

Section Eight

Plan Implementation



Plan Implementation

Introduction

This section compiles all of the actions listed throughout the Management Plan and lists them in three separate groups: 1) the first list includes the task or project oriented actions that are of the highest importance or priority; 2) the second list comprises the task or project oriented actions that also need to be considered; and, 3) the third list includes all of on-going or monitoring types of actions.

The first group of actions highlight the highest priority tasks that should be considered for implementing as soon as resources are available. Since it is not possible to implement every action in this management plan right away, it is important to show those actions that are critical to the successful implementation of the plan.

The second group of actions require a specific task or project highlight items and will require staff resources or a budget. These are divided into resource management actions and recreation/communications actions.

The third group of actions require on-going or monitoring types of tasks, are reviewed regularly to ensure that on-going tasks are being carried out and that the spirit and intentions of this management plan are being followed. These are also placed within resource management actions and recreation/communications actions.

Within the implementation section, actions are listed in the order in which they appear in

the text. The charts are not intended to “rank” actions in order of importance of one action over another. However, within each section of this plan where the full action statement is presented, a rough rank of importance is given to the actions by the order in which they appear. As such, the first action listed in the Vegetation Section is generally more important to do before the second or third action and so on. However, this is a rough guide only because the ability to carry out an action can depend on many factors such as, available funding or staff, time restrictions, need for other agencies to be involved, and dependency on other actions or information.

Implementation - Highest Priorities

Keywords	Task or Project Oriented Actions	Page
Local Advisory Group	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.	23
Co-operative Agreements	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.	24
Historic Access Corridor	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, define 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 designated route in order to avoid damaging sensitive habitat and dune vegetation communities.	42
Ecological Reserve Management Plans	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.	42

Implementation - Project or Actions		
Keywords	On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
Public Updates	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.	24
Incorporate Haida Culture	Develop ways with the Haida to incorporate Haida language and cultural symbols in interpretive and other kinds of information about Naikoon.	25
Evaluate Tow Hill Ecological Reserve	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.	40
Beaver Study	If feasible, undertake a study to determine how beaver are affecting waterways and their associated ecosystems (see Wildlife Management section).	43
Fire Management Strategies	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.	44

Implementation - Project or Actions		
Keywords	On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
Dune Vegetation	Monitor and study dune forest vegetation to determine 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.	45
Risks of Introduced Species	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.	45
Prepare Habitat Suitability/ Capability	Use available vegetation mapping (completed in 1992) to prepare habitat suitability and capability mapping ⁴ 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.	46
Inventory 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.	47
Wildlife Management Plan	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.	47

Implementation - Project or Actions		
Keywords	On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
Research	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.	47
Fisheries Assessment	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.	48
Fisheries Management Plan	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.	48
Information for Physiographic Processes	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.	49
Roads	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.	50
Archaeological Assessment	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.	52

Implementation - Project or Actions		
Keywords	On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
Zoning	Important Haida sites will be protected by designating them as Special Features Zones (see Zoning section).	52
Document Histories	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.	51
Agate Beach Trail	Investigate a possible short trail to be developed near the Agate Beach campground that would provide interpretive opportunities related to Naikoon’s wetlands.	58
Visitor Awareness	Work with the Old Masset Village Council to increase visitor awareness that their Reserves are not part of Naikoon.	60
Boating	Apply to establish a boat motor size restriction for Mayer Lake.	62
Agate Beach Interpretive Trail	Investigate the development of an interpretive trail near the Agate Beach campground in order for people to be able to visit and learn about a portion of Naikoon’s wetland ecosystem.	63
Nature Study Guide	Develop a nature study guide for Naikoon’s natural resources and features (see Communications section).	63
Road Aesthetics	Work with BC Highways to establish management guidelines for Tow Hill Road and Beitush Road which protects the roads’ unique scenic character. BC Parks supports those upgrading plans which minimizes the alterations or removal of trees alongside of the current road surface.	65
Management through Reserve	Work with the Old Masset Village Council regarding the management of the road through the Hiellen Reserve.	65
Courtesy Beach	Identify South Beach as a “courtesy beach” where, during the summer months the primary using is recognized for non-motorized activities such as picnicking and beach walking. Although vehicles are allowed below high tide line, people will be asked to avoid driving South Beach during the summer months as much as possible. This courtesy beach is voluntary and intended to acknowledge interests of both vehicle users and non-vehicle users. Information signs will be posted.	67

Implementation - Project or Actions		
Keywords	On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
Volunteer Reporting	Establish a method with the local volunteer group and the four-wheel drive club to establish a method for citizens to “observe, record, and report” people who abuse the use of vehicles in Naikoon. This will provide a means for people who use the area to become effective guardians in protecting the natural values of Naikoon.	68
Seasonal Ranger	Provide a seasonal ranger to be based at the north end of Naikoon as funding allows. Rangers will be involved with educating visitors about how to use Naikoon without damaging natural features, maintain facilities, monitor perimeters and contractors, and collecting resource information.	70
Tlell Headquarters’ Plan	Develop a plan for how to best use a portion of Naikoon’s headquarters in Tlell for visitor information.	77
Communications Strategy	Develop a communications strategy for Naikoon which incorporates the <i>Regional Interpretation and Information Plan</i> prepared by BC Parks in 1989. Communication themes will address the importance of Naikoon and its Ecological Reserves as protected areas as well as the main cultural and natural themes. BC Parks will work with the local volunteer group and the Haida in developing a communications strategy that will consist of information, interpretation (including interpretive trails), education, outreach programs, and community relations.	79
Education Guide	In cooperation with the Haida, develop an educational guide to Naikoon which outlines activities relevant to Naikoon’s natural and cultural themes for students and teachers. In conjunction with preparing this guide, develop strategies for integrating information about Naikoon into Island schools.	79
Nature Guide	Work with the Island volunteer group and the Haida to prepare a nature guide for Naikoon.	79

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Tlell Fall Fair	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.	23
Cultural Activities	Acknowledge historic and contemporary living cultural activities in Naikoon, such as hunting, food gathering and access to village sites.	24
Haida Culture	Ensure that BC Parks has support from the Haida prior to preparing, releasing or displaying any information relating to Haida culture or history.	24
Staff Hiring	Ensure that when information about staff hiring for Naikoon is sent out, that such information is also available to Haida communities.	25
Ecological Reserves	BC Parks will inform the public of the intent of Ecological Reserves and that they are not intended for recreational use.	42
Sensitive Sites	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.	42
Sanitary Facilities	Ensure that sanitary facilities are properly designed and located.	43
Forestry Impacts	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.	43
Dune Processes	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.	44

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Forestry Impacts	Maintain close communication with forest operators adjacent to Naikoon in terms of how their operations might affect Naikoon's forests in the boundary area.	45
Habitat Diversity	Maintain open meadow patches, as funding is available, in a portion (less than 2 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.	45
Wildlife Trees	Retain snags for wildlife habitat except for situations within the Intensive Recreation Zone where there is a serious threat to visitors, Naikoon's facilities, or anywhere in Naikoon where staff must conform to Workers Compensation Board regulations.	45
Important Habitat	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.	47
Hunting	Continue to work with the Fish and Wildlife Branch in managing hunting opportunities in Naikoon for specific introduced species as identified in the regulations.	47
Wildlife Trees	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.	47
Angling	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.	48

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Fisheries Issues	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.	48
Tlell River	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.	49
Fisheries Issues	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.	49
Dune Sensitivity	Minimize human interference in natural physiographic processes such as dune formation, stabilization and “blowouts”. This will be achieved through public education, cooperative efforts with local resident groups, enforcement of <i>Park Act Regulations</i> , and enclosures if necessary. Particular attention will be given to the dune formations within the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve.	49
Private Developments	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.	50
Recreation Use	Manage recreation use in conjunction with Naikoon’s zoning so that outdoor recreation features and natural resources will be minimally affected.	50
Recreation Use	Develop strategies to minimize effects from recreation use on sand dunes and beach areas (see Outdoor Recreation Section).	50
Historic Trails	Work to develop strategies for addressing the remnants of the colonial period, especially historic trails.	52
57	57	57
Beach Erosion	Monitor erosion of the Agate Beach campground frontage. If the	57

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	campground is threatened, investigate an alternative location for a replacement campground. Also, investigate jointly with the Old Masset Village Council, establishing camping facilities on the Hiellen and Yakan Point “Indian Reserves”.	
Camping	Monitor uses of the area used for group camping and community events to determine if there are significant conflicts. If conflicts become a serious issue, investigate other possible sites for a group campground.	57
Trails	Ensure that trail maintenance and use, both authorized and unauthorized, does not impact in a negative way on Old Masset Reserves and cultural sites.	58
Trails	Maintain the current trails up to the Tow Hill viewpoint, to areas below Tow Hill, to the Pesuta shipwreck, using boardwalks where protection of the ground surface is necessary.	58
Beach Walking	Establish certain areas for frontcountry beach walking opportunities during the warmer months which are free of vehicles (see Access Strategy section).	58
Dune Sensitivity	Protect the dune environment adjacent to the Misty Meadows campground of vehicles (see Access Strategy section).	58
Hiking Information	Maintain established rustic facilities along East Beach for hikers and backpackers and ensure that visitors have appropriate safety and survival information to plan their trip (see Communications section).	60
Hiking Information	Ensure hikers are informed about using the defined route through the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve or following the beach around the spit in order to avoid sensitive habitat within the reserve.	60
Trails	Maintain the Cape Fife Trail in order to minimize affects on the natural environment.	60

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Sport Fishing	Continue to work in cooperation with the Haida Fisheries Branch, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Fish and Wildlife Branch, and the Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii Freshwater Sport Fisheries Advisory Board to manage sport fishing in Naikoon. The Tlell, Hiellen, Cape Ball, and Oeanda Rivers are the most important to monitor because they are the most frequented fisheries. Mayer Lake will also be monitored for angling activity to ensure that the regulations are in keeping with the conservation objectives for Naikoon.	61
Hunting	Continue to work with the Fish and Wildlife Branch and the Conservation Service Officer to regulate hunting activities to ensure public safety and healthy populations.	61
Hunting	Continue to honour traditional hunting rights of the Haida as they may apply in Naikoon.	62
Docks	Maintain small dock at south end of Mayer Lake.	62
Horse Use	Allow responsible horse use in Naikoon. Work with people who take their horses into Naikoon to ensure that they keep out of the campground areas and that effects from horse use are not detrimental to Naikoon. Horses will be kept to the designated route while passing through the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve. Monitor this activity to ensure conservation objectives are not being affected and close if damage occurs.	62
Trails	Monitor the condition of the trails for any signs of damage from mountain biking and keep a record of complaints about the use. If necessary, close trails to mountain biking to protect the trail environment or safety of hikers.	62
Recreational Guiding	Assess proposals for recreation guiding for how they affect the conservation and recreation goals of Naikoon. Recreation guiding may be acceptable on a limited basis where the activity does not conflict with conservation objectives, or with other visitors, and the activity does not degrade the natural environment. Only low impact, non-consumptive recreation guiding operations will be considered. Examples that might be considered include: sightseeing tours; guided hiking and birdwatching; cultural/history tours; and, horse trips.	63
Vehicle Use	Decline applications for any proposal using vehicles on the	63

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	beaches, for helicopter access, or for guided hunting.	
Guided Angling	Proposals for guided angling may be considered if: 1) there is sufficient biological information that indicates that the activity will not degrade the natural fish populations; 2) that the Haida Fisheries Branch, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Fish and Wildlife Branch each recommend approval; 3) there are limited conflicts with the sport fishing public; and, 4) that the Queen Charlotte Islands-Haida Gwaii Sport Fishery Advisory Board recommends approval of the application.	63
Special Needs	Incorporate, where possible, facility standards for special needs people in the management of Naikoon’s frontcountry with consideration to what is available for special needs people in a regional context.	64
Trails/Roads	Continue to allow the “road to nowhere” to revert back to forest, allowing for opportunities for short walks through the forest.	65
Vehicle Beach Use	Maintain beaches as open to vehicles below the high tide line. Define the historic access corridor connecting North Beach with East Beach as a vehicle corridor under the <i>Park Act</i> , once the corridor is removed from the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve. Two sections of beaches are identified as “closed to vehicles” during the period from June 1 to August 15. The two areas are: 1) Agate Beach; and, 2) the Tlell beach located from the Tlell River mouth south to the southeast corner of Naikoon.	67
Vehicle Beach Use	Work with the Haida, the Naikoon Advisory Committee and the four-wheel drive club to deal with vehicle beach use issues should they arise. The intent is for the group and BC Parks to develop on-going management strategies as needed that are supportable by local residents. For example, the closure dates will be reviewed periodically to determine if they need to be adjusted. As well, a periodic review will be conducted on BC Parks’ ability to administer and implement these strategies and the effectiveness of the overall vehicle management objective.	68

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Vehicle Beach Use	Work with the Haida, the Naikoon Advisory Committee and the four-wheel drive club to develop specific initiatives to inform and increase awareness about vehicle use etiquette for Naikoon. The intent is to encourage all vehicle users to avoid sensitive areas such as the dunes and bird habitat of the Rose Spit Ecological Reserve, beach grass ecosystems, and the Tlell River crossing at certain times of the year. Initiatives might include a pamphlet, school programs, public meetings, and advertisements and articles in the Observer. This initiative is particularly important for young drivers and tourists who are new to beach driving. In this way, all people who use Naikoon can play an important role in its stewardship.	68
Dune Sensitivity	Monitor the dunes and habitat in the Rose Spit area to determine if damaging uses are continuing. In addition, monitor other areas on Naikoon to determine the effects of recreational use on natural values and conservation objectives established in this management plan. Also develop, with the local volunteer group, means to mitigate the damage and to better protect sensitive sites.	68
Fish and Shellfish	Monitor the effects on clam beds caused by vehicle users travelling Naikoon's beaches below the natural tide line.	49
Vehicle Beach Use	Ensure that the public is adequately informed of the hazards associated with beach driving, and that only experienced and well prepared people should undertake the activity.	68
Tourist Information	Work with Island tourism associations and communities in providing appropriate pre-trip planning information.	77
Tourist Information	Ensure brochures and handouts on Naikoon remain current and accurate.	77
Information Signage	Provide safety and information signs where needed in the Intensive Recreation and Natural Environment zones.	77
Information Signage	Maintain the natural character of the Wilderness Recreation Zone by limiting signs to cases where they are necessary for the safety of visitors or for the protection of sensitive sites.	77
Tourist Information	Continue to work with Island tourism associations, the Haida,	77

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	Chambers of Commerce, Parks Canada, and communities in providing regional tourism and outdoor recreation information.	