

P'egp'íg'Iha Council Resource Management Plan



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Introduction

The T'it'q'et community is one of the eleven St'at'imc communities. Within the T'it'q'et community, the P'egp'ig'lha Council (PC) is mandated to govern the community's title and rights within the T'it'q'et area of responsibility.

The PC has developed this Resource Management Plan to ensure that the land and resources are utilized respectfully in the best interests of the seven future generations.

We maintain our lands and resources for the benefit of future generations in a way that is grounded in the knowledge and laws of our ancestors, our sacred connection to the land, and our inherent right to occupancy and use. We cooperate and work with other St'at'imc communities to govern in a way that provides sustenance in old and new ways for all the people.

The T'it'q'et Land Use Plan and other PC documents establish a vision for the T'it'q'et area of responsibility, as well as the associated cultural, social and environmental values. This Resource Management Plan is an extension of these documents, and serves to translate the vision and values into measurable management direction.

Plan Structure

The Resource Management Plan (RMP) includes seven sections:

- Section A: Planning
- Section B: Assessments
- Section C: Cultural Sustainability
- Section D: Environmental Sustainability
- Section E: Economic Sustainability
- Section F: Specific Activities
- Section G: Monitoring

Sections have been established for organizational purposes. However, land and resource management is rooted in the concept of the interconnectedness of all things. Therefore, the contents of all Sections interrelate to each other. As an example, for logging permit applications there is a Forestry component under Section F. However, substantial parts of the other Sections apply as well since logging potentially impacts a range of resources. Therefore, the Crown/proponent should make themselves aware of the full plan.

For each topic addressed by the plan, the first level of statement is the “objective” – the overall intent that needs to be met. Where applicable, further definition to the objective is provided in the second level of statement, which is the “indicator”.

Indicators are strategic level, outcome-based statements that describe the desired results or conditions that are to exist during development and/or after development has taken place. Wherever possible, indicators are non-prescriptive: that is, they define *what* to achieve, but leave operational flexibility to the proponent for *how* the indicator will be achieved. Regular and on-going monitoring, as well as adaptive management, is critical for this approach to be meaningful.

The RMP is not an exclusive statement of PC's interests. This plan addresses a select suite of resources and activities based on the most critical issues facing PC at the time of the plan development.

This plan is limited by the First Nation's absence of a comprehensive traditional land use and occupancy study, and by information and capacity gaps that have yet to be addressed.

Upon completion of a comprehensive traditional land use and occupancy study, the PC may consider designating zones within the area of responsibility that specify management prescriptions on a watershed basis.

This plan is a living document that will undergo regular review and amendment to ensure it reflects:

- Additional traditional use and cultural heritage information that is identified;
- New capacity gained and information acquired;
- Changing environmental and economic realities; and
- The results or monitoring arising from the implementation of the RMP.

Application

This plan applies to the T'it'q'et area of responsibility, as shown on the map in Appendix 1. The RMP will be utilized by the PC during all Crown land based consultation and information sharing processes and activities. In the spirit of building relationships with its neighbours the PC also requests that private landowners adhere to the plan.

Some aspects of the plan are site specific in scope, while others relate to issues at the watershed level. The applicability of each objective and indicator depends on the nature of the proposed activity, the potential impacts of this activity, and the geographic scope of management authority / responsibility that the proponent has.

Disclaimers

This RMP is not a comprehensive statement or definition of T'it'q'et's aboriginal rights and title. This plan is without prejudice to the positions that may be taken by the First Nation with regard to T'it'q'et's rights and title in future negotiations, land claims or other claims.

Use of this plan is to be used to facilitate discussions between the PC and development proponents and/or government. In no way does use of this plan by development proponents and/or government replace the requirements for consultation.

This plan has been written at a strategic level. Depending on the nature and location of a proposed development, site level requirements may also be developed by the PC.

Acknowledgements

This plan was developed at the request of the P'egp'ig'lha Council, and is based upon:

- Guidance and input from the P'egp'ig'lha Council, Elders Council, Chief and Council, other T'it'q'etmec (T'it'q'et members), and T'it'q'et staff;
- Previously developed internal lands based documents, including the T'it'q'et Land Use Plan;
- T'it'q'et agreements with government and industry;
- Stewarding the Traditional Land and Resources: A Vision and Plan for Action by the P'egp'ig'lha Council; and
- Strategic Planning Process for the Protection and Future Use of the Traditional Territories of the P'egp'ig'lha Peoples.

This plan has also considered and/or drawn upon external sources, including:

- St'at'imc Land Use Plan (Draft 2004 - not yet approved);
- St'at'imc Land and Resource Code (Draft 2007 - not yet approved);
- Land Use Plans and resource management processes developed by other First Nations in Canada;
- Best practice recommendations for resource management developed by various academic, governmental and non-governmental organizations; and
- Established, sector specific (certification) standards, namely the Forest Stewardship Council BC Regional Standard.

Section A: Planning

1. Consultation and Information Sharing

- 1.1. All consultation and information sharing is conducted as per the P'egp'ig'lha Referral Process, or other processes and/or agreements duly approved by the PC.

2. Adherence to P'egp'ig'lha Plans

- 2.1. The Crown/proponent adheres to: the T'it'q'et Land Use Plan; this P'egp'ig'lha Resource Management Plan including all objectives and indicators; and other management documents that may be approved from time to time by the PC.

3. Protocols and MOUs

- 3.1. Further to any specific references in the RMP, the PC determines when the negotiation of protocols, MOUs or other agreements with the Crown/proponent is needed to facilitate implementation of the RMP.

Section B: Assessments

4. Cultural and Archaeological Assessments

- 4.1. The Crown/proponent supports¹ P'egp'ig'lha conducting site-specific reconnaissance level assessments for cultural heritage resources and traditional uses, where the PC determines such assessments are needed. Assessments may include, but are not limited to: oral history interviews and community member consultations; associated mapping; review of academic, historic and archival material; review of scientific studies and material; review of government held information; and surface level field reconnaissance.
- 4.2. Reconnaissance level assessments are conducted by trained² T'it'q'etmec or persons designated by the PC.
- 4.3. Archaeological impact assessments (AIA) are conducted when needed as determined by the results of PC authorized cultural heritage resource and traditional use assessments and/or by government, according to terms that include, but are not limited to:
 - a. PC approval of consulting archaeological companies and/or archaeologists working in the T'it'q'et area of responsibility;
 - b. PC involvement in the development of the assessment methodology;
 - c. PC approval of AIA permit applications;
 - d. Trained T'it'q'etmec or their designates involved in the field work;
 - e. Incorporation of PC cultural criteria into the significance rating; and
 - f. PC joint development and/or approval of management recommendations.
 - g. PC approval of any Site Alteration Permits under Sec. 2 of the Heritage Conservation Act.
- 4.4. Archaeological Overview Assessments³ are updated every five years to reflect the results of cultural heritage resources assessments, Archaeological Impact Assessments and other T'it'q'et cultural information.
- 4.5. Only the PC determines the scope and level of impact that an activity has on T'it'q'et's cultural heritage resources and traditional uses.

5. Environmental Assessment

- 5.1. Where an assessment is needed as per the *BC Environmental Assessment Act* and/or the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*:
 - a. The terms for undertaking the Environmental Assessment and the PC's participation in the Assessment is negotiated with the Crown before the Assessment begins.

¹ Depending on the nature of the proposed development (size, scope, level of impact), the proponent (size of company, relationship with T'it'q'et) and the type of cultural heritage resources, T'it'q'et will determine what support is appropriate. This may include full funding, partial funding, joint funding applications or in-kind support.

² Training may be formal or experience based. Relevant training includes, but is not limited to: GPS, archaeological identification, traditional cultural knowledge, botany and ethnobotany.

³ An AOA was developed by Millennia in 1999 for the Lillooet Forest District. The model did not include T'it'q'et information, and has not been updated since its development.

- b. Through negotiation, the Environmental Assessment process is harmonized with the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate the interests of the PC in respect to the proposed activity.
 - c. The PC will be adequately resourced to participate in the Environmental Assessment, and in the harmonized process.
- 5.2. Other resource specific assessments are referenced throughout this plan (e.g. fisheries, wildlife, water). The PC will discuss the processes to conduct these assessments with the proponent, with the interest in ensuring best practices (e.g. High Conservation Value⁴ process) are utilized.

⁴ Forest Stewardship Council BC Regional Standard.

Section C: Cultural Sustainability

6. Protection of T'it'q'et Traditional Knowledge

- 6.1. T'it'q'et's traditional knowledge may only be used with the expressed, written permission of the P'egp'ig'lha Council.
- 6.2. Traditional knowledge shared by the PC may only be used by the intended parties, and only for the purposes explicitly agreed to in writing by the PC.
- 6.3. Traditional knowledge will only be transferred to a party once acceptable measures (e.g. information sharing agreements) are in place to ensure the security of the information.
- 6.4. The PC approves the terms by which any traditional knowledge may be displayed in the public realm.
- 6.5. Where the PC has agreed to a third party using traditional knowledge for commercial purposes, a mutual agreement has been reached on fair compensation.

7. Cultural Heritage Resources

For the purposes of this plan, cultural heritage resources include sites, artifacts, features, landscapes that are part of T'it'q'et heritage, as well as the surrounding areas that place these resources in context. For illustration, this includes but is not limited to: archaeological sites, sacred and spiritual sites, ceremonial sites, named places, natural resource collection areas (e.g. fishing spots, hunting camps, mineral extraction areas), and trails. These resources may be pre-contact (pre-1846) or post-contact, and may or may not have a physical expression.

Note: Cultural heritage resources are distinct from traditional use resources. Whereas cultural heritage resources are more site-specific, traditional use resources are typically more landscape based. Traditional use resources include wildlife, plants, trees and other natural resources that are used for food, social and ceremonial purposes. The resources are addressed individually in the Environmental Sustainability section of the plan.

- 7.1. T'it'q'et cultural heritage resources are identified and documented prior to development.
 - 7.1.1. If comprehensive cultural heritage resource data has not yet been collected for the area relevant to a proposed activity, an assessment is conducted as per the Assessments section.
- 7.2. The PC is the caretaker of T'it'q'et cultural heritage resources⁵.
 - 7.2.1. Only the PC determines the meaning and significance of cultural heritage resources.
 - 7.2.2. The PC determines which cultural heritage resources receive full protection⁶, and which management prescriptions⁷ will be used to ensure that protection.

⁵ An MOU with government is one option for achieving this objective. E.g. MOU on First Nation Heritage Site Conservation in Hul'qumi'num Tumuhw (June 2007) and the Treaty 8 First Nations Heritage Conservation MOU (May 2010)

⁶ E.g. burial sites and sacred sites

⁷ Management prescriptions may include, but are not limited to: Buffers, operational deletions, operational adjustments (location, timing, equipment choice), access restrictions (to motorized and non-motorized vehicles, cattle, horses), protected area status.

- 7.2.3. The PC determines when an activity can take place in a cultural heritage resource area, and what mitigation measures may be necessary to offset the impacts from the activity.
- 7.3. Non-St'at'imc people are authentically educated about T'it'q'et cultural heritage resources.
 - 7.3.1. Interpretations of the meaning, value and significance of cultural heritage resources are made by, or confirmed by, the PC.
 - 7.3.2. Representations of aboriginal culture made within the T'it'q'et area of responsibility must be culturally appropriate and accurate.⁸
- 7.4. T'it'q'etmec have access to their cultural heritage resources.
 - 7.4.1. See the Access Management section.

8. Traditional Fishing Spots

"Fishing rocks were individually owned and passed on to a person who would properly care for the rock and the wooden platform built thereon." "These fishing spots have honoured names" and must be respected. "The protection of and reacquisition of access to traditional fishing sites... remains an important community goal"⁹.

- 8.1. T'it'q'et fishing spots are identified and documented.
 - 8.1.1. See the Cultural and Archaeological Assessments section.
- 8.2. T'it'q'etmec have access to their fishing spots.
 - 8.2.1. Where access to fishing spots is through Crown land, see the Access Management section.
 - 8.2.2. Where access to fishing spots is through private land, positive relationships are developed to facilitate access.
- 8.3. T'it'q'et fishing spots are protected.
 - 8.3.1. Only the PC determines the scope and level of impact that an activity has on traditional fishing spots.
 - 8.3.2. The PC determines which management prescriptions will be used to ensure protection of traditional fishing spots, and what mitigation measures may be necessary to offset the impacts from development.
- 8.4. See the Fisheries section.

⁸ Note on applicability: T'it'q'et will not support external development proposals that misrepresent the culture of the area – e.g. such as the use of teepees.

⁹ T'it'q'et Land Use Plan

Section D: Environmental Sustainability

9. Access Management

Industrial road building and other activities increase access into and through the T'it'q'et area of responsibility. This has put pressure on wildlife species and their habitat, opened remote and sensitive areas to motorized recreation, and allowed unwanted access into areas with cultural heritage resources.

- 9.1. Access management plans¹⁰ are developed that consider: the need to maintain the ability of T'it'q'etmec to exercise their aboriginal rights¹¹ and access their cultural heritage resources; as well as the need to restrict access as needed to meet the requirements of this plan, as well as for other environmental, health and safety reasons.
- 9.2. Except in temporary situations for health and safety reasons¹², the ability of T'it'q'etmec to exercise their aboriginal rights, or access their cultural heritage resources, is not impeded.
- 9.3. The PC may voluntarily accept prolonged access restrictions if such restrictions are required to protect natural or cultural resources, or the environmental context in which the resources exists.
- 9.4. Temporary access structures, as defined in proponent plans, are rehabilitated promptly (e.g. in less than 5 years).

10. Fisheries

Fishery resources were, and remain to be, the main food of the T'it'q'mec¹³. Fisheries management needs to focus on T'it'q'et values, traditions and needs in the protection and rehabilitation of fish and fish habitat.

- 10.1. Native fish population numbers are maintained or restored.
 - 10.1.1. Baseline studies on native fish populations (particularly indicator species such as salmon) are conducted (or existing studies are supported and/or utilized) where fishery resources may be affected by a proposed activity.
 - 10.1.2. Management measures¹⁴ are implemented to ensure that fish populations are maintained or restored. As relevant and appropriate, such measures may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Use of hatcheries;
 - b. Restocking water bodies;

¹⁰ Access management plans address issues including, but are not limited to: road deactivation, density of roads, closures (e.g. gates, other barriers, timing restrictions), coordination of access by users, restrictions to types of access (e.g. motorized vehicles)

¹¹ E.g. Access for hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering; access to cultural heritage resources

¹² E.g. Active operations, emergency situations (fire, flood)

¹³ T'it'q'et Land Use Plan

¹⁴ Note that the PC does not believe that current legislation is adequate to meet this indicator.

- c. Area closures and reductions in catch limits¹⁵; and
- d. Enforcement of closures and catch limits.

10.1.3. Monitoring is conducted to determine the effectiveness of management measures, and adaptive management is implemented as necessary.

10.1.4. Open-net-cage fish farming in BC and surrounding waters is not permitted.¹⁶

10.1.5. The farming of Atlantic salmon in BC and surrounding waters is not permitted.

10.2. Aquatic habitat¹⁷ and fish habitat is maintained or restored.

General Habitat

10.2.1. See the Water section.

10.2.2. See the Terrain Stability and Erosion Control section.

10.2.3. Assessments are conducted to identify and assess the integrity and function of all aquatic habitat and fish habitat, and to categorize all fish bearing streams (both current and historical where possible) that may be affected by a proposed activity.

10.2.4. Management measures¹⁸ are implemented to ensure the integrity and function of all aquatic habitats and fish bearing streams are maintained or restored. As relevant and appropriate, such measures may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Enhancing water quality;
- b. Managing riparian zones through buffers;
- c. Improving in-stream habitat;
- d. Creating / improving fish passage;
- e. Stabilizing stream banks;
- f. Managing upstream development to prevent flash floods;
- g. Preventing water diversions upstream from fish habitat;
- h. Preventing in-stream work during fisheries windows; and
- i. Prevent motorized recreation vehicles, horses and cattle from crossing directly through streams.

10.2.5. Monitoring is conducted to determine the effectiveness of management measures, and adaptive management is implemented as necessary.

Critical Habitat to the PC

10.2.6. The PC are involved in identifying fish habitat that is critical to the maintenance of their Aboriginal rights.

¹⁵ Subject to conservation, St'at'imc members exercising their Aboriginal rights have harvest priority.

¹⁶ The PC will work cooperative with other First Nations on issues such as fisheries that extend beyond the area of responsibility.

¹⁷ Those parts of the environment on which an organism depends, directly or indirectly, in order to carry out its life, that is on, in or partially submerged in water.

¹⁸ Note that the PC does not believe that current legislation is adequate to meet this indicator.

10.2.7. Only the PC determines the scope and level of impact that an activity has on critical fish habitat.

10.2.8. The PC determines when an activity can take place in an area of critical fish habitat, and what mitigation measures may be necessary to offset the impacts from the activity.

11. Plants¹⁹

Through a seasonal round, T'it'q'etmec have traditionally harvested a range of berries (huckleberry, soap berries, blackcaps), medicines (yarrow, sage, devil's club, swamp team rock moss, juniper, rose hip, raspberry leaf tea, stinging nettles, mullein), foods (herbs, wild onions, potatoes, mushrooms), and materials for clothing and domestic needs (e.g. birch trees).

Pesticide use, motorized and non-motorized recreation, range use, forestry and unregulated wildcrafting all pose threats to the viability and distribution of plant communities.

11.1. Baseline studies on plants of interest to T'it'q'etmec are conducted where plants may be affected by a proposed activity.

11.2. The PC is the steward of plants within the area of responsibility.

11.2.1. The PC determines which plants receive full protection, and which management prescriptions²⁰ will be used to ensure that protection.

11.2.2. The PC determines when an activity can take place in an area where there are plants of significance²¹, and what mitigation measures²² may be necessary to offset the impacts from the activity.

11.3. T'it'q'etmec have access to plants of interest.

11.3.1. See the Access Management section.

11.4. The quantity and geographic distribution of native plants is maintained and/or enhanced.

11.4.1. See the Pesticide Use section.

¹⁹ The term plant can include any living organism belonging to the kingdom Plantae. This would include trees. However, within the context of the plan, plants include flowers, herbs, bushes, grasses, vines, ferns, and mosses. Mushrooms are not technically plants and belong to their own kingdom (fungi). However, for ease of language, mushrooms are included in this section.

²⁰ Management prescriptions may include, but are not limited to: Buffers, operational deletions, and operational adjustments (location, timing, equipment choice), access restrictions (to motorized and non-motorized vehicles, cattle, horses).

²¹ Significance is determined based on criteria such as: the rarity of the plant; the accessibility of the plant (e.g. is it the only closely accessible medicinal area for elders); the context in which the plant is located (e.g. spiritual site associated with a medicinal area)

²² Mitigation measures may include, but are not limited to: additional survey in adjacent areas; facilitating the harvest of plants prior to development; collecting plants and/or seeds prior to development and planting specimens after development; reintroducing traditional controlled burns to enhance growth post-development; replanting developed areas with traditional species; supporting a traditional plant nursery; harvesting plants from one area, and transplanting in the developed area; areas are set aside exclusively as plant collection areas.

- 11.4.2. Post-development, for activities that do not permanently alter the site, measures are taken²³ to ensure that native plants are re-established on the site.
- 11.4.3. Site restoration takes place in areas identified by the PC.
- 11.4.4. Commercial harvest of plants is only considered where sustainability of the plant community is demonstrated.
- 11.4.5. Commercial harvest of plants is regulated and monitored for sustainable harvest practices.
- 11.4.6. Exotic and invasive plants are not used for landscaping, erosion control, replanting or other purposes.
- 11.5. Rare, threatened and endangered plant communities and their habitats are protected.
 - 11.5.1. Through species at risk assessments, the habitats of red and blue listed plant communities²⁴, and threatened and endangered plant communities²⁵, are identified.
 - 11.5.2. If such communities are present, management measures are implemented to minimize risk to the long-term existence of those plant communities.
 - 11.5.3. Monitoring is conducted to determine the effectiveness of management measures, and adaptive management is implemented as necessary.

12. Terrain Stability and Erosion Control

- 12.1. Proposed activities do not compromise terrain stability or increase erosion.
 - 12.1.1. Relevant professionals²⁶ have conducted terrain stability assessments.
 - 12.1.2. Inventory information and the results of terrain stability mapping have been incorporated into the plans for the proposed activity.
 - 12.1.3. Management measures are implemented to ensure that occurrence rates of landslides, snow avalanches, waterborne erosion and sedimentation are not increased, due to actions associated with the proposed activity.
 - 12.1.4. Activities adjacent to areas with a likelihood of landslide initiation do not significantly increase windthrow hazards in those areas.
 - 12.1.5. Monitoring is conducted to determine the effectiveness of management measures, and adaptive management is implemented as necessary.

²³ Measures may include, but are not limited to: planting; reintroducing traditional controlled burns; measure to control competing brush.

²⁴ As defined by the BC Conservation Data Centre <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cdc/> and other sources.

²⁵ As defined by the BC Conservation Data Centre <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cdc/> and other sources.

²⁶ E.g. professional engineer or geoscientist with specialized expertise

13. Trees

T'it'q'etmec use a wide range of tree species for various traditional uses. For example: cedar roots and bark for weaving; spruce slats for pit houses; fir for housing; and pine and balsam pitch for medicine. Juniper, cottonwood and maple are also used.

Aside from the direct traditional use of trees, trees are also recognized for the important ecological functions they provide.

13.1. Old growth is maintained

13.1.1. The Current Legal Old Growth Management Areas (dated Feb. 13, 2008) established by the provincial government are maintained.

13.1.2. OGMAs will be spatially distributed to ensure old growth is represented in each ecosystem type.

13.2. Forests are regenerated

13.2.1. All forest areas that have been subject to disturbances (e.g. present logging, historic logging, wildfire, mountain pine beetle infestation²⁷), except those that have been intentionally converted to non-forest uses, are sufficiently restocked²⁸.

13.2.2. Regenerated areas maintain a diversity of tree species compatible with the range of natural variability²⁹ at the landscape level.³⁰

14. Unique Ecosystems

14.1. Measures are taken to ensure that unique ecosystems (e.g., exceptional old growth forests, rare site series), unique ecosystem features (e.g., caves, mineral licks) and non-forest ecosystems (e.g. wetlands, grasslands, rock outcrops) are identified³¹, and maintained or restored.

15. Water

²⁷ "A study by forest health staff with the province of Alberta concluded that in BC 40 to 70% of the area disturbed by mountain pine beetle is not sufficiently stocked with healthy numbers of living trees." Britneff, Anthony, RPF. NSR and British Columbia's Reforestation Crisis. May-June 2011, BC Forest Professional.

²⁸ "Sufficiently restocked" must be measured both at the free-to-grow milestone, as well as afterwards. "New work led by the Forest Service's Alex Woods has unearthed disturbing evidence of declines in the number of living, healthy trees on numerous free-growing sites years after the milestone was reached. (Parfitt. What is 'Not Satisfactorily Restocked' in BC's Forests?)

²⁹ As defined by the FSC BC Regional Standard, the range of natural variability (RONV) considers "the range of dynamic change in natural systems in the last 2000 years, and includes First Nations' prehistoric management systems (e.g. burning).

³⁰ Larch has recently been introduced to the area of responsibility, however this is not a native species to the area.

³¹ The FSC BC Regional Standard guidance on identifying High Conservation Values would be a valuable process unique ecosystems.

Water is the foundation of life. Therefore, a secure, consistent and adequate supply of clean water is of prime importance to T'it'q'etmec. A range of activities can pose threats to water quality and quantity (e.g. hydro development, forestry, mining, ranching, motorized recreation), as can environmental factors such as slope failure leading to sedimentation.

- 15.1. Watershed health is assessed³², and restoration programs are implemented for watersheds that have been heavily affected by logging, wildlife and other disturbances.
- 15.2. Hydrologic features³³ and riparian areas³⁴ are maintained or restored.
 - 15.2.1. See the Terrain Stability and Erosion Control section.
 - 15.2.2. Appropriate assessments³⁵ are conducted to identify and assess the integrity and function of all riparian areas³⁶ and hydrologic features³⁷ that may be affected by a proposed activity.
 - 15.2.3. Management measures³⁸ are implemented to ensure the integrity and function of identified riparian areas and hydrologic features are maintained or restored.
 - 15.2.4. Monitoring is conducted to determine the effectiveness of management measures, and adaptive management is implemented as necessary.
- 15.3. Water quality³⁹ and quantity⁴⁰ is maintained or restored.
 - 15.3.1. See the Terrain Stability and Erosion Control section.

³² Where water inside the area of responsibility originates from sources outside of the area of responsibility, information to assess watershed health may need to be collected from the broader geographic area.

³³ Water related features visible at the land surface, such as stream channels, lakes, springs, seepage zones and wetlands.

³⁴ Riparian areas are the area related to the bank or shore or a water body, as well as the area of land having qualities influenced by proximity to a water body.

³⁵ According to commonly accepted methodology, and at the relevant scale (e.g. site level or watershed level)

³⁶ The integrity of a riparian area may be measured by characteristics including, but not limited to its ability to: maintain cool water temperatures through the provision of shade; provide food resources for aquatic ecosystems; maintain bank stability; filter sediment; supply large woody debris to maintain channel form and in-stream habitat; and moderate downstream flood peaks.

³⁷ The integrity of a hydrologic feature may be measured by metrics including, but not limited to: water quantity; water flow rates; area of wetted perimeter; watercourse; and provision of habitat.

³⁸ Note that the PC does not believe that current legislation is adequate to meet this indicator.

³⁹ E.g. Temperature, pH, specific conductance, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, hardness, suspended sediment, fecal coliform bacteria

⁴⁰ E.g. Rates of flow, management of peak flow, volume, level

15.3.2. Baseline studies on water quality and quantity are conducted (or existing studies are supported and/or utilized) where water sources may be affected by a proposed activity.

15.3.3. Management measures⁴¹ are implemented to ensure that water quality and quantity is maintained or restored.

15.3.4. Monitoring is conducted to determine the effectiveness of management measures, and adaptive management is implemented as necessary.

15.3.5. Pollution sources are identified. Sewage, chemicals, mine tailings, industrial waste, fecal matter from livestock, run-off from agricultural and range areas, and other pollutants are prevented from entering all waterways and water sources (both above and below ground). Also see the Pesticide Use section.

15.3.6. The export of bulk water is prohibited.

15.4. T'it'q'etmec have access to a secure and adequate water source.

15.4.1. The T'it'q'et First Nation has licenses sufficient to meet domestic needs (e.g. drinking water, agriculture, horticulture, fire protection) and economic needs.

15.4.2. Water diversions above or affecting community water sources or T'it'q'et licences require the PC's consent.

16. Wildlife

16.1. Wildlife population numbers are maintained or restored.

16.1.1. Baseline studies on wildlife species (particularly indicator species such as mule deer and grizzly bears) are conducted (or existing studies are supported and/or utilized) where wildlife resources may be affected by a proposed activity.

16.1.2. Management measures⁴² are implemented to ensure that wildlife populations are maintained or restored. As relevant and appropriate, such measures may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Access management (see the Access Management section);
- b. Hunting restrictions⁴³; and
- c. Enforcement of hunting and access restrictions.

16.1.3. Monitoring is conducted to determine the effectiveness of management measures, and adaptive management is implemented as necessary.

16.2. Wildlife habitat is maintained or restored.

General Habitat

16.2.1. Appropriate assessments are conducted to identify and assess the integrity and function of wildlife habitat that may be affected by a proposed activity.

⁴¹ Note that the PC does not believe that current legislation is adequate to meet this indicator.

⁴² Note that the PC does not believe that current legislation is adequate to meet this indicator.

⁴³ Subject to conservation, St'at'imc members exercising their Aboriginal rights have harvest priority.

16.2.2. Management measures⁴⁴ are implemented to ensure that the integrity and function of wildlife habitat is maintained or restored. As relevant and appropriate, such measures may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Access management (see the Access Management section);
- b. Maintenance of landscape connectivity (e.g. between key habitats);
- c. Maintenance of appropriate stand structure and course woody debris;
- d. Establishment of Wildlife Habitat Areas, Wildlife Tree Patches, Deer Winter Range, and other reserves;
- e. Protection of migration routes and fawning areas.

16.2.3. Monitoring is conducted to determine the effectiveness of management measures, and adaptive management is implemented as necessary.

Critical Habitat to the PC

16.2.4. The PC are involved in identifying wildlife habitat that is critical to the maintenance of their Aboriginal rights.

16.2.5. Only the PC determines the scope and level of impact that an activity has on critical wildlife habitat.

16.2.6. The PC determines when an activity can take place in an area of critical wildlife habitat, and what mitigation measures may be necessary to offset the impacts from the activity.

16.3. Rare, threatened and endangered wildlife species and their habitats are protected.

16.3.1. Through species at risk assessments, the habitats of red and blue listed wildlife species⁴⁵ and threatened and endangered species⁴⁶, and species of special concern⁴⁷ are identified, and if present, protection and/or restoration measures are in place to minimize risk to the long-term existence of those wildlife species.

16.3.2. If such species are present, management measures are implemented to minimize risk to the long-term existence of those wildlife species.

16.3.3. Monitoring is conducted to determine the effectiveness of management measures, and adaptive management is implemented as necessary.

⁴⁴ Note that the PC does not believe that current legislation is adequate to meet this indicator.

⁴⁵ As defined by the BC Conservation Data Centre <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cdc/> and other sources.

⁴⁶ As defined by the BC Conservation Data Centre <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cdc/> and other sources.

⁴⁷ As defined by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada <http://www.cosewic.gc.ca> and other sources.

Section E: Economic Sustainability

17. Benefits to the Community

17.1. Development in the T'it'q'et area of responsibility must provide a balance of environmental protection and economic benefit for the T'it'q'et community. Therefore, the PC will determine when benefit-sharing agreements must be negotiated.

18. Benefits to the Environment

18.1. Prior to activity being initiated, proponents must demonstrate that they have sufficient economic resources to fulfill all immediate and long-term regulatory and management obligations, as well as requirements outlined in this plan⁴⁸.

⁴⁸ E.g. financial resources for planning, consultation, infrastructure, assessments, monitoring and closure

Section F: Specific Activities

19. Forestry

- 19.1. Forestry only takes place in appropriate locations within the T'it'q'et area of responsibility.
 - 19.1.1. Forestry is restricted from T'it'q'et sacred sites and sacred areas.
 - 19.1.2. The PC may determine additional restricted areas for forestry depending on assessments referenced in the Assessments, Cultural Sustainability, and Environmental Sustainability sections.
- 19.2. Forest Stewardship Council certification is pursued where the proponent has "clear long-term tenure and use rights to the land."⁴⁹
- 19.3. The PC are meaningfully involved in all levels for forestry (strategic through to operational).
 - 19.3.1. The PC Referral Process is adhered to, and the PC are consulted on items including, but not limited to:
 - a. Timber Supply reviews;
 - b. Annual Allowable Cut determinations;
 - c. Forest Stewardship Plans;
 - d. Site Plans;
 - e. Cutting permits and road permits;
 - f. Major amendments;
 - g. Licence awards, renewals and replacements;
 - h. Pesticide Use Applications; and
 - i. Heritage inspection and investigation permits.
- 19.4. Forestry activities do not cause negative impacts to cultural resources.
 - 19.4.1. See the Assessments section.
 - 19.4.2. See the Cultural Sustainability section.
- 19.5. Forestry is planned to minimize any disturbance, and not pose a threat of irreparable damage to the environment.
 - 19.5.1. See the Environmental Sustainability section.
 - 19.5.2. A sustainable harvest rate is followed in which:
 - a. Annual allowable cuts are based on the long-run sustained yield; and
 - b. The long-run sustained yield reflects the requirements of this plan as well as other values/interests that may be made known by the PC.
 - 19.5.3. Silviculture and stand management prescriptions are chosen to maintain and/or restore stand structure⁵⁰ to conditions compatible with the range of natural variability.

⁴⁹ As defined in criterion 2.1 and the glossary of the FSC Regional Certification Standards for British Columbia (Oct. 2005)

⁵⁰ Stand structure includes, but is not limited to: canopy complexity, live wildlife trees, dominant and co-dominant green trees, snags and coarse woody debris.

19.5.4. Forest management maintains or restores a distribution of seral stages, patch sizes and interior habitat that are compatible with the range of natural variability.

19.5.5. Forest management maintains mature and old forest landscape connectivity between various landscape components, stand types and key habitats.

19.5.6. Yarding and falling into or across waterways is prohibited.

19.6. Forestry is planned to minimize interface⁵¹ fires.

19.7. The benefits of forestry accrued to the PC must outweigh any environmental and social costs.

19.7.1. See the Economic Sustainability section.

20. Hydro⁵² and Renewable Energy⁵³

While this RMP addresses development related to the generation of power, first and foremost the PC promotes the conservation of energy to reduce the need for increased generation capacity. Where additional capacity is developed, the PC endorses clean, renewable sources.

Concerns related to hydro development include: changes to and loss of fish and wildlife habitat; impact on cultural heritage resources; changes to water quality and quantity; pesticide use; and placement of linear access roads, penstocks and transmission lines.

Concerns related to wind development include: bird collisions, displacement and electrocution; operational disturbances (e.g. shadow flicker, noise); disruption of migratory movement; electromagnetic fields; and increased access affecting wildlife.

20.1. Hydro and renewable energy development only takes place in appropriate locations within the T'it'q'et area of responsibility.

20.1.1. Hydro and renewable energy development is restricted from T'it'q'et sacred sites and sacred areas.

20.1.2. The PC may determine additional restricted areas for hydro and renewable energy development depending on assessments referenced in the Assessments, Cultural Sustainability and Environmental Sustainability sections.

20.2. The PC are meaningfully involved in all levels for hydro and renewable energy development.

20.2.1. The PC Referral Process is adhered to, with the following specific requirement:

- a. Given the scope and degree of impacts, the PC's consent must be obtained for any new large-scale hydro-electric projects;
- b. The PC is consulted directly during Preliminary Site Assessments for proposed wind projects ('desktop' reviews of PC interests is not acceptable).

⁵¹ The area between wildlands and communities.

⁵² Large scale and Independent Power Producers

⁵³ E.g. Wind, solar, geo thermal

- 20.3. Hydro and renewable energy projects do not cause negative impacts to cultural resources.
- 20.3.1. See the Assessments section.
- 20.3.2. See the Cultural Sustainability section.
- 20.4. Hydro and renewable energy projects are planned to minimize any disturbance, and not pose a threat of irreparable damage to the environment.
- 20.4.1. See the Environmental Sustainability section.
- 20.4.2. New projects, where possible, are planned to take advantage of existing infrastructure systems (e.g. roads, powerlines).
- 20.4.3. Where rock is exposed for construction purposes, also see the “prior to mine construction” indicators re: acid rock drainage potential in the Mining section.
- 20.4.4. Transmission lines and penstocks are planned in a way that minimizes visual impacts.
- 20.4.5. Hydro initiatives are planned so:
- a. Water is not diverted upstream from fish habitat that has been identified as critical by the PC (see the Fisheries section);
 - b. All infrastructure and access roads are removed and the site is restored as close as possible to its natural state if power generation ceases.
- 20.4.6. Wind initiatives are planned in a way to:
- a. Avoid / minimize bird strikes;
 - b. Minimize noise when developments are near communities; and
 - c. Avoid large scale land clearing;
 - d. Ensure all infrastructure and access roads are removed and the site is restored as close as possible to its natural state if power generation ceases.
- 20.4.7. Geo thermal initiatives are planned so:
- a. Noxious fumes⁵⁴ from open-loop systems are prevented;
 - b. Metals⁵⁵, minerals and gases are prevented from leaching into the geothermal steam or water;
 - c. Injection of fluids (in closed-loop systems) into the ground is prevented; and.
 - d. All infrastructure and access roads are removed and the site is restored as close as possible to its natural state if power generation ceases.
- 20.5. The benefits of hydro and renewable energy development accrued to the PC must outweigh any environmental and social costs.
- 20.5.1. See the Economic Sustainability section.

21. Mining

⁵⁴ E.g. hydrogen sulfide, benzene, radon, ammonia and boron

⁵⁵ E.g. mercury and arsenic

As a community, the T'it'q'et have mixed feelings on whether mining is compatible with the PC's mandate of protecting the area of responsibility. To date, T'it'q'et's experience with mining has not been a positive one. There is a history of: an absence of meaningful consultation; damage to the area of responsibility (e.g. contamination of water, disturbances to wildlife, destruction of cultural heritage resources); and an absence any benefits to the community⁵⁶.

On the whole, the PC needs more information about the effects of mining on their interests. The PC believes though that mining, like other extractive activities, can be carried out in a way that is environmentally conscientious and mutually beneficial to both the proponent and the T'it'q'et community.

21.1. Mining only takes place in appropriate locations within the T'it'q'et area of responsibility.

21.1.1. Mining is restricted from T'it'q'et sacred sites and sacred areas.

21.1.2. The PC may determine additional restricted areas for mining depending on assessments referenced in the Assessments, Cultural Sustainability, and Environmental Sustainability sections.

21.2. The PC are meaningfully involved in all mining phases (exploration through to closure).

21.2.1. The PC Referral Process is adhered to, with the following specific aspects incorporated:

- a. As necessary, a consultation process agreement is developed for each mining phase.
- b. If the PC approves of a feasible project, reclamation and remediation plans must be discussed with the PC prior to the commencement of mine construction.

21.3. Mining activities do not cause negative impacts to cultural resources.

21.3.1. See the Assessments section

21.3.2. See the Cultural Sustainability section.

21.4. Mining activities are planned to minimize any disturbance, and not pose a threat of irreparable damage to the environment.

21.4.1. See the Environmental Sustainability section.

21.4.2. Within 3 years of exploration activities starting, the proponent demonstrates progress on determining project feasibility. The project has either advanced to the development phase, or the proponent has significantly reduced (e.g. by 50%+) the exploration area.

21.4.3. Prior to mine construction, the proponent:

- a. Provides information to the PC on the acid generation potential of the proposed site.

⁵⁶ A 2010 Harvard Law report found that mining "frequently prevents First Nations from using their traditional lands for subsistence and cultural practices and causes significant environmental harm" and that First Nations generally "bear an unfair burden at every point in the mining process", from registration to claims to exploration, production and abandonment of closed sites. "*Bearing the Burden: the Effects of Mining on First Nations in British Columbia.*" <http://law.harvard.edu/programs/hrp/BearingTheBurden.pdf>.

- b. Provides information on chemicals that would be used in mining operations, and protection measures that will be associated with their use.⁵⁷
- c. States under what conditions the exposure and transport of any contaminants will take place.
- d. Demonstrates that it is feasible to provide long-term treatment of any toxic run-off that would be generated by the mine site.

21.4.4. The mine site is engineered to ensure that:

- a. Measures are taken to reduce opportunities for acids to form.
- b. No tailings enter any waterway, accidentally or intentionally. The PC prohibits the classification of natural water bodies as tailing impoundment areas under Schedule 21 of the Metal Mining Effluent Regulation.
- c. Tailings are disposed of in fully engineered impoundments.
- d. There are no failures of tailings dams.
- e. There is no uncontrolled leaching of acid drainage, heavy metal contamination of waterways, or pollution from processing chemicals.
- f. The number of discreet sources of mine-water run-off is minimized (e.g. target of 1).

21.4.5. The proponent provides evidence that adequate financial resources and securities are present to address: ongoing restoration; any environmental issues that arise during mine activities; the full implementation of the closure plan; and monitoring requirements established by the PC and regulatory bodies.

21.4.6. Closure plans include the goals of: restoring native plants and habitats⁵⁸; creating new habitats that are biodiverse and productive; and re-contouring the site.

21.5. The benefits of mining accrued to the PC must outweigh any environmental and social costs.

21.5.1. See the Economic Sustainability section.

22. Pesticide Use (including Herbicides and Fungicides)

The P'egg'ig'lha Council has a serious concern about the potential, negative effects that pesticides have on human, wildlife, water, plants and the environment in general.

The use of pesticides carries high potential for infringing on the aboriginal rights of T'it'q'etmec, as many members consume plants, medicines, fish and wildlife that may be contaminated by

⁵⁷ E.g. nitrates and ammonia from explosives used to blast rock can lead to algae blooms in rivers.

⁵⁸ E.g. vs. merely spraying grass seed on barren rock.

pesticides. Consultation should be at the high end of the spectrum where such risks are present.⁵⁹

The application of pesticides is relevant to situations including, but not limited to:

- Infrastructure maintenance
 - E.g. Utility lines, roads, dam sites, hydro electric compounds
- Pest management
 - E.g. Insects (pine beetle, tussock moth)
 - E.g. Fungal diseases (root rot)
- Control of competitive species
 - E.g. Plants or other tree seedlings in harvested areas competing with desired species
- Control of invasive plant species

Pesticide applications are typically managed through the Ministry of Forests and Range, and can reference activities within forestry, range, hydro, and highways.

The St'at'imc Chiefs' Council has passed a No Pesticide Resolution. Recognizing that government has continued to approve pesticide applications despite this position, the PC has committed to learn more about the effects of pesticides from independent sources in order to be able to respond to referrals in an informed manner.

Once the PC has gathered necessary information, this section will be updated as appropriate.

22.1. The PC's first preference is that pesticides not be used.

22.2. However, the PC acknowledges that where there are no known feasible non-chemical alternatives, pesticides may be required to control invasive species or other pest outbreaks that pose a high risk to the ecological integrity of forest ecosystems or traditional / cultural species of interest. In these limited instances where pesticides are used:

22.2.1. Information on the active ingredient(s) of the pesticide is provided.

22.2.2. Information on the effects of pesticides is provided.

22.2.3. Upon request of the PC, information shall be provided that:

- a. Is non-technical in nature;
- b. Has been developed by a source independent to the pesticide manufacturer and the development proponent;
- c. Describes the content of the pesticide, its normal use, its normal application methods, and any known environmental and/or health risks.

22.2.4. A pre-cautionary approach to the use of the pesticides is used, in which: human and wildlife health; water quality; and the maintenance of plants and tree species of traditional or cultural interest to T'it'q'et are treated with primacy.

22.2.5. Prohibited pesticides as identified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) are not used.⁶⁰

⁵⁹ First Nations Summit: First Nations Ad Hoc Technical Working Group on pesticide legislation, policy and consultation. Mar. 3, 2007.

⁶⁰ See www.fsccanada.org for up to date list

- 22.2.6. Pesticides do not enter any waterways, under any circumstances (directly or indirectly).
- 22.2.7. Integrated pest management⁶¹ strategies consider the use of traditional burns, as appropriate to the management need.
- 22.2.8. Measures are implemented to clearly demonstrate to T'it'q'etmec and others where the pesticides have been applied.
- 22.2.9. See the Plants section.

23. Ranching and Farming

- 23.1. Ranching and farming only takes place in appropriate locations within the T'it'q'et area of responsibility.
 - 23.1.1. Ranching and farming is restricted from T'it'q'et sacred sites and areas.
 - 23.1.2. Horses and livestock are restricted from riparian areas and do not have free access to waterways and water bodies.
 - 23.1.3. The PC may determine additional restricted areas for ranching and farming depending on assessments referenced in the Assessments, Cultural Sustainability, and Environmental Sustainability sections.
- 23.2. Objectives and indicators in this RMP are reflected in range use plans, range stewardship plans, and environmental farm plans.
- 23.3. Ranching and farming does not cause negative impacts on the cultural resources.
 - 23.3.1. See the Assessments section.
 - 23.3.2. See the Cultural Sustainability section.
- 23.4. Ranching and farming is planned to minimize any disturbance, and not pose a threat of irreparable damage to the environment.
 - 23.4.1. See the Environmental Sustainability section.
 - 23.4.2. See the Pesticide Use section.
 - 23.4.3. When fertilizers are used:
 - a. Preference is given to non-chemical alternatives that are of equivalent effectiveness;
 - b. Measures are employed to maintain long-term soil health (e.g. maintenance of soil organic matter, pH balance); and
 - c. Measures are employed to avoid contamination of surface and ground waters.

⁶¹ From the FSC BC Standard, Indicator 6.6.12. The FSC BC Standard defines integrated pest management (IPM) as "an ecological method of pest control that relies on a combination of operational approaches to reduce damage to the (environment) rather than to eliminate the pest. An important goal of IPM is to minimize environmental impact. IPM techniques may include the use of natural predators and parasites, genetically resistant hosts, environmental modifications, and when necessary and appropriate, chemical pesticides.

23.4.4. To avoid the spread of invasive plants, grazing is restricted from areas with such plants.

23.4.5. Livestock trails are located in a way that prevents water runoff from the trails entering into waterways and water bodies.

24. Recreation

Recreation includes motorized (e.g. dirt bikes, ATVs, snowmobiles, boats, helicopters and fixed wing aircrafts) and non-motorized activities (e.g. horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking), both commercial and non-commercial.

- 24.1. Recreation only takes place in appropriate locations within the T'it'q'et area of responsibility.
 - 24.1.1. Motorized recreation is prohibited in the alpine.
 - 24.1.2. All types of recreation are restricted from T'it'q'et sacred sites and sacred areas.
 - 24.1.3. The PC may determine additional restricted areas for recreation depending on assessments referenced in the Assessments, Cultural Sustainability, and Environmental Sustainability sections.
- 24.2. Objectives and indicators in this RMP are reflected in commercial recreation tenure management plans.
- 24.3. Recreation does not cause negative impacts on the cultural resources⁶².
 - 24.3.1. See the Assessments section.
 - 24.3.2. See the Cultural Sustainability section.
- 24.4. Recreational activities are planned to minimize any disturbance, and not pose a threat of irreparable damage to the environment.
 - 24.4.1. See the Access Management section.
 - 24.4.2. See the Environmental Sustainability section.
 - 24.4.3. Existing trails are deactivated where use of such trails is shown to compromise any objective or indicator in this RMP⁶³.
 - 24.4.4. All recreation users adhere to a "leave no trace" ethic⁶⁴.
 - 24.4.5. The footprint from recreational infrastructure is not expanded⁶⁵.

⁶² There are particular risks posed by trail building and use (in snow free conditions), and activities in riparian areas.

⁶³ E.g. Poorly placed trails on steep grades, or eroding trails.

⁶⁴ E.g. Removing all garbage; restricting campfires to designated camping grounds with established fire pits; preventing oily bilge discharge; spillproofing oil changes and tank fills (e.g. boats, motorized off-road vehicles); and proper waste disposal (e.g. oil, sewage).

⁶⁵ E.g. recreation is restricted to existing roads and trails (no off-trail activity or new trail development)

- 24.4.6. Existing facilities are utilized for human waste, and human waste is kept well away from waterways⁶⁶.
 - 24.4.7. Distances are maintained from wildlife so as to not cause a change in their behaviour⁶⁷.
 - 24.4.8. Recreational activity is restricted from known wildlife habitat areas (e.g. winter range).
 - 24.4.9. Intentional wildlife viewing is restricted during calving / denning / nesting periods.
- 24.5. Recreational activities are monitored, and regulations are enforced.

⁶⁶ The suggested best practice is 100m.

⁶⁷ In open areas, the suggested best practice is 100m, or 500m in calving season.

Section G: Monitoring

Monitoring Conformance with the RMP

- 24.6. Prior to the approval of a development application, any requests by the Crown/proponent to conduct an activity in the area of responsibility are subject to the P'egp'ig'lha Referral Process.
- 24.7. Upon approval of a development application, the P'egp'ig'lha Council will provide the Crown/proponent with a post-activity monitoring report template.
- 24.8. Prior to any activity commencing, the PC may establish a monitoring plan with the Crown/proponent that includes a T'it'q'etmec or other independent person to act as an on-site monitor.
- 24.9. As activity proceeds, the Crown/proponent must, at the earliest opportunity possible:
 - a. Report to the PC any instances where the Crown/proponent believes an indicator cannot be met; and
 - b. Propose an alternative indicator consistent with the spirit and intent of the plan.
- 24.10. The PC will review and assess the alternative indicator, and confirm its acceptability with the proponent.
- 24.11. The Crown/proponent amends management plans and activities as needed to reflect the results of monitoring.
- 24.12. After the activity is completed, the Crown/proponent is responsible for completing the monitoring report by providing information on conformance with the relevant indicators.
- 24.13. Where conformance has not been met, and the Crown/proponent has not previously established an alternative management option with the PC, the PC will consider pursuing mitigating actions as appropriate.

Monitoring Effectiveness of the RMP

- 24.14. The PC will develop a method to regularly assess the effectiveness of the RMP. Results of monitoring will be used to amend the plan accordingly.

Appendix 1: Map of the T'it'q'et Area of Responsibility

