# CHR FREP in Skeena Natural Resource Region
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# Smiling Grizzly Enterprises

# Defining Cultural Heritage Resources

- Culturally modified trees
- Cultural trails
- Sacred or Spiritual sites
- Cultural or Ceremonial Use sites
- Resource gathering sites/areas
- Archaeological sites
- (pre-1846)
- Cultural Plants
- Monumental cedar

# CHR FREP 2022, Skeena Stikine Natural Resource District

- Six CHR sites randomly selected off RAAD list, All in Gitxsan territory in the Kispiox TSA ( 1rst time using RADD for random selection of sites, instead of random list in order to assess Gitxsan territory licensees)
- 1 site Miluulak Territory , Kispiox River Timber, impact ranking moderate
- 2 sites in Gitseguekla Area, Gitxsan Forest License Incorporated, impact ranking low/moderate
- 3 sites in 7 Sisters range area, Kispiox River Timber, impact ranking low
- 5 Sites in Gitseguekla and 7 Sisters range area near Kitwanga were in Gitwangak LUP plan area developed by Simgiget’m Gitwangak Society

# HAN1505 Cutting Permit AH, Haniwald/ North Babine, Kispiox TSA, Miluulak Territory

**Operational considerations:**

Kispiox Higher level plan order letter 2006 with instructions to maintain CHR including TUS, trails, arch. sites and structural features.

**Features:**

Several post 1846 pine CMTs including trap trees and blazes ( no management considerations) Rating very poorly. No attempts were made to manage post 1846 features. Recommendations, stub post 1846 CMTs or trap trees and blazes above scars and/or establish 5-meter Machine free zone

Various high potential areas and 2 pre 1846 CMTs, modified block boundary to avoid features with 10-meter buffer. Rating well.

Overall impact ranking Medium

# Examples of previous years CHR FREP evaluations in Bulkley TSA, stubbing dead post 1846 pine CMT's above scars

SSAF Nations in Skeena region see CMT's as art and signs of their culture from the past

West Fraser developed Best Mgt Practices for CMTs in 2008 based on First Nation recommendations to stub dead pine CMTs of all ages

# Use Machine Free Zone and stub dead pine CMT’s above scars

Utilizing MFZ’s allows for less impact around site

Pre 1846 trails best to leave at least one tree length or more if high use trail

Pre 1846 trail near Babine River Park managed for Mountain Pine Beetle and fire hazard abatement. 15-meter Special Mgt Zone on each side of trail retaining poles and saplings, 5-meter MFZ stubbing dead pine CMTs at 3 meters

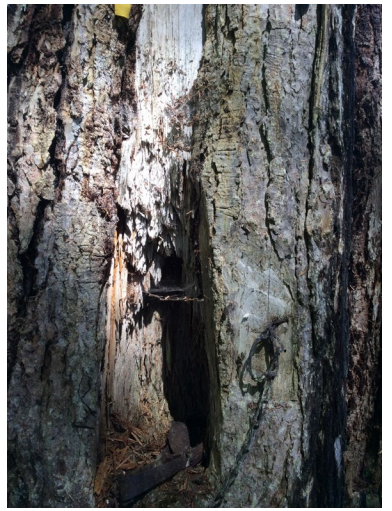
Pre 1846 trail cleared of debris after harvest, safety along managed trails is very important

Post 1846 trail with 5-meter Machine Free Zone on each side of trail, dead pine CMTs and blazes stubbed above scars

Trails can be located and used after harvest for berry picking, recreation, hunting, trapping, etc.

# Post 1846 trail with stubbed CMT to mark trailhead

Place active traplines in WTRAs , modify block to avoid trapline or leave buffers along trapline for small mammal migration



# Cultural Plants

- Need to get better inventory of important cultural plants and ecosystems ( 1 of SSAF's 5 values in addition to FREP 11 values)
- Avoid important cultural plants through the use of WTRAs, riparian reserve zones, etc.
- State in SP that if crop trees aren't impeded by huckleberries to avoid brushing, leave 10m zone along roads for berry generation which is good for wildlife screening and Grizzly Bear and moose ( SSAF values ).
- Leave sub-alpine fir regen or other trees where possible for shade for huckleberries and browse for moose
- Reinstate cultural burning where possible for berry production

Live Cedar CMTs best practices are to place in WTRA or outside block with windfirm boundary

# Gitsegukla, AND004 and AND007

- Operational considerations:

13 new Arch. Sites consisting of 321 CMTs, 22 were pre- 1846  scattered throughout CP so a SAP was applied. Not all scattered post 1846 CMTs could be retained. 10 High potential areas in area with cache pits and cultural trails.

- Kispiox Higher level plan order letter 2006 with instructions to maintain CHR including TUS, trails, arch. sites and structural features.

- Gitwangak LUP developed by the  Simgiget'm Gitwangak Society which protects cultural values including Grizzly Bear, Moose, Cultural plants, pine mushroom, riparian and other values and habitats

# AND004 and AND007

- **Management Strategy:** Placing CMT groups in WTRAs and retaining CMT groups and high potential areas consisting of cultural depressions and trails through block modifications where possible
- Follow guidance provided by Simgetet’m Gitwangak Society to manage for high value areas for Moose, Grizzly, Pine mushroom habitat, etc. as per Gitwangak LUP after layout was complete.
- **Rating moderate for all features, Impact ranking medium/low:** Instructions from Simgiget'm Gitwangak Society were followed such as protecting some CMT groups and habitat areas after the GItwangak land use plan was completed. Better if LUP was considered before block layout to possible avoid possible use of Site Alteration Permit

# KRT, Flint Creek, CP AL, BLKS 1703,1709 & 1710

- Operational considerations:

CMTs mainly pre-1846 tapered Cedar CMT's were in clumpy distribution.

Kispiox Higher level plan order letter 2006 with instructions to maintain CHR including TUS, trails, arch. sites and structural features.

Gitwangak LUP developed by the Simgiget'm Gitwangak Society which protects cultural values including Grizzly Bear, Moose, Cultural plants, pine mushroom, riparian and other values and habitats

# KRT, Flint Creek, CP AL, BLKS 1703,1709 & 1710

- **Block 1709** Five sites containing pre 1846 CMTs were identified. Mainly tapered cedar, also some western hemlock and lodgepole pine CMTs
- **Block 1710** Two sites containing pre 1846 tapered cedar CMTs were identified
- **Block 1703** Three sites containing pre 1846 tapered cedar CMTs were identified. Scattered post 1846 tapered cedar CMTs. Cultural depression with high potential for buried archaeological materials

# CP’s 1709 &1710

- **Blocks were modified to avoid features. A 10-meter buffer was placed around CMTs. We only saw one CMT that blew over, but the tree was rotten and burnt at the base which might have caused it to fall. Process was followed for CP review for CHR in Gitwangak LUP including getting letter of recommendation for harvest from Simgiget'm Gitwangak Society.**
- **Rating well, Impact ranking low**
- **One tree length buffer might have helped prevent CMTs from windthrow**

# Block 1703

**Impacts to CHRs were limited by avoiding pre and post 1846 CMTs and cultural depression by modifying block boundaries or placing features in WTRAs with 10-meter buffer. Process was followed for CP review for CHR in Gitwangak LUP including getting letter of recommendation for harvest from Simgiget'm Gitwangak Society.**

**Rating well, Impact ranking very low**

# Cultural Heritage Resources 2022

The FREP evaluation question for the CHR value is: are CHRs being conserved and where necessary protected for FN cultural and traditional activities as a result of forest practices?

Findings: the best CHR mgt. strategies were modifying the block boundaries to avoid features, placing features in WTRAs with windfirm boundaries, avoiding the use of a SAP where practicable, stubbing of dead pine CMTs above the cultural marking or blazes, utilizing MFZs and SMZs where possible and following best mgt. practices and Land Use Plans objectives codeveloped with Indigenous people.

Recommendations: successful CHR outcomes are often associated with careful pre-harvest planning, training and relationship building. Putting CHR features on the SP/logging plan map including where the SMZ's , MFZs are located and where to stub works great.

# CHR FREP in the past

- CHR Training and assessments with district staff, licensees in the territory and overlapping Nations

# CHR in the present

- Gitseguekla School Earth Day project
- CHR assessments on Gitxsan territory with Todd B

## CHR in the future

- More outreach with schools
- More training and assessments with other Nations, Industry, consultants and government staff

# Conclusion

- CHR resource management can be successfully integrated with other values such as recreation, riparian, wildlife and timber while reducing the forest fire hazard and recovering losses from the bark beetle epidemic at the same time.

- Monitoring including First Nations can lead to better decision making, reduced consultation timelines, improved relationships and foster better outcomes for all resource values.