Collaborative Visitor Use Management in the Sea to Sky

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of
Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations
and Rural Development

https://izzabelle.co/blog/joffre-lakes-bc-hike

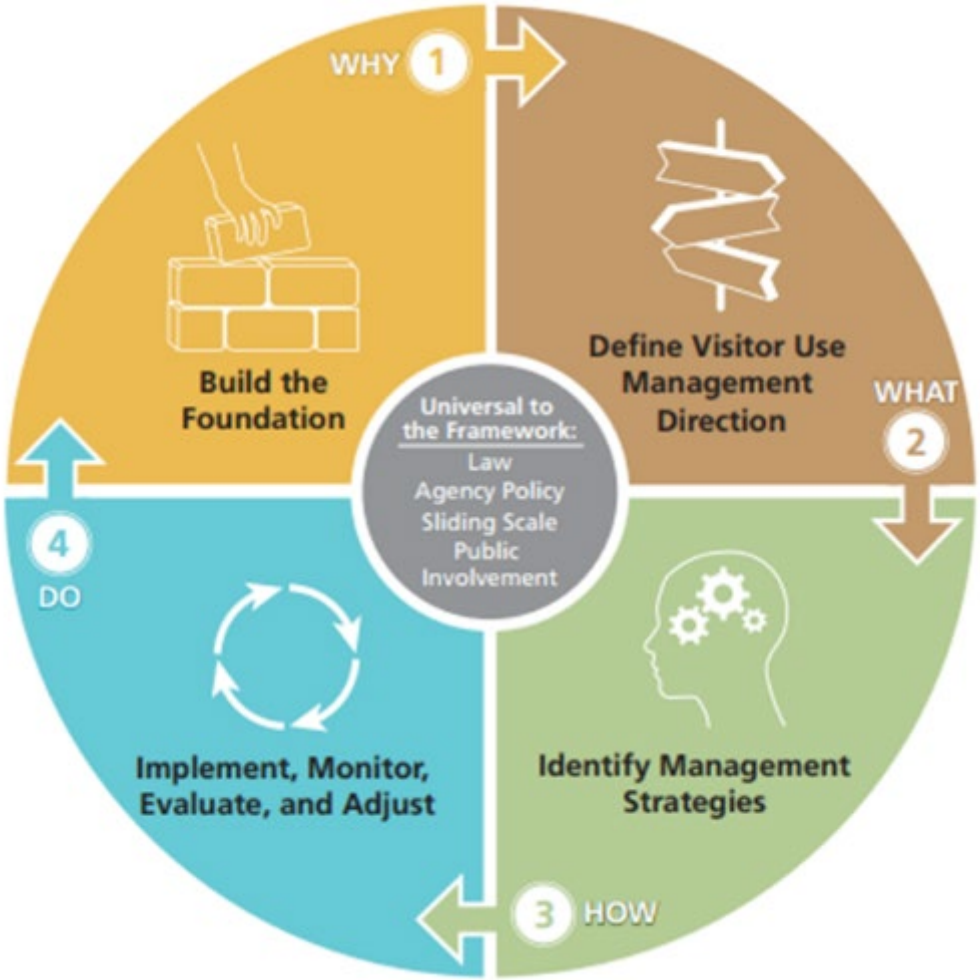
Recreation Trends

- Visitation to provincial parks & recreation areas is increasing exponentially,
- Significant increase in recreation & trail use during pandemic
- New recreation hot spots, increased dispersed vehicle camping
- Dramatic increase in traffic on resource roads while budgets decrease
- Record breaking Search & Rescue calls in 2020 (Squamish)
- 60% increase in Conservation Officer Service files in 2020

Trail location	Percent increase (Summer 2019 to Summer 2020)
Watersprite Lake	**126%**
Semaphore Lakes	**101%**
Brandywine Meadows	**89%**
Tenquille Lake	**72%**
Tricouni Meadows	**64%**

The Visitor Use Management Framework

- New approach
- Structured decision-making tool
- Carried out in partnership with First Nations
- Values based
- Collaborative
- Scalable
- Iterative



Visitor Use Management Framework

Element 1: Build the Foundation

Element 2: Define Visitor Use Management Direction

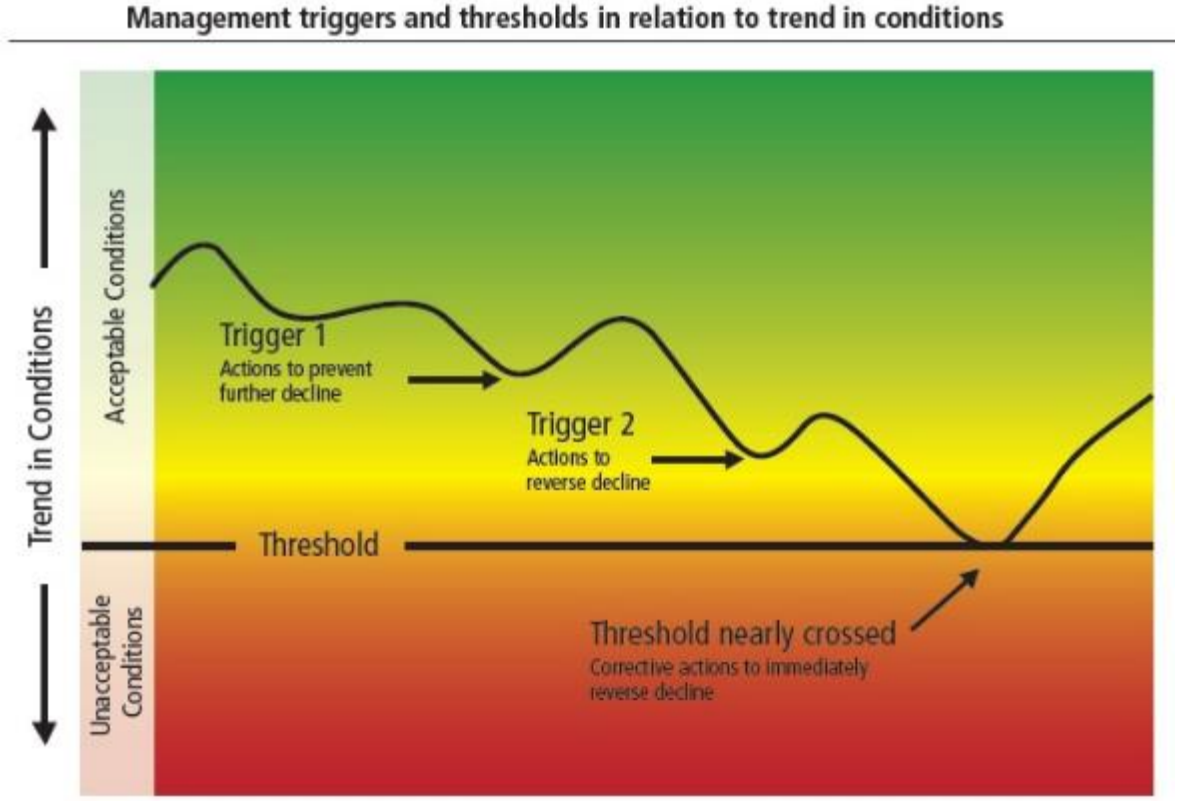
Element 3: Identify Management Strategies

Element 4: Implement, Monitor, Evaluate, and Adjust

Indicators & Monitoring

- **Indicators:** *Resource or experiential attributes that can be measured to track changes in conditions*
  - Connected to visitor use
  - Related to desired conditions
  - Sensitive to change
  - Reasonable / feasible
  - Reliable

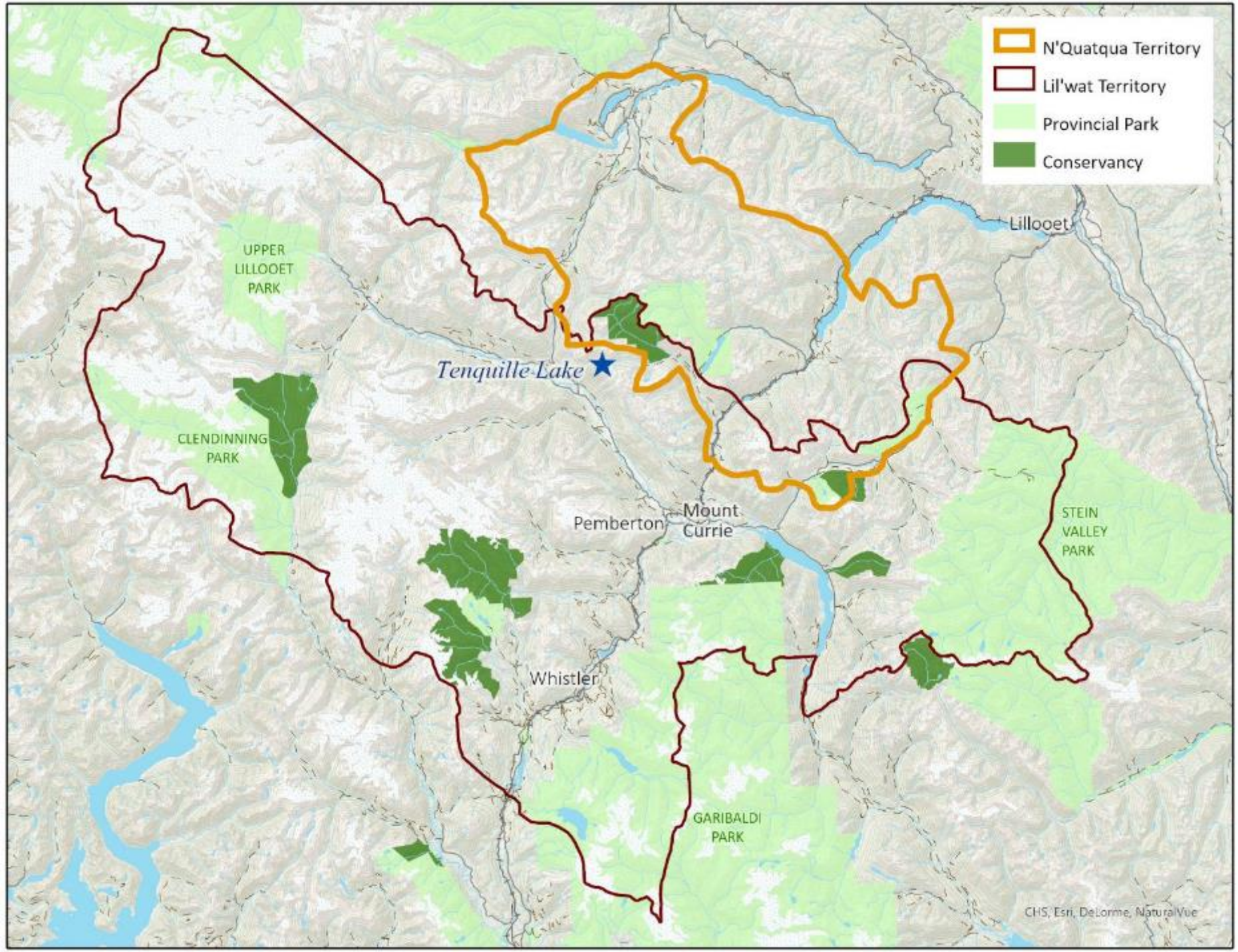
- **Thresholds:** *Minimally acceptable conditions associated with each indicator*

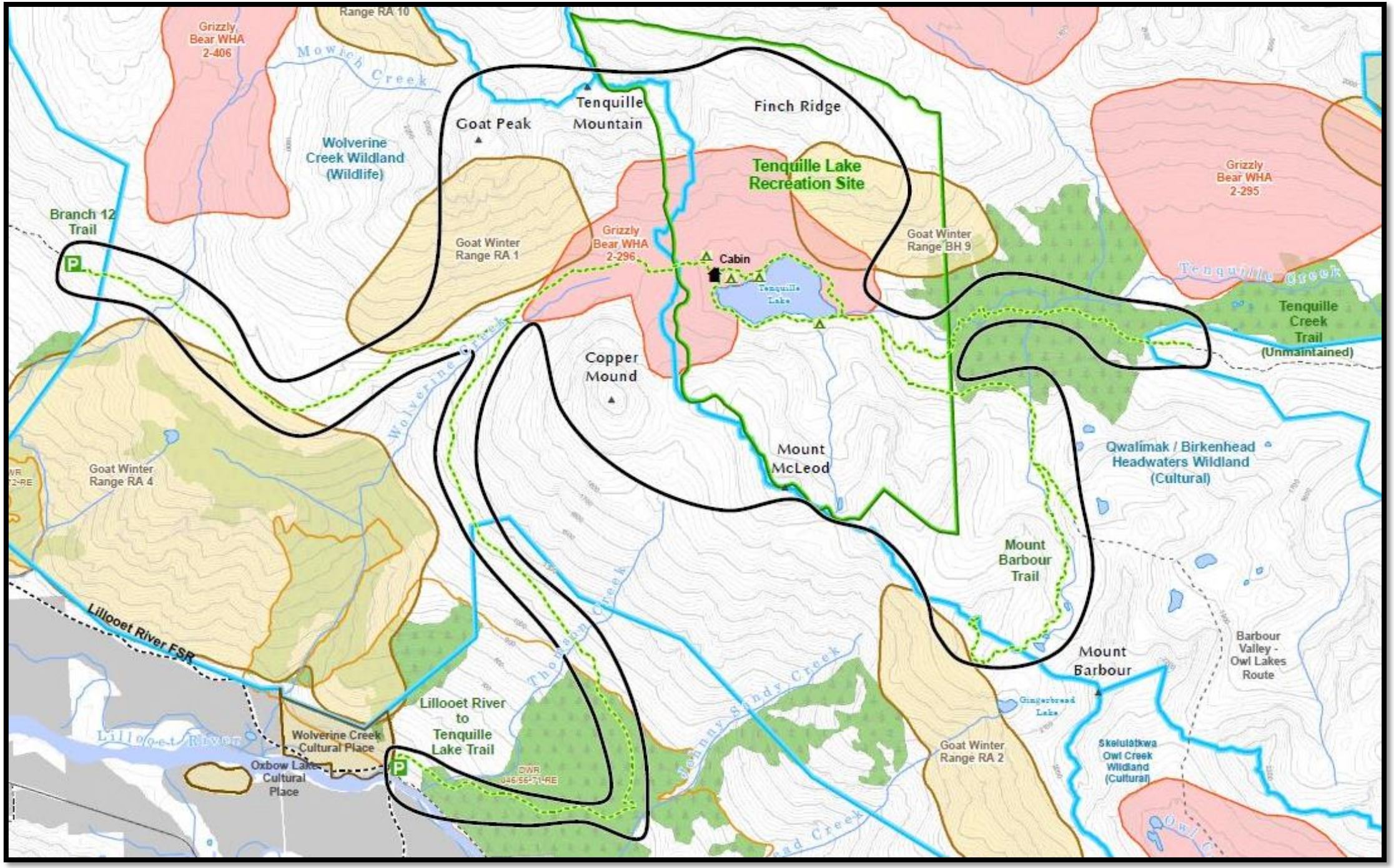


Topic	Indicator	Threshold
Trail condition	Number of informal trails per mile of designated trail	No more than 1 informal trail leaving designated trail per 1-km segment
Trail condition	Linear extent of informal trails	No more than 10% increase in linear extent of informal trails in an area
Crowding	Number of people per viewscape	No more than 100 people at a specific location/viewscape
Wildlife	Number of heli-flight paths that cross goat ungulate winter range (UWR)	No more than 2 flights per season crossing UWR
Campsite condition	Amount of vegetation loss at campsite	No more than $25m^2$

Meager Creek &
Keyhole Hotsprings
Tenquille
Lake
Squamish River
Valley
Shannon
Basin
Lillooet
Pemberton
Whistler
Lytton
Hope
Squamish
Sechelt
Powell River
Comox
Gibsons
Texada
Island
Goat
Island
West
Redonda
Island
STRAIT OF GEORGIA
JUAN DE FUCA STRAIT
MALASPINA STRAIT
99
101
12
97
8

Case Study: Tenquille Lake


N'Quatqua Territory
Lil'wat Territory
Provincial Park
Conservancy
Lillooet
UPPER LILLOOET PARK
Tenquille Lake
CLENDINNING PARK
Pemberton
Mount Currie
STEIN VALLEY PARK
Whistler
GARIBALDI PARK
CHS, Esri, DeLorme, NaturalVue


Range RA 10
Grizzly Bear WHA 2-406
Mowich Creek
Tenquille Mountain
Goat Peak
Finch Ridge
Wolverine Creek Wildland (Wildlife)
Tenquille Lake Recreation Site
Grizzly Bear WHA 2-295
Branch 12 Trail
Goat Winter Range RA 1
Grizzly Bear WHA 2-296
Goat Winter Range BH 9
Cabin
Tenquille Lake
Tenquille Creek
Tenquille Creek Trail (Unmaintained)
Copper Mound
Wolverine Creek
Mount McLeod
Qwalimak / Birkenhead Headwaters Wildland (Cultural)
Goat Winter Range RA 4
Mount Barbour Trail
Lillooet River FSR
Thompson Creek
Barbour Valley - Owl Lakes Route
Mount Barbour
Lillooet River to Tenquille Lake Trail
Wolverine Creek Cultural Place
Oxbow Lakes Cultural Place
Johnny Sandy Creek
Gingerbread Lake
Goat Winter Range RA 2
Skelulstkwa Owl Creek Wildland (Cultural)

Who is involved?

Land & Resources Director

Resource & Land Managers

Wildlife biologists

Technical staff (GIS, etc.)

Referral committee manager & members

Council members

Recreation planners & Operations staff

Compliance & Enforcement officers

Community members

Cultural technicians

Stakeholders

Public & community Engagement

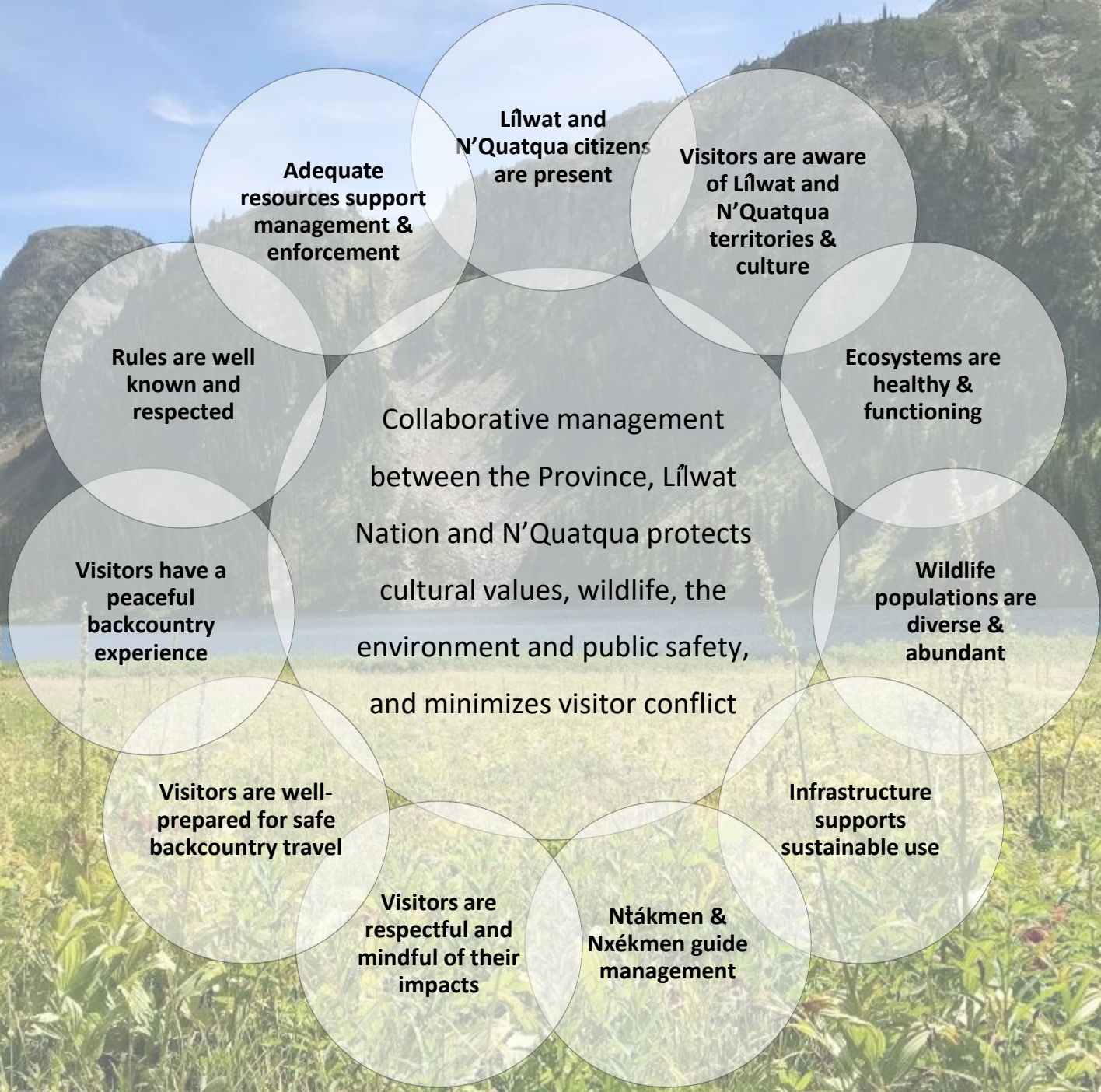
Values

Lil'wat & N'Quatqua history, connection to land	Lilw'at & N'Quatqua traditional use activities	Hunting ground	Gathering area (berries, mushrooms, medicinal plants)	Cultural heritage sites
Spiritual importance	Linkage between Lillooet & Birkenhead Rivers	Natural beauty	Wildlife habitat	Wildlife diversity
Ecosystem diversity	Recreation values (diverse)	Recreation infrastructure	Partnerships (PWA)	Accessibility

Concerns/ Issues

- Effective loss of access for Lil'wat & N'Quatqua
- Managing growth in visitation
- Impacts to wildlife from recreation
- Potential for increased human-wildlife conflict with increasing visitation
- Disrespectful visitor behavior
- Risk of wildfire
- Need for more management presence & education
- Need for sustainable funding to support infrastructure, education, management & enforcement

Vision


Líl̓wat and N’Quatqua citizens are present
Adequate resources support management & enforcement
Visitors are aware of Líl̓wat and N’Quatqua territories & culture
Rules are well known and respected
Ecosystems are healthy & functioning
Collaborative management between the Province, Líl̓wat Nation and N’Quatqua protects cultural values, wildlife, the environment and public safety, and minimizes visitor conflict
Visitors have a peaceful backcountry experience
Wildlife populations are diverse & abundant
Visitors are well-prepared for safe backcountry travel
Infrastructure supports sustainable use
Visitors are respectful and mindful of their impacts
Nt̓ákmen & Nxékmen guide management

Management Actions (3 E's)

- Education & Signage
- Designated campsites
  - Rehab social sites
- Reservation System (cabin/campground)
  - Fee for service
  - Site operator
- Regulations
  - i.e. no biking, dogs, snowmobiles, fires
- Lil'wat skél7awlh (stewards)

Monitoring

- Visitor use
- Vegetation recovery in non-designated camping areas
- Wildlife
- Invasive species
- Compliance

Positive Outcomes

- VUM Strategies for Meager & Keyhole Hotsprings & Tenquille Lake
- Stronger relationships with First Nations
- Opportunities for co-management
- Support from stakeholders – shared values

QUESTIONS?