

Haida Gwaii Management Council

2017-18 Annual Report

This Annual Report of the Haida Gwaii Management Council is for the period April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 and is submitted to the Parties in accordance with the expectations of the Kunst'aa Guu-Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol. It reflects the implementation of the work planning and priorities setting approach undertaken by the Management Council.

This Annual Report has been reviewed and approved by the Haida Gwaii Management Council (HGMC) members.

Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) Determination

The HGMC continued the important process of reviewing an Allowable Annual Cut for the Haida Gwaii Management Unit in 2017-18. The current AAC was determined by the HGMC in 2012. Subsequent implementation of this AAC has raised issues, including public comments, in regard to harvesting levels and species selection practices. In addition, new forest inventory information (e.g. vegetation resource inventory and LIDAR) has become available. Therefore, the HGMC, with excellent support from Haida and provincial forestry staff in a Timber Supply Review Working Group (TSRWG), continued a full AAC determination process throughout the 2017-18 period. The timeline for this project has taken somewhat longer than that which was expected at the start of the work; it is now anticipated that an updated AAC will be available in late 2018. Regular engagement between forest licence holders staff and the TSRWG to discuss AAC and Land Use Objectives Order issues has been an on-going part of this work. In addition, the HGMC met with the provincial Chief Forester in June to advocate for a formal, legal partition for cedar on Haida Gwaii.

Haida Gwaii Land Use Objectives Order (LUOO)

The HGMC completed a significant amendment to the existing Land Use Objectives Order in 2017-18. The current LUOO was originally established in 2010 and then updated, approved and consolidated in 2014. A substantial amendment process was initiated in 2016-17 to address ongoing issues of implementation, interpretation and new information in regard to forest values and reserves. The technical process was undertaken by the Land Use Objectives Joint Technical Team (LUOJTT) which was composed of Haida and provincial forestry staff and guided by a HGMC approved terms of reference. The LUOO development process also included forest licensee consultations and a public review of proposed amendments. The public review process ended in April 2017 and the HGMC issued a revised LUOO in September of the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Protected Areas

The HGMC recognizes the importance of Protected Areas on Haida Gwaii and continues to work with representatives of the parties to pursue this initiative. As with the previous annual reporting period, no management plans were received for approval or amendment during 2017-18, but work is ongoing with respect to updating the management plans for protected areas to align with completed Marine Area Plans.

In cooperation with the Protected Areas Operational Working Group (PAOWG), the HGMC completed the process of editing Section 5.4 'Approval of Management Plans for Protected Areas' of the HGMC Policies and Procedures document to clearly define the process and identify the procedural roles and responsibilities of the Parties and the HGMC when creating or updating Protected Area Management Plans, including a set of criteria and expectations that would guide the HGMC through the approval process.

Policies and Standards for Heritage Sites

The work on the policies and standards for heritage sites did not progress at an acceptable rate in 2017-18. Therefore, the HGMC undertook a review of its expectations for this work in February and adopted a more substantial work plan to define and guide the future work necessary for the development of a draft policy for the identification and conservation of heritage sites. Once a draft heritage policy document is complete, the HGMC will be seeking a decision to implement this through the Council of the Haida Nation approval process and an Order-in-Council that would establish the policy as regulations by the Province.

Solutions Table

As in the previous annual report, the Solutions Table has continued to send in their quarterly reports to the HGMC throughout 2017-18. These reports show a continuing number of non-consensus application issues as a result of a difference in expectations and philosophy between Haida and provincial laws in regard to land and resource development and use. The HGMC continued discussion with the Reconciliation Table and the Solutions Table to better understand these non-consensus issues.

Reconciliation Parties

The HGMC held a successful meeting with the Parties in February 2018. Representation included:

- Peter Lantin, President, Council of the Haida Nation
- Trevor Russ, Vice President, Council of the Haida Nation
- Tim Sheldon, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
- Heinz Dyck, Chief Negotiator, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

2017-2018 Management Council Membership

Haida Members

Tyler Bellis – Appointment from April 1, 2016

Percy Crosby – Appointment from April 1, 2016

Provincial Members

Brian Bawtinheimer – Appointment from December 31, 2015

Sharon Hadway – Appointment from December 31, 2014

Chair

Warren Mitchell – Appointment from April 1, 2016

Support

Laurie Whitehead- Council of the Haida Nation Implementation Coordinator

Veronica Cadden- Provincial Implementation Coordinator

Harmony Williams- Administrative Assistant

Funding

The new funding available to the HGMC for fiscal year (FY) 2017-2018 was \$190,000, which was derived from a contribution of \$95,000 from the Haida Nation and \$95,000 from the Province of British Columbia. This amount was added to a carry-over amount of \$131,498 from the previous fiscal year to give a total operating budget of \$321,498.

Given the nature of the work undertaken by the HGMC, particularly contract work required to deliver key program deliverables such as the Timber Supply Review or amendments to the Land Use Objectives Order that generally take more than one year to complete, it is often difficult to ensure that each fiscal year's total budget will be fully expended in any one year and therefore carry-over funds are a frequent result. The ability to carry-over funds, through the Secretariat of the Haida Nation financial administrative process, is a significant advantage to the HGMC work since it ensures that contract work proceeds appropriately rather than being driven by fiscal year end pressures.