

Section Three

Managing with the Island Community



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Introduction

The intent of this section is to describe the ways in which the Island community has involvement in the implementation of this management plan for Naikoon. The Island community means the collective residents of all the communities on the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii or, as some like to call it, the archipelago.

There are two parts to this section. Firstly, the relationship with the collective Island community is discussed. Secondly, the relationship with the Haida is discussed since this has specific implications relating to cooperative agreements.

Relationship with the Island Community

The Island community, both Haida and non-Haida citizens, consider Naikoon to be extremely important to their lifestyle. Although the numbers of tourist visiting Naikoon are significant and increasing annually, year-round use of Naikoon by Island residents contributes to the highest proportion of visitor numbers.

While Naikoon is managed for conserving and enjoying special values of interest to British Columbians, management must also be compatible with the Island community's uses and interests in Naikoon. This community must play an integral role in the stewardship of Naikoon by continuing to use it wisely, providing informed knowledge and

remaining diligent to the activities of those less informed.

Naikoon provides a role in fostering links between BC Parks and the Island community. BC Parks will benefit from the advice and expert local knowledge found among residents interested in the on-going management of Naikoon.

Objective

- To foster a cooperative relationship between BC Parks and the Island community in the stewardship and use of Naikoon.

Actions

- Coordinate the establishment of a local advisory group (e.g. "Naikoon Advisory Committee") comprising volunteers from local communities and representing a variety of interests to assist in the on-going stewardship of Naikoon. The intent of forming this group is to develop and maintain strong links between BC Parks and the Island community. The group of volunteers can assist in such ways as: alerting BC Parks of upcoming issues; providing local expertise, knowledge, and perspectives on planned management initiatives; and, assisting in the development of interpretation and communication strategies. The group can have a significant effect on the success of education campaigns about wise use of Naikoon and protection of important values and features.
- Recognize the Tlell Fall Fair as a significant event of which Naikoon can play an important role. The traditional area of Naikoon used annually for the

fair will continue to be provided and BC Parks will work cooperatively with the Graham Island Farmers Institute towards the continued success of the fair. The institute will have first priority in terms of scheduling for the Tlell Fall Fair. BC Parks will investigate proposals for cooperatively developed structures that will benefit community interests and BC Parks.

- Provide periodic updates to the public about on-going management initiatives, special projects, or interesting information relating to Naikoon. This can be done either through the use of local media sources or by prepared newsletters. The intent is to keep the Island community informed about the year to year management of Naikoon. An advisory group for Naikoon can play a significant role in this initiative.

Relationship with the Haida

For the purposes of this management plan, the Haida or Haida Nation is understood to consist of three essential councils. There are two Village or Band Councils which are mandated by their respective communities to attend the needs of infrastructure and administration responsibilities. The Council of the Haida Nation is mandated by all persons of Haida ancestry, the citizens, to undertake the protection of all ancestral homelands of the Haida Nation, called Haida Gwaii. This Council represents the interests of the Nation on land and sea related issues with special references to resolving the outstanding title dispute with Canada and British Columbia.

There is a need to develop and maintain a good understanding and working relationship

between BC Parks and the Haida to cooperatively work towards the stewardship of Naikoon. To accomplish this goal BC Parks will seek cooperative management arrangements with the Haida. Developing and maintaining a good understanding and working relationship between BC Parks and the Haida, encourages cooperation towards the stewardship of Naikoon. Solid lines of communication foster sensitivity towards each other's interests and will build trust. The participation of the Haida in the preparation of this plan is one example where cooperation has been beneficial.

Objective

To develop long-term, cooperative arrangements with the Haida concerning the planning, management, and operation of Naikoon.

Actions

- Develop cooperative management arrangements with the Haida concerning the planning, management and operation of Naikoon. Where formal agreements are not in place, maintain communication links with Haida councils.
- Acknowledge historic and contemporary living cultural activities in Naikoon, such as hunting, food gathering and access to village sites.
- Ensure that BC Parks has support from the Haida prior to preparing, releasing, or displaying any information relating to Haida culture or history.
- Develop ways with the Haida to incorporate Haida language and cultural

symbols in interpretive and other kinds of information about Naikoon.

- Ensure that when information about staff hiring for Naikoon is sent out, that such information is also available to Haida communities.