

XENI GWET'IN FOREST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2020-2024



PREPARED FOR
Xeni Gwet'in First Nations

PREPARED BY
Cathro Consulting Ltd.

APPROVED BY CHIEF AND COUNCIL
OCTOBER 2020

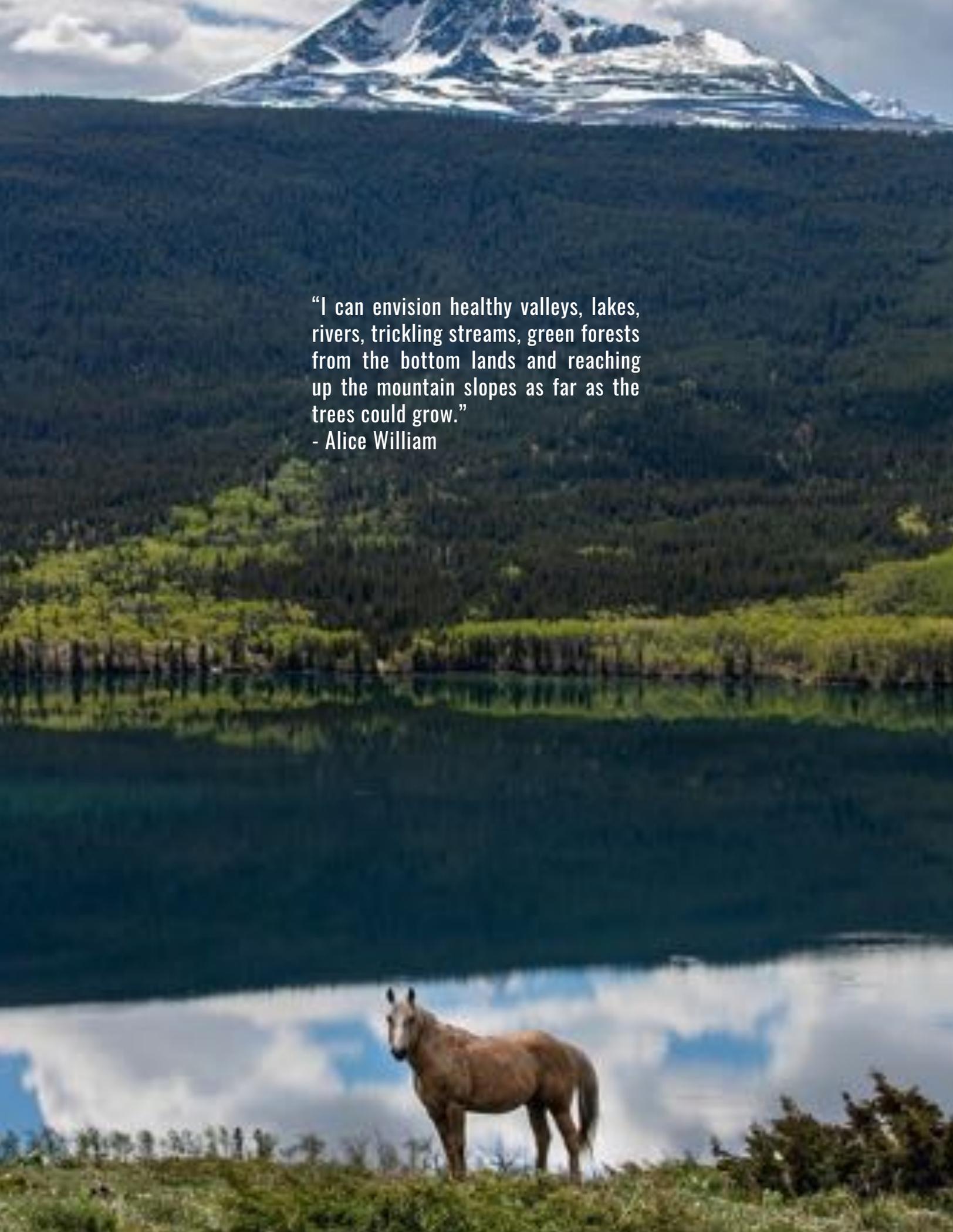


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“I can envision healthy valleys, lakes,
rivers, trickling streams, green forests
from the bottom lands and reaching
up the mountain slopes as far as the
trees could grow.”

- Alice William

1. VISION FOR XENI GWET'IN FOREST MANAGEMENT

Active stewardship of our Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area strengthens traditional uses, restores resilient ecosystems, protects water, enhances wildlife habitat, reduces wildfire risk, and provides for community well-being.

We have always managed our forests. These forests are abundant in traditional plants, wildlife, berries, traditional foods, and clean water. Our T̓ilhqot'in values and teachings direct us that our forest is only a portion of a larger inter connected system.

T̓ilhqot'in have lived in partnership with the landscape since time immemorial and practice holistic forest management which has aided in the growth of healthy ecosystems. The use of traditional fire management promoted balanced ecosystems and ensured a balance of grassland and forests across the varied landscape. Dead and dying trees being returned as ash to feed the soil while thriving forests supported habitat for wildlife, plants and all other beings.

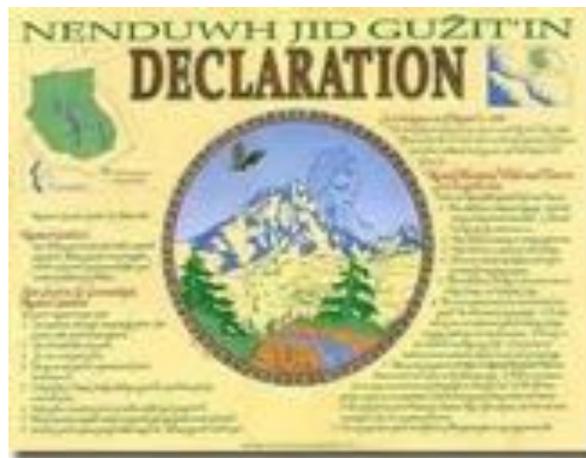
Xeni Gwet'in use of fire management was removed from the landscape half way through the last century due to colonial impacts of forest management. Aggressive fire suppression was driven by the increasing demand for logs to feed sawmills outside of our Caretaker Area. While this industrial management may have provided short-term timber supply, the ecological and cultural impacts to our community were significant.

Dense forests grew to replace grasslands and crowd out the open forests that for centuries had been kept in balance by low intensity wildfires and traditional fires. These overstocked, unhealthy forests reduce wildlife habitat, traditional plants, and berries.

In recent years large areas of the Caretaker Area have been destroyed by unprecedented wildfires and outbreaks of the mountain pine beetles, natural disturbances that are amplified by mismanaged forests. Roads have stretched deep into these forests and massive clearcuts remain where forests once stood.

Forest companies continue to over harvest diminishing healthy tree stands. Dead and dying trees await the next big wildfire, further threatening our communities, culture, wildlife and livelihoods. We have never supported these industrial activities and have always fought to protect our land, water, medicines, food and forests.

Thirty years ago, the Nemiah Declaration established a clear vision for how our forests are to be managed. This vision was carried all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada where our Rights and Title was confirmed for portions of the Caretaker Area. The Xeni Gwet'in Forest Management Strategy charts the direction for stewardship of Caretaker Area. Rooted in community values and traditional knowledge, this strategy aims to restore forest vitality while restoring climate change resilience.



"The vision for forestry needs to include the balance of all things"
- David Setah

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



This strategy is built on the efforts of many community members who shared their aspirations and ideas for forest management during conversations, interviews and community meetings. Their insights and knowledge define a clear course of action. A summary can be found [here](#).

The project has been guided by the efforts of a dedicated Steering Committee who provided guidance on all aspects of the project: Sincere appreciation to:

- David Setah
- June Lulua
- John Lerner
- Alex Lulua
- Ryan Grady
- Gene Cooper
- Jeremy Boyd
- Percy Guichon
- Jonaki Bhattacharyya

This strategy also builds on several decades of technical support, guidance and analysis by individuals and organizations, many of who are considered to be experts in their respective fields. These reports can be found [here](#).

This strategy and all associated documents can be found online at <https://xeniforestmgmt.wordpress.com>

Photography by Keith Koepke. Maps, toolbox development and analysis by Nick Reynolds of Sangan Environmental Services. Wildfire and climate analysis by Nick Soverel and the team at Frontera Forest Solutions, Inc.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

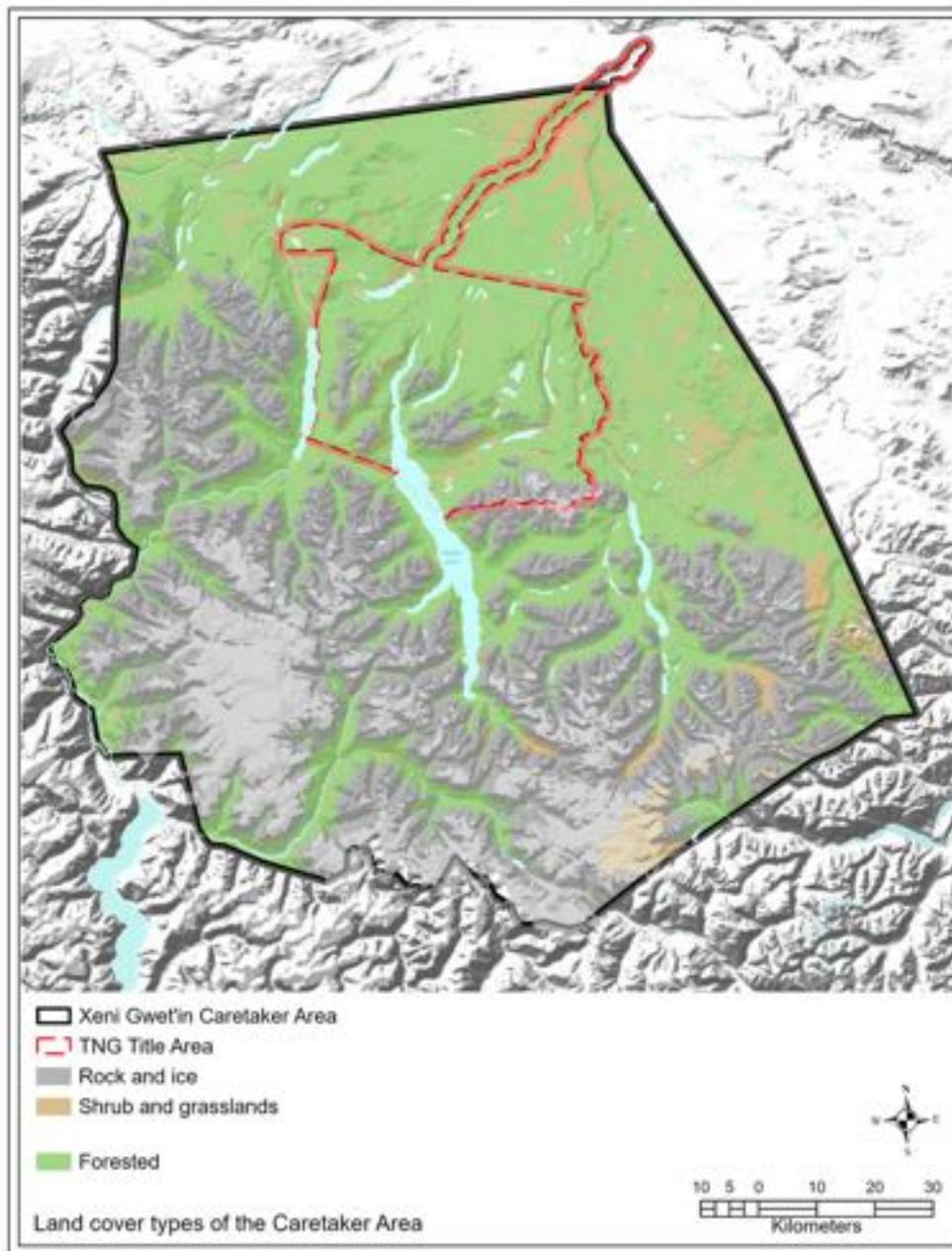
The following guiding principles were considered and incorporated throughout the development of This Strategic Plan and provide the direction required to realize the community vision.

Long-term Thinking	This Strategy builds on our heritage while being future-oriented and adaptable to changing circumstances. The implementation component of this strategy will focus on the next 5 years.
Broad in Scope	This Strategy considers the integration of economic, environmental, social, and cultural aspects of the community and the land.
Integration	The Xeni Gwet'in's plan builds on and aligns with other community planning activities and work done in the Caretaker Area over the past several decades.
Collaboration	This Strategy has been created by endeavouring to seek input from all members and partners that form our community.
Community Engagement	This Strategy will be strengthened by ongoing and continuous community engagement throughout its implementation.
Capacity Building	This Strategy will help increase capacity within our community through member participation, training and involvement.
Implementation	This Strategy identifies specific actions that will move our community forward and help achieve our Vision over the next five years.
Monitoring & Evaluation	This Strategy sets measurable targets and methods for tracking results in order to celebrate progress and identify opportunities for improvement.

4. SCOPE OF THE PLAN

The strategic vision defines what the community wants the future to be. This vision is supported by four strategic priorities that have measurable objectives. The strategic priorities are implemented through specific actions over the next years.

The Caretaker Area is comprised of six planning units defined by their forest types, jurisdictions, natural disturbance regimes and opportunities.



VISION

What the community wants the future to be

Stewardship of our Caretaker Area strengthens traditional uses, restores resilient ecosystems, protects water, enhances wildlife habitat, reduces wildfire risk, and provides for community well-being.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Four most important elements of the Vision, as defined by the community

Xeni Gwet'in Knowledge

Stewardship

Community Benefits

Community Governance



OBJECTIVES

Measurable outcome of each Strategic Priority



ACTIONS

Specific steps to achieve the Objectives over the next five years



TOOLBOX

Resources, plans, agreements, and partnerships that support Actions



5. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Four Strategic Priorities have been identified based on interviews with community members and a review of [reports](#) completed over the past several decades. While containing separate elements these priorities combine to provide broad structure for the detailed activities that make up this strategy. Each priority has a distinct objective and expected outcome. These objectives in turn support specific [actions](#) over the next five years. The purpose of this Action Plan is to provide leadership with the information needed to prioritize activities in order to implement the Xeni Gwet'in Forest Management Strategy. See the full Action Plan [here](#).

Xeni Gwet'in Knowledge **Our history is celebrated and our traditional knowledge is used with science to guide stewardship of our Caretaker Area**

- Action 1* *Develop and implement community engagement plan*
- Action 2* *Integrate traditional use and cultural values into resource planning*

Resource Stewardship **Stewardship of our Caretaker Area is aligned with cultural values and leads to protection of water, ecosystem restoration and climate resilience**

- Action 1* *Establish a management planning framework*
- Action 2* *Develop a carbon management system*

Community Benefits **The Caretaker Area provides us with abundant clean water, food, medicine, spiritual qualities, heat, building materials and well paid jobs**

- Action 1* *Develop longterm community heating supply chain*
- Action 2* *Ensure community wildfire resilience*

Community Governance **Community engagement supports informed decisions for stewardship of our Caretaker Area including collaboration with other communities, companies, organizations and governments**

- Action 1* *Establish the Land and Resources Agency*
- Action 2* *Establish strategic partnerships*
- Action 3* *Yunešit'in Housing Eco-system Overview and Strategy Development: Leverage the strong working relationship and aligned value set that exists between Xeni Gwet'in and Yunešit'in in relation to forestry and housing to develop a bi-lateral housing ecosystem management committee that examines both timber harvesting scenarios within the Dasiqox tribal park strictly for the purposes of local housing provision, as well as opportunities to share resources, skills, and labour for the purposes of housing provision.*

6. XENI GWET'IN KNOWLEDGE

Objective: We celebrate and honour the history carried by our matriarchal lineage and the stories our landscape shares with us. We access these stories through the tools of traditional knowledge and modern "science" to assist in guiding us today in our stewardship of the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area.



Our traditional knowledge and T̓silhqot̓'in language are the root of our history and culture on this landscape. We have always co-existed with *nen* sustainably in order to survive and flourish as a community. Celebrating and actively sharing these practices is how we will pass down the T̓silhqot̓'in way of life to future generations and allow for intergenerational knowledge exchange between our youngest and oldest leaders.

Our lifestyle is inextricably connected to *nenqay* in the simple practice of breathing fresh air. Stewardship is prioritizing the protection of this land. Stewardship includes forest management, ecosystem restoration, ranching, protection of water, enhancing wildlife habitat and sharing our traditional practices and ways of the land. Our stewardship practices connect the cultural practices of our ancestors with the future for our children.

Xeni Gwet'in traditional knowledge will continue to guide stewardship decisions. This includes engaging with knowledge holders to ensure cultural values are identified and respected in all forest management activities. Our history will to be continue be celebrated through traditional use of the land.

Xeni Gwet'in traditional knowledge is the core of our successful stewardship through personal and community time in hosting community events and workshops. Leadership ensures that traditional knowledge is central to decision-making. Benefits include the continuation of vibrant and sustainable traditional values and land uses. In this way we will balance our culture, our traditional knowledge, and the benefits of stewardship.



7. STEWARDSHIP

Objective: Stewardship of our Caretaker Area is aligned with cultural values and leads to protection of water, ecosystem restoration and climate resilience.



Managing the forests of the Caretaker Area encompasses many activities: providing heat and building materials, restoring ecosystems, enhancing wildlife habitat, protecting water, building climate resilient forests, supporting traditional uses, and providing employment. Stewardship creates opportunities for ranching, recreation and tourism. This is a broad resource stewardship approach to forest management that builds on years of community engagement and Ecosystem Based Planning.

To meet the Stewardship objective we need to plan and implement forest activities consistent with our values.

The use of the forest in the Caretaker Area will be through a respectful approach towards maintaining or restoring ecosystem functions while meeting the current and future needs of our communities. A Forest Management Plan will be developed through an inclusive process that sets the long-term management direction to protect culture and environment. The Forest Management Plan will include estimates of wildlife habitat, carbon or wood availability over long periods. The Forest Management Plan will have various parts, with guidance provided in this Strategy:

- A clear description of desired future forest conditions
- Forest and ecosystem inventories
- Linkage to Land Use Planning
- Forest Management Rules
- Respectful forest use through restoration methods
- A role to manage and generate revenues from Carbon

More details are provided in [Appendix 3: Forest Management Toolbox](#), [Appendix 4: Wildfire History & Future Forest Condition](#), and [Appendix 5: Carbon Pricing Primer](#).

7.1 FUTURE FOREST CONDITION

All forest management in the Caretaker Area must be consistent with the Xeni Gwet'in future forest condition. The future forest condition is what we want the forests to look like as an outcome of our forest management activities. This will be based on historic natural disturbances and the impacts of climate change. This means that the natural disturbance types are changing, and so too are our forests.

Climate change is already underway within the Caretaker Area and our summers will likely be getting warmer and drier and our winters will be getting milder and wetter.

Mountain pine beetle and wildfire will continue to be critical large-scale disturbances. As the climate warms and dries, the wildfire hazard will likely increase because of fuel loading from dead and dying Lodgepole pine. Forest management will be guided by what we want the forest to be, based on changes to wildfire. Active forest management including ecosystem restoration and reintroducing prescribed fire will reduce the threat of large-scale wildfire while improving wildlife habitat and protecting water.

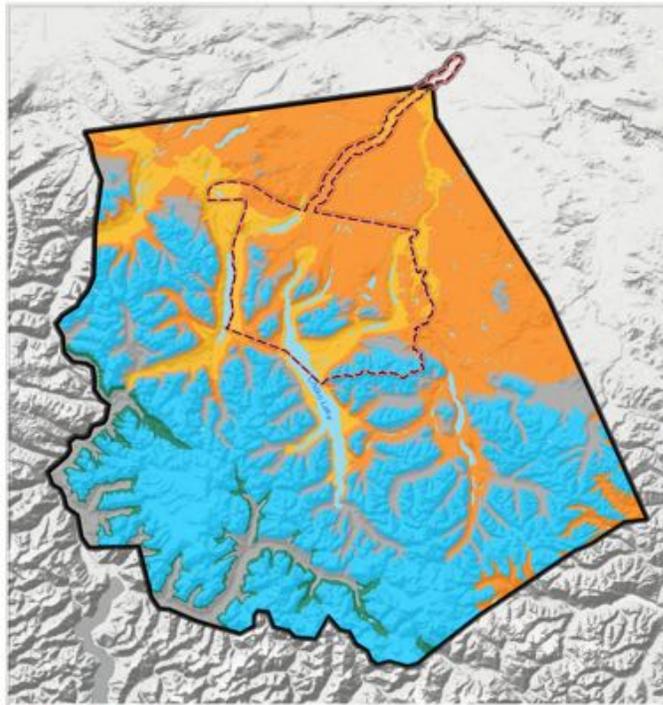
The Xeni Gwet'in Community-Based Climate Adaptation Plan looked at trends in temperature and precipitation in the Caretaker Area. This informs our understanding of potential shifts in Natural Disturbance Types – the frequency and intensity of wildfire.

This change in climate and wildfire is affecting the forests on the Caretaker Area. We will likely see an increase in Douglas-fir forests and a decrease in Lodgepole pine forests. The Lodgepole pine forests, are suffering from increased disease and insect damage especially mountain pine beetle.

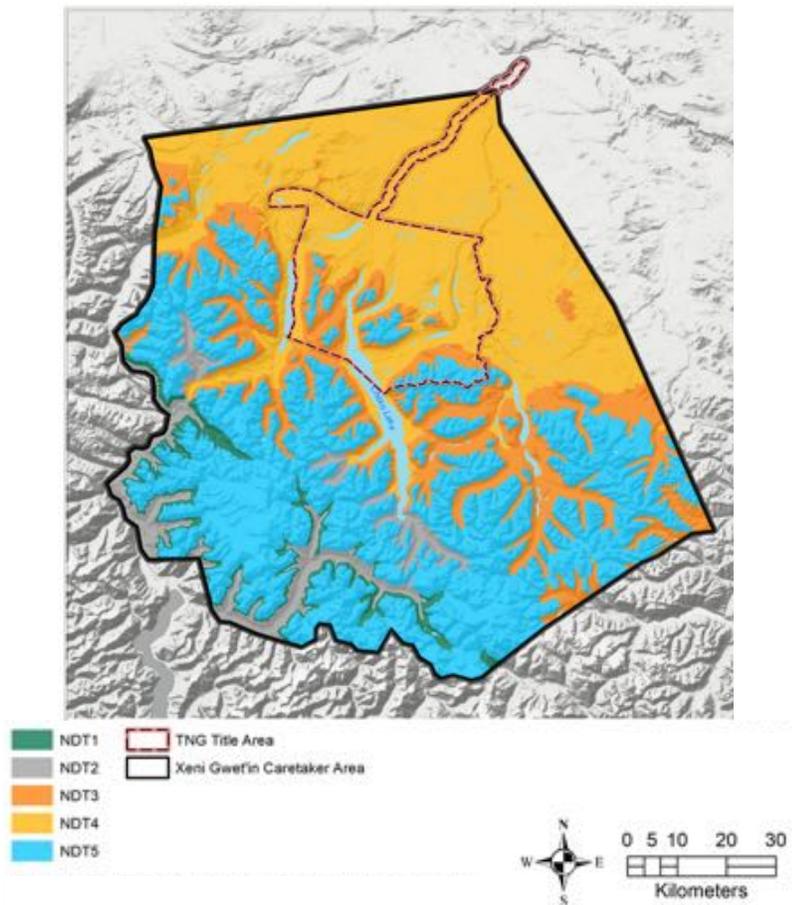
The Douglas-fir forests in the Nemiah Valley will likely see a transition to grasslands with possible increase in Ponderosa pine. Aspen stands may decrease in size but will persist on the landscape. These ecosystem transitions will have implications on forest management and ecological succession into the future.

The following maps show how these forests will change based on changes to climate and wildfire frequency and intensity:

Current Natural Disturbance Types



Predicted Shifts in Natural Disturbance Types by 2050



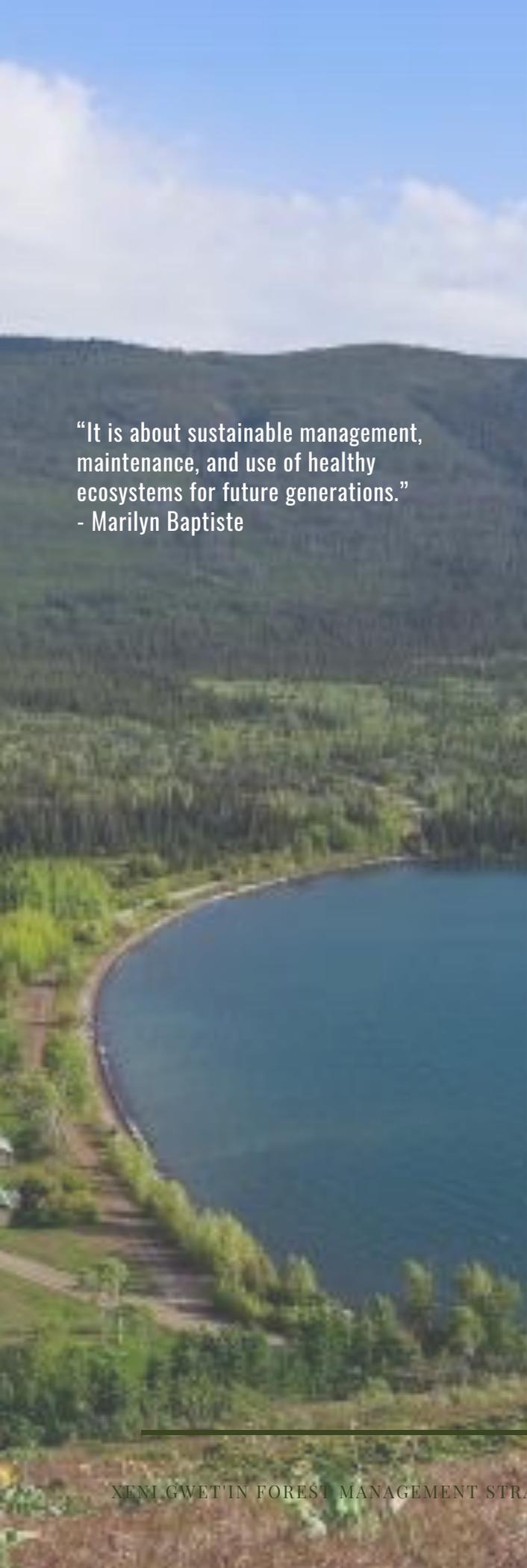
More details can be found in [Appendix 4: Wildfire History and Future Forest Condition.](#)

7.2 FOREST & ECOSYSTEM INVENTORIES

Forests and ecosystems of the Caretaker Area are diverse and range from old Douglas-fir forests down in the valleys, young and mature pine forests and old spruce and subalpine fir further up the mountains. Most of our forests, especially in the valleys and midway up the mountains, have evolved to be dependent on recurring fires. The amount of fire has been limited for over 60 years through fire suppression. This, along with commercial logging and mountain pine beetle has changed the make-up of our forests. Having a reliable inventory of the forest, including knowing the types of trees and their ages, heights and their rates of growth and change are important for maintaining, restoring, and respectfully using the land.

Over time forests have burned, grown and been logged within the Caretaker Area. Understanding how these changes affect wildlife habitat, current and future threats from wildfire, and steady and accessible community wood supply and carbon storage is a key part of this Forest Strategy. Thanks to the Nemiah Declaration there has been no commercial logging on our Title Lands, and so most of the forests in the Title Lands are old. Current inventories say that 80% of the forests in the Caretaker Area are over 80 years old, but much of these old forests are at risk of wildfire. The forest inventory for the Caretaker Area is very old and can be improved to help prioritize areas to restore and respectfully use. A priority of this Forest Strategy will be to improve and update the forest inventories of our Title Lands and eventually the whole Caretaker Area.





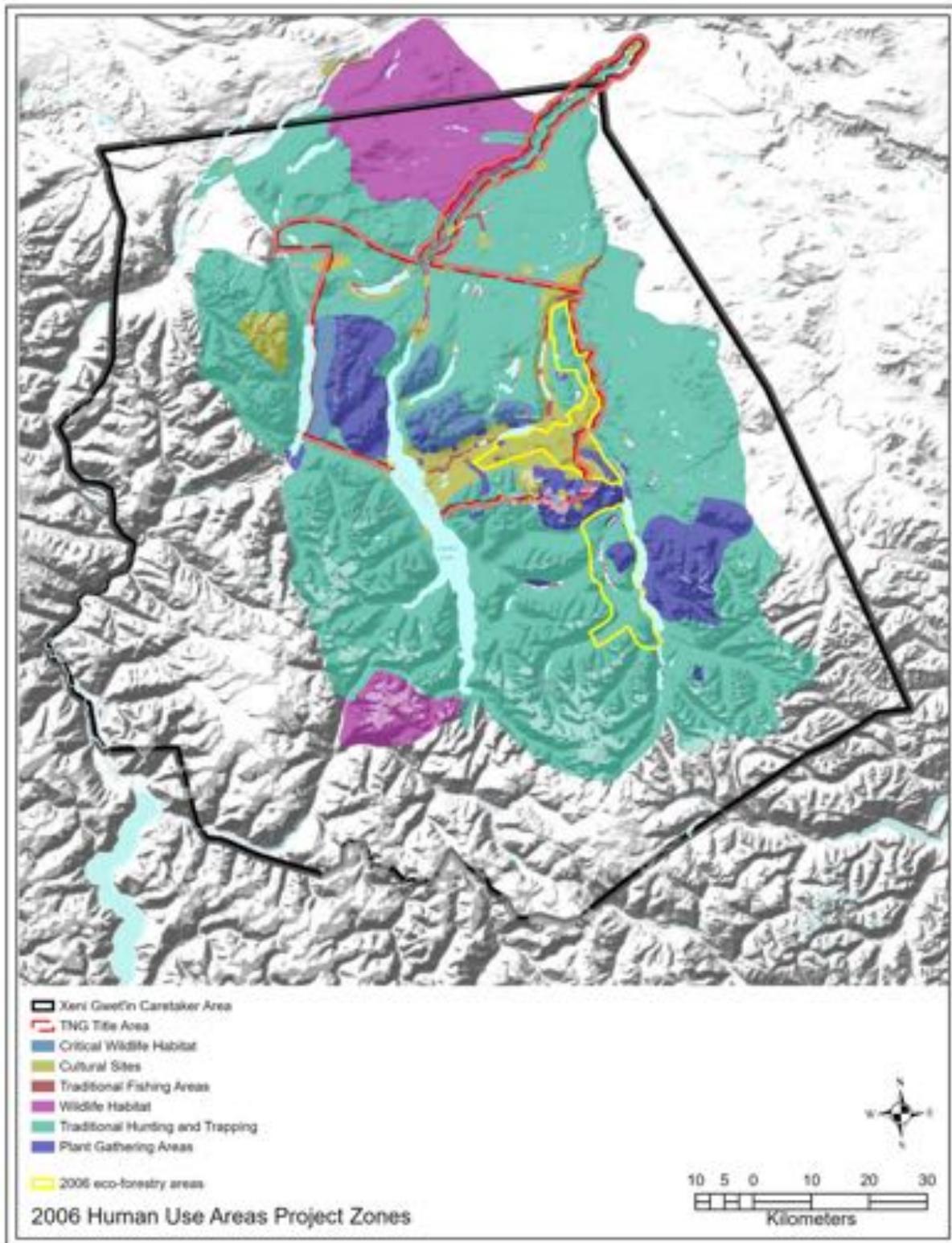
7.3 LAND USE PLANNING

“It is about sustainable management, maintenance, and use of healthy ecosystems for future generations.”
- Marilyn Baptiste

Land Use Planning helps set the geographic boundaries to protect important areas and balance human use across the Caretaker Area. Significant steps have been made in Land Use Planning over the last two decades, including Nature Based Planning which was guided by our community to identify important wildlife and traditional and cultural use sites throughout the Caretaker Area. This charted a course for cultural use including eco-forestry, tourism and ranching. As climate and forests change over time, so do the qualities of habitat, risks from wildfire or various effects from Mountain Pine Beetle. Through our control of the Caretaker Area, Land Use Planning will evolve while upholding the Nemiah Declaration. Projects like the TNG Land Use Plan, and others that may follow, will benefit from the knowledge that has been brought forward from past planning. In this way our Land Use will adapt to change, growing stronger through its iterations.

This Forest Strategy provides a path forward to complement Land Use Planning and can be applied across land use boundaries to achieve the objectives of clean water and healthy forests. As a starting point, the 2006 Human Use Areas Project zonation will be used as a guide to inform planning for restoration and forest use throughout the Caretaker Area.

Human Use Areas Project Zones within the Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Area:



7.4 FOREST MANAGEMENT RULES

Existing forest regulations have long been inadequate to protect Xeni Gwet'in values. This is because existing regulations over emphasize timber extraction and under emphasize ecological and cultural values.

Within the Caretaker Area all forest management activities must be consistent with the Vision including respect for cultural values and protection of wildlife habitat, water and other forest values. This will be achieved through development and implementation of Xeni Gwet'in Forest Management Rules.

These rules must:

- Uphold aboriginal title and rights;
- Ensure free, prior and informed consent for all activities;
- Maintain and enhance ecological values including water, wildlife habitat, rare species and old growth forests;
- Maintain and enhance cultural values including spiritual areas, medicinal plants and traditional foods;
- Lead over time to healthy restored ecosystems that are climate resilient;
- Provide jobs that ensure community well-being including training, capacity building, safe practices and living wages; and
- Provide business opportunities including access to forest products, supply chains and markets.

These rules will set a higher standard than provincial regulations. These rules will balance ecological, cultural and community needs.

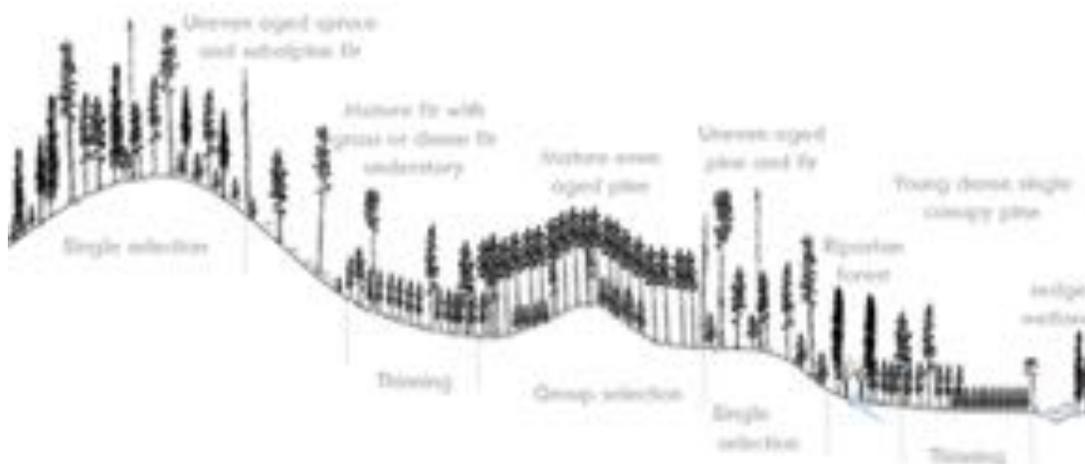
These rules will uphold and protect our values in the Caretaker Area such as water, wildlife habitat and cultural values. These Xeni Gwet'in Forest Management Rules can be amended and improved in partnership with other communities based on operational lessons learned.

7.5 RESPECTFUL FOREST USE THROUGH RESTORATION

There are many different fire-dependent forested ecosystems of the Caretaker area, each are influenced by climate, vegetation patterns and forest age. We know the climate to be different, whether you are up in the mountains or down in the flats. Some of these forests are prone to large and intense wildfires, while some have evolved with smaller and more frequently occurring fires that regenerate the forest. In other areas, up the mountains or towards the coast, fires are relatively rare. These different levels of disturbance leave varied but distinct differences in the character of our forests that can be understood as a natural range of variability. While we cannot control climate, we can work to understand these natural variabilities, such as the natural frequency of fire return, the shape and size of fires, and the legacies, like the densities of trees, downed wood or snags, that remain as forests change and adapt from disturbances within these different areas of our Territory. We can use these natural ranges of variability (NRV) as a guide to make sure our efforts to restore and use the forests maintain the important ecosystem functions, like stabilizing soil, regulating and cleaning our water, and providing habitat for wildlife, while meeting the current and future needs of our communities.

Following the Forest Management Rules and Land Use Zonation, while being guided by NRV, we will pair our restoration and forest use objectives with the current conditions of the forest, while considering climate resilience. Restoration and forest use will include prescribed and traditional burning, forest thinning, group and shelterwood cuts and single selection harvesting. There will be no clearcut logging.

Examples of types of forest found in the Caretaker Area, paired with restoration and forest use treatments:



Restoration and forest use treatments will aim to improve forest health and climate resilience. Complementing Forest Management Rules, treatments can aim to retain mature healthy trees, increase tree species diversity, retain high value snags and Coarse Woody Debris. More details can be found in [Appendix 3: Forest Management Toolbox](#). Some examples of restoration objectives and treatment types include:

<u>Restoration or Forest Use Objective</u>	<u>Current Forest Conditions</u>	<u>Appropriate Treatment Types</u>
Fuel Management	Dense mid-seral lodgepole pine pole even aged forest (including MPB infested stands) within 3 km proximity to communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinning from below • Pile and burn • Shelterwood or group selection • Pruning • Prescribed fire
Ungulate Winter Range (continous forest cover)	Uneven aged montane forest with heavy understory re-initiation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single selection harvesting • Thinning from below
Old Growth Douglas Fir pinegrass restoration (ex. NDT4)	Mature and old (>140 year) Douglas-fir with dense pine understory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinning from below • Single selection harvest • Prescribed burn





7.6 REVENUES FROM CARBON

Forests play an important role in storing carbon from the atmosphere, in turn helping to moderate the effects of climate change. Globally, society is moving to put a cost on releasing carbon and other Greenhouse Gases into the atmosphere, and a value to storing carbon.

The forests of the Caretaker Area can contribute to these solutions of long-term carbon storage while meeting other important objectives set out in this Strategy. Where Xeni Gwet'in Forest Management provides a net increase in carbon storage when compared to the status quo in British Columbia, then those benefits can be turned into a revenue source to our communities. This Strategy highlights our interest in pursuing these opportunities, as other First Nations in BC have done in this new conservation economy, realizing value from standing trees.

More details can be found in [Appendix 5: Carbon Pricing Primer](#)

8. COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Objective: The Caretaker Area provides us with abundant clean water, food, medicine, spiritual qualities, heat, building materials and well paid jobs.



8.1 COMMUNITY HEATING & ENERGY

The forests around our community have provided us with easily accessible large-diameter dead and dry pine firewood for many decades. Increasingly we are seeing that this supply of dead and dry pine is coming to an end. Due in part to the mountain pine beetle, large, dead, standing snags we use for firewood are becoming more and more difficult to access. Many of the trees that are close to roads have been cut and the younger forests of pine regeneration are not suitable for firewood.

The [biomass gasification feasibility study](#) has been completed and has demonstrated that the forests adjacent to our community have sufficient volumes of biomass that we can use for heating. If the readily available firewood is running out then new heat sources that can be provided by our forests should be considered. There are three main heat sources that originate in the forest, known as biofuel: firewood, briquettes and pellets.

Each of these has important similarities:

- Forests provide reliable renewable source of raw material and this is consistent with forest restoration objectives;
- Community members can harvest raw material locally;
- Low carbon fuel source; and
- Reliable and easy to operate systems.



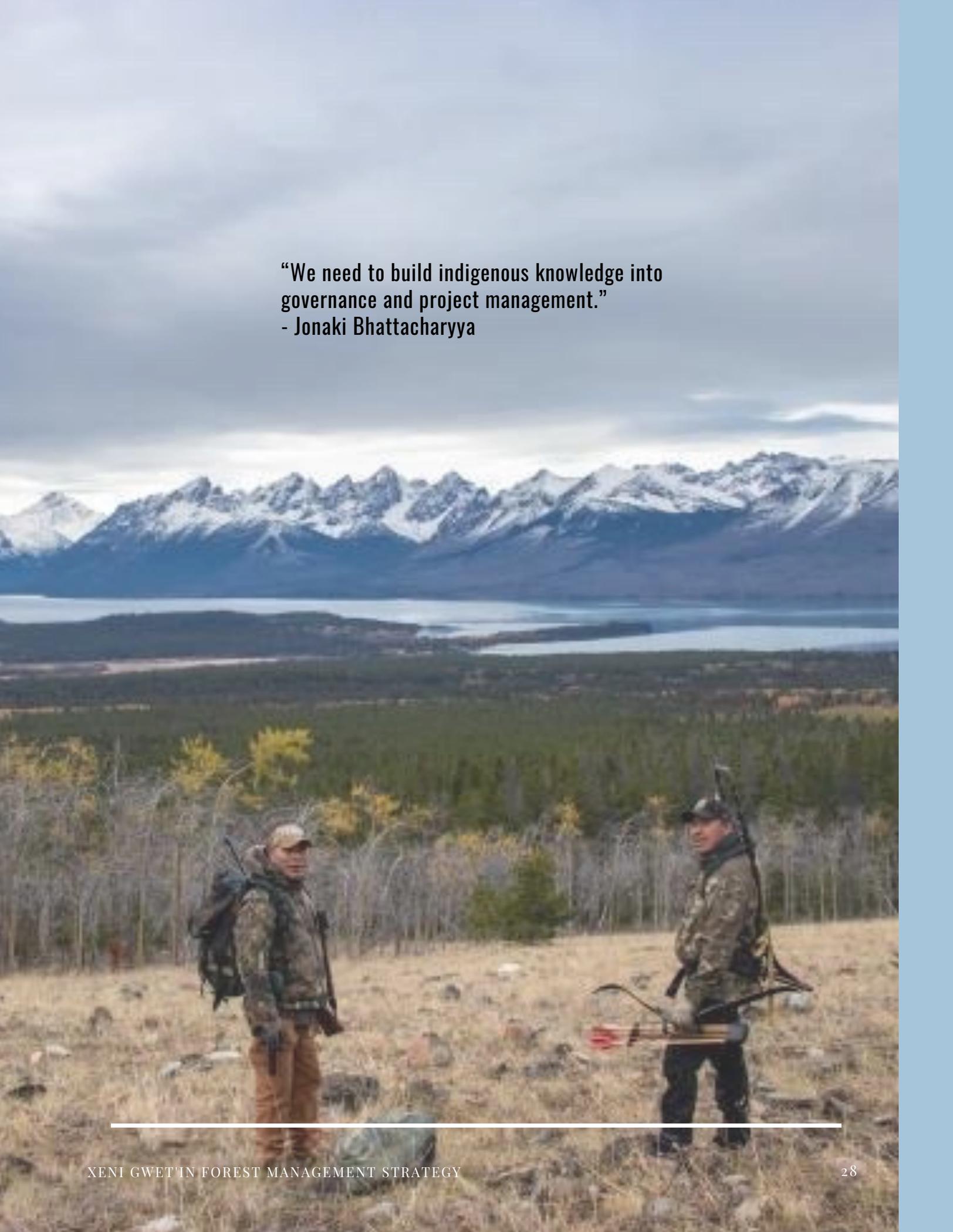
The following table summarizes these heat sources:

<u>Heating Source</u>	<u>Availability</u>	<u>Advantages</u>	<u>Disadvantages</u>
Firewood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead standing Pine and Fir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already in use • Most people have wood stoves • Easy to harvest, transport and use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diminishing supply • Harder to get each year
Briquettes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead standing Pine and Fir • Dead Pine and Fir on the ground • Small diameter Pine and Fir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be made from smaller trees • Compliments forest restoration work • Can be burned in existing wood stoves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processing facility required, including chipping, drying and storing chips • Equipment needed to manufacture at community scale
Pellets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead standing Pine and Fir • Dead Pine and Fir on the ground • Small diameter Pine and Fir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be made from smaller trees • Compliments forest restoration work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processing facility required, including chipping, drying and storing chips • Equipment needed to manufacture at community scale • Would require new stoves in every home

Given the diminishing supply of firewood, an alternative home heating supply is required. The steps to determining the best option are:

- Conduct a detailed feasibility study including technical requirements, equipment options, delivered biofuel costs and community preferences;
- Develop a business plan including delivered biofuel costs, purchase and installation of equipment, training of operators and potential funding opportunities; and
- Complete an operations plan to harvest, transport and store the biofuel. This will include technical forestry planning to ensure harvest of material is consistent with Xeni Gwet'in Forest Rules.

“We need to build indigenous knowledge into governance and project management.”
- Jonaki Bhattacharyya



8.2 COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

Our communities are at risk from wildfire. Decades of wildfire suppression have helped to create densely stocked, unhealthy forests with increasing amounts of dead and dying trees. Our homes, community buildings and critical infrastructure are susceptible to direct flames and ember showers that accompany wildfires.

Thinning the forests adjacent to our communities while retaining large, healthy fire resistant species will reduce the risk of wildfire. Applying FireSmart principles around our homes, community buildings and critical infrastructure has been demonstrated to reduce the risk of wildfire.

The FireSmart program provides training and resources to build capacity in the community to identify risks. Work is currently underway in forests adjacent to the community to reduce forests fuels and restore ecosystem health. The outcome will be a FireSmart community.

Provincial funding is available through the First Nations Emergency Services Society and Indigenous Services Canada to support FireSmart Assessments, training, community education and fuel reduction treatments. Partnerships with BC Wildfire Service and BC Parks will support shared learning and result in reintroducing prescribed fire. Fuel treatment costs can be reduced by using some of the material cut for biofuel. Building logs and fencing can also be produced from these sites.



9. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

Objective: Community engagement supports informed decisions for stewardship of our Caretaker Area including collaboration with other communities, companies, organizations and governments.



9.1 XENI GWET'IN FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

Forest management is done by people with a range of skills using specialized equipment and guided by specific plans. Building the capacity within the community to manage the forests in the Caretaker Area is essential for the success of this strategy. This will ensure that the Vision for Forest Management is implemented on the ground by bringing together Xeni Gwet'in knowledge and forest sciences.

To get there these are the main considerations:

<u>Forest Management Component</u>	<u>Specific Requirements</u>
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry staff requires expertise in forest operations, ecology, cultural values, wildlife, water stewardship and ecological restoration • Operational staff requires expertise in forest harvesting, prescribed burning, ecosystem restoration, road building and crew supervision. • Administration staff requires expertise in project administration, community engagement and financial management • Training and mentoring will be an important part of building capacity for forest management
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office equipment will include computers, plotters, and printers • Field gear will include safety gear like First Aid, survey and mapping equipment like tablets and cameras, communication equipment such as radios and satellite phones • Vehicles will include pick up trucks, off road vehicles and likely snow mobiles and boats • Operational equipment may include chain saws, harvesters, forwarders and haul trucks. This may also include sawmills and biomass systems.
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xeni Gwet'in laws will be turned into standard operating procedures • Alignment with the Rangers and other work in the Caretaker Area • Safety program will include procedures for working safely in the forest, evacuation, communications • Community engagement procedures will ensure that decisions about forest operations reflect community values.

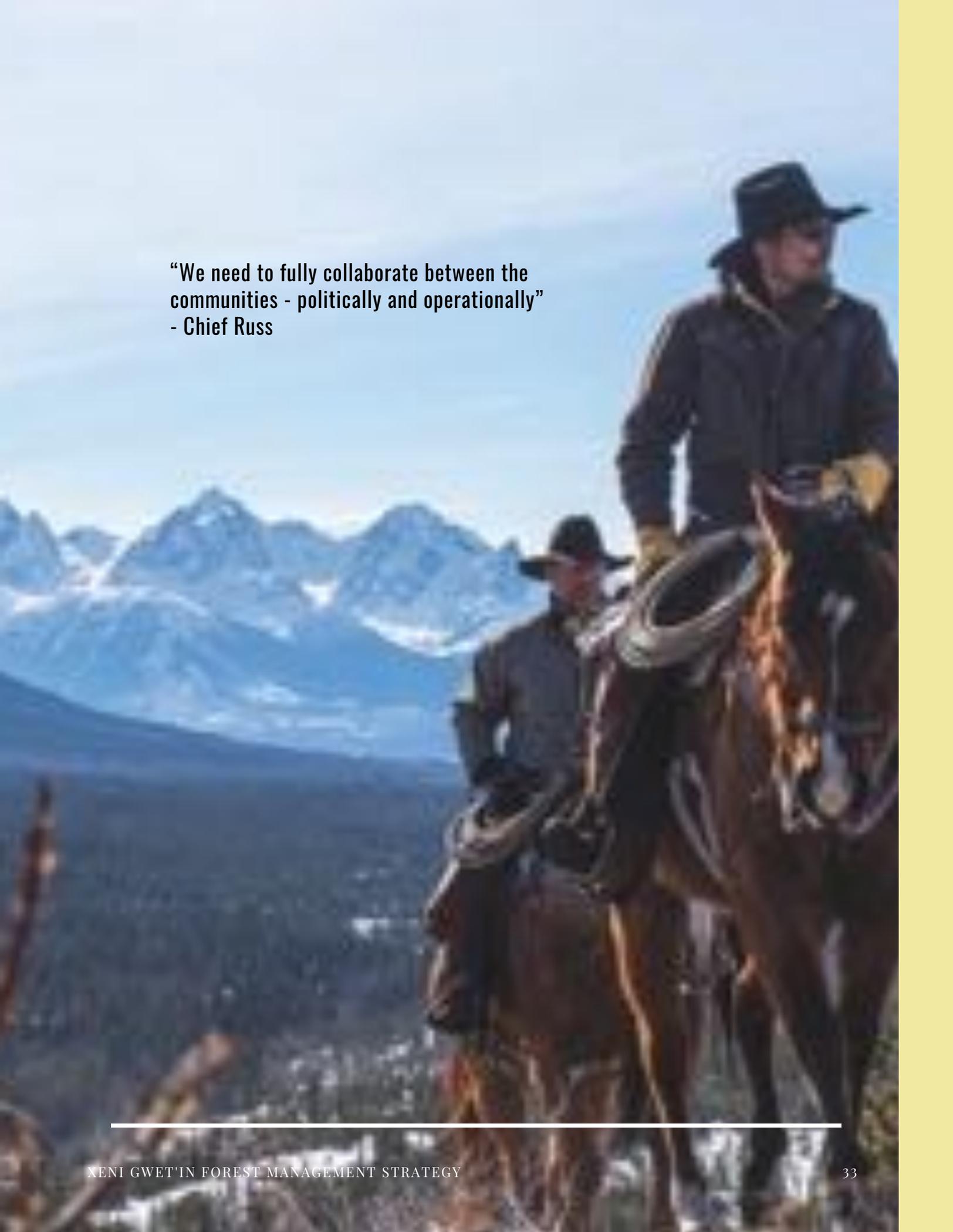
The size of the Xeni Gwet'in Forest Department and how it is built over time will need to match the specific operational direction the community chooses to take. This operational direction will be defined through consultation with the community as a first step of implementing this strategy.

9.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In order to fulfill the Vision, forest management within the Caretaker Area must be guided and supported by the community. Given the complexity of forest management and the size of the Caretaker Area this engagement will take a number of forms including community meetings, field tours, one-on-one meetings, presentations on specific topics and review of operational plans.

To support community engagement are the following:

<u>Element of Engagement</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>
Forestry Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprised of knowledge holders and community members with specific expertise • Liaise between the community and leadership • Provide specific expertise to guide operations • Reviews operational plans prior to approval and implementation.
Decision Support Tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes priority values to be protected through forest management • Guides decisions to ensure conflicting values are balanced appropriately • Results in objective, transparent decision making
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily accessible platform for all maps, reports and plans • Can be used within and outside the community • Easy to update with new content

A photograph of two individuals on horseback, dressed in outdoor gear and hats, overlooking a vast landscape. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains with patches of snow under a clear blue sky. The foreground shows a dense forest of evergreen trees. The overall scene is bright and scenic.

**“We need to fully collaborate between the communities - politically and operationally”
- Chief Russ**

9.2 PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic partnerships align like-minded governments and agencies to ensure effective implementation of this Strategy.

Based in community consultation and three strategic priorities, the following strategic partnerships are proposed:

<u>Partner</u>	<u>Shared Interests</u>
Yunesit'in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dasiqox Tribal parks • Forest management outside of Title Lands • Forest restoration and prescribed burning • <u>Yunesit'in Housing Eco-system Overview and Strategy Development</u>
Tse Del del	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry Operations in the North Planning Unit • Forest restoration and prescribed burning
Tsilqot'in National Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use Planning • Coordination between all Tsilqot'in communities
Cariboo Fire Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed fire • Community Wildfire Protection
BC Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Management • Prescribed burning • Community Wildfire Protection

The first step in developing strategic partnerships will be to establish formal agreements that define shared interests and each party's roles and responsibilities. These agreements should be initiated by leadership and implemented by staff.

10. APPENDICES



10.1 COMMUNITY & STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER INTERVIEWS

Interview Summary Document

- [PDF](#)
- [WEBSITE](#)

10.2 DETAILED ACTION PLAN 2020-2024

Action Plan Document

- [PDF](#)
- [WEBSITE](#)



10.3 FOREST MANAGEMENT TOOLBOX

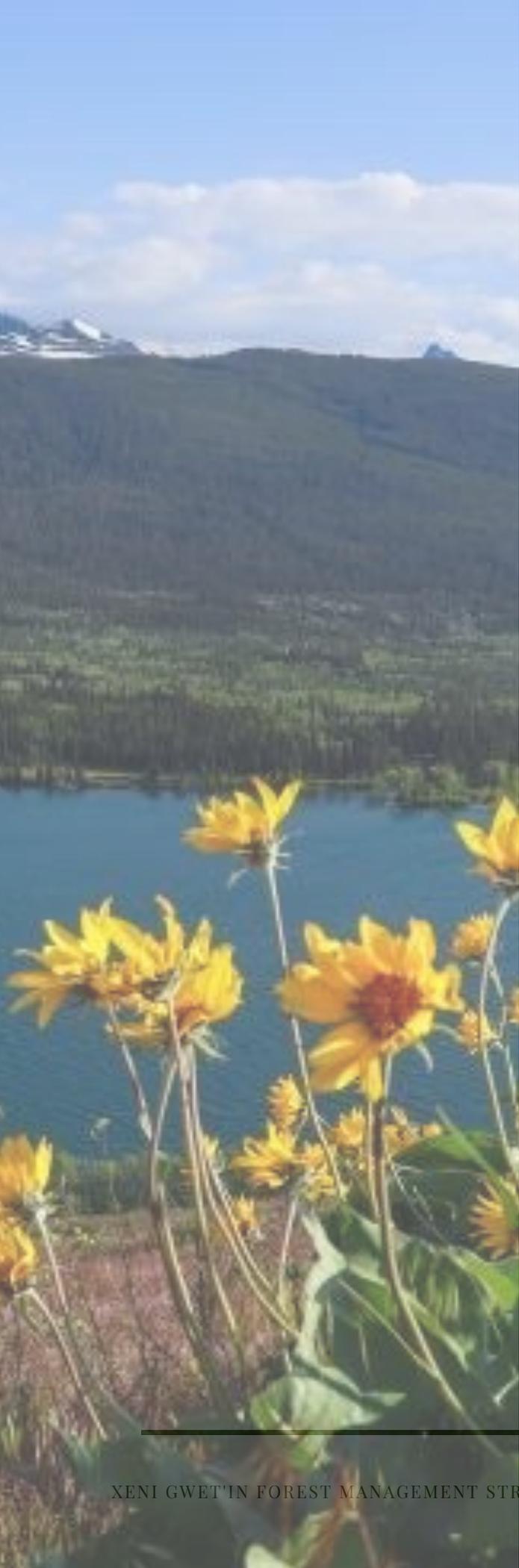
Toolbox Document

- [PDF](#)
- [WEBSITE](#)

10.4 WILDFIRE HISTORY AND FUTURE FOREST CONDITION

Wildfire History Document

- [PDF](#)
- [WEBSITE](#)



10.5 CARBON PRICING PRIMER

Carbon Pricing Primer Document

- [PDF](#)
- [WEBSITE](#)