

Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, was featured in the 2004/2005 Hunting and Trapping Synopsis

MUSKWA-KECHIKA MANAGEMENT AREA

In July, 1998, the *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act* was enacted by government, confirming the area established by Order in Council # 1367 in 1997 which set aside 4.4 million hectares of land in NE British Columbia to be managed to ensure that the wilderness and wildlife values were protected in perpetuity while still permitting environmentally responsible industrial development in 3/4 of the area. In the spring of 2001, with the completion of the Mackenzie LRMP, an additional 1.9 million hectares of land were added to the M-KMA, bringing the total to 6.3 million hectares, with 3/4 being special management lands and 1/4 being parks.

Objectives for the management of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area were developed as part of the Fort Nelson, Fort St. John and Mackenzie Land and Resource Management Plans. Participants of these processes recommended that the objectives for the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area be formally designated establishing a separate jurisdiction: the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan:

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan identifies objectives for the management of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area and specifies an integrated and co-ordinated planning structure to meet these objectives. The Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan will be implemented by all relevant government agencies through agency-specific management activi-

ties, local strategic plans, resource development permits, and Crown land and natural resource dispositions.

The management intent for the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area is to ensure wilderness characteristics, wildlife and its habitat are maintained over time - while allowing resource development and use, including recreation, hunting, trapping, timber harvesting, mineral exploration and mining, oil and gas exploration and development. The integration of management activities especially related to the planning, development and management of road accesses within the Muskwa-Kechika Area is central to achieving this intent.

Access in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (See Map, page 83)

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area is subject to special access regulations. It is strongly recommended that any hunters using motorized access to the M-KMA closely consult the maps showing the boundaries and designated routes. These maps can be viewed in the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and Ministry of Forests offices in Fort Nelson and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection office in Ft. St. John. Larger scale maps showing the routes can also be purchased from McElhanney Associates in Fort St. John (250) 787-0356

Resident Hunters:

The designation of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area does not affect the resident hunters and their activities. A substantial portion of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area continues to be protected from vehicular damage by the Muskwa-Kechika Access Management Area regulations. See map G-36 for clarification.

Any enquiries specifically regarding access and hunting regulations should be directed to the Fort St. John Regional Office at (250) 787-3225. For more information regarding the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, please contact the Muskwa-Kechika Program Manager (250) 787-3534.

