

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board
2004-2005 Report to the Premier and the Public
Province of British Columbia, Canada



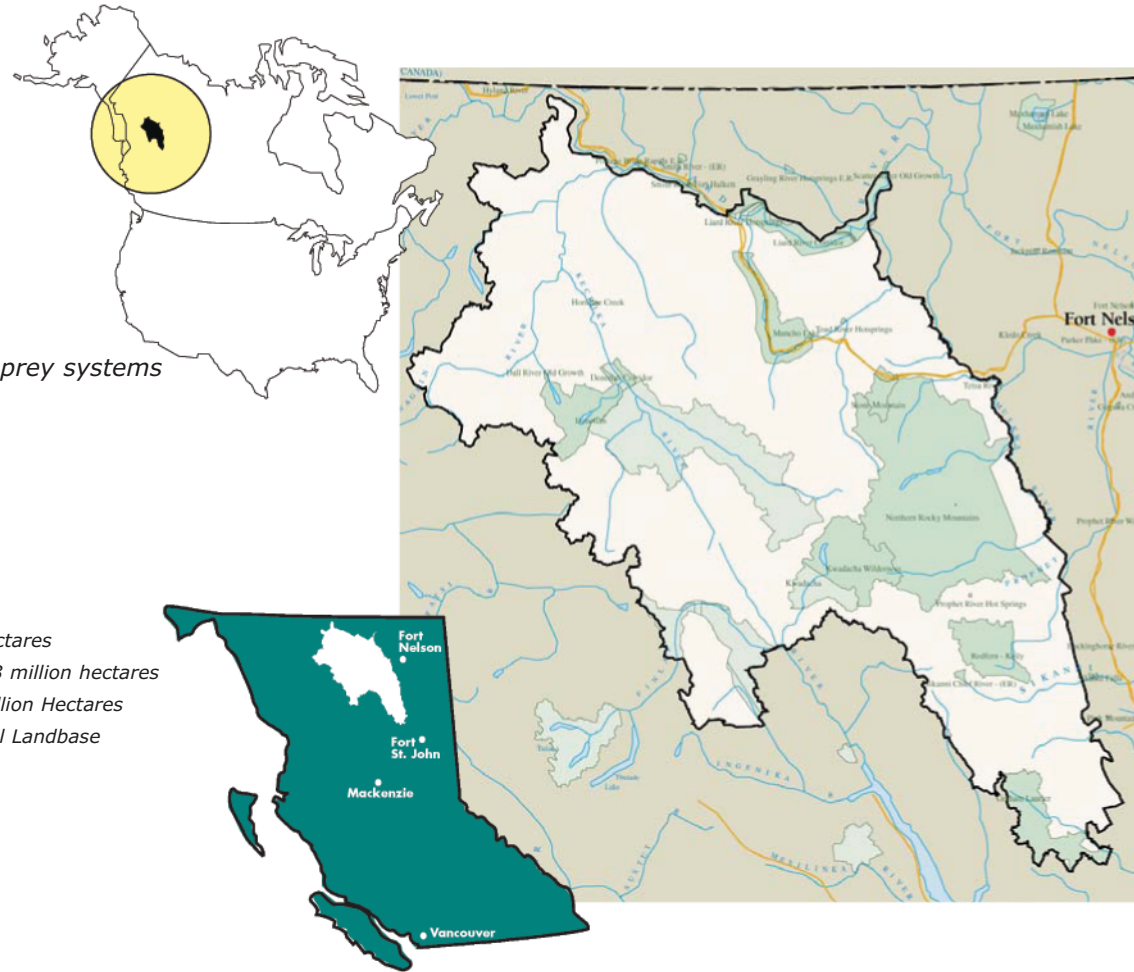
Wilderness, Wildlife and Culture





MUSKWA-KECHIKA
MANAGEMENT AREA

*Home to Globally Significant
Wilderness, Wildlife and Cultures
One of North America's largest intact predator-prey systems*



Total area: 6.4 million hectares
Protected Areas: 1.64 million hectares
Special Management zones: 3.63 million hectares
Special Wildland Zones: 0.92 million Hectares
7% of British Columbia Provincial Landbase

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data
Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board
Province of British Columbia, Canada
Annual Report to the Premier and the Public – Fiscal Year 1998/1999 -

Annual
ISSN 1492-4021 = Annual Report – Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (Fort St. John, British Columbia, Canada)

1. Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (BC) – Periodicals.
 2. Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund (BC) – Periodicals
 3. Natural resource management areas – British Columbia – Periodicals
 4. Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (BC)
- I. Title

HC117.B7M87

333.76'15'0971105

C00-960167-8

Our Cover Photo Credit:
Tuchodi Lake ~ J. Ayotte

Graphic
Design:



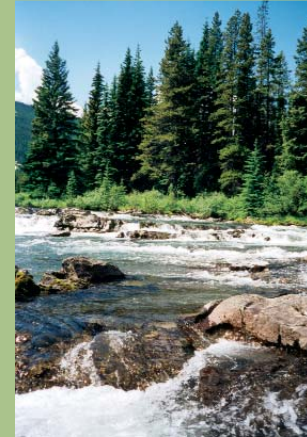
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Graham River
photo courtesy of K. Vince



MUSKWA-KECHIKA
MANAGEMENT AREA

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*6.4 million hectares,
approximately twice the size
of Vancouver Island*

*Few places on earth match
the significance of the
M-KMA in terms of raw
beauty, isolation, biodiversity,
wildlife, wilderness, natural
resources, and spiritual and
cultural values.*



*Lloyd George Ice Fields in M-KMA
photo courtesy of G. Vince*



*Besa 178 valley pass
photo courtesy of B. Holland*



October 20, 2005

Honourable Pat Bell
Minister of Agriculture and Lands
PO Box 9043 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bell,

On behalf of the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board, it is my privilege to submit to you our 2004-2005 Report to the Premier and the Public, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2005.

As stated in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Management Plan (October 1997, Section 2.1.1b), it is a responsibility of the Advisory Board to report, at least annually, to the Public and the Premier, on the results of the Board's semi-annual reviews and any other issues related to the management of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

We look forward to the year ahead.

Yours truly,

Ross Peck
Chair, Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board



Wilderness, Wildlife and Culture

Executive Summary

Message from the Chair

It is my privilege to submit the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Report to the Premier and the Public, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005.

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA) was legislated in 1998 with the passing of the *Muskwa-Kechika Act* (Bill 37), and its subsequent amendments (Bills 14-2001 and 22-2002). The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (M-KAB), consisting of nineteen members, provides government with information and advice concerning issues of M-KMA land and resource and management, while making annual expenditure recommendations to the M-K Trust Fund Trustee (Minister of Sustainable Resource Management).

New This Year

David Campbell, having filled the Coordinator position since 2003, moved on at the end of August 2004 and Karrilyn Vince came on board as the new Advisory Board Coordinator with Tara Forest continuing in a new position as the full-time Associate Coordinator.

The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board project to clearly define the terms "wilderness," "wilderness quality" and "wilderness characteristics," was undertaken to ensure that management of activities occurs in a manner consistent with the intent of the *M-KMA Act*. The Advisory Board submitted to government its Wilderness Definition, intending that the definition should be tested by managers and utilized as a policy tool as well as at an operational level.

Partnerships

Over the year projects through the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund were also supported through generous donations from Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society, Abitibi-Consolidated, Northeastern BC Wildlife Fund, Madrone Environmental Services Ltd., Wild Sheep Society of BC, North Peace Rod & Gun Club and the Science, Community and Environmental Knowledge Fund (SCEK). In addition a significant partnership was undertaken with Teck Cominco Limited where the company approached the Advisory Board to undertake clean

up and remediation of the abandoned Churchill Mine site. The project was highly successful due to initiative by Teck Cominco Limited and support through funding and work completed by the company. The Advisory Board hopes to encourage future partnerships that will not only support the work of the Board but foster awareness of the M-KMA.

Challenges

A large amount of Advisory Board work involves directly communicating and working with various levels of government, locally, regionally and provincially to ensure that M-KMA activities are consistent with the *M-KMA Act*. In 2003-2004 the Advisory Board continued to research and develop various M-KAB governance and M-K Trust Fund options; the intent was to provide government with viable options in anticipation of the Trust Fund expiring in March 31st, 2006. Through this process the Board held a series of meetings with Ministers and ADMs to discuss the various options. Board requested assurance from government that i) the Board would continue its mandate beyond 2006, ii) funding would be in place to enable the Board to carry out its mandate, and iii) the work of the Board, past, present and future was respected. (The letter can be found on pages 17 and 18)

As an outcome of governance work, a letter was provided from the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) to the Chair of the Board on January 27, 2005. The Minister clarified the BC Government's decision regarding the future of the M-KMA and the M-KAB, outlining the principal direction and commitments approved by government.

Local Strategic Planning

Local strategic plans for forestry, oil and gas, recreation and wildlife management are legislated prerequisite to resource development in the M-KMA. These strategic plans will provide guidance for development and use within the M-KMA. Local strategic plans for parks are a prerequisite for uses within a park other than resource extraction.

There were no new reported Landscape Unit Objectives

mission

"Provide respected and trusted advice that ensures the dynamic ecosystems, wilderness, wildlife and cultural diversity of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area are maintained in perpetuity"



*Alpine Northern Rockies
photo courtesy of K. Vince*

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board
2004-2005 Report to the Premier
and the Public



*Prophet River airstrip
photo courtesy of K. Vince*



*Fishing
photo courtesy of K. Vince*

(LUOs) developed, however monitoring is ongoing in the Fox and Obo LUS. As well, i) the Draft M-KMA Recreation Management Plan was completed, ii) the Pre-Tenure Plans for Oil and Gas Development in the Muskwa-Kechika Management working draft was completed, and iii) numerous Draft Management Direction Statements and Park Management Plans underwent a Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection internal review.

Event Highlights

The Annual M-KMA Environmental Youth Camp, hosted this year by the Kaska Dena Council at Moose Lake, was highly successful, with 16 youth attending. The youth learned about current land and resource management issues, traditional activities and personal health.

Ongoing Projects

The Advisory Board is continually striving to understand processes and potential impacts of development while continuing to expand the scientific and TEK information base. The intent is to provide strategic management advice and investment in the region and local communities. It is our hope that a governance plan, funding model and amendments to the *M-KMA Act* will be finalized in the next fiscal.

I would like to close with my appreciation to staff and Board members who continue to devote so much time and effort into ensuring the vision of the M-KMA is maintained.

Ross Peck

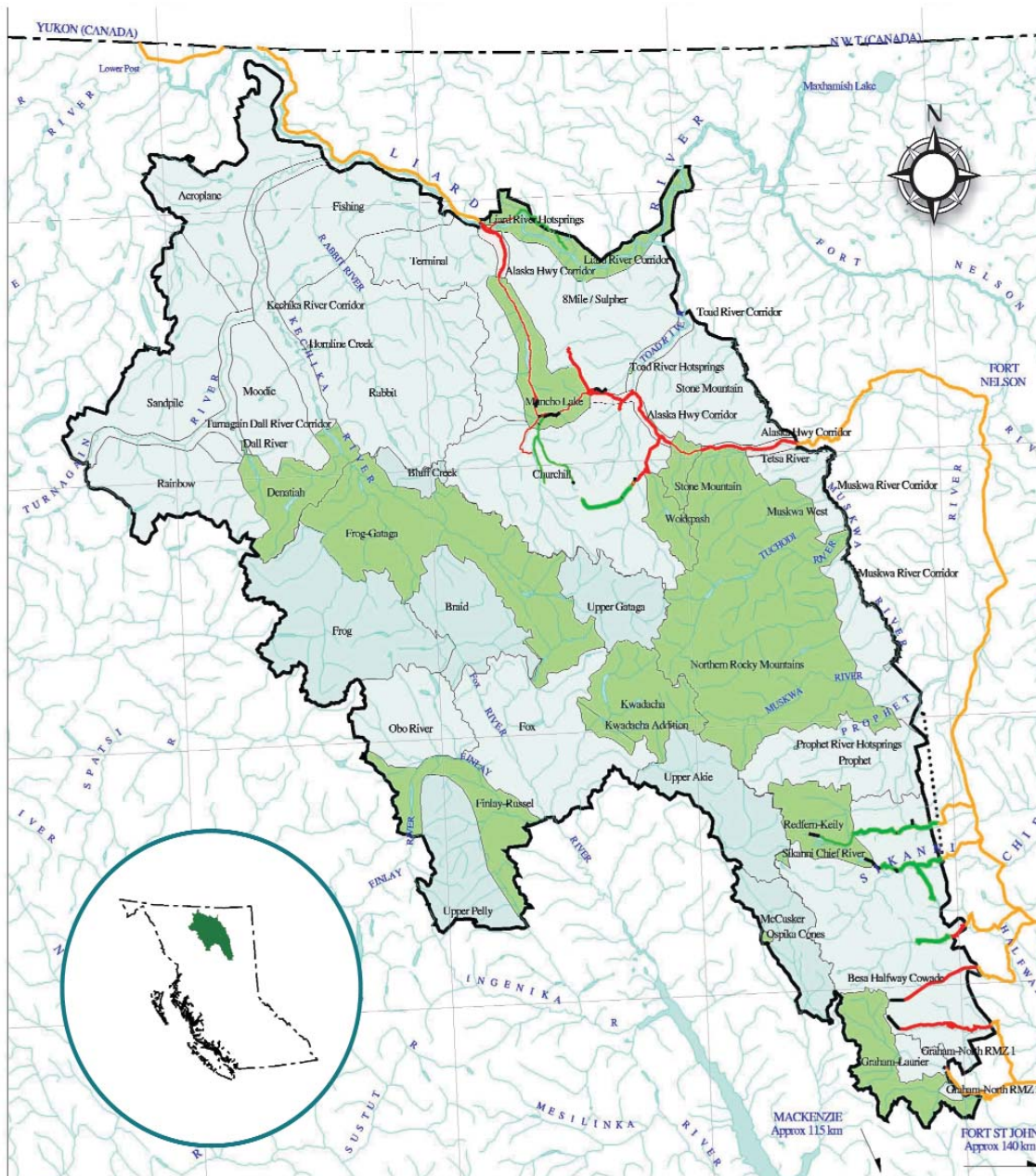
Background and Key Legislation

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA), situated in northeastern British Columbia (BC), is an area of land designated for varying levels of protection, conservation and use (for example, economic development, research, backcountry recreation, and Alaska Highway travel). The M-KMA serves as a model for the future, enabling economic development while protecting a large, intact and predominantly unroaded wilderness.

Conceived through the Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and Mackenzie Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) process and created through a BC Act of Legislation in 1998, the M-KMA is a unique designation, considered to be a new model for responsible land use, resource planning and management. The M-KMA is not a park; instead it comprises a variety of zones with differing levels of resource management. The zones range from provincial parks and ecological reserves where resource extraction is not permitted, to resource management zones (RMZs), including Special Wildland RMZs, Special RMZs and Enhanced RMZs where objectives and strategies determine the level of human activity. This pattern of multi-resource management zones is a unique approach to managing the land base, including maintaining wilderness, wildlife and cultural values while allowing resource development in areas designated for that purpose.

The map found on the following page illustrates the variety of Parks/Protected Areas and Resource Management Zones found within the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area. In addition the Alaska Highway and designated access routes are also visible, a similar map can be found on the Advisory Board website at www.muskwa-kechika.com or through the M-K Information Office.

Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Map



- Protected Area/Proposed Protected Area/Ecological Reserve
- Enhanced Resource Development
- Special Management
- Special Wildland
- Travel is restricted to within 400m of route (Restricted to Alaska Highway right-of-way through Muncho Lake, Stone Mountain, Northern Rocky Mountains Provincial Parks/Protected areas)
- Travel is restricted to within 10m of route
- Travel is restricted to within 400m of route (vehicles under 500kg only)
- Travel is restricted to within 10m of route (vehicles under 500kg only)
- Closed to all motor vehicle travel (snowmobiles exempt)
- Roads and trails not within Muskwa-Kechika Management area

M-KMA



Monkshood
photo courtesy of T. Forest

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board, providing information, recommendations and advice toward informed decision-making.



*Muncho Lake
photo courtesy of K. Vince*



Wilderness, Wildlife and Culture

Advice to Government *From the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board*

In addition to providing formal advice letters to government the Advisory Board undertook informal consultation with government ministries and agencies.

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board 2004-2005 recommendations and advice to government concerning land use, resource planning and management may be broadly categorized under the following headings:

British Columbia Provincial Park Management and Planning

An agenda item at the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board June 2004 meeting, BC Provincial Park management practices were discussed, including the level of development occurring in parks in the M-KMA. A recommendation stemming from the Northern Rocky Mountain Park planning process was to protect wilderness by ensuring that wilderness trails remain unmarked and unadvertised and that wilderness campsites remain undeveloped. The Advisory Board recommended the following:

- that BC Parks cease constructing new campsites and structures in the M-KMA; and
- signs unnecessary for public safety and environmental protection purposes be removed. It is the view of the Advisory Board that management of BC Parks in the M-KMA should be based on best practices; a leave no trace strategy.

Further the Advisory Board, concerned that park planning was moving ahead without first engaging the Board in a review, sought to actively engage parks planners in a plan review. The Advisory Board formally requested that M-KMA park plans be made available to the Board for review and comment. The Advisory Board anticipates consulting with BC Parks in 2005-2006 to ensure that plans are consistent with values outlined in the *M-KMA Act*.

M-KMA Wilderness Definition

The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board project to clearly define the terms “wilderness,” “wilderness quality” and “wilderness characteristics,” was undertaken to ensure that management of activities occurs in a manner consistent with the intent of the *M-KMA Act*. The Advisory Board submitted to government its Wilderness Definition, intending that the definition should be tested by managers and utilized as a policy tool as well as at an operational level.

The Advisory Board looks forward to receiving a formal response from government, including the intended use and distribution of this definition to managers.

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Governance

The Advisory Board developed, and presented to MSRM for consideration, a comprehensive planning document “Realizing the Opportunities in the Context of Effective Governance: A Proposal”. Following discussions between the Advisory Board and MSRM staff, the M-KAB presented its governance recommendations to selected members of the Deputy Minister’s Committee on Environment and Resource Development (DMCERD) in April 2004. As a result, government requested further clarification of the proposed governance approach, and subsequent detailed discussions between the Board and key members of MSRM, resulted in the development of options and recommendations regarding the future of M-KMA governance. These were presented by MSRM staff to the Cabinet Committee in the fall of 2004. Following a decision at the Cabinet Committee level and approvals by Treasury Board, the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management sent a letter to the Advisory Board Chair in January, 2005 clarifying the decision of Government on the future of the M-KMA.

With the formation of a joint M-KAB and BC Government Task Group to develop a new governance structure, funding mechanism and legislative package for the M-KMA and the

Board, and enable other requirements listed by Minister. The Task Group will report frequently to the Executive Committee and it is anticipated that Advisory Board members on the Task Group will provide substantial recommendations in the rewriting of the *M-KMA Act*.

M-KMA Wildlife Management Plan

In June 2004 the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (WLAP) provided the Advisory Board with the latest draft of the *M-KMA Wildlife Management Plan*. The Board appointed a subcommittee of the Research Committee (Wildlife Planning Committee) to review the plan. Members agreed to solicit comments from a number of professional and scientific reviewers at an international level. While the Advisory Board acknowledged the time and effort placed into the latest draft of the *Wildlife Management Plan*, the Board agreed that the Plan did not adequately satisfy *M-KMA Act* and plan requirements, and could not be implemented as it was written. The Advisory Board recommended that:

- The Plan should direct that all management activities will be conducted according to the principles of ecosystem-based management
- The Plan should clearly specify that it takes precedence over all other plans in matters relating to wildlife (e.g. Pre-Tenure Plans), while simultaneously being written to a management level equal to or higher than the other plans.
- The Plan must incorporate wording that will facilitate its enforcement by new and existing regulatory statutes.
- The Plan should incorporate wording for First Nations treaty, aboriginal and constitutional rights as they relate to wildlife.
- The plan should clearly demonstrate to what agencies, ministries and organizations the plans principles apply.
- The Plan should clearly reference baseline information such as fire regimes, wildlife populations.
- The Plan, while addressing a list of priority species, should include some results based methodology to demonstrate how WLAP would monitor the priority species.
- The Conservation Area Design (CAD) project should be incorporated into the *Wildlife Plan*.
- Given that this plan is a higher level plan and not an operational plan, it may be better written without

targeting specific numbers or percentages. If thresholds are to be incorporated to the Plan, it is suggested that the CAD be referred to as a tool.

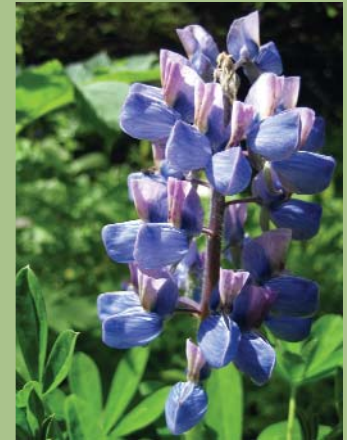
- The Plan should more clearly address the current capacity of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and how the Ministry could increase its capacity to ensure implementation of strategies outlined in the Plan including adaptive management, research, monitoring, and enforcement.

Apart from advice relating specifically to the *Wildlife Management Plan*, the Advisory Board identified that government should provide legitimacy to all of the local strategic plans, which could be accomplished by developing an integration strategy for local strategic plans. The Advisory Board looks forward to reviewing the re-draft of the *Wildlife Management Plan* and providing an advice letter to the Minister in late 2005.

Oil and Gas Pre-Tenure Plans

After reviewing the Pre-Tenure Plans for Oil and Gas Development in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area working draft in early 2004, the Advisory Board submitted an advice letter to the Minister of MSRM recommending further thought on the following key points:

- Focal Species – The Advisory Board was concerned that the current number of focal species is presently inadequate, inadvertent habitat damage may occur as a result of oil and gas exploration, development and production compromising the habitat effectiveness of the *M-KMA* in the interim period.
- Plan Assessments – The Advisory Board is concerned that; (a) a lack of a mechanism to evaluate, track and address wildlife habitat effectiveness and (b) with continued Ministry staff cutbacks there will not be adequate resources to undertake the plan assessments or amendments.
- Upper Sikanni Management Plan – the Advisory Board recommends that the plan be reviewed, assessed and amended as appropriate before the end of the 2004/2005 fiscal year.
- Plan Variances – The Advisory Board strongly recommends



Lupine
photo courtesy of T. Forest



Fireweed
photo courtesy of K. Vince



Wilderness, Wildlife and Culture



Advisory Board (2004)

Balanced decisions for M-KMA values: wildlife, wilderness, sustainable development, culture and history, traditional land uses and activities, recreation and tourism.

that variances to public policy should not be delegated to any regulatory authority including the Oil and Gas Commission. Further, the Advisory Board recommends that before a plan variance is approved that Advisory Board advice be sought.

- Monitoring and Enforcement – The Advisory Board recommends that government ensure appropriate staffing levels, not only within the Ministry to carry out plan assessments and amendments, but also within regulatory agencies to ensure compliance with intended plan outcomes.
- Besa-Prophet Phase II – The Advisory Board continues to be concerned that the renewable resource values within this area will be irreparably compromised if oil and gas exploration, development and production is allowed to proceed.

The Advisory Board will continue to monitor the activities and planning processes occurring in M-KMA pre-tenure planning areas to ensure that activities are consistent with the *M-KMA Act*.

M-KMA Recreation Management Plan

The Advisory Board submitted a letter to government recommending a process for posting the amalgamated Recreation Management Plan (an integration of the Mackenzie Addition Recreation Management Plan with the original M-KMA Recreation Management Plan) to ensure that both the Advisory Board and the general public were provided with adequate opportunity to review and comment on the Plan. After reviewing a working draft of the M-KMA Recreation Management Plan, the Advisory Board consulted with the plan writer from MSRMC to provide informal recommendations to ensure that the Plan is consistent with the *M-KMA Act*. Consultative sessions were held in Mackenzie and Fort Ware. The Advisory Board expressed its appreciation for the amount of work that the planner put into consulting with the Board ensure that the plan provides guidance to conduct recreational activities in a sustainable manner. The Advisory Board looks forward to receiving and reviewing a final draft of the Plan and providing their advice to the Minister in early spring 2005.

M-K Advisory Board Profile

The *M-KMA Act* also provides for the establishment of an advisory board mandated with providing advice to the BC Provincial Government on the planning and management of the M-KMA. The Advisory Board (M-KAB) advises government on natural resource planning, research, monitoring and management in the M-KMA, as well as Trust Fund expenditures. The M-KAB is a volunteer, Premier appointed Board with members representing a variety of perspectives.

The Board continually strives to maintain M-KMA values while providing valuable input into sustainable development in the M-KMA. There is an ongoing process of informing government, industry, First Nations and the public about the Management Area and the work of the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board attributes its successes to a coordinated effort of individual Board members to further the awareness of the M-KMA values, combined with bringing forward differing perspectives for full discussion. As a consensus-based board, the M-KAB believes in the value of listening to and collaborating with its constituents, government agencies and industry to ensure balanced decision-making.



*Liard River Hot Springs Boardwalk
photo courtesy of T. Forest*

Advisory Board Code of Ethics:

The behaviour of Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board members in the delivery of the Advisory Board Mandate and Mission is guided by the following code of ethics:

- Respect:
 - Members are committed to inclusiveness and diversity, and respect the rights, roles, responsibilities, interests and perspectives of others and the history and origins of the M-KMA as a whole.
- Accountability:
 - Members are responsible for the consequences of their decisions and accountable for their actions.
- Transparency:
 - Members establish open and clear decision-making processes that include dialogue with those affected by their decisions.
- Aboriginal and Treaty Rights:
 - Members recognize Aboriginal and Treaty Rights within the M-KMA and acknowledge that these Rights must be addressed in all decision-making.
- Adaptive Management:
 - Members learn from the past and look for new and improved approaches in response to experience, as well as changing external pressures and social values.
- Commitment to the North:
 - Members recognize that the Fort Nelson, Fort St. John and LRMPs from which the M-KMA originates are "made in the north" solutions, and endeavor to ensure that activities of the M-K Advisory Board provide benefits to the people and communities of the North.

Strategic Challenges

- Knowledge and Understanding
 - Incomplete inventory information exists for many resource values; existing information is lacking a comprehensive index and availability, a lack of TEK available to support decision-making and finally a lack of a fully established research plan.
- Integrated Resource Management
 - There is a lack of a precise interpretation of the practical implications of the Preamble of the *M-KMA Act* for resource activities, incomplete linkages among local strategic plans, lack of coordination among agencies and there is a need to keep approved resource management plans current given changing levels of activity and new information.
- Monitoring, Reporting and Advice
 - There is a lack of adequate monitoring regimes, limited capacity to undertake comprehensive monitoring and the need to synchronize Advisory Board monitoring with government.
- Awareness and Support
 - There is limited awareness of the M-KMA, lack of a widely recognized "brand" for the M-KMA, a continued need to develop and maintain broad constituency support as well as a lack of youth awareness and engagement in the M-KMA.
- Organizational Development
 - Closer alignment between the Advisory Board budget cycles and government is required, there are unclear links between the Advisory Board and LRMP committees, lack of clarity in relationships between the Advisory Board, government and First Nations limited staff capacity and technical abilities of the Board to fulfilled role.



Aeroplane Lake Cleanup Project
photo courtesy of MOE



Frog River Minesite Cleanup Project
photo courtesy of T. Forest

Members

Working to set a world standard for land use, resource planning and management, as well as integrating economic, environmental and social values.



Ross Peck

Chair of the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board, **Ross Peck**, who is widely knowledgeable about local history and the outdoors, is a registered biologist and owner of a Northern Rockies guide outfitting business. Ross works as a consultant to government and organizations concerning issues of wildlife biology, predator-prey relationships, and the role of fire as it impacts wildlife habitat.



Bill Lux

Bill Lux serves as M-KAB Vice Chair, representing the Dease River First Nation. Bill is also the Kaska Dena Council Executive Vice Chair, Lands and Resources. One of four Kaska Dena Advisory Board members on the Board, Bill is dedicated to representing the Dease River First Nations' perspective on land use and resource planning and management in the M-KMA.



Angus Dickie

A Registered Professional Forester, Fort Nelson First Nation member **Angus Dickie** brings extensive knowledge and experience working with aboriginal and other communities provincially, nationally, and throughout Canadian boreal forest regions. Widely experienced in traditional wilderness and camping skills, First Aid, wilderness travel, hunting, trapping and fishing, Angus's interests also include ceremonial drumming and a lifelong respect for nature and the outdoors.



Barry Holland

A big game hunter, pilot and backcountry traveler, **Barry Holland** brings experience in petroleum and natural gas technology, as well as industrial safety. Barry actively participated in the Fort St. John LRMP process prior to being appointed to the Board.



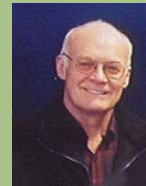
Brian McDonald

Brian McDonald has a wide range of experience working in supervisory roles associated with the construction industry. An experienced backcountry traveler and nature enthusiast, Brian maintains a keen interest in environmental issues, especially in relation to natural resource exploration and development and wilderness recreation activities.



Brian Wolf

Brian Wolf represents the Prophet River First Nation and is widely experienced in Treaty 8 First Nations issues. A wildlife enthusiast, Brian was raised in the Prophet River area of the M-KMA, and brings first-hand knowledge of and experience in the backcountry.



Bruce McKnight

A geophysicist with international experience in the mining industry, **Bruce McKnight** works in the field of mining related public and investor relations. A representative of the mining industry during the Commission on Resources and the Environment (CORE) process, Bruce is lifelong nature and wilderness enthusiast.



Craig McCook

Kwadacha First Nation Council Member **Craig McCook** was born in the M-KMA, where he was raised, educated and continues to work and live with his family. An experienced outdoorsman, hunter, trapper, river rafter and wilderness guide, Craig participated in the Mackenzie LRMP, and also sits as a Board member of Kwadacha Natural Resource.



Darwin Cary

Darwin Cary has lived most of his life in the M-KMA, and owns and operates a guide outfitting business in the Management Area, as well as Northern Rockies Air Charter Ltd. A member of the Guide Outfitters Association of BC, and Director of the Northern British Columbia Guides Association (NBCGA), Darwin participated in Land and Resource Management and Planning (LRMP) processes leading to the creation of the M-KMA.





David Luff

Former Vice-President of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), **David Luff** is widely experienced in the oil and gas industry on a regional and national basis. Drawing on years of service with both government and industry, David brings to the Board considerable knowledge of strategic planning and provincial government affairs.



Dixon Lutz

Kaska Dena First Nation Elder **Dixon Lutz** was born near the headwaters of the Liard river, and has spent his life living in Kaska Dena traditional territory in the M-KMA. Dixon brings a strong background in Kaska Dena heritage and spirituality, and is widely experienced in the mining and forest industries, hunting and trapping.



George Smith

George Smith, National Conservation Director, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), brings a vast array of knowledge and experience concerning environmental issues, on a regional, national and international scale. With fellow Board member Wayne Sawchuk, George was instrumental bringing about the creation of the M-KMA.



Howard Madill

Sitting as an ex officio member of the Advisory Board, **Howard Madill** represents the Government of British Columbia as Regional Manager, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. Howard brings a broad range of experience working for Canadian provincial and territorial governments, as well as a background in natural resource management and planning.



Jack Sime

Jack Sime brings a broad range of knowledge of and appreciation for the M-KMA backcountry, as well as experience in municipal government affairs. A former Fort Nelson, BC Alderman and Director for the Northern Rockies Regional District, Jack's background includes work in highway maintenance, gold mining, trapping, retail sales and the cable television industry.



Roslyn Pokiak

Halfway River First Nation Chief **Roslyn Pokiak** brings a broad range of skills and experience representing the concerns and interests of the Halfway River First Nation in areas of policy development, employment, human resources and training. Currently involved in a First Nations Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) project in cooperation with Halfway River First Nations Elders and the University of Northern British Columbia, Roslyn previously served as a Board member for the Northeast Native Advancing Society.



Shelley Middleton

A resident of Fort Nelson, BC, **Shelley Middleton** owns and operates with her husband Duke's Air Service Ltd., a seasonal commercial air charter service based at Liard River, BC. Shelley is a Director for the Northern Rockies Regional District (NRRD), currently holding the Tourism and Parks portfolio. As well, Ms. Middleton represents the NRRD as a Director-at-Large on the Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism Association Board and acts as a NRRD liaison with BC Parks, the Fort Nelson Historical Society and the Fort Nelson LRMP Monitoring Committee. Ms. Middleton brings a local government and wilderness tourism perspective to the M-K Advisory Board.



Tom Briggs

Mayor of Mackenzie, BC, **Tom Briggs** has dual backgrounds in forestry and economic development. Mayor Briggs also serves as Director of the Mackenzie Library, Counselling Services, and Hospital Boards, and has extensive experience working with the Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism Association, as both Director and Vice-President, and the Mackenzie and Area Economic Development Commission.



Wayne Lewis

A Woodlands Manager with Abitibi Consolidated Company of Canada in Mackenzie, BC, **Wayne Lewis** contributed to the Mackenzie Land and Resource Management Plan as well as the Mackenzie Addition to the M-KMA. A member of the Association of BC Professional Foresters and the Canadian Institute of Forestry, Wayne works with the Kaska Dena Council in support of forestry initiatives while serving as a Director of Tsay Tay Forestry Limited.



Wayne Sawchuk

A widely experienced backcountry horseman and nature photographer, **Wayne Sawchuk** brings perspectives of wildlife and wildland conservation to the Board, as well as extensive knowledge about the forestry and oil and gas industries. With fellow conservation worker and Board member George Smith, Wayne was actively involved in the LRMP and other planning processes that led to the creation of the M-KMA.



Wilderness, Wildlife and Culture

M-K Board Committees

While the Board meets as a whole two to three times per year, much of the day-to-day work of the Board is conducted by a variety of committees and ad hoc committees. In addition to their involvement with the Board many members participate on committees with various tasks and functions related to planning and management activities. Holding regular committee meetings facilitates a timely and effective Advisory Board response in developing advice on M-KMA planning and management activities.

The active participation of Board members in the committees is an integral component of the Board's ability to effectively provide advice to government regarding the various, planning, management and resource activities occurring in the M-KMA. The committees are also a key on-the-ground link between the Advisory Board, various sectors, government, and the public.



Retaining Wilderness Workshop
photo courtesy of M-K Office



Brown Mushroom
photo courtesy of T. Forest

Executive Committee: Ross Peck, Chair

A central Board authority, comprised of M-KAB Committee Chairs and the M-KAB Chair, the Executive Committee oversees the day-to-day activities, operations and programs of the Board, while neither setting strategic plans nor providing policy direction. This committee may make decisions on behalf of the Board when situations may not permit full participation of the entire Board. The Executive Committee now meets on a regular basis where each committee chair reports on the status of particular projects. Discussions centre on allocation of duties, review of ongoing projects and apprising Chairs of critical issues and timelines. The Executive Committee is a vital communication link among the committees as well as an effective means of dealing with change and emerging issues resulting in developing effective advice between full Advisory Board meetings.

Research Committee: Wayne Lewis, Chair

Comprised of Board members and one academic representative from the University of Northern BC (UNBC), the Research Committee plans, organizes, implements and monitors a broad range of research studies pertinent to land use, resource planning and management in the M-KMA, including wildlife and conservation issues. Work in 2004-2005 included i) researching the ability to apply the Conservation Area Design (CAD) into the day-to-day management of the M-KMA; and ii) assessing of the status of various projects as well as providing valuable input to those projects. A significant project of value to future projects in the M-KMA is the Planning and Research Integration Project (PRIP) which is expected to be completed in the next fiscal year. Future Research Committee work includes developing and initiating two pilot projects in the M-KMA that will test the CAD toolkit using development scenarios to determine the value and usability of and potential gaps in the CAD. The intent is to determine how to effectively use the toolkit and also to identify training requirements. As well, an ad hoc Wildlife Planning Committee was assembled as a subset of the Research Committee, specifically to review the Draft M-KMA Wildlife Management Plan, seeking outside input from experienced researchers and biologists.



Arnica
photo courtesy of T. Forest



Wilderness, Wildlife and Culture

Governance and Strategic Planning Committee: David Luff, Chair

The Governance and Strategic Planning Committee is charged with developing options for a new Advisory Board governance model and funding mechanism as well as long and short-term strategic planning for the Board. This committee works closely with the Executive Committee to ensure the aims, goals and objectives of the Board are achieved as stipulated in the M-KMA Act and M-KMA Plan. Active throughout the year, the committee's work consisted of developing a Situational Analysis including i) background, ii) direction from Government, iii) current challenges and opportunities, iv) areas of uncertainty, v) planning issues, and research and management priorities, and vi) challenges facing the M-KAB and the M-KMA. Considerations derived from these points included, i) how to frame next steps, ii) next steps, and iii) what resources would assist the implementation phase. As well, the Committee continued its work with government agents, ministries and the Interagency Management Committee (IAMC) to discuss the future of the Board and funding options. The Chair, David Luff was appointed as co-chair of the newly formed Task Group, mandated to lead the development of a new governance structure, funding mechanism and strategic plan for the Advisory Board.

Oil and Gas Committee: Barry Holland, Chair

The Oil and Gas Committee monitors, reviews and evaluates planning associated with oil and gas exploration and development in the M-KMA, with the intent of developing advice to government; subject to review by the Advisory Board. This committee is also charged with advocating new, innovative and emerging technologies which may help to minimize negative environmental impacts to the land. Committee work in the 2004-2005 fiscal year included reviewing draft Oil and Gas Pre-Tenure Plans. Over the past year the Committee also worked closely on the Well Site Evaluation Project to ensure that

the project was inclusive and incorporated emerging technologies and options. Additionally the Committee continues to work with government agencies including the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) to enhance industry awareness of the intent of the M-KMA, encourage the use of best practices and encourage application of innovative techniques.

Outreach Committee: Tom Briggs, Chair

Responsible for a variety of communications, education and public information programs, this Committee works toward promoting the interests of the M-KMA and the work of the Advisory Board. Additional responsibilities include overseeing planning and organization of special M-KAB events, such as workshops and the annual Environmental Youth Camp. Activities of the Committee over the past year included, i) distribution of M-K brochures to communities in BC and the Yukon; ii) review and approval of M-K design work, developed by National Public Relations, iii) review and approval of website content that was developed in-house in collaboration with Board members and others; iv) completion of the M-K Environmental Youth Camp Guidelines; and v) review of the "2003-2004 M-KMA Annual Report to the Premier and the Public". The Committee continues to collaborate to build awareness of the M-KMA and the Advisory Board locally, regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally. Future work of the Committee includes completion of the M-K Website and development of a comprehensive M-KMA communication strategy.

Parks and Recreation Planning Committee: Bill Lux, Chair

The Parks and Recreation Committee works with government and consulting groups to evaluate, review, and provide advice regarding park and Recreation Management planning to ensure consistency with the M-KMA legislation. Work in the past year included a review of the M-KMA Recreation Management Plan. Future work of the committee includes reviewing M-K Park Management Plans.



*Camper on Alaska Hwy
photo courtesy of T. Forest*



*Campfire
photo courtesy of K. Vince*

2004-2005 Highlights

The Advisory Board undertook many projects over the course of the fiscal year. Some examples of projects that demonstrate how the Board met the goals and priorities identified in its "2004-2005 Expenditure Plan" are provided below.

- The BC Government committed to continuing the role of the Advisory Board and providing funding support for the M-KMA and M-KAB beyond March 31, 2006. (The letter can be found on pages 17 and 18)
 - The Advisory Board organized a joint Task Group with the BC Government to complete work on M-KAB governance prior to March 31, 2006.
 - The Advisory Board, according to its mandate, reviewed and evaluated local strategic plans for oil and gas, wildlife and recreation management. The Board developed and submitted advice letters to government for Wildlife Management and Pre-Tenure Plans.
 - The Advisory Board facilitated ministers, deputy ministers and senior government staff visits to the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area. These visits provided the Board with an opportunity to communicate significant M-KMA values and issues to key personnel within government.
 - The Advisory Board developed M-KMA Youth Camp Guidelines to facilitate future applications to host youth camps.
 - The sixth annual M-KMA Environmental Youth Camp, an overwhelming success, was held in the M-KMA at Moose Lake, BC.
 - Teck Cominco Limited partnered with the Advisory Board to conduct a reclamation/cleanup of the old Churchill mine site during the summer of 2004.
 - The Conservation Area Design (CAD) project was completed.
- The Advisory Board became actively involved with the North Peace Stone's Sheep Sustainability Steering Committee, and provided secretarial support.
 - The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, a federal government organization, recognized the M-KMA as a case study in a series of workshops relating to the boreal forest. Advisory Board representatives attended the Fort St. John workshop.
 - Advisory Board members and staff participated in a number of events and conferences; notably the 2004 BC Oil and Gas Conference, the Integrated Resource Management Conference, and the Aboriginal and Resource Management Conference at which the Chair delivered a presentation about the M-KMA.



Fish Research Egg Count
photo courtesy of MOE



Caribou Research
photo courtesy of MOE



Mule Deer
photo courtesy of K. Vince



Wilderness, Wildlife and Culture



Reference: 38762
Jan 27, 2005
Via Facsimile: (250) 262-0077

Ross Peck, Chair
Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board
200-523 100th St
Fort St. John BC V1J 4N4

Dear Ross,

The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) core program review in 2001 recognized the value of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA), and the significance of the work undertaken by the M-K Advisory Board. This reaffirmed government support for maintaining the important role of the Advisory Board. At the same time, MSRM was asked to work with the Board to explore a new governance model and funding mechanism that was more independent of government financial support.

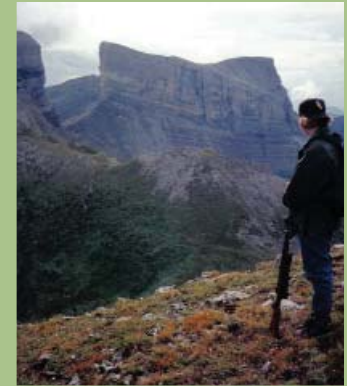
The Advisory Board accepted this task and put considerable effort into exploring new responsibilities and structures for the Board. Over time and with periodic dialogue with senior government officials, a new model for an M-K Society evolved. In the fall of 2004, MSRM officials worked closely with the Board to refine this model so that my colleagues and I could assess the options for providing the Board and the M-KMA with a stable future. The Board's research into the society model identified some significant challenges for funding Board activities through an endowment fund. In today's world of low interest rates, a large endowment from multiple parties would be required to provide even a basic funding level to support the Board.

The Honourable Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy and Mines and MLA for Peace River North, and I reviewed the options for M-K governance and funding, and jointly supported the recommendations taken to Cabinet Committee for decision. We looked at the effectiveness of current operational model of the Board and its relationship with government officials in light of the original direction to explore that are more independent of government. We believe that the current governance model is sound, particularly if it is enhanced with a stronger liaison with senior government officials.

We also assessed the pros and cons of funding models and believe that modifying the existing trust fund model offers the greatest stability for the Board to carry out longer term planning and operations. Modifying the existing model is also more consistent with government's fiscal program and accounting procedures.

This letter confirms that government endorses the M-K Advisory Board in its current role of advising government on natural resource management in the M-KMA. The activities of the Board, as described in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area

M-KMA



*Looking at Sleeping Chief Mountain
photo courtesy of K. Vince*



*Alaska Highway looking into M-K
photo courtesy of T. Forest*

**Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board
2004-2005 Report to the Premier
and the Public**



Refers Lake reflection
photo courtesy of MOE



Twilight in M-K
photo courtesy of G. Vince



Wilderness, Wildlife and Culture

Act, will continue to be supported through funds supplied by the MSRM. The funding level, beginning in fiscal year 2006/2007, will be as follows:

- Up to \$2 million annually, subject to approval of an expenditure plan by the appropriate MSRM officials, and
- Up to an additional \$0.5 million annually to match funds raised by the Board.

I have asked staff to seek your input on how we can enhance our working relationship to create a stronger liaison between the Board and Ministry executive. We also need to seek out ways of developing a more collaborative approach on key actions such as developing and tracking progress on strategic and expenditure plans or in seeking additional external funding.

To provide certainty for the Board, I intend to introduce a legislative amendment to the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act to implement this decision. As you are aware, the Act currently specifies a funding commitment, through the M-K Trust Fund, to the end of March 2006. I am directing officials in this ministry to begin work with the Board to define what legislative amendments are necessary and to ensure an efficient funding mechanism is structured in a manner consistent with government accounting principles. Your assistance in this will be greatly appreciated.

I recognize that there are a number of other issues, such as Board membership, that need to be addressed in the coming months. As we work together to implement this revised governance and enhanced funding model we can also address these issues.

In closing I want to thank the board for its ongoing commitment to the vision expressed for the M-KMA. The work of the board over the past two years in exploring new governance models has been valuable in our assessment of how to move forward with confidence. Our decision to maintain the current Board model and provide enhanced funding and resources reflects and endorsement of the work of the Board and a commitment to future support for the M-KMA.

I look forward to a continued strong relationship with you and your fellow Board Members.

Sincerely,

George Abbott
Minister

pc: Honourable Richard Neufeld
Minister of Energy and Mines

Howard Madill, SED Manager, Peace Region
Muskwa-Kechika Office

**Ministry of
Sustainable Resource
Management**

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9054 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Location:
Parliament Buildings, Victoria

2004-2005: Year-In-Review

Overview

During 2004-2005 fiscal year, the Advisory Board engaged in a comprehensive initiative to develop a governance proposal for the Advisory Board that included developing a new role and funding mechanism for the M-KAB beyond March 31, 2006 for government approval. In addition the Board focused on fulfilling its mandate of providing advice to government regarding M-KMA management activities such as planning, as well as ensuring completion of 2003-2004 Expenditure Plan projects. Furthermore, the Board continued to seek opportunities to raise awareness of the M-KMA as well as engaging in informal discussion with various groups to share knowledge and experience of the M-KMA. In support of increasing awareness, individual Board members performed extensive outreach within their own communities and sectors.

The *M-KMA Act* requires the Advisory Board to make recommendations to the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund Trustee, a position filled by the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, concerning annual expenditures from the Trust Fund. These recommendations are made based the current M-KAB strategic plan and governance model.

The M-KAB established the following "2004-2005 Expenditure Plan" funding areas:

- **Ongoing Commitments** - Ongoing commitments identified through the Strategic Plan such as developing a governance proposal for the M-KAB, and proposing a new role and funding mechanism for the M-KAB post 2005 for government approval. Ensuring completion of the Conservation Area Design (CAD) for the M-KMA and determining an implementation process for utilizing the toolkit.

- **Multi-year Projects to be Completed this Fiscal** – Our projects identified for completion this fiscal year, that provide information to assist in managing the M-KMA. Projects focused on wildlife research - related projects including projects involving Stone's Sheep and Caribou.
- **Multi-Year Projects** – Projects identified as adding to baseline information, monitoring and compliance, as well as fulfilling a commitment to support learning opportunities for youth (for example, such as continuing support of the Annual M-K Environmental Youth Camp and developing application and funding guidelines for the Youth Camp).
- **New Projects** – Projects initiated to support baseline information, or projects that occurred in previous years. Projects included CAD review and assessment, TEK CAD Integration, well site evaluation and the Churchill Mine Site Cleanup. Projects also included initiation of Stage One of the M-K Planning and Research Integration Project (PRIP), the creation of a comprehensive overview summarizing the current state of land use and resource planning and management in the M-KMA. This study will serve to guide a three-year business and governance plan currently being developed for the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board by the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee. Assessment and integration of TEK into the Conservation Area Design (CAD) is also considered by the Board to be a critical component of the CAD toolkit.
- **Ongoing Operations** – Maintaining a level of professional capacity to support the work of the Advisory Board, government integration and Board expenses.



Caribou Research
photo courtesy of MOE



Caterpillar
photo courtesy of T. Forest



Dale Lake
photo courtesy of MOE



Rainbow in Yard at Muskwa
photo courtesy of K. Vince

Continuing to review and discuss local strategic plans including the Recreation Management Plan, the Wildlife Management Plan and Park Management Plans. Office rental fees and supplies, and contracted staff wages were included in operational expenses. As well, the Board increased its focus on M-KMA promotions (overhauling the M-KMA website, attending and hosting an M-K booth at regional events, delivering presentations to community groups, re-stocking and adding new promotional items and products, advertising, and printing materials such as maps and brochures for distribution to the public).

Advisory Board Successes

- The Integrity of wildlife, wilderness and cultural values in the M-KMA remains intact;
- Resource activities are proceeding in a manner that is respectful of M-KMA values;
- Collaboration continues with government agencies, stakeholders and the public to increase the awareness of M-KMA values; and
- The M-KAB is strengthening its involvement and cooperation with organizations participating in M-KMA tourism opportunities.



Dune Za Keyih Provincial Park
photo courtesy of T. Forest



Wokkpash Canyon
photo courtesy of T. Forest



Racing River Bridge
photo courtesy of T. Forest

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Activities

Governance and Strategic Planning

A large amount of Advisory Board work involves directly communicating and working with various levels of government, locally, regionally and provincially to ensure that M-KMA activities are consistent with the *M-KMA Act*. In 2003-2004 the Advisory Board continued to research and develop various M-KAB governance and M-K Trust Fund options; the intent was to provide government with viable options in anticipation of the Trust Fund expiring in March 31, 2006. Through this process the Board held a series of meetings with Ministers and ADMs to discuss the various options. Board requested assurance from government that i) the Board would continue its mandate beyond 2006, ii) funding would be in place to enable the Board to carry out its mandate, and iii) the work of the Board, past, present and future was respected.

As an outcome of governance work, a letter was provided from the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) to the Chair of the Board on January 27, 2005 (page 17). The Minister clarified the BC Government's decision regarding the future of the M-KMA and the M-KAB, outlining the principal direction and commitments approved by government. Commitments included:

- To ensure continuation of an advisory board for the M-KMA beyond March 2006;
- To maintain the existing Advisory Board model, rather than initiating a more independent, society, not-for-profit or endowment fund arrangement;
- To provide up to 2 million dollars each year in funding for the Board, plus up to 500 thousand dollars in matching funds, providing long-term stability and certainty for Board operations;
- To maintain links directly between the Board and MSRM Executive (Victoria);
- Commitment by MSRM to cooperate on development and tracking implementation of Expenditure/Strategic Plans for the Board's work in the M-KMA and collaboration in seeking external funding for the

M-KMA; and

- To recognize and address outstanding issues regarding lapsed Board appointments.

The process of developing a proposed governance model provided an opportunity for the Advisory Board to assess accomplishments, challenges and next steps to determine the future of the Board, as well as a strategic level review of future needs. Given the Advisory Board's responsibility to clarify how it would meet government's expectations, a Task Group was established with the intent of enabling the commitments outlined in the letter from Minister Abbott. The Task Group Terms of Reference clarifies the Task Group purpose to (i) ensure the completion of a revised M-K Advisory Board Strategic Plan, for review and approval at the June 2005 meeting; and (ii) identify the scope and timing of legislative amendments required for the *M-KMA Act*. Members selected for the Task Group included certain Board members, IAMC and MSRM representatives, together with invited individuals who may contribute substantively to discussions regarding future M-KMA management approaches and strategic priorities. The Task Group would dissolve upon completion of this work.

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Activities Con't Next Page



Caribou at Summit Lake
photo courtesy of K. Vince



Boating in M-K
photo courtesy of K. Vince



Boating in M-K
photo courtesy of MOE



MUSKWA-KECHIKA
MANAGEMENT AREA

Wilderness, Wildlife and Culture

Advisory Board governance work achievements in 2004-2005 include:

1. Establishment of a Muskwa-Kechika Governance Task Group charged with developing a new M-KMA strategic plan (currently in progress) and legislative amendments (also currently in progress);
2. Development and approval of an Expenditure Plan for 05-06 that focuses on completing long-term projects;
3. Development and completion of a Task Group Terms of Reference;
4. Development of a critical path to work through identified Advisory Board and M-KMA priority issues; and
5. Identification of Advisory Board membership status and development of an interim strategy for membership.

Future Task Group work will involve close collaboration with Government including:

- Rewriting the *M-KMA Act*
- Revising the M-KMA Management Plan Regulation
- Developing a new funding mechanism
- Developing a Strategic Plan and Business Plan for the M-K Advisory Board
- Cultivating a stronger liaison between government officials (senior) and M-KAB
- Continuing discussions with the IAMC



*M-K Environment Youth Camp 03
Group Photo*

photo courtesy of M-K Office



*Conservation Office
Classroom presentations*

photo courtesy of MOE



Research, Kathy Parker Observing

photo courtesy of P. Grilz



Racing River View

photo courtesy of T. Forest

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Activities Con't Next Page

Outreach Projects

Office staff and Advisory Board members delivered a number of information presentations profiling the M-KMA and the work of the Board to various groups. Additionally, staff and Board members participated in a variety of events:

- Presentations by the M-KAB Chair Ross Peck at the Aboriginal Land and Resource Management Conference (November 2004) and the BC Oil and Gas Conference (September, 2004);
- Presentations by the Associate Coordinator in the local community including the Northern Lights College Land and Resource Management Class and the North Peace Secondary Grade 12 Outdoor Pursuits Class;
- Participation in the 2004 Integrated Resource Management meeting in Prince George;
- Representation at the BC Oil and Gas Commission Science and Community Environmental Knowledge Fund (SCEK) workshop (June 2004), the Alaska Highway International Forum (September 2004) and the Fort St. John Forestry Appreciation Day (October 2004).

Advertising to inform the public about the M-KMA was published in a northern tourism magazine entitled Hello North, the M-KMA Information Brochure was completed and distributed locally and regionally, and M-KMA merchandise was ordered for sale and promotional distribution through the Information Office.

Fundraising

Through the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund, the BC Government matches financial contributions from a variety of corporate and private benefactors, with matching contributions this year were designated for use mainly by the M-K Environmental Youth Camp, Churchill Mine Site Cleanup, and the Stone's Sheep Project. Fundraising continues to be an important function of the Advisory Board and the Board anticipates increasing efforts to develop and foster fundraising opportunities in the future.

M-KMA Annual Environmental Youth Camp

Hosted this year by the Kaska Dena Council at Moose Lake, BC, the annual M-KMA Environmental Youth Camp provided

opportunities for First Nations and non-First Nations youth to learn about the M-KMA, the environment, traditional Aboriginal culture and themselves.

Funded by the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund this unique, two-week wilderness experience brought teachers, Elders and young people together in an atmosphere of learning, not just about traditional ways of outdoor survival and First Nations spirituality, but of contemporary issues of land use and resource planning and management. Board members participated in a mock land use planning exercise for proposed development in the Moose Lake area, where youth represented different sectors and/or interests. The exercise provided the youth with hands-on experience to learn how planning is conducted in the M-KMA as well as participating in a unique role-playing position which offered a perspective that may differ from their own.

In addition the Advisory Board Coordinator, working with the M-KAB, developed Application Guidelines for the camp that includes templates, forms, sample budgets and report aimed at assisting camp organizers in planning a successful camp.

UNBC Research Partnership

The M-KAB research partnership with the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) is instrumental to gathering research data vital to land use, resource planning and management in the M-KMA, especially in relation to environmental and wildlife sustainability, and biological and human ecology.

In recognition of the success of their previous partnership, the M-KAB and UNBC renewed their interim agreement in August 2004, reflective of current conditions, priorities and circumstances within the M-KMA and the university. The scope of the agreement incorporates:

- A broad range of research including wildlife, resource management and planning;
- Extension and communication of research results;
- Education opportunities;
- Collation and evaluation of research results; and



*Youth Camp 04 Moose Hide Boat
photo courtesy of B. Barradell*



*Youth Camp 04 Working on a hide
photo courtesy of B. Barradell*



Alaska Hwy

*photo courtesy of North Peace
Fort St. John Museum*



End of Moose Hunt 1956

photo courtesy of G. Vince

- Dialogue with the M-K Advisory Board on research priorities and related management issues.

The Ian McTaggart-Cowan Muskwa-Kechika Research Professorship, currently filled by Dr. Katherine Parker of UNBC, focuses on wildlife biology in the M-KMA, emphasizing research studies in large mammal predator-prey ecosystems, fisheries, wilderness recreation, wilderness management, and the impact of resource development activities on core wilderness values. In addition to holding this key research position, Dr. Parker serves as a consultant and adviser to the M-KAB Research Committee. 2004-2005 Research projects included:

- An Ecosystem Approach to Habitat Capability Modeling and Cumulative Effects Management (5 year study)
- Including Aboriginal Values in Resource Management through Enhanced Geospatial Communication
- Uncertainty and Sensitivity in Habitat Suitability Models

Appointments

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board members may contribute their time and efforts over a period of years, representing a variety of land use, resource planning and management perspectives in the M-KMA. As past Board members move on, each constituency formally recommends a new Board member after which time the Premier of British Columbia appoints the new member. George Smith national conservation representative resigned from the Board in September, 2004. As such, the Advisory Board will be seeking a new representative for this sector in the 2005-2006 fiscal. No new appointments were awarded during the 2004-2005 fiscal year, however there may be significant changes to M-KAB membership after March 31st, 2005 as various terms expire.

Meetings

The Advisory Board meets as a whole two or three times annually in locations within or close to the M-KMA in northern BC. Full Board meetings unlike Committee meetings, which are held more regularly, are usually held over three days in which the business of the Board is conducted, including planning, decision-making and advice development.

Advisory Board meetings were held in June 2004 at Sikanni River and February 2005 in Fort Nelson, BC where, in addition to full day, in-camera proceedings, the Board received a variety of government and related land use and resources planning and management updates. Board meetings are an important element in the process as it allows the entire Board to discuss issues and management activities; in addition the public is welcome to attend the winter meetings to ask questions of and receive responses from the M-K Advisory Board.

Extraordinary Board Meeting

The Advisory Board also met as a whole in October 2004 at a special meeting held in Fort St. John, primarily to review work governance completed. Discussions focused on legal aspects, rational for governance options and development of a business case. Additionally, Board members discussed moving the governance process forward with the M-KAB committing to the following actions to:

- undertake a strategic planning process,
- communicate and consult with constituents to determine an overall vision for M-KMA governance,
- conduct a needs assessment of M-KMA planning and research,
- identify relationships between projects and
- identify specific goals and implementation strategies to achieve the M-KMA vision.

Information Office

Located in Fort St. John, British Columbia, the M-K Information Office serves as a central base of operations through which a range of management, administration and communication services support the day-to-day work of the Advisory Board, and provide for a range of public information, education and fundraising programs. The M-K Information Office, located in the Visitor Information Centre which is staffed by two contract employees, serves as a central, publicly accessible location where British Columbians and visitors alike may direct their inquiries and requests for information.

The M-K Information Office, which receives visitors and



Wilderness, Wildlife and Culture

inquires locally, regionally, nationally and worldwide, includes a small resource library and reading area. Promotional items, featuring the M-KMA logo, include oil skin caps, coffee mugs and articles of clothing that are available for sale to the public. The Office also serves as a location for M-KAB Committee meetings and other meetings with government staff and members of a variety of organizations.

Advisory Board Coordinator and Associate Coordinator

The M-KAB annually contracts the professional and administrative services of a full-time Advisory Board Coordinator and Associate Coordinator. Responsible for coordinating the activities and programs of the Board, as well as the Muskwa-Kechika Information Office, the Coordinator provides professional services, and directs, supports and participates in a variety of public outreach, information, communications and fundraising programs. The Associate Coordinator provides administrative support to the Coordinator and the M-KAB as well as website maintenance, and participation in outreach and communications opportunities throughout the region.

David Campbell, having filled the Coordinator position since 2003, moved on at the end of August 2004 and Karrilyn Vince came on board as the new Advisory Board Coordinator with Tara Forest continuing in a new position as the full-time Associate Coordinator. Karrilyn Vince is an environmental planner and lifelong resident of Fort St. John and area, she has extensive experience in the M-KMA and knowledge of land use planning, combined with a strong interest in land stewardship and conservation in northern BC. Tara Forest is also a local resident of Fort St. John with a background in natural resource interpretation, fish, wildlife and recreation management, and park management planning with a strong interest in land use planning, management and communications.

M-KMA Website

The M-KMA Website is central to the Advisory Board communications, informing the public, industry and government about the M-KMA and land use, resource planning and management activities that help to shape the

area. This vital electronic information tool which people access daily, locally regionally, nationally and worldwide, provides a range of information and documents profiling the M-KMA and the work of the Board.

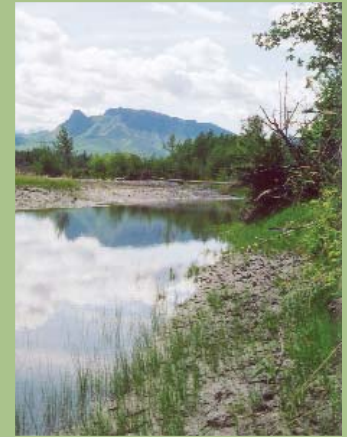
To ensure that the M-KMA Website remains state-of-the-art, the Associate Coordinator, in cooperation with the Advisory Board Coordinator and M-KAB Outreach Committee developed a Website Analysis and Redesign Strategy. Subsequently, office staff developed website content which underwent a review and approval process through the Outreach Committee. At the same time, the Information Office engaged a communications company to develop a new website design and implement the comprehensive text. The Advisory Board plans to launch the website in July of 2005.

Initiatives and Achievements

M-K Trust Fund Projects

The Advisory Board works closely with MSRM staff to allocate annual expenditures from the M-K Trust Fund. All expenditures reflect, complement or enhance statutory responsibilities of the Advisory Board, as defined in the *M-KMA Act* and M-KMA Management Plan. The M-KAB, through the M-K Trust Fund, supports a broad range of resource-related research projects, as well as initiatives aimed at preserving culturally-related values.

M-KMA Projects range from M-KMA wildlife biology and ecology studies, to cartography work, research in First Nations Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and various resource inventories. From planning for low environmental impact resource development, to parks and wilderness recreation opportunities, the goal of the Trust fund is to generate information, on a variety of subjects, from a variety of disciplines, in support of land use, resource planning and management activities in the M-KMA.



Muskwa River
photo courtesy of K. Vince



Moose Lake Scenery
photo courtesy of B. Barradell





*Fall Aspen in M-K
photo courtesy of G. Vince*



*Fence and Trail in M-K
photo courtesy of G. Vince*

Ongoing Commitments

PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES	RESULTS
<p>An Ecosystem Approach to Habitat Capability & Cumulative Effects Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Complete year 4 of a 5 year study ii. Overall objective to quantify the dynamics of the large mammal predator-prey systems in the Besa-Prophet Pre-Tenure Planning Area iii. Includes 5 separate research components 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed field work for Stone's Sheep, Caribou, Bears/wolves <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of research work will be made available to land and resource managers • Working with UNBC as lead proponent to ensure results are appropriately documented and reported out on
<p>M-KAB Research Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Extension of a successful partnership with the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) to support ongoing research, the work of university graduate students, public presentations profiling completed research and a Muskwa-Kechika/UNBC Professorship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed an interim agreement • Supported the activities of a Research Professor at UNBC • Presentations by two Graduate students were held in communities across the North on the results of fieldwork on Stone's Sheep and predators <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene an ad hoc committee for the purpose of recommending a course of action related to research partnership goals and objectives
<p>M-KAB Governance Proposal Development and Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Research, development and generation of a comprehensive body of work in the forms of a governance and funding model outlining future roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a Situational Analysis • Presented proposal to government, discussions resulted in a new direction for governance and funding • M-K Task Group established, consisting of members from the M-KAB and government <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work through refining the governance model for the M-KMA by rewriting of the <i>M-K Act</i>, review of the M-K Management Plan and development of a strategic and business plan <p style="text-align: right;">Con't Next Page</p>

PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES	RESULTS
<p>M-KMA Environmental Planning and Management Conservation Area Design (CAD)</p> <p>i. Completion of this large-scale comprehensive, multidisciplinary project</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the project and housed the toolkit at MSRM • Hosted a series of training workshops with government agency representatives <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test the toolkit • Develop implementation requirements for tool to be utilized in planning and management • Develop a process to identify and incorporate and update data layers • Further work to incorporate First Nations Traditional Ecological Knowledge 
<p>Incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Traditional Land Use Knowledge in Planning</p> <p>i. 4 stage project, 1) establish research partnership between UNBC and members of the Halfway River First Nations, 2) acquire information and develop an understanding among participants if the requirements for data and information systems associated with resource management Aboriginal knowledge and values, 3) build prototype data and information management systems that is compatible with both world views of people and resources, 4) test the data and information management systems and make recommendations for further applications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Stage 1 and 2 <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Stage 3 and 4 in 2005-2006 • Determine the appropriate process for providing information to resource managers to assist in day-to-day management



*Ferns at Liard River Hot Springs
photo courtesy of T. Forest*



*First Cabin at Muskwa 65
photo courtesy of K. Vince*

Multi-Year Projects to be Completed this Fiscal



*First Packtrip
photo courtesy of K. Vince*

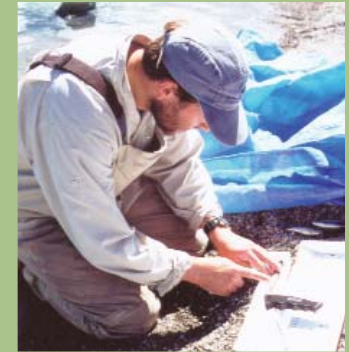


*Meadow on the Graham River
photo courtesy of K. Vince*

PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES	RESULTS
<p>Assessment of Habitat Suitability Models for Managing Predator-Prey Ecosystems</p> <p>i. Evaluation of habitat classifications and associated maps and assess the effects of uncertainty in wildlife habitat ratings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed • Defined timing and frequency of mineral lick use by Stone's Sheep, Mnt. Goats, moose and elk • Provided a series of recommendations that will guide wildlife values assigned for pre-tenure planning and management of activities around licks
<p>Stone's Sheep Prevalence & Demography</p> <p>i. Project to research impacts of parasites on Stone's Sheep, their health and mortality rates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed • Guide Outfitters, Conservation Officers and Wildlife Branch personnel participated in sampling programs <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data will be utilized by the North Peace Stone's Sheep Steering Committee for a large Stone's Sheep project in north-eastern BC
<p>Caribou Populations and Ecology</p> <p>i. Completion of multi-year project established to collect important baseline ecological and biological data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project predominantly completed, final data compilation required <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data will contribute to ongoing research in large mammal predator-prey systems and herd management

Multi-Year Projects

PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES	RESULTS
<p>M-KMA Watershed Fish and Fish Habitat</p> <p>i. Funding to be used toward completing fish and fish habitat inventories in the Mackenzie region of the M-KMA</p> <p>ii. Base funding will allow for completion of inventories for one watershed area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project completed • Compiled and stored data in a government database accessible to resource managers and the public • Focused on watersheds with potential for future developments <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data will assist in management of fish populations and key habitats • Continue conducting inventories in other key watersheds
<p>M-KMA Regulation Compliance and Enforcement First Nations Officer and Patrol</p> <p>i. Funding for employment for a First Nations Conservation Officer to support monitoring, compliance and enforcement with an emphasis on regulations concerning commercial recreation tenures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased presence and enforcement capability in the M-KMA
<p>M-KMA Environmental Cleanup</p> <p>i. Support an ongoing, multi-year environmental cleanup campaign in the M-KMA, aimed at locating and removing waste and other debris</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed successfully • Conducted cleanup of industrial and public waste left in the M-KMA as a result of past practices • Supported maintaining waste receptacles for use by the public <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to identify and address any new waste sites in the M-KMA
<p>M-KAB First Nations Environmental Youth Camp</p> <p>i. Annual youth camp alternating between Treaty 8 and Kaska Dena First Nations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaska First Nations hosted an extremely successful camp, providing opportunities for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth to learn about the M-KMA, traditional activities, culture and issues around land use <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support future M-KMA Environmental Youth Camps



Fish Research Taking Measurements
photo courtesy of MOE



Fishing in M-K
photo courtesy of G. Vince



M-K Sign Liard

photo courtesy of W. Sawchuk



Fort St. John Visitor Info Centre

photo courtesy of T. Forest

New Projects

PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES	RESULTS
<p>Conservation Area Design – Review and Assessment</p> <p>i. Adding value to a significant body of an environmental-based land use and resource planning and management work represented by the CAD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project deferred to next fiscal
<p>TEK CAD Integration</p> <p>i. To support work involved in integrating traditional ecological knowledge deriving from ongoing M-KAB research initiatives into the CAD</p> <p>ii. Includes for matching a process to determine appropriate methods of integration, Treaty 8 and Kaska Dena First Nations are to participate on an equal basis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project deferred to next fiscal
<p>M-KMA Range Campsite Assessments</p> <p>i. Funds to be used to build on a current base of information regarding range and campsite use and information required for planning processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project completed <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data will be used to conduct assessments of high use corridors in the M-KMA as well as providing information useful to adjudication process for commercial recreation tenures • Compile all data into a more useable and consistent format
<p>Stone’s Sheep Project (Amalgamated)</p> <p>i. Working in support of initiatives developed during the Sulphur/8 Mile pre-tenure planning process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term, multi-year project • Results will assist in a process leading to development of a comprehensive, long-term Stone’s Sheep management plan for the M-KMA <p style="text-align: right;">Con’t Next Page</p>

PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES	RESULTS
<p>Pre-Tenure Planning Sustainability and Effectiveness Monitoring</p> <p>i. Supporting the role of the Board to monitoring issues of sustainability and effectiveness of pre-tenure planning in the M-KMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project deferred to next fiscal
<p>Planning and Integration Research Project (PRIP)</p> <p>i. Stage one of three; summarizing the current state of land use, resource planning and management in the M-KMA in a comprehensive overview, as well as conducting a feasibility study to determine costs associated with future project stages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected completion in June of 2005 • Project deliverables extended to include assessment of non-renewable resources <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study will serve to guide three year business plan and governance plan currently being developed by the M-K Governance Task Group • Review of report and scoping process to initiate phase two
<p>M-KMA Well Site Evaluation</p> <p>i. Evaluating different oil and gas well site and access road construction methods towards determining impacts on wildlife, habitat and wilderness ecology</p> <p>ii. developing recommendations regarding well site construction</p> <p>ii. initializing a monitoring program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully completed <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil & Gas Committee and consultant to work to develop recommendations to be presented to the BC Oil & Gas Commission and industry
<p>M-KMA River Conservation Initiative</p> <p>i. Seasonal project initiated by the Kaska Dena First Nation, involving jet boat patrols of the Kechika River and tributaries, to report on river conditions and provide information about the M-KMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project was not initiated
<p>Churchill Mine Site Cleanup</p> <p>i. Completing cleanup and restoration work at an abandoned mine site in the M-KMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully completed • Teck Cominco Limited, entered into a partnership to improve the site conditions



Grizzly Bear
photo courtesy of R. Honeyman



Moose
photo courtesy of K. Vince



Ongoing Operations



Grizzly Lake

photo courtesy of K. Vince



Guide and horse in M-K

photo courtesy of G. Vince

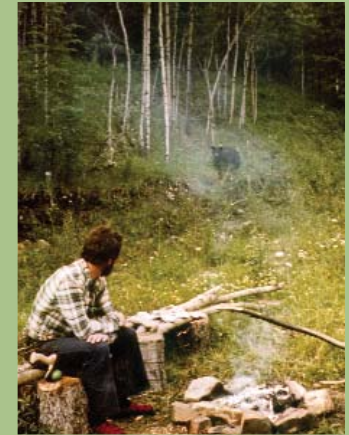
PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES	RESULTS
<p>Government Integration</p> <p>i. Covers expenses of the Regional Manager, MSRM, in managing Trust Fund projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hired a Coop Student to assist in planning and projects • Improved capacity to complete local strategic plans • Supported governance revisions • Attended Board meetings and provided updates at committee meetings • Managed Trust Fund projects
<p>Advisory Board Coordinator, Office Assistance, Materials and Supplies</p> <p>i. Contracted professional and administrative services of a full-time M-KAB Coordinator and Office Assistant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully completed daily management of a publicly accessible M-K Information Office • Coordinated and supported two Board meetings, and day-to-day work of the Board and Committees • Attended numerous events • Developed outreach materials
<p>M-K Office Rental Fees</p> <p>i. Covers yearly rental fees for the M-K Information Office, rented from the City of Fort St. John</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured continued staff support to the Advisory Board • Provided a location for holding smaller committee meetings and a central office from which to provide information about the M-KMA
<p>M-K Board Member Travel Expenses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported ongoing Board operations and Committee meetings
<p>Advisory Board Meeting Facilitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracted professional services of consultants and facilitators, who provided analysis and advice regarding certain strategic planning and governance and in addition to support of facilitating Board and committee meetings

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PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES	RESULTS
<p>M-KAB Chair Honourium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the Advisory Board Chair's workload and the time required for travel, meeting and conferences related to the M-KMA and the M-KAB
<p>Annual Report to the Premier and the Public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed an annual report to the Premier and the public as a statutory requirement of the Advisory Board under the <i>M-KMA Act</i>
<p>M-KMA Information Brochure i. Development of a brochure aimed at providing information about the M-KMA and activities of the M-KAB to the public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed design and distribution of brochures to events and Government agencies throughout northern BC
<p>M-K Website i. Complete redesign of M-KMA Website</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed substantial website design work and content development Anticipated launch July 2005
<p>M-KMA Promotional Items i. Stocking promotional items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchased additional items and researched new items for sale

Contingency Fund

PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES	RESULTS
<p>i. A usual sum that is recommended in anticipation of expenses that may arise from unexpected project and Advisory Board operation costs</p>	<p>Supported additional work on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporating First Nations Values Workshop Summary development Costs associated with Minister's visit to the M-KMA Additional meeting travel costs for Board members Graphic design and printing costs for the M-KMA Environmental Youth Camp Administrative functions for the Stone's Sheep Project

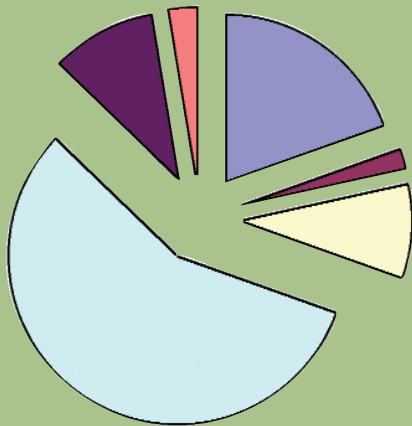
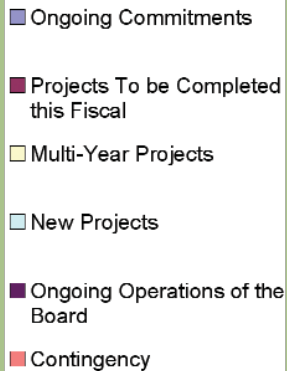


Guide Viewing Bear in M-K
photo courtesy of G. Vince



Guide Camping in M-K
photo courtesy of G. Vince

Chart 1: Advisory Board Expenditures April 1st, 2004 - March 31st, 2005



Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board
2004-2005 Report to the Premier
and the Public

Table 1: Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund Donations

Donor	Project	Amount
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society	TEK CAD Integration M-K2004-2005-24	\$13,000.00
Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada	Youth Camp MK2004-2005-22	\$25,000.00
Teck Cominco Limited	Churchill Mine Site Cleanup MK2004-2005-31	\$150,000.00
Northeastern BC Wildlife Fund	Environmental Cleanup MK2004-2005-21	\$10,000.00
Madrone Environmental Services Ltd.	Caribou Populations & Ecology MK2004-2005-18	\$15,000.00
Wild Sheet Society of BC	Stone's Sheep (Amalgamated) MK2004-2005-26	\$10,000.00
North Peace Rod & Gun Club	Stone's Sheep (Amalgamated) MK2004-2005-26	\$10,000.00
SCEK	Well Site Evaluation MK2004-2005-29	\$24,775.00
2004-2005 Total		\$257,775.00

Table 2: Advisory Board Expenditures April 1st, 2004 - March 31st, 2005

Table 2: Advisory Board Expenditures April 1st, 2004 - March 31st, 2005				
Ongoing Commitments				
Total Allocation: \$645,000.00				
Project Number	Project Title		Project Allocation in the M-KAB Expenditure Plan	Reported Expenditure March 31, 2004
M-K-2004-2005-11	Cumulative Effects Management	\$	215,000.00	\$ 169,032.93
M-K-2004-2005-12	M-KAB Research Partnership (UNBC)	\$	40,000.00	\$ 27,243.91
M-K-2004-2005-13	M-KAB Governance Proposal Development and Implementation	\$	30,000.00	\$ 22,074.63
M-K-2004-2005-14	Area Design (CAD)	\$	100,000.00	\$ 128,951.03
M-K-2004-2005-15	Traditional Land Use Knowledge in Planning	\$	40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Projects To Be Completed this Fiscal				
Total Allocation: \$16,182.50				
M-K-2004-2005-16	Assessment of Habitat Suitability Models for Managing Predator-Prey Ecosystems	\$	11,182.00	\$ 10,889.81
M-K-2004-2005-17	Stone's Sheep Parasites: Prevalence and Demography	\$	20,000.00	\$ -
M-K-2004-2005-18	Caribou Populations and Ecology - M-KMA Northern Regions	\$	30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Multi-Year Projects				
Total Allocation: \$305,000.00				
M-K-2004-2005-19	M-KMA Watershed Fish and Fish Habitat - Overview	\$	25,000.00	\$ 24,994.00
M-K-2004-2005-20	M-KMA Regulation Compliance and Enforcement First Nations Officer and Patrol	\$	60,000.00	\$ 31,107.00
M-K-2004-2005-21	M-KMA Environmental Cleanup	\$	30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
M-K-2004-2005-22	M-KAB First Nations Environmental Youth Camp	\$	100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00

New Projects

Total Allocation: \$1,880,000.00

M-K-2004-2005-23	Conservation Area Design - Review and Assessment	\$	25,000.00	\$	-
	Traditional Environmental Knowledge Conservation Area Design (CAD) Integration	\$	25,000.00	\$	-
M-K-2004-2005-24		\$	25,000.00	\$	-
M-K-2004-2005-25	M-KMA Range and Campsite Assessment	\$	15,000.00	\$	15,000.00
M-K-2004-2005-26	Stone's Sheep Project (Amalgamated)	\$	25,000.00	\$	28,407.61
M-K-2004-2005-27	Pre-Tenure Planning Sustainability and Effectiveness Monitoring	\$	-	\$	-
M-K-2004-2005-28	Planning and Integration Research Project (PRIP)	\$	150,000.00	\$	9,468.69
M-K-2004-2005-29	M-KMA Well Site Evaluation Proposal	\$	-	\$	49,550.00
M-K-2004-2005-30	M-KMA River Conservation Initiative	\$	-	\$	-
M-K-2004-2005-31	Churchill Mine Site Cleanup	\$	-	\$	332,216.95

Ongoing Operations of the Board

Total Allocation: \$322,500.00

M-K-2004-2005-01	Government Integration	\$	40,000.00	\$	20,777.57
M-K-2004-2005-02	M-KAB Coordinator, Office Assistant, Materials and Supplies	\$	143,000.00	\$	119,845.00
M-K-2004-2005-03	M-KMA Information Office Rental Fees	\$	30,000.00	\$	11,095.90
M-K-2004-2005-04	M-K Board Member Travel Expenses	\$	45,000.00	\$	39,403.54
M-K-2004-2005-05	Advisory Board Meeting Facilitation	\$	20,000.00	\$	15,023.52
M-K-2004-2005-06	Advisory Board Chair Honorarium	\$	24,000.00	\$	24,000.00
M-K-2004-2005-07	M-KAB Annual Report to the Premier and the Public	\$	5,500.00	\$	5,000.00
M-K-2004-2005-08	M-KMA Information Brochure	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,964.00
M-K-2004-2005-09	M-KMA Website	\$	5,000.00	\$	4,999.01
M-K-2004-2005-10	M-KMA Promotional Materials	\$	5,000.00	\$	4,956.08

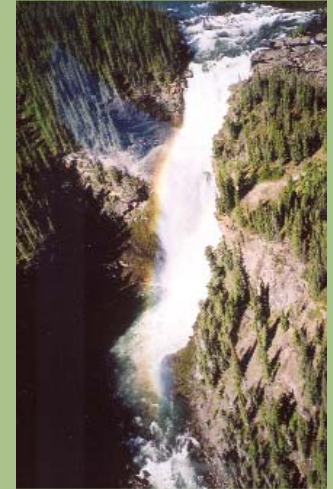
(8) 2004-2005 Contingency Fund

Total Allocation: \$93,094.60

M-K-2004-2005-32	First Nation Workshop Summary	\$		\$	600.00
	UNBC previous year project invoice missed	\$		\$	479.32
	Minister's visit	\$		\$	7,570.78
	AB Meeting Travel (UNBC)	\$		\$	700.24
	Graphic design - Youth Camp Guidelines	\$		\$	975.00
	Printing - Youth Camp Guidelines	\$		\$	755.00
	Stone's Sheep project (WLAP)	\$		\$	30,000.00

Footnotes:

M-K-2004-2005-29 50% funded through donations



Christina Falls

photo courtesy of K. Vince



Halfway Moose Antlers

photo courtesy of G. Vince

British Columbia Ministries and agencies represented by the IAMC include:

- Ministry of Forests
- Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
- Ministry of Energy and Mines
- British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission
- Land and Water British Columbia Incorporated
- Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
- Public Works and Government Services Canada (for the Alaska Highway)



*Trees near Graham River
photo courtesy of K. Vince*

IAMC Report Overview

IAMC 2004-2005 – A Partnership

Consistent with the intent of the *M-KMA Act* and the M-KMA Plan, the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (M-KAB) is responsible for providing advice to the Inter-Agency Management Committee (IAMC) on priorities for and coordinating of local strategic planning in the M-KMA.

As well, consistent with the *M-KMA Act*, and outlined in the M-KMA Plan, the IAMC fulfilled its responsibilities by working with the Advisory Board in i) coordinating public review and consultation for local strategic planning, ii) preparing the 2004-2005 IAMC Report.

Key responsibilities of the IAMC include:

- Assistance in the resolution of conflicts that may arise between land users in the M-KMA and ministries and agencies responsible for land use;
- Provision of a central registry for M-KMA land use plans, related documents and their amendments;
- Review of proposed amendments to land use plans, while providing recommendations based on those reviews to the Environment and Land Use Committee;
- Work in partnership with the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board to coordinate (i) implementation of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan; (ii) ways and means of monitoring implementation of the Plan; and (iii) processes allowing for public consultation in relation to review of plans.

IAMC 2004-2005 Activity Report Summary

While land use and resource development in the M-KMA remained, as expected, at relatively low levels, significant planning and management activities prompted the development of oil and gas best practices guidelines and revisions in oil and gas pre-tenure planning, forest management, processes of commercial recreation tenure approval, monitoring and enforcement activities, as well as First Nations consultations. Additionally, progress was made towards completing the M-K Wildlife Management, Park Management and M-K Recreation Management plans. Furthermore, a number of government ministries and agencies cooperated to initiate a number of studies and projects including the Stone's Sheep Study.

The Advisory Board continues to work closely with the IAMC and looks forward to completing activities associated with M-KMA resource planning and management.

For more information regarding ministry and agency work in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area please review the "Northern Interior Region Interagency Management Committee Annual Report 2004-2005 on the M-KMA", Ministry of Agriculture and Lands: Integrated Land Management Bureau, Suite 400-10003 110th Ave., Fort St. John, BC, V1J 6M7.

NOTES



vision



*Y.C. 04 Mask by Willie 2
photo courtesy of B. Barradell*



*Observing a dry mineral lick
photo courtesy of J. Ayotte*

alive



Summit Lake
photo courtesy of K. Vince

nature

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partnerships

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