

Report to the Premier & the Public



Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board
Fiscal Year 2000-2001
April 1, 2000 - March 31, 2001

report to the premier & the public
A report on compliance in issuance of tenures and approval of operational activities and expenditures from the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund

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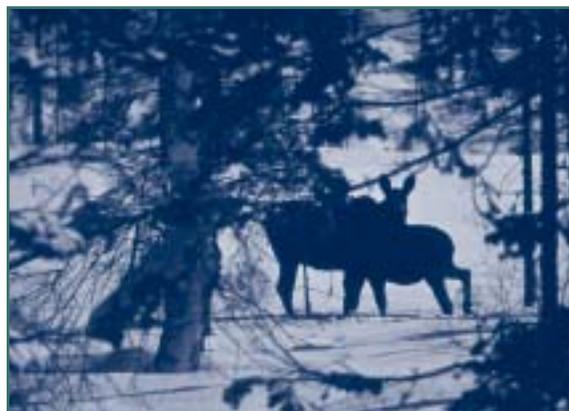


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photo courtesy BC PARKS

Vision Statement



Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board - Vision Statement

We, the Advisory Board, in partnership with the provincial government, will be stewards of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA).

We will provide direction and leadership in balancing industrial and other human activity with the sensitive management and protection of a vast and unique natural environment.

We will ensure that the fisheries, wildlife, and wilderness values of the M-KMA will be maintained for countless generations.

In working towards this vision, the Advisory Board will promote and encourage effective and innovative resource management methods, based on the highest quality of research. Through research and funding activities, we seek world class management, monitoring, and mitigation to minimize the human footprint.

Through educational and promotional activities, the Advisory Board will raise awareness about the M-KMA's globally significant environmental values, aboriginal and non-native inhabitants, and their cultural histories.



Front row (left to right) Karen Goodings, Barry Holland, George Smith, John Cashore, Jim Stephenson, David Stuart, Ross Peck, Wayne Sawchuk
Back row: Bobby Jackson, Neil Meagher, Bill Lux, Dave Porter, Dennis Porter, Bruce McKnight, Jack Sime
Missing from photo: Liz Logan, David Luff, Mel Sherlock, Paul Mitchell-Banks, Peter Stone, Brian Wolf.



Message from the A/Chair of the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

Few places in the world can match the significance of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA). Found in northern BC where the extensive boreal plains and muskeg of the east meet the mountains to the west, the 6.3 million-hectare (or 63,000 sq. km.) M-KMA remains one of North America's last true wilderness areas south of the 60th parallel.

This Report to the Premier and the Public for the Fiscal Year 2000-2001 demonstrates the dedication of the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board and government staff, to ensure the M-KMA is maintained in perpetuity. The M-K Advisory Board members are appointed by the Premier of British Columbia, for a term of up to three years, to advise on natural resource management in the M-KMA, and to ensure that activities within the area are consistent with the intent and objectives of the three Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs), the *M-KMA Act*, and the M-KMA Plan. In addition, the Advisory Board monitors development in the M-KMA and makes recommendations to the Trustee on the M-K Trust Fund.

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area is legislated by the 1998 *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act* and the *M-KMA Amendment Act, 2001*, which expanded the area by 1.9 million hectares as a result of the Mackenzie LRMP. The Trustee of the M-KMA is the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, the Honourable Stan Hagen. Each year, consolidated revenue funds from the provincial government restore the balance of the Trust Fund to \$3,000,000, plus up to an additional \$400,000 to match any contributions to the Trust Fund generated from other sources. The Trust Fund is legislated to remain until May 1, 2005.

The M-K Advisory Board's administrative and management requirements are provided by two service contractors. In addition, the Advisory Board receives support from staff of the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (the Resource Planning Division), specifically the Program Manager of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

The M-K Advisory Board is committed to seeking innovative methods and technology that will allow commercial recreation and tenures in parks and resource development and use, such as, oil and gas, forestry and mining in the 75 percent of the M-KMA, which is designated for those purposes.

The M-K Advisory Board looks forward to the continued partnerships with industry, government and First Nations in the coming years as we work together to enhance the social, economic and environmental values of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

Ross Peck, A/Chair
Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

Executive Summary



The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA) is a globally unique Management Area intended for environmentally responsible economic development to co-exist with wilderness values and wildlife. Referred to as the 'Serengeti of North America', the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area is a unique wilderness area that supports large and diverse populations of wildlife including caribou, elk, moose, Stone's sheep, black and grizzly bears, wood bison, and plains bison. Medium and small mammals such as marmot, fox, lynx, marten, fisher, weasel, squirrel, hare, mink, otter, mice, voles, moles and shrews are also present. Upland game birds, waterfowl and passerines, as well as fish and reptiles are also plentiful in the M-KMA. The rich biodiversity and large mammal predator/prey systems produces the complete ecological requirements for an intact ecosystem of global significance.

The M-KMA includes potentially large oil and gas reserves, and large known mineral resources and potential for more. The foothills and mountains of the M-KMA support productive forests. Forest management activities are conducted with an aim to conserve non-commercial forestry values including, wildlife habitat, wilderness, recreation, biological diversity, visual quality, and spiritual and cultural values.

The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board is a body appointed by the Premier of British Columbia, to advise on natural resource management in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA), as defined under the *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act (1998)*. The Advisory Board has a legislative and public reporting responsibility to consider government's issuance of tenures and approval of operational activities, and to examine the achievement of management plan objectives through local strategic planning and operational activities.

The Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board also reviews the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund applications and recommends funding expenditures (according to criteria consistent with the Advisory Board's Strategic Plan), to the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, who is the Trustee of the fund (formerly the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks). The Advisory Board has the responsibility to report annually on the above-mentioned activities.

This report concludes, that all tenures and permits issued, renewed and replaced, and all operational activities conducted by government agencies in the M-KMA during the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year were deemed to be consistent with the *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act (1998)* and the Fort Nelson and Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs).

The expenditures from the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund, consistent with the expenditure plan and authorized by the Trustee, are reported. Some of the expenditures included:

- Establishing baseline ecological information on one of the main caribou herds in the northern M-KMA to support future wildlife management and develop management tools to predict impacts from industrial developments and increased human recreational activities.
- Supporting the aboriginal conservation officer program and the inclusion of First Nations people in the compliance and enforcement strategy through a mentoring and training program for First Nations Conservation Officers.
- Continuing the identification, collection, removal and disposal of abandoned fuel drums and associated hazardous products and waste left in the M-KMA from historical activities such as mining, exploration and recreation.
- Development of methodology for assessing areas sensitive to access.
- Undertaking an environmental assessment of recreational riverboat use on the Tuchodi River.
- Continuing the inventory and assessment of dispersed-use campsite and range use sites.
- The gathering and synthesizing of historical fisheries activities within the M-KMA.
- The identification of normal parasite fauna and intensity across Stone's sheep range in the M-KMA, in order to establish baseline data on Stone's sheep health.
- Continuing the critical Geographic Information System (GIS) data gathering and input/analysis that supports planning and management.
- The development of a Park Management Plan for the Northern Rocky Mountain Park, with public and First Nations' participation.

The work of the Advisory Board in partnership with government staff, commercial and industrial partners and contractors, especially during the Fiscal Year 2000-2001, demonstrates that sustainability through integrated resource management can work, that both economic development and environmental protection can be achieved through consensus and partnerships.

Background

The M-KMA – A Global Treasure

The intent of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA) is to achieve a balance between economic development (mainly focused on the Special Management Zones or SMZs that encompass 75 percent of the area), with conservation, that occurs primarily in the protected area. This is what makes the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area so unique - the challenge is to find the balance.

The M-KMA was established in 1998, enlarged in 2001, and directly resulted from three successful large-scale Land and Resource Management Plans (the Fort Nelson, Fort St. John and the Mackenzie LRMPs). The management intent of the M-KMA is to maintain in perpetuity the wilderness quality, and the diversity and abundance of wildlife and the ecosystems on which it depends, while allowing resource development and use in parts of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area designated for those purposes including recreation, hunting, trapping, timber harvesting, mineral exploration and mining, oil and gas exploration and development. The M-KMA includes potentially large oil and gas reserves. The Area includes large known mineral resources and potential for more. The foothills and mountains support productive forests.

The M-KMA is one of the most significant wilderness areas in North America with extensive forests, spectacular geological formations, lakes, rivers, waterfalls and hot springs, subalpine and alpine areas and major wetlands. The M-KMA is home to one of the largest intact predator-prey systems remaining in North America. It supports many species of large mammals, including 5,000 Stone's sheep, 18,000 moose, 13,000 elk, 4,000 caribou, 2,000 black and 2,000 grizzly bears, mountain goat, wolf, and bison (plains and wood), in population densities of global significance.

The management model for the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area is to establish a world standard for environmental, social and economic stability. The M-K Advisory Board plays an important role in championing sustainable development, encouraging industrial development while maintaining the extraordinary wildlife and wilderness values of the area.



photo courtesy MWLAP

The M-K Advisory Board

Members of the M-K Advisory Board are appointed by the Premier of British Columbia, for a term of up to three years, to advise on natural resource management in the M-KMA, and to ensure that activities within the area are consistent with the intent and objectives of the three LRMPs, the *M-KMA Act*, and the M-KMA Plan. In addition, the Advisory Board monitors the development in the M-KMA and makes recommendations to the Trustee on the M-K Trust Fund.

The composition of the Advisory Board is reflective of the diversity of interests in the north.

- These interests include:*
- Communities
 - Environment
 - First Nations
 - Forestry
 - Guide and outfitting
 - Labour
 - Local, regional and provincial government
 - Mining
 - Oil and Gas
 - Recreation
 - Trapping
 - Wilderness Tourism

Background

Continued



Partnership with University of Northern BC and the Northern Land Use Institute (UNBC/NLUI)

The M-K Advisory Board established a partnership with UNBC and the NLUI in 1999. A Letter of Agreement created an M-K professorship, M-K student support, and a wilderness planning presence in northeastern BC. In addition, funding has been also provided to the NLUI Endowment Fund for future research benefiting the M-KMA.

The Ian McTaggart-Cowan M-K Research Professorship was created to foster research into wildlife biology and its relationships between wilderness values and resource development in the Special Management Zones (SMZs) of the M-KMA.

The M-K Advisory Board works with UNBC/NLUI in reviewing and approving an annual research plan for UNBC/NLUI on M-KMA related research. Both groups set priorities for the research funding strategic area (Advancing Applied Science) of the M-K Trust Fund.

The UNBC/NLUI and M-KMA partnership broadens the public's understanding of northern ecology and promotes northern environmental sustainability.

The Programs of the M-K Advisory Board

The work of the Advisory Board is organized under four programs:

- 1.) Advice
- 2.) Monitoring, Review and Reporting
- 3.) Outreach and Fundraising
- 4.) M-K Trust Fund Projects:
 - Building an Information Base
 - Supporting Planning
 - Improving Management
 - Advancing Applied Science
 - Promoting Knowledge, Awareness and Involvement



1.) Advice

The goal of this program is to provide advice to various parties, including Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC) Ministers, the Omineca-Peace Inter-Agency Management Committee (IAMC), and Statutory Decision-Makers (SDMs), responsible for planning and management decisions affecting the M-KMA, that:

- ensures and promotes stewardship of the M-KMA as reflected in the *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act (1998)*;
- adequately reflects the diverse perspectives of M-K Advisory Board members who are representatives of the public and accurately reflects the consensus of the Advisory Board;
- supports increases in the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning and management activities of government agencies related to the M-KMA; and,
- encourages improvements and innovations in the planning and implementation of development activities of industries and other parties in the M-KMA.

The Programs

of The M-K Advisory Board

2.) Monitoring, Review and Reporting

The goal of this program is to ensure that the development and implementation of policies, regulations, plans and management activities in the M-KMA are carried out in a manner consistent with the *M-KMA Act* and consistent with the achievement of the vision of the M-K Advisory Board by:

- monitoring planning, management and on-the-ground activities of government agencies, industrial users and non-industrial (commercial, recreation, research, etc.) users affecting the area;
- conducting semi-annual reviews of the issuance of tenures and the approval of operational activities to examine the achievement of management plan objectives through local strategic planning and operational activities; and,
- reporting, at least annually to the public and the Premier of British Columbia on the results of the Advisory Board's semi-annual reviews and any other issues related to the management of the M-KMA.

3.) Outreach and Fundraising

The goal of this program is to raise awareness of the M-KMA, conduct outreach with a broad range of interests, build relationships with supporters of the Advisory Board's vision for the M-KMA, and raise additional funds for the M-K Trust Fund.

4.) M-K Trust Fund Projects

The goals for this program area are to:

solicit and identify suitable projects consistent with the purposes of the M-K Trust Fund that will:

- support fisheries, wildlife and wilderness resources of the Management Area through research, planning and integrated management of natural resource development;
- maintain in perpetuity the diversity and abundance of fish and wildlife species and the ecosystems on which they depend throughout the management area;

make recommendations to the Trustee regarding expenditures from the Trust Fund to initiate and support, in part or whole, suitable projects that:

- are incremental to government or third party obligations in the M-K Management Area; and,
- do not relieve the government from legislated responsibility to maintain essential programs for the management of resources in the Management Area.

The M-K Advisory Board utilizes these four programs to reflect their vision, that of providing direction and leadership in balancing industrial and other human activity with the sensitive management and protection of a vast and unique natural environment.



photo courtesy Ross Peck Outfitting

Report on the

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Roles



Monitoring, Review and Reporting

The M-K Advisory Board conducts annual reviews of the issuance of tenures and the approval of operational activities to examine the achievement of management plan objectives through local strategic planning and operational activities.

Following such a review, the Advisory Board reports annually to the public and the Premier on the results of the Advisory Board's annual reviews and any other issues related to the management of the M-KMA.

An example during the Fiscal Year 2000-2001 was the Murphy Oil Company development and exploration in the Chicken Creek area.



photo courtesy OGC

The variance allowed a roadbed access to be built to a well site located within a 'no development zone' on upper Chicken Creek.

Although the Advisory Board has no mandate to make statutory decisions, they were consulted by government staff and statutory decision makers in the spirit of partnership, on the process and principles of the variance.

The Advisory Board supported in principle the concept of a variance to a pre-tenure plan, under strict terms and conditions, if the proposed project clearly defined superior environmental outcomes then the best project that would be approved within the pre-tenure plan.

A variance can allow for innovation to explore new approaches to resource development, and the successes and failures of the innovative approach contribute to lessons that can be incorporated in the future to support better outcomes for both the environment and the economy.

The outcome of this situation further strengthened the working relationship between the M-K Advisory Board and the Peace Managers who are the government managers responsible for the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

Government Agency Operations Summary

In summary,

- 54 new tenures or permits were issued in the M-KMA during the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year.
- 112 tenures or permits were renewed
- and 5 tenures or permits were replaced.

The summary totals for each agency are listed on the next page.

Report on the

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Roles

Tenures/Permits Types:	new	renewal	replacement	Tenures/Permits Types:	new	renewal	replacement
Ministry of Forests				Ministry of Energy and Mines			
Grazing Licenses	1	3		Mineral claims	14		
Grazing permits	1	4		Notices of Work	0		
Cash timber sales	2			Drilling Licence (tenure)	1		
Free use permits	2			Oil/gas lease	0		
BC Environment				PNG Lease	1		
Guide Licences	24			Oil and Gas Commission			
Trapline	51			Pipeline permit	0		
Angling guide Licences	1	10		Wellsite permit	0		
*AMA Permits	2		1	Geophysical Approval	8		
BC Parks - Park use permit				BC Assets and Land Corporation			
Land Use	7			Licence of occupation			2
Non-Exclusive Commercial Use	3	13		Temporary permit			
Research	5	2		Right of way			
Operations	1			Crown Grant			
Trapline	2			Lease			
Air Transport	6	2		Reserve/Notation			
				Permit & Inventory			2

With the completion and approval of the M-KMA Recreation Management Plan for the 4.4 million ha making up the original M-KMA, prior to the Mackenzie Addition, a number of applications, primarily for commercial recreation (CR) permits, will be reviewed for approval by BC Assets and Lands Corporation. This includes a number of existing tenured operators that wish to expand their operations into commercial recreation other than hunting.

Operational activities conducted by agencies included:

- Recreation trail bridge installation;
- Fish, fish habitat and caribou inventories;
- Stream crossing assessments;
- Enforcement patrols;
- Reconnaissance/information gathering in Protected Areas;
- Collection/mapping of GPS data;
- Interpretation programs;
- Production of information brochures;
- Horse range burn assessments;
- Land Act tenure inspections/assessments;
- Local strategic planning; and compliance and enforcement inspections of oil/gas operations.



Report on the

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Roles



Evaluation

The M-K Advisory Board has reviewed the Inter-Agency Management Committee (IAMC) report, Annual Report Omineca-Peace Interagency Management Committee to the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board (Fiscal Year 2000-2001), and provides the following evaluation to government:

“All tenures and permits issued, renewed and replaced and all operational activities conducted by government agencies in the M-KMA during the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year were evaluated and deemed to be consistent with the M-KMA Act and the Fort Nelson and Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs).”

Advice



photo courtesy BC PARKS

All advice offered by the M-K Advisory Board strives to:

- encourage realistic improvements and innovations in the planning and implementation of development activities of industries and other parties in the M-KMA;
- support achievable increases in the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning and management activities of government agencies related to the M-KMA; and
- adequately reflect the diverse perspectives of the Advisory Board members, who do not sit as individual stakeholders, but rather collectively represent a broad range of interests, and accurately reflect the consensus of the Advisory Board.

The M-K Advisory Board serves as a catalyst to encourage agencies to work together and with the public, to constructively implement the vision of the three LRMPs. During the fiscal year of 2000-2001, the M-K Advisory Board demonstrated ongoing collaboration with the Peace Managers, and contributed to defining priorities for government.

The M-K Advisory Board provides the following advice to government regarding activities within the M-KMA:

Access

The M-K Advisory Board recommends that the access control gates be properly staffed to effectively control access for new roads or permanent trails. There is need to work towards educating the public more about access within the M-KMA. The ultimate goal is to minimize impact on the non-trail areas within the M-KMA.

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

ATVs are defined as a wheeled or tracked vehicle propelled by motorized power, and capable of travel on or off a highway, including a motorcycle but not including a snowmobile, or a motor vehicle that is licensed for highway travel under the *Motor Vehicle Act*.

The M-K Advisory Board advises government to proceed with public discussions to develop appropriate legislation for ATVs on Crown Lands (licensing and registration). Discussions should include direct dialogue with organized ATV groups. There has been preparatory work already completed by the Land Use Coordination Office to bring together all the agencies involved in this issue to resolve licencing, public safety, enforcement, environmental and other concerns.

Report on the

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Roles

Enforcement

The M-K Advisory Board urges the government to increase support for specialized projects of compliance and enforcement within the M-KMA. These projects are activities above and beyond those normally undertaken by the Conservation Officer Services.

Government Information System (GIS)

The Advisory Board recommends that there be increased data coordination to enhance integrated resource management. This integrated data needs to be based on a common land unit and the Advisory Board encourages the employment of the resource management zone that is being used in all the LRMPs.

Pre-Tenure Planning

The M-K Advisory Board has contributed positively to pre-tenure planning in the M-KMA. Through the Pre-Tenure Planning Committee, the Advisory Board provided advice to government relating to:

- the Upper Sikanni Pre-Tenure Plan, specifically addressing key outcomes of the review and implications for future pre-tenure planning in the M- KMA, and future evaluations of pre-tenure planning in general;
- the development of more clearly defined processes for approvals and consultation requirements for variances to pre-tenure planning in the M-KMA
- the draft Guide to Pre-tenure Planning for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development, developed by the Ministry of Energy and Mines. The Advisory Board identified issues and offered advice on refinements to the guide based on experience of all parties in the M-KMA, including Advisory Board expectations (and CAPP representatives on the Advisory Board) understanding for pre-tenure planning, consultations and scope of issues addressed;
- the development of a detailed proposal by which agencies can share information with the Advisory Board and receive ongoing input and advice in a manner which enables timely decision-making agencies and respects the role of the Advisory Board;
- the exploration of creative ways to minimize incursions/impacts in the M-KMA from development activities and offer advice on ways to work in environmentally sensitive areas; and
- provided advice to the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) on the Draft OGC Public Communication Guidelines.



photo courtesy MWLAP

In addition, the M-K Advisory Board partnered with the OGC to fund a feasibility study of heli-supported well drilling operations in environmentally sensitive areas of the M-KMA.

M-KMA Wildlife Management Plan

The Advisory Board has provided advice to government, specifically BC Parks and the Ministry of Energy and Mines, to incorporate local, experiential and traditional knowledge (including oral history), relevant anthropological and archaeological surveys, cultural and historical research values into the planning processes for the M-KMA.

Outreach and Fundraising

The goal of this program is to raise awareness of the M-KMA, conduct outreach with a broad range of interests, build relationships with supporters of the Advisory Board's vision for the M-KMA, and raise additional funds for the M-K Trust Fund sufficient to achieve the long-term vision of the M-K Advisory Board.

Report on the

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Roles

Through the Outreach and Fundraising Committee of the M-K Advisory Board, the following outreach initiatives were successfully accomplished during the Fiscal Year 2000-2001.

Coordinator and Assistant for the Advisory Board

In August 2000, the Advisory Board contracted the services of a Coordinator and Assistant to implement the new direction of the Outreach and Fundraising Program.

Storefront Office

In December 2000, the Advisory Board secured a highly visible and easily accessible storefront office in downtown Fort St. John. The new Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Information Office houses a resource library, offices, and space for Advisory Board committee meetings and functions.

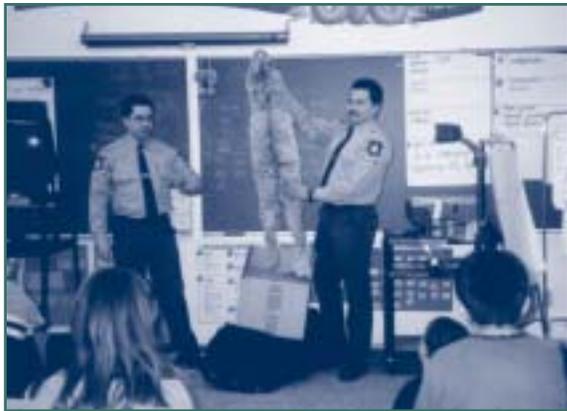


photo courtesy MWLAP

New Logo and Promotional Materials

The M-K Advisory Board, through the Outreach and Fundraising Committee, improved the M-KMA logo, to reflect the Advisory Board's preparation for the land-use workshops. Presentation folders were developed for Advisory Board and staff to distribute to the public during conferences, trade shows, and request speaking engagements.

M-KMA Newsletter

The Advisory Board issued their first newsletter in February 2001. Over 450 newsletters were mailed to a variety of businesses, organizations and government offices throughout BC. The Advisory Board plans two newsletters per year.

Public Presentations

The Coordinator, and at times with the assistance of a M-K Advisory Board member, provided public presentations to the following educational institutions, organizations, clubs and businesses:

- Northern Lights College (Dawson Creek Campus) - Hospitality and Tourism Program
- Northern Guides Association's AGM (Fort St. John)
- Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourist Association's AGM (Fort St. John)
- Northern Lights College (Fort St. John) - Land and Resource Management Program

The M-K Advisory Board partnered with the University of Northern BC (UNBC) to host public presentations in Fort Nelson and Fort St. John on specific projects funded by the Trust Fund and UNBC. The response from each community was very positive, with an average of 25 attendants per seminar.

In addition, the Program Manager, at his own expense, gave a presentation on the M-KMA to two joint conferences related to northern forestry and northern development in Iceland which has been published in a journal.

Advertisements

The M-K Advisory Board advertised in local and regional newspapers and magazines throughout the fiscal year, announcing various activities, meetings, presentations and general information.

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Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Roles

Public Receptions

The M-K Advisory Board hosted a public reception in Fort Nelson in October 2000, during their fall meeting. The event was a success, drawing members from the community, including representatives of the Northern Rockies Regional District, the Town of Fort Nelson, and the Fort Nelson First Nation. The District showcased a project funded by the M-K Trust Fund.

The M-K Advisory Board hosted a public reception and grand opening of their new office in Fort St. John, in February 2001.

The office was full to capacity with members of the community and special guests, who witnessed the official opening of the office by John Cashore, Chair, and Fort St. John Mayor Steve Thorlakson.

Reception for members of CAPP and representatives of the Oil and Gas Industry

The M-K Advisory Board hosted a reception in Calgary, Alberta, February 7, 2001, to congratulate the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) and representatives of the oil and gas industry for its role in the positive development of the M-K Management Area. The industry was instrumental in the multi-year Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs) for the districts of Fort Nelson and Fort St. John, as well as contributing financially to help the Advisory Board fulfill its mandate to work together with industry to ensure the continued health of the M-KMA.

M-KMA Website (www.muskwa-kechika.com)

The Advisory Board developed a website specifically for the M-KMA and its activities. Meeting records, announcements, the Call for Proposals, reports and general information is now available to the public.

This website is linked to the appropriate ministries and other organizations.

www.muskwa-kechika.com

Donations

The Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund received a number of generous donations that went to support such activities as the Millennium Wilderness Youth Camp on the Turnagain River, and the development of a conservation area design (CAD) for the entire M-KMA.

These contributions went into the matching fund and will result in \$77,000 matching money being added to the Project Account for the next fiscal year,

• Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)	\$10,000
• Chevron Canada Resources	\$5,000
• Westcoast Energy Inc.	\$5,000
• British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority	\$5,000
• Slocan Group	\$5,000
• Anderson Exploration Ltd.	\$1,000
• Oil and Gas Commission	\$500
• Schlumberger Geco Prakla (Division of Schlumberger Canada Ltd.)	\$500
• Ministry of Energy and Mines	\$45,000

Donations

Report on the

Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board Roles



There was a commitment from the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks to commit \$20,000 to be applied to the Conservation Area Design 1, however as these funds were received after April 1, 2001, these funds will be matched in the fiscal year 2002-2003.

The M-K Advisory Board is working towards ensuring that funds are raised on an annual basis from coordinated partnerships with industry and organizations. Such partnerships can secure available matching funds from the Government of British Columbia. In addition, the Advisory Board is exploring an opportunity for expert fundraisers. The long-term goal is to develop and implement a fund strategy to bring increased funding to the M-KMA.

M-K Trust Fund Projects

The goals for this program area are to:

photo courtesy Tim Ennis



Solicit and identify suitable projects consistent with the purposes of the M-K Trust Fund that will:

- support fisheries, wildlife and wilderness resources of the management area through research, planning and integrated management of natural resource development;
- maintain in perpetuity the diversity and abundance of fish and wildlife species and the ecosystems on which they depend throughout the management area;
- make recommendations to the Trustee regarding expenditures from the Trust Fund to initiate and support, in part or whole, suitable projects that:
 - ~ are incremental to government or third party obligations in the M-KMA; and,
 - ~ do not relieve the government from legislated responsibility to maintain essential programs for the management of resources in the management area.

Consistent with permissible expenditures outlined in the *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act*, the Advisory Board has established a series of strategic funding areas for the solicitation and administration of projects in various areas of activity, as follows:

- Building an Information Base
- Supporting Planning
- Improving Management
- Advancing Applied Science
- Promoting Knowledge, Awareness and Involvement

Annual priorities are set within the Strategic Plan for the Advisory Board. (For more information, see Strategic Plan for the M-K Advisory Board)
The Advisory Board issues a proposal call by November 1st each year through advertisements in:

- newspapers,
- the M-KMA website,
- the Province of BC's applicable ministry website, and
- other vehicles as appropriate.

Highlights of

Trust Fund Projects

This fiscal year, the M-K Advisory Board was extremely successful in soliciting more proposals. A total of 103 proposals were received, an increase of 45 percent from last fiscal year. Increased numbers were a direct result of more advertising and networking by the Program Manager and Advisory Board Coordinator.

A rigorous review of all applications was accomplished through the use of expert external reviewers and the cooperation with UNBC/NLUI, Peace Managers, and a technical review committee, prior to being reviewed by the Advisory Board as a whole.

Highlights of Trust Fund Projects 2000-2001

The M-K Advisory Board reports annually on the expenditures from the Trust Fund. The chart on page 19 and the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures on pages 20-29 report the expenditures from the M-K Trust Fund for fiscal year 2000-2001 consistent with the Expenditure Plan, approved by the Trustee after consultation with the M-K Advisory Board.

Many of these projects helped to facilitate economic development while maintaining wilderness values and wildlife and habitat.

Highlights of some expenditure were:

- The continuation of a joint initiative between the Ministry of Forests and BC Parks to address range management issues within the M-KMA and to provide a digital vegetation-mapping product.
- Ongoing funding for the conception, design and planning for four land-use workshops to be held in 2002 through 2004.
- Continued clean up of old fuel barrels, garbage, metals and camp materials that are an environmental hazard in the M-KMA.
- Radio collaring of forty caribou to provide habitat use analysis for integrated management planning.
- An inventory of the grizzly population employing radio collars to compliment hair sampling for DNA analysis as a means to track individuals.
- A seed report on the development of a Northern Rockies Gateway and Kaska Cultural Centre, identifying the theme, detailed budget, location, advance approvals and ideas for cost effective maintenance.
- To continue further compliance and enforcement in the backcountry in order that the natural resource values of the area be protected.



photo courtesy BC PARKS

Highlights of

Trust Fund Projects



- Provide training to native and non-native youths in a wilderness camp in the M-KMA on traditional Kaska Dena hunting ground through the M-K Millennium Wilderness Youth Program.
- To conduct overview fish and fish habitat surveys of the Turnagain River and fisheries management and conservation.
- To collect samples from four populations of Stone's sheep to determine parasites present and intensity of parasite loads as baseline information on Stone's sheep health.
- To continue the development and implementation of an Aboriginal Conservation Officer Program which provides opportunities for First Nations people to actively participate in the management and protection of the M-KMA and to receive training in this profession.
- To observe the increased use of riverboats in the Tuchodi River portion of the M-KMA as it relates to the fish populations and their habitat particularly Bull Trout along the Muskwa River watershed.
- To continue to develop and maintain an M-KMA data organization system that allows for the effective collection, storage, analysis, communication and exchange of land and resource information to support effective decision making within the M-KMA.

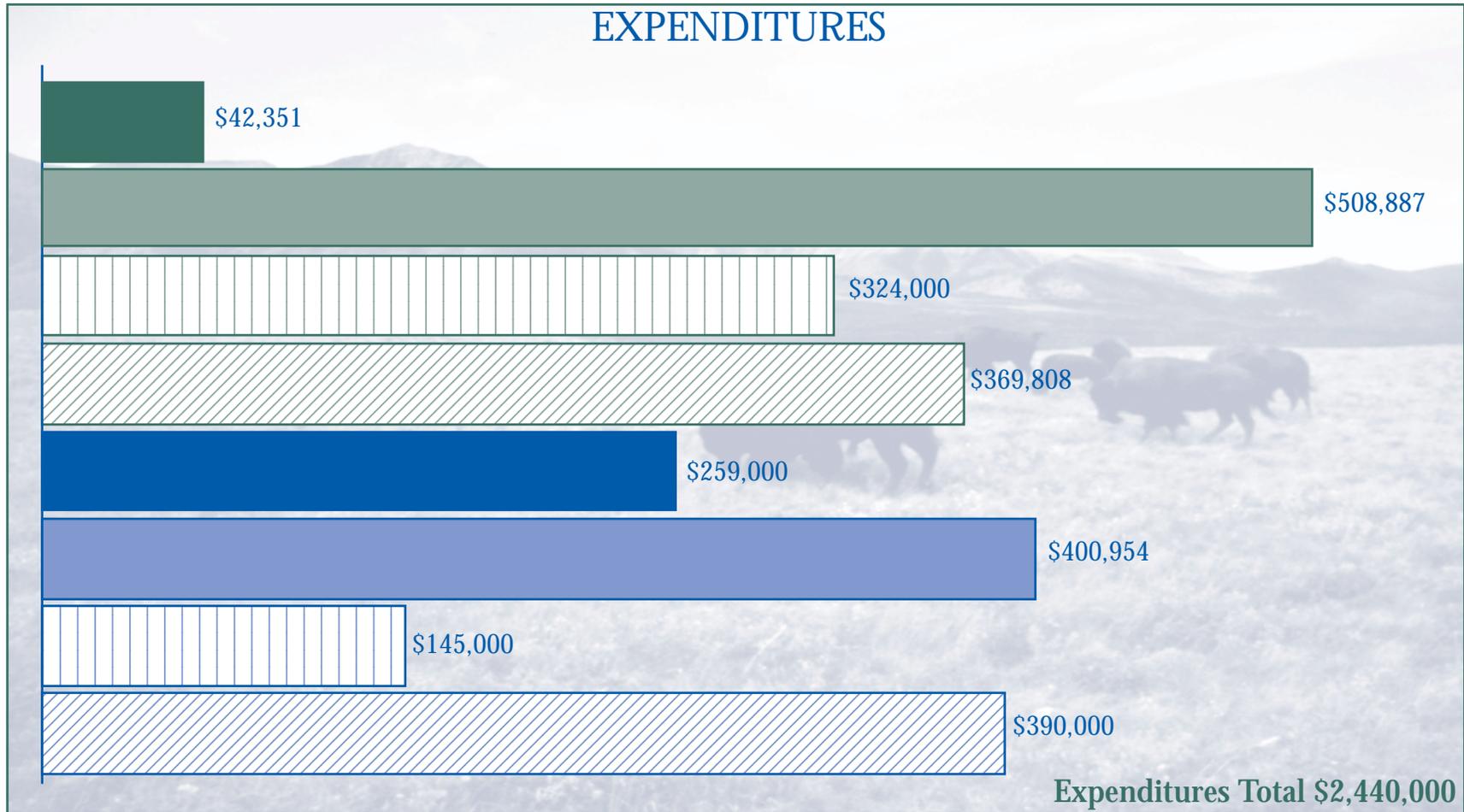


photo courtesy MWLAP

M-K Management Area

Trust Fund 2000 - 2001

EXPENDITURES



Contingency

Promoting Awareness, Involvement and Capacity Building

Advancing Applied Science

Improving Management

Supporting Planning

Building an Information Base

Government Integration Program

Administration

Income Statement

M-K Trust Fund Income Statement

Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund Income Statement for the period ended March 31, 2001

Revenue

General Account

Province of British Columbia	2,000,000.00
Interest Revenue	20,335.00
Interest Revenue Accrued	36,934.80



Total General Account Revenue 2,057,269.80

Project Account

Province of BC Matching Funds & CF	464,432.39	(CF = cash flow)
Westcoast Energy Inc.	5,000.00	
British Columbia Hydro and Power	5,000.00	
Chevron Canada Resources	5,000.00	
Slocan Group	5,000.00	
Anderson Exploration Ltd.	1,000.00	
Oil and Gas Commission	500.00	
Schlumberger Geco Prakla (A division)	500.00	
CPAWS	10,000.00	
Ministry of Energy and Mines	45,000.00	
Interest Revenue	4,997.00	
Promotional Items Sales	84.00	
Total Project Account Revenue	546,513.39	

Total Revenue 2,603,783.19

Expenditures

General Account (see attached CAS report)	2,217,442.80
Total General Account Expenses	2,217,442.80

Project Account	0.00
Total Project Account Expenses	0.00

Total Expenditures 2,217,442.80

General Account Surplus (160,173.00)

Project Account Equity 546,513.39

Trust Fund Equity 386,340.39

Note: Errors and omissions excepted.

** Note:

- 1) The General Account Expenditures for Fiscal 2000-2001 were overstated by \$217, 442.80. This amount should have been charged to the Project Account and reflected the requests of the donators in prior years.
- 2) The running Balance of the General Account reflects the deficit carried forward 2002 (calculated as 2M Interest Earned less Expend= \$160,173.00 Deficit)
- 3) The net value of the Trust Fund at the beginning of Fiscal 2002 is \$3,463,340.39 (\$2,839,827.00 in the General Account and \$623,513.39 in the Project Account)

Detailed M-K Trust Fund

Expenditures from Fiscal Year 2000-2001

M-K Advisory Board Administration

Project: Board Coordinator/Admin. Assistant

Description: Coordinator and assistant for the M-K Advisory Board, with the role of attending to the administration of the Board, arranging for the call for and evaluation of projects seeking Trust Funding. Reports to the Chair.

Allocation: 156,000

Expenditures: 150,852

Variance: 5,148

Comments: There were two contractors during this time, with different rates and also a gap when neither were working which helped create the savings.

Project: Strategic and Budgetary Facilitation

Description: Facilitator to assist in the functioning of the Advisory Board and some Committee meetings. Assisted with the development of the M-K Advisory Board Strategic Plan and the M-K Advisory Board Policy and Procedures Manual.

Allocation: 25,000

Expenditures: 39,772

Variance: -14,772

Comments: Extra facilitation services were required to take on additional tasks associated with both the Advisory Board and Committee work as well as support documents such as the Strategic Plan and Policy and Procedures Manual.

Project: Public Notices of Board Meetings

Description: Newspaper announcements for Board Meetings.

Allocation: 1,000

Expenditures: 3,526

Variance: -2,526

Comments: A greater emphasis was placed on raising the profile of the Advisory Board Meetings than was first budgeted for. This involved better advertisements and more frequent placement in newspapers.

Project: Travel Expenses

Description: Expenses for Advisory Board Members to attend Board Meetings and Committee Meetings.

Allocation: 60,000

Expenditures: 43,400

Variance: 16,600

Comments: Careful management of expenses resulted in savings.

Project: Meeting Expenses

Description: Expenses for Advisory Board and Committee Meetings.

Allocation: 3,000

Expenditures: 9,467

Variance: -6,467

Comments: An increased number of meetings, as well as the need to book additional rooms resulted in this variance.

Project: Technical Review Committee

Description: Review of project submissions seeking funding from the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund. The technical reviews are carried out by consultants, academics and government staff.

Allocation: 10,000

Expenditures: 2,227

Variance: 7,773

Comments: Careful management of the review process and a greater reliance on government and UNBC staff resulted in not having to contract out the work.

Detailed M-K Trust Fund

Expenditures from Fiscal Year 2000-2001



Project: Annual Audit ~ No audit carried out.

Project: Day to day Administration (LUCO)

Description: Staffing support for financial support of the Trust Fund.
Allocation: 50,000
Expenditures: 50,000
Variance: 0
Comments: Work was carried out as agreed.

Project: M-K Office

Description: Rental of office for the Advisory Board and its contractor staff.
Allocation: 50,000
Expenditures: 55,831
Variance: -5,831
Comments: Rental rates and maintenance have been slightly higher than budgeted.

Project: Communications Plan

Description: A plan was to be developed to assist in communications and outreach.
Allocation: 20,000
Expenditures: 748
Variance: 19,252
Comments: Concerns regarding the best approach led to a decision not to engage contractors at this time.

Project: Guest Speakers at Advisory Board Meetings

Description: Speakers invited to speak to the Advisory Board, and at times public, on matters relevant to the M-KMA.
Allocation: 5,000
Expenditures: 800
Variance: 4,200
Comments: Fewer speakers and cost savings resulted in variance.

Project: Contingency and Promotional Needs

Allocation: 10,000
Expenditures: 0
Variance: 10,000
Comments: Not employed.

SUB-TOTAL: Allocation: 390,00 Expenditures: 356,623 Variance: 33,377

Government Integration Project

Project: Travel

Description: The Muskwa-Kechika Program Manager is the senior government manager tasked with focussing on ensuring that the M-KMA is a success. This requires extensive travel throughout the northeast, to Prince George, Vancouver and occasionally out of province.
Allocation: 35,000
Expenditures: 16,668
Variance: 18,332
Comments: Careful management of travel resulted in lower than expected expense.

Detailed M-K Trust Fund

Expenditures from Fiscal Year 2000-2001

Project: Office and Vehicle Support

Description: The Muskwa-Kechika Program Manager has an office based in the Beaton Building in Fort St. John - located close to other government staff.
Allocation: 24,600
Expenditures: 51,300
Variance: -26,700
Comments: Hiring of an assistant for one year, not originally budgeted for along with required one-time only expenditures to outfit the government office with furniture, computers and support materials resulted in higher expenditures.

SUB-TOTAL: Allocation: 145,000 **Expenditures:** 162,948 **Variance:** -17,948

Support For Planning

Project: Access Sensitivity- Mapping Methodology

Description: The intent of this project was to develop a methodology for assessing an area's sensitivity to access.
Allocation: 50,000
Expenditures: 41,514
Variance: 8,486
Comments: Three contracts were issued that address access sensitivity.

Project: M-KMA Data Organization System

Description: Continue to develop and maintain a M-KMA data organization system that allows for the effective collection, storage, analysis, communication and exchange of land and resource management information to support effective decision making within the M-KMA.
Allocation: 60,000
Expenditures: 60,000
Variance: 0
Comments: A number of co-op students were hired to assist in addressing M-KMA planning, management and project GIS needs.

Project: Planning Workbook for Redfern-Keily Park, Northern Rocky Mountains Park Management Planning & Wilderness Recreation Study.

Description: Three park projects were amalgamated together including the development of a planning workbook to assist in the Parks planning for Redfern-Keily Park; a wilderness recreation use study.
Allocation: 149,000
Expenditures: 149,000
Variance: 0
Comments: No unexpected developments.

Project: Recreation Management Plan

Description: This plan budget was originally overlooked in the initial budgeting but was accepted due to its legislated requirement and the great progress that had been made to date.
Allocation: 67,500
Expenditures: 14,343
Variance: 53,157
Comments: The Recreation Management Plan for the original 4.4 million ha of the M-KMA was completed at less expense than anticipated, and signed off by the Statutory Decision Makers.

SUB-TOTAL: Allocation: 326,500 **Expenditures:** 264,857 **Variance:** 61,643

Detailed M-K Trust Fund

Expenditures from Fiscal Year 2000-2001

Building an Information Base

Project: Muskwa-Kechika Small Mammals

Description: This seed funding proposal was to develop a database of small mammals records from the M-KMA, develop species distribution maps, determine species occurrence in ecosystems, and to identify inventory gaps and areas (or taxa) and recommend where future field research should be conducted.

Allocation: 13,059
Expenditures: 13,059
Variance: 0
Comments: Project carried out as agreed.

Project: Vegetation Mapping

Description: Continuing collaboration between the Ministry of Forests and BC Parks to jointly address range management issue within the M-KMA related to grazing pressures.

Allocation: 35,000
Expenditures: 32,292

Variance: 2,708

Comments: Final year of a two year project that was successfully completed.



photo courtesy BC PARKS

Project: Kaska Dena Northern Rockies Archaeological Project

Description: Funds were provided to complement funding support provided by the University of Calgary to undertake a comprehensive archaeological investigation that will result in creating an archaeological site location prediction model and to train members of the Kaska Nation in archaeological field and laboratory techniques.

Allocation: 60,000
Expenditures: 60,000
Variance: 0
Comments: Completed as agreed.

Project: Cave/Karst Resources in the Muskwa-Kechika

Description: The objectives of this project were to define potential study areas for further inventory of karst/cave resources; to detail inventory methods; to explore potential collaboration; and to provide background information on karst/cave development in the M-KMA.

Allocation: 9,045
Expenditures: 9,045
Variance: 0
Comments: Completed as agreed.

Project: Historical Fisheries Survey of the M-K

Description: Gather and synthesize historical fisheries activities within the M-KMA. Of particular interest was the chronology and magnitude of stocking of non-native fish stocks. Characterization of fish stocks within the M-KMA may have an impact on fisheries management strategies.

Allocation: 15,000
Expenditures: 12,177
Variance: 2,823
Comments: Project completed under budget through careful management and excellent deliverables from the contractor.

Project: M-K Overview Watershed and Reconnaissance Lake Inventory

Description: Undertake the reconnaissance lake surveys of five lakes, in order to support M-KMA planning, park planning and fisheries management and conservation.

Allocation: 30,000
Expenditures: 25,000
Variance: 5,000
Comments: Costs lower than expected.

Detailed M-K Trust Fund

Expenditures from Fiscal Year 2000-2001

Project: Overview Fish and Fish Inventory of Rabbit, Vents & Upper Toad Rivers' Watersheds

Description: Lower than requested funding resulted in a decision to focus in the Vents and Upper Toad Rivers.
Allocation: 55,000
Expenditures: 55,000
Variance: 0
Comments: Project completed as agreed.

Project: Stone's Sheep Parasites; Prevalence and Demography

Description: First year of a three year project. Project involved the collection and analysis of Stone's sheep scat for parasite composition and loading to determine normal parasite fauna levels and distribution.
Allocation: 30,850
Expenditures: 23,470
Variance: 7,381
Comments: Various efficiencies achieved in the project, including partnering with caribou research also funded by the Trust Fund.

Project: Tuchodi-Gatho-Kluachesi Trail Project

Description: 1st year of a three year project. Provide funds to enable the undertaking of an inventory of archaeological sites along a well-known pack trail, with the ultimate goal being improved management of the trail for recreational processes and associated heritage remains, and public release of the trail's history through an eventual booklet.
Allocation: 128,000
Expenditures: 90,422
Variance: 37,578
Comments: Late funding and start of field season led to project not being completed to the anticipated level but still representative of ultimate goal. Reduced work conducted led to savings.

Project: Sidenius Creek Archaeological Inventory Project

Description: Provide funding for a seed archaeological project of an area presently subject to heavy recreational use and increasing pressure from industrial (oil & gas) developments. Resulting database is needed for better timely management of potential conflicts between area users & wilderness and environmental values.
Allocation: 25,000
Expenditures: 16,655
Variance: 8,345
Comments: Potential mapping completed. Additional interviews could have been completed which led to cost savings.

SUB-TOTAL: Allocation: 400,954

Expenditures: 337,120

Variance: 63,835

Improving Management

Project: Enforcement Travel & Projects

Description: Growing awareness and use of the M-KMA has led to increased use and greater enforcement challenges with ongoing challenges with inadequate funding. The intention of this project was to conduct a number of patrols including horseback, aircraft, riverboat, ATV, Bull Trout Conservation Patrols, and snowmobile patrols.
Allocation: 85,408
Expenditures: 85,408
Variance: 0
Comments: Series of patrols carried out that resulted in increased Conservation Officer presence in the M-KMA and greater public awareness of enforcement measures and issues.

Detailed M-K Trust Fund

Expenditures from Fiscal Year 2000-2001



Project: Aboriginal Conservation Officer

Description: Funds were provided to enable the undertaking of continuing the development of implementation of the aboriginal conservation officer program. The objectives of the program are to provide opportunities for First Nations people to actively participate in the management and protection of the M-KMA and to receive training in this profession in anticipation of being able to obtain full time employment through the competitive hiring process.

Allocation: 63,400
Expenditures: 63,400
Variance: 0
Comments: Very successful program with an aboriginal Deputy Conservation Officer hired, and given an extensive series of training programs, participated in a range of operational activities and to make a series of public presentations.

Project: Tuchodi Riverboat Recreation Assessment

Description: Funds used to enable the undertaking of: recreation use survey to assess riverboat use; fish creel census to monitor the status of sport fish populations, particularly Bull Trout, along the Muskwa River watershed; a literature review to examine the issues of riverboat use on Bull Trout and their habitat; and the completion of twenty overview habitat inventory sites on the Tuchodi River Watershed to improve Bull Trout Management.

Allocation: 46,000
Expenditures: 46,000
Variance: 0
Comments: Project carried out to complete satisfaction. Additional funding given to contractor to continue on with Bull Trout monitoring in next fiscal year.



photo courtesy MWLAP

Project: M-KMA Barrel/Garbage/Camp Cleanup

Description: Third year of five year project. Funding provided to enable the undertaking of identification, collection, removal and disposal of abandoned fuel drums and associated hazardous products and wastes left in the M-KMA from historical activities such as mining, exploration and recreation. The project also incorporated the clean-up of abandoned and unsightly camps associated with these activities and historical resident use of the area.

Allocation: 100,000
Expenditures: 100,000
Variance: 0
Comments: Continued successful partnerships with aviation operators in the M-KMA and taking advantage of backhauls and volunteer labour in cleanup in seven sites along the Muskwa and Prophet River watersheds led to efficiencies and cost savings.

Project: Inventory and Assessment of Dispersed-Use Campsite and Range Use Sites

Description: This was the second year of a three year project.

Allocation: 75,000
Expenditures: 36,483
Variance: 38,517
Comments: Large number of sites assessed and mapped. Savings resulted from lack of time to undertake additional work.

Project: AMA Sign Maintenance

Description: Maintenance and replacement of missing Access Management Area signs for designated trails within the M-KMA.

Allocation: 10,750
Expenditures: 11,000
Variance: -250
Comments: Contractor completed work as agreed in demanding conditions.

Detailed M-K Trust Fund

Expenditures from Fiscal Year 2000-2001

Project: Trail Head Sign Maintenance

Description: This project was to move Tetsa Horse Trail sign and install Yedhe Creek sign.
Allocation: 8,500
Expenditures: 0
Variance: 8,500
Comments: Not completed due to time constraints.

SUB-TOTAL: Allocation: 389,058 Expenditures: 342,291 Variance: 46,767

Awareness and Involvement

Project: Muskwa-Kechika Interpretive Exhibit

Description: The funds were used to enable the undertaking of conducting the pre-design planning necessary to determine the required features and content of a world-class interpretive exhibit as part of a larger interpretive/information centre. There will be an examination of various options for format and media, including the provision of some basic concept options at different levels of funding.
Allocation: 25,000
Expenditures: 25,000
Variance: 0
Comments: Project completed as agreed.

Project: The M-K Millennium Wilderness Youth Program

Description: The Trust Fund's contribution is to provide funds to enable the undertaking of the provision of local and visiting youth with educational opportunities in a wilderness environment. Focus will be learning from and about the traditional people of the area, potential career options in land and resource management and raising the profile of the M-KMA and M-KMA plan.
Allocation: 193,887
Expenditures: 193,887
Variance: 0
Comments: The camp was carried out with a large number of participants, many of whom were from outside Canada.

Project: Outreach / Symposium - Advisory Board project

Description: This was a multi-task project, including the development of a communications plan, fund raising strategy, outreach displays (stand-alone display with panels), M-KMA Newsletters, M-KMA website, etc.
Allocation: 200,000
Expenditures: 170,721
Variance: 29,279
Comments: Most of the projects were completed. Savings resulted from work not being undertaken.

Project: Portal Construction

Description: Installation of the first portal sign indicating that travellers were entering the M-KMA.
Allocation: 50,000
Expenditures: 0
Variance: 50,000
Comments: Project not carried out due to time constraints and change in logo required design amendments.

Project: Directed request for Guide Training Proposal - Advisory Board stimulated

Description: Funding to enable the undertaking of the required research to complete a funding proposal for next fiscal year.
Allocation: 20,000

Detailed M-K Trust Fund

Expenditures from Fiscal Year 2000-2001

Project: Directed request for Guide Training Proposal - Advisory Board stimulated ~ continued

Expenditures: 20,000

Variance: 0

Comments: Work was not carried out due to delays in the project being implemented.

Project: Northern Rockies Gateway and Kaska Cultural Centre

Description: Funding to enable the undertaking of development of a 2,700+/-1 square foot log building to house a museum, visitor centre, archaeological displays, and resource management staff. Seed funding will be used to identify public and private funding partners and preliminary design work. Seed funds will also be used for development of a theme, detailed budget, location, advance approvals and ideas for cost effective maintenance.

Allocation: 20,000

Expenditures: 20,000

Variance: 0

Comments: Project carried out as agreed and report submitted.

SUB-TOTAL: Allocation: 508,887

Expenditures: 429,608

Variance: 79,279

Advancing Applied Science

Project: Assessment of Habitat Suitability Models for Managing Predator-Prey Ecosystems

Description: Funding to undertake a problem analysis and ultimately a proposal to evaluate the accuracy, reliability, and sensitivity of current wildlife habitat suitability models used to predict the potential impacts of human and industrial activities on individual species.

Allocation: 12,000

Expenditures: 12,000

Variance: 0

Comments: Project completed as agreed.

Project: Evaluating Animal Condition & Predator/Prey Interactions Indirectly

Description: Funding to enable the undertaking of a problem analysis of the benefits and limitations of using indirect measures to monitor animal condition and to quantify linkages between species (predator-prey relationships). From these findings, a proposal will be developed to assess the impacts of resource extraction on wildlife species in a localized area using appropriate indirect techniques.

Allocation: 12,000

Expenditures: 12,000

Variance: 0

Comments: Project completed as agreed.

Project: Caribou Habitat Use

Description: Funding to enable the undertaking of a second year of a two year project to conduct an inventory of radio-collared caribou on a biweekly basis to provide habitat use analysis for integrated management planning and completion of a habitat model for this species for development of the Muskwa-Kechika Wildlife Management Plan.

Allocation: 50,000

Expenditures: 50,000

Variance: 0

Comments: Project completed as agreed.

Project: Subalpine and Alpine Ecosystem Classification

Description: Funding to enable the undertaking of the development of a classification and description of site-level ecosystem units for the Spruce-Willow-Birch

Detailed M-K Trust Fund

Expenditures from Fiscal Year 2000-2001

Project: Subalpine and Alpine Ecosystem Classification ~ continued

(SWB) and Alpine Tundra (AT) zones of the M-KMA. The project involves the collection of field data for the study area that is accessible from the Alaska Highway and extends from Stone Mountain Park to Muncho Lake Park. A single report that is web-based and with a hyper-linked structure will be produced that will permit the report to be viewed at varying levels of complexity and detail.

Allocation: 50,000

Expenditures: 50,000

Variance: 0

Comments: Due to a lower level of funding being provided than requested, the project was amended to more accurately reflect the deliverables. Single report produced, reduced field time, reduction in geographic area analyzed. Project completed as agreed.

Project: Northern Muskwa-Kechika Caribou Study (Slocan/Madrone)

Description: Second year of a five year study. Funding to enable the establishment of baseline ecological information on one of the main caribou herds of the northern Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, to support future wildlife management and conservation objectives for the predator-prey systems in the northern part of the M-KMA.

Allocation: 100,000

Expenditures: 100,000

Variance: 0

Comments: Project completed as agreed. Note that this project also received additional funding from Forest Renewal British Columbia.

Project: Traditional Grizzly Inventory - Advisory Board solicited proposal to MELP

Description: Funding to enable the undertaking of an inventory of grizzly bears employing radio collaring.

Allocation: 105,000

Expenditures: 100,000

Variance: 5,000

Comments: Project completed as agreed.



photo courtesy MWLAP

SUB-TOTAL: Allocation: 329,000 Expenditures: 324,000 Variance: 5,000

Contingency and Trust Fund Total Expenditures

Allocation: 42,351 **Expenditures:** -2 **Variance:** 42,354 **Comments:** Trust fund did not exceed budget.

Five Strategic Funding Areas

Allocation: 1,996,750 **Expenditures:** 1,697,872 **Variance:** 298,878

Total Trust Fund Expenditures

Allocation: 2,531,750 **Expenditures:** 2,217,443 **Variance:** 314,307 **Comments:** Variance reflects Project Fund surplus at Fiscal Year end.

Trust Fund Projects - Resource Information

Results from the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund projects are accessible to the general public and interested parties, and where appropriate, are made part of the outreach programs of the Advisory Board to further the awareness of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area. Various reports and documentation may be housed in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Information Office. Although some information may be confidential or sensitive, most information can be made available.

Trust Fund Projects



Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund Historical Trends

	Fiscal Year 1998-1999	Fiscal Year 1999-2000	Fiscal Year 2000-2001
Building an Information Base			
Amount allocated ('000s)	170	277	401
Percentage of Project Funding	9	15.9	21.1
Number of Projects	2	5	10
Supporting Planning			
Amount allocated ('000s)	509	269	259
Percentage of Project Funding	26	15.4	13.6
Number of Projects	10	6	3
Improving Management			
Amount allocated ('000s)	200	478	370
Percentage of Project Funding	10	27.3	19.4
Number of Projects	1	6	5
Advancing Applied Science			
Amount allocated ('000s)	950	117	324
Percentage of Project Funding	48	6.7	17
Number of Projects	2	8	6
Promoting Awareness and Involvement			
Amount allocated ('000s)	153	560	509
Percentage of Project Funding	8	32	26.7
Number of Projects	4	10	5

Summary Explanation

Amounts allocated for each Strategic Funding Area reflect an ongoing response to M-KMA related management and planning challenges as well as opportunities that present themselves through partnerships and funding.

Looking Ahead - Reaching a Balance

The M-K Advisory Board recognizes the importance of environmentally responsible economic development and is working to facilitate this by partnering with industry, communities and government to achieve sustainable resource management.

For example, the M-K Advisory Board is committed to continue working with industry and government to deliver strategic land use plans for the M-KMA that are scientifically based and lead to results-based planning. The Advisory Board is strongly supportive of sustainable development of the area's natural resources and seeks to generate economic opportunities while maintaining environmental values.

In the next fiscal year, the M-K Advisory Board will work with government to expedite and facilitate the completion of five planning processes required for the M-KMA. The Besa-Prophet Pre-Tenure Plan is expected to be complete by the end of the next fiscal year. The Advisory Board will continue to monitor and report on the local strategic plans and provide advice on the processes to industry and government in order to complete this plan on time.



Looking Ahead

Reaching A Balance

The M-K Advisory Board will work closely with government to facilitate the processing in crown land applications. The Advisory Board will assist government towards achieving a more efficient and effective tenure approvals and greater access to crown land and resources to protect and create jobs in tourism, guide outfitting, mining, farming, ranging, and oil and gas production. In addition, the Advisory Board will encourage the forestry industry to enhance long-term forestry management and planning.

The M-K Advisory Board plans to identify and address global issues for the entire M-KMA, including but not limited to cumulative effects, carrying capacity and adaptive management.

During the next fiscal year, the Advisory Board will review all completed M-K Trust Fund projects to determine their results and provide future direction that is relevant to issues and planning concerns, especially pre-tenure planning.

The M-K Advisory Board has had tremendous success working collaboratively with the Peace Managers and the Peace Managers Oil and Gas Committee, specifically in the development of variance processes and the monitoring of other developments in the M-KMA regarding pre-tenure planning. In addition, several Advisory Board members are involved in the Besa-Prophet Pre-Tenure Planning process.

The Advisory Board will continue to refine their draft report Recommendations from the M-K Advisory Board on Pre-Tenure Planning and Best Practices for Oil and Gas Development in the M-KMA. The new fiscal year will include addressing adaptive management cumulative effects and further work on the variance process. In addition, the Advisory Board will also review the outcomes of the feasibility study on heli-supported well drilling operations in the M-KMA.

The M-K Trust Funds will help identify gaps in baseline data required for the management of wildlife in the M-KMA. The Advisory Board will continue to fund projects such as Conservation Area Design (CAD), wildlife management planning, and recreation management planning for the Mackenzie addition to the M-KMA, in order to develop state-of-the-art modeling and management tools for wilderness, wildlife and habitat management.

The M-K Advisory Board encourages innovation in the development of best practices for integrated management and industrial development in the M-KMA that address cumulative effects, carrying capacity issues, and demonstrates adaptive management, and to facilitate the widespread employment of these practices across the area by March 31, 2006.

Through the five land use workshops, scheduled for 2002 to 2003, the M-K Advisory Board plans to showcase innovation by working collaboratively with agencies, development proponents and other affected parties, to encourage progressive improvement in the use of best practices for development activities within the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

The M-KMA is truly globally unique, not only in terms of its wildlife, biodiversity and wilderness values, but also in the management intent of the area. The M-KMA is not a park, but does contain a number of parks within the area as a whole. The challenge lies in balancing the maintenance of wilderness and wilderness values in perpetuity, while facilitating environmentally responsible economic development throughout 75 percent of the area in Special Management Zones and commercial recreation in the parks.

The M-K Advisory Board has accepted these challenges and is committed to championing the balance that is required for the entire area.



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