



# TSÚŪT'INÀ LANDS ADMINISTRATION

TSÚŪT'INÀ NATION LANDS ADMINISTRATION

403-238-6123  
9911 CHIILA BLVD.  
TSUUT'INA NATION, AB  
T3T 0E1

# Nisk'a-hi



# Dadanast'ada

Welcome to the Land Administration Portfolio Newsletter - Issue #5 for your bi-annual updates from our Nisk'a team for your reading of information and important updates. In addition, a separate Information Package on the Tsuut'ina Nisk'a Policies will be available to Nation Citizens.

Hope to see you all at our annual Open House July 17, 2024.



July 2024- Issue #5 -ámà

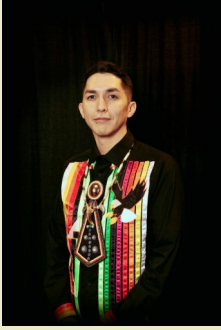


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# XÀKÚJÁGHÁ (MINOR CHIEF) – STEVEN CROWCHILD



## **Gwanistlin nixits'i dadist'ishi!**

Dzinisi Guja. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my greetings and well wishes to all members of the Tsuut'ina Nation and our extended relatives. As we celebrate the arrival of summer, I hope this season brings you happiness, blessings, relaxation, and

good health for you and your family. It has been a privilege to serve as a Representative for the Lands Administration Portfolio, and I am delighted to convey these greetings for the Summer 2024 edition of the Nisk'a Newsletter.

First and foremost, I would like to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the dedicated staff members who work tirelessly in the land's portfolio. Your unwavering commitment and pursuit of excellence have played a pivotal role in the progress we have achieved in various areas, including mitigating trespassing on our boundaries, managing our buffalo operation, enhancing water security, developing land legislation in collaboration with LPTS, and other important endeavors. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude. Additionally, your invaluable partnerships and support to other departments, including curriculum development and knowledge sharing with our youth and schools in collaboration with education and Gunaha Nasagha, have made a significant impact on our community.

It is imperative that we underscore the importance of finalizing our land laws and policies within our own jurisdiction, in alignment with our inherent and treaty rights. Open dialogue and the dissemination of accurate information are crucial, and I want to make it abundantly clear that the Tsuut'ina Nation is not subject to the First Nations Land Management Act, nor are we developing our land laws under any federal legislation. While exploratory and development funding was accessed prior to my tenure, no land code was ever ratified under the FNLMA. Furthermore, Head Chief and Minor Chiefs have since requested the removal of any ref-

erences to Tsuut'ina in relation to the FNLMA from all websites and publications.

To facilitate the development and implementation of our own Tsuut'ina land laws and policies, Head Chief and Minor Chiefs and the lands portfolio have established a lands advisory board to assist in the development of our Tsuut'ina land laws and policies. I strongly encourage all citizens to actively engage in this important process by staying informed, participating in engagements, and providing feedback for the benefit of our children and future generations. This also applies to land use planning and other land-related initiatives. Your input and contributions are integral to our collective success, so please stay tuned for further updates and let us continue working together for the betterment of future generations.

Working with the Lands Administration Portfolio has been an immense honor and a great eye-opener. As parents and grandparents, we have a substantial amount of work to do in order to create a brighter future for our children and future generations. We must prioritize the completion of our land use planning to ensure sustainable development for community buildings, housing, agriculture, and other purposes. It is equally important to finalize our land use laws and policies to safeguard our lands and waters from environmental harm, assert clear jurisdiction, provide clear and defined processes for Tsuut'ina entrepreneurs to thrive on reserve, among other critical objectives. Moreover, we need to conclude our long-term water security strategies and adopt more sustainable practices in water utilization and be prepared to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

There is still much work ahead of us, but it is essential for the well-being and future of our children, and therefore, we must proceed with diligence, faith, and collective unity. May this summer season be fulfilling and full of blessings for all of us.

***Dagumisastiy,***

***Steven Crowchild, Minor Chief***





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June 25, 2024

*Dzinisi Guja,*

*I want to take this opportunity to thank All of the Lands Staff and Committee Members for their ongoing commitment and devotion to the protection and safekeeping of Tsuut'ina Nisk'a. It is truly an honor and a privilege to work with our team and be a part of growing the portfolio.*

*As you will read, we have been very busy expanding programs, working with youth, and developing our laws across the portfolio.*

*I encourage all citizens to spend some time with our staff and share your thoughts as we continue to grow.*

*Siyisgaas!*

*Tsuut'ina Nation*

*Tanis One Spot, Lands Admin Executive Director*





# Átl̄isilā gújā nàgwát'ín

## We work well together.....

Through partnership with the Education and Gunaha Departments, Lands has been involved in numerous activities over this past school year with the students at the Chief Big Belly Middle School and Manyhorses High School. The students had the opportunity to visit the New Lands back in March 2024 and also visited the former D.N.D lands in May 2024.

Mr. Two Guns was able to share some stories with the students with the Lands Team, as we visited their schools in February 2024 for presentations. The students were tested on

what they have learned at the end of our sessions and many received prizes for paying attention and learning something new about our Tsuut'ina Nisk'a.

We look forward to planning the new calendar year with the schools for further opportunities to take the students out on the lands and visit the schools for presentations. It is also exciting that we now have a Nisk'a Curriculum Developer to assist the team as we continue to work in collaborations with Education and Gunaha Departments.











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## WHAT IS THE TSUUT'INA NISK'A (LANDS) MANAGEMENT REGIME?

According to the National Aboriginal Land Managers Association (N.A.L.M.A), there is 3 Land Regimes a First Nation can fall under:

1. Indian Act—Reserve Land and Environment Management Program (RLEMP)
2. First Nations Land Management Act (FNLMA) - Land Code
3. Self-Government Agreement

Currently the Tsuut'ina Nation is under the Operational Level of Reserve Land and Environment Management Program, which is legislated from the Indian Act.

It is important to note what occurred in the past. On April 12, 2012, the Nation did become signatory to the FNLMA Framework. However, after 5 years of exploring a Land Code, the Nation stopped moving forward in the FNLMA Land Regime framework, with the support of the Nation Citizen's through an opinion poll. Also, there was numerous issues such as: environmental concerns, fiduciary obligations and our Nation Sovereignty (Treaty and Inherent Rights).

In the Opinion Poll conducted December 2017, Citizens were asked which option the think Tsuut'ina should use for a land law:

- Option 1: FNLMA (41 yes)  
Option 2: Indian Act (23 yes)  
Option 3: Tsuut'ina Land Law (153 yes)



How are we going to Govern & Manage the Nation Lands & Environment and to protect and sustain it for the WUSA?

Since then, the Lands Administration Portfolio was formed and has been developing our Laws and Policies to reflect this consensus. On September 19, 2023, Head Chief and Minor Chief's signed a BCR for the removal from the FNLMA.

L.E.R.D has developed our Nisk'a Legislative and Governance Framework through out Treaty, Inherent, and Self-determination right and is moving forward under our "Tsuut'ina Nisk'a Regime" and a Tsuut'ina Nisk'a Law.

### Nisk'a Policies in Development:

1. **Nisk'a Assignment Policy**
  - Head Chief & Minor Chief Introduction March 2024
  - Ratification June 2025
2. **Business Nisk's Use Policy**
  - Head Chief & Minor Chief Introduction March 2024
  - Ratification June 2025
3. **Nisk'a Dispute Resolution Process**
  - Head Chief & Minor Chief Introduction March 2024
  - Ratification June 2025
4. **Agriculture/Grazing Policy**
  - Head Chief & Minor Chief Introduction Oct 2024
  - Ratification June 2025
5. **Commercial, Community and Recreation Land Use Policies**
  - Head Chief & Minor Chief Introduction Oct 2024
  - Ratification June 2025
6. **Animal Law Amendment**
  - Head Chief & Minor Chief Introduction Oct 2024
  - Ratification June 2025
7. **Hunting, Fishing & Harvesting Policy**
  - Head Chief & Minor Chief Introduction Oct 2024
  - Ratification June 2025



Figure 1:

Land Management Structure Comparison Chart				
Reserve Land and Environment Management Program (RLEMP)			First Nations Land Management Act	Self-Government
Development	Operations	Delegated Authority		
Regional Land Administration Program (RLAP)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)</li> <li>INAC performs majority of land management functions</li> <li>INAC has approval authority</li> <li>INAC has fiduciary obligation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with INAC</li> <li>First Nation performs land management functions, INAC oversees</li> <li>INAC has approval authority</li> <li>INAC has fiduciary obligation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with INAC</li> <li>First Nation performs land management functions in accordance with section 35 &amp; 60 of the Indian Act</li> <li>First Nation has approval authority</li> <li>INAC has fiduciary obligation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government to govt. agreement (related to land)</li> <li>First Nation performs land management in accordance with their land code and laws</li> <li>First Nation has final approval</li> <li>First Nation has fiduciary obligation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government to govt. agreement (related to all governance)</li> <li>First Nation performs land management functions in accordance to their laws</li> <li>First Nation has final approval</li> <li>First Nation has fiduciary duty</li> </ul>

(National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association, 2016)

The Tsuut'ina Nation Opinion Poll was conducted in December 2017 and there were 240 citizens who participated in the opinion poll.

Which option do you think Tsuut'ina should use for a land law?

**First Nation Land Management Act (FNLMA)**

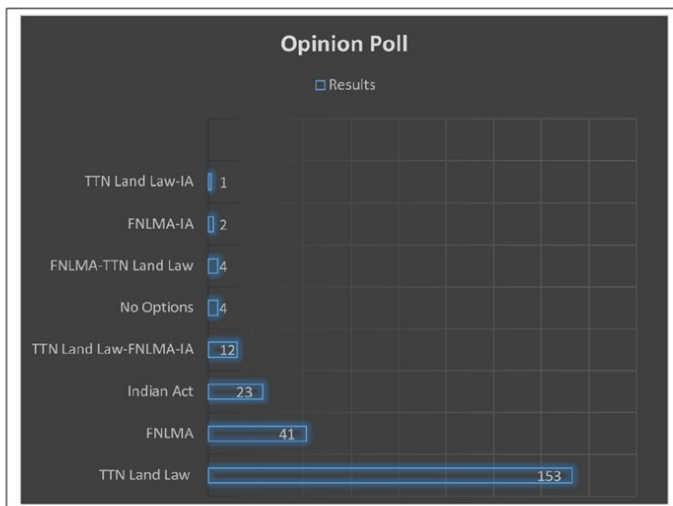
Develop our own laws about land use, the environment and natural resources but relieve Canada of any legal responsibility on the choices we make moving forward about our lands.

**Indian Act**

Anything the Nation wants regarding their land, environment and natural resources must be approved by the Minister

**Tsuut'ina Land Law – Under a self-negotiated agreement**

The Nation controls the administration of their people, land, resources, related programs and legislation and policies through agreements with federal and provincial governments.



**TSUUT'INA CITIZEN OPINION POLL**

WHICH OPTION DO YOU THINK TSUUT'INA SHOULD USE FOR A LAND LAW?

PLEASE CHECK BOX

- First Nations Land Management Act (FNLMA)**  
\* Develop our own laws about land use, the environment and natural resources but relieve Canada of any legal responsibility on the choices we make moving forward about our lands.
- Indian Act**  
\* Anything the Nation wants regarding their land, environment and natural resources must be approved by the minister.
- Tsuut'ina Land Law – Under a self negotiated agreement**  
\* The Nation controls the administration of their people, land, resources, related programs and legislation and policies, through agreements with federal and provincial governments.



# TSUUT'INA NISK'A POLICIES

## PART 2 A - STREAM A – HCMC RATIFICATION



MARCH 2024 TO  
AUGUST 2024

1<sup>ST</sup> READING  
HCMC

SEPTEMBER 2024 TO  
DECEMBER 2024

2<sup>ND</sup> READING  
HCMC

TECH REVIEWS

TECH REVIEWS

DECEMBER 2024

OPINION  
POLL

JUNE 2025

3<sup>RD</sup> READING  
HCMC

FINAL READING  
AND APPROVAL

JUNE 2025

HCMC  
RATIFICATION

COMING INTO FORCE

CITIZEN  
ENGAGEMENT

CITIZEN  
ENGAGEMENT

LUNCH N' LEARNS  
FOCUS GROUPS  
INFO SESSIONS

ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS

DRAFT DOCUMENTS IN DEVELOPMENT

- 1 TSUUT'INA NISK'A ASSIGNMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
- 2 TSUUT'INA BUSINESS NISK'A USE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
- 3 TSUUT'INA NISK'A DISPUTE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

4/22/2024

LANDS & ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

## ATTENTION TSUUT'INA CITIZENS!!

Citizen Information Packages for the *Tsuut'ina Nisk'a Policies* are available to all Nation Citizen's.

Please contact:

[alison.heavenfire@tsuutina.com](mailto:alison.heavenfire@tsuutina.com) or  
[sunshine.bigplume@tsuutina.com](mailto:sunshine.bigplume@tsuutina.com)

To request a package for email, delivery or mail.



NISK'Ā NISK'ĀGINÍSTÒ-HÍ  
LANDS PORTFOLIO  
SUMMER 2024 EVENTS:

**LUNCH & LEARNS:**  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 12PM TO 1PM

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>:**  
NISK'Ā ASSIGNMENT POLICY

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>:**  
BUSINESS NISK'Ā USE PERMIT POLICIES & PROCEDURES

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>:**  
NISK'Ā DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY

**EVENING INFO SESSION:**  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 5PM TO 8PM  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>:  
\*ALL 3 POLICIES

**FOCUS GROUPS:**  
CAN BE BOOKED FOR AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup> TO SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2024







GWÁGHÁ NĪHĪNÁ?Ò-NÁ

**GOVERNANCE &  
ADMINISTRATION**

NĪSK'Ā NĪSK'ÁGĪNĪSTÒ-HĪ

**LANDS**



TEÁT'Á DĪNÁ ÖGHĀ  
NĀGŪT'ĪNĪ DĪDĪ

**PUBLIC  
WORKS**



# OPEN HOUSE

REDWOOD MEADOWS POWWOW GROUNDS



**WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024  
11AM TO 3PM**

INFO BOOTHS | PRESENTATIONS | ELDER'S  
LOUNGE | BOUNCY HOUSE | PHOTO BOOTH

**DOOR PRIZES, GIFT CARDS AND GRAND PRIZE  
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS**

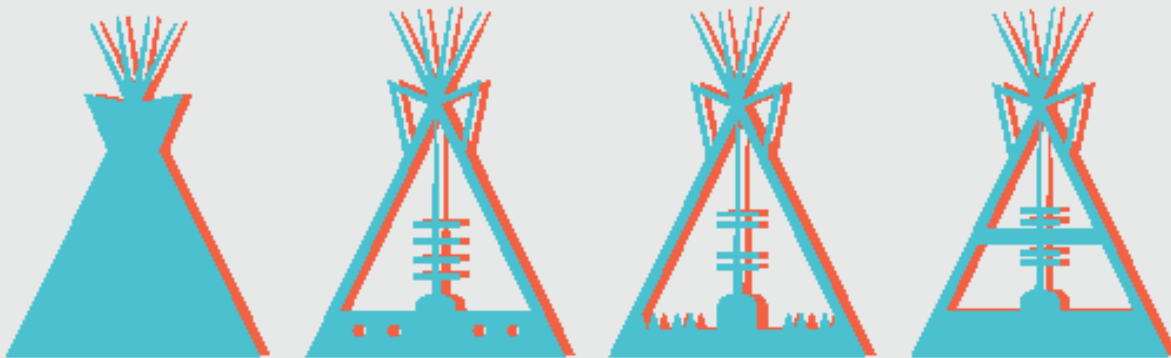
The Tsuut'ina Nation and/or any affiliated entities are not responsible for vandalism, lost or stolen property, theft/damages, accidents/injuries or accidental death before, during & after this event, this includes Tsuut'ina land/property. All Parents/Guardians are solely responsible for the supervision of their child/children. Please recycle & respect facilities. No littering, drugs, or alcohol—this is a family event. Your attendance in the event space gives Tsuut'ina Nation consent to photograph and video record unless otherwise advised by the individual.

# TSUUT'INA KNOWS THAT:

*OUR CREATOR GAVE US THE INHERENT RIGHT TO OUR PEOPLES, TERRITORY, LANGUAGE, AND THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION WHICH INCLUDES THE RIGHT TO SELF-GOVERNANCE, THROUGH OUR LAW-MAKING AUTHORITY, REFLECTING OUR CULTURAL CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES, OUR CEREMONIES, VALUES & PRINCIPLES, CITIZENSHIP AND LEADERSHIP.*



**THIS GIVES TSUUT'INA COMPLETE JURISDICTION OVER ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO OUR PEOPLE AND TERRITORY**



## **THE SPIRIT AND INTENT OF TREATY TO OUR UNDERSTANDING:**

THE CREATOR PLACED US ON THIS LAND, WE WERE GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT LAND & ALL RESOURCES (NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL) ARE PROTECTED, VALUED AND ENHANCED FOR THE FUTURE TSUUT'INA PEOPLES. THIS DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE AIR. RESERVE LANDS WERE RETAINED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE AND BENEFIT OF THE TSUUT'INA PEOPLE. LANDS OCCUPIED AND IMPROVED FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFIT PRIOR TO TREATY REMAIN OUR LAND. AS PASSED DOWN FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT, SETTLER PEOPLE WERE ONLY ALLOWED TO THE DEPTH OF THE PLOUGH FOR SETTLEMENT. OUR LAWS ARE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT CREATOR'S LAWS ARE ENFORCED TO PROTECT FOR THE FUTURE.





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### WHAT IS LAND USE PLANNING FOR TSUUT'INA NISK'A?

The Lands Administration Portfolio has been developing our Land Use Plan since March of 2021, Currently, Tsuut'ina Nation is in Phase 2 of our Land Use Planning Initiative Project.

PHASE ONE 2021 - 2022	PHASE TWO 2023-2024	PHASE THREE 2025-2026
Pre-Planning	LUP Development	Implementation, Monitoring and Development

Land Use Planning is a community driven initiative that includes all aspects of the social, environmental, cultural, and economic elements that make up a community. It is a comprehensive process that creates long term goals through engagement with the whole community, which will identify common community values on where and how things will be developed.

A Tsuut'ina Nisk'a (Land) Use Plan may determine future uses of the Tsuut'ina Nation Reserve Lands and the planning for the Wusa (Future):

- Infrastructure planning is to prepare to the long-term infrastructure needs on the Tsuut'ina Lands.
- Emergency Planning is to help our Nation prepare for or respond in the event of a natural disaster, such as flood, fire, drought, winds and extreme weather events.
- Demographics and statistics will assist us to be prepared for the population growth and needs.

Tsuut'ina has been taken care of its people, land, and resources since time and immemorial on its traditional land territory known as Turtle Island. The land which is now Tsuut'ina Nation Lands is bound by Treaty 7. Tsuut'ina has it's own laws, knowledge systems, customs and practices in which helps us care for our land. A Land Use Plan will exercise our rights to the land and our responsibility to protect our territory in respect to our Tsuut'ina Ninisha (Way of Life) for today and the Wusa (future generations).

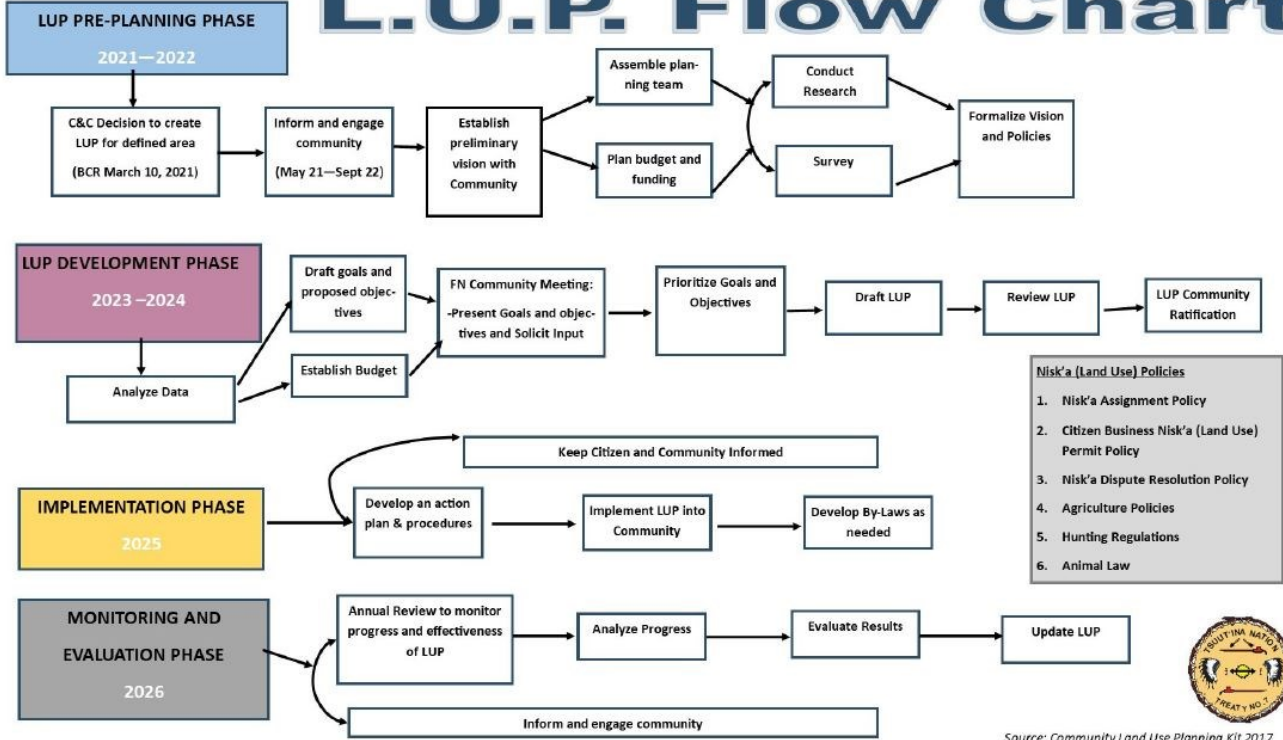
Effective land use planning is crucial for safeguarding and conserving our natural resources and environment in ensuring their availability and sustainability for future generations. By strategically managing land use, we can mitigate the negative impacts of human activities on the environment while promoting sustainable development and growth. It is imperative that we prioritize responsible land use planning to ensure the long-term health and wellbeing of our lands, water, resources, and all life.

A Land Use Plan will document existing uses, identify plans for future uses and develop applicable laws, policies, and procedures to support the management and protection of the lands, environment, natural resources for sustainable development this will include the zoning of land areas based on protected areas and potential uses while improving the environment and the economic and social conditions of the community.





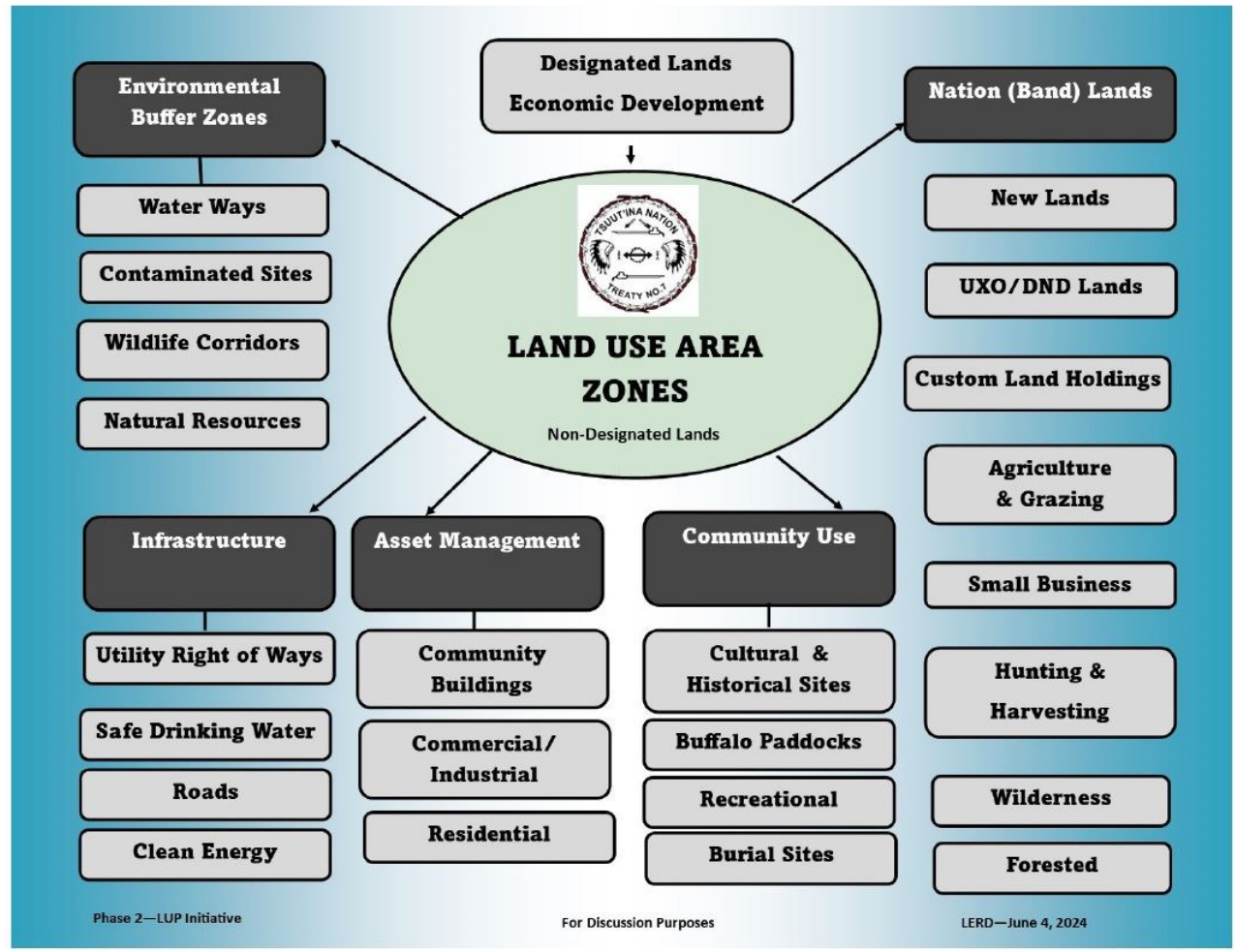
# L.U.P. Flow Chart



Source: Community Land Use Planning Kit 2017

Updated June 3, 2024—LERD

For Discussion Purposes



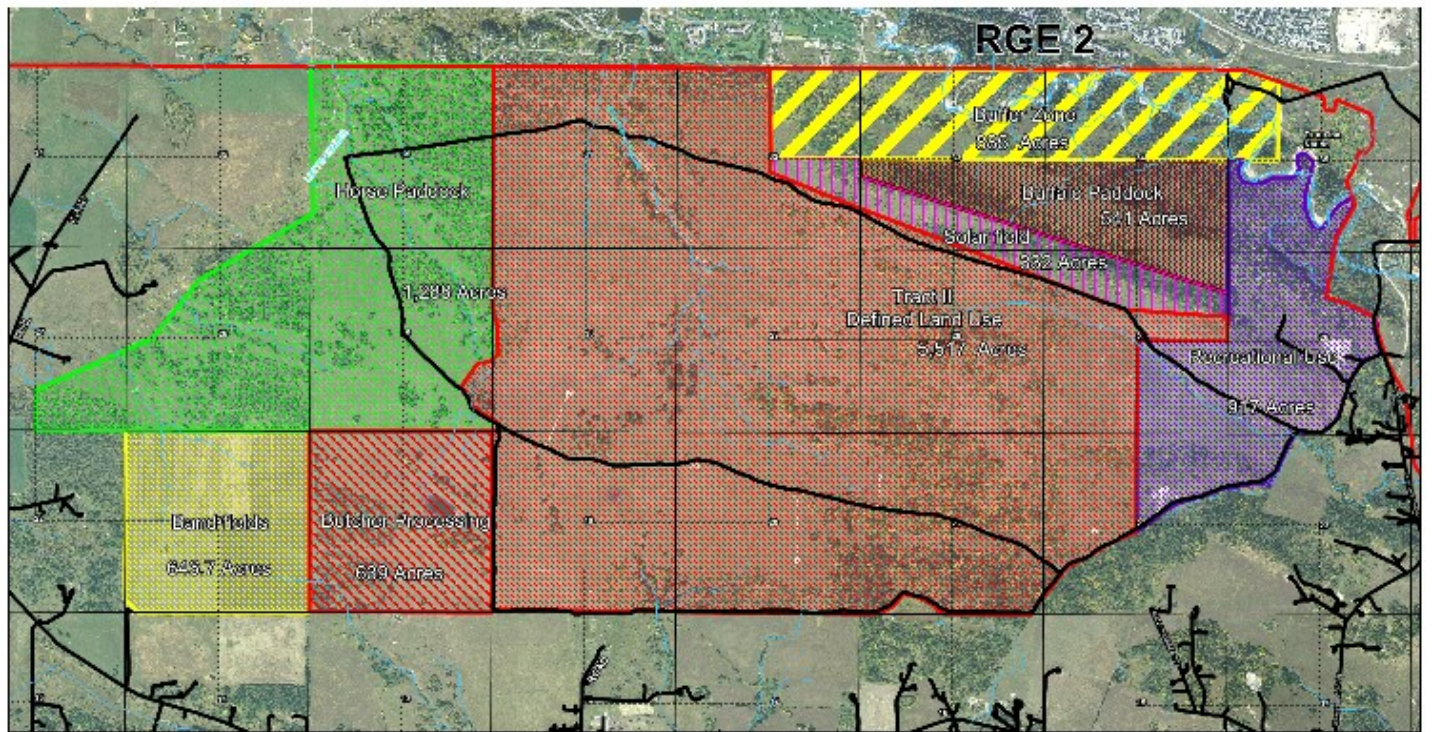
Phase 2—LUP Initiative

For Discussion Purposes



LERD—June 4, 2024





# Former D.N.D. Land Use Plan - Draft




## Tsuut'ina Nation Land Use Draft

-  Tract 2 Defined Land Use Area  
5,517 Acres
-  Butchering Process Area
-  Buffalo Paddock  
541 Acres

-  Solar Field  
332 Acres

-  Horse Paddock  
1,288 Acres
-  Band Field  
646.7 Acres

-  Recreation 378 Acres

-  Buffer Zone  
885 Acres



May 3, 2023



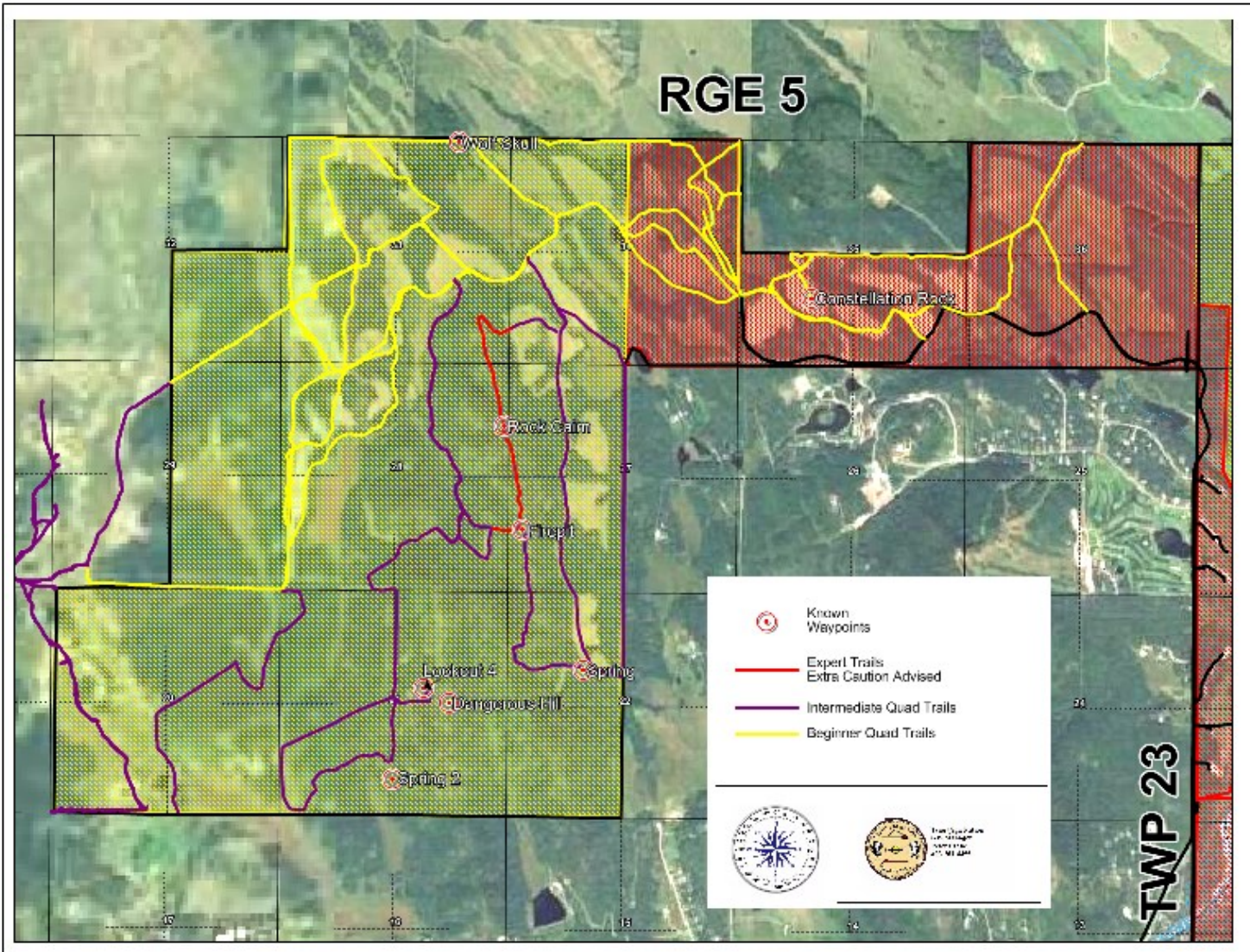
Tsuut'ina Nation  
CIN Manager  
Piper Crank  
403-281-4455

Through our Land Use Planning, we have been asking the Community what they would like to see at the D.N.D. lands in the future and we have zoned out the following areas:

- Recreational—378 acres—this area has been approved by Chief and Council for future development of baseball diamonds. Other recreational activities can take place here as well.
- Buffer Zone—to protect the watershed and banks of the Elbow River.
- Buffalo Paddock—for the bulls to be relocated at certain times of the year.
- Horse Paddock—somewhere where the Wildhorse's can go and be tamed.
- Butchering Process Area—A place where we can have our very own butchering for our Buffalo, Cattle and wild game for food security.
- Solar Panel Farm—potential area we can develop for electricity to be supplied to Nation homes.



# New Lands Land Use Plan - Draft



Another area of Land on the reserve is the New Lands we received through the Ring Road land swap.

Over the last few years there has been some reclamation work completed, an access road built, fences built, fire breaks made, a horse corral made and an office/site post for the New Lands Crew.

We have been asking in our engagement activities what our community would like to see our there for the future. There is a high

response for the area to remain common band land and not be developed on.

Just to name a few of the activities we received in feedback:

- Hunting & Harvesting
- Quadding
- Horse Back Riding
- Camping
- Bike Trails





# Lands Administration

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Hunting, Fishing & Harvesting

***On December 1, 2020, Chief and Council motioned the following:***

***“As if the date hereof, all hunting, fishing and harvesting by Non-Nation Citizens shall be prohibited until further notice. Violators shall be prosecuted to the full extent of the law”....***

Over the past few years, there has been an increase in complaints of hunting, fishing and harvesting of Non-Nation Citizens on the Nation (Reserve) Lands.

- Non-Nation Citizens have been overhunting and, in some cases, poaching has been reported on Nation Lands.
- The increase in the number of new homes throughout the reserve has created safety concerns.
- There has been situations where Non– Nation Citizens have been caught hunting on reserve without a Nation Citizen present and stated they were given permission under the Trespass law, as only Chief and Council can invite Non-Citizens onto Nation lands for this purpose.
- Nation Lands have been set aside for the benefit of Nation Citizens, which is why Chief & Council taken the position that Non-Citizens should not be able to access Nation lands for hunting and harvesting.
- Chief and Council acknowledges that there are Non-Nation Citizens who do hunt, fish and harvest to support a Nation household. In those situations, Chief and Council may be willing to grant an exemption to this motion, on a case-by-case basis. However, any interested parties must meet with the Nation and be given written authorization by the Nation before using Nation Lands to hunt, fish or harvest.
- **ENFORCEMENT:** Tosguna have been directed to issue charges under the Trespass Act and Criminal Code to all Non-Nation Citizens who are suspected of hunting, fishing and harvesting on Nation Lands without authorization from Chief and Council.
- **EXEMPTION REQUEST:** Appointment can be made in writing through the Office of the Nation’s CEO.

Jerry Simon, Chief Executive Officer @403-281-4455 or [jerry.simon@tsuutina.com](mailto:jerry.simon@tsuutina.com)



- **LAND USE AND POLICY UPDATE:** Policies are currently being developed and the Land Use and Zoning will be updated as per the Land Use Plan. Further info will follow.
- **FEEDBACK/INQUIRIES:** Any Nation Citizen who have feedback or concern can contact:

Tanis Onespot, ED of Lands Admin. @ 403-281-4455 or [tonespot@tsuutina.com](mailto:tonespot@tsuutina.com)





# Office of Lands & Environment Research Department INFORMATION SHEET

## Treating the well (shocking)

### Did you know?

Rural properties on a water well should shock treat the well once a year to prevent biofilm. If you have ever seen your dog water bowl after a few days get slimy that is biofilm. The same stuff grows in your well and can affect how the well and pump operate. Shock treatments normally include the use of a bleach mixture down the well to kill the bacteria. The chlorination process kills the slime and helps keep the well water clean.

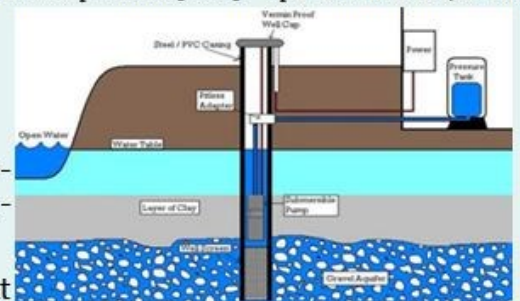
### How do I prepare for a well treatment?

You should stockpile drinking water. You will need to store enough water for 24 hours. You cannot bath, shower, or do laundry for the same time period as the well will not be working.

What happens when they shock my well?

1. Power off- the shock treatment requires that the circuit breaker for power to the well be turned off. The well cap is removed and the wiring and the pump in your well will be pulled out and examined to ensure that it is still safe and functional. Most pumps last 15 to 25 years and then need to be replaced. If a damaged or very old pump is encountered, it will be replaced. If there are any problems with unsafe wiring it will be repaired.
2. Treatment is put into the well. The treatment will include a bleached type of product diluted with water that will breakdown and remove any slime or biofilm in the well. This substance is left in the well for 12 to 24 hours depending on the condition of the well and pump. The longer the substance is left in the well the more effective the treatment.
3. After 24 hours the team will flush the system. The well will then be flushed or pumped out to ensure the bleach treatment is completely removed.
4. Put the pump and wiring back into the well.
5. Turn on the power to the well.
6. Run the taps in your house to flush out any remaining treatment.

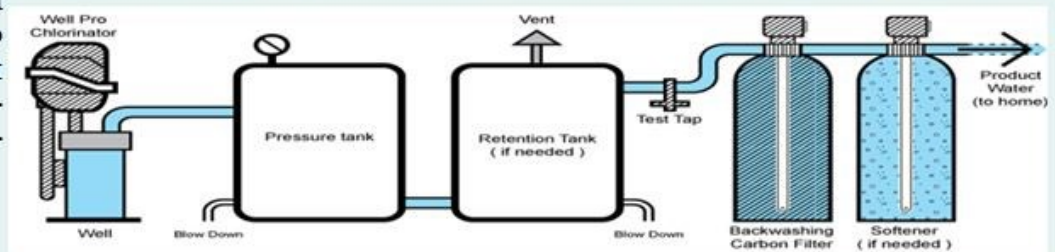
Working well: clean water. Well protected [2022] – Open Government (alberta.ca)



### Can I shock my own well?

Yes, homeowners can shock their own well and there are detailed resources available from Alberta Environment. Resources related to water well management can be found here.

If you choose to shock your own well, you must understand that shocking the well can damage an old well pump and the pump could fail. Shocking the well could release quite a bit of biofilm and may make the water look gross at first. This is normal and it will flush out of the system and result in better water quality. **If you have a whole house filter or reverse osmosis you must disconnect it prior to shocking you do not want these chemicals in your filter as it will damage the filters.**





# L.E.R.D

## LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH DEPARTMENT



**The Lands & Environment Research Department Team is committed to protecting the Tsuut'ina Nisk'a through Capacity Building, Land Use Planning, Policy Development, Community Education and Engagement, Cultural Protocols and ensuring a sustainable WUSA for the generations to come.**

**L.E.R.D. Team:**

Alison Heavenfire, L.E.R.D Director

Jim Two Guns, Lands & Culture Liaison

Carrie BigPlume, Lands Manager

Peter Crane, GIS Manager

Ellery Starlight, Environmental Coordinator

Deneah BigPlume, Executive Assistant

Sunshine BigPlume, Records & Data Clerk

Jessica Whitney, Nisk'a Curriculum Developer

Tamara Heavenfire—Summer Student

Kailie Dodginghorse—Summer Student



The Lands & Environment Research Department has had a productive year so far. We have also welcomed some new team members to the team and building our capacity. Please note the following updates:

### **Nisk'a Curriculum Development**

- We have recently hired a Nisk'a Curriculum Writer who will be working in collaboration with Gunaha, Education and Governance to build content for our Tsuut'ina Education Curriculum K-5 to Grade 12.

### **Lands Advisory Committee & Policy Development:**

- Completed drafting the following: Nisk'a Assignment Policy, Business Nisk'a Policy and Dispute Resolution Policy over the past winter. The documents were introduced to Head Chief and Minor Chiefs and completed first reading in March 2024.
- Over the summer months, the Lands Advisory Committee will be completing the drafting for the Agriculture Policies and Community Nisk'a Use Policies for Head Chief and Minor Chief Introduction in Fall 2024.

### **Lands Records and Information Management**

- The LERD team has developed a Lands Management system and GIS System on the Laserfiche and MRF software systems.
- The team has been updating the Land Records, maps and files, as we have been researching and gathering the past archives.

### **Lands & Environment Inspection Reports**

- For each project that requires land use, the LERD team now complete a Lands & Environment Inspection form at the beginning of the process to assist the projects and for any permits that may need to be issued.

### **Land Use Planning**

- Our team helps facilitate and compile for our Land Use Planning Project and will be finalizing a Land Use Plan draft for the fall 2024.

### **Land Use Application Forms**

- We now have Land Use Application Forms for any Citizen, Business, Department, Program, or Project that requires Land Use
- If you require further information or need to begin the process, please reach out to Carrie Joy Big Plume at: [carrie.bigplume@tsuutina.com](mailto:carrie.bigplume@tsuutina.com)

### **Digital Stories Project**

- Over the past 2 winters, the team has collected and recorded numerous stories from our knowledge keepers.

### **Community Engagement**

- LERD encourages all to stay informed and attend our upcoming community events such as Open House, Lunch N Learns, Info Sessions, Elders Update and focus groups.
- The team is exciting to launch our new app this summer.
- We are constantly trying to improve our communication tools and strategy.

**Land - Nìsk'a**

**Air – míts'ísjìshí**

**Water /natural water - tú-tii**

**well/tap water - tú**

**Animals/ Farm Animals - Áyidiní-daá**

**Wild Animals - Tútaí-daá**

**Trees -Dìchī (any tree)**

**Fish - thúk'á**

**Weather -Mìs ágùt'aá**





#### TEAM:

Clayton Whitney—Buffalo Paddock & Agriculture Manager  
Tiffani Whitney—Buffalo Paddock & Agriculture Exec. Assist.  
Trenten Heavenfire—Buffalo Paddock & Agriculture Farm Hand  
Brennen Starlight—Buffalo Paddock & Agriculture Farm Hand  
Starlin Big Plume—Buffalo Paddock & Agriculture Farm Hand

## Tsúūt'ínà Buffalo Paddock (Xāní-tī Mōnìstsīyk'í)

The Crew has had a very productive Winter-Spring 2023-24 season, here are some updates for the community.

### December 2023 to March 2024

- All the crew successfully handed out all the harvested buffalo meat. Due to the increase of interest from families, we will be harvesting more next winter to feed to the Nation families.
- Buffalo Paddocks was able to get a new water well to help get water better distributed in the corral system
- The Paddocks sold 87 calves in total for the winter auction, selling these calves helps the Paddocks keep a clean bloodline in the herd.
- The herd was kept to their daily herd/

pasture checks.

### April 2024 to June 2024

- On April 15, 2024, we welcomed our first calf on the ground. Throughout these last weeks of June into July, we should have approximately 100+ calves.
- On June 3, 2024, the herd was put on summer grasses. This summer we plan to keep up with the herds rotational grazing on each pasture, which help the grasses and plants have time to heal and grow.
- Buffalo Paddocks are growing their touring expertise, we have welcomed quite a few tourist groups, schools/students, and educational conference that have had great feedback on our tours and informational sessions on our herd.

## Agricultural Lands (Nìsk'ā Nágūst'īn-ná)

### December 2023 to February 2024

- Loaded hay for Nation families throughout the winter months.

### March 2024 to May 2024

- Crew began floating, fertilizing and seeding all fields that the Agriculture takes care of and manages. This work ensures that the fields get the best possible start for growing hay.

### June 2024

- Crew upkeeps daily field and fencing checks.
- Throughout this summer, the crew will be busy checking the fields, starting to cut our hay and we hope to have a better haying season this year.
- Agriculture Policies are in drafting and development and plan to be introduced to Head Chief and Minor Chief in Fall 2024.



CCCC



# NÌSKÀ K'ÀNÀTS'ĪNÓ-DĪ LAND CONSERVATION



## CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT UPDATES

FEBUARY -APRIL 2024

- ⇒ In February, we hired part-time staff to work along in the Fire Smart Program and it was a success.
- ⇒ Conservation provided a 4-day training course for Bear Awareness, H2S, and First-Aid during the month of March.
- ⇒ We continue to encourage training opportunity for staff members.
- ⇒ March and April got busy for everyone, we met up with the Chief Big Belly Middle School and the Many Horses High School students at the New Lands for a site visit field trip—the kids went on a trail walk, stories were told and the kids all enjoyed a wiener roast and fire pit.
- ⇒ Nation members were able to take another Chainsaw Level 3 training course on March 16th to 18th, 2024 at Redwood Meadows and the New Lands. We were able to employ 3 new staff member from this opportunity.
- ⇒ March 25 to 28th and April 2 to April 5th 2024, we did another Youth Workers Call-out to the Nation for the students during Easter Breaks. The first week we had a total of 40 workers, the 2nd week we had 30 works. It was great timing because a large portion of those workers were hockey players and were able to earn their own funds for the Native Hockey Provincials and Alberta Treaty Hockey Tournaments.
- ⇒ We are planning another New Land Youth Workers Opportunity this summer, stay tuned for further communication and posts.

## CONSERVATION TEAM:

Shad Manywounds—Conservation Manager  
Kathleen Dodginghorse—Executive Assistant  
Virgil Jacobs—Range Patrol  
Tim Crowchild - Range Patrol  
Tanisha Whitney - Range Patrol  
Lenny Eagletail—Range Patrol  
Taos Onespot—New Lands Coordinator  
Trevor Manywounds—New Lands Coordin.

## Other Updates:

### Nation Lands

- ⇒ 3d mapping once again operational
- ⇒ Overwhelmed by Trespassing
- ⇒ Fencing the boundary at trespassing location
- ⇒ Working with Calgary Parks for the trespassing
- ⇒ Working with Tosguna on Enforcement
- ⇒ Maintaining camera network on the nation
- ⇒ Helping with every nation program that uses the nation lands
- ⇒ Escorting all non-nation workers that need access to the nation
- ⇒ Extensive work on locating and identifying illegal dumpers and dump sites
- ⇒ Developing the hunting and animal legislation through LERD and LPTS.
- ⇒ Updating the Nations Land Use Plan with LERD

### New Lands

- ⇒ Re-Naming the new lands
- ⇒ Road and Trail grooming for the safety of visiting nation members
- ⇒ Park sites for nation members development
- ⇒ Youth Program summer visits
- ⇒ Firewood program, free for the Nation
- ⇒ Land Use Planning

## Forestry

Tsuut'ina has recently completed an environmental management plan in collaboration with CCI. The purpose of this plan was to create an overview of natural resources and objectives on the land and to inform the nation of potential future operational plans. This plan had a number of focus areas which included:

1. Productivity of the forest resource.
2. Reduce the risk of wildfire.
3. Identify the capacity of the range resource (grazing potential).
4. Outline a framework for a carbon sequestration program.
5. Identify opportunities for economic development (e.g. campground, RV storage lot, butcher, greenhouse for producing seedlings).



## FireSmart

Tsuut'ina has recently completed a Wildfire Mitigation Strategy in collaboration with CCI. This plan is designed to assist the Nation in identifying the level of susceptibility to wildfire and to provide recommended measures to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire. This plan also included a Wildfire Preparedness Guide and a Sprinkler Deployment plan to assist emergency responders in the event of a wildfire.

In addition to the Wildfire Mitigation Strategy, the Nation has invested in FireSmart equipment and put 8 Nation members through an industry-recognized (Woodland Trainers Association) Level 3 chainsaw felling course. After completing the course, nation members have been completing FireSmart work around residential homes that were identified as high risk to wild fire in the Wildfire Mitigation Strategy as well as work around the powwow grounds.. This includes removing dangerous trees, pruning trees, spacing trees, and some mulching.





# UXO CLEARANCE DEPARTMENT

## **Unexploded Ordnance Clearance Team Brings Nation Schools to Historic Military Range for Educational Experience**

For the first time in history, our UXO (Unexploded Ordnance) Clearance team had the honor of bringing Nation schools onto the former military range for an educational and enlightening experience. This significant event marks a milestone in our Nation's journey toward reclaiming and repurposing our ancestral lands.

### **A Glimpse into History**

The story of these lands stretches back to the late 1800s when the Canadian military used them as summer camps. For decades, these grounds served as a training site, leaving behind a legacy that we are now committed to transforming. In 1985, our Nation made a crucial decision not to renew the lease with the Canadian military, choosing instead to embark on a path of self-reliance and stewardship.

### **Educational and Enlightening Experience**

During the visit, students learned about the historical significance of the lands and the rigorous process of UXO clearance. They gained insights into the meticulous work involved in ensuring the safety and usability of the area. This hands-on learning experience provided them with a deeper understanding of the challenges and responsibilities associated with land reclamation.

### **Global Contributions and Achievements**

Our UXO Clearance team is not only dedicated to clearing our lands but has also extended its expertise to international efforts. We have participated in clearance operations in countries like Bosnia, Kosovo, Panama, the USA, and others. These missions have showcased our capabilities and commitment to creating safe

er environments globally.

### **Sovereignty and Future Planning**

One of the most empowering aspects of this journey is that the Nation is now in full control of the clearance operations, independent of Canada. This autonomy signifies our resilience and determination to take charge of our destiny. Moving forward, we are actively planning for the future use of these lands, envisioning possibilities that align with our cultural values and community needs.

### **A Vision for the Future**

As we continue to clear and reclaim our lands, we invite our community to dream big about the potential uses for this area. Whether it becomes a site for education, recreation, conservation, or other purposes, the future of these lands is in our hands. This historic visit by our Nation's schools is just the beginning of a new chapter, where we honor our past while building a prosperous future.

First of many, The UXO Clearance team's efforts are a testament to our Nation's strength and unity. By educating our youth about the significance of these lands and our role in their transformation, we are fostering a sense of pride and responsibility that will guide us in the years to come.

***Siyisgaas! UXO Clearance Department  
Andrew Onespot Jr.  
Taye Dodginghorse***



# CONSULTATION DEPARTMENT



## TSUUT'INA NATION CONSULTATION DEPARTMENT

Chief Joseph Big Plume Administration Building – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
9911 Chiila Boulevard Tsuut'ina, Alberta, Canada T3T-0E1  
Telephone: 403-281-4455  
Website: [www.tsuutina.com](http://www.tsuutina.com)

### Consultation Staff:

**Director:** Violet Meguinis

**Project Manager:** Conrad Starlight

**Office Manager:** Coral Bottle

**Sr. Field Technician—**Micheal Onespot Sr.

**Regulatory Analyst/Writer—***Vacant*

**Jr. Field Technician—***Vacant*

**SEND YOUR RESUMES TO THE  
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT IF  
YOU ARE INTERESTING IN ANY OF  
OUR VACANT POSITIONS.  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,  
FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE  
CONSULTATION DEPARTMENT.**

### Traditional Knowledge Keeper (TEK) Seasonal Employment:

- Consultation is opening seasonal positions for the coming year, please come to consultation office (third floor) to complete an application form.
- Applications are open from July 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 with training immediately after closing date.
- Job Description can be obtained at consultation office (third floor).
- Applications will be available at upcoming open house in June 2024.

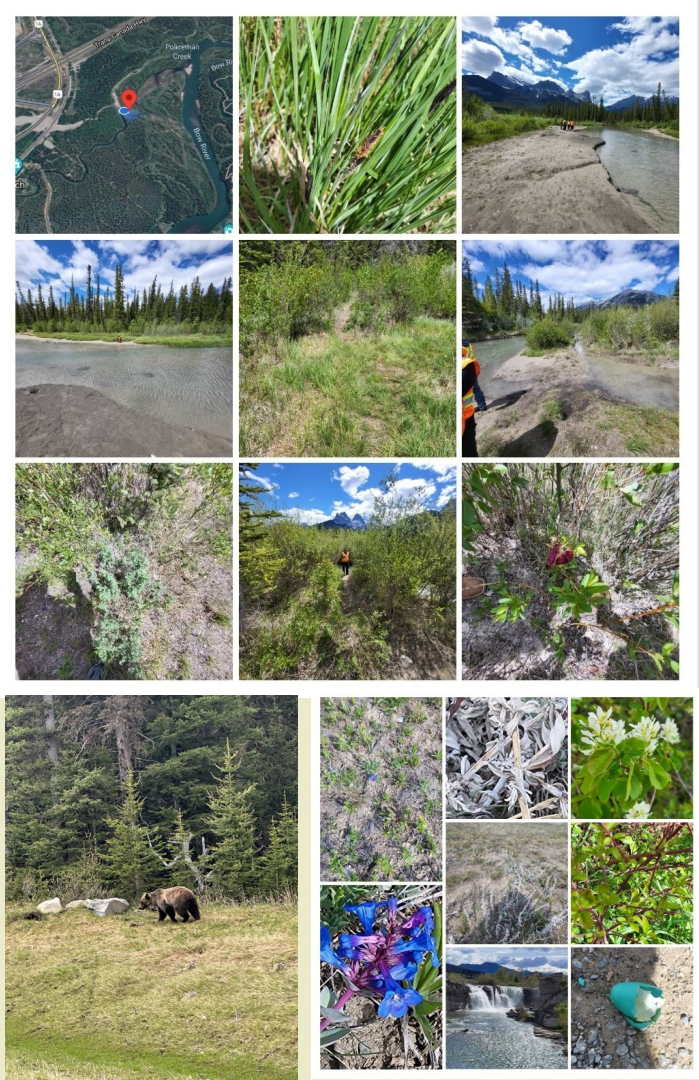
For further information please call Conrad Starlight at 403-281-4455.

### Elder/Community Engagement:

- ⇒ Consultation will be hosting an Elder/Community engagement meeting in early September 2024, as details are confirmed we will advertise date, time and location.

### Open House:

- ⇒ Consultation will be at the upcoming open house in June and will share project updates to the community, please come see us.







# AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION FUND PROJECT (AHRF)

## Tsuut'ina Nation Beaver (Mīchādīkódī) Coexistence and Fish Habitat Improvement Project Report 2023/2024 Update

The Tsuut'ina Nation Beaver (Mīchādīkódī) Coexistence and Fish Habitat Improvement Project has largely achieved its 2023/2024 objectives and delivered valuable insights into beaver management and fish habitat restoration. Through the project, the team has identified and, in some cases, mitigated areas of existing human-beaver conflict, mapped primary indicators of beaver presence, installed beaver flood prevention structures, and conducted outreach and education sessions on beaver biology and aquatic ecology. We recognize that a more thorough assessment of fish habitat created by beaver activity, both current and historic, was required by the project and have proposed mitigations to that oversight within the report.

The project has further proposed many of the pieces that can form a draft Tsuut'ina Beaver Management strategy, which includes ongoing beaver activity best management practices, maintenance and lifespan of proposed beaver coexistence installations, beaver trapping, translocation, and lethal management, and a proposed beaver activity decision matrix framework.

Overall, this project has contributed significantly to the Tsuut'ina Nation's efforts to balance surface water within aquatic habitats and prevent overland flooding caused by beaver activities while maintaining a healthy population and promoting fish habitat improvement. Future efforts to better support beavers and their relationship to fish and fish habitat by the Tsuut'ina Nation (a beaver peoples) are hopefully supported by our work. The recommendations outlined in this report will ideally guide future beaver management efforts and partially inform the direction Tsuut'ina Nation Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund Program and others under the Lands Administration.

However, just as beaver activity and disturbance to riparian and wetland areas by beaver foraging and flooding activity are dynamic processes, so must be the ongoing and adaptive management of beavers on the wetland and riparian landscapes of the Tsuut'ina Nation.

We hope that you have found the information presented within this beaver coexistence report for the TTN informative and that it provides valuable consideration in the ongoing management of beavers and fish habitats now and in the future. From the first pipe ceremony to initiate this project in a good way to now, we have felt like a welcomed guest on the Tsuut'ina Nation and greatly look forward to further collaboration with those involved in the TTN AHRF program and other Lands Administration initiatives. You Betula Environmental Inc. is committed to assisting with implementing an effective beaver management strategy for Tsuut'ina Nation. This report (along with its deliverables) is another critical step in that process, but certainly not the last.







# Lot 48 - Wolf Creek Restoration Site

Over the past 3 years the Nation has been funding by DFO to support our Aquatic Life and Waterways. Under the Lands Administration Departments and the funding provided from the AHRF Project a site has been recommended along the Wolf/fish Creek area for restoration . The Lands Department has been working with Head Chief and Minor Chiefs to re-designate this area for community use. Over the next summer/fall months activities will be taking place to restore this pristine waterway and to protect it for generations to come, which includes the following:

- Re-designate parcel of Land back to Community Lands (BCR required).
- Notification to Citizens
- Parking lot construction
- Signage installed for information
- Picnic Benches placement
- Firepit
- Willow Restoration
- On-going Fish/Beaver Counts






# TSUUT'INA NATION AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION

## STAY INFORMED ON

- UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS
- LAND & ENVIRONMENT NOTICES
- NISK'A (LAND) POLICIES

**DON'T FORGET TO ENABLE PUSH NOTIFICATIONS AFTER DOWNLOAD**




# GET THE APP *today*

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Search: Tsuutina Aquatic Habitat

### PODCAST— STORIES FROM THE ELBOW

Stories from the Elbow is a podcast about the Elbow River Watershed, its stories, and the people who steward and protect it. The Tsuut'ina people have a longstanding and special relationship with the Elbow River. In each episode, hear from experts who explain the history of the area, share Indigenous Knowledge, and propose solutions for protecting water and the life that depends on it. Stories from the Elbow is produced by the Elbow River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) on partnership with the Tsuut'ina Nation Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project.

**YOU CAN LISTEN TO THE PODCAST AT:**

- <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ca.smbapps.tsuutina>
- <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/tsuutina-aquatic-habitat-restoration-project/id1738542765?i=1000650883102>

# Office of Lands & Environment Research Department

## 11 Land & Environment Principles

### **Note: Under Review and Amendment**

1. Tsuut'ina Nation Lands have been set apart for the use and benefit of the Tsuut'ina Nation. Any additional lands that maybe acquired by the Tsuut'ina Nation shall be likewise for the use and benefit of the Tsuut'ina Nation.
2. Tsuut'ina Lands are held collectively by the Citizens of the Tsuut'ina Nation. No Individual Citizen owns land. The Tsuut'ina Nation does not issue Certificates of Possession to Individual Citizens.
3. Tsuut'ina Lands are a valuable resource and must be protected. The Tsuut'ina Nation Way of Life is to maintain harmony between Citizens and their environmental to enforce, preserve and protect the lands, air, water, flora, fauna. Ecological systems, natural resources, historical and cultural artifacts and archeological sites; and to create and maintain conditions under which Citizens and nature may co-exist fulfilling the land, environment, water, cultural protocols, social, economic, notwithstanding any other requirements for the benefits of all generations of the Tsuut'ina Nation in perpetuity.
4. Certain Tsuut'ina Citizens have been allocated lands for their use. These Citizens are responsible to mitigate and remedy all environmental concerns as approved by Tsuut'ina Chief and Council and through individual efforts as trustee of the environment and land use for succeeding generations. This means care-taking the lands to attain the widest range for beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety or other undesirable and unintended consequences.
5. A Tsuut'ina Citizen who has been allocated lands must apply for leases and permits for use of allocated lands.
6. All Tsuut'ina Citizens are to respect land allocations while using lands for residency, community use, economic development, while not causing harm, hardship or trespassing through allocated lands.
7. The authority to designate, surrender, separate, or dispose of land for future development for the benefit of the Tsuut'ina Nation belongs exclusively to the Tsuut'ina Electorate to be decided on by a Referendum.
8. A Tsuut'ina Nation Citizen who has reached the age of 18 is entitled to receive land allocation for house site through generational land allocation. Only in extreme circumstance will a Tsuut'ina Citizen be approved land allocation though the general lands inventory.
9. All development on Tsuut'ina Lands, such as water developments, farms, homes and businesses, shall be subject to law and policy to protect the collective interest.
10. Tsuut'ina Government may take possession of land for the beneficial use of the Tsuut'ina Nation that any Citizen deprived of a previously authorized legal use will be compensated utilizing the established base line formula applied to the Ring Road Agreement that also included a nuisance fee.
11. In the event of death the executor of the deceased person's land use occupation will present the wishes of the deceased to Chief and Council, who will have final approval.

**DRAFT APPROVED BY CHIEF AND COUNCIL  
JUNE 2020**



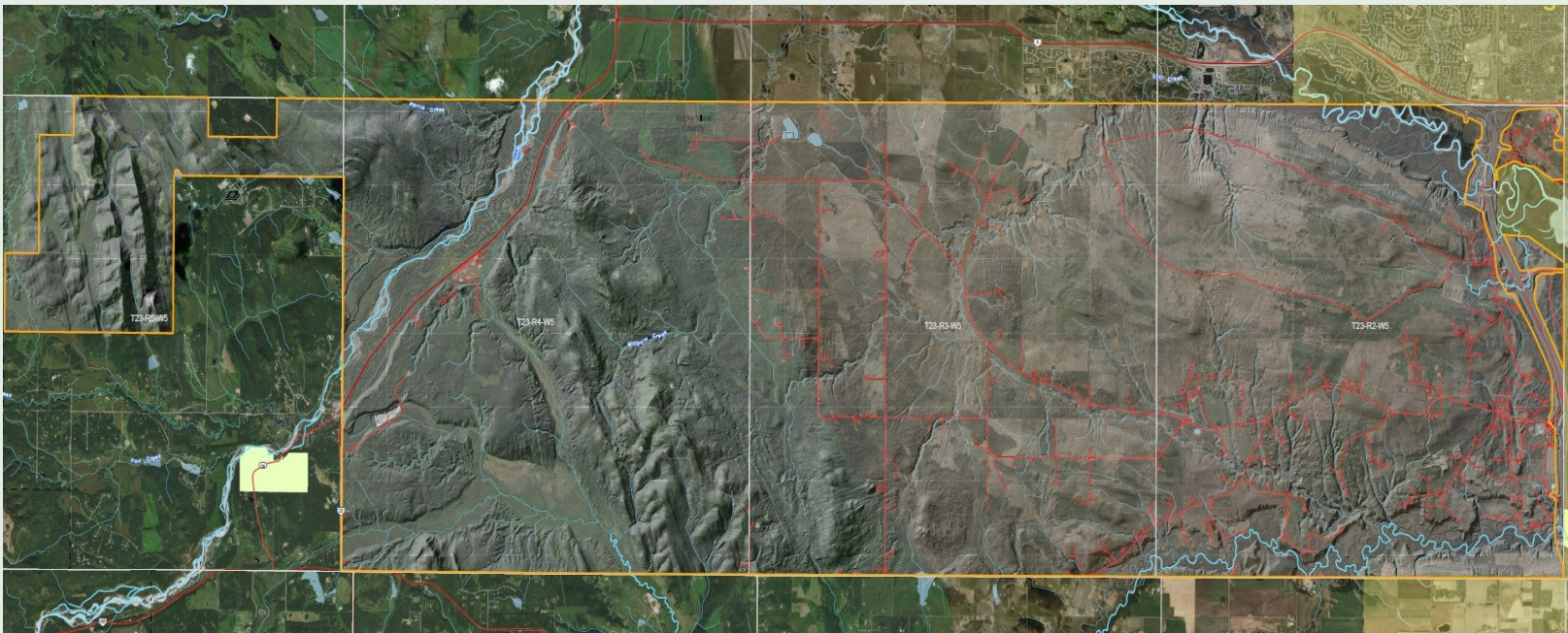
# CCCC Tsuut'ina Nisk'a

## **Tsuut'ina Lands Administration Portfolio**

Shay Runner - Minor Chief Rep  
Steven Crowchild - Minor Chief Rep  
Tanis One Spot—Executive Director of Lands  
Alison Heavenfire - LERD Director  
Clayton Whitney—Buffalo Paddocks/Agriculture Manager  
Shad Manywounds—Conservation/New Lands Manager  
Violet Meguinis - Consultation Director  
Andrew One Spot Jr.—UXO Clearance Department

## **Lands Advisory Committee**

Alex Crowchild - Elder Rep  
Keitha Manyhorses - Elder Rep  
Diane Meguinis - Elder Rep  
Glen Starlight—Citizen  
Brenda Jacobs - Citizen  
Shad Manywounds - Citizen  
Tiffani Whitney - Youth Rep



**Newsletter Compiled & Edited by:**

**Alison Heavenfire, LERD Director**

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