



MUSKWA-KECHIKA MANAGEMENT AREA

BC's Working Wilderness

Spring 2008

M-KMA welcomes Tom Briggs as new Chair



The M-KMA is pleased to announce Tom Briggs as the new Chair of the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (M-KAB). Tom began his role as Chair in May 2007 and will serve a two-year term.

Tom has played a pivotal role on the M-K Advisory Board since 2001, and was the Mayor of Mackenzie, BC for many years.

This year the Board has also selected two M-KAB Co-Vice Chairs, Bill Lux (Kaska Dena), and Jason Lee (Treaty 8 Tribal Association). Bill and Jason will work closely with Tom, serving as leaders in the community.

About the M-KMA

Rich in wildlife, recreational opportunities, oil and gas and other resources, the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA) strives to conserve wilderness, wildlife and cultural values.

Oil and gas, as well as mining exploration and development, forestry and other industries are permitted to operate in approximately 75 per cent of the M-KMA. The remaining 25 per cent of the M-KMA has been designated as Provincial parkland, where resource extraction is not permitted.

Companies operating in the M-KMA are expected to respect the diverse habitat while applying best practices in their operational planning and activity.

For more information on the M-KMA please contact the M-K Information Office at 250-262-0065.



MUSKWA-KECHIKA
MANAGEMENT AREA

M-KMA Youth Camps

This last summer, the M-KMA welcomed youth from throughout northern BC to the 9th Annual M-KMA Environmental Youth Camp.

Hosted by the Kaska Dena First Nations, youth shared a unique and educational experience, learning about tradition and absorbing the wisdom from three Elders. Camp activities included making slippers, snowshoes and babiche (snowshoe webbing), sewing bead work and tanning moose hide. Most importantly the youth and elders discussed the importance of respecting the land.

Guest speakers held sessions covering a range of topics including traditional stories, the effects of global climate change, and future economic development in the M-KMA.

During the day, participants enjoyed physical activities such as relay races, swimming and hiking. Every evening, the youth were given secluded reflective time and participated in a council fire where each had the opportunity to speak when a feather was passed to them.

The 2008 M-K Environmental Youth Camp will be hosted by the Treaty 8 First Nation.



Photographers: Tara Forest, Kimberly Briggs, M-KAB, etc.



Geographic Valuation System

In 2004, Dr. Alex Hawley and Nancy Elliott of the University of Northern British Columbia and Roslyn Pokiak of the Halfway River First Nation, developed the now coveted Geographic Valuation System (GVS) to be used in the M-KMA.

The GVS is a software program that captures the values, beliefs, oral history and knowledge of a First Nations community to use in communication, education and decision-making, and is compatible with all aspects of resource management, including Geographic Information Systems.

Funded by the M-KAB, this innovative system enables First Nations to participate in resource management planning and resolution. It also helps First Nations communities communicate using audio, visuals and other media, and to identify areas of high spiritual value.

Currently several First Nations communities in the BC interior are working to incorporate this tool into their management. For more information on GVS, visit: <http://datashare.gis.unbc.ca/gvs/>.

M-KMA Celebrates a Major Milestone

This year the M-KAB will celebrate its 10th anniversary of successful consensus-based decision making.

Since its inception in 1998, the M-KAB has been providing vital support and advice to the Provincial government on a variety of policy and planning initiatives in the M-KMA.

Working to ensure that the vision for the M-KMA is achieved, the Board remains vigilant of evolving public policy, industry and technology advancements, and emerging issues within the M-KMA.

M-KMA/UNBC Partnership Agreement

For the past 10 years, the M-KAB and University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) have shared an interim partnership agreement.

This winter the M-KAB/UNBC Partnership Agreement was nominated for a *Premier's Innovation and Excellence Award*. On January 31st, 2008 the partnership received a Bronze Award, North Region for providing exceptional natural resource management in the M-KMA. For a video clip about the partnership, please visit the links page at www.muskwa-kechika.com.

Through the partnership agreement, the M-KAB has allocated funding to support an M-K professor and various research projects in the M-KMA. Public presentations in northern BC communities have been successfully delivered for research projects undertaken by UNBC. In addition to annual funding for ongoing research, M-K funding has also been granted to an M-K Endowment for research, housed at UNBC.

Research is a key component in ensuring the M-KMA vision is met. Results from research conducted in the M-KMA will be used to determine how activities are conducted and the level of acceptable activity.



QUICK FACTS

- 6.4 million hectares located in northeast BC, the M-KMA is approximately twice the size of Vancouver Island.
- The M-KMA supports a significant part of the largest predator-prey system in North America.
- The M-KMA's Kechika River is BC's largest remaining unroaded watershed.
- Visitors can access the M-KMA by driving from Tetsa River to Liard River Hot Springs Provincial Park along the world famous Alaska Highway.



Muskwa-Kechika Information Office

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