




# *Celebrating* **10 Years**

**Sustainable Development,  
Gwelx ye'enst & Leading-Edge  
Land Use Planning**



**Gitanyow**  
Hereditary Chiefs





**“Our Lax’yip is our Ha Nii Tokxw (food security, “food table”).  
Our Ayookxw (laws) requires us to protect our Gwelx ye’erst for  
future generations. Using modern science and Gitksan science,  
our land use plan protects over 51% of our entire Lax’yip to  
insulate our people from global warming and cumulative effects  
of industrial development.**

**We may be a small dot on planet earth,  
but we are Gitanyow tough!”**

**Glen Williams/Malii**

**Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs President & Chief Negotiator**



# The Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan ("GLLUP")

The Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan ("GLLUP") was established in 2012 in a government-to-government agreement between the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs and the provincial government of British Columbia. Following 10 years of hard-fought litigation and negotiation, the agreement provided unprecedented recognition of Gitanyow Ayookxw (laws) and title to the Lax'yip (territory), and provided the forest industry with the certainty to operate they had been seeking.

The GLLUP is a territorial land use plan of the Gitanyow Huwilp that is legalized through both the Gitanyow Ayookxw (Laws) and the provincial government of BC's land use regulations and sustainable resource management plans. The GLLUP filled an important void of landscape level planning addressing cumulative effects from development, aimed at ensuring both ecosystem function and Wilp Sustainability.

## Wilp Sustainability

is the condition under which ecosystem function, socio-cultural and economic well-being are maintained, and risk to ecological integrity is low, thus providing the ecological foundation for the long-term socio-cultural and economic well-being of each Wilp.

## Gwelx ye'enst

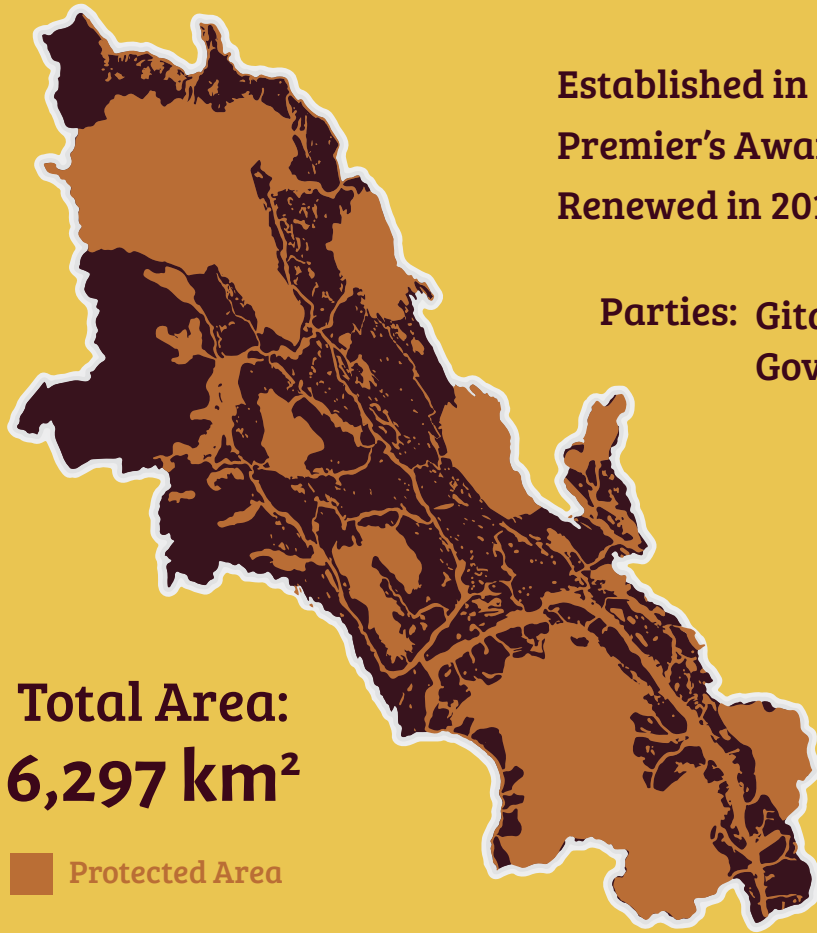
means the exercise of Gitanyow's rights and responsibilities to hold, protect and pass on the land in a sustainable manner from generation to generation, including the process of developing the Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan.

## Lax'yip

is the Gitanyow territory, and the basis for the Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan. It is comprised of 8 distinct Wilp territories. The Wilp (or House Group) is the fundamental social, governance and economic unit of the Gitanyow society.

# Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan

## QUICK FACTS



Established in 2012

Premier's Award Nominee in 2013

Renewed in 2016, 2021

Parties: Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs  
Government of British Columbia

# 51%

Percentage of the Gitanyow  
Lax'yip Protected from  
Industrial Development  
(3,193.50 kms<sup>2</sup>)

"A clear and comprehensive land use plan, or in our case a Wilp Sustainability Plan, is a fundamental building block for free, prior and informed consent for sustainable development on Indigenous Gitanyow lands. Our Lax'yip has been stewarded by our Hereditary Chiefs for millennia, and in modern times this means working in collaboration with all governments and knowledge systems (Indigenous and western science). It has been my honour to support the Hereditary Chiefs in the successful implementation of the Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan for the past 10 years, and to work with our partners in industry to ensure that they are in full compliance with it.

As the rest of the world's governments work to designate 30% of lands and waters as protected areas by 2030, we are proud to share our story of achieving 51% of our Lax'yip as protected, while still allowing industry to operate and create local jobs and revenues."

Tara Marsden/Naxginkw  
Wilp Gamlakyeltxw, Wilp Sustainability Director



# Land Use Zones, Management Targets & Direction

The Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan manages industrial activity, primarily forestry, and its impacts on shared values between the Gitanyow Huwilp and the Province of British Columbia. Each value has an identified zone or zones, as shown on the maps later in this booklet, and each zone has specified management direction and measurable targets that the parties to the Plan agree to adhere to. For example, within the Wildlife value, there are mapped zonations for Mountain Goat Winter Range, Moose Winter Range, Goshawk, Grizzly Bear and General Wildlife. The mapped zones are informed by both Gitanyow Indigenous knowledge of the Lax'yip and best available western scientific data.

Management targets and direction are written in a way that they can be easily translated into management strategies and objectives in Forest Stewardship Plans and other key materials that are used in the shared decision-making process between the Province and Gitanyow.

## *Values*





# Testimonials

**"As the proponent working with Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs on the first Wilp Sustainability Assessment Process, the Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan (GLLUP) is an essential resource. It gives Skeena an understanding of sustainable management of the land that is based on the generations of knowledge held by the community. The GLLUP confirms the Gitanyow Nation's responsibility to act as stewards of their land for the benefit of future generations, including working with industry towards a more sustainable future."**

Justin Himmelright, VP Sustainability Skeena Resources Ltd



**"In the past 10 years I have been working with the Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan from the perspective of a Tenure Manager for the Gitanyow Economic Development Corp and as a Tenure Manager for Canada Resurgence Developments. During that period, it has become clear that the management of the Lax'yip through the GLLUP is an integral part of the Gitanyow culture and therefore an integral part of all aspects of industrial proponent operations including those who wish to operate on the Lax'yip in the future. The traditional knowledge and western science that has been incorporated into the development of the GLLUP provides security for the management of the land and the values that are important to the Gitanyow, as well as provides security for the proponents through the designation of a defined landbase to operate on including the known resources and values to manage. The GLLUP will provide a secure future for generations of Gitanyow and non-Gitanyow people to enjoy, learn and operate on the Lax'yip. I have had the pleasure and honor of working on the Lax'yip for much of my life, it has been a source of enjoyment, peacefulness, mindfulness, and sustenance for my family and I."**

Bernie Banovic, RPF  
President, Fortec Consulting Ltd, Tenure Manager







**“The Gitanyow Lax’yip Land Use Plan really sets the stage for engagement with other Governments, Nations, House Groups and proponents of industry in a way that provides an increased sense security to the people and territory it is meant to protect for future generations. Agreeing on where you can go is just as important as agreeing on where you can’t go when looking to progress with control and this model allows for that.**

**The GLLUP is a modern-day clearing house with clearly identified ways of doing business in their territory accompanied with conflict resolution mechanisms. This is exactly what First Nations need to carry out the inherent gatekeeper role of respective lands and resources.”**

Stu Barnes  
Chair, Skeena Fisheries Commission

**“The Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan is a bold, clear and pragmatic affirmation of rights that has well served not only the Gitanyow people but all of us. It has provided clear guidance to business and governments in how to respectfully engage in these territories, and has set a practical leadership example for other communities to follow. As British Columbians move forward in new ways consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we have the Gitanyow people to thank for helping blaze the path forward.”**

Ivan Thompson, Former Program  
Officer, Gordon and Betty Moore  
Foundation

**“I worked with the Hereditary Chiefs during the Delgamuukw-Gisdaywa title case that helped set the foundation for the Gitanyow Land Use Plan eventually being adopted by the BC government. Later in my role as Stikine MLA, and subsequently a Cabinet Minister, it was easy to enthusiastically endorse Malii’s perspective that the GLLUP is a true representation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent in action. As a legal plan in both Gitanyow and BC governance systems, the GLLUP demonstrates there is a path forward together in stewardship of the Lax’ yip.”**

Doug Donaldson, Hazelton  
Former BC Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development





**“Skeena Sawmills conducts forest management activities including forest planning, road construction, timber harvesting and silviculture within the Gitanyow Territory. In 2012 we endorsed the Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan ("GLLUP") built in collaboration with the Gitanyow Huwilp. Implementing the GLLUP has been instrumental in fostering a trusting relationship with the Gitanyow and has provided certainty to the fibre supply requirements of Skeena Sawmills and Skeena Bioenergy's manufacturing facilities located in Terrace BC.”**

Greg Demille  
Manager, Skeena Sawmills Ltd and Skeena Bioenergy

**“The Gitanyow histories, territories and laws that ground the Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan have existed for thousands of years and are lived today. The Plan gives effect to and forms part of Gitanyow law, giving expression in technical terms to age-old legal principles related to sustainability and Wilp authority. As a model, an inspiration and an example of living Indigenous law, the GLLUP has had a lasting impact, not just in Gitanyow territories but for all Indigenous peoples working to revitalize their laws.**

**The development and implementation of the GLLUP also holds important lessons about diplomacy and reconciliation. Positive outcomes for ecosystems and communities have also been grounded in relationships with regional officials, companies and individuals willing to learn about and respect Gitanyow jurisdiction and law. Legalization of the Plan in both Gitanyow and provincial law provides certainty and clarity.**

**It was an honour to serve the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs as legal counsel in the negotiation of the GLLUP. Their deep understanding of Gitanyow law, their steadfastness in defending their inherent title, and their thoughtful diplomacy have ensured, and will continue to ensure, the enduring impact of the plan.”**

Jessica Clogg, Executive Director & Senior Counsel, West Coast Environmental Law  
Legal Counsel, Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs





**"Reflecting on the Joint Venture that Kitwanga Forest Products Sawmill has with the Gitanyow Chiefs on the wood license that they hold, I would say it's been very rewarding! Rewards don't come without challenges and hard work. We have had a lot of challenges dealing with the economics of operating a wood license in an ever-changing economic landscape. The rewards have been seeing Gitanyow develop their own Land Use Plan, and being able to integrate that into our day-to-day harvest planning. This Joint Venture gives our Sawmill a supply of logs from a totally sustainable land base that I am proud to be involved with!"**

Dennis Smith  
President, Kitwanga Forest Products





# *Reflections on the Origins of the GLLUP*

"For the first couple of years (starting in the mid-1990s), my primary work for Gitanyow was the review and analysis of company Forest Development Plans and preparation of reports outlining the potential impacts of the proposed developments on the Gitanyow Territories. The problem was that the plans provided only information for a short period of time. There was no information that provided context for



any analysis to be able to demonstrate that any cutblocks should be logged, modified, or should not be logged. In other words, there was no long-term overview 'blueprint' plan that showed how any cutblock would fit into the scheme of harvesting the total landscape over a long period of time. As a result of the ineffectiveness of the short-term planning of the status-quo planning process, any consultation process between companies, government and Gitanyow was doomed to failure. Glen Williams could clearly see the problem and he and Jane Lloyd-Smith, a management forester from the Forest Service and a very progressive forester, decided to take matters into their own hands....

No one in the Forest Service, except for Jane, could see the value of this planning process, or any long-term landscape level planning process....In the eyes of the Province, only the Forest Service should ever be allowed to prepare such plans, and they did not want Gitanyow to participate in such planning. I don't know how Jane managed to win that battle, but she did...[after many years of negotiation] All this information, text, and maps covering the full Gitanyow Territory went forward to the Province of British Columbia on September 17, 2010, was negotiated through a Government to Government agreement, and became the legal Gitanyow Land Use Plan. This was what Glen Williams strived for over many years - years of frustration, effort, and heartbreak. This was history being made, and I was a big part of it! What a wonderful feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction!

Although I did a lot of the work, there is absolutely no way that I could have developed that plan and gotten it approved by myself. That was only possible through the hard work and political abilities of Gitanyow, and, in my opinion, the monumental efforts, willpower, courage, and determination of Jane Lloyd-Smith and Glen Williams."

Fred Philpot, Gitanyow Consulting Forester  
pages 183-184 of "Memoirs of a Forester, Fred Philpot, 2015



# Explanation of Photos



**Simoogit Wii Litsxw and Tara Marsden at the celebration launch event of the Meziadin Indigenous Protected Area, 2021.**



**Gitanyow Lax'yip Guardians James Morgan (left) and Dustin Grey (right) prepare for water measurements in critical salmon spawning habitat.**



**Simoogit Bii Yosxw (Gwaas Hla'am) holds a handful of pellets at the Skeena Sawmills Bioenergy Plant in Terrace BC. An agreement with Skeena Sawmills ensures that the GLLUP is followed, and that wood waste is minimized through the production of pellets.**



**Greg DeMille tours Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs around the Skeena Sawmills Bioenergy Plant.**



**An example of 30% retention in a recent Gitanyow Forest License cutblock in the Gitanyow Lax'yip. Leaving more trees standing supports biodiversity goals, retains carbon, and provides cover for wildlife. In addition to the Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan, Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs exercise influence over forestry practices by owning and co-managing two forest licenses in the Lax'yip.**



**Bernie Banovic and staff engage Simoogit Gwaas Hla'am and the late Redmond Cogag in planning for one of the Gitanyow Forest Licenses.**



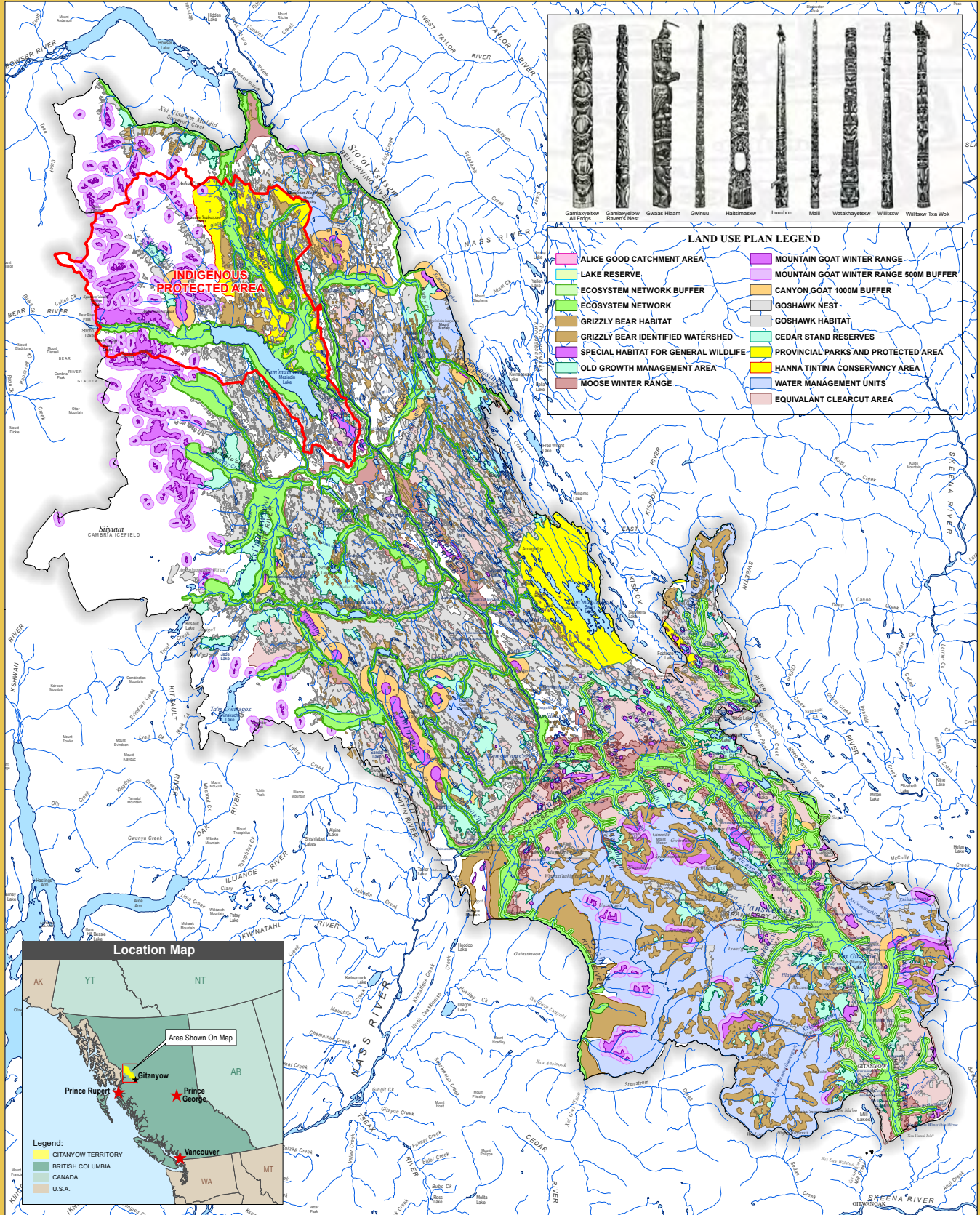
**Skeena Sawmills Manager Greg DeMille and planner Mark Reiter share proposed plans with Simoogit Sindihl (Gamlayeltxw). Companies are asked to share plans two years in advance, to ensure sensitive areas are avoided and the GLLUP is followed. This reduces the amount of time needed during Crown consultation processes.**



**Gitanyow consulting forester Fred Philpot celebrates joint 80th birthdays with the late Simoogit Haitsimsxw Ken Russell. Both carry decades of knowledge that has been passed on to younger Chiefs and staff.**



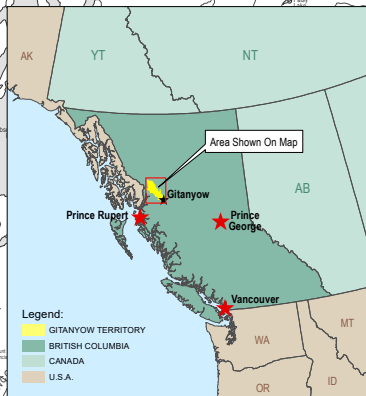
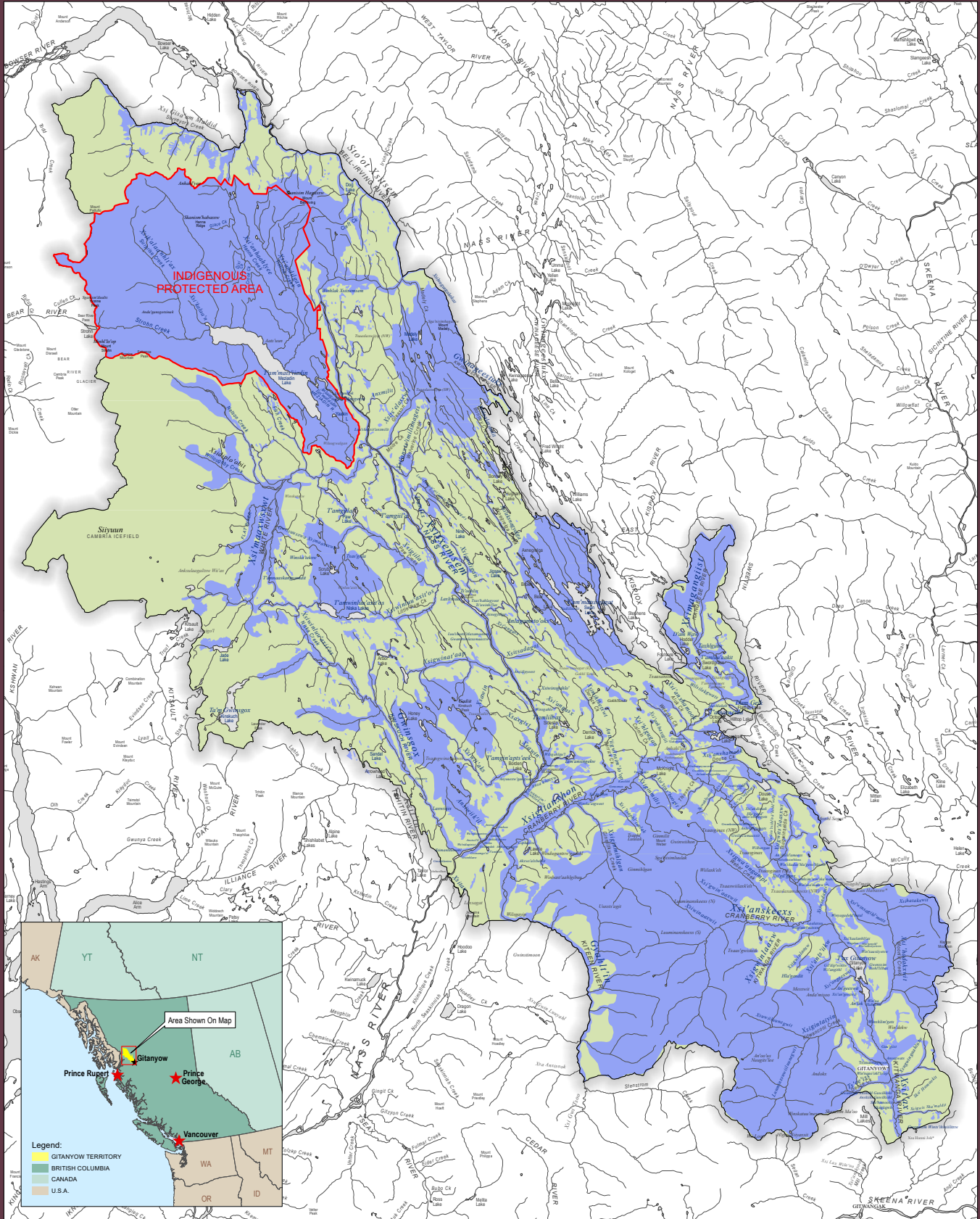
# Gitanyow Land Use Plan (showing zones)



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Date: June 18, 2022



# Gitanyow Land Use Plan (showing protected areas)



Legend:

GITANYOW TERRITORY  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
CANADA  
U.S.A.

LUP/SRMP PROTECTED AREAS PLUS INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA (IPA)			
AREA (km <sup>2</sup> )	HECTARES	SQUARE MILES	PERCENT OF TOTAL
PROTECTED AREA	310,349.87	3,193.50	52%
UNPROTECTED AREA	310,347.04	3,193.47	49%

## GITANYOW LAND USE PLAN

Scale 1:600,000

PROTECTED AREA  
UNPROTECTED AREA  
INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA



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For more information visit:  
**[www.gitanyowchiefs.com](http://www.gitanyowchiefs.com)**

To donate to the Gitanyow Wilp Sustainability Fund, please contact Tara Marsden at  
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