

shíshálh-B.C. Joint Land Use Plan Phase 2 Backgrounder



CONTEXT

In October 2018, shíshálh Nation and the Province of British Columbia (BC) signed the shíshálh-BC Foundation Agreement. The Foundation Agreement demonstrates a commitment to true and lasting reconciliation, co-operation, and partnership, based on recognition and respect for shíshálh rights and title and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The Foundation Agreement was renewed in 2024 continuing the important work we have begun.

The shíshálh-BC Land Use Planning Table (LUPT) is one of the collaborative forums established under the shíshálh-BC Foundation Agreement. Comprised of equal representation from both parties, the k'ats'awattsut kwe sninishinmitit te syichams te shíshálh swiya (Land Use Planning Table) is tasked with co-developing a draft joint Land Use Plan (LUP) for the shíshálh Nation swiya.



A NEW APPROACH

shíshálh Nation and the Province of BC are co-developing a Land Use Plan (LUP) as one way of implementing the transformative change that has been committed to by both parties in the shíshálh-BC [Foundation Agreement](#).

The joint land use planning process will allow shíshálh Nation and the BC government to make progress on their Foundation Agreement goals of:

- Shared environmental stewardship of the swiya;
- Creating economic prosperity for shíshálh people and those choosing to live, work and play within the swiya;
- Protecting cultural sites;
- Revitalizing shíshálh culture and language; and
- Strengthening shíshálh self-governance.

LUP AREA SCOPE

The word ‘swiya’ describes the lands and waters that shíshálh Nation has occupied and utilized since time immemorial and can be translated as world, birthplace, lands, or “territory”.

The shíshálh swiya extends from xwésám (Roberts Creek) in the southeast to the height of land located north of xenichen (head of Queen’s Reach) in the north, kwékwenis (Lang Bay) to the west and spílksen (Texada Island) to the south.

This Land Use Plan will articulate a shared long-term strategic vision for the stewardship of lands and resources in the swiya. Within the context of Rights, Title, and Reconciliation, it will be based upon the collective knowledge and information gathered from shíshálh, BC and other interested parties.

The shíshálh-BC Land Use Plan will provide clear management direction on the following four primary planning themes:

- » Biodiversity;
- » Watershed Integrity;
- » Resources Important to shíshálh Culture;
- » Sustainable Economic Development.

And two cross cutting planning themes:

- » Cumulative Impacts;
- » Climate Change.

Following the Land Use Plan adoption, further detailed planning will occur in the following areas:

- » Water Sustainability
- » Recreation and Tourism

KEY DELIVERABLES

The draft shíshálh-BC Land Use Plan could produce outputs such as:

- » Land Use Zones (i.e. conservation areas, cultural emphasis areas, and integrated stewardship areas);
- » Management Direction & Goals (for planning theme values);
- » Legal Land Use Designations & Objectives (i.e. Protected Areas, Wildland Areas, Wildlife Habitat Areas, Cultural Values Protection, General Land Use Objectives);
- » Priority Actions: Projects & Tasks

Some elements of the plan, or its related initiatives, may be developed, adopted and approved in stages via mutual agreement of the parties prior to full completion of the plan.



FIGURE 1: SHÍSHÁLH SWIYA

PROCESS

We are in Phase 2 of 4 in the planning process. This planning process was initiated by a period of pre-planning, which included preliminary discussions with shíshálh Nation on land use and management issues, and the establishment of the Land Use Planning Table. The four planning phases are:

Phase 1: Setting the Stage (complete).

The Land Use Planning Table established how they will work together, outlined a land use planning process, developed a workplan, and identified gaps in information and resources. Stakeholders, members of the public, and shíshálh Nation community members were informed of the planning scope and engaged in early identification of opportunities and concerns regarding the planning process ([Phase 1 Engagement Summary](#)).

Phase 2: Assessing the Current State (we are here).

Studies have been conducted to better understand the status of values in the swiya. Current Condition Assessments for selected values have been completed [here](#). shíshálh Nation community members, local governments, stakeholders, industry and the public are now being engaged to gather input on the assessment findings and preliminary considerations for planning. The Current Condition Assessments and engagement results will inform the planning process going forward.

Phase 3: Developing a Management Recommendation.

The Land Use Planning Table will review what was heard during Phase 2 and explore the impacts and benefits of different management options on the identified values to develop a management recommendation for consideration. Information, including the rationales for the Management Recommendation developed in Phase 3, will be shared with shíshálh Nation community members, local governments, stakeholders, industry and the public with an opportunity to review the recommended approach and provide comments.

Phase 4: Completing the Draft Land Use Plan.

During Phase 4, feedback provided by shíshálh Nation community members, local governments, stakeholders, industry and the public in Phase 3 will be considered in the development of a draft Land Use Plan. The draft Land Use Plan will then be shared with shíshálh Nation community members, local governments, stakeholders, industry and the public for further review and comment.

Upon the completion of engagement on the draft Land Use Plan, it will be shared with shíshálh and BC decision-makers for plan evaluation, approval, and external communication. Final plan communications will be shared with shíshálh Nation community members, local governments, stakeholders, industry and the public.

After plan approval, a LUP implementation and monitoring plan will be jointly developed by shíshálh and BC, to confirm an approach for implementing and monitoring key aspects of the plan such as legal land use designations, legal land use objectives, and future projects and tasks. The monitoring approach will also incorporate a feedback process to allow for plan adaptation and ensure plan effectiveness and resilience under future changing conditions.

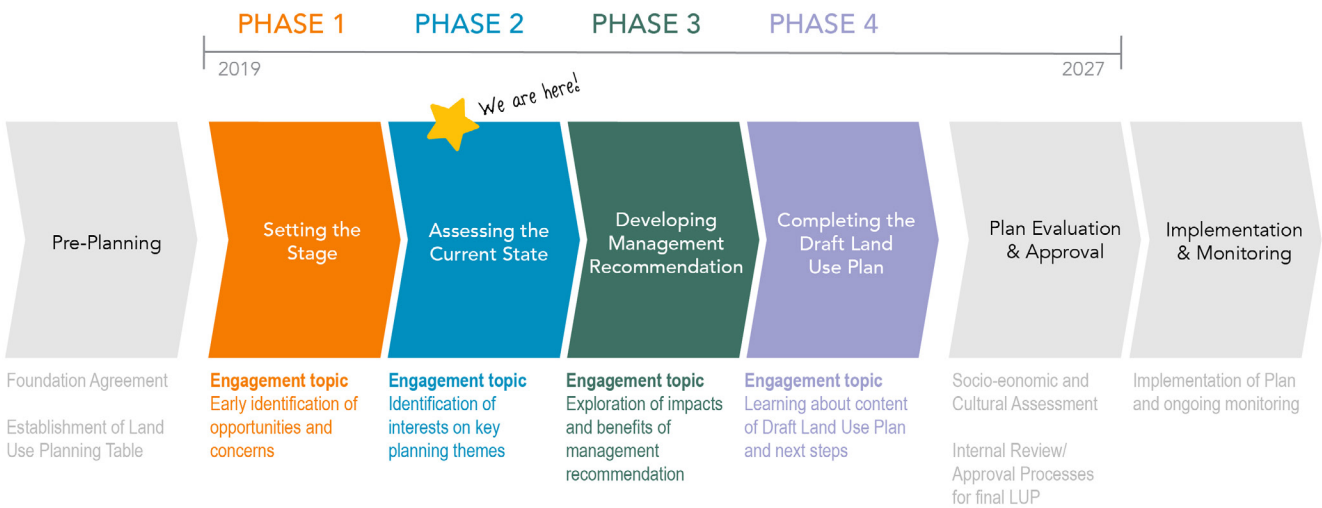


FIGURE 2: PHASES OF THE JOINT SHÍSHÁLH-B.C. LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS

WHAT WE HEARD IN PHASE 1

Between November 2020 and February 2021, 681 members of the public and 18 community groups, organizations and governments contributed to the first phase of engagement on the shíshálh-B.C. Land Use Plan and shared their thoughts on initial interests, concerns and opportunities related to the planning process. Engagement participants identified interests relating to economy, environment, recreation, reconciliation, and continued engagement. A full summary of Phase 1 engagement results can be [found here](#).

A parallel engagement process was held for shíshálh Nation community members focused on the values and principles that should guide land use planning. shíshálh Nation members identified shíshálh Rights and Title as a guiding principle as well as community and culture, water, lands and habitats, sustainable economic development, and adapting to change as key planning values.

The results from Phase 1 helped shape the overall communications and engagement strategy and informed joint values that will guide the remainder of the planning process.



FIGURE 3: SAMPLE RESULTS FROM SHÍSHÁLH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



WHAT IS THE CURRENT CONDITION OF THE SWIYA?

As one of the key deliverables of the shíshálh-BC Land Use Planning process, the LUPT recently completed the assessment of current conditions for the major planning themes identified for the shíshálh-BC land use planning process.

This work ensures that we are starting with a solid understanding of the history and current state of the swiya before planning for its future.

The results of this work have been compiled [here](#).

At this webpage you will find information on the overarching themes of shíshálh Culture and Rights, Title and Reconciliation. These themes are interwoven into the planning process and guided by shíshálh knowledge and stewardship of the swiya as integral teachings central to the creation of the LUP.

On the [current condition assessments pages](#), you will find information about:

- » Rights, Title and Reconciliation
- » Language, Heritage and Identity
- » Land-Based Cultural Values
- » Water-Based Cultural Values

At this page you will also find results of current condition assessment relating to the following topics:



Wildlife

- hupit (Columbian black-tailed deer)
- k'eyich (Roosevelt Elk)
- schetxwen (Black Bear)
- mayukw (Grizzly Bear)
- spipiyus (Marbled Murrelet)
- kakakewanxw (Northern Goshawk)



Watershed Integrity



Climate Change



Cumulative Impacts



Coastal Foreshore



Old Forests



Social economic Baseline

Find more information about what a current condition assessment is and the process for developing one [here](#).

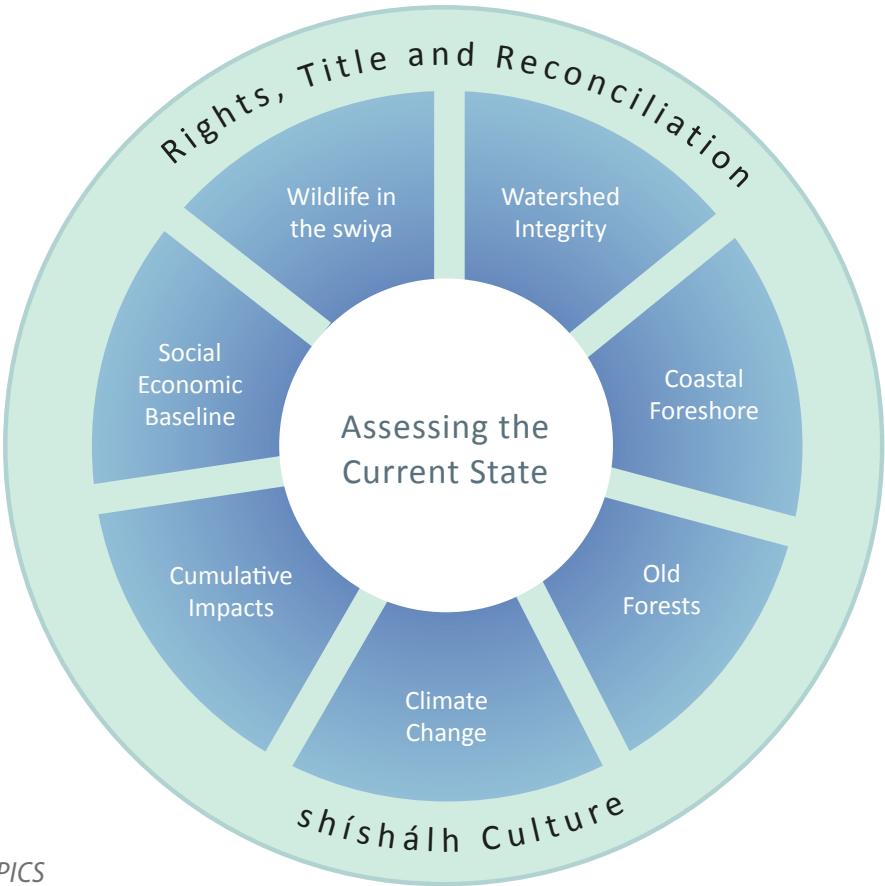


FIGURE 4: CURRENT CONDITION ASSESSMENT TOPICS

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

In this second phase of the land use planning process, the Land Use Planning Table is sharing information relating to shíshálh culture, rights, title and reconciliation, as well as [current condition assessment materials \(CCAs\)](#) relating to wildlife, watershed integrity, coastal foreshore, old forests, socioeconomic baseline, climate change and cumulative impacts. Engagement is occurring with shíshálh Nation community members, local governments, stakeholders, and the public to gather input on current condition assessment findings and preliminary considerations for planning.

Opportunities to provide input that are open to the public during Phase II engagement include:

- » [A Public Questionnaire](#)
- » A Public Webinar
- » Two Open Houses
- » Four Topic-based Focus Groups (30 participants each) designed to understand interests and concerns relating to specific topics

Phase two engagement for local governments, licensees, and stakeholders also includes:

- » Primary Stakeholder Workshops

The Province and shíshálh Nation encourage everyone to submit feedback via the questionnaire. Please visit our [project website](#) for up-to-date information on engagement event dates and locations.

