



Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks Declaration

INTENT AND OBJECTIVE:

The purpose of designating Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks is to preserve and manage the Watersheds of the Haahuulthii (~traditional territory, resources, rivers, songs, names etc.) of the Tla-o-qui-aht Hawiih (~Hereditary Chiefs) and to implement watershed management according to the Tla-o-qui-aht Principles of Hishukish Tsawaak (everything is one, interconnected) and Hawilthmis (Governance Chief's Laws and Responsibilities).

The Tribal Park Designation and the Principles of Hishukish Tsawaak are intended to deliver a healthy ecosystem for the unborn generations to come. The Tribal Park is a model for sharing the Haahuulthii and is also means of recognizing the inherent rights and title of Tla-o-qui-aht to manage and monitor the Haahuulthii. The Tribal Park speaks to the co-existence of Qu'actup (Human Beings) to work together to ensure healthy Homelands and healthy People.

The Tribal Parks will be a tool for the grandchildren to adapt and manage watersheds for the sustainability and interests of their grandchildren. Through these Tribal Parks, we acknowledge the benefits of preserving and managing old-growth forests as a means of ensuring resilience and sustenance through the ever challenging era of climate change.

We, the Hawiih of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations hereby declare the following Tribal Parks: Haa'uukmin Tribal Park (Kennedy Lake and Clayoquot Lake watersheds); Tranquil Tribal Park (Tranquil and Tofino Watersheds); Wanachus/Hilthuu'is Tribal Park (Meares Island); and the Hiisawista Peninsula Tribal Park. The Tribal Parks are based upon the following Principles and Objectives:

Preservation of Haahuultii as an economic and life-sustaining base for the people that reside within the Tla-o-qui-aht Haahuulthii, and to ensure that the Haahuulthii continues to provide for the healthy living and sustenance for all Qu'actup (human beings) – including:

- a) Salmon and other lake and river foods that depend upon a healthy eco-system;
- b) Protection of all sacred, heritage and burial sites in the Haahuulthii;
- c) Protection and management of iihmis (~i. very precious, ~ii. old growth, ancient forests) trees as intact forest floor and canopy and as wild-life corridors;
- d) Flora and Fauna that thrives in a healthy eco-system;
- e) Timber and non-timber forest products essential for Qu'actup living;
- f) Ecological reserve for access to ecosystem research and education;
- g) Ecosystem filtration of air and water for Qu'actup living;

Preservation and enhancement of the inherent Tla-o-qui-aht rights – including:

- Tla-o-qui-aht traditional hunting and fishing grounds and rights to hunt deer, waterfowl, fish etc...
- The right of Tla-o-qui-aht Hawiih, Elders and maastchim (~citizens) to continue the gathering of medicinal plants, herbs, and salves...
- The right of the Tla-o-qui-aht society to continue to use the forests for sacred and traditional practices;
- The right of Tla-o-qui-aht society to continue the gathering and usage of all trees and plants, cedar bark, cedar for canoes, yew wood, etc. for everyday provision and living needs and harvested according to the principles of Hiishukish Tsawaak;
- The inherent right of Tla-o-qui-aht society to manage the Hawiih Haahuulthii, and to establish tools for co-existence and co-governance.

To achieve the principles and objectives described above, the Tribal Parks will hereby endorse the following use and management strategy:

1) *Qwa'siin'hap* Management Areas (Tla-o-qui-aht word meaning: ~leaving it the way it used to be). These areas are designated as *Qwa'siin'hap* to protect and preserve certain areas, such as Clayoquot River Valley, or other Cultural Management Zones. This land use designation will keep the areas preserved for access to traditional medicines that are found in bio-diverse forests. It is possible for other areas that are not currently identified on the map, to be designated as *Qwa'siin'hap* areas to ensure that sacred areas are protected from development and over access.

2) *Uuy'athluknish* Management Areas (Tla-o-qui-aht word meaning: ~we take care). The purpose of this land use designation is to ensure that we are able to return the Haa'uulthii to a healthy ecosystem, while allowing access for traditional activities and utilizing the land for sustainable livelihoods. In *Uuy'athluknish* Management Areas, many uses must exist together and at the same time must not negatively impact the objective of delivering healthy drinking water, and healthy salmon runs from the watersheds. By designating the *Uuy'athluknish* Management Areas, we seek to ensure that any future development respects the many other needs and benefits that are derived from the forest.

These zones do not preclude uses and activities that are determined to be compatible with preserving and enhancing old growth forests.

Haa'uukmin Tribal Park Tools:

To ensure compatibility of zoning and uses, the entire Haahuulthii will be monitored by the Tribal Park Guardian and Streamkeepers.

The Tribal Park Stewardship Fund will be established as a means of delivering Tribal Park operations and objectives. The Fund will consist of various fees, and structures, including carbon credits; stewardship programs; license, trail and range fees, donations, and others not listed.

Review:

The Tribal Park will be assessed and managed adaptively, according to the most recent review of the Tribal Park and its uses.

Signed, Tla-o-qui-aht Hawiith:

Hawilth Hyoueah

Hawilth Siyaasim

Hawilth Muuchinink

Hawilth Nuukmiis

Hawilth Naquimalthnii