

# **Section Five**

## **Natural and Cultural Values Management**

# Protecting Natural and Cultural Values

## Introduction

Naikoon was designated by the provincial government in 1973 to conserve over 100 kilometres of beaches and a large area of the Queen Charlotte Lowland Ecoregion comprising sand dunes, bogs, wetlands, and coastal temperate rainforest. The central principle in managing the 72,641 hectares of Naikoon is to conserve the natural and cultural environment, ecosystems and wilderness character while managing for compatible outdoor recreation activities. This section of the management plan builds on this central principle by outlining objectives and management actions to provide general guidance on how resources and features should be managed and identifying priorities for undertaking detailed management plans. There are three important themes within this section:

1. Activities in Naikoon need to be compatible with objectives to conserve the natural and cultural values;
2. Management will balance the interests of human use in harmony with the interests of conservation; and,
3. More information on Naikoon's natural and cultural values is needed to better understand and identify priorities for management and protection.

# Land and Resource Tenures

There are 22 parcels (35 lots) of private property within the boundaries of Naikoon (see Figure 6). BC Parks may purchase private inholdings when they become available for sale. Purchase is dependent, however, on the availability of government land acquisition funds and if the purchase serves the public interest.

There are no means of controlling or limiting development on private lands except through Regional District zoning. The *Park Act* does not allow roads to be built across park land to provide access to these lots.

Most lots are used for residential purposes or are vacant. A private lot within Naikoon's boundaries holds the Tlell Cemetery and a couple of lots along Tow Hill Road are used for commercial establishments such as bed and breakfasts.

Timber values have increased substantially over the past few years and certain individual land owners are interested in logging. However, in most cases the land is surrounded by Naikoon and the *Park Act* prohibits road access to the properties. Purchase of these properties is becoming unlikely because of the high timber values and so other strategies to acquire property are being investigated. In one case, BC Parks is interested in exchanging a private inholding with high timber values with land of comparable value outside of Naikoon. This strategy is difficult because of the shortage of Crown land and will likely only be viable in rare cases. Other strategies are needed to deal with this on-going issue.

*See Figure 6 in the Naikoon Map Folio*

*See Figure 7 in the Naikoon Map Folio*

*See Figure 8 in the Naikoon Map Folio*

There are also part-time residents and other private developments in Naikoon that are under a Park Use Permit where the land is not privately owned but rather leased from the Crown. The Park Use Permits are renewed as long as the terms and conditions of the permit are adhered to.

The two Old Masset “Indian Reserves”<sup>4</sup> within are both located off the Tow Hill Road. The Hiellen “Reserve” is located at the end of the road and the Yakan Point “Reserve” is just east of Yakan Point. Several homes have been built on Yakan Point.

There are two road rights-of-way within Naikoon that are maintained by BC Highways. These include portions of the Tow Hill Road and the entire length of Beitush Road. The roads are narrow and the Tow Hill Road is subject to periodic flooding. Debate continues about upgrading the roads versus retaining their picturesque character. BC Parks continues to encourage road maintenance and upgrading that has minimal effect on the scenic qualities of the roadway.

Angling guide licences are issued annually by BC Environment and Park Use Permits are also required for licences issued for Naikoon. There are currently no Park Use Permits for this commercial activity. There are also no guided hunting territories covering Naikoon.

BC Parks issues Park Use Permits for trapline tenures that were established before the designation of Naikoon. A section of one trapline within Naikoon was purchased by BC Parks in September 1993. There is a

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<sup>4</sup> The Haida consider “Indian Reserves” to be administrative boundaries and have not been party to their designation. The reserves do not reflect the Haida’s assertions of ownership over Haida Gwaii.

trapline in the Tlell area but has not been active and is not under Park Use Permit. BC Parks has a general policy of acquiring traplines if owners wish to sell and funds are available to purchase. Aboriginal rights to trap, as with other traditional activities, are honoured in Naikoon.

## **Actions**

- Attempt to negotiate the purchase of private inholdings as they are available for sale and BC Parks has available funds. Properties are considered for acquisition if they: 1) are planned to be developed for private, commercial or industrial uses; 2) have high conservation values; 3) have high recreation values; and, 4) the purchase would demonstrate efficient use of acquisition funds.
- Examine areas of Naikoon with low conservation and recreation values which may be considered for removal from Naikoon for the purpose of land exchanges for inholdings of high conservation and recreation values.

## **Rose Spit and Tow Hill Ecological Reserves**

Ecological reserves are areas set aside to protect representative and special natural ecosystems, plant and animal species, features and phenomena. The principal uses of ecological reserves are for scientific research and educational purposes. They are not established or developed for recreation use. The two ecological reserves were designated under the *Ecological Reserve Act* and are not considered part of Naikoon as they are legally separate entities. However, it is important to consider them in the management of Naikoon. Both ecological

reserves at Naikoon were designated by the provincial government in 1971 (Figure 9).

The Tow Hill Ecological Reserve, situated to the west of Yakan Point, is 514 hectares. It protects a broad expanse of hard sand beach, a wide foreshore, a backshore of dunes and ancient beaches, and low elevation bogs and old-growth forests in its interior. The Tow Hill Road bisects the reserve.

The 170 hectare Rose Spit Ecological Reserve protects unique plant communities and rare plants associated with dunes, coastal coniferous forests and bogs. A rare (blue listed) plant, the sea bluebell (*Mertensia maritima*) is in the reserve. There is also important bird habitat and other wildlife habitats. A narrow corridor is currently identified through the reserve to allow vehicles to travel between North Beach and South Beach. Vehicle traffic is not allowed under the *Ecological Reserve Act* and, therefore, this is an issue. Because of the importance of vehicle use to the local residents, it has been important to allow access while at the same time protecting the reserve's important values. For the most part, vehicle users are respectful and they stay within the identified corridor.

Both of the Ecological Reserves are important Haida sites and will be managed in terms of their cultural values as well as their ecological values. An important Haida village site was located at Rose Spit (Naii Kun - House Point) until near the end of the last century, by which time epidemics had lead to the abandonment of the village.

Separate detailed management plans are required for the ecological reserves in order to provide specific strategies for protecting their important ecological, historical, and cultural features and values and for

undertaking research, monitoring, and studies. A higher priority is placed on preparing a plan for the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve since it is affected by recreational use more than the Tow Hill reserve.

Ecological reserve management plans will be prepared in cooperation with the Haida. In the interim, prior to these plans being prepared, this management plan provides general guidance for their management. This management plan and the two ecological reserve management plans will be compatible.

## Objectives

- To ensure the ecological reserves are the best sites and are managed to satisfy the *Ecological Reserve Act*.
- To ensure the objectives of this management plan complement the protection of the Tow Hill and Rose Spit ecological reserves.

## Actions

- Evaluate Naikoon to determine if there is a more appropriate site to represent the same features found within the Tow Hill Ecological Reserve. The current reserve site is bisected by a road and is affected by recreation use. Another site is an option since this reserve is representative of habitat found elsewhere in Naikoon.

*See Figure 9 in the Naikoon Map Folio*

- Remove the historic access corridor from Rose Spit Ecological Reserve, while ensuring that the corridor remains part of Naikoon Park. Once part of Naikoon Park, designate the historic corridor for vehicle access. BC Parks will work with the local volunteer group (see Relationship With Local Residents section) and the four-wheel drive club to develop strategies to ensure people keep to the defined route in order to avoid damaging sensitive habitat and dune vegetation communities.
  - ◇ establishing exclosures to monitor natural regeneration of damaged sites.
  - ⇒ Identify and rank strategies for dealing with non-intended uses that may be affecting the reserves.
  - ⇒ In cooperation with the Haida, document cultural and historical values of the ecological reserves.
- BC Parks will inform the public of the intent of Ecological Reserves and that they are not intended for recreational use.
- Manage important and sensitive sites with a high degree of interest for protection as described in the Vegetation, Wildlife, and Physiography sections of this plan.
- Prepare, in cooperation with the Haida and with involvement of the local volunteer group, management plans for Rose Spit and Tow Hill Ecological Reserves. The management plans provide long-term management strategies to ensure the cultural and ecological integrity of the reserves. The plans will deal with the following:
  - ⇒ Identify research and study priorities including:
    - ◇ possible effects introduced species are having on native species;
    - ◇ establishing sample plots to monitor long-term changes in dune and upland vegetation;
    - ◇ inventory of vegetation and wildlife; and,

## Water

Naikoon has numerous freshwater and estuarine features and contains the entire watersheds of the Cape Ball, Oeanda, and Hiellen rivers. Mayer Lake is also within Naikoon as are a number of small lakes, and thousands of shallow bog pools. The water resources are important components of Naikoon's ecosystems and also enhances recreation opportunities.

The low relief of the interior of Naikoon means that there is little definition between watersheds. Some watersheds have been altered by introduced beaver and some streams which formerly drained east now drain to the north.

Freshwater waterways such as the Tlell and Skonun Rivers and Drizzle and Otter Creeks flow into Naikoon. This means that activities along these waterways that affect water quality or quantity can affect water resources within Naikoon.

Over half of Naikoon's boundary parallels the high tide line, extending 660 feet from that line into the waters of Dixon Entrance and Hecate Strait. Other interfaces with marine waters occur at river and stream outlets into the ocean, such as the Tlell

River. In these areas estuarine environments are created.

## Objective

- To maintain the natural quantity and quality of the water resources and their associated ecological processes in Naikoon

## Actions

- If feasible, undertake a study to determine how beaver are affecting waterways and their associated ecosystems (see Wildlife Management Section).
- Ensure that sanitary facilities are properly designed and located.
- Work cooperatively with forest companies, the Haida Forestry Branch, and the Ministry of Forests to minimize negative effects from logging on water resources flowing into Naikoon from adjacent areas.

## Vegetation

Vegetation contributes to wildlife habitat and also to Naikoon's visual and recreation values. Naikoon is entirely within the wet hypermaritime subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock Biogeoclimatic Zone and within the Queen Charlotte Lowlands Ecosection.

Much of the interior of Naikoon is a continuous series of raised bogs interspersed with swamp and bog forest communities. Along the sandy shoreline there is a distinctive forest community affected by salt spray and dominated by Sitka spruce. Closed

canopy climax western hemlock forests make up a relatively small proportion of Naikoon's area although good examples of the majestic moss and lichen festooned coastal temperate rainforest do occur. Forests dominated by alluvial Sitka spruce occur as ribbons along the major stream channels.

A Vegetation and Biodiversity Assessment report for Naikoon, prepared in 1992, identified significant vegetation features. The report describes the role played by wind and fire disturbances in influencing the natural character of the forests. Certain forest types seldom develop to old age due to wind disturbances. Fire, because of the wetness of much of the area, has largely been confined to the western hemlock, western redcedar, and Sitka spruce stands in the southern areas of Naikoon.

Human history has and continues to affect Naikoon's forests. Clearing, drainage ditches, cleared property lines, and old trails from early colonial settlement are still evident. The introduction of plants and plant pests also raises implications for indigenous fauna. The possibility that vehicles traveling to the Island has or will introduce pest species into the terrestrial or marine portions of Naikoon requires specific planning attention. European Millfoil is an example from other parts of the province where there are serious impacts of vegetation weed species on indigenous plant communities and recreation opportunities.

The meadows and clearings in the Tlell area of Naikoon are a direct result of the long history of grazing which occurred until as recently as 1988, when changes to the highway status ended free ranging of cattle and horses in Tlell. Much of this formerly grazed area is reverting back to Sitka spruce forests.

## Objectives

- To manage for current vegetation patterns and habitat for native species while information is being gathered about disturbance regimes and effects of introduced species.
- To increase knowledge about disturbance regimes, the presence of rare species, vegetation communities, and effects of introduced species.
- To protect rare, endangered or sensitive plant communities and species as they are identified while discouraging the establishment of non-native vegetation.
- To encourage public appreciation and scientific research of dune vegetation, old growth forests, and wetland vegetation.
- To maintain a portion of the meadows in the Tlell area for habitat diversity, cultural values, and recreation.

## Actions

- Control major fire and insect infestations that threaten rare and unique vegetation communities, commercial forests or developments outside of Naikoon, or facilities. As guided by current policy, all fires will be subject to initial attack either by Ministry of Forests or BC Parks. Once the likely effects of the fire are assessed (based upon such information as its intensity, the current environmental conditions, and its likely path and range) a decision is made whether or not to allow the fire to run its natural course. This applies to the Wilderness Recreation Zone. Within other zones, all fires will be suppressed. Insect infestations that could

lead to epidemic proportions and threaten important resources outside Naikoon will be controlled using low impact, site specific methods. A management plan (see 3rd action statement) will define fire management strategies.

- Allow natural dune processes and vegetation patterns to continue with minimal disturbance from recreation use. Public education and awareness and local cooperation will be key for this success. This is particularly important for the dunes within the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve.
- Prepare a vegetation management plan that will identify specific management strategies relying on current vegetation mapping. As part of the vegetation management plan, a fire management plan will be prepared that will indicate specific circumstances and locations for which wildfires may be suppressed. The plan will consider objectives and strategies for conserving vegetation patterns and rare species, natural fire regimes, public safety, forest resources around Naikoon, and the protection of facilities. The vegetation management plan will identify strategies for protecting rare and sensitive species and will link into forest ecosystems adjacent to Naikoon. As well, the plan will identify possible strategies for protecting those features and natural processes that could be altered by introduced species. The plan will also deal with controlling introduced broom (*Cytisus Scoparius*) along Naikoon's roadsides, open areas, and where seed sources may spread. The control of broom in the Misty Meadows, Tlell area will continue to be a priority.

- Monitor and study dune forest vegetation to determine the effects of grazing and recreation use. Methods may include permanent sample plots with regular photographic documentation and sampling and construction of experimental exclosures. Sites within the ecological reserves are a high priority for this type of study.
- Maintain close communication with forest operators adjacent to Naikoon in terms of how their operations might affect Naikoon's forests in the boundary areas.
- Maintain open meadow patches, as funding is available, in a portion (less than two hectares) of the Misty Meadows area and the Tlell Fall Fair area in order to maintain habitat diversity as well as recreation and cultural values. This "interference" in a forest succession is compatible with the objectives for the campground-day use area covered by the Intensive Recreation Zone. Most of the Misty Meadows area would be allowed to revert back to forest cover.
- Retain snags for wildlife habitat except for situations within the Intensive Recreation Zone where there is a serious threat to visitors, or Naikoon's facilities. Tree snags may be removed in any area of Naikoon for the safety of staff as directed by the Workers Compensation Board.
- Communicate to appropriate authorities of concerns about the potential risks associated with introducing species to the Island and the need for public awareness and strategic planning to deal with this issue.

## Wildlife

The Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii are home to ten known naturally occurring mammals including river otter, black bear, pine marten, weasel, deer mouse, dusky shrew, and four species of bat. Through wildlife surveys in Naikoon are limited it is believed that Naikoon provides habitat suitable for all ten of the native mammal species.

Many of the endemic species are distinct subspecies of the islands. One example, the Haida weasel, is listed as a "vulnerable" species and little is known of its population density, habitat requirements or breeding biology.

There are numerous species introduced to the islands that occur in Naikoon. These include black-tailed deer, beaver, raccoon, muskrat, red squirrel, rats, and feral dogs, cats, and cattle. Virtually all of these introduced species have affected the natural ecosystems of Naikoon, perhaps the most serious being the beaver, raccoon, and the deer. Beaver are changing the direction and hydrology of streams with their dams, and affecting spawning grounds and nesting sites along riparian zones. The deer are changing the composition of the understorey vegetation by eliminating shrubs and forbs and by browsing on cedar seedlings while leaving other species to mature. It is not known to what extent the raccoon and squirrel are affecting the bird populations through nest predation or other activities. Feral cattle also roam Naikoon and may be contributing to changes in natural vegetation patterns, particularly along coastal upland areas.

Naikoon provides important habitat for over 170 species of birds of which 46 species

breed within the area. The sand, gravel and boulder beaches, associated driftwood zones and grassy meadows, dunes rock formations, river estuaries, bogs, lakes and old-growth forest in Naikoon invite a diversity of species that is unusual within such a relatively small area. The area plays an important role in providing habitat for migratory birds and significant nesting sites for Plover and shorebirds and is an important wintering area for Sanderling. Some of these important nesting sites are also attractive for recreation and some sites can be affected. Naikoon has a particularly important conservation role in providing habitat for one of the largest breeding populations of Greater Sandhill Crane and potential for the Marbled Murrelet which is designated as a threatened species by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Naikoon does not directly protect marine mammal habitat except for haul-outs in the Rose Spit-Naii Kun area for seals and sea lions. The off-shore areas outside Naikoon do, however, provide feeding areas for whales. There are just a few locations along the shore where rocky outcrops provide intertidal pool habitat for marine invertebrates. Sand beaches are rich in life forms including worms, isopods, shrimp, snails, and clams. The Western toad is found within Naikoon.

## Objectives

- To conserve rare, endangered, sensitive or vulnerable species.
- To conserve natural populations of endemic wildlife species.
- To increase knowledge, understanding, and management capabilities relating to wildlife resources, habitat and effects from introduced species and feral cattle.

- To encourage scientific research of native wildlife species associated with old growth and wetlands and related to critical habitat for migratory birds.
- To provide opportunities for viewing and interpretation of wildlife species that will not be negatively affected by such activities.
- To provide regulated hunting for specified introduced species.

## Actions

- Use available vegetation mapping (completed in 1992) to prepare habitat suitability and capability mapping<sup>5</sup> for: 1) naturally occurring wildlife species that are threatened, rare or sensitive; and, 2) introduced species that may affect natural processes and populations. This project will indicate the types of wildlife habitat that is available, or potentially available, but does not indicate the actual presence of wildlife species.
- Use the habitat suitability and capability mapping information to undertake an inventory of species. The highest priorities for inventory work are: 1) native species that are most threatened, rare, or sensitive; and, 2) introduced species that threaten natural ecological processes or populations.

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<sup>5</sup> Habitat suitability mapping identifies the current state of habitat availability to a particular wildlife species. Habitat capability mapping identifies the type of habitat that could potentially be available to particular wildlife species given the optimum conditions or the optimum successional stage. Each of these mapping techniques considers physiography, climate, and soil conditions.

- Develop a wildlife management plan which describes species-specific management strategies with reference to the vegetation management plan. The highest priority is to develop beaver management strategies because of their effect on salmonid habitat. A beaver management project will define experimental strategies and implement them on a trial basis to determine their success. Information from this project will help define beaver management strategies. BC Parks will seek support and cooperation for this project from the Haida Fisheries Branch, the Haida Forestry Branch, Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Fish and Wildlife Branch.

Other priorities to be covered by the wildlife management plan include developing management strategies for raccoons and deer and providing management strategies for protecting important, rare or sensitive habitats identified through the habitat suitability and capability evaluation project.

- Ensure important habitat, such as nesting sites, are protected through public education, regulations and enforcement. Particular attention will be given to the habitat within the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve.
- Continue to work with the Fish and Wildlife Branch in managing hunting opportunities in Naikoon for specific introduced species as identified in the regulations.
- Contact western universities about their possible interests for research in Naikoon. The intent is to encourage research related to the conservation and

monitoring of natural features and processes in Naikoon. BC Parks will support the proprietary aspects of intellectual knowledge at all times and will ensure that any institutions welcomed into Naikoon by BC Parks respect this as well.

- Retain snags for wildlife habitat except for situations within the Intensive Recreation Zone where there is a serious threat to visitors, or Naikoon's facilities. Tree snags may be removed in any area of Naikoon for safety of staff as directed by the Workers Compensation Board.

## Fish and Shellfish

In the freshwater lakes, rivers, and streams of Naikoon, eleven species of fish are known to occur. As well, there are three salmon species that run within the six major rivers within Naikoon. Adult steelhead trout migrate into the major rivers from December to April and Dolly Varden char are widespread in the lakes and streams in Naikoon. The Oeanda, Cape Ball, and Mayer rivers are particularly important for coho production. Three species of sculpin and sticklebacks are also within Naikoon. Sport fishing is allowed in Naikoon and, other than restrictions on guiding, there are no special restrictions in place. The Tlell River is the most popular fishing area and peaks during the September runs of coho. The Sangan, Hiellen, Mayer, and Cape Ball Rivers are also fished for coho and steelhead. Some fishing occurs for cutthroat trout on Mayer Lake.

Although much of the large razor clam beds occur outside of Naikoon's boundaries, some razor clam beds occur in a number of Naikoon's beaches, primarily in the northeastern beaches. Clam digging for

recreation and sustenance occurs within Naikoon, and commercial clam digging largely occurs outside of Naikoon's boundaries. Most of the clam digging is done by Haida citizens. Experienced clam diggers have noticed downward trends in clam populations and size although the causes have not been demonstrably established. The clam diggers make associations between the winter "blow ups" and the downward trends.

## Objectives

- To maintain the current natural diversity and productivity of fish and shellfish species in Naikoon.
- To maintain natural fish and shellfish habitat and, where possible, restore damaged habitat.
- To provide angling opportunities for visitors to Naikoon without jeopardizing natural fish populations.

## Actions

- Undertake, with cooperation and support from the Haida Fisheries Branch, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Fish and Wildlife Branch, a fisheries assessment for specified rivers in Naikoon. This assessment will be used to determine spawning and escapement numbers and this information will be used in preparing a fisheries management plan. It is unrealistic to expect that all rivers will be assessed. Therefore, rivers will need to be ranked to determine which have fish populations most at risk. Ranking will consider factors affecting the fishery, including: 1) effects from human fisheries; 2) effects from beaver

activity, and; 3) water quality and spawning capability.

- Prepare a fishery management plan in conjunction with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Provincial Fish and Wildlife Branch. The plan will assess current angling harvest numbers and determine acceptable quotas. The plan will also outline priorities for studies including the on-going monitoring of clam beds and stream rehabilitation and fisheries enhancement for streams damaged by beaver activity.
- Monitor and regulate angling in conjunction with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Fish and Wildlife Branch to ensure that natural fish populations are maintained.
- Work in cooperation with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii Freshwater Sport Fishery Advisory Board (S.F.A.B.), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Fish and Wildlife Branch to deal with on-going issues relating to angling.
- Work with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii S.F.A.B., the Tlell Watershed Society, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Fish and Wildlife Branch to ensure that the current Class 2 classification for the Tlell River is maintained.
- Maintain freshwater fisheries within the Wilderness Recreation Zone with methods other than stocking. Since salmonid populations may be threatened by beaver activities, habitat enhancement

to return habitat to natural conditions and stocking of salmonid species may be considered for any zone within Naikoon.

- Monitor the effects on clam beds caused by vehicle users travelling Naikoon's beaches below the natural tide line.

## Physiography

Naikoon is known for its beaches and sand dunes. Other physiographic features such as the Tow Hill columnar basalt outcrop, erosion cliffs along East Beach, and the ancient dunes within the interior of Naikoon are interesting physiographic features.

The area in the vicinity of Cape Ball is considered to be the earliest known post-glacial site on British Columbia's coast. Scientists are suggesting that the area may have been a post glacial refugia dating as far back as 16,000 years.

Naikoon's physiography contributes to the diversity of wildlife habitats and contributes to scenic qualities. As well, these features are available for interpretation and education and they also enhance recreation activities.

## Objectives

- To increase public awareness about special physiographic features within Naikoon.
- To ensure that educational, interpretative and recreation activities do not significantly affect physiographic features and are keeping with other conservation objectives for Naikoon.

## Actions

- Provide information in the frontcountry (Intensive Recreation Zone) explaining physiographic processes such as those relating to formations of dunes and of Rose Spit-Naii Kun.
- Minimize human interference in natural physiographic processes such as dune formation, stabilization and "blow-outs". This will be achieved through public education, cooperative efforts with local resident groups, enforcement of *Park Act Regulations*, and enclosures if necessary. Particular attention will be given to the dune formations within the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve.

## Visual Features

The natural scenery of Naikoon is important to the visitor's experience. Views from the beaches, along trails through the old-growth forests, overlooking the bogs, and from atop Tow Hill all provide different scenic perspectives.

Natural views can be affected by both public facility development within Naikoon, as well as by private property development. Most of the residential developments occur in areas associated with the Intensive Recreation Zone of Naikoon. In other zones, however, most surveyed lands remain in an undeveloped state and the natural views are largely unaffected.

The Tow Hill Road provides a scenic approach to the Tow Hill area of Naikoon. The road is narrow and winds through an old growth forest with moss festooned branches overhanging the roadway. Thus, the road provides people with a unique visual

experience. Most of Tow Hill Road is under the Ministry of Highway's jurisdiction and they have had plans to widen and upgrade the road for safety and maintenance reasons. These plans could affect the unique character of the road.

## Objective

- To minimize unnatural changes to the scenery of Naikoon.

## Actions

- Work with the Ministry of Highways to ensure that, as roads in Naikoon are maintained or improved, the scenic character of the roads is retained.
- In conjunction with BC Parks' priorities for the purchase of inholdings, consideration will be given to how private developments on inholdings could affect the natural scenic values of Naikoon.

## Outdoor Recreation Features

Naikoon has a number of natural features that provide for a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. Beaches are the primary recreation feature, providing a range of opportunities from easily accessible day use family opportunities to extended backpacking opportunities for experienced outdoors people. The old growth forests provide an alternative environment for hiking and nature interpretation. Tow Hill provides a spectacular view of the northern portion of Naikoon including examples of interior wetlands.

## Objective

- To ensure that recreation, facility development, and use is compatible with outdoor recreation features and in keeping with conservation objectives for Naikoon's values and is compatible with Haida values and interests.

## Actions

- Manage recreation use in conjunction with Naikoon's zoning so that outdoor recreation features and natural resources will be minimally affected.
- Develop strategies to minimize effects from recreation use on sand dunes and beach areas. (See Outdoor Recreation Section)

## Cultural and Historical Values

Cultural values have numerous aspects and these values may not always be readily apparent to Naikoon's visitors. There may be connections to specific sites where historical events occurred, to artifacts that may still be visible, to events that have occurred and continue to influence a community's life, to influences that the area may have on cultural characteristics, and to the way an area is used. There are important values associated with Naikoon for cultural identities, specifically Haida and Canadian.

Naikoon is steeped in historic and contemporary cultural values for the Haida. They have established village names in Naikoon. For this culture that places much importance on generational legacies, Naii

Kunn (Rose Spit) and Tow Hill figure importantly in the physical and intellectual map of the Haida. Many of the historic activities such as harvesting and processing, that were important in the lives of previous generations are still carried out today in Naikoon. In some cases the technology has changed somewhat but the experience and knowledge that permits the activity is maintained in full character.

Naikoon and the management of human activities will affirm the importance of the harmonious relationship with institutions and the Haida citizens. Current and evolving cultural activities are a part of a dynamic and living culture and this will be reflected in the management of Naikoon.

Naikoon also has historical values associated with colonial settlement of the Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii. Colonialists first attempted to homestead the interior lands of Naikoon at the turn of the century. Remnants of their efforts to subdue the great wetlands are the abandoned trails, wooden railways, ditches, and fences. Much of the evidence of this early settlement is becoming overgrown and reclaimed by nature and most people have not visited these sites, partly because the historic trails have not been maintained. Local history writers have documented much of the interesting settlement history and recorded the artifacts that remain today. An interesting artifact that is frequently visited by beach walkers is the front portion of the 1928 Pesuta shipwreck near Tlell. Each year the winter ocean storms claims more of the wreck and soon it will disappear.

## Objectives

- To recognize historic and living cultural values as integral parts of Naikoon.

- To ensure that historic Haida village sites and other cultural sites are protected and managed in accordance with Haida values and interests.
- To compile and document information of Naikoon's cultural history.
- To increase awareness about the human history of Naikoon and to encourage the dissemination of factual information.

## Actions

- Assist in the documentation of memorabilia, photographs, and written and oral histories on the activities and affects associated with the early colonial period, including the relationship between immigrants, their children and the Haida.
- Undertake an archaeological assessment study in conjunction with the Haida to increase knowledge of ancient and historical village sites. To ensure that location projects do not expose the sites to uses inconsistent with the wishes of the Haida.
- Important Haida sites will be protected by designating them as Special Features Zones (see Zoning Section).
- Work to develop strategies for addressing the remnants of the colonial period, especially historic trails.