

Dene K'éh Kusān

ALWAYS WILL BE THERE

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

A DIVERSE ECONOMY

Dene K'éh Kusān is an area that is central to the core spiritual and cultural landscape and critical to the sustainability of Kaska cultural wellbeing. It is an area which supports the criteria of Title as laid out by the Supreme Court of Canada. However, maintaining and enhancing both a resource development and conservation economy is paramount to the Kaska Dena.

To support and grow these economies, the Dene K'éh Kusān boundaries have been established recognizing existing and potential resource development, and a conservation economy, that will reduce conflicts and provide a balance with these economic opportunities.

The following is to document how these economies are being supported and addressed through the designation of the Dene K'éh Kusān.



Resource Economy is not Constrained

The designation of the Dene K'éh Kusān does not preclude or constrain continued resource development in the Kaska Ancestral Territory in British Columbia. Forestry, mining, and oil and gas sectors continue to have access to viable surface and subsurface land base to generate revenue for the Kaska and non-Kaska people.



MINING

In the Ancestral Territory in British Columbia, there are currently:

- ✦ 104 active Mines Act Permits (2019), with only 4 located in Dene K'éh Kusān all related to aggregate sources within the Alaska Highway Right-of Way.
- ✦ 2,855 mineral tenures (mineral and placer [2019]) with 355 (12 %) located in Dene K'éh Kusān. Of the 355 mineral tenures, only 85 (3%) are not in the proximity of the boundary, statutory Right-of-Way or an extension of a developed prospect outside of the Dene K'éh Kusān.
- ✦ 385 Mineral Occurrences¹ (2019) are situated in the Ancestral Territory with only 4 (1%) Prospects (an occurrence which may warrant further exploration – BC Mineral File Inventory) located in Dene K'éh Kusān. There are no active mines in the Dene K'éh Kusān, with only an historic mine no longer viable.
- ✦ Since 1970, there has been 18, 235,40 tonnes mined, and 1,686,321 tonnes milled reported for the Ancestral Territory in British Columbia. Between 1970 – 1975, there was 502,212 tonnes mined, and 98,132 tonnes milled for only 1 mineral project in the Dene K'éh Kusān. There are no reported production results since 1975 and the mine is now classified as a Past Producer (BC Mineral File Inventory ["Minfile"]).²

The available information from the Government of British Columbia indicates that mining is an important component of the resource economy in the Ancestral Territory, but that mineral development potential is limited in the Dene K'éh Kusān based on the production, inventory, and occurrences reported in the BC Mineral File Inventory.

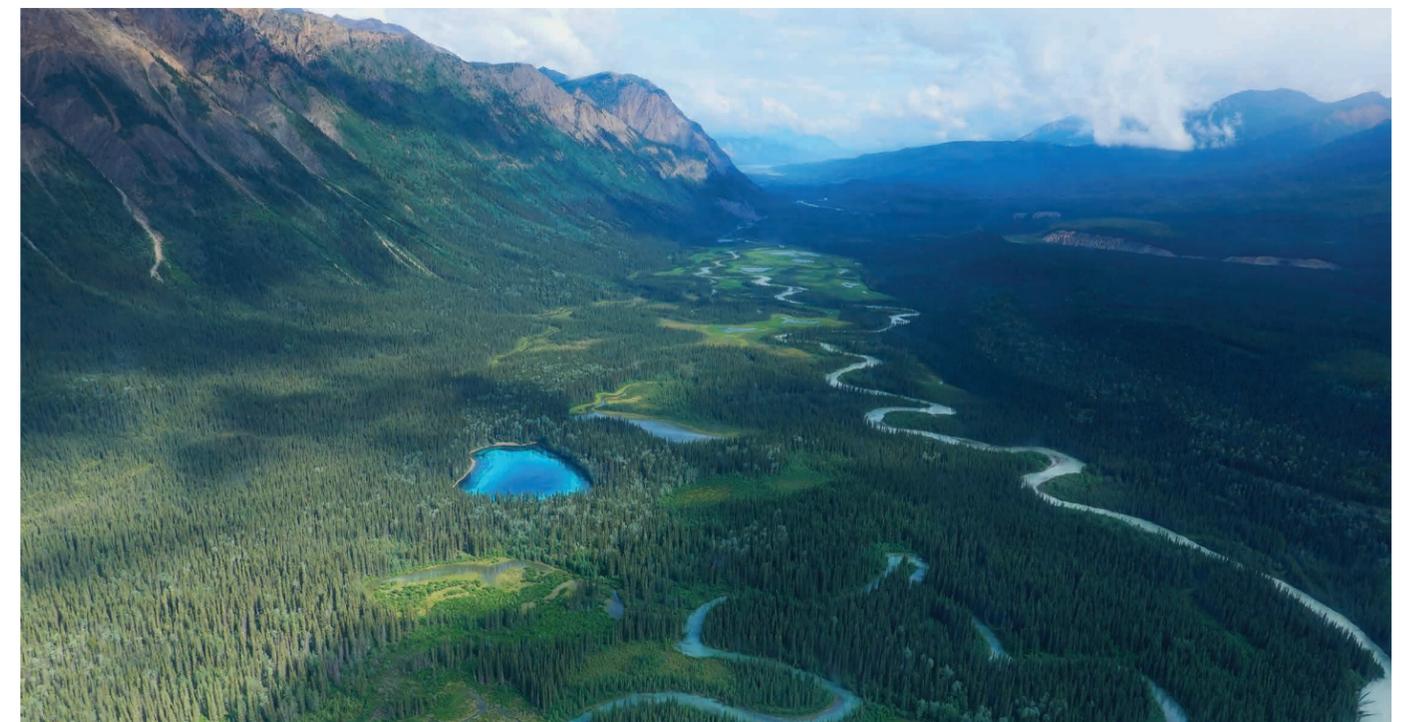
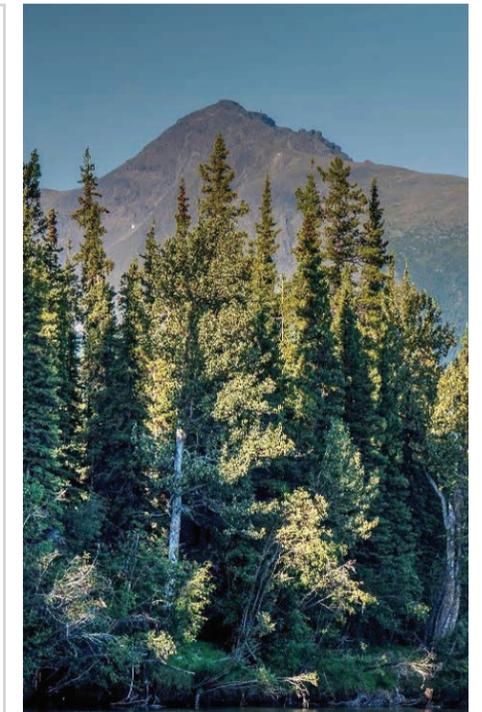
All producing mines, mine projects commencing in the British Columbia Environmental Assessment process, or at advanced exploration stages are located outside of the Dene K'éh Kusān.

¹ catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/minfile-mineral-occurrence-database

² <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/mineral-exploration-mining/british-columbia-geological-survey/mineralinventory>

FORESTRY

- ✦ Currently, there are no apportioned timber volumes or forest tenures attributed to the forests situated in the Dene K'éh Kusān. All operable timber harvesting land bases for the Fort Nelson, Cassiar, and Mackenzie Timber Supply Areas are situated outside of the Dene K'éh Kusān. Historically the Dene K'éh Kusān has been netted out due to a lack of viable timber operability and economic limitations.
- ✦ Currently Kaska hold two renewable forest tenures which will provide up to ~ 250,000 m³/year and are negotiating a third tenure for a similar volume.
- ✦ All forestry roads and past, present, and potential timber facilities are found outside of the proposed protected area.
- ✦ All economic revenue in the Ancestral Territory from forestry historically and presently are generated from the land base outside of the Dene K'éh Kusān.



OIL & GAS

- ❖ There are no historic, permitted, or proposed oil and gas facilities, well holes, sumps, roads, parcels, or water use infrastructure situated in the Dene K'eh Kusān.
- ❖ Of the Liard Basin unconventional shale gas basin mapped by the Government of British Columbia, only 13% of the basin is overlapping with the Dene K'eh Kusān, primarily with the eastern boundary.
- ❖ All economic revenue in the Ancestral Territory from oil and gas development historically and presently are generated from the land base outside of the Dene K'eh Kusān.



CONSERVATION ECONOMY

- ❖ Conservation Economy is critical to the Kaska Dena and to the Northern Economy.
- ❖ Guideoutfitters have been the primary long-term economic driver to the Kaska and non-Kaska people for decades. It can continue to provide revenue, jobs, and opportunities into the future by the maintenance of 4 million hectares of wilderness and large mammal predator-prey ecosystems.
- ❖ Eco/adventure tourism continues to be one of the fastest growing segments of the global tourism industry (OECD 2008) and in British Columbia, adventure tourism continues to lead the way as the fastest growing sector of the economy³. The Dene K'eh Kusān is a wilderness area of global significance, with tourism values that are sought after by adventure/eco tourists. Finally, Kaska Dena cultural tourism can be expanded to provide additional revenue and employment through the Dene K'eh Kusān.

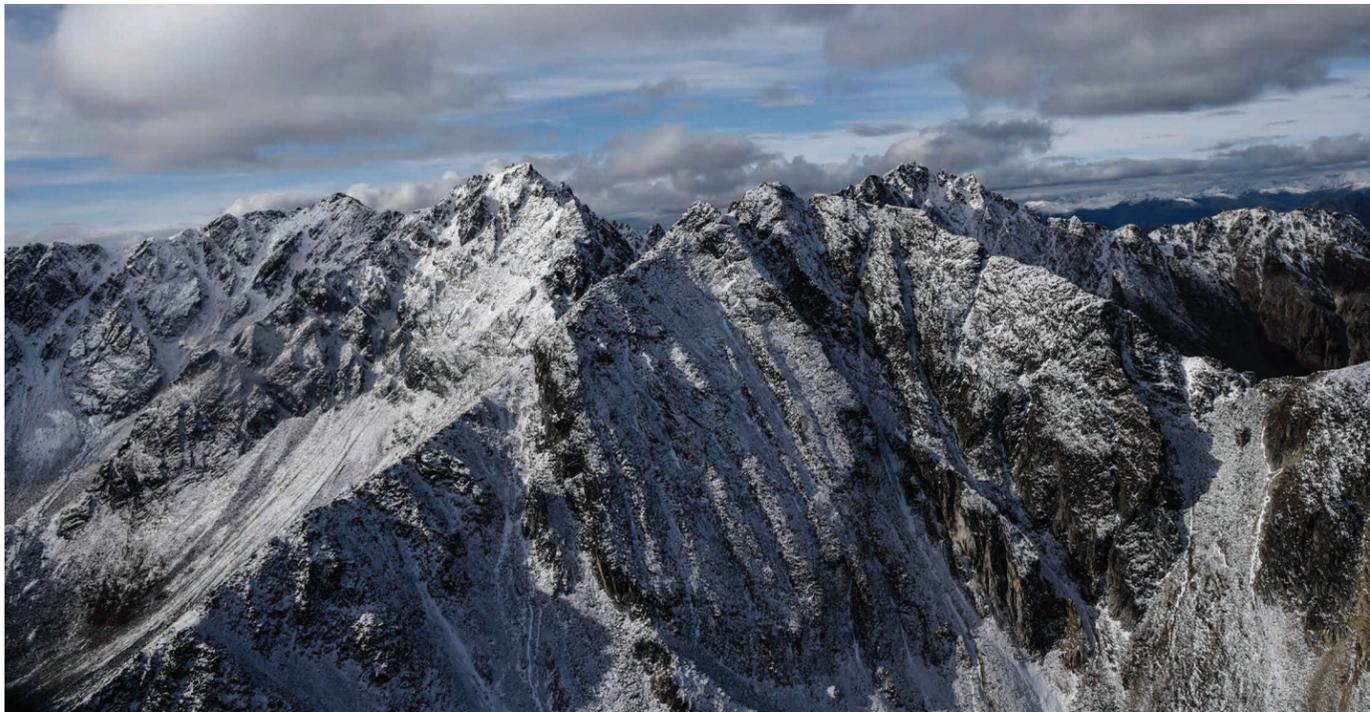


³ Destination BC, Value of Tourism, Full Report, 2017



ADVENTURE TOURISM

- ✦ In 2013, there were 30 Park Use Permits and 32 Adventure Tourism Permits reported active in the Muskwa Kechika Management Area⁴. These activities predominately occur within the Dene K'éh Kusān.



⁴ www.goabc.org/guide-outfitting-history

CULTURAL TOURISM

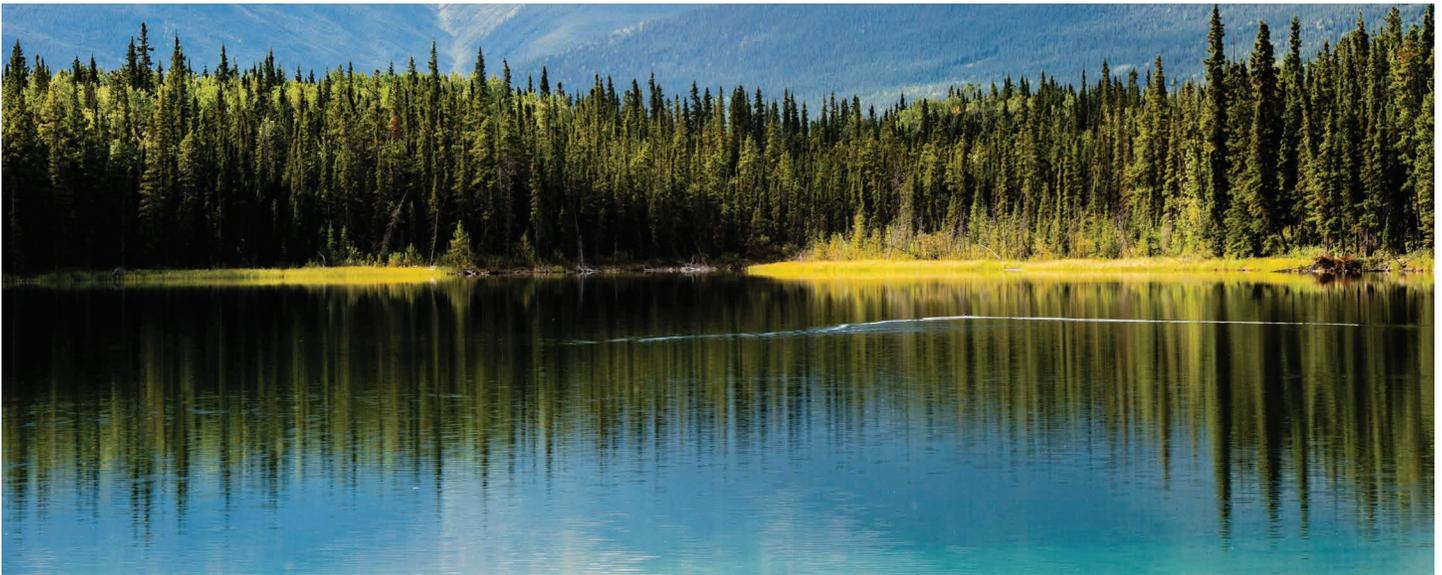
- ✦ For Kaska Dena, the approach for cultural tourism is to build off the success and experience of Indigenous Tourism Association of British Columbia⁵ (ITABC) and its members. It has been a successful approach with reported revenues, jobs, and tax revenues of \$42 million dollars, 2,266 jobs, and \$12 million dollars, respectively, generated in 2010-2011⁶.
- ✦ The Kaska Dena have built a Kaska specific tourism strategy in the past⁷ framed around the analysis of the Kaska economic profile, tourism resources inventory, tourism market status, and range of opportunities. Currently, based on strategic plans and opportunities identified by Indigenous Tourism BC, and Destination BC, the cultural tourism strategy is being aligned to be consistent and take advantage of the expertise available through these organizations to advance Kaska Dena cultural tourism opportunities tied to the Dene K'éh Kusān.



⁵ www.indigenoustbc.com

⁶ www.indigenoustbc.com/assets/corporate/The Next Phase - BCs Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Strategy-AtBC.pdf

⁷ Kaska Dena Council Tourism Development Strategy, 1998



GUIDE OUTFITTING

- ✦ Guided hunting trips or guide outfitting is the predominant economic activity in the Kaska Dena Ancestral Territory in British Columbia. While mining has had an economic influence for short periods when global market conditions are aligned, guide outfitting has been an activity providing long-term economic opportunities for Kaska members, communities, and non-Kaska communities and families for generations.
- ✦ There are 13 guide outfitter territories intersecting the Dene K'éh Kusān, and it is estimated that all would benefit from the establishment of the Dene K'éh Kusān. Four million hectares of contiguous wilderness settings and viable wildlife populations are positive indicators for this activity. The Kaska Dena, as owners of two territories, see this as an allowable land use and are planning to have guide outfitters included in the conservancy designation.
- ✦ Guide outfitting in British Columbia generates approximately \$116 million in revenue each year and employs over 2,000 people⁸. The conservative estimate of revenues generated by guide outfitting in the Dene K'éh Kusān is \$6-7 million annually. This is based on the knowledge provided by guide outfitters, of the purchase cost for guided big game species hunts, the annual quotas for Stone's sheep and other trophy hunts, and the historical harvest of trophy species for these territories.
- ✦ The long-term approximate assessment of guide outfitting in this region means that over a thirty-year window close to \$150 - 200 million dollars could have been generated in today's dollars. This is significant when comparing resource revenues generated in the Dene K'éh Kusān over the same period and guide outfitting continues to be a major economic driver to the Kaska Dena, the north, and non-Kaska families in the region with the establishment of this area.

⁸ Garrity, 2013, Eco/Adventure Tourism In the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Challenges and Constraints.