



# Yaaguun Suu Management Plan

July 2011



Council of the  
**Haida Nation**



Cover Photo: Berry Wijdeven

# Foreward

*"Well-being of the Land considers the land and forests, rivers and lakes, and the life that inhabits them, in particular the cedar, salmon, bear, birds and plants."*

Haida Land Use Vision

# Table of Contents

<b>Foreward</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>1.0 Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Management Plan Purpose .....	1
1.2 Planning Area .....	1
1.3 Planning and Policy Context.....	5
1.4 Planning Process.....	6
<b>2.0 Values of Yaaguun Suu</b> .....	<b>7</b>
2.1 Significance and Role in the Protected Areas System.....	7
2.2 Cultural Heritage .....	7
2.3 Natural Heritage.....	8
2.4 Recreation Values.....	9
2.5 Respectful Use of Natural Values.....	9
<b>3.0 Management Direction</b> .....	<b>10</b>
3.1 Vision .....	10
3.2 Management Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures .....	10
3.3 Zoning.....	15
<b>4.0 Plan Implementation</b> .....	<b>18</b>
4.1 Implementation Resources .....	18
4.2 Priority Implementation.....	18
4.3 Reporting.....	18
4.4 Management Plan Review .....	18
<b>Appendix 1 – Appropriate Uses Chart</b> .....	<b>20</b>
Figure 1. Regional Context Map.....	3
Figure 2. Yaaguun Suu Map .....	4
Figure 3. Yaaguun Suu Management Zone Map.....	17

# 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.

Yaaguun Suu 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, the area will be referred to as Yaaguun Suu. 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 Yaaguun Suu<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 Yaaguun Suu;
- 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 Yaaguun Suu; and,
- manage visitor use.

## 1.2 Planning Area

Yaaguun Suu has been used by Haida people and given them life since time immemorial.

Yaaguun Suu is located in the southwest corner of Graham Island, approximately 2 kilometres from the western coast of Haida Gwaii at Shields Bay and 25 kilometres northwest of the community of Queen Charlotte (Figure 1). It is part of an archipelago-wide system of protected areas<sup>2</sup>. In total, half of the land base of Haida Gwaii is now in protected status.

---

<sup>1</sup> Phonetic pronunciation is "Yaagoon Soo"

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

Yaaguun Suu covers 7,970 hectares and includes all of Yakoun Lake and its tributaries, with the exception of the eastern half of Etheline Bay and the outlet of Yakoun River (Figure 2). The eastern portion of Etheline Bay is encompassed by fee simple property owned by Island Timberlands LP.

The freshwater lake and river system has high value for a diversity of salmonids. The presence of intact, old-growth forests provides excellent forage and habitat for Northern Goshawks (laingi subspecies – red listed).

The Friends of Yakoun Lake constructed a series of lakeside trails and continue to maintain them as well as conduct other stewardship activities in the vicinity. The Research Group on Invasive Species (RGIS) constructed a fenced exclosure research plot to study the effects of deer browse on the natural ecosystem. Two other larger exclosures also exist that were built by the Haida Forest Guardian program for the study of medicinal plants (ethnobotany).

Access to the northern side of Yaaguun Suu is primarily by Forest Service roads (FSR) either via Port Clements or from Queen Charlotte. Access to Yakoun Lake itself is only possible by foot from a small parking area at the end of a short spur road just north of the protected area.

A 15 minute walk through the forest brings you to the northern end of the lake where there is a sandy beach area suitable for swimming and day-use activities. Historically, overland access to Yakoun Lake was achieved via a system of traditional Haida trails.

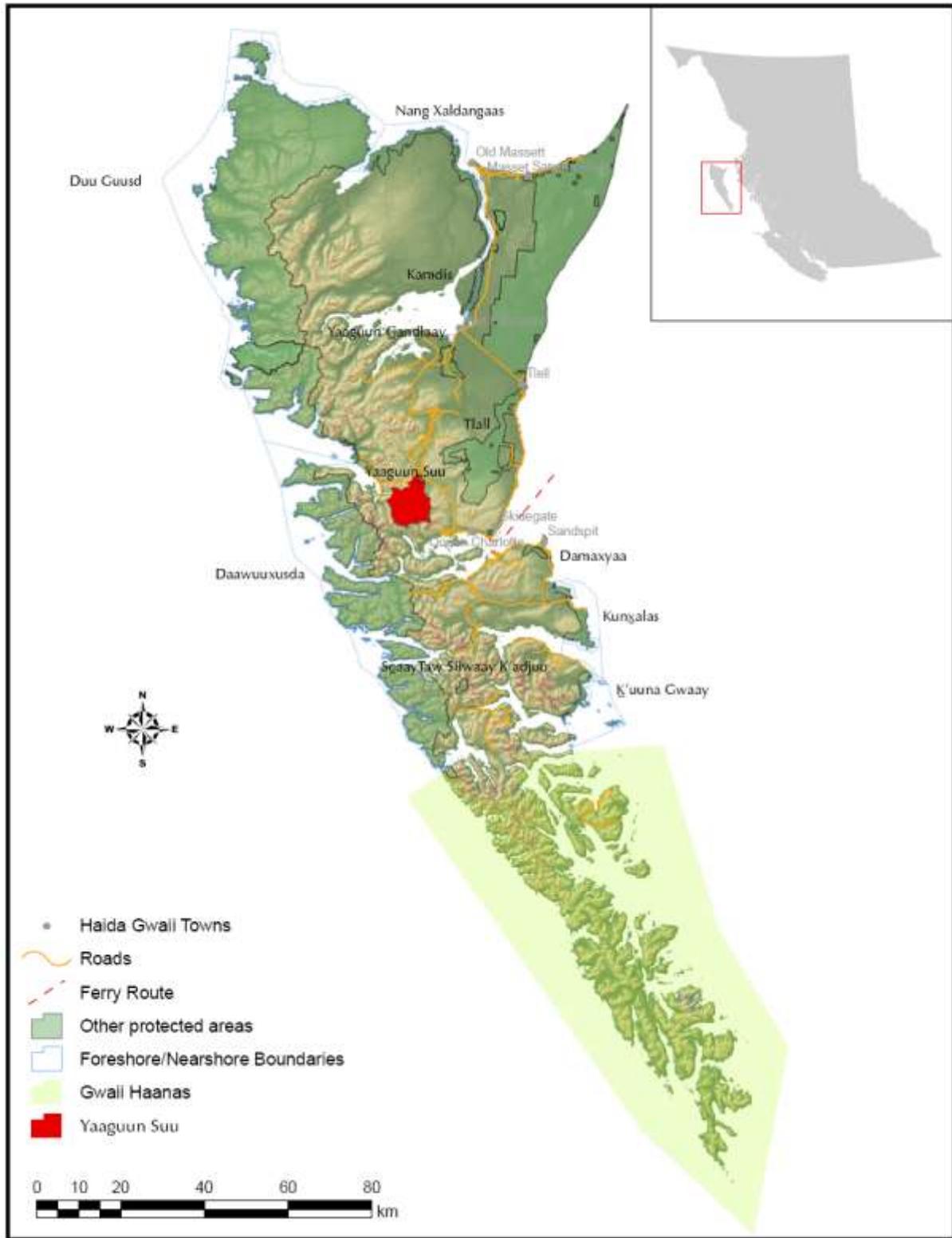


Figure 1: Regional Context Map



Figure 2: Yaaguun Suu Map

## 1.3 Planning and Policy Context

The Parties acknowledge each other's respective authorities and are cooperating in the management of Yaaguun Suu. 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, Yaaguun Suu has been occupied for at least 10,000 years by the Haida people although Haida oral history indicates much longer.

The Province of British Columbia had also recognized the area as suitable for long-term protection and identified it as a Goal 1 Study Area under the Protected Areas Strategy in 1996. The key features noteworthy for this consideration included a chance to conserve a representative example of the Skidegate Plateau Ecosection, alluvial Sitka spruce stands, and a large freshwater lake with highly productive Sockeye salmon habitat. The Haida proposed the formal designation of this area under provincial legislation during the subsequent government-to-government negotiations to develop a broader system of Haida Gwaii protected areas.

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 Yaaguun Suu.

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 (the *Protected Areas of British Columbia (Conservancies and Parks) Amendment Act, 2008*) established Yaaguun Suu.

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 and the land, which include 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 Yaaguun Suu 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 Masset, 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 website and the BC Parks' website for broader comment and circulation.

## 2.0 Values of Yaaguun Suu

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

Yaaguun Suu:

- is an area with cultural values and several traditional Haida trails cross through the area;
- is part of an archipelago-wide system of protected areas that now protects half of the land base of Haida Gwaii.
- protects a large freshwater lake and intact, old-growth forests which provide opportunities for research and excellent forage and habitat for species such as Northern goshawks;
- protects the headwaters of Yakoun River which is a major salmon-bearing stream on Haida Gwaii;
- is inclusive of extensive fossil beds and geological formations from antiquity; and,
- is road accessible and has a series of trails which facilitate access to Yakoun Lake where day use recreational opportunities, including freshwater fishing, are available.

### 2.2 Cultural Heritage

The people of the Haida Nation have occupied and collected food and materials from Yaaguun Suu since time immemorial.

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.

Several traditional Haida trails can be found within Yaaguun Suu that provide linkages to other important areas. These trails connect Yakoun Lake to Shields Bay overland through the Sandstone Creek watershed; Yakoun Lake overland to Long Inlet (Lagin's Village); Yakoun Lake overland via Delta Creek and ridge top to Kagan Bay (Slatechuck Creek); and, Yakoun Bay (on the Lake) to the Yakoun River.

There are at least 13 monumental cedars that have been documented within Yaaguun Suu that are important for future cultural use. Further work will undoubtedly reveal even more of these treasures.

Yaaguun Suu remains intact for the continuance of Haida culture through traditional use of the area. Some examples of traditional use within Yaaguun Suu include monumental cedar and cedar bark harvesting, medicinal plant harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping and food gathering. Yaaguun Suu 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.

## 2.3 Natural Heritage

The area is dominated by undivided volcanic rocks, except the mid-western portion (Sandstone Creek) is typified by older mudstone, siltstone, shale and sandstone. As a result, this area represents one of the widest ranges of biogeoclimatic units over a small geographical scale on Haida Gwaii. These range from Coastal Western Hemlock montane and sub-montane variants to Mountain hemlock and Coastal Mountain heather variants. Notably, it protects almost 7% of the province's Mountain Hemlock Windward biogeoclimatic variant. Yaaguun Suu is within the Skidegate Plateau terrestrial ecoregion (which is well represented by protected areas on Haida Gwaii). Mesozoic rock and fossils preserved on Haida Gwaii record 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.

The area has some of the most productive Sitka spruce alluvial forests on Haida Gwaii and constitutes a high representation for Yellow cedar-Mountain hemlock/Hellebore and Western red cedar-Sitka spruce/Salal ecological communities.

Some of the area's important ecological associations are:

- the Western redcedar–Sitka spruce/Devil's Club community (blue listed<sup>3</sup>);
- the Western redcedar – Sitka spruce/Skunk cabbage community (blue listed);
- the Western redcedar – Sitka spruce/Conocephalum community (blue listed);
- the Western redcedar–Sitka spruce/Sword fern community (blue listed); and
- the Red alder–Lily of the Valley community (red listed).

One red-listed species, the Queen Charlotte aven (*Geum schofieldii*), has two occurrence records for the area.

Yaaguun Suu contains fish-bearing streams that are known to have Sockeye Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, Chum Salmon, Pink Salmon, Steelhead, Dolly Varden and Cutthroat Trout. The Yakoun River in particular is a major salmon-bearing stream on which large amounts of fish stock data are available.

Yakoun Lake hosts Coastrange Sculpin, Coho Salmon, Cutthroat Trout, Dolly Varden, Pacific Lamprey, Pink Salmon, Prickly Sculpin, Sockeye Salmon, Steelhead and 3-spine Stickleback. The lake has a mean depth of 35 m (max. 91 m) and has significant salmonid stocks, with exceptional habitat supported by the surrounding old-growth forests (65.6% of conservancy area).

Northern Goshawks (laingi subspecies) and Marbled Murrelets are red-listed species and are known to inhabit the area. Of recent concern is the presence of introduced mammals, such

---

<sup>3</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>).

as Black-tailed Deer, which pose an increasing threat to local ecosystems and species. Bull thistle, an alien invasive plant, has been identified as occurring within the area.

## **2.4 Recreation Values**

A variety of recreational opportunities exist in Yaaguun Suu. A day-use area at the north end of the Yakoun Lake can be reached by a 1.5 kilometre foot trail originating from the parking lot at the end of the Forest Service road. People may also access Yakoun Lake via a trail along Etheline Bay. Boating (canoe/kayak) and fishing are popular activities and given the variety of fish species present, the area has high value for recreational and guided fisheries on the lake, although Yakoun River itself is closed to sports and guided angling within this area. Wilderness recreation opportunities also exist in the surrounding watersheds. Overland travel via unmarked routes to the coast is possible for experienced backcountry travellers.

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

The Haida trap throughout Yaaguun Suu.

The province has issued one trapline license.

## 3.0 Management Direction

### 3.1 Vision

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

Yaaguun Suu will remain as the ancestors have known it. Yaaguun Suu and the remaining protected areas continue to provide sustenance and spiritual values to this and future generations.

Yaaguun Suu contributes to the protection of regionally important rare species habitat and freshwater ecosystem features. Recreational activities such as hiking and nature appreciation occur and depend on the natural attributes of Yakoun Lake and the surrounding forests.

### 3.2 Management Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures

Management strategies and objectives for Yaaguun Suu 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 lands and marine areas first.

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 Yaaguun Suu are described. These issues relate primarily to the need for detailed inventories of key values. Filling of information about 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. Goals, Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures for Cultural Heritage**

**Overall Management Goal: Preserve and maintain Haida social, ceremonial and cultural uses.**

<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 and features identified.
		Identify and evaluate extent of threats and implement site specific protective measures for sensitive or special feature sites which may include: - marking areas as off-limits; - focusing use away from sites; - developing site level management plans for select high-use and culturally sensitive areas; and/or, -public information/interpretation initiatives.	Appropriate measures established at sensitive sites.
<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 the Haida Gwaii cultural wood permit process).

## Natural Heritage

Key issues which may affect achievement of stated biological diversity objectives in Yaaguun Suu have been identified. These issues relate 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 use within Yaaguun Suu. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 2).

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

**Overall Management Goal: Protect and maintain the diversity of terrestrial ecosystems.**

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
<p><b>Identify and protect regionally important, and rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.<sup>4</sup></b></p>	<p>Lack of inventory of values results in unintended impacts on the protected area's rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.</p>	<p>Identify research and inventory needs. Support programs designed to fill information gaps with emphasis on rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.</p>	<p>Number of initiatives underway that enhance information.  Comprehensive knowledge base achieved.</p>
	<p>Breeding, nesting and foraging sites for species such as Northern goshawks 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.</p>	<p>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).</p>	<p>Rare and at risk ecosystems and species restored /maintained.</p>
	<p>Breeding, nesting and foraging sites for species such as Northern goshawks 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.</p>	<p>Increase public and visitor awareness about bird sensitivities and provide guidelines for appropriate conduct to avoid impacts in key areas.</p>	<p>Information package and guidelines available regarding needs, approach standards, etc. and are utilized by public and visitors to minimize impacts.</p>
	<p>Introduced species are displacing and harming native flora and fauna. Specific concerns are related to deer browsing.</p>	<p>Where necessary, limit access to protect rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species such Northern goshawks.</p>	<p>Access restrictions in place where appropriate.</p>
	<p>Introduced species are displacing and harming native flora and fauna. Specific concerns are related to deer browsing.</p>	<p>Evaluate presence, distribution and threat of introduced species.</p>	<p>Presence, distribution and threat of introduced species is documented.</p>
	<p>Introduced species are displacing and harming native flora and fauna. Specific concerns are related to deer browsing.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Control programs in place. Target species controlled or removed. Disturbance and/or predation levels reduced. Monitoring reports completed.</p>
	<p>Introduced species are displacing and harming native flora and fauna. Specific concerns are related to deer browsing.</p>	<p>Support efforts in on-going introduced species research, education and public information programs.</p>	<p>Programs supported.</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>Support programs designed to monitor environmental change and impacts.</p>	<p>Monitoring programs supported.</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>Initiate adaptive management practices and processes if required.</p>	<p>Adaptive management initiated.</p>
	<p><b>Protect paleontological resources.</b></p>	<p>A diversity of globally significant fossil beds from the Mesozoic era are well documented throughout Yaaguun Suu. Removing these fossils threatens our understanding of the natural heritage of Haida Gwaii.</p>	<p>Support programs to educate public and visitors of the importance of paleontological resources remaining intact.</p>
<p>A diversity of globally significant fossil beds from the Mesozoic era are well documented throughout Yaaguun Suu. Removing these fossils threatens our understanding of the natural heritage of Haida Gwaii.</p>		<p>Monitor and inventory fossil sites in Yaaguun Suu.</p>	<p>Fossil sites remain intact.</p>

<sup>4</sup> To recognize the likely occurrence of distinctiveness on Haida Gwaii, rare is applied to Conservation Data Centre (CDC)-listed species and ecological communities as well as identified locally rare or at risk species and ecological communities.

## Recreation

Key issues which may support provision for recreational opportunities in Yaaguun Suu are described. These issues relate primarily to the 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 Yaaguun Suu. 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 frontcountry site inspections completed with BRIM reports every three years. Bi-annual backcountry site inspections completed with BRIM reports every four years.
	Recreational use can impact other heritage and natural values.	Develop criteria to ensure recreational use has acceptable impacts to the cultural and natural heritage features or values.	Criteria are developed to determine acceptable limits of impacts, and BRIM reports are used to inform adaptive management on a site specific basis.
	Recreational opportunities are being impacted by the lack of access road maintenance and recreation and tourism infrastructure.	Undertake regular maintenance of access road (includes road brushing and monitor condition of water bars) to facilitate two wheel drive access.	Preventive and annual maintenance of existing road network completed.
		Support development of day use facilities related to recreation (e.g., signs) and establish outhouses at trailhead and lakeshore destination.	Day-use facilities established as per facility design standards.
		Subject to environmental impact assessments, consider enhancements to existing access trail such as an additional segment to create a loop trail.	Assessments completed. Trail circuit developed.
	The current level of public awareness of available recreation opportunities affects the ability to meet the 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.
		Support development of on-site public interpretation media.	On-site public interpretation facilities developed.

## Respectful Use of Natural Values

Key issues which may affect achievement of stated objectives related to the respectful use of Yaaguun Suu 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>5</sup>**

Overall Management Goal: Provide for compatible opportunities where appropriate.			
Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
Identify appropriate uses and support the delivery of economic benefits.	Small-scale <sup>6</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 compliant with the 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 of forest botanicals <sup>7</sup> by Haida medicinal practitioners will continue in Yaaguun Suu. Any harvesting of forest botanicals by others can be permitted if the harvest is sustainable, and will not impact identified values and/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 are compliant with management plan's 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 of benefit to local economy.	Commercial use is consistent with balancing traditional/sustenance use, ecosystem integrity and local economic benefit.
	The nature of economic benefits for the Haida Nation in Yaaguun Suu needs to be 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.

<sup>5</sup> Natural resource uses and developments must be consistent with the cultural, natural and recreational purposes of the Yaaguun Suu.

<sup>6</sup> A few trees, or less than 1 hectare in area.

<sup>7</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.

### 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 unit identified in Yaaguun Suu is in accordance with Haida Gwaii Yah'guudang - respect for all living things - and reflects the intended land use, the acceptable level of development and use, and the level of management required (Figure 3).

The following unit has been identified within Yaaguun Suu and uses that have been deemed as appropriate for this unit are identified in Appendix 1.

#### Management Unit Type 5

Management Unit Type 5<sup>8</sup> covers all of Yaagun Suu, including Yakoun Lake. The purpose of Management Unit Type 5 is to protect Haida cultural features and access for social and ceremonial uses and maintain natural biodiversity and ecological processes. This unit also allows for the enjoyment of the natural environment where compatible with the cultural and natural values. Some day-use recreational opportunities, such as hiking and fishing, are appropriate.

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 public recreation.

---

<sup>8</sup> This unit corresponds with BC Parks Nature Recreation Zone.

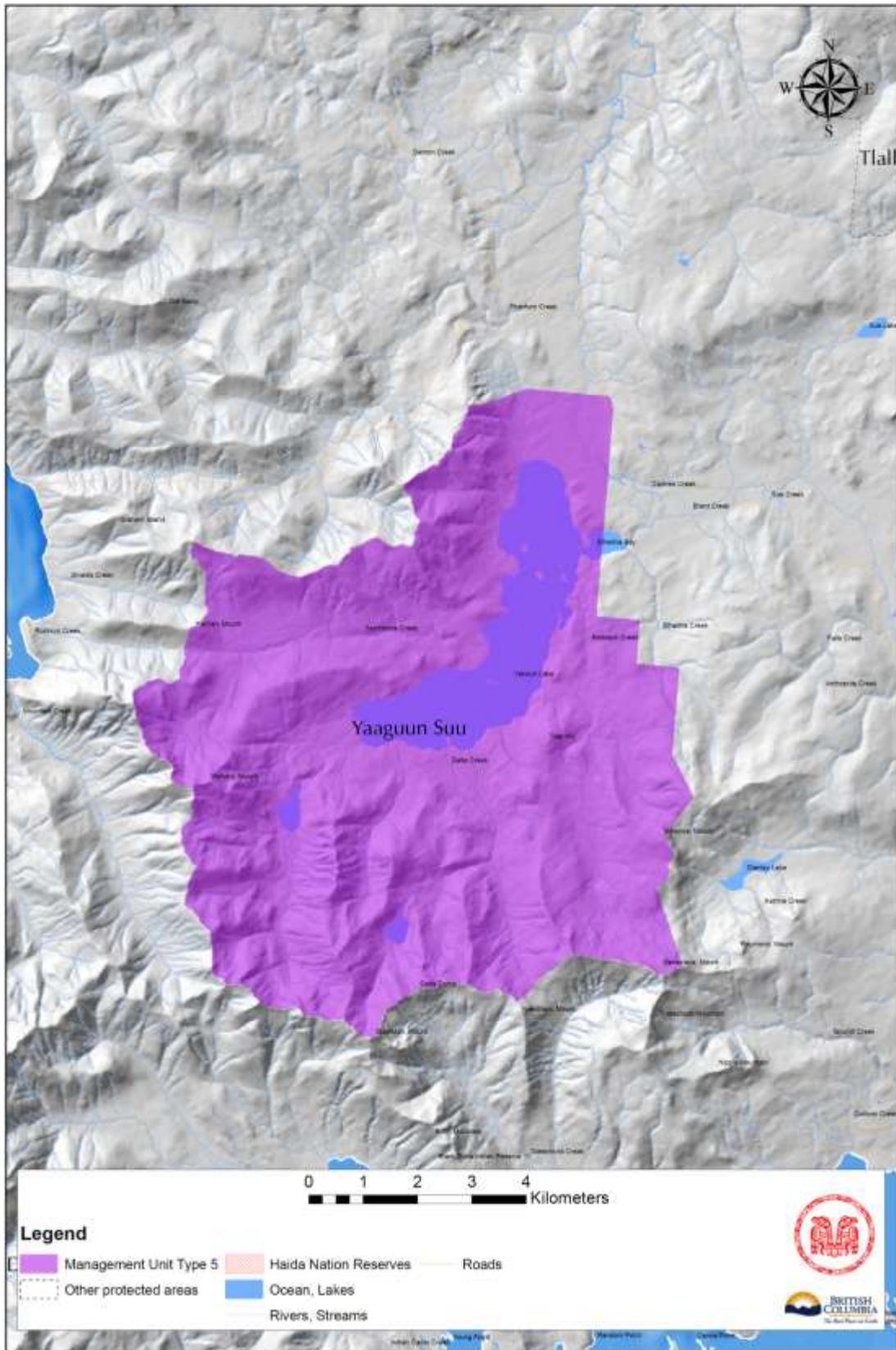


Figure 3. Management Zone in Yaaguun Suu



## 4.0 Plan Implementation

Implementation of the Yaaguun Suu 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 availability. 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 Yaaguun Suu. 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 the 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 Yaaguun Suu 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 or 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 Yaaguun Suu. 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 Yaaguun Suu. 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 Yaaguun Suu 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 5 <sup>9</sup>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	
Cultural, Ceremonial, Food Gathering and Social Uses	Y
<b>Natural Heritage</b>	
Fire Management <sup>10</sup>	Y
Forest Insect/Disease Control	Y
Noxious Weed Control	Y
Scientific Research	Y
<b>Recreation</b>	
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	N
Aircraft Access	Y
Backcountry Huts and Shelters	N
Boat Launches	N
Boating (Motorized)	Y
Boating (Non-motorized)	Y
Camping – backcountry or boat accessible	Y
Campsites and Picnic Areas – road accessible	N
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	N
Commercial Recreation (no facilities)	Y
Fishing	Y
Heli-hiking	Y
Hiking/Backpacking/Walking	Y
Hunting <sup>11</sup>	Y

<sup>9</sup> This unit covers 7,970 hectares of land in Yaaguun Suu.

<sup>10</sup> As per fire management plan.

<sup>11</sup> The management of black bear hunting will be consistent with outcomes of negotiations between the Council of the Haida Nation and Province of British Columbia. If required, changes will be reflected in amendments to this management plan.

Activity/Facility	Management Unit Type 5 <sup>9</sup>
Interpretation and Information Buildings / Signs	Y
Mechanized Off-road Access (non-motorized – i.e., mountain biking)	N
Motorized Off-road Access (i.e., 4x4, motorcycles)	N
Pack Animal Use	N
Trails (hiking)	Y
Wharves/docks	N
Wildlife/Nature Viewing	Y
<b>Respectful Use of Natural Values</b>	
Angling Guiding	Y
Botanical Forest Products	Y
Commercial Filming	Y
Communication Sites	N
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Guide Outfitting <sup>12</sup>	Y
Independent Hydro Electric Power Projects & Infrastructure	N
Trapping	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>12</sup> The guide outfitting certificate is owned by the Council of the Haida Nation. There will be no commercial black bear hunting.

# Yaaguun Suu Management Plan

## Approved by:



---

April Churchill  
Vice President of the Haida Nation

July 29, 2011

---

Date



---

Brian Bawtinheimer  
Director, Parks Planning & Management Branch  
BC Parks

August 2, 2011

---

Date

Back Cover Photo: Brandin Schultz

