is located at Rose Lake. The public have access to the cabin for non-commercial use for part of each month throughout the year.

Kusawa Lake Road camping capacity and safety need to be examined for several reasons:

- Kusawa Lake Campground is at risk of mudslides and landslides (see Box 3). Campground loops 2 and 3 lie within the areas that are most at risk.
- On warm summer weekends the campgrounds can be full and there may not be enough room to park at the boat launch.
- Kusawa Lake Road is at risk from riverbank erosion at Takhini River Campground.
- The safety and enjoyment of campground patrons can be affected by off-road vehicles (ORVs) in and near Kusawa Lake Campground.

Box 3. Mudslides and landslides

The alpine slopes in the catchment basin above the Kusawa Lake Campground are blanketed by thick glacial sediments that overlie discontinuous permafrost. Weather, rainfall, snowmelt and other factors can cause the permafrost to slump. This in turn can cause the upper layer of soil to become unstable and give way. In the area above the campground, Yukon Parks maintains a weather station to record key information such as rainfall and soil moisture. When certain levels are exceeded, the campground is closed and evacuated to ensure public safety.

There is no park service facility to serve as an interpretive centre or meeting point or headquarters for park maintenance. A central facility would address safety, campground patrol, maintenance and interpretation needs.

Hiking

Hiking occurs from Kusawa Lake Road and Takhini River. An informal hiking route has developed at Kusawa Ridge on a rough, steep, unmarked trail along the north fork of an unnamed creek.

More remote hiking destinations are found throughout the park. Hikers reach the park by air (float plane or helicopter) or by boat on Kusawa Lake. The current level of hiking use is thought to be low. In the remote areas of the park, routes such as the Chilkat Trail have developed through traditional use over thousands of years. More recently, trails have developed through activities related to outfitting and trapping.

For management planning directions related to trail development, see Section 4 and Section 8.

Boating

Most motorized boating in the park occurs on Kusawa Lake. The southern end of Kusawa Lake is subject to sudden high winds that can make boat travel treacherous and boating is less common there (see Map 3). Some overnight use at attractive beach sites is related to boating, and boaters often fish at key sites. There is occasional use by sea kayakers. Sea-doo's (personal watercraft) are also occasionally reported. Motorized boating is reported on Jo Jo Lake, often associated with sport fishing. There are reports of motorized boating, including jet boats, on the Takhini River for recreation and fishing.

River-based activity is focused on the Takhini River, primarily for canoeing. Some paddlers go to

Primrose Lake for more remote recreational and commercial paddling trips.

Boat access to Kusawa Lake is serviced by a boat ramp and two docks at Kusawa Lake Campground.

Fishing

Fishing is focused on Kusawa Lake, mostly for lake trout and occasionally for arctic grayling and whitefish. People also fish on Jo Jo Lake and Takhini River. The number of recreational anglers was assessed in 1990, 2001 and 2006; the 2006 assessment counted approximately 1,500 recreational anglers using Kusawa Lake. This was an increase over previous numbers. A large majority of the anglers at Kusawa Lake are from Whitehorse. Most of them use boats and stay in the Kusawa Lake Campground. Fishing regulations apply to waterbodies in Kusawa Park.

Hunting

Kusawa Park is attractive to sheep hunters. Most sheep hunting in the park is managed by permit. Licensed hunting for mountain goat and caribou is closed. Licensed hunting for moose in the park is by permit only. Licensed hunting continues to be managed under the *Wildlife Act*. First Nation Final Agreements provide guidance to First Nation Citizens on hunting and fishing.

Winter activity

Winter use occurs in two key areas:

- Kusawa Lake Campground is a staging point for trips on Kusawa Lake, primarily by ORVs, for ice fishing and also snowmobile and occasionally by ski and dog team. The extent of this use is unknown and depends on weather and ice conditions. Some areas of Kusawa Lake do not freeze during the winter.
- Rose Lake is a gateway to Kusawa Park by an overland route along the Fish-Mud-Rose lakes trail and the Watson River trail. Most people travel the former route by snowmobile, with occasional use by ski and dog team. Most winter travel occurs between February and April. There is through traffic to Primrose, Johns and Kusawa lakes and some people travel on to Dezadeash Lake. Most travel groups are small, except for annual trips by school snowmobile groups and the Canadian Rangers.

Management Directions

7.1 A campground planning process will be undertaken to address the following matters:

- 7.1.1 campground design — appropriate number and type of campsites (tent sites, walk-in sites, group sites);
- 7.1.2 conservation of ecological and heritage values;
- 7.1.3 First Nation traditional uses within the campgrounds (see Section 6);
- 7.1.4 public safety in relation to risks of flooding, landslides and erosion;
- 7.1.5 the growing demand for campsites; and

- 7.1.6 interpretation of heritage values (coordinated with the interpretive plan; see Section 10).
- 7.2 Backcountry campsite facilities (outhouse, fire ring) may be established at two existing sites accessible by boat at the southern end of Kusawa Lake.
- 7.3 A trail planning process will be undertaken to address the following matters:
- Appropriate locations and uses for trails, types and standards;
 - Areas where no trails will be developed;
 - Maps, signage and interpretation (see Section 8 on designated ORV trails);
 - Consideration of Heritage Trails and Routes as defined in section 11.3, Schedule A to Chapter 10 in the Final Agreements.
- 7.4 Planning for the Chilkat Trail will take place, and address the following matters:
- CTFN's interests under Chapter 10, Schedule A, section 12, and Chapter 13;
 - CTFN recognizes the importance of the Chilkat Trail to many First Nations, including family relationships and history; and
 - CTFN shall be directly involved in any planning and administrative processes regarding the Chilkat Trail.
- 7.5 Monitoring of recreational use will be designed to consider the following:
- off-road vehicle (ORV) use in the park;
 - camping use along the shorelines of Kusawa and Jo Jo lakes; and
 - boating.
- 7.6 A park service facility may be developed with the following attributes:
- a modest physical infrastructure that supports programming in the outdoors;
 - a focus on interpretive programming, such as drying racks, *njäl* (brush houses), tent frames and smokehouses;
 - a base of operations for park staff, and equipment that provides support, guidance and safety for park visitors.

For more information about new visitor facilities, see Section 10.



Rose Lake.



8. Park Access

Overview

The park's long history of human use has resulted in a network of overland travel routes and trails. These have been used for thousands of years for access to critical game and resource areas, to connect to other trails, and to journey between settlements, both within the Kusawa region and in more distant settings. During the 19th century at least, the main north-south travel routes through the Kusawa area were important trading trails.

Some of the region's many overland travel routes have seen less use over the past half century, just as some new routes have similarly come to be developed. Many park trails continue to be regularly utilized by First Nation citizens and other community members for trapping, hunting, and other purposes.

The approaches to the park area from the east side make use of winter Caterpillar trails or mining roads.

Off-road vehicle (ORV) access in the park will be managed under the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* (TLYA) and/or the *Parks and Land Certainty Act* as appropriate. For the purpose of this park plan ORVs are defined the same way as in the TLYA, which includes four-wheel drive trucks, dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles. This definition does not include snowmobiles or snow machines.

First Nations have the right to employ traditional and current methods of and equipment for harvesting and these rights can be limited only for conservation, public health and public safety, only to the extent necessary and only after consultation. This includes ORV access.

People have a range of options for access to Kusawa Park. Most access occurs by motor vehicle off the Alaska Highway along Kusawa Lake Road. Additional access occurs from the Kusawa Lake Road frontcountry area by ORV and on foot, horse, snowmobile and skis. Kusawa Lake and Takhini River are usually reached by motorboat and canoe, respectively (see Map 4).

In the less accessible backcountry areas most access is by aircraft, most often float plane, but also by helicopter and planes with wheels or skis. Overland access occurs at remote points in the park throughout the year, including by horse, snowmobile and skis to Rose Lake and Frederick Lake valleys. First Nation people travel to the park for subsistence activities using traditional and current methods and equipment, pursuant to 16.4.3 of the Final Agreements. Outfitting concessions have developed horseback trails through many valley bottom routes.

ORV ownership and access into mountainous areas near Whitehorse has increased dramatically in the past few decades, although generally, Kusawa Park has not witnessed this increase. ORVs have been used to a limited extent in the park, primarily to pursue activities such as fuelwood cutting, trapping, ice fishing and hunting. Given the terrain and lack of ORV trails, Kusawa is not a destination for recreational ORV riding.

To fulfill Guiding Principles 2 (Ecological Integrity) and 4 (User Experiences) the park plan must address the appropriate means and level of park access. Access to sensitive cultural and habitat features is a particular concern. See Section 3 for more information on the guiding principles.

The Kusawa Park Steering Committee assessed the various types of access into the front-country and back-country areas of the park. The committee members thought carefully about the full range of motorized and non-motorized access. They considered input from members of the public and First Nations and the impact of ORVs on wildlife and sensitive ecosystems. The committee took into account the following factors:

- There is a need to manage access to the frontcountry;
- Backcountry access is currently estimated to be low and dispersed, and periodic, low-level monitoring will be appropriate;
- ORV use can have significant impacts on ecological and heritage values;
- Motorized and non-motorized access needs to be managed to reduce conflicts; and
- ORV access in the park can be managed under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*.

Management Directions

8.1 ORV use in the park will be limited to certain areas, as follows:

- ORVs may be used only on designated ORV trails, in areas designated for ORV use, on park roads, on the frozen surface of Kusawa Lake, or as authorized by a park permit;
- Designated ORV trails and areas may exist only in the Multiple Recreation Use zone and on the frozen surface of Kusawa Lake;
- The ORV trails shown on Map 4 are designated on an interim basis;
- Designated trails and areas may be added, removed and adjusted in the future (see Section 7 management directions regarding the trail planning process);
- Public education will be undertaken regarding designated trails and areas, including signage of trails and terminal points; and
- ORV use on park roads and in campgrounds will be managed to ensure public safety and avoid public nuisance, including noise.

Changes to trails and areas designated for ORV use will consider the following factors:

- designating terminal points of trails, such as for park-and-walk access to alpine areas; and
- areas identified as having high ecological or heritage values.

8.2 All aircraft will require a park permit to land in Kusawa Park.



Paddlers on the Takhini River.



9. Commercial Activities

Overview

Kusawa Park was a traditional trading area for the Aboriginal peoples of the coast and the interior. Commercial activity in Kusawa Park, including big-game outfitting and trapping, dates back a century. Johnnie Johns and Alex Van Bibber were key figures in the industry during the early and middle 20th century. Fur farming took place approximately 90 years ago, including a site at Nàkhū. Trapping has occurred for hundreds of years, since before the European fur trade began. Commercial wilderness tourism activity is more recent, beginning in the latter part of the twentieth century. A succession of outfitters has operated the outfitting concession at Rose and Primrose Lakes, in the southeast corner of the park.

Commercial activity in the park includes outfitting, trapping and wilderness tourism. The level of activity is low for all these uses. Most wilderness tourism, such as guided trips not involving wildlife harvesting, takes place at the north end of the park. Commercial wilderness tourism activity will continue to be managed under the *Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act* and Chapter 22, Schedule A, Part II of the CAFN, CTFN and KDFN Final Agreements as applicable.

See Section 3 for more information on legislation related to the park.

Big-game outfitting

There are two active outfitting concessions in the park: Number 16 (Devilhole Outfitting) on the west side of Kusawa Lake; and Number 17 (Northcurl Outfitters) at the northeast corner of the park (see Map 6). Guided hunters usually hunt Dall's sheep and moose; some hunt black and grizzly bear and mountain goat.

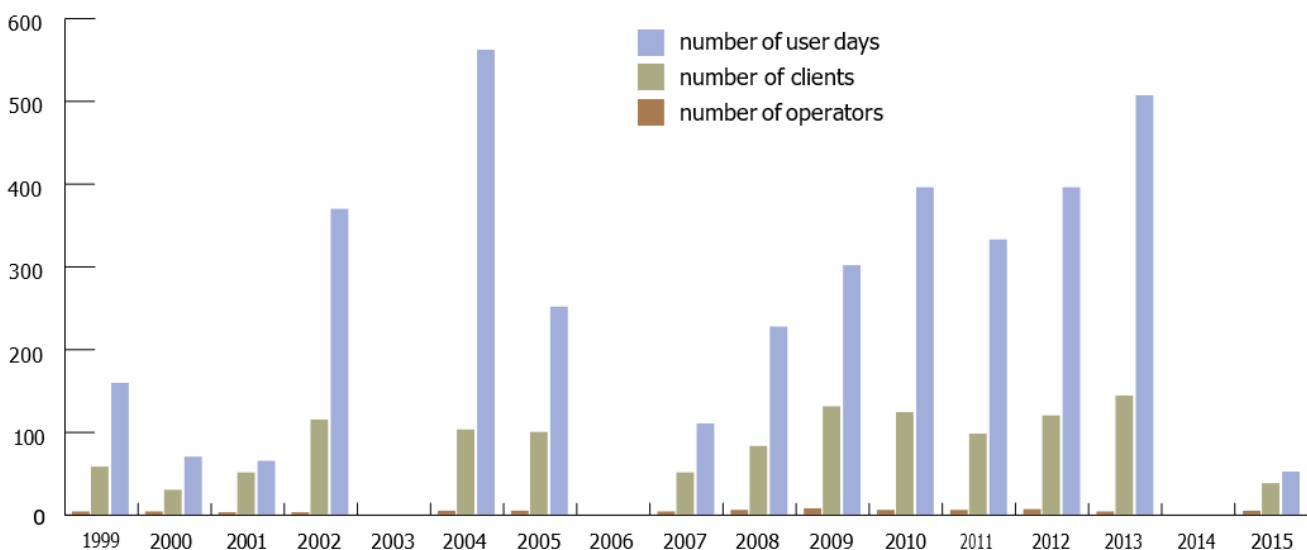
Trapping

There are nine trapping concessions within the park. Historically, 13 species have been trapped in the park, mostly Arctic ground squirrel (which are not commercially harvested), muskrat and lynx. Trapping records for the last 25 years show a significant decline in trapping activity. The annual harvest in the 1980s and 1990s often yielded more than a thousand animals, but by 2008 this number had dwindled to an annual average of 25 animals for all species. The park falls within the Marten Conservation Area and the harvest quota for marten is zero for all trapping concessions. Guided trapping (tourism) is allowed under the *Wildlife Act*, but no recorded trips have been made in the park.

Wilderness tourism

Commercial wilderness tourism is focused on guided canoeing on the Takhini River. Trips usually run from either Kusawa Lake Campground or Takhini River Campground to Mendenhall Landing. Approximately 20 licensed operators have guided clients on the Takhini River since 1999. An average of five operators guide clients on the Takhini River each year. On average, there are 271 user days per year (user days are calculated by multiplying number of clients by the number of days they travel; see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Number of guided clients, Takhini River, 1999–2015



Note: data unavailable for 2003, 2006 and 2014; fewer than three operators in those years

Other guided activity in the park is limited to one or more annual backpacking trips that traverse the park, the occasional river rafting trip on the Primrose River (these have not occurred since the early 2000s), and guided horseback riding trips in the vicinity of Rose Lake.

During First Nation and public consultations in February–April 2014 some people said they wanted the level of activity to remain at or below the current levels of use. People also expressed concern about a potential increase in commercial activity.

There is the potential for conflicts between commercial operators and other park users, primarily around overlap in scheduling their respective activities. Park visitors and hunters will need to be informed of each other's presence. Potential conflicts may need to be addressed among recreational users, First Nation and resident hunters and anglers, and commercial operators regarding the use of aircraft for their respective activities. These potential conflicts need to be addressed in order to fulfill Guiding Principle 3 (First Nation Homeland) and 4 (User Experience).

Landholdings associated with outfitting, trapping and wilderness tourism are also discussed in Section 3.

Management Directions

9.1 The following factors will be considered when reviewing applications for commercial activity permits:

- impacts on natural and heritage values;
- respect for First Nation values and traditional uses;
- impacts on other park users and potential benefits, such as enhancing visitor experience;
- the amount and availability of information by which to assess potential impacts;
- the potential to mitigate and/or reverse negative impacts;
- the potential for economic benefits and opportunities; and
- licence or permit provisions of Part 2 of Schedule A of Chapter 22 of KDFN and CTFN Final Agreements, if applicable.

9.2 Trapline concessions will continue in the park. If a trapline concession holder wishes to apply for or relocate a trapline cabin, it will be considered through a park permitting process.



Nàkhū.



10. Interpretation and communication

Overview

The Kusawa Park region has been the site of traditional use for thousands of years. This history — along with ongoing traditional use in a relatively undisturbed landscape — is central to the park vision and guiding principles (See Section 2). A major objective of interpretation and communications for the park will be to foster an appreciation of the special qualities of Kusawa Park. An interpretation and communication program will need to address the distinctly separate resident Yukoner and tourist audiences who use Kusawa Park. The Kusawa Park interpretation program is intended to enhance visitor experience. Public awareness, engagement and stewardship, and interpretation and communication are integral management tools for achieving the park vision and principles.

I would like the hiking trails around the Kusawa Lake Campground to be mapped and perhaps marked to make it easier for those unfamiliar with the area.

Participant at public meeting, March 2014

Kusawa Park is frequently used by local residents and First Nations.

The park is not as well known to visitors, but this is expected to change as more photos, videos and articles about it are published. The demand for on-site and off-site information and interpretive programs is expected to increase.

Between 2006 and 2010 sporadic interpretation occurred in the form of “Celebrating Yukon Parks” programs. These were delivered by park interpreters at many schools, public venues and Yukon campgrounds, including Kusawa Lake Campground. Currently, no interpretive program is delivered at Kusawa Park.

Local First Nations interpret their traditional use in the broader context of the southwestern Yukon landscape, where Kusawa is a central locale. They draw upon a variety of media and opportunities to share their stories and express their culture, including websites as well as the interpretive facilities they now operate (the Da Kų Cultural Centre in Haines Junction, operated by Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre in Whitehorse). Park staff also perform a communication function while patrolling the two campgrounds in the park.

Some information on the park’s development and values is provided through the Kusawa Park Steering Committee website and newsletters and through the Yukon Parks website, Facebook page and information booths at periodic events.

Yukon Parks delivers in-person and static interpretive programs at two territorial parks: Tombstone and Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk. At these parks, interpretive programs, infrastructure and communications are based on the key messages and objectives in their interpretation strategies. A main objective for these parks is to foster visitor appreciation and understanding of First Nation culture (at Tombstone) and Inuvialuit culture (at Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk) and traditional use at both parks. Other interpretive materials include a park brochure and map for each of Yukon’s four territorial parks — Coal River Springs, Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk, Ni’iinlii Njik (Fishing Branch) and Tombstone — along with a series of publications on wildlife, bear safety, leave-no-trace camping and wilderness ethics.

During the consultations in February–April 2014 with First Nations and members of the public, the steering committee heard people talk of the importance of ongoing traditional First Nation use of Kusawa Park.

Protection and promotion of ongoing traditional use are central to the park vision and guiding principles and will be core elements of communication and interpretation. An interpretation and communication plan should be developed. Interpretation of natural values and recreational opportunities also needs to be provided.

There is a history of mudslides at Kusawa Lake Campground. Yukon Parks will continue to communicate information around the risk of slides and other public safety matters.

Interpretation and communication are an important and effective part of park management. They not only enhance visitor experience but also support public safety and compliance.

Management Directions

10.1 An integrated interpretation and communication plan will be developed which will identify strategies and actions to support the implementation of the park management plan through communication, interpretation, information and education. The park vision and guiding principles will guide the development of interpretive themes and delivery methods.

10.2 The following factors should also be considered when developing the plan:

- enhancing visitor experiences, appreciation of natural and heritage values, public safety, and compliance with applicable legislation;
- using a storytelling approach that focuses on narratives and not just facilities (campfire talks, innovative delivery methods);
- learning experiences that focus on authenticity and respect for differences;
- effective use of a modest park facility (see Section 7);
- telling the story of First Nation presence in terms of continuity of traditional use over time (not just in the past) and a way of life;
- using Aboriginal languages in interpretive materials and services (Dän/Southern Tutchone and Tlingit); and
- consistent visual identity.



Collared Pika.



11. Inventory, Monitoring and Research

Overview

The inventory, monitoring, and research (IMR) program (Box 4) of Yukon Parks is a system-wide framework designed to inform park management decisions, understand park values, understand threats to park values, and track success in achieving the vision and principles. The IMR program identifies and ranks values, threats or stressors, key management actions, critical questions, existing programs and information gaps for each territorial park. Park management plans — together with the expertise of staff, technical and local experts — contribute to the development of an IMR program specific to each park. In addition, the IMR program provides researchers with key questions and guidance for conducting studies that benefit Yukon parks.

Kusawa Park has a rich variety of heritage, cultural and ecological values. According to section 2.1.3, Schedule A, Chapter 10 of the CTFN and KDFN Final Agreements the park was established, “to protect for all time a natural area of territorial significance and of important cultural significance to the Three First Nations, which includes portions of the Yukon-Stikine Highlands, Ruby Ranges and Yukon Southern Lakes eco-regions, which contain important physical and biological features, as well as sites of archaeological, historical and cultural value.”

Over the past 40 years studies have documented the heritage, cultural and ecological values of the area. Key studies include an ecological land classification and terrain classification in 1980 and an archaeological resource inventory and oral history in 1985. In recent years, work has included a variety of biodiversity and habitat inventories, gyrfalcon monitoring, trail mapping, and monitoring of a slide site in the alpine above the campground. Long-term monitoring of fish and wildlife populations is undertaken by Department of Environment, Fish & Wildlife Branch, as part of its management activities. Annual monitoring of Yukon ice patches is undertaken by Heritage Resources (Government of Yukon, Department of Tourism and Culture). In the Kusawa Park region, this work is done jointly with CAFN, CTFN and KDFN.

Box 4. Inventory, monitoring and research

Inventory: count or study a population or area to take stock of its current status

Monitoring: track the changes that occur over time

Research: find information to answer questions or test theories

Management Directions

- 11.1 An inventory, monitoring and research (IMR) plan will be developed. The IMR plan will give direction to the IMR program.

The Kusawa Park Inventory, Monitoring and Research program has five objectives:

- inventory and monitor ecosystems to contribute to managing for long-term ecological integrity;
- inventory and monitor heritage values;
- monitor human use and impacts, to inform proactive management;
- identify key information gaps and research questions; and
- integrate modern and traditional approaches to research.

- 11.2 The Kusawa IMR plan will identify priorities that reflect the purposes and objectives of the IMR program. These are some potential priorities:

- sensitive species, habitats and ecosystems, and implementation of monitoring programs where required;
- archaeological, palaeontological and historical sites inventory (focused initially on the southern end of the Kusawa Lake shoreline);
- oral history work to support this inventory;
- ongoing monitoring or adaptive management practices for those heritage sites that would benefit from such an approach;
- previously documented archaeological/historical sites flagged for concern (there may be a need to reassess/reinterpret these sites based on new

- knowledge and research or a need to monitor sites and adapt management as required);
- assess climate change related risks and sensitivity in Kusawa Park, including risk to ecological integrity, biological diversity and human use (i.e., will the park measurably alter with climate change or be more resilient);
- ice patch research and monitoring;
- distribution and status of species of conservation interest;
- landslide risk at the Kusawa Lake Campground;
- annual gyrfalcon nesting survey;
- periodic fishery and creel surveys; and
- periodic backcountry trail access monitoring.



Sheep head beadwork.

Appendix 1. Schedule A: Kusawa Park

(Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Kwanlin Dun First Nation Final Agreements, Chapter 10)

1.0 Definitions

1.1 In this schedule, the following definitions shall apply.

“Approved Management Plan” means the management plan in respect of which a consensus has been reached under 6.3 or 6.4, or decided by the Minister under 6.5 of this schedule.

“Area” means the area shown as Kusawa Park on Map Sheet Kusawa Park in Appendix B - Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement and in Appendix B - Maps, which forms a separate volume to the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Final Agreement, including Crown Land, Settlement Land and privately titled land.

“Carcross/Tagish First Nation” means the Carcross/Tagish First Nation once its self-government agreement is brought into effect pursuant to the *Yukon First Nations Self-Government Act*, S.C. 1993, c. 35 and prior to that time means the Carcross/ Tagish First Nations Band.

“Carcross/Tagish Firm” has the same meaning as in the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement once that agreement comes into effect and prior to that time means an entity which complies with the legal requirements to carry on business in the Yukon and which is either:

- (a) a corporation of which more than 50 percent of the corporation’s voting shares are beneficially owned by the Carcross/Tagish First Nations Band or its members;
- (b) a co-operative controlled by the Carcross/Tagish First Nations Band or its members;
- (c) a sole proprietorship operated by a member of the Carcross/Tagish First Nations Band;
- (d) a partnership in which at least 50 percent of the partners are the Carcross/Tagish First Nations Band or its members; or
- (e) any other entity more than 50 percent owned or controlled by the Carcross/Tagish First Nations Band or its members.

“Carcross/Tagish People” has the same meaning as in the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement once that agreement comes into effect and prior to that time, means the members of the Carcross/Tagish First Nations Band.

“Champagne and Aishihik Firm” has the same meaning as in the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement. “Champagne and Aishihik People” has the same meaning as in the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement.

“Chilkat Trail” means the trail shown as Chilkat Trail on Map Sheet Kusawa Park in Appendix B - Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement.

“Effective Date” means the earlier of the Effective Dates of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement or Kwanlin Dun First Nation Final Agreement.

“Final Agreement” means with respect to:

- (a) the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement among Canada, the Yukon and the Carcross/Tagish First Nation brought into effect pursuant to Settlement Legislation;

- (b) the Kwanlin Dun First Nation, the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Final Agreement among Canada, the Yukon and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation brought into effect pursuant to Settlement Legislation; and
- (c) the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement among Canada, the Yukon and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations brought into effect pursuant to Settlement Legislation.

“First Nation Firms” means Carcross/Tagish Firms, Kwanlin Dun Firms, and Champagne and Aishihik

Firms. “Forest Resources” has the same meaning as in Chapter 17 - Forest Resources.

“Kwanlin Dun” has the same meaning as in the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Final Agreement once that agreement comes into effect and prior to that time, means the members of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Band.

“Kwanlin Dun First Nation” means the Kwanlin Dun First Nation once its self-government agreement is brought into effect pursuant to the Yukon First Nations Self-Government Act, S.C. 1993, c. 35 and prior to that time means the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Band.

“Kwanlin Dun Firm” has the same meaning as in the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Final Agreement once that agreement comes into effect and prior to that time means an entity which complies with the legal requirements to carry on business in the Yukon and which is either:

- (a) a corporation of which more than 50 percent of the corporation’s voting shares are beneficially owned by the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Band or its members;
- (b) a co-operative controlled by the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Band or its members;
- (c) a sole proprietorship operated by a member of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Band;
- (d) a partnership in which at least 50 percent of the partners are the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Band or its members; or
- (e) any other entity more than 50 percent owned or controlled by the Kwanlin Dun First Nation or its members.

“Park” means Kusawa Park established by the Yukon pursuant to the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 165, in respect of a portion of the Area, in accordance with this schedule.

“Three First Nations” means the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, the Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

- 1.2 In this schedule, “mines and minerals” and the “right to work” the mines and minerals shall have their meanings according to Laws of General Application and not as defined in Chapter 1 - Definitions.

2.0 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of this schedule are:

- 2.11 to establish a natural environment park to be known as Kusawa Park under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 165;
- 2.12 to provide a process to develop a management plan for the Park;
- 2.13 to protect for all time a natural area of territorial significance and of important cultural significance to the Three First Nations, which includes portions of the Yukon-Stikine Highlands, Ruby Ranges and Yukon Southern Lakes eco- regions, which contain important physical and biological features, as well as sites of archaeological, historical and cultural value;
- 2.14 to recognize and protect the traditional use and sharing of the Area by Carcross/Tagish People, Kwanlin Dun and Champagne and Aishihik People;
- 2.15 to recognize the current use of the Area by Carcross/Tagish People, Kwanlin Dun, Champagne and

- Aishihik People and other Yukon residents;
- 216 to recognize and honour the history, heritage and culture of the Three First Nations in the Area through the establishment and operation of the Park;
- 217 to encourage public awareness, use, appreciation and enjoyment of the natural, historical and cultural resources of the Park in a manner that will ensure it is protected for the benefit of future generations;
- 218 to recognize the current recreational uses of the Area as well as its potential for other uses, including ecotourism and First Nation cultural tourism; and
- 219 to provide economic opportunities to Carcross/Tagish People, Kwanlin Dun and Champagne and Aishihik People to participate in the development, operation and management of the Park in the manner set out in this schedule.

3.0 Establishment

- 3.1 As soon as practicable after the Effective Date, if Canada has not already done so, Canada shall transfer to the Commissioner of the Yukon the administration and control of the Crown Land within the Area, excluding the mines and minerals, and the right to work the mines and minerals, in, on or under the Crown Land.
- 3.2 Except as provided in 3.4, as soon as practicable after the Effective Date and following the transfer referred to in 3.1, the Yukon shall designate the Area as a natural environment park pursuant to the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 165, to be known as Kusawa Park.
- 3.3 For greater certainty, the Park shall be a settlement agreement park within the meaning of the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 165.
- 3.4 The Park shall not include:

341 the mines and minerals, in, on or under the Area and the right to work the mines and minerals;

342 the land shown as:

KDFN R-11B;
KDFN R-37B;
KDFN S-322B/D;
KDFN S-358B,

on Map Sheet Kusawa Park in Appendix B - Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement provided that any portion of such land that does not become Settlement Land of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation upon the confirmation of the official plan of survey by the Surveyor General in accordance with the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Final Agreement, shall be included in the Park;

343 the land shown as:

CTFN R-55B;
CTFN S-366B;
CTFN S-367B;
CTFN S-368B;
CTFN S-369B,

on Map Sheet Kusawa Park in Appendix B - Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement;

344 the land shown as:

CTFN S-87B;
CTFN S-88B;
CTFN S-97B;
CTFN S-99B;
CTFN S-362B;
CTFN S-389B,

on Map Sheet Kusawa Park in Appendix B - Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement, provided that any portion of such land that does not become Settlement Land of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation upon the confirmation of the official plan of survey by the Surveyor General in accordance with the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement, shall be included in the Park;

345 any land which is Settlement Land of a Yukon First Nation as of the Effective Date, including Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Settlement Land Parcels:

R-19B(Lot 1008, Quad 115A/08, Plan 82063 CLSR, 99-0007 LTO);
S-14B1 (Lot 1007, Quad 115A/08, Plan 84803 CLSR, 2001-0186 LTO);
S-17B1 (Lot 1002, Quad 115A/08, Plan 84528 CLSR, 2001-0159 LTO);
S-18B1/D (Lot 1010, Quad 115A/09);
S-70B1 (Lot 1009, Quad 115A/08);
S-71B1 (Lot 1014, Quad 115A/09);
S-163B1 (Lot 1011, Quad 115A/09, Plan 82060 CLSR, 99-0004 LTO);
S-178B1 (Lot 1012, Quad 115 A/09);
S-258B1 (Lot 1006, Quad 115 A/08);
S-259B1(Lot 1005, Quad 115A/08, Plan 82064 CLSR, 99-0008 LTO);
S-262B1 (Lot 1000, Quad 115A/01, Plan 82065 CLSR, 99-0009 LTO);
S-263B1 (Lot 1001, Quad 115A/01, Plan 80841 CLSR, 98-37 LTO);
S-290B1 (Lot 1013, Quad 115A/09);
S-330B1 (Lot 1017, Quad 115A/09, Plan 84809 CLSR, 2001-0192 LTO);
S-345B1 (Lot 1004, Quad 115A/08, Plan 82064 CLSR, 99-0008 LTO);
S-352B1 (Lot 1003, Quad 115A/08, Plan 80834 CLRS, 98-30 LTO);
S-360B1 (Lot 1005, Quad 115A/02, Plan 80835 CLSR, 98-31 LTO);

346 any land in respect of which a title is registered in the Land Titles Office as of the Effective Date to a Person who is not a party to this Agreement, including:

Lot 1000, Quad 115A/08, Plan 71913 CLSR, 89-36 LTO;
Lot 1001, Quad 115A/08, Plan 72070 CLSR, 89-70 LTO;
Lot 1000, Quad 115A/09, Plan 64564 CLSR, 52959 LTO;
Lot 1001, Quad 115A/09, Plan 65022 CLSR, 54815 LTO;
Lot 1002, Quad 115A/09, Plan 64564 CLSR, 52959 LTO;
Lot 1003, Quad 115A/09, Plan 65089 CLSR, 54535 LTO;
Lot 1004, Quad 115A/09, Plan 66281 CLSR, 57581 LTO;
Lot 1005, Quad 115A/09, Plan 67653 CLSR, 63412 LTO;
Lot 1006, Quad 115A/09, Plan 72084 CLSR, 89-74 LTO;
Lot 1007, Quad 115A/09, Plan 72329 CLSR, 89-131 LTO;
Lot 1008, Quad 115A/09, Plan 73319 CLSR, 90-101 LTO;
Lot 1009, Quad 115A/09, Plan 73328 CLSR, 90-111 LTO;
Lot 93, Group 803, Plan 58232 CLSR, 37877 LTO;
Lot 104, Group 803, Plan 60925 CLSR, 46736 LTO;
Lot 107, Group 803, Plan 60958 CLSR, 46740 LTO;
Lots 7-1 to 7-8 inclusive, Group 803, Plan 40415 CLSR, 22132 LTO;

347 any Crown Land that is subject to an agreement for sale or a lease containing an option to purchase, issued by Government on or before the Effective Date.

3.5 The designation as a natural environment park shall not be removed from any part of the Park without the agreement of the Yukon and each of the Three First Nations.

3.6 Subject to 3.9 and 3.10, until a management plan is approved pursuant to 6.0, and thereafter for such period of time as may be specified in the Approved Management Plan, Government shall:

361 prohibit entry on the Area for the purpose of locating, prospecting or mining under the *Quartz Mining Act*, S.Y.

- 2003, c. 14 and the *Placer Mining Act*, S.Y. 2003, c. 13;
- 3.6.2 withdraw the mines and minerals, in, on or under the Area from disposal under the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act*, S.Y. 2003, c. 17.
- 3.7 Subject to 3.9 and 3.10, until a management plan is approved pursuant to 6.0, and thereafter for such period of time as may be specified in the Approved Management Plan, the Yukon shall withdraw the Area from disposition under the *Oil and Gas Act*, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 162.
- 3.8 Subject to 3.9 and 3.10, until a management plan is approved pursuant to 6.0, and thereafter for such period of time as may be specified in the Approved Management Plan, no one may explore for coal in, on or under the Area.
- 3.9 For greater certainty, the provisions of 3.6, 3.7, 3.8 and 3.11 shall not apply in respect of:
- 3.9.1 mineral claims and leases recorded or continued under the *Quartz Mining Act*, S.Y. 2003, c. 14 and placer mining claims and leases to prospect recorded or continued under the *Placer Mining Act*, S.Y. 2003, c. 13, existing on the Effective Date;
- 3.9.2 oil and gas dispositions under the *Oil and Gas Act*, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 162 existing on the Effective Date, which for greater certainty, include federal dispositions;
- 3.9.3 rights granted or continued under section 6 of the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act*, S.Y. 2003, c. 17 or under the *Lands Act*, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 133, existing on the Effective Date; and
- 3.9.4 any successor or replacement rights and any new leases, licenses, permits or other rights which may be granted in respect of an interest described in 3.9.1, 3.9.2 or 3.9.3.
- 3.10 The provisions of 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 shall not prohibit the granting of rights to mines and minerals underlying the Area which may be accessed directionally from a location outside the Area, and the right to work such mines and minerals, provided that the granting of such rights and the working of those rights do not require access to the surface of the Area or would result in a reasonable likelihood of disturbing the surface of the Area.
- 3.11 The Yukon shall:
- 3.11.1 withdraw the Area from disposition under the *Lands Act*, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 133; and
- 3.11.2 withdraw the Area, not including the mines and minerals referred to in 3.6.2, from disposal under the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act*, S.Y. 2003, c. 17.

4.0 Steering Committee

- 4.1 A steering committee (the "Steering Committee") shall be established no later than 24 months after the Effective Date to prepare and recommend a management plan for the Park.
- 4.2 The Steering Committee shall be comprised of either four or six members of whom half shall be designated by the Yukon and half shall be designated by the Three First Nations as follows:
- 4.2.1 the Yukon shall request each of the Three First Nations to designate one member;
- 4.2.2 if each of the Three First Nations designates a member within 90 days of receiving the request to do so, the Steering Committee shall be comprised of six members and the Yukon shall designate three members;
- 4.2.3 if only two of the Three First Nations designate members within 90 days of receiving the request to do so, the Steering Committee shall be comprised of four members and the Yukon shall designate two members;
- 4.2.4 if only one of the Three First Nations designates a member within 90 days of receiving the request to do so, the Yukon shall request that First Nation to designate a second member and, upon it doing so, the Yukon shall designate two members so that the Steering Committee will be comprised of four members.
- 4.3 Members of the Steering Committee shall have knowledge and expertise with respect to park management and shall be delegates of the bodies who designated them.
- 4.4 The Steering Committee may make its own operating procedures and shall, to the greatest extent possible, work on a consensus basis.

5.0 Management Plan

- 5.1 The Steering Committee shall endeavour to recommend a management plan to the Yukon and to each of the Three First Nations within 24 months of the establishment of the Steering Committee.
- 5.2 The management plan shall be consistent with the objectives set out in 2.1.3 to 2.1.9 of this schedule and with the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 165.
- 5.3 In preparing the management plan, the Steering Committee shall provide for a public consultation process which recognizes the territorial significance of the Park.
- 5.4 The Steering Committee shall consider and the management plan may address all matters pertaining to the management of the Park, including:
 - 5.4.1 management and protection of Fish and Wildlife and their habitat in the Park;
 - 5.4.2 management and protection of other renewable resources in the Park;
 - 5.4.3 management and protection of Heritage Resources in the Park, including Heritage Resources of the Three First Nations;
 - 5.4.4 the traditional use of the Area by each of the Three First Nations and by Carcross Tagish People, Kwanlin Dun and Champagne and Aishihik People;
 - 5.4.5 the current use of the Area by each of the Three First Nations and by Carcross/Tagish People, Kwanlin Dun, Champagne and Aishihik People and other Yukon residents;
 - 5.4.6 access to and use of the Park for recreational activities;
 - 5.4.7 subject to 12.10, management and use of the Chilkat Trail;
 - 5.4.8 access to and use of the Park for public harvesting of Fish and Wildlife;
 - 5.4.9 access to and use of the Park for commercial purposes;
 - 5.4.10 traditional knowledge, customs and culture of Carcross/Tagish People, Kwanlin Dun and Champagne and Aishihik People in connection with the Area and its natural and cultural resources;
 - 5.4.11 the role and views of the elders of each of the Three First Nations in relation to the Park;
 - 5.4.12 the interests of each of the Three First Nations in the interpretation of place names and Heritage Resources in the Park directly related to the culture of each of the Three First Nations;
 - 5.4.13 measures to enhance public awareness and appreciation of the Park;
 - 5.4.14 identification of specific economic opportunities for the Three First Nations and for Carcross/Tagish People, Kwanlin Dun or Champagne and Aishihik People in the Park;
 - 5.4.15 permitting or other methods of regulating use of the Park; and
 - 5.4.16 such other matters as may be proposed by any of the Three First Nations or the Yukon if agreed to by those who have designated members to the Steering Committee.
- 5.5 In addition to matters pertaining to the management of the Park referred to in 5.4, the Steering Committee shall consider and the management plan may address whether the time periods specified in 3.6, 3.7, and 3.8 should be extended, or those provisions made applicable only to particular portions of the Area.
- 5.6 Prior to approval of the management plan, the Steering Committee shall refer the management plan to the Yukon Heritage Resources Board, and such of the Ilex Renewable Resources Council, the Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council and the Alsek Renewable Resources Council as may exist at that time, for their review and recommendations.
- 5.7 In preparing a management plan to recommend pursuant to 5.1, the Steering Committee shall recognize that oral history is a valid and relevant form of research for establishing the historical significance of Heritage Sites and Moveable Heritage Resources in the Park directly related to the history of each of the Three First Nations.
- 5.8 The Steering Committee shall forward a proposed management plan to the Yukon and to each of the Three First Nations indicating what matters, if any, remain outstanding.

6.0 Review and Approval of the Management Plan

- 6.1 Within 90 days of receipt of the management plan from the Steering Committee, the Yukon shall request each of the Three First Nations to participate in a joint review of the provisions set out therein and any outstanding matters.
- 6.2 If any of the Three First Nations does not agree to participate in the review under 6.1 within 90 days of being requested by the Yukon to do so, the review may proceed without their participation.
- 6.3 The parties participating in the review under 6.1 shall make reasonable efforts to reach a consensus as to the provisions to be included in the management plan.
- 6.4 If the parties participating in the review do not reach a consensus under 6.3 within 90 days of commencement of the review, any of them may refer the matter to the dispute resolution process under 26.4.0.
- 6.5 If the matter is referred to the dispute resolution process under 6.4 and is not resolved, or if the matter under 6.4 is not referred to dispute resolution, the Minister may accept, vary or set aside the provisions set out in the management plan from the Steering Committee.
- 6.6 The decision of the Minister under 6.5 as to the provisions to be included in the management plan shall be forwarded to each of the Three First Nations in writing.

7.0 Implementation of the Approved Management Plan

- 7.1 The Yukon shall manage the Park in accordance with the Approved Management Plan and the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 165.
- 7.2 Prior to the implementation of the Approved Management Plan, the Yukon shall manage the Park in accordance with the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 165 and to the extent practicable in a manner consistent with the objectives set out in 2.0 of this schedule.
- 7.3 Upon the land, or any portion thereof, shown as KDFN R-11B, KDFN R-37B, KDFN S-322B/D, and KDFN S-358B on Map Sheet Kusawa Park in Appendix B - Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement, becoming Settlement Land of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation, the Kwanlin Dun First Nation shall manage those Parcels of Settlement Land, to the extent practicable, in a manner consistent with the objectives set out in 2.1.3 to 2.1.8 inclusive and any uses thereof authorized by the Kwanlin Dun First Nation shall be compatible with the uses which may be made of the Park.
- 7.4 Upon the land, or any portion thereof, shown as CTFN R-55B, CTFN S-87B, CTFN S-88B, CTFN S-97B, CTFN S-99B, CTFN S-362B, and CTFN S-389B on Map Sheet Kusawa Park in Appendix B - Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement becoming Settlement Land of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation shall manage those Parcels of Settlement Land, to the extent practicable, in a manner consistent with the objectives set out in 2.1.3 to 2.1.8 inclusive and any uses thereof authorized by the Carcross/Tagish First Nation shall be compatible with the uses which may be made of the Park.
- 7.5 Upon the land, or any portion thereof, shown as CTFN S-366B, CTFN S-367B, CTFN S-368B and CTFN S-369B on Map Sheet Kusawa Park in Appendix B - Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement becoming Settlement Land of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation shall manage those portions of the Chilkat Trail which lie within those Parcels of Settlement Land:
 - 7.5.1 prior to the implementation of the Approved Management Plan, to the extent practicable, in a manner consistent with the objectives set out at 2.1.3 to 2.1.8 inclusive of this schedule; or
 - 7.5.2 following the implementation of the Approved Management Plan, in a manner consistent therewith and any uses thereof authorized by the Carcross/Tagish First Nation shall be consistent with the uses which may be made of those portions of the Chilkat Trail which lie within the Park.
- 7.6 If the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations amends its Final Agreement to include this schedule, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations shall, to the extent practicable, manage its Settlement Land Parcels within the Area, including:

R-19B (Lot 1008, Quad 115A/08, Plan 82063 CLSR, 99-0007 LTO);
S-14B1 (Lot 1007, Quad 115A/08, Plan 84803 CLSR, 2001-0186 LTO);
S-18B1/D (Lot 1010, Quad 115A/09);
S-70B1 (Lot 1009, Quad 115A/08); S-71B1 (Lot 1014, Quad 115A/09);
S-163B1 (Lot 1011, Quad 115A/09, Plan 82060 CLSR, 99-0004 LTO);
S-178B1 (Lot 1012, Quad 115 A/09);

S-258B1 (Lot 1006, Quad 115 A/08);
 S-259B1 (Lot 1005, Quad 115A/08, Plan 82064 CLSR, 99-0008 LTO);
 S-262B1 (Lot 1000, Quad 115A/01, Plan 82065 CLSR, 99-0009 LTO);
 S-263B1 (Lot 1001, Quad 115A/01, Plan 80841 CLSR, 98-37 LTO);
 S-290B1 (Lot 1013, Quad 115A/09);
 S-330B1 (Lot 1017, Quad 115A/09, Plan 84809 CLSR, 2001-0192 LTO);
 S-345B1 (Lot 1004, Quad 115A/08, Plan 82064 CLSR, 99-0008 LTO);
 S-352B1 (Lot 1003, Quad 115A/08, Plan 80834 CLRS, 98-30 LTO);
 S-360B1 (Lot 1005, Quad 115A/02, Plan 80835 CLSR, 98-31 LTO),

in a manner consistent with the objectives set out in 2.1.3 to 2.1.8 inclusive and any uses thereof authorized by the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations shall be compatible with the uses which may be made of the Park.

- 7.7 Government shall manage the mines and minerals in, on or under the Area and the right to work the mines and minerals in accordance with Laws of General Application.
- 7.8 In managing the mines and minerals in, on or under the Area and the right to work the mines and minerals in accordance with Laws of General Application, Government shall, to the extent practicable, take into account the objectives set out in 2.0 of this schedule.
- 7.9 Prior to the land described in 7.3 and 7.4 of this schedule becoming Settlement Land of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation or the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, the Yukon shall, to the extent practicable, manage that land in a manner consistent with the objectives set out in 2.1.3 to 2.1.8 inclusive and any uses thereof authorized by the Yukon shall be compatible with the uses which may be made of the Park.
- 7.10 Prior to the land described in 7.5 of this schedule becoming Settlement Land of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, the Yukon shall manage those portions of the Chilkat Trail which lie within that land:
 - 7.10.1 prior to the implementation of the Approved Management Plan, to the extent practicable, in a manner consistent with the objectives set out in 2.1.3 to 2.1.8 inclusive of this schedule; or
 - 7.10.2 following implementation of the Approved Management Plan, in accordance therewith and any uses thereof authorized by the Yukon shall be consistent with the uses which may be made of those portions of the Chilkat Trail which lie within the Park.

8.0 Review and Amendment of the Approved Management Plan

- 8.1 The Yukon shall request each of the Three First Nations to participate in a joint review of the Approved Management Plan no later than 5 years after its initial approval and at least every 10 years after the first review, unless otherwise agreed by the Yukon and each of the Three First Nations.
- 8.2 If any of the Three First Nations does not agree to participate in the review under 8.1, within 90 days of being requested by the Yukon to do so, the review may proceed without their participation.
- 8.3 At the time of a review of the Approved Management Plan under 8.1, any of the Three First Nations may request the Yukon to consider an adjustment of the boundaries of the Park. Within 90 days of receiving such a request, the Yukon shall advise each of the Three First Nations, in writing, of its response to such request.
- 8.4 Review of the Approved Management Plan under 8.1 shall include a process for public consultation.
- 8.5 The parties participating in the review under 8.1 shall make reasonable efforts to reach consensus as to any action to be taken as a result of the review of the Approved Management Plan.
- 8.6 If the parties participating in the review under 8.1 are unable, within 90 days of completion of the review of the Approved Management Plan, to reach consensus pursuant to 8.5, any of them may refer the matter to the dispute resolution process under 26.4.0.
- 8.7 If the matter is referred to the dispute resolution process under 8.6 and is not resolved, or if the matter under 8.6 is not referred to dispute resolution, the Minister shall determine what action, if any, shall result from the review of the Approved Management Plan and shall advise each of the Three First Nations of the decision in writing.
- 8.8 Amendments to the Approved Management Plan, other than through the review process set out in 8.1 to 8.7, may only be made by the Yukon, and shall follow a process based on 8.1, 8.2, 8.5, 8.6 and 8.7.

- 8.9 The Yukon and, subject to 8.10, each of the Three First Nations shall consider and may develop mechanisms or enter into agreements to facilitate co-operative implementation and monitoring of the Approved Management Plan.
- 8.10 If any of the Three First Nations does not have in effect a Final Agreement that includes this schedule, that First Nation may determine not to consider the matters described in 8.9.
- 8.11 Following the first anniversary of approval of the Approved Management Plan, the Yukon and, subject to 8.12 each of the Three First Nations, shall meet once a year, if requested by any of them, to review the implementation of the Approved Management Plan by the Yukon.
- 8.12 If any of the Three First Nations does not have in effect a Final Agreement that includes this schedule, that First Nation may decline to participate in the review under 8.11, and the review may proceed without their participation 90 days after the request is made pursuant to 8.11.

9.0 Fish and Wildlife

- 9.1 For greater certainty, and subject to any sharing accords or intergovernmental agreements which may be in effect among any of the Three First Nations from time to time:
- 9.1.1 Carcross/Tagish People have the right to harvest Fish and Wildlife within their Traditional Territory within the Park;
- 9.1.2 Kwanlin Dun have the right to harvest Fish and Wildlife within their Traditional Territory within the Park; and
- 9.1.3 Champagne and Aishihik People have the right to harvest Fish and Wildlife within their Traditional Territory within the Park, each in accordance with Chapter 16 - Fish and Wildlife of their respective Final Agreement.

10.0 Forest Resources

- 10.1 The right of Carcross/Tagish People, Kwanlin Dun and Champagne and Aishihik People to harvest Forest Resources within their respective Traditional Territory within the Park shall be pursuant to Chapter 17 - Forest Resources of their respective Final Agreement, but the rights pursuant to 17.3.1.2 thereof shall be subject to the provisions of the Approved Management Plan.

11.0 Heritage

- 11.1 Applicable First Nation languages shall be included, where practicable, in any interpretive displays and signs regarding the history and culture of Carcross/Tagish People, Kwanlin Dun or Champagne and Aishihik People that may be erected in, or related to, the Park.
- 11.2 When considering the naming or renaming of places or features in the Park, the responsible agency shall Consult with each of the Three First Nations.
- 11.3 In developing the management plan, the Steering Committee shall take into account the cultural and heritage significance of the routes and sites within the Park identified in Schedule A - Heritage Routes to Chapter 13 - Heritage, of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Final Agreement and in Schedule C - Heritage Routes and Sites to Chapter 13 - Heritage, of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement.
- 11.4 Nothing in this schedule or the Approved Management Plan shall affect the ownership of Heritage Resources as provided in 13.3.0 of the Final Agreement of each of the Three First Nations

12.0 Economic Opportunities

- 12.1 Government shall provide written notice to each of the Three First Nations of any public tender for contracts associated with establishment of the Park, construction of the Park facilities or operation and maintenance of the Park.
- 12.2 Government shall include each of the Three First Nations in any invitational tender for contracts associated with establishment of the Park, construction of the Park facilities or operation and maintenance of the Park.
- 12.3 The Three First Nations shall have the first opportunity to accept any contract offered by Government, other than by public or invitational tender, associated with establishment of the Park, construction of the Park facilities or operation and maintenance of the Park, upon the same terms and conditions as would be offered to others. A first opportunity shall be offered in the following manner:

- 1231 Government shall give notice in writing to each of the Three First Nations specifying the terms and conditions of any such contract;
- 1232 the Three First Nations may exercise the first opportunity referred to in 12.3 by each of them advising Government in writing within 60 days of receipt of the notice referred to in 12.3.1, specifying the entity which will be accepting such contract provided that:
- 12321 if any of the Three First Nations does not advise Government within the time and in the manner specified in 12.3.2, that First Nation shall be deemed to have given notice that it declines the first opportunity to accept the contract and the contract may be accepted by the remainder of the Three First Nations within the time and in the manner specified in 12.3.2;
- 12322 if those of the Three First Nations who advise Government pursuant to 12.3.2 do not specify the same entity which will be accepting the contract then:
- (a) if any of those Three First Nations does not have in effect a Final Agreement that includes this schedule and that First Nation has specified a different entity, it shall be deemed to have given notice that it declines the first opportunity to accept the contract and the contract may be accepted by the remainder of the Three First Nations; or
- (b) if those of the Three First Nations who have in effect a Final Agreement that includes this schedule specify different entities, each of them shall be deemed to have given notice that they do not accept the first opportunity to accept the contract.
- 12.4 Any failure to provide written notice pursuant to 12.1 shall not affect the public tender process or the contract awards resulting therefrom.
- 12.5 Any failure to include the Three First Nations in any invitational tender for contracts pursuant to 12.2 shall not affect the invitational tender process or the contract awards resulting therefrom.
- 12.6 Any failure to provide a first opportunity pursuant to 12.3 shall not affect any contract entered into associated with establishment of the Park, construction of the Park facilities or operation and maintenance of the Park.
- 12.7 Government shall include in any contract opportunities associated with establishment of the Park, construction of the Park facilities or operation and maintenance of the Park, criteria for:
- 1271 employment of Carcross/Tagish People or engagement of Carcross/Tagish Firms;
- 1272 employment of Kwanlin Dun or engagement of Kwanlin Dun Firms; and
- 1273 employment of Champagne and Aishihik People or engagement of Champagne and Aishihik Firms.
- 12.8 In evaluating the criteria in 12.7, Government is not required to assign equal value or weight to the employment of Carcross/ Tagish People, Kwanlin Dun and Champagne and Aishihik People or to the engagement of any of the First Nation Firms and nothing in 12.7 shall be construed to mean that a criterion for employment of Carcross/Tagish People, Kwanlin Dun or Champagne and Aishihik People or engagement of First Nation Firms shall be the determining criterion in awarding any contract.
- 12.9 A failure to include the criteria described in 12.7 shall not affect any contract entered into associated with establishment of the Park, construction of the Park facilities or operation and maintenance of the Park.
- 12.10 Subject to 12.11 and 12.12, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation shall have the exclusive opportunity to carry on, in accordance with the Approved Management Plan and Laws of General Application, commercial wilderness adventure travel operations on that portion of the Chilkat Trail as shown on Inset Sketch on Map Sheet Kusawa Park in Appendix B - Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement, being that portion of the Chilkat Trail within the Park which is in the unoverlapped portion of the Traditional Territory of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation.
- 12.11 Commercial wilderness adventure travel operations existing on the date that the Park is established which operate on the Chilkat Trail shall continue to be able to operate at then existing levels of activity if permitted by and in accordance with Laws of General Application and the Approved Management Plan.
- 12.12 Non-commercial use of the Chilkat Trail shall continue if permitted by and in accordance with Laws of General Application and the Approved Management Plan.

13.0 Development Assessment and Land Use Planning

- 13.1 In carrying out their functions under Chapter 12 - Development Assessment, the Yukon Development Assessment Board and a Designated Office shall consider the Approved Management Plan.

- 13.2 In developing a land use plan which includes all or part of the Park, a Regional Land Use Planning Commission shall consider the Approved Management Plan.

Appendix 2. Landholdings inside the park boundary (in hectares)

	Identification #	size (ha)	total size (ha)
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	R-55B	70	184
	S-87B	16	
	S-88B	14	
	S-97B	8	
	S-99B	35	
	S-362B	32	
	S-389B	9	
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations	R-19B	830	867
	S-14B	2	
	S-17B	2	
	S-18B	2	
	S-70B	1	
	S-71B	6	
	S-163B	1	
	S-178B	4	
	S-258B	2	
	S-259B	8	
	S-262B	1	
	S-263B	1	
	S-290B *	1	
	S-330B	1	
	S-345B	4	
	S-352B	1	
Kwanlin Dün First Nation	S-322B1/D	0.5	100.5
	R-37B	100	
Private lots	1000, 1001, 1000,** 1001,** 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 93, 104, 107, 7-1 to 7-8		20 (approx.)

Note: Settlement Lands and private lots comprise approximately 12 km² and are excluded from the park. The park is 3,068.90 km² in size.

* S-290B = S359/360B

** These lot numbers occur twice because they are located within two separate 1:50,000 map sheet areas.

Appendix 3. Species of plants, animals and insects that are of some level of conservation concern in the park

COSEWIC Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
 IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature
 Yukon CDC Yukon Conservation Data Centre

Species	Status	Agency	Habitat	Priority ¹	Suggested Management
Mammals					
Collared pika	Special Concern	COSEWIC	Alpine (talus)	Medium	Identify colonies; monitor; educate for avoidance
Grizzly bear	Special Concern	COSEWIC	Generalist	Low	Monitor
Wolverine	Special Concern	COSEWIC	Generalist	Low	Monitor
Woodland caribou, Northern Mtn pop'n	Special Concern	COSEWIC	Summer: alpine/sub; winter: forest	Medium	
Wood bison	Threatened (awaiting down-listing to Special Concern)	COSEWIC	Wetlands (in Kusawa)	Low	
Birds					
Common nighthawk	Threatened	COSEWIC	Forest, wetland, dunes	Medium	Monitor
Horned grebe	Special Concern	COSEWIC	Wetlands, small lakes	Low	Monitor
Olive-sided flycatcher	Threatened	COSEWIC	Forest	Medium	Monitor
Peregrine falcon	Special Concern	COSEWIC	Cliffs for nesting; waterbodies, wetlands for hunting	Low	Monitor
Rusty blackbird	Special Concern	COSEWIC	Wetlands	Low	Monitor
Bank swallow	Threatened	COSEWIC	River	Medium	Educate to minimize disturbance
Short-eared owl	Special Concern	COSEWIC	Grasslands, open forest, wetlands	Low	Monitor
Fish					
Kokanee salmon	Red list (Alsek population lowest concern)	IUCN			Inventory; are they in the Kluhini R. upstream of Frederick L.?
Insects					
Dune tachinid fly	Special Concern	COSEWIC	Dunes	Low	Manage dune habitats
Plants					
Baikal sedge	Threatened	COSEWIC	Dunes	High	Manage dune habitats
Rock wormwood	Watch	Yukon CDC	Alpine (slopes)	Low	Monitor
Rocky Mountain woodsia	Watch	Yukon CDC	Subalpine, forest (dry, rocky)	Low	Monitor
Dense-leaved draba	Watch	Yukon CDC	Alpine	Low	Monitor

¹ Priority for Kusawa Park Management Plan

Appendix 4. Management Directions

Management Direction	Zone, if applicable
Section 3. Park Governance	
3.1 Pursuant to Chapters 10, Schedule A, 2.1.3, of the CTFN and KDFN Final Agreements, this plan envisions a park free from industrial development. This plan confirms that the withdrawals and prohibitions pursuant to sections 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, and 3.11 Schedule A, regarding quartz mining; placer mining; oil and gas; coal and surface dispositions; respectively, will remain in place permanently for the entire park. The current withdrawals are made pursuant to the <i>Quartz Mining Act</i> (all mines and minerals), <i>Placer Mining Act</i> , <i>Oil & Gas Act</i> (oil and gas), <i>Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act</i> (TLYA) and <i>Lands Act</i> (surface land disposals). The current withdrawals will continue under the respective legislation upon park designation. The current withdrawals under the TLYA and <i>Lands Act</i> will be continued under the <i>Parks and Land Certainty Act</i> . Further, permits for quarrying will be considered only for park purposes. Permits for commercial forestry within the park will not be considered.	
3.2 Kusawa Park regulations under the <i>Parks and Land Certainty Act</i> may be developed to implement various aspects of the park plan.	all zones
3.3 Best efforts will be made to maximize opportunities for economic benefits for CAFN, CTFN and KDFN citizens. Best efforts will be made to maximize opportunities for Yukon public civil service employment for CAFN, CTFN and KDFN citizens. Contract opportunities to provide Kusawa Park related services and development will be consistent with section 3.2 of the PMC ToR (see below) and Ch. 10, Schedule A, section 12.	
3.4 The park plan will be reviewed within five years and every ten years thereafter as specified in the Final Agreements and the <i>Parks and Land Certainty Act</i> .	
Section 4. Park Zoning	
Multiple Recreation Use Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This zone includes the Kusawa Lake Road, both existing campgrounds and the Takhini River north of Kusawa Lake. The zone extends two km west of Kusawa Lake Road and 100 m east of the Takhini River shoreline. This zone is characterized by road access and a relatively high level of recreational use, including camping, hiking and paddling. This zone will be managed to maintain these opportunities, consistent with the vision and guiding principles. 	Multiple Recreation Use zone
Natural Zone (Kusawa Lake and shoreline) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This zone includes Kusawa Lake, as well as the land within 100 metres of the shoreline. This zone is characterized by boat access to the lake for touring, fishing and hunting, and by relatively low levels of low-impact shoreline camping. This zone will be managed to maintain these opportunities, consistent with the vision and guiding principles. 	Natural zone
Wildland Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This zone includes those portions of Kusawa Park outside the other zones. This zone is characterized by a low level of use, including ongoing traditional use and self-reliant back-country use. This zone will be managed to maintain its wilderness character and related opportunities, consistent with the vision and guiding principles. 	Wildland zone

<p>Special Feature-Heritage Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This zone includes two locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Nàkhq Män</i> (Primrose Narrows*): the east and west side of Kusawa Lake at the outlet of Primrose River and Kusawa Bluff*: adjacent to the east side of the Kusawa Lake Road down to the outlet of Kusawa Lake, encompassing the side road loop This zone is characterized by highly valued heritage and cultural values. This zone will be managed primarily to protect these values, and also to understand and interpret them. 	Special Feature-Heritage zone
Section 5. Landscape and Ecological Values	
<p>5.1 Sensitive areas</p> <p>All park activities will give consideration to sensitive, vulnerable or otherwise important habitat areas and ecosystems.</p> <p>Criteria will be developed to list, describe and map sensitive areas (such as dunes and Thandlät fen).</p>	all zones
<p>5.2 Species at risk/of concern</p> <p>The recovery of species at risk/of concern that naturally occur in the park will be supported as required by working with relevant agencies such as the Canadian Wildlife Service and Yukon Conservation Data Centre.</p> <p>A priority will be placed on habitat protection as a key tool to support species maintenance and recovery, using active intervention when necessary.</p> <p>Whole ecosystems will be considered in management decisions and Principle 2 (Ecological Integrity) and 3 (First Nation Homeland) will be addressed in this respect.</p>	all zones
<p>5.3 Invasive species</p> <p>The spread of invasive species in the park will be deterred by managing how they are spread (road, boats, horse feed/access, reseeding).</p> <p>Best practices for avoiding the spread of invasive species will be used when carrying out park work.</p>	all zones
<p>5.4 Species management plans</p> <p>Park values will be considered in the implementation and review of species management plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to assist with the implementation of the Management Plan for the Aishihik Wood Bison Herd in Southwestern Yukon: goal 4, objective 2, task 2, to establish a bison-free zone; and to provide input to the Elk Species Management Plan to discourage elk from using the park (e.g., adjust the permit hunt area boundary to conform to the park boundary). 	all zones
<p>5.5 Wildland fire</p> <p>Current fire management practices will be maintained through Government of Yukon Department of Community Services, Wildland Fire Management. This includes letting fires burn, while protecting public safety, property and specific values, particularly heritage sites.</p> <p>Areas within the park containing values at risk (e.g., campgrounds, visitor use areas, heritage values) will generally receive a high level of protection, such as aggressive initial attack and sustained action until the fire is extinguished. Wildland fires that occur in other areas of the park, with few values, will generally receive a response commensurate with the values at risk; expected fire behaviour; and cost associated with the fire. This action may include managing the fire to steer or direct it away from threatened values, using suppression techniques such as burning out to keep the fire to a specific area or monitoring areas to ensure that it doesn't threaten park values. An inventory of known sites and values will be compiled and shared with Wildland Fire Management.</p>	all zones

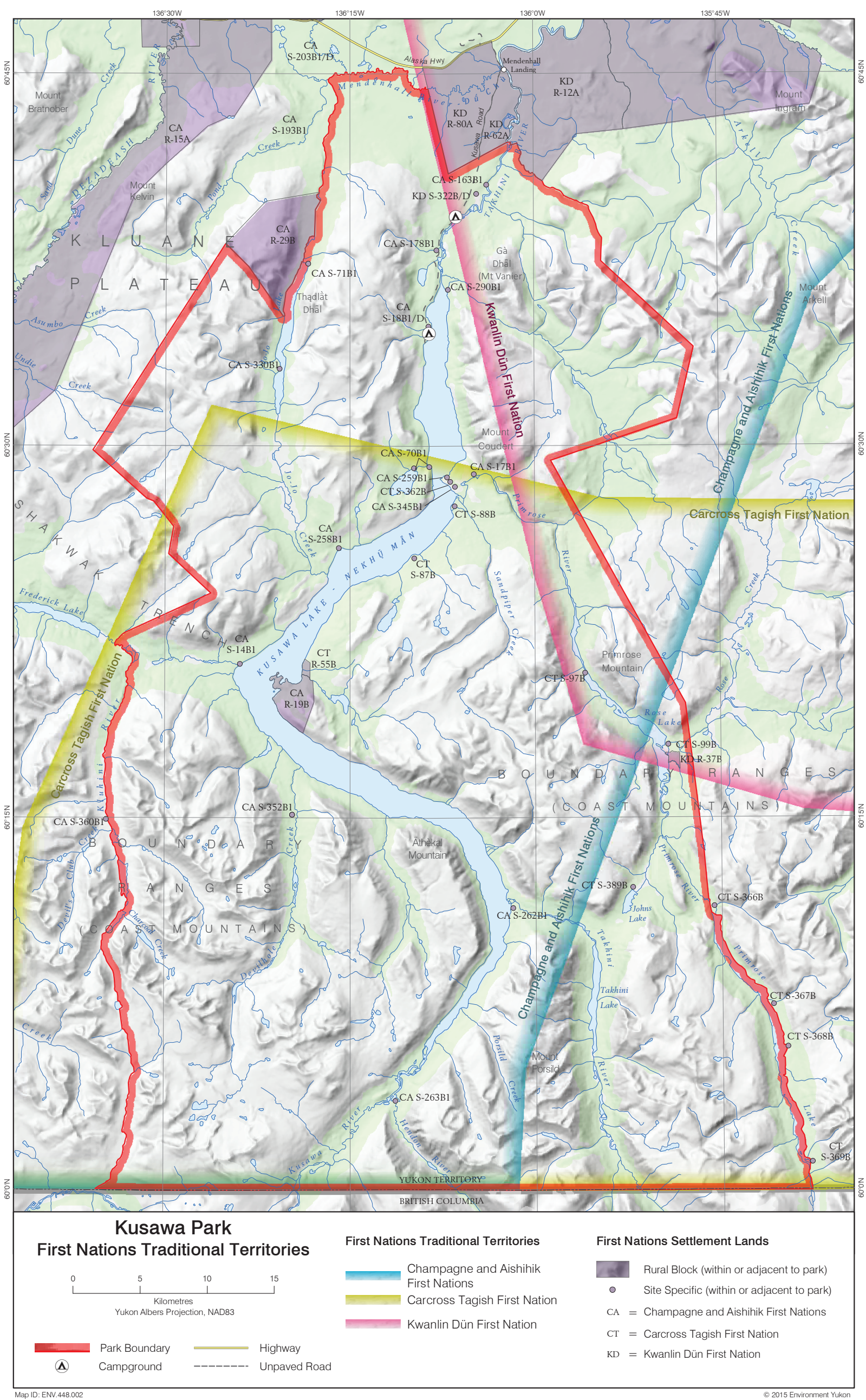
5.6	<p>Forest ecosystem</p> <p>Commercial forestry is not allowed in the park. Natural processes for forest insects such as spruce bark beetle will be allowed to run their course. Management interventions may be considered if infestations become a threat to other core park values.</p> <p>This plan recommends that the boundaries in the Integrated Landscape Plan for the Champagne and Aishihik Traditional Territory (2007) and Strategic Forest Management Plan for the Champagne and Aishihik Traditional Territory (2004) be modified to match the Kusawa Park boundary and exclude the park.</p> <p>Fuelwood harvesting will no longer be allowed in the park, with the exception that permits pursuant to the Parks and Land Certainty Act may be considered for property holders within the park, and for First Nation tree harvesting that is allowed pursuant to 17.3.1.2 of the Final Agreements. Areas for harvesting trees may be identified to provide for these needs. When considering park permits for harvesting trees, the following factors will be taken into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoidance of sensitive areas and special feature zones; • impacts on other users and park values; and • timing. 	all zones
Section 6. Heritage and Cultural Values		
6.1	Intangible cultural values such as stories and place names will be supported through research and promoted through interpretation and other means (such as published park maps).	all zones
6.2	The parties will consider multiple perspectives on heritage and cultural management.	<i>Nàkhq̃</i> / Primrose Narrows*
6.3	<p>Table 2 lists specific management directions for three sites: <i>Nàkhq̃</i> (Primrose Narrows*), Thandlät ice patch, and Kusawa Bluff* (see also Section 4 and Maps 3–5). For other heritage sites, when deciding whether to use a passive or active approach to management, these are some of the factors to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • importance of the site; • accessibility; • vulnerability or sensitivity; and • risk of potential damage. 	all zones
6.4	<p>Kusawa Park is a place to celebrate and encourage First Nation traditional uses. First Nation cultural camps are an important activity in the park. Cultural camps will be supported by collaborating with First Nation people to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • infrastructure needs and impacts; • appropriate timing and location of cultural camps (which may include existing campgrounds or other locations in the park); and • other management considerations, including activities that could attract wildlife. <p>Note: Traditional use is also a key component of the interpretive strategy mandated in Section 10.</p>	all zones

Section 7. Recreational Use & Facilities		
7.1	<p>A campground planning process will be undertaken to address the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> campground design — appropriate number and type of campsites (tent sites, walk-in sites, group sites); conservation of ecological and heritage values; First Nation traditional uses within the campgrounds (see Section 6); public safety in relation to risks of flooding, landslides and erosion; the growing demand for campsites; and interpretation of heritage values (coordinated with the interpretive plan; see Section 10). 	Multiple Recreation Use zone
7.2	Back-country campsite facilities (outhouse, fire ring) may be established at two existing sites accessible by boat at the southern end of Kusawa Lake.	Natural zone
7.3	<p>A trail planning process will be undertaken to address the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate locations and uses for trails, types and standards; Areas where no trails will be developed; Maps, signage and interpretation (see Section 8 on designated ORV trails); Consideration of Heritage Trails and Routes as defined in section 11.3, Schedule A to Chapter 10 in the Final Agreements. 	all zones
7.4	<p>Planning for the Chilkat Trail will take place, and address the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTFN's interests under Chapter 10, Schedule A, section 12, and Chapter 13; CTFN recognizes the importance of the Chilkat Trail to many First Nations, including family relationships and history; and CTFN shall be directly involved in any planning and administrative processes regarding the Chilkat Trail. 	Wildland Zone
7.5	<p>Monitoring of recreational use will be designed to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> off-road vehicle (ORV) use in the park; camping use along the shorelines of Kusawa and Jo Jo lakes; and boating. 	all zones
7.6	<p>A park service facility may be developed with the following attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a modest physical infrastructure that supports programming in the outdoors; a focus on interpretive programming, such as drying racks, <i>njäl</i> (brush houses), tent frames and smokehouses; a base of operations for park staff, and equipment that provides support, guidance and safety for park visitors. 	Multiple Recreation Use zone

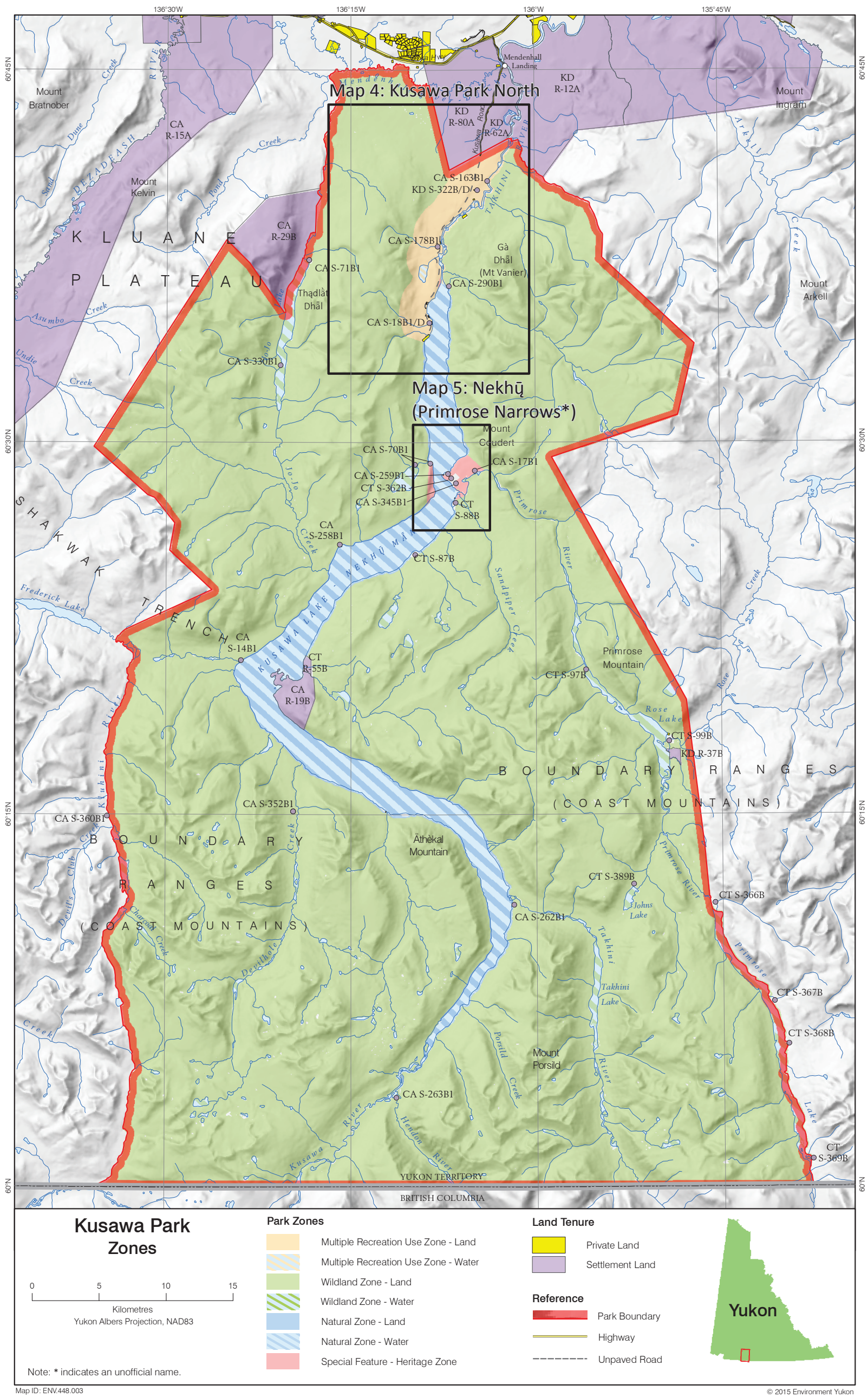
Section 8. Park Access		
8.1	<p>ORV use in the park will be limited to certain areas, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ORVs may be used only on designated ORV trails, in areas designated for ORV use, on park roads, on the frozen surface of Kusawa Lake, or as authorized by a park permit; • Designated ORV trails and areas may exist only in the Multiple Recreation Use zone and on the frozen surface of Kusawa Lake; • The ORV trails shown on Map 4 are designated on an interim basis; • Designated trails and areas may be added, removed and adjusted in the future (see Section 7 management directions regarding the trail planning process; • Public education will be undertaken regarding designated trails and areas, including signage of trails and terminal points; and • ORV use on park roads and in campgrounds will be managed to ensure public safety and avoid public nuisance, including noise. <p>Changes to trails and areas designated for ORV use will consider the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designating terminal points of trails, such as for park-and-walk access to alpine areas; and • areas identified as having high ecological or heritage values. 	Multiple Recreation Use zone
8.2	All aircraft will require a park permit to land in Kusawa Park.	all zones
Section 9. Commercial Activities		
9.1	<p>The following factors will be considered when reviewing applications for commercial activity permits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impacts on natural and heritage values; • respect for First Nation values and traditional uses; • impacts on other park users and potential benefits, such as enhancing visitor experience; • the amount and availability of information by which to assess potential impacts; • the potential to mitigate and/or reverse negative impacts; • the potential for economic benefits and opportunities; and • licence or permit provisions of Part 2 of Schedule A of Chapter 22 of KDFN and CTFN Final Agreements, if applicable. 	all zones
9.2	Trapline concessions will continue in the park. If a trapline concession holder wishes to apply for or relocate a trapline cabin, it will be considered through a park permitting process.	all zones
Section 10. Interpretation and Communication		
10.1	<p>An integrated interpretation and communication plan will be developed which will identify strategies and actions to support the implementation of the park management plan through communication, interpretation, information and education. The park vision and guiding principles will guide the development of interpretive themes and delivery methods. The following factors should also be considered when developing the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancing visitor experiences, appreciation of natural and heritage values, public safety, and compliance with applicable legislation; • using a storytelling approach that focuses on narratives and not just facilities (campfire talks, innovative delivery methods); • learning experiences that focus on authenticity and respect for differences; • effective use of a modest park facility (see Section 7); • telling the story of First Nation presence in terms of continuity of traditional use over time (not just in the past) and a way of life; • using Aboriginal languages in interpretive materials and services (Dän/Southern Tutchone and Tlingit); and • consistent visual identity. 	all zones

Section 11. Inventory, Monitoring and Research		
11.1	<p>An inventory, monitoring and research (IMR) plan will be developed. The IMR plan will give direction to the IMR program.</p> <p>The Kusawa Park Inventory, Monitoring and Research program has five objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inventory and monitor ecosystems to contribute to managing for long-term ecological integrity; • inventory and monitor heritage values; • monitor human use and impacts, to inform proactive management; • identify key information gaps and research questions; and • integrate modern and traditional approaches to research. 	all zones
11.2	<p>The Kusawa IMR plan will identify priorities that reflect the purposes and objectives of the IMR program. These are some potential priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sensitive species, habitats and ecosystems, and implementation of monitoring programs where required; • archaeological, palaeontological and historical sites inventory (focused initially on the southern end of the Kusawa Lake shoreline); • oral history work to support this inventory; • ongoing monitoring or adaptive management practices for those heritage sites that would benefit from such an approach; • previously documented archaeological/historical sites flagged for concern (there may be a need to reassess/reinterpret these sites based on new knowledge and research or a need to monitor sites and adapt management as required); • assess climate change related risks and sensitivity in Kusawa Park, including risk to ecological integrity, biological diversity and human use (i.e., will the park measurably alter with climate change or be more resilient); • ice patch research and monitoring; • distribution and status of species of conservation interest; • landslide risk at the Kusawa Lake Campground; • annual gyrfalcon nesting survey; • periodic fishery and creel surveys; and • periodic back-country trail access monitoring. 	all zones

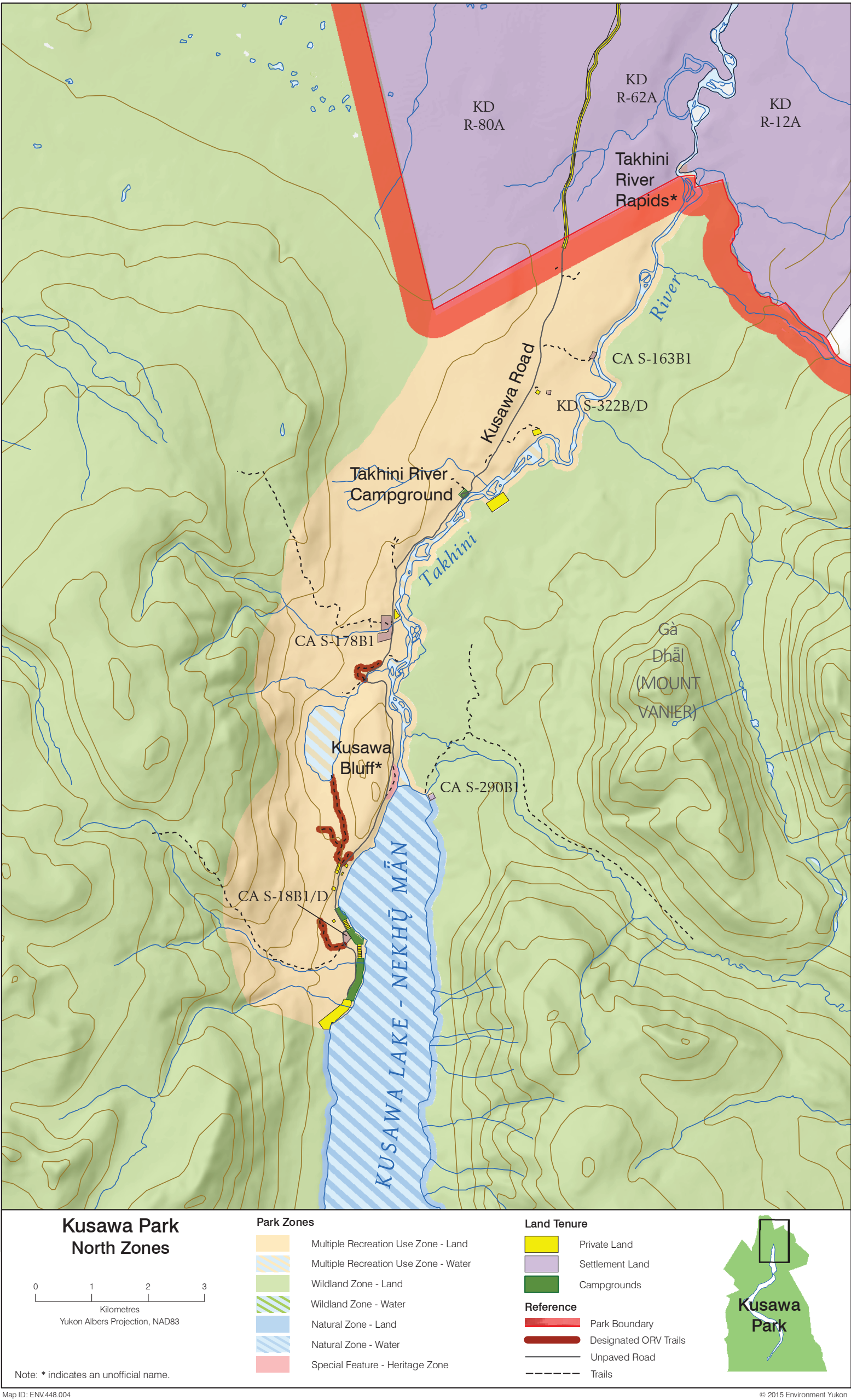
Map 2. Kusawa Park: First Nations Traditional Territories



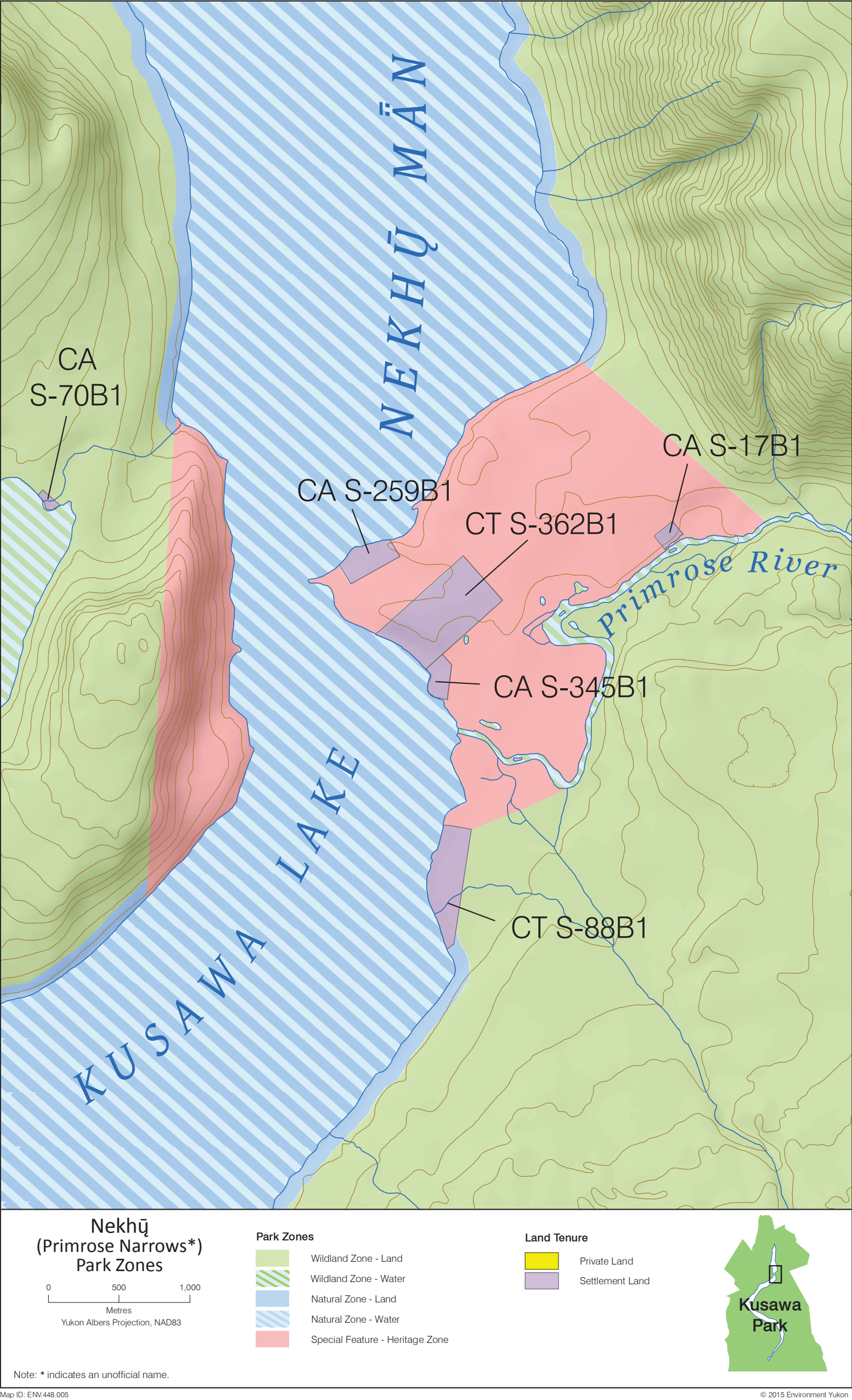
Map 3. Kusawa Park Zones



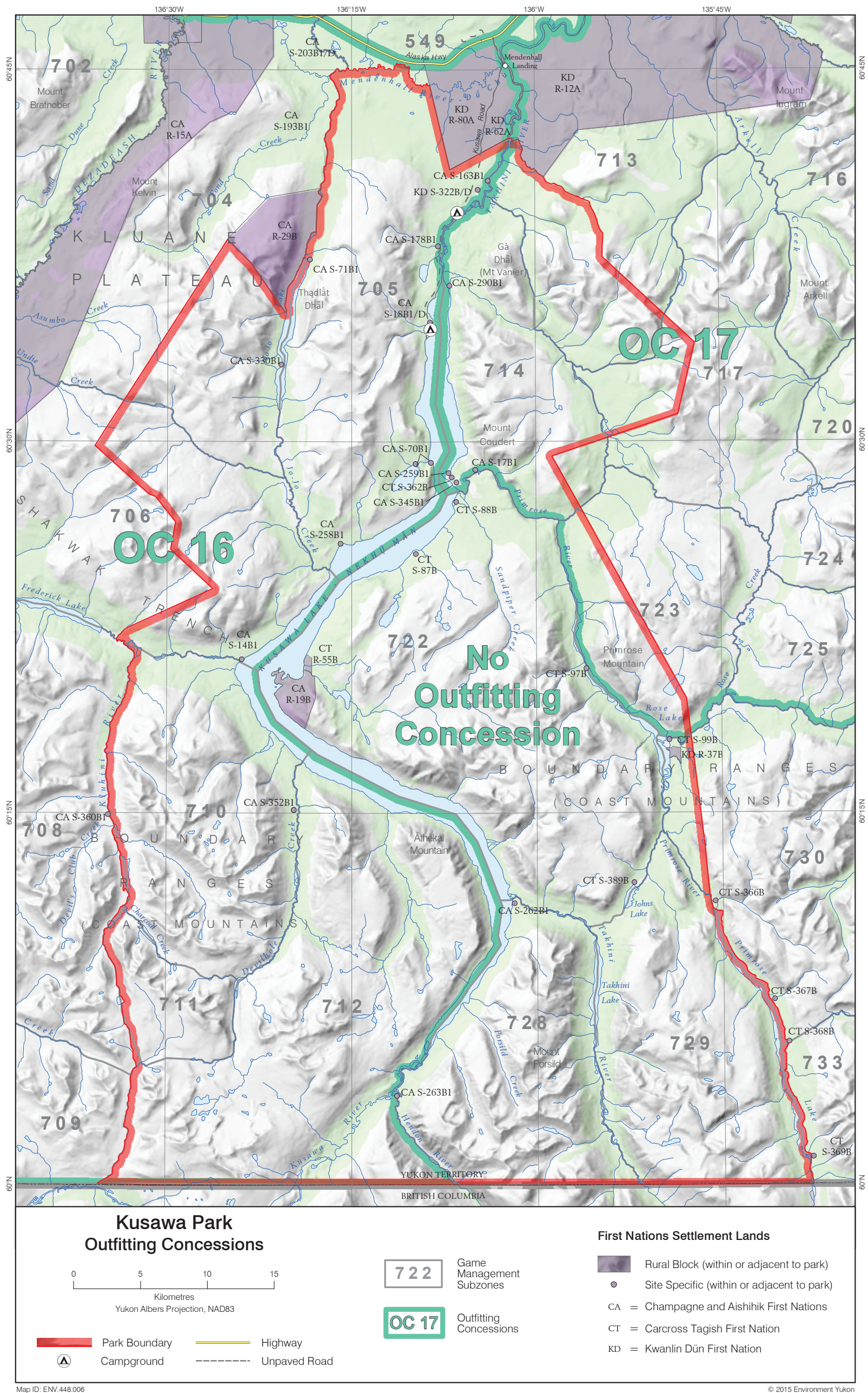
Map 4. Kusawa Park North Zones



Map 5: Nekhū (Primrose Narrows*) Park Zones



Map 6. Kusaŵa Park Outfitting Concessions





The management Plan sets out a clear, long-term vision and direction for the future management and operation of Kusawa Park. It provides for the protection of the park's natural, historic and cultural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.