Failing to Plan or Planning to Fail?

A case for a new vision for land use planning and protected areas in BC[i]

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A Poster Prepared for the Columbia Mountains Institute event Sept. 30/Oct. 1, 2014
Solving Wicked Problems – Using Human Dimensions to Inform Natural Resource Management

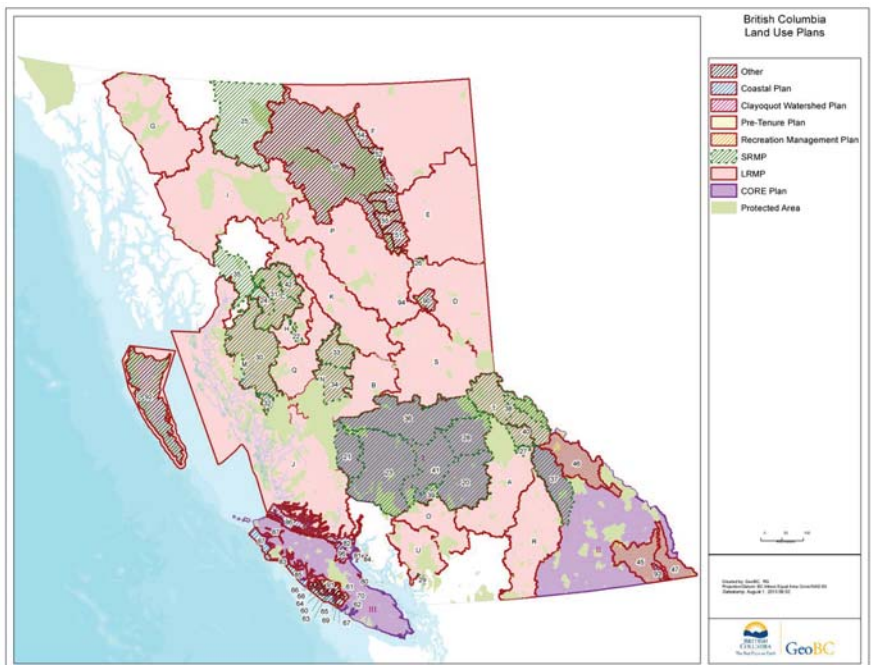
Evidence to support status quo failure and mandate change drawn from:

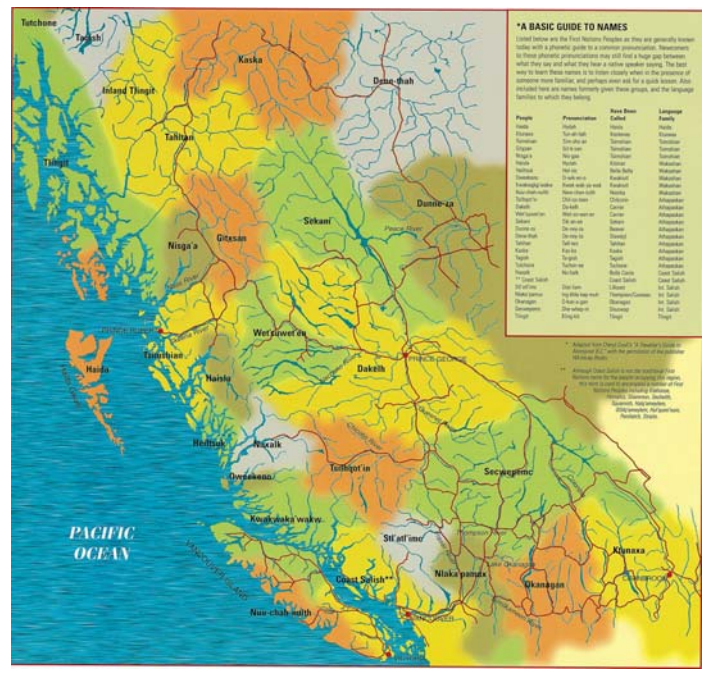
- BC Auditor General reports, Forest Practices Board Reports, science modeling, monitoring and retrospective change studies, climate change forecasts, natural resource development forecasts.
- Court cases including Canada's Supreme Court decision "Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia, 2014 SCC 44" notes that the Province must consult with aboriginal groups about uses of the land in dispute with respect to aboriginal title.

Problems:

- Threats to ecological sustainability include: a lack of limits for managing cumulative effects, an absence of understanding of environmental thresholds and tipping points, a short term focus on the economy and natural resource development, and the absence of local level input to large major national and provincial resource development initiatives;
- Sustainability of local economies and communities linked to ecological sustainability;
- Previous strategic land use planning processes and decisions were made despite significant absence of First Nations engagement;
- Previous strategic land use plans did not explicitly consider or address climate change effects on ecosystems/natural resources.

One Landscape One Common Shared Future: Absence of Strategic Shared Vision – A Wicked Problem





Land Use Plans are not kept up to date[iv] → ← **Approximate First Nations territories[v]**

→ **Integrate and Collaborate** ←

New strategic visions, plans and processes needed to craft local landscape level solutions

Solutions towards our diverse and sustainable future:

- Develop a meaningful provincial strategic conservation plan with consideration of climate change effects on and adaptation strategies for biodiversity conservation.
- Facilitate collaboration among First Nations and British Columbians to develop a provincial strategic economic plan on how to optimize natural resource development while minimizing environmental damage, sustaining ecological integrity, and supporting community viability.
- Engage First Nations with local and regional residents and stakeholders through structured and formalized land use planning processes to sustain local ecological, social and economic diversity.

From concept to implementation – Next Steps:

- Obtain support from First Nations groups as well as stakeholders and local/regional residents familiar with strategic land use planning.
- Reconstitute regional planning where there is a willingness to do so.
- Define terms of reference and scope of strategic planning, levels of detail, timelines.
- Focus on what is sustainable for the land and our shared future, given climate change effects and forecasts.
- Look for solutions such as co-management where there is willingness to do so.

[i] Concepts in this paper were first presented in Kamloops in 2013. This paper and citations can be found at http://www.unbc.ca/sites/default/files/sections/bc-protected-area-research-forum/fengerfailingtoplanorplanningtofail.pdf.

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[iv] Strategic Land Resource Plans, 2013. There are links on this site to each of the ninety plans http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/SLRP/.

[v] Supreme Court Decision sets provincial precedent on the need for collaboration. http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/tsilhqot-in-first-nation-granted-b-c-title-claim-in-supreme-court-ruling-1.2688332.