

# **GITANYOW Hereditary Chiefs**

## **Forestry: Past, present, and future**

*Sustaining Gitanyow Territories & Resources*  
*Rebuilding Gitanyow Wilp Economies*

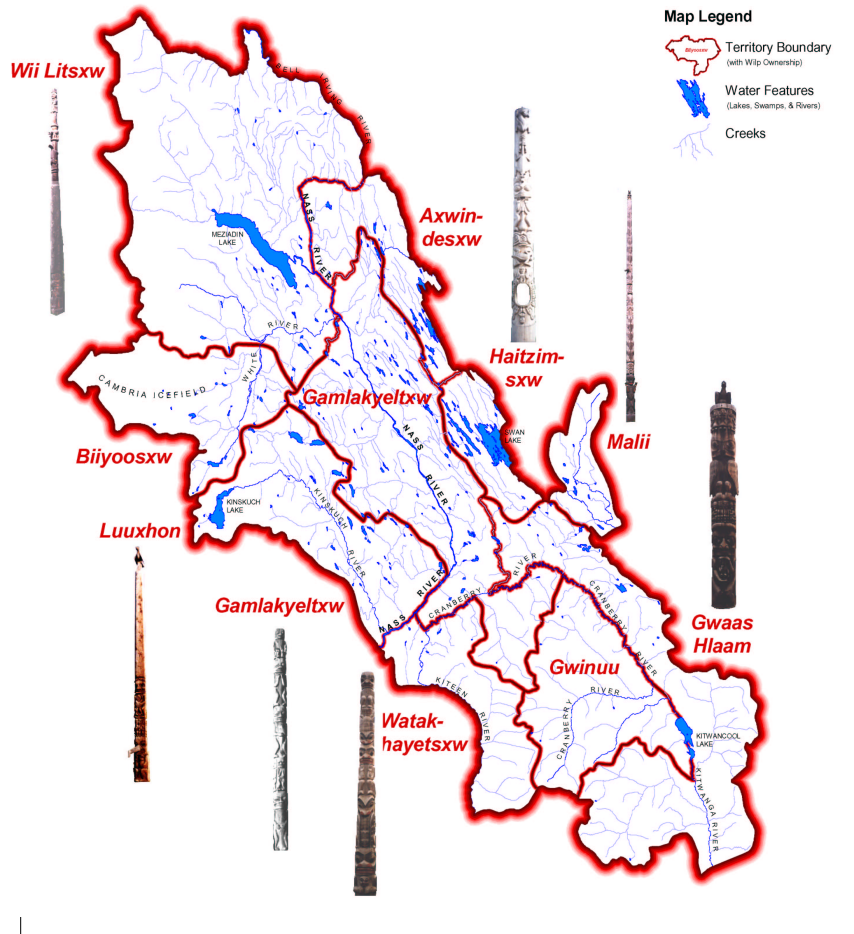


# The Gitanyow Huwilp



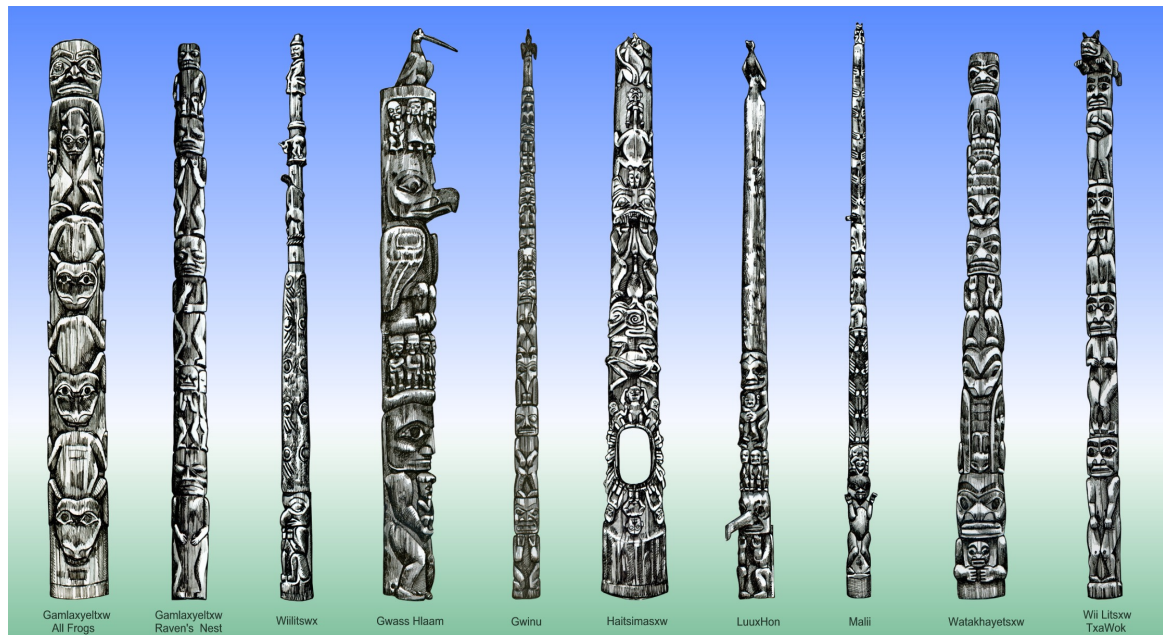
- Aboriginal peoples with rights recognized under the *Constitution Act, 1982*
- *Are a Matrilineal society. Organized into 2 Clans, Wolf and Frog*
- Comprised of 8 historic Wilp (House Group), collectively known as the Gitanyow Huwilp,
- Each Wilp owns and has authority over a defined Territory (Lax'yip)
- Collectivity of the Individual Wilp Lax'yip comprise the whole of the Gitanyow Territory

# Gitanyow Huwilp Lax'yip (Territories)



- Situated in the mid Nass River Watershed, Upper Kitwanga and Kispiox Rivers which are tributaries of the Skeena River
- Covers approximately 6,200 square kilometres
- Owned and occupied by the Gitanyow for thousands of years

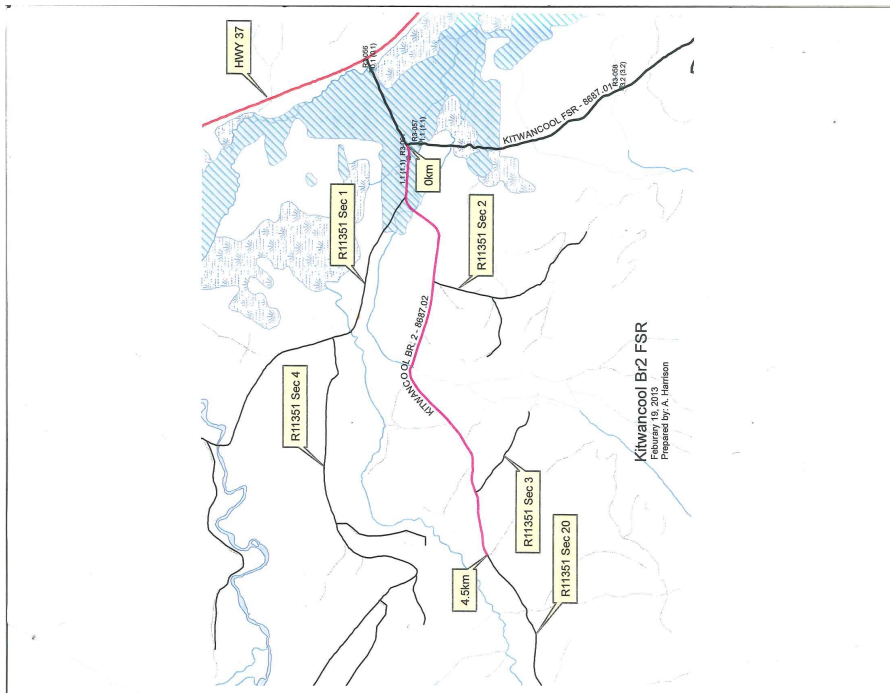
# Gitanyow's Deed to the Land



- Totem poles tell the history of each Wilp, their origins, and how they acquired their land.
- Each generation of Chiefs erects a Totem Pole to reaffirm their legal right to the land. Feast may cost \$250,000 and has been maintained for millennia.
- The land is the Wilp's bank where they get their wealth; moose, fish, berries, economic opportunities

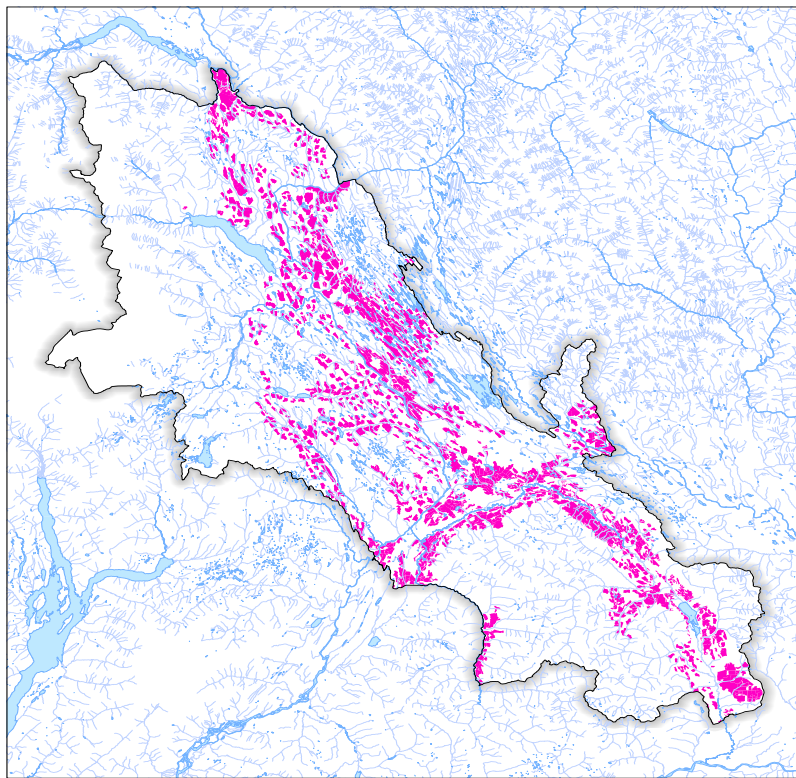


# BC's past approach to consultation:



- There is a proposed cut block on your territory, what is your aboriginal interest in this area? We will provide you with no resources for the review, and you have 30 days to respond.

# Scope of Forestry in Gitanyow Territory 1956-2017



Legend  
CUT BLOCKS / BURNT

- 24,000,000m<sup>3</sup> Harvested
- 72,927.50ha of clear-cut area
- \$110,908,944 in Stumpage collected by BC government
- 3,200km of road (Vancouver to Winnipeg is 2,200km)
- 15,000 Culverts
- 110 Bridges

# Forestry Impacts



- 80 cabins, trapping grounds, hunting grounds, and trails destroyed
- Extinction of Caribou herd.
- Kitwanga Sockeye Population lowered from 60,000 to 1000, no FSC fishery for 50 years
- Hanna/Tintina major Tributary of Nass River (3<sup>rd</sup> largest sockeye producer in BC)

# Forestry Impacts Continued



- Overharvesting of Cedar
- Large forest companies going defunct leaving unmet Silviculture Obligations, Failing Bridges, and Culverts
- Overharvesting in individual Wilp territories leading to high risk to ecosystem function
- High grading



# Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan

- Agreed to in the RRA in 2011
- Based on Gitanyow Land Tenure System
- Represents a step towards reconciliation of:
  - ✓ Gitanyow traditional knowledge with Western scientific knowledge
  - ✓ BC administrative boundaries with Gitanyow Lax'yip boundaries
  - ✓ BC's SRMP process with Gitanyow's Gwelx ye'enst (*exercise of rights and responsibility to hold, protect and pass on the land in a sustainable manner from generation to generation*)
- Sets out Land Use Zones, Management Objectives and land use designations for the whole Gitanyow Territory

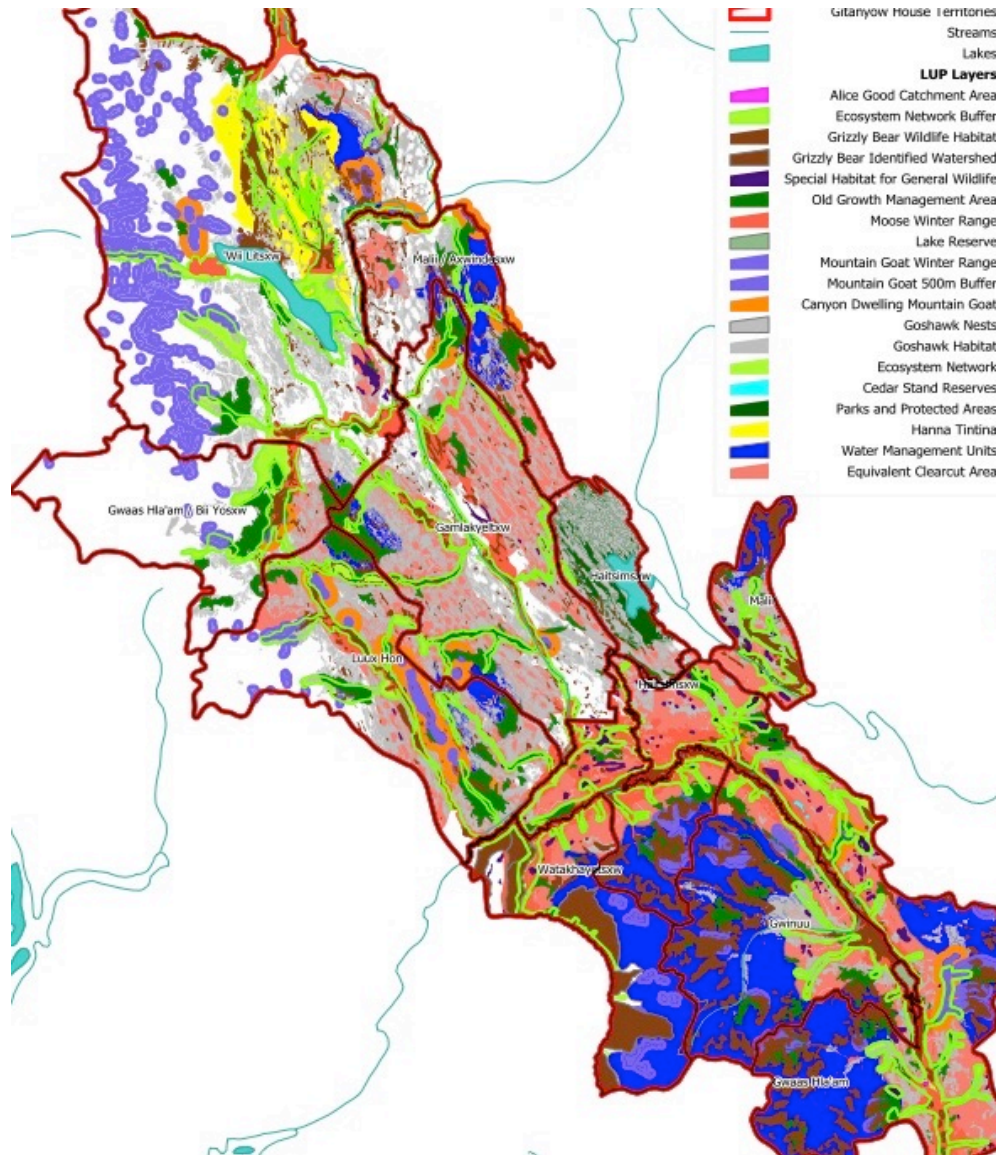


# Scope of the Gitanyow Land Use Plan

- The Plan describes resource management objectives for the following values:
  - Water quality & hydrology
  - Biodiversity, including old-growth and seral stage forests, rare ecosystems and connectivity
  - Cedar Management
  - Pine Mushrooms
  - Wildlife (Moose, Mountain Goat, Grizzly Bears, Furbearers, Goshawk)
  - Fisheries
  - Cultural Heritage Sites & Resources
  - Timber & Special Resource Management Zones







# The Gitanyow Lax'yip Land Use Plan

## All Management Zones

## Next Steps:

- Complete Timber Supply Review to identify sustainable harvest
- Partition Gitanyow Territory, remove BCTS, and Transition out the forestry act
- Redress: Repair habitat, decommission roads, one overall access management plan, compensation for past infringements, Gitanyow control over second cut.
- Update and strengthen GLUP, Water Plan, Mining exploration layer
- True revenue sharing, fair share of harvesting opportunity



# Questions?

