



# Duu Guusd Management Plan

July 2011



Council of the  
**Haida Nation**



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA



Cover photo: Owen Jones

# Foreward

**"Changed only by relentless seas and pounding rain since ancient times, Duu Guusd stands as a testament to the power of the earth. "**

*"Duu Guusd faces the open Pacific and receives the full brunt of the Pacific weather systems. The landscape includes the mountains where many of our people took refuge from earlier sea floods. The rugged shoreline is interspersed with sandy beaches and few safe anchorages. Burial caves, old village sites, fossil beds and seabird nesting areas make Duu Guusd a particularly sensitive area.*

*Duu Guusd maintains all of the elements that spawned the Haida cultural heritage."*

Guujaaw

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# 1.0 Introduction

The Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia have a dispute of title over all of Haida Gwaii, but through planning and negotiations the Haida Nation and the province have taken steps towards reconciliation of interests.

Duu Guusd has been the subject of conflicting ideals for three decades while the Haida Nation was determined to protect the area from logging.

Duu Guusd is now formally protected by both the Haida Nation as a Haida Heritage Site and the Province of British Columbia as a conservancy. For the purposes of this management plan, this area will be referred to as Duu Guusd. Other areas established as both Haida Heritage Sites and conservancies will be referenced as protected areas in this document. The Haida Nation and the province through their respective authorities are now working together in managing this area.

This management plan does not have a complete or comprehensive listing of all cultural features or cultural inventory in the area. There are far more cultural features, many that are not inventoried and other cultural values which are held in secret by the Haida Nation.

Preparation of this management plan for Duu Guusd<sup>1</sup> has been jointly undertaken by the Council of the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Environment (hereafter referred to as "the Parties").

## 1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to:

- establish the vision, long-term strategic direction, guidance and acceptable uses for Duu Guusd;
- ensure that any activities are respectful of the natural values and not in conflict with Haida social, ceremonial and cultural uses;
- ensure protection for lands and seas in their natural state;
- describe the background and legal context of Duu Guusd; and
- manage visitor use.

## 1.2 Planning Area

Duu Guusd has been used by Haida people and given them life since time immemorial.

The marine environment is at the edge of the continental shelf while the shoreline includes many harbours and bays. Burial caves, village sites and cultural forests continue to highlight the rich history of Duu Guusd.

Duu Guusd is located on the northwest corner of Haida Gwaii, about 30 kilometres west of the communities of Old Massett and Masset (Figure 1). It is part of an archipelago-wide

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<sup>1</sup> Phonetic pronunciation is "Doo Goosd"

system of protected areas.<sup>2</sup> In total, half of the land base of Haida Gwaii is now in protected status. The terrestrial component of Duu Guusd covers 143,596 hectares and extends from the western side of Naden Harbour along Dixon Entrance to Langara Island, and south along the Pacific Ocean coastline to Rennell Sound (Figure 2). The elevation range is from sea level to 865 metres.

A marine component/foreshore area has been delineated by a joint Haida Nation and Province of British Columbia process that covers an area of 84,184 hectares<sup>3</sup>. Boundaries for the marine portion of the protected area are brought forward first by Order In Council, then by legislation to ensure equal protection across the terrestrial and marine components. This management plan will provide direction for this marine area as well.

Two other protected areas are contiguous with Duu Guusd. Nang Xaldangaas is east of Duu Guusd. Daawuuxusda borders the southernmost boundary, and their marine boundaries are contiguous. These protected areas form a significant interconnected ecological complex along the west coast of Haida Gwaii.

While the entire area of Duu Guusd had been designated by the Haida as a protected area since 1989, several small reserves<sup>4</sup> are within the boundaries of Duu Guusd, they will remain as Indian Reserves and are not a part of the Duu Guusd management plan.

There is also a longstanding youth camp at Taalung Slung in Lepas Bay near Langara Island where priority use is given to children, youth and elders.

Access to Duu Guusd is generally by boat, helicopter or floatplane. Access by foot is difficult and limited. Much of Duu Guusd consists of rugged, exposed rocky coastline, but there are a number of sandy beaches and sheltered inlets suitable for anchoring.

Boating and saltwater fishing for salmon and other species occur mainly in the Naden Harbour, Virago Sound and Langara Island areas of Duu Guusd. Most of the Duu Guusd is roadless, except for a small section along Rennell Sound, north of Shields Bay. This area is well known by local people and can be reached by a gravel road, 35 kilometres from Queen Charlotte. Logging roads out of Naden Harbour have reached two watersheds in the centre of Duu Guusd (Cave Creek and Haines Creek) though they are a long way from the shoreline.

The Haida Guardians have cabins at Kiusta in Naden Harbour for monitoring commercial recreational fishing activities during summer and serve as watchmen of these culturally significant sites. The Guardians ensure the respect of the natural environment and important sites, and provide stewardship and information to visitors.

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<sup>2</sup> That includes Gwaii Haanas, several provincial parks and ecological reserves and ten other protected areas.

<sup>3</sup> All navigation and activities related to navigation (including within any marine protected areas established by provincial legislation) are managed by Transport Canada mainly through the *Canada Shipping Act*, other federal statutes and international treaties.

<sup>4</sup> Kung Reserve<sup>4</sup> #11, Daningay Reserve #12, Yatze Reserve #13, Jalun Reserve #14, Kioosta Reserve #15, Tatense Reseerve #16, Egeria Bay Reserve #19, Cohoe Point Reserve #20, Yasitkun Reserve #21, Guoyskun Reserve #22, Susk Reserve #17 and Tiahn Reserve #27.

Commercial recreational fishing lodges at Kiis Gwaii (North Island also known as Langara Island), Naden Harbour and Port Louie are the only other fixed infrastructure.



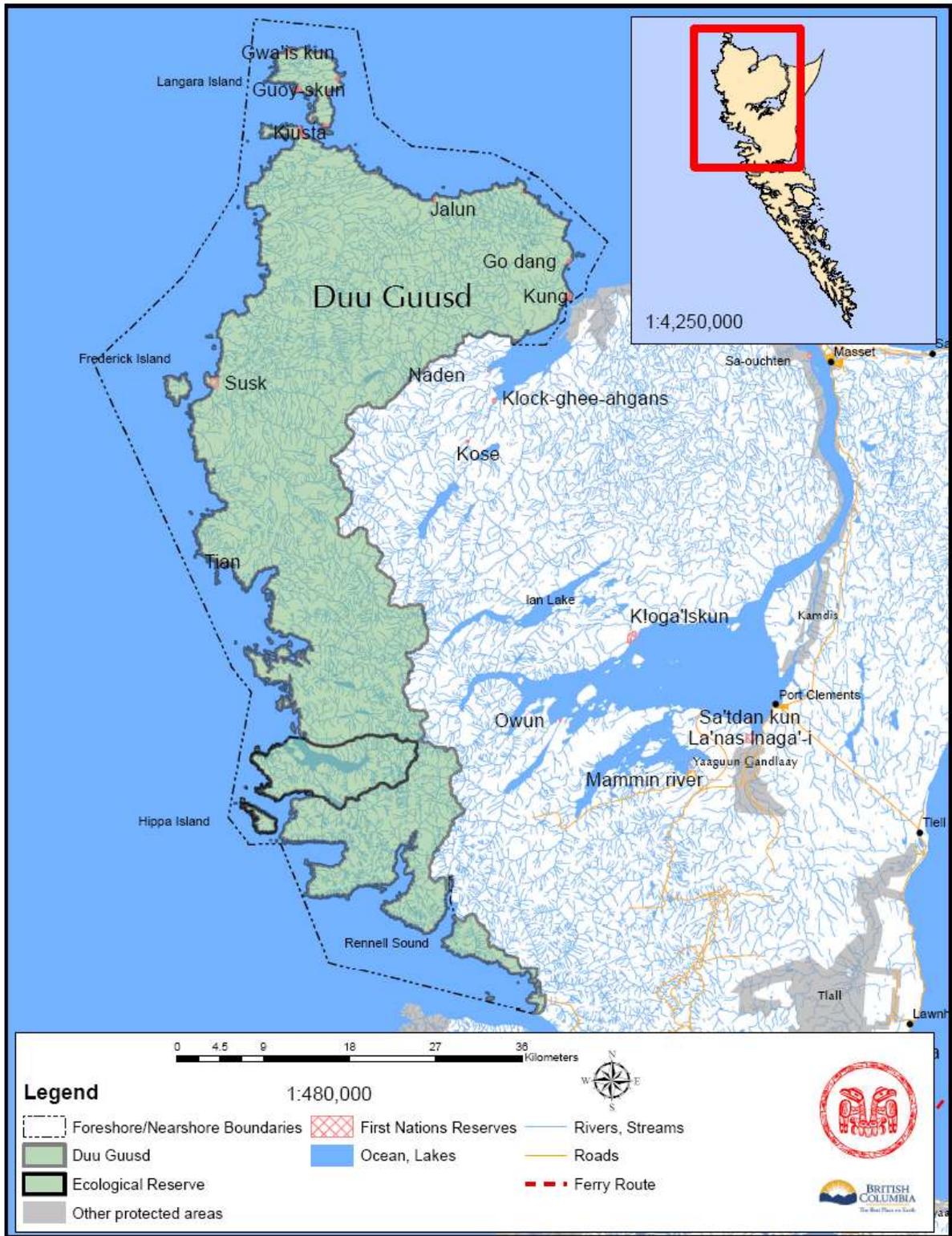


Figure 2. Duu Guusd Map

## 1.3 Planning and Policy Context

The Parties acknowledge each other's respective authorities and are cooperating in the management of Duu Guusd. The Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia have agreements on land use and reconciliation and use their respective lawmaking authorities to enact this management plan. For example, permits are to be jointly reviewed and adjudicated as per processes such as the Solutions Table that are consistent with existing agreements between the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia. Additionally, an appropriate government to government forum will be utilized to address collaborative management of the protected areas.

A brief chronological history is summarized below.

According to archaeological evidence, Duu Guusd has been occupied for at least 10,000 years by the Haida people although Haida oral history indicates much longer. Great stories of heroes and adventure exist within the Haida lore. Many Haida families trace their ancestry to Duu Guusd.

Two ecological reserves were previously established by Orders in Council by the Province within Duu Guusd; in 1973 Vladimir J. Krajina (Port Chanal) Ecological Reserve and in 1978 Lepas Bay Ecological Reserve.

In 1982, at the House of Assembly, the Haida Nation made a resolution to protect all of Duu Guusd from logging.

In 1996, the shoreline portion of Duu Guusd had been identified by the Province of British Columbia as a Goal 1 Study Area under the Protected Areas Strategy. The special features or characteristics that merited consideration for protection included recognition of the area as an excellent example of the Windward Queen Charlotte Mountains Ecosection, and its very interesting biophysical features, rustic shorelines, protected inlets, beaches and old-growth forests.

On June 29, 2000, the Province legislated the 3.6 hectare Lepas Bay Ecological Reserve (#93) and the 9,834 hectare Vladimir J. Krajina (Port Chanal) Ecological Reserve.

Duu Guusd provides habitat for the diverse seabirds' nesting requirements. In 2002, wildlife habitat areas had been established under the Forest Practices Code for eight of the seabird nesting colonies on the west coast of Haida Gwaii within the Duu Guusd area. The purpose of these designations was to establish protective measures applicable to these critical locations designed to help maintain the seabirds and their habitats. These eight areas are to be protected within the Duu Guusd system of protected areas and will no longer need the wildlife habitat area status.

Three rockfish conservation areas (RCAs) have been established by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) on the British Columbia coast since 2002, including one near Susk Gwaii (Frederick Island). DFO's rockfish conservation strategy is designed to alleviate further rockfish population declines by minimizing harvest pressure. Within RCAs, measures exist to

protect inshore rockfish from mortality associated with recreational and commercial fisheries.

In 2004, the Haida Land Use Vision based on the principles of Yah'guudang (respect) was put forward by the Council of the Haida Nation to guide deliberations towards a sustainable land use plan for Haida Gwaii. In 2007, the Haida Gwaii Strategic Land Use Agreement (SLUA) supported the Haida Land Use Vision which included the protection of Duu Guusd.

The SLUA stated that the new protected areas were to be set aside for cultural, spiritual, ecological, and recreation purposes, and the areas were to be maintained for the benefit, education and enjoyment of present and future generations. The agreement was formally signed off by the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia on December 12, 2007.

On May 29, 2008, Bill 38 — 2008 (the *Protected Areas of British Columbia (Conservancies and Parks) Amendment Act, 2008*) established Duu Guusd. On December 17, 2008, the Province of British Columbia passed Order in Council No. 977/2008 which added 6,793 hectares and established revised boundaries for Duu Guusd that included Langara Island and an area of land in Rennell Sound. On October 29, 2009, Duu Guusd was named and described in provincial legislation by passing and providing Royal Assent to Bill 10 — 2009 (the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Amendment Act, 2009*).

The Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol, was signed by the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia on December 11, 2009. On June 3, 2010, Bill 18 — 2010 entitled the *Haida Gwaii Reconciliation Act* received Royal Assent. This bill contains amendments that have implications to protected area planning and management on Haida Gwaii. This management plan is consistent with the intent of the *Haida Gwaii Reconciliation Act*.

In October 2010, the Haida Nation at the Annual House of Assembly adopted the KaayGuu Ga ga Kyah ts'as – Gin 'inaas 'laas waadluwaan gud tl'a gud giidaa (Haida Stewardship Law). The purpose of the Haida Stewardship Law is to ensure the well being of Haida Gwaii and create an economy that is respectful of the land, culture and people through establishing structures to manage the forests, the lands which includes the manner in which humans interact with the natural world. This management plan is consistent with the intent of the Haida Stewardship Law.

## 1.4 Planning Process

The Parties initiated management planning for Duu Guusd in the fall of 2009 as part of a broader effort to prepare management plans for all eleven new protected areas on Haida Gwaii.

Area descriptions were developed from available information for each protected area to identify important cultural and natural values, as well as recreational and economic interests. Individual management plans incorporated information from the area descriptions.

Public informational sessions were jointly held by the Parties in the communities of Old Massett, Masset, Port Clements, Skidegate, Queen Charlotte and Sandspit in January 2010 as part of a series of public consultation sessions being held to implement ecosystem based management measures on Haida Gwaii. Protected area maps with proposed marine boundaries were shared with the public and information was provided regarding the management planning process, and what opportunities would exist for future public review and input.

In February, March and April 2010, draft management plans were developed for public review and presented at open houses held in Old Massett, Tlell, Skidegate and Sandspit. The public review drafts were also posted on the Haida Nation and BC Parks' websites for broader comment and circulation.

## 2.0 Values of Duu Guusd

### 2.1 Significance and Role in the Protected Areas System

Duu Guusd is:

- an area rich with cultural values including at least 39 village sites or seasonal camps, 88 registered archaeological sites and extensive cultural features within the forests;
- part of an archipelago-wide system of protected areas that now protects half of the land base of Haida Gwaii;
- the birthplace for the “Rediscovery” Camps (Taalung Slung) where for the last 30 years children and youth are immersed in their cultural and natural heritage;
- inclusive of extensive fossil beds and geological formations from antiquity;
- part of a significant interconnected ecological complex along the west coast of Haida Gwaii along with Daawuuxusda, Nang Xaldangaas and Gwaii Haanas;
- a large predominantly roadless wilderness area of national ecological significance that protects the most westerly coastline of Haida Gwaii and Canada;
- inclusive of platform and sandy beaches, sea stacks, caves, steep forested slopes, alpine areas and limestone outcrops at higher elevation that support rare and endemic plant species;
- a nesting and foraging ground for several large internationally significant populations of seabirds as well as at least 73 known Peregrine Falcon nesting sites and important habitat for Northern Goshawks and Marbled Murrelets;
- an area with high intertidal values with surfgrass habitat and eelgrass beds, kelp forest areas and eighteen estuaries that spill into some of the most productive marine habitat on Haida Gwaii; and
- the only protected area on Haida Gwaii with a significant representation of all of Haida Gwaii’s three terrestrial physiographic ecosections and all six Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) zones.

### 2.2 Cultural Heritage

The people of the Haida Nation have occupied and collected food and materials from Duu Guusd since time immemorial. The Haida made their homes and have at least 39 villages and seasonal camps within Duu Guusd.

This management plan does not have a complete or comprehensive listing of all cultural features or cultural inventory in the area. There are far more cultural features, many that are not inventoried and other cultural values which are held in secret by the Haida Nation.

Eighty-eight recorded archaeological sites contain a diversity of cultural features including culturally modified trees (CMTs), shell middens, cobble tools, aboriginal logged trees, cambium stripped hemlock, lithics, cultural depressions, canoes, fire broken rock, habitation features, caves, human remains, cedar withes, rock shelters, house depressions, burial sites, burial boxes, burial houses, carved figures and planked trees. Further work will undoubtedly reveal even more of these treasures.

The management plan provides for the continuance of Haida culture through traditional use of the area. Some examples of traditional use within Duu Guusd include monumental cedar and cedar bark harvesting, seaweed harvesting, medicinal plant harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping and food gathering. Duu Guusd also provides the setting for spiritual use and the physical expression of culture through monumental art such as totems or establishment of traditional style infrastructure.

Though now seen as a wilderness, Duu Guusd was once the home for thousands of people and traces of their vibrant culture are enshrined across the landscape. Duu Guusd will continue to provide for present and future Haida access to those areas for ongoing social, ceremonial and cultural purposes.

## 2.3 Natural Heritage

Duu Guusd is the only protected area on Haida Gwaii with a significant representation of all of Haida Gwaii's three terrestrial physiographic ecosections (Windward Queen Charlotte Mountains, Skidegate Plateau and Queen Charlotte Lowlands) and six Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) zones. This includes Coastal Western Hemlock, Sub-montane wet hypermaritime (CWHwh1); Coastal Western Hemlock, Montane wet hypermaritime (CWHwh2); Coastal Western Hemlock, very wet hypermaritime (CWHvh2); Mountain Hemlock Windward (MHwh1); Mountain Hemlock Leeward (MHwh2); and, Coastal Mountain Heather-Alpine. Notably, it protects almost 8% of the province's Coastal Western Hemlock, Montane wet hypermaritime variant.

The marine component is within both the Continental Slope marine ecosection and the Dixon Entrance marine ecosection.

The area is dominated by volcanic rocks with the exception being the northwestern part which is made up of sedimentary rocks (including the southern section of Langara Island). Mesozoic rock and fossils preserved on Haida Gwaii records a nearly complete uninterrupted span of geological time from the late Triassic through Late Cretaceous. The fossil records provide a rare opportunity for glimpses into the distant past and provide insight of primal life on earth.

Some unusual geological features include Pillar Rock, Beehive Hill and Celestial Bluff. The basaltic formations and mountain ranges like the Cameron Range, combined with very wet hypermaritime climate, have led to extensive non-forested alpine and wetlands that often extend to the coast. Volcanic outcrops are intermixed with significant lengths of beach (e.g., Lepas Bay and Peril Bay) and very organic soils. Some inland sections, like Jalun Lake,

and Cave, Haines, Mercer and Otard creeks have productive forests (93% of forested area is old-growth forest) and floodplain ecosystems.

The area contains rare and important ecological associations including:

- Western redcedar-Sitka spruce/Conocephalum community (blue listed)<sup>5</sup>;
- Western redcedar-Sitka spruce/Foamflower community (blue listed);
- Western redcedar – Sitka spruce/Devil’s Club community (blue listed);
- Western redcedar – Sitka spruce/Sword fern community (blue listed);
- Western redcedar – Sitka Spruce/Skunk cabbage community (blue listed);
- Sitka spruce/False lily-of-the-valley community (red listed);
- Red alder/False lily of the valley community (red listed);
- Western hemlock – Sitka Spruce/Lanky moss community (blue listed);
- Sitka spruce/Reedgrass community (blue listed); and,
- Sitka spruce/Trisetum community (blue listed).

Rare plant species found in the Lepas Bay area are Northern goldenrod, Black-tipped groundsel, Creeping willow, Queen Charlotte avens (red listed), Bog adder’s-mouth orchid (blue listed), Queen Charlotte false rue-anemone, Taylor’s saxifrage, Whorled lousewort (blue listed), Queen Charlotte twinflower violet, Dune bentgrass, Alp lily, Gmelin’s sedge (blue listed), and Dotted saxifrage.

There are 18 estuaries in Duu Guusd that spill into some of the most productive marine habitat in the northeast Pacific. This coastline accounts for over 9% of the Herring spawning area (by length of coast) for Haida Gwaii, 35% of the occurrences of kelp forests, and significant eel grass beds. Duu Guusd contains 18% of Haida Gwaii’s fish-bearing freshwater, and streams such as Haines, Jalun and Coates are known to host Coho Salmon, Chum Salmon, Pink Salmon, Sockeye Salmon, Dolly Varden, Steelhead, Rainbow Trout, Cutthroat Trout, Stickleback, Coastrange Sculpin and Slimy Sculpin.

The area hosts numerous listed species including 73 known Peregrine Falcon nest sites (red listed). Important nesting and foraging habitat can be found within Duu Guusd for Northern Saw-Whet Owls (Riley Creek – blue listed), Northern Goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis* laingi – red listed), Marbled Murrelets (red listed), Ancient Murrelet (blue listed), and Cassin’s Auklet (blue listed).

Susk Gwaii (Fredrick Island) has the largest colonies of Ancient Murrelets and Cassin's Auklets on Haida Gwaii and represents a globally significant seabird colony. Langara Island is the location of large seabird colonies as well, including Ancient Murrelets, Pelagic Cormorants, Black Oystercatchers, Tufted Puffins and Glaucous-winged Gulls. Some populations were in decline due to introduced predators such as raccoons, and Norway and Black Rats, though between 1993 and 1997 the Canadian Wildlife Service made an effort to

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<sup>5</sup> Blue list = list of ecological communities, and indigenous species and subspecies of special concern in B.C. Red list = list of ecological communities, and indigenous species and subspecies that are extirpated, endangered or threatened in B.C. (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/faq3.html#1>).

eradicate the rats from Langara Island and adjacent Lucy and Cox islands. Langara Island was historically the site of the largest Ancient Murrelet colony in Haida Gwaii and in Canada.

The island in Lepas Bay will be managed for ecological purposes and serves to protect the habitat of nesting petrel sea-birds. The island is one of only eight storm-petrel nesting sites in British Columbia and may be the largest mixed-species petrel site in the Province.

Port Chanal, within Vladimir J. Krajina Ecological Reserve, is a unique inlet on the otherwise open coast of Duu Guusd. This site protects an estuary, transitional marine habitat at the edge of the continental shelf, an important Sockeye salmon population for the Mercer watershed, and habitat for a host of threatened and at risk marine and terrestrial species, such as Northern abalone, Ancient Murrelet and Stellar sea lions to name a few.

The remote location of Duu Guusd provides an excellent opportunity to maintain biological diversity and natural environment values. Of concern, though, is the presence of introduced mammals of which Raccoons, Norway Rats and Black-tailed Deer pose a threat to local ecosystems. There are also occurrences of Sow-thistle, a non-native invasive plant.

## **2.4 Recreation**

The recreation opportunities in Duu Guusd are mainly concentrated in three areas. Naden Harbour and K'iis Gwaii (Langara Island) are the main locations for fishing activity. The Rennell Sound area on the southern end of Duu Guusd is the only west coast area on Graham Island that is accessible by vehicle and is a popular area for visitors and local people. In the Rennell Sound area, three well maintained short walking trails provide access to Bonanza Beach, Riley Beach, and Gregory Beach and two small vehicle accessible designated campsites provide oceanside camping opportunities.

Duu Guusd is an exceptional wilderness area that receives few visitors due to limited access, challenging weather and oceanic conditions. Some good anchorages are located within Duu Guusd but are generally used as access points to get to other destinations. Camping opportunities exist within many of the protected inlets. Marine mammal viewing and kayaking is possible in some sheltered areas.

## **2.5 Respectful Use of Natural Values**

The Haida trap throughout Duu Guusd.

There are provincial tenures for seven sport fishing lodges and ten provincial traplines. Four small sites are licensed for communication installations and one location of an old energy test drill-site remains licensed.

## 3.0 Management Direction

### 3.1 Vision

Haida culture is the interrelationship of the people to the land.

Duu Guusd will remain as the ancestors of the Haida Nation have known it. Duu Guusd and the remaining protected areas continue to provide the sustenance and spiritual values to this and future generations. Cultural use will be the primary use of this area.

Scientific research, respectful observance and the enjoyment of the natural world are the preferred approaches for human interaction. Ecological connectivity of the west coast of Haida Gwaii and protection of nationally important seabird nesting colonies and rare terrestrial and intertidal ecosystems, species, and biophysical features are other reasons for protection.

The values of Duu Guusd to humanity will be hard to quantify though will prove invaluable to the understanding of the human relationship to the natural world for those who get there.

### 3.2 Management Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures

Management strategies and objectives for Duu Guusd have been identified through a thorough analysis of key issues that may affect the balance between protection and use. The management plan will always consider the well being of the lands and marine areas first.

There are two provincial ecological reserves within Duu Guusd. The Parties are working to manage all protected areas and ecological reserves together in a consistent manner.

Knowledge, education and on-site monitoring will be primary tools of management.

The next stage of planning will be to develop site level management plans for select high use and sensitive areas.

#### Cultural Heritage

Key issues which may affect achievement of stated Haida cultural values in Duu Guusd are described. These issues relate primarily to the need for detailed inventories of key values. Filling information gaps in the early stages will help prevent current and potential impacts from recreational use and other activities. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 1).

**Table 1. Goal, Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures for Cultural Heritage**

<b>Overall Management Goal: Preserve and maintain Haida social, ceremonial and cultural uses.</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
<b>Identify, protect and maintain Haida cultural heritage features, archaeological sites and traditional use locations.</b>	Many cultural heritage features, archaeological sites and traditional use locations are well documented, but information for some areas may be incomplete. Where there is limited information it is difficult to ensure that the values are protected.	Continue historical and ethnographic research, cultural heritage field mapping and inventory programs where knowledge gaps exist.	Completed historical and ethnographic research and cultural heritage field inventories.
	Certain uses can cause unintended disturbance to cultural heritage and traditional use sites and features.	Identify and report where cultural heritage features, archaeological sites and/or traditional use resources or sites exist within areas that have periodic human use.	Prior to any site specific development or within areas that receive recreational use, ensure cultural heritage sites have been identified.
		Identify and evaluate extent of threats and implement site specific protective measures for sensitive or special feature sites, such as those in Appendix 2, which may include: - marking areas as off-limits; - focusing use away from sites; - restricting aircraft access; - developing site level management plans for select high-use and culturally sensitive areas; - developing best management practices for aircraft, and pleasure craft activities in anchorages; and/or, - public information/interpretation initiatives.	Appropriate measures established at sensitive sites.
		Consider opportunities for monitoring activity at most vulnerable sites.	Monitoring of activities achieved.
		Extend the Haida Watchmen program, and identify potential locations to support establishment of Watchman sites.	Recommendations from assessment implemented.
<b>Ensure that new uses are compatible with Haida traditional activities.</b>	Many traditional and sustenance harvesting sites and activities are well documented, but information for some areas may be incomplete or withheld for traditional reasons and customs. Where there is limited information it is difficult to ensure that the values are protected.	Support efforts to identify and monitor traditional and sustenance harvesting sites and activities where knowledge gaps exist.	Completed inventories of traditional use and sustenance harvesting areas.
		Visitors respect traditional reasons and customs for privacy through dialogue and understanding with either Party.	Visitors are respectful people on the land.
	There are traditional cultural use activities that can benefit from monitoring or facilitation using existing Haida Nation programs.	Identify uses (such as cultural cedar harvesting) that benefit from continued facilitation from the Haida Nation to ensure sustainable and ongoing access to traditional resources, recognizing that many activities are preferable to occur in non-protected areas.	Traditional users are engaged in specific uses and programs.  Linkages are made with ongoing Haida Nation and provincial administrative processes (such as Haida Gwaii cultural wood permit process).

## Natural Heritage

Key issues which may affect achievement of stated biological diversity objectives in Duu Guusd have been identified. These issues relate primarily to the desire to maintain important habitats, minimize potential impacts from introduced species and create more complete inventories as a way to prevent negative impacts from recreational or commercial use within Duu Guusd. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 2).

**Table 2. Goals, Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures for Natural Heritage**

<b>Overall Management Goal: Protect and maintain the diversity of terrestrial, intertidal and marine ecosystems and contribute to ecological connectivity on the west coast of Haida Gwaii.</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
<b>Identify and protect regionally important and rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.<sup>6</sup></b>	Lack of inventory of the values results in unintended impacts on the protected area's rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.	Identify research and inventory needs. Support programs designed to fill information gaps with emphasis on rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.	Number of initiatives underway that enhance information.  Comprehensive knowledge base achieved.
		Identify and support restoration initiatives for rare and at risk ecosystems and species (e.g., nesting seabirds and their habitat, eelgrass habitats, estuaries, rare plant assemblages, understory vegetation, and Western redcedar regeneration).	Rare and at risk ecosystems and species restored /maintained.
	Marine bird breeding, nesting and foraging sites require special considerations during sensitive periods. There is evidence that current use is causing site-level disturbance and declines in the abundance and distribution of rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.	Increase public and visitor awareness about seabird sensitivities and provide guidelines for appropriate conduct to avoid impacts in seabird areas.	Information package and guidelines available regarding seabird needs, approach standards, etc., and are utilized by public and commercial operators to minimize impacts.
		Where necessary, limit access to protect rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species such as nesting seabirds.	Access restrictions in place where appropriate.
		Support efforts to maintain integrity of seabird habitat, and minimize the risk of injury and mortality to seabirds.	Development does not occur within seabird nesting islands. Activities that alter shoreline and/or intertidal or inshore marine waters are prevented.
		Adjust the Management Unit Type 4 boundaries if compelling new ecologically-based information indicates the need for revision to meet management intent and protect values.	Where sufficient rationale warrants revision, Management Unit Type 4 boundaries are amended.
	Introduced species are displacing and harming native flora and fauna. Specific	Evaluate presence, distribution and threat of introduced species.	Presence, distribution and threat of introduced species is documented.

<sup>6</sup> To recognize the likely occurrence of distinctiveness on Haida Gwaii, rare is applied to British Columbia Conservation Data Centre (CDC)-listed species and ecological communities as well as identified locally rare or at risk species and ecological communities.

**Overall Management Goal: Protect and maintain the diversity of terrestrial, intertidal and marine ecosystems and contribute to ecological connectivity on the west coast of Haida Gwaii.**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
	concerns are related to deer browsing and predation of seabird colonies by rats and raccoons.	Undertake prevention initiatives and introduced species control programs on a co-ordinated and priority basis. Mechanical and biological methods are preferred. Monitor and report on efficacy of efforts.	Control programs in place. Target species controlled or removed. Disturbance and predation levels reduced. Monitoring reports completed.
		Support efforts in on-going introduced species research, education and public information programs.	Programs supported.
	Without knowing the effects of global climate change and sea level rise on ecosystems, ecological communities and species, it is difficult to know how to mitigate negative impacts to these values.	Support programs designed to monitor environmental change and impacts.	Monitoring programs supported.
		Initiate adaptive management practices and processes if required.	Adaptive management initiated.
	There is an opportunity to improve the protection of the heritage values by adding the two forestry cut blocks to Duu Guusd (which were excepted from the boundaries during designation).	Incorporate cutblocks into Duu Guusd when harvesting activities are complete.	No cutblocks remain exempted from boundaries.
	Silviculture activities and road deactivation within Duu Guusd (from forest harvesting prior to establishment) have an impact on stated values.	Work with Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the licensee to ensure that outstanding obligations and any silviculture activities and road deactivation plans are timely and consistent with the Duu Guusd management plan.	Ensure obligations are met in a timely manner consistent with the Duu Guusd management plan.
<b>Protect intertidal and subtidal habitat to help sustain the abundance and distribution of marine species.</b>	Habitat and populations of marine intertidal and subtidal species are sensitive and are subject to adverse impacts from human activities.	Work with other agencies to monitor and, if necessary, consider limiting recreation and other activities.	Populations of intertidal and subtidal species are monitored and habitat sustained.
<b>Protect paleontological resources.</b>	A diversity of globally significant fossil beds from the Mesozoic era are well documented throughout Duu Guusd. Removing these fossils threatens our understanding of the natural heritage of Haida Gwaii.	Support programs to educate the public and visitors of the importance of paleontological resources remaining intact.	Public education and awareness is enhanced.
		Monitor and inventory fossil sites in Duu Guusd.	Fossil sites remain intact.

## Recreation

Key issues which may support provision for recreational opportunities in Duu Guusd are described. These issues relate primarily to maintenance of access and potential impacts on stated cultural or ecological values from recreational use. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 3).

**Table 3. Goals, Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures for Recreation**

<b>Overall Management Goal: Provide for limited commercial and public recreational use in a largely undisturbed natural environment.</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
<b>Identify opportunities for appropriate wilderness recreation and identify any necessary associated facilities.</b>	There is a need to determine appropriate and respectful approaches to recreational visits in Duu Guusd. Where there is limited information it is difficult to ensure that the values are protected.	Develop a baseline inventory of structures and current and potential recreational uses, with emphasis on use or sites near cultural or natural features of interest.	Completed baseline inventory of recreational opportunities, structures and use.
		Implement a Backcountry Recreational Impact Monitoring (BRIM) assessment on any current recreation sites.	Annual site inspections for more accessible locations in Duu Guusd completed with BRIM reports every three years. Bi-annual backcountry site inspections completed with BRIM reports every four years.
	Recreational visitors are limited by aging and deteriorating access roads and recreational facility infrastructure at Rennell Sound sites.	Maintain current access road conditions, and maintain standards and level of campsite and day use facility development.	Preventive and annual maintenance of existing road network and facilities.
	Recreational use can impact other heritage and natural values.	Develop criteria to ensure recreational use is compatible with the cultural and natural heritage features or values.	Criteria is developed to determine acceptable limits and avoidance of impacts, and BRIM reports are used to inform adaptive management on a site specific basis.
	The current level of public awareness of available recreation opportunities affects the ability to meet economic objectives.	Identify recreation opportunities and facilities in promotional and marketing materials in consideration of existing cultural activities.	Development and distribution of promotional information and materials.
	There are companies offering facility-based fishing opportunities in Duu Guusd that do not have the required authorizations.	Permits are to be jointly reviewed and adjudicated as per processes such as the Solutions Table that are consistent with existing agreements between the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia. Additionally, an appropriate government to government forum will be utilized to address collaborative management of the protected areas.	Processes are in place.
		Companies with pre-existing operations in Duu Guusd but without authorizations will not be offered permits until jointly reviewed and adjudicated by the Parties.	Companies without tenures and new proposals undergo review by the Parties.
	Tourism in Duu Guusd provides limited benefits to the people of Haida Gwaii.	Provide young people with the requirements in guiding and career opportunities related to Duu Guusd.	Duu Guusd is relevant to island youth.
		Encourage companies to utilize residents and local services in the use of Duu Guusd.	Increase in the number of local opportunities.
		Develop opportunities for cultural interpretation and guiding services.	Increase in the number of local opportunities.
Assist in the diversification of local economies.		Duu Guusd becomes an asset to the Haida Gwaii economy.	
<b>Provide limited facilities for low impact and safe wilderness recreation opportunities.</b>	Availability and access to recreation opportunities is limited.	Consider development of access points, trails, shelters and/or cabins where deemed to be appropriate and consistent with the purposes of this plan.	Access and opportunities are managed.
		Potentially develop a public shelter and a boat launch location in Management Unit	Access and use becomes safer and is low impact.

**Overall Management Goal: Provide for limited commercial and public recreational use in a largely undisturbed natural environment.**

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
		Type 3.	
		Determine long-term visitor use infrastructure and maintenance or development needs.	Analysis completed for long-term maintenance and infrastructure needs.

## Respectful Use of Natural Values

Key issues which may affect achievement of stated objectives related to the respectful use of Duu Guusd relate primarily to the potential conflict between the use of and potential impacts on the cultural and natural values that have been identified. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 4).

**Table 4. Goals, Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures for Respectful Use of Natural Values<sup>7</sup>**

**Overall Management Goal: Provide for compatible opportunities where appropriate.**

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
<b>Identify appropriate uses and support the delivery of local economic benefits.</b>	Small-scale <sup>8</sup> tree removal is an acceptable management option when required for human health and safety, or to facilitate approved development, or for ecological restoration or forest health management projects.	Identify appropriate opportunities for small-scale tree removal.	All projects must be compliant with management plan direction.
	Current and future commercial uses by the Haida Nation including infrastructure development may be needed to enhance the visitor experience.	Proposals will be subject to meeting the goals, objectives and protection of values outlined in this management plan.	Visitor experience is enhanced by cultural infrastructure.
	Harvesting forest botanicals <sup>9</sup> by Haida medicinal practitioners will continue in Duu Guusd. Any harvesting of forest botanicals by others can be permitted if the harvest is sustainable and will not impact identified values or conflict with other management objectives.	Authorizations will not be issued to any individual that may compromise the natural values.	Monitor harvest levels for different botanicals.
		Specific proposals for access will be considered in the context of maintaining cultural and natural values.	All proposals must be compliant with management plan direction.
		To guide conditions for commercial permit approvals, consider method and scale of harvest (quantity over area), location (to gauge degree of compatibility with traditional or recreational users), and level	Commercial use is consistent with balancing traditional/sustenance use, ecosystem integrity and local economic benefit.

<sup>7</sup> Natural resource uses and developments must be consistent with the cultural, natural and recreational purposes of Duu Guusd.

<sup>8</sup> A few trees, or less than one hectare in area.

<sup>9</sup> Forest botanicals are non-timber-based products gathered from forest and range land with seven recognized categories: wild edible mushrooms, floral greenery, medicinal products, fruits and berries, herbs and vegetables, landscaping products, and craft products.

**Overall Management Goal: Provide for compatible opportunities where appropriate.**

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
		of benefit to local economy.	
	Harvest of marine plants including seaweed) herring spawn on kelp, or shellfish by Haidas will continue in Duu Guusd. Harvesting by others can be permitted if the harvest is sustainable and will not impact identified values or conflict with other management objectives.	Specific proposals for access will be considered in the context of maintaining cultural and natural values.  To guide conditions for commercial permit approvals, consider location (to gauge degree of compatibility with traditional/sustenance use), method and scale of harvest (quantity over area), and level of benefit to local economy.	All proposals must be compliant with management plan direction.  Commercial use is consistent with balancing traditional/sustenance use, ecosystem integrity and local economic benefit.
		Commercial marine harvest activities will not be permitted in Management Unit Type 4 except as noted in Appendix 1.	Commercial marine harvest does not occur in Management Unit Type 4 except as noted in Appendix 1.
	Development of local run-of-the-river hydroelectric projects <sup>10</sup> may be permitted if the development does not conflict with the ecological well being or other management objectives in Duu Guusd.	Specific proposals will be considered for further evaluation and approval.	All projects must be compliant with management plan direction.
	The nature of economic benefits for the Haida Nation in Duu Guusd has not yet been defined.	Utilize an appropriate government to government forum to access economic opportunities for the Haida Nation.	Develop and maintain an economic plan for protected areas on Haida Gwaii that assists Haida individuals and businesses to take advantage of economic and employment opportunities.

### 3.3 Zoning

Zoning assists in the planning and management of protected areas. In general terms, zoning divides an area into logical units to apply consistent management objectives. The management units identified in Duu Guusd are in accordance with Haida Gwaii Yah’guudang - respect for all living things - and reflect the intended land use, the acceptable level of development and use, and the level of management required (Figure 3).

The following four units have been identified within Duu Guusd and uses that have been deemed as appropriate for each of the units are identified in Appendix 1.

#### Management Unit Type 1

Management Unit Type 1<sup>11</sup> is an area within Duu Guusd where the primary goal is to protect and maintain Haida cultural values and provide for social and ceremonial uses within the natural environment.

<sup>10</sup> May only supply power to approved uses in Duu Guusd or nearby communities that do not otherwise have access to hydro-electric power.

<sup>11</sup> This unit corresponds to the BC Parks Special Feature Zone.

The purpose of the unit is to protect these significant features in the context of a living Haida culture. Sensitive heritage special feature sites, such as Taalung Slung, village sites and burial caves are identified in Appendix 2. These sites are for cultural and spiritual use including the special use by youth and elders. These areas will receive site level management plans and protective measures which may include: restricting and/or limiting access or the development of best management practices for aircraft and pleasure craft activities in anchorages.

Management activities in this unit will focus on protecting natural and cultural heritage values. Management efforts will be directed to ensuring that access and the use of this area occurs in such a way that the cultural and natural heritage values are maintained.

## **Management Unit Type 2**

The purpose of Management Unit Type 2<sup>12</sup> is to maintain natural biodiversity and ecological processes while protecting Haida cultural features and access for social and ceremonial uses. This zone also allows for the enjoyment of the natural environment where compatible with the cultural and natural values. Low impact activities, such as no trace hiking and camping are appropriate with minimal development in this wild and remote setting.

Management activities in the unit will focus on efforts to maintain and sustain cultural use, natural biodiversity and ecological processes, and protecting habitat for species. Additionally, a secondary objective will be to manage for some development or use of natural resources while maintaining opportunities for commercial and public recreation in a largely wilderness environment.

## **Management Unit Type 3**

Management Unit Type 3<sup>13</sup> encompasses the upland portion of the road and trail accessible area of Rennell Sound and includes the Bonanza, Riley and Gregory trails and beach areas, and the associated rustic camp sites and day-use facilities.

The purpose of the unit is to provide a range of recreational opportunities such as camping, hiking, and beach walking, while supporting and sustaining cultural values, natural biodiversity and ecological processes. This unit provides for the protection of cultural features and access for social and ceremonial uses. This unit includes some sustainable use of natural resources where compatible with the heritage and natural values.

Management activities in the unit will focus on ensuring public understanding of historic and current traditional use and providing recreational enjoyment. It will also ensure that public use does not negatively affect current and future Haida Nation activities. Management efforts will be directed to ensuring that access to this area and the use of this area occurs in such a way that the cultural and natural values are maintained.

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<sup>12</sup> This unit corresponds to the BC Parks Wilderness Recreation Zone.

<sup>13</sup> This unit corresponds to the BC Parks Intensive Recreation Zone.

## Management Unit Type 4

Management Unit Type 4<sup>14</sup> is dedicated to maintaining intact ecological processes and protecting the outstanding natural biological diversity found within this area.

The unit is established with the intent to protect habitat for nesting seabirds, and reflects a range of nesting habitat, previously identified as Wildlife Habitat Areas, for Ancient Murrelet, Marbled Murrelet and Cassin's Auklet, as well as nesting habitat identified for Pigeon Guillemot, Tufted Puffin and Pelagic Cormorants. A secondary objective will be to provide opportunities for limited wilderness recreation if compatible with the intent of this unit.

The management activities in this unit will focus on maintaining natural biodiversity and ecological processes, and protecting the habitat for the internationally significant populations of nesting seabirds.

Two provincially designated ecological reserves, Lepas Bay and Vladimir J. Krajina, are included and will complement the provision for managing for biodiversity in Duu Guusd. This management plan is consistent with the Management Direction Statements for the ecological reserves and upholds the Parties' collaborative intent to manage all protected areas, ecological reserves and parks in a system-wide context.

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<sup>14</sup> This unit corresponds to the BC Parks Special Feature Zone.

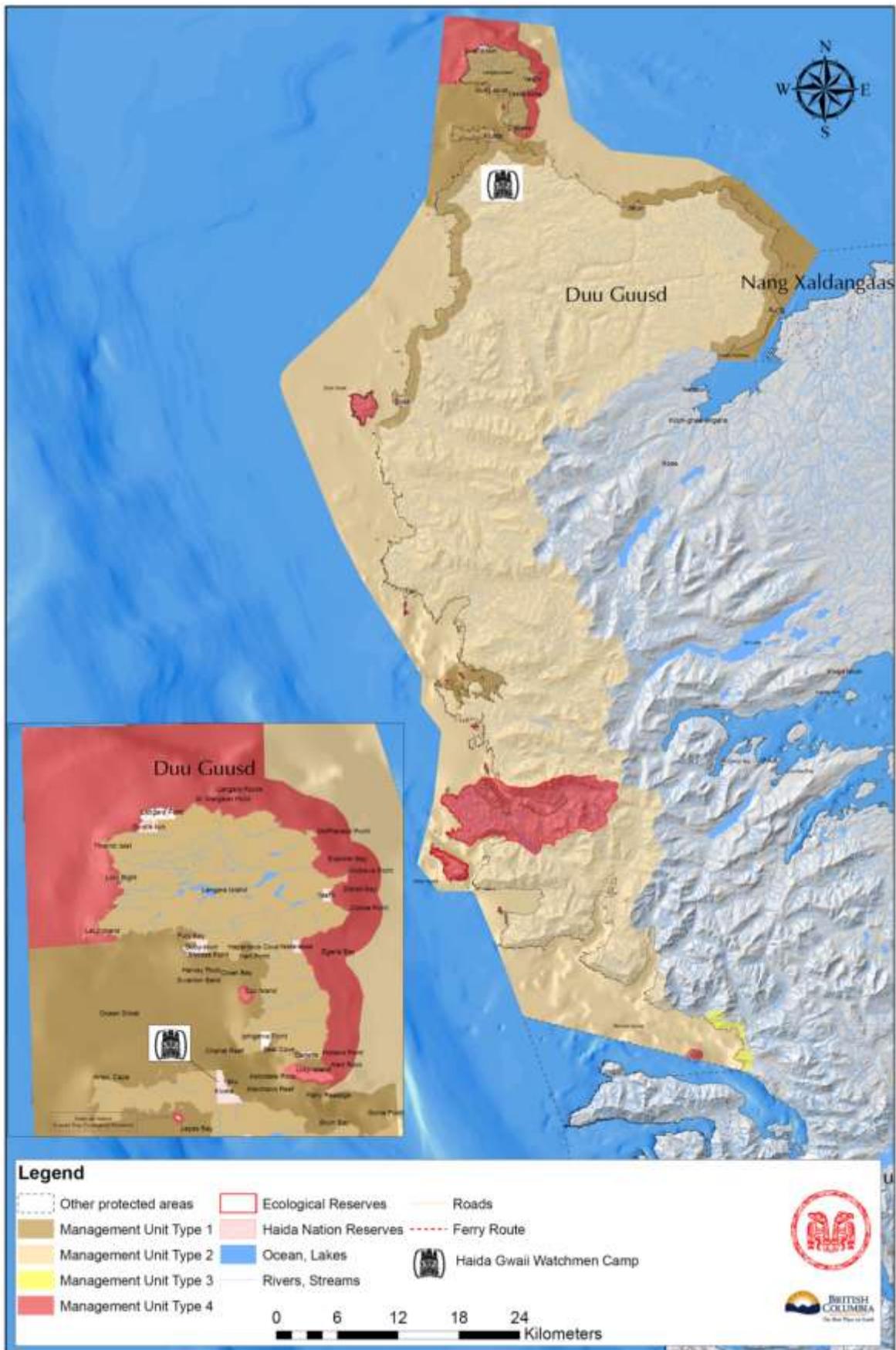


Figure 3. Duu Guusd Management Zones Map

## 4.0 Plan Implementation

Implementation of the Duu Guusd Management Plan will involve identifying strategies and achieving stated performance measures, while focusing on implementing high priority strategies. Strategies and performance measures will be prioritized in terms of cost, feasibility and overall benefit to management.

### 4.1 Implementation Resources

The Parties will develop and maintain a collaborative workplan for the protected areas. Items to be included in the workplan will include a description of the resources available during a given time period including staff and any additional operating or project funds that may support identified initiatives. The Haida Nation will dedicate staff and resources as funding allocations permit. The Ministry of Environment will seek project-specific funding to implement priority strategies and monitor key performance measures, subject to provincial funding constraints. Specific projects will be evaluated for priority in relation to the overall protected areas system. Many of the initiatives contemplated are not funded as part of core ministry activities so jointly seeking funds from available funding sources either provincially or externally will be considered.

Permit holders will be required to collect and provide information related to performance measures and the overall state of Duu Guusd. Such requirements will be defined in approved permits and in any protocols between the Haida Nation and the permittee.

### 4.2 Priority Implementation

As part of developing on-going workplans, priorities will be developed for implementation of strategies and performance measures. A key priority is to implement management strategies which support cultural use and cultural inventory information. These priorities will be developed based on Haida Nation and provincial interests taking into account the requirements of other protected areas on Haida Gwaii such as developing baseline data to support management strategies.

### 4.3 Reporting

The Parties will prepare a summary bi-annual report describing progress on implementation of the protected area management plans.

### 4.4 Management Plan Review

In order to ensure the management of Duu Guusd remains relevant and effective, an adaptive management approach will be used. Adaptive management involves a five-step process of planning, action, monitoring, evaluation and revision of the management plan to reflect lessons learned, changing circumstances and/or objectives achieved.

The management plan will be reviewed as required by the Parties and may be affirmed, revised, or amended by written agreement. A review of the management plan should generally be triggered by the complexities of the management issues in the protected area and/or a significant change in circumstances (e.g., a natural disaster, major environmental change or discovery of a major new archaeological site), and not by a specific time period.

A management plan review looks for any necessary updates to the management plan that are required to keep management direction current and relevant, correct the intent of a policy statement and address some error or omission. Any updates or changes to the content of the management plan will be addressed through a formal management plan amendment process. The amendment process will include an opportunity for public input.

# Appendix 1 – Appropriate Uses Chart

The following table lists existing and potential future uses or activities in Duu Guusd. However, it is not an exhaustive list of all uses that may be considered in this protected area. The table also indicates the uses which the management planning process has confirmed are not appropriate in Duu Guusd. Additionally, a permit cannot be issued for commercial logging, mining, or hydroelectric power generation, other than local run-of-the-river projects that supply power to approved uses in Duu Guusd or nearby communities that do not otherwise have access to hydro-electric power.

The table must be reviewed in conjunction with the other sections of the management plan, including the descriptions, vision, objectives and strategies. Uses are subject to existing policies and any relevant impact assessment processes.

Activity/Facility	Management Unit			
	Type 1 <sup>15</sup>	Type 2 <sup>16</sup>	Type 3 <sup>17</sup>	Type 4 <sup>18,19</sup>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>				
Cultural, Ceremonial, Food Gathering and Social Uses	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cultural Infrastructure (facility-based)	Y	Y	Y	N
<b>Natural Heritage</b>				
Fire Management <sup>20</sup>	Y	Y	Y	Y
Forest Insect/Disease Control	Y	Y	Y	Y
Noxious Weed Control	Y	Y	Y	Y
Scientific Research	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Recreation</b>				
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	N	N	N	N
Aircraft Access	Y	Y	Y	Y
Anchorage	Y	Y	Y	Y <sup>21</sup>
Backcountry Huts and Shelters	N	Y	Y	N
Boat Launches	N	N	Y	N
Boating (Motorized)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Boating (Non-motorized)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Camping – backcountry or boat accessible	Y	Y	Y	N

<sup>15</sup> This unit covers 7, 891 hectares of land and 13, 177 hectares of marine foreshore in Duu Guusd.

<sup>16</sup> This unit covers 134, 449 hectares of land and 67, 178 hectares of marine foreshore in Duu Guusd.

<sup>17</sup> This unit covers 653 hectares of land and no marine foreshore in Duu Guusd.

<sup>18</sup> This unit covers 603 hectares of land and 3,829 hectares of marine foreshore in Duu Guusd.

<sup>19</sup> On islands within Management Unit Type 4, all appropriate uses are subject to any access restrictions in place to protect seabird colonies.

<sup>20</sup> As per fire management plan.

<sup>21</sup> Permitted, but not encouraged.

Activity/Facility	Management Unit			
	Type 1 <sup>15</sup>	Type 2 <sup>16</sup>	Type 3 <sup>17</sup>	Type 4 <sup>18,19</sup>
Campsites and Picnic Areas – road accessible	N	N	Y	N
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	N2	Y	N	N
Commercial Recreation (no facilities)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fishing	Y	Y	Y	Y
Heli-hiking	N	Y	N	N
Hiking/Backpacking/Walking	Y	Y	Y	N
Hunting <sup>22</sup>	Y	Y	Y	Y
Interpretation and Information Buildings / Signs	Y	N	Y	N1
Mechanized Off-road Access (non-motorized – i.e., mountain biking)	N	N	N	N
Motorized Off-road Access (i.e., 4x4, motorcycles)	N	N	N	N
Pack Animal Use	N	N	N	N
Trails (hiking)	Y	Y	Y	N
Wharves/docks	N	N	N	N
Wildlife/Nature Viewing	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Respectful Use of Natural Values</b>				
Angling Guiding	Y	Y	Y	Y
Aquaculture (finfish)	N	N	N/A	N
Aquaculture (shellfish)	N <sup>23</sup>	Y	N/A	N
Commercial Botanical Forest Products	N	Y	Y	N
Commercial Filming	Y	Y	Y	Y
Commercial Marine Plant Harvesting	N	Y	N/A	N
Commercial Herring Spawn on Kelp	N	Y	N/A	N
Communication Sites	N	N2	N	N
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N	N	N	N
Guide Outfitting <sup>24</sup>	Y	Y	Y	Y
Independent Hydro Electric Power Projects & Infrastructure	Y	Y	N	N
Marine-based Manufactured Log Recovery	Y	Y	N/A	Y
Trapping	Y	Y	Y	Y

- Y      Appropriate  
N      Not appropriate  
N1     Not appropriate except for expressed management purposes as identified in the Management Plan  
N2     Not appropriate, but if the specific activity or facility existed at the time of establishment of the protected area, it is normally appropriate for it to continue  
N/A    Not applicable

<sup>22</sup> The management of black bear hunting will be consistent with outcomes of negotiations between the Haida Nation and Province of BC. If required, changes will be reflected in amendments to this management plan.

<sup>23</sup> Except for deep water culture within inner Port Louis.

<sup>24</sup> The guide outfitting certificate is owned by the Council of the Haida Nation. There will be no commercial black bear hunting.

# Appendix 2 – Heritage Special Feature Sites



# Duu Guusd Management Plan

**Approved by:**



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April Churchill  
Vice President of the Haida Nation

July 29, 2011

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Date



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Brian Bawtinheimer  
Director, Parks Planning & Management Branch  
BC Parks

August 2, 2011

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Date

Back Cover Photo: Gerry Morigeau

