

PART III: The Social, Cultural, and Land Use Setting



5. LHEIDLI T'ENNEH NATION

The ALRF area is located within the traditional aboriginal (indigenous) territory of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation. The Lheidli T'enneh are affiliated with the Carrier aboriginal peoples of the north central Interior of what is now British Columbia. The Carrier refer to themselves as Dakelh (“those who travel by boat” or “on-water traveler”), and as Dene or Dune (“people”).

The word Lheidli means “where the rivers flow together”, and T'enneh means “the people”.

Lheidli T'enneh communities, both near Prince George, BC, include Khast'an Lhughel - North and South Shelley IR #2 – on the Fraser River, and Lhezbaonichek – Clesbaoneecheck IR #3 – on the Nechako River. Additional reserve lands include Ts'unk'ut – Lheidli T'enneh Cemetery IR #1A, and Dzulhyazchun Tsalakoh – Salaquo IR #4.

The Lheidli T'enneh territory is unceded. No treaty currently exists between Lheidli T'enneh, British Columbia, and Canadian governments.

Lheidli T'enneh Chief Dominic Frederick, elders, and councillors and UNBC representatives celebrate the new UNBC campus sign in the Dakelh language in September 2016 (Photo: UNBC Communications)



The draft Lheidli T'enneh Land Use Plan (2017) provides some information on the traditional territory and land use of this people. It is excerpted in part, here:

“The Lheidli T'enneh Traditional Territory extends eastward to the Rocky Mountains, westward to Cluculz Lake, northward to Summit Lake and southward to Hixon. Prior to first contact, and through the fur trade era to the turn of the 20th century, the Lheidli T'enneh were composed of distinct villages and family groups who lived at seasonal camps associated with various activities on the Nechako and Fraser Rivers and throughout their traditional territories. These groups shared a distinct dialect and ties of marriage and kinship, they united for seasonal tasks particularly related to the usually abundant annual salmon runs.

Land and resource knowledge was critical to the traditional Lheidli T'enneh way of life which incorporated use of the entire territory in a ‘seasonal round’ of activities. These movements varied from year to year but involved returning to key sites in the summer for salmon and fish, the mountains for hunting in the fall, and fishing on the lakes in spring. Varying resource locations or campsites were used depending on shifts in caribou movements, cycles in rabbit populations, or changes in water levels...”



Lheidli T'enneh Elder and UNBC Instructor Edie Frederick testing out the first cottonwood dugout canoe to be launched from Lheidli T'enneh territory in more than 60 years. (Photo: UNBC Communications)

The upper Fraser River area, including the lower Bowron River, was historically, and is currently used by the Lheidli T'enneh for access to fisheries and travel routes, especially in tributary rivers. The valley between the Willow and Fraser Rivers traversed by the current Upper Fraser Road and the Canadian National (CN) Railway is an ancient river channel now occupied in part by Eaglet, Aleza, and Hansard Lakes. This is a well-known part of the traditional territory of the local Indigenous people who have utilized it for hunting and gathering activities (Sedgewick, 2008).

The BC Register of Geographic Names (accessed Feb, 4th, 2017) indicates that the Dakelh name for the water body known

as “Aleza” Lake is *Tatsibun*, meaning “waves lake” in English (Yinka Déné Language Institute, accessed Jan. 2018 <http://www.ydli.org/dakinfo/DakelhPlacenames.html>). The Register reports that Aleza Lake (referring to both the lake, and the village and original post office established around 1913) was named after an old aboriginal woman who lived in the area. Other historical accounts indicate that that this local woman liked to fish in this area. (As a point of historical reference, the railway, then named the Grand Trunk Pacific and now CN Rail, was not completed through this area until 1913 (Sedgewick, 2010)).

Traditional use studies by the Lheidli T'enneh within their territory are commencing or in progress at time of writing of this plan, and future disclosure of any such knowledge, if it occurs, will be at their discretion.

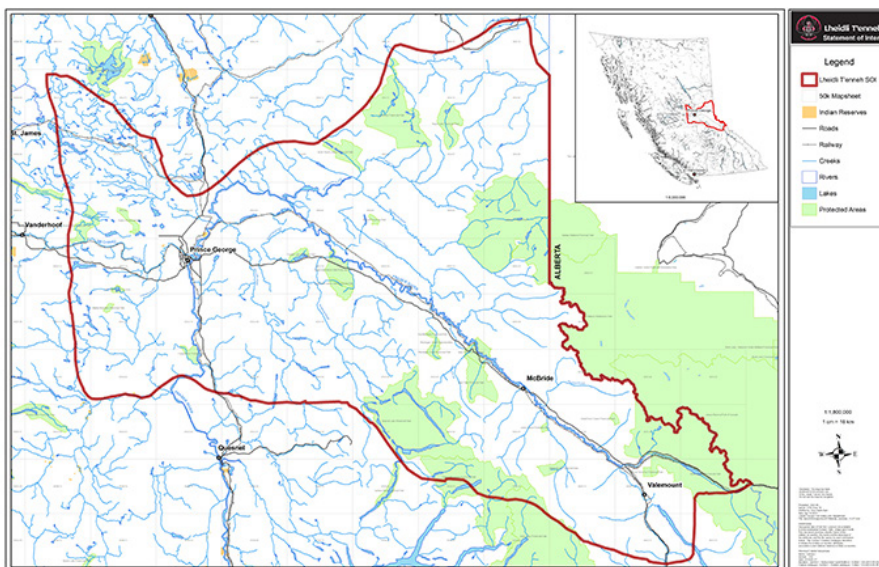
To 2018, there have been no inventories or field assessments of Cultural Heritage Resources (CHR), and no known / identified archaeological sites on the Aleza Lake Research Forest.

The ALRF is working to improve the limited available information for managing related values and sites on the ALRF that may be of importance to the Lheidli T'enneh.

Current and pending CHR information resources include:

1. An 2010 archeological overview assessment (AOA) report on the ALRF area by Norcan Consulting Ltd. This AOA research indicated a potential historical indigenous trail route through the lower Bowron River corridor linking the Upper Fraser River with the Willow River watershed, and high archaeological potential adjacent to this river and other major lakes on the ALRF. A significant technical limitation of this 2010 AOA was that it relied on provincial TRIM contour mapping for mapping of archaeological potential.

Figure 3: Lheidli T'enneh traditional territory



2. Preparation of an updated AOA for the ALRF area by Archer CRM consultants for the ALRF Society (currently in progress as of late 2018 / early 2019), this AOA digital elevation mapping of ground surfaces at the ALRF using recently-acquired 2015 ALRF LiDAR imagery. Further development of this AOA will continue in 2019.

These archaeological overview assessments are the first steps in the consideration and potential identification of Cultural Heritage Resources at the ALRF. Section 11.1 of this Management Plan will outline specific measures and commitments for future CHR management at the ALRF.

The ALRF Society recognizes that it has limited and incomplete knowledge of Lheidli T'enneh traditional and current use

in the area in, and adjacent to, what is now known as the Aleza Lake Research Forest.

The Aleza Lake Research Forest Society will communicate and work with the Lheidli T'enneh community to better understand and protect their community's values, interests, and important sites and resources in this area, and work towards collaborative endeavors of mutual interest.

6. LOCAL LAND USE AND ADJACENT VALUES

6.1 Local Communities

Electoral Area F of the Fraser-Fort George Regional District (Willow River-Upper Fraser) has a total resident population of 1,246 people, according to Statistics Canada 2016 census data. Local unincorporated rural communities in the ALRF area include Shelley, Ferndale, Willow River, Giscome, Newlands, Aleza Lake, Upper Fraser, Sinclair Mills, and Longworth.

According to the 2016 census, the largest city in the region is Prince George, BC with 74,003 residents. The Regional District as a whole has a population of about 94,419 residents in the same period.

Between the 2011 and 2016 censuses, population growth in all of the above areas has averaged about 3%.

6.2 Provincial highway access

The Aleza Lake Research Forest is accessed via the paved Upper Fraser Road, which is part of the provincial highway system, with links to the west to Highway 16 East. Various tributary and secondary forest and resource roads (both status and non-status roads) provide local access to lands adjacent to the Upper Fraser Road.



A community-history tour group visits the village of Willow River and the well-known General Store (2009)

6.3 Public use of Crown land

The Aleza Lake Research Forest is “Crown” land (i.e. - publicly-held land managed by the Province of BC), and is therefore the public has a legal right enter into, and travel on the research forest. The public can also collect and use a variety of non-timber forest products on the ALRF, subject to the rights of other licensed users, and permits and regulatory requirements defined by the Crown (Province of BC). Usually, public uses are seasonal, depending on the foods and materials being gathered.

Licensed Crown tenures are discussed in the next section of this management plan.

Aside from such licensed uses, common public uses of the ALRF forest lands other than forest education and research include:

1. Forest recreation, such as hiking on ALRF trails, winter snowmobiling on ALRF roads, and nature appreciation.
2. Bear hunting (in Spring) and grouse and moose, elk, and deer hunting (in Fall) subject to BC Hunting Regulations and hunting licenses.
3. Berry- and mushroom-picking in late summer and Fall, including blueberry and huckleberry picking. (Commercial picking would require a license).
4. Cutting of dead and dry firewood for local home heating use (as per the *BC Forest Act* and regulations).



Aerial view of Aleza Lake and adjacent village

Other than the Bowron River, which has limited accessibility, sport fishing tends to be uncommon within the ALRF. However, ALRF streams do provide important fish habitat (including spawning and rearing habitat) for adjacent lakes and rivers outside the area.

6.4 Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

The influence or threat of wildland fire risks to local communities and settlements (and vice versa) has been of increasing concern in recent years (Filmon, 2004, Morrow et al, 2013). Correspondingly, measures to define, assess, and manage the interface areas and ecosystems between these two land uses have gained increasing attention.

The Union of BC Municipalities' (UBCM) Strategic Wildfire Threat Assessment Program (2018) defines Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) as any area where combustible wildland fuels (vegetation) are found adjacent to homes, farm structures, other outbuildings or infrastructure. This may occur in the interface where development and fuels meet at a well-defined boundary or the "intermix", where development and fuels intermingle and have no clearly defined boundary.

In BC the WUI is generally defined by UBCM as the area within 2 kilometers of a community with a minimum density of 6 structures per square kilometer. Fire hazard, fuel mitigation planning and FireSmart activities will be focused primarily within the WUI, consistent with fire behaviour principles.

At the time of preparation and submission of this plan for provincial approval:

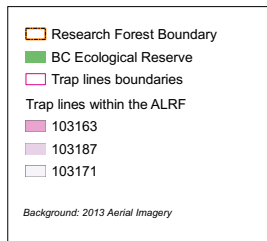
- WUI interface definition and practices are not currently defined by legislation or regulation.
- Initial 2018 WUI threat assessments for the Aleza Lake area have been undertaken by the Province of BC. However, no WUI strategy has yet been prepared and authorized by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, or local government in the areas within or adjacent to the Aleza Lake Research Forest.

Further sections of this Management Plan will consider and address specific aspects of wildfire preparedness, woody fuel management, and fire hazard abatement, both in general as they relate to forest practices on the ALRF tenured landbase, and with consideration to potential interface areas and nearby structures.

7. LICENSED CROWN TENURES AND LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

The following section summarizes license crown tenures and land use designations other than those held by the Aleza Lake Research Forest Society. The latter are reviewed in Section 8.

Traplines

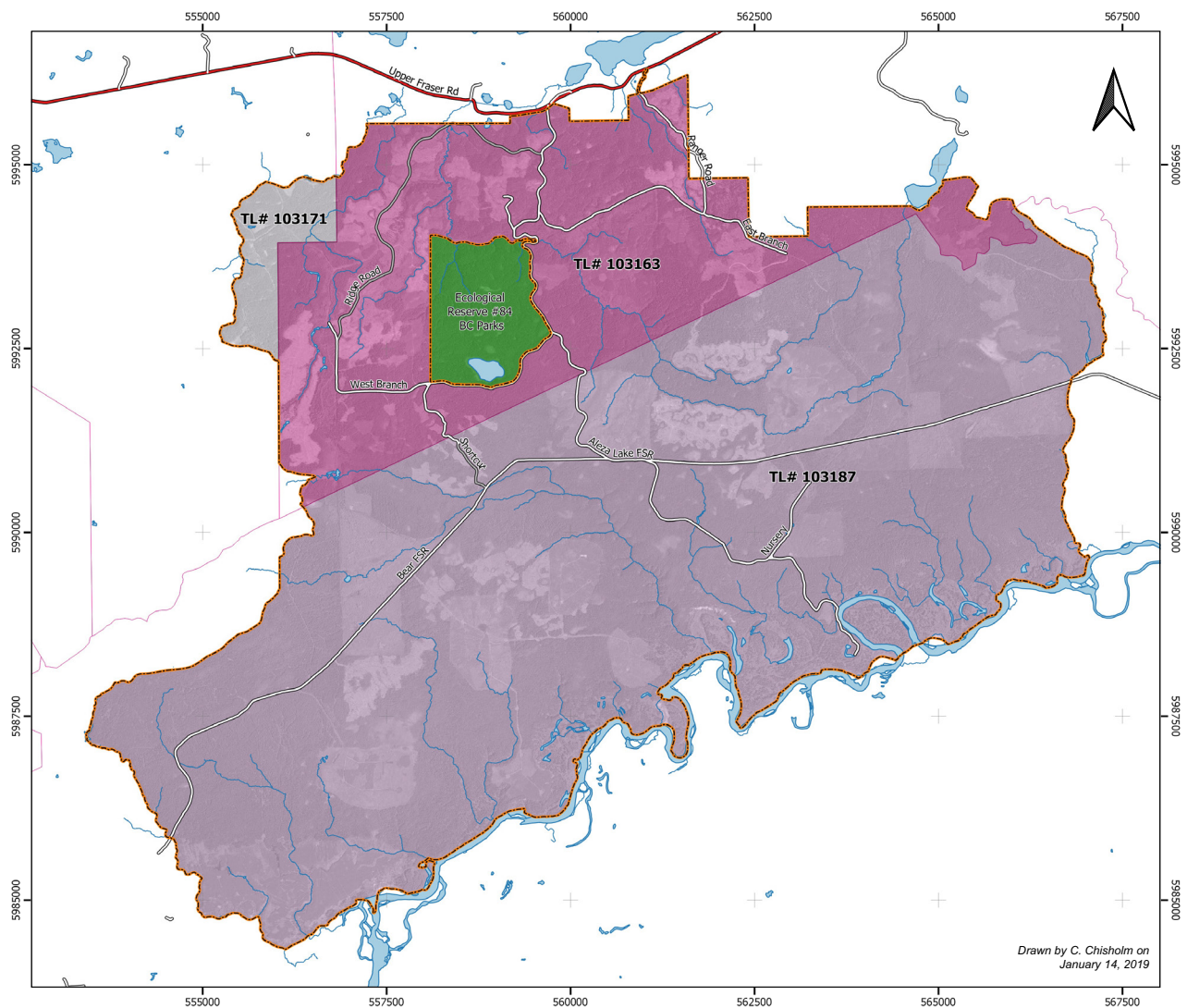


7.1 Licensed Trappers

Three licensed trapline areas (Licenses # 707T004, 707T006, and 707T007) are found within the ALRF (as per Figure 4). The trapline license holders have the rights authorized by the Province to trap specified fur-bearing mammals under the the BC Trapping Regulation. The legal license holders for some trapline licenses may sub-let or delegate trapping activities on these tenure areas to other individuals from time to time.

Figure 4: Trapline Licenses on the ALRF

Provincial trapline licenses in and around the ALRF tenure area as of 2018





Local guide-outfitter Scott Pichette takes UNBC students on an boat trip down the Bowron River within the ALRF, as part of an annual UNBC Natural Resource Management field course

7.2 Licensed Guide-Outfitter

The license area of a licensed guide-outfitter (License # 707G001, certificate 700617) encompasses the Aleza Lake Research Forest area, and includes the much larger surrounding Wildlife Management Sub-unit 7-24. The guide-outfitter currently operates a Commercial Hunting Camp (via License of Occupation) on the Bowron River within the ALRF tenure area.

7.3 Ecological Reserve #84

Ecological Reserve #84 (ER 84, the Aleza Lake Ecological Reserve) is a 269 hectare area designated under the *Ecological Reserves Act*, and is managed by BC Parks. This ecological reserve was established by the Province in 1978.

ER 84 is surrounded by, but is not part of the Special Use Permit 23615 for the ALRF (Figure 5).

As described by Ecological Reserve 84 Purpose Statement (BC Parks, 2003), ER 84 protects forest ecosystems representative of a wet cool region of the Sub-boreal Spruce biogeoclimatic zone. ER 84 contributes to Protected Areas representation of the McGregor Plateau Ecoregion, and is dominantly forested. It also contains a 12 hectare lake (locally known as Loup Lake) near the southern boundary, bogs and wet meadows.

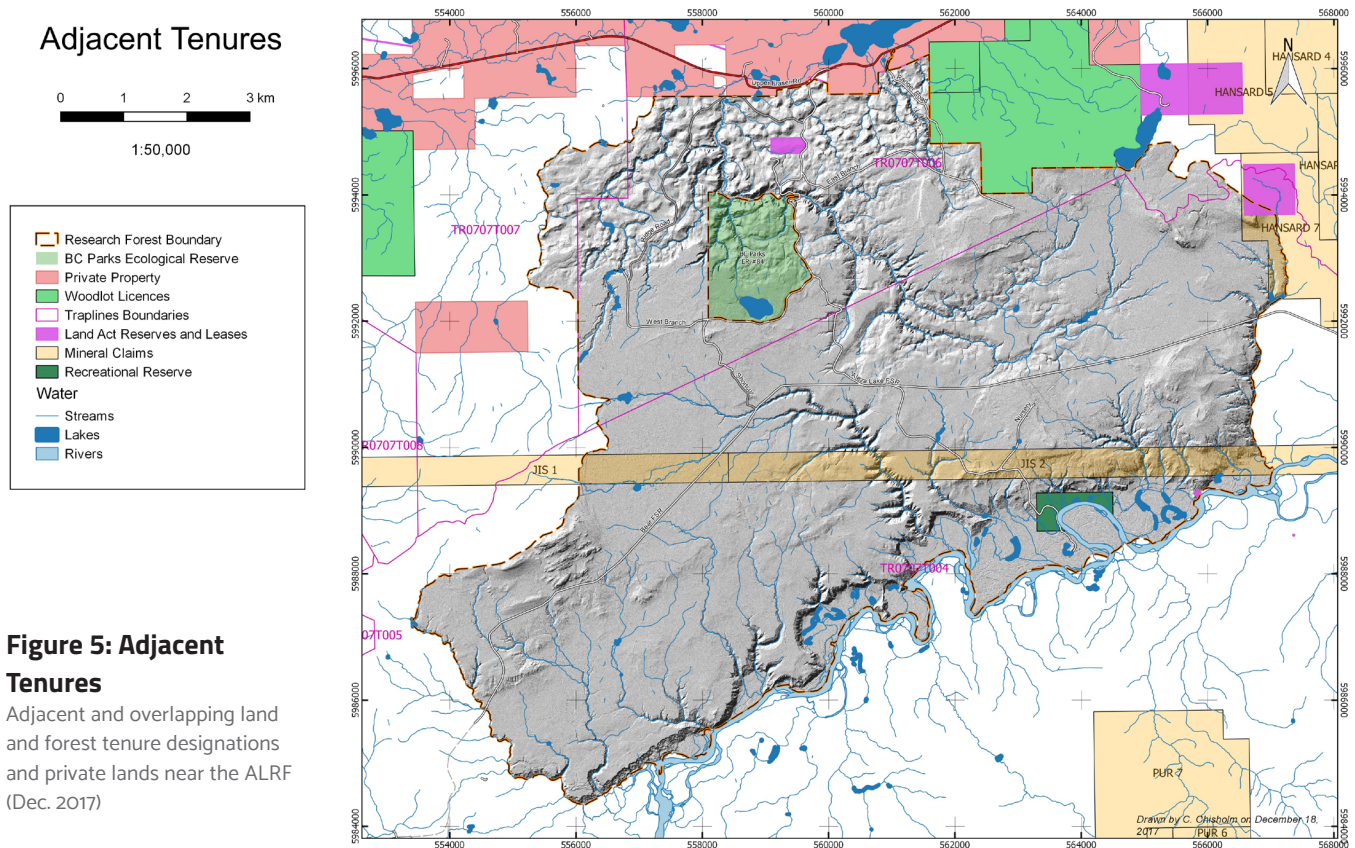
BC Parks may issue Park Use Permits to the Aleza Lake Research Forest Society for educational and research activities within ER84 by the Society and associated researchers, consistent with the terms and conditions of the permit, as amended and replaced from time to time.

7.4 Mining Claims

As of February 2017, mining claims or leases within the ALRF include claim numbers 529665, 537516, and 53517 (Figure 4), issued to Graymont Western Canada, a lime production company. At time of writing of this plan, none of these claims are active.

7.5 Rock and Gravel Pits

The ALRF Society is permitted to extract aggregate (rock and gravel) from pits at designated locations within the ARF area, via a 2015 amendment to Special Use Permit 23615 issued by the Province. The Permit amendment specifies the conditions of land use in these specified areas, aggregate use from this area, and long-term reclamation measures. Materials from these pits are to be used on forest roads within the ALRF.



7.6 Adjacent Forest Tenures

Lands and forest tenures adjacent to the Research Forest include private and Crown land lots along the northern boundary, and Woodlot License #269 adjacent to the northeastern boundary. Along this northern boundary, some private land has been cleared for agricultural use, mainly hay (dairy) production. Most other private land parcels along this boundary have been logged over the last 30 years. As of 2018, the south, west, and eastern forest lands outside of, but adjoining the Aleza Lake Research Forest are Crown Land and are currently allocated to Canadian Forest Products Ltd. and BC Timber Sales Ltd. timber operating areas.

7.7 Forestry research sites identified by government

Several map reserves to protect Provincial research sites were designated on this area prior to the establishment of the Aleza Lake Research Forest under SUP 23615 in 2001. The location of the map reserves and geographical coordinates are recorded and managed within ALRF and provincial government databases.

The ALRF will consider and manage such sites in a manner consistent with other research sites within the ALRF landbase.

7.8 Other potential land-use designations considered

Based on current information, the Aleza Lake Research Forest includes no known Provincial land-use designations or licenses for the following resource values:

- Range tenures.
- Natural range barriers.
- Ungulate winter range designated by the BC Ministry of Environment.
- Wildlife Habitat Areas approved by the BC Ministry of Environment.
- Temperature-sensitive watersheds.
- Community watersheds.
- Water licenses or intakes, and/or
- Recreational Areas.