

Vision:

A Dall sheep dozes on a steep mountainside while on the lake below a kayaker pushes off the shore, seeking the solitude and the splendor of the lake's southern waters. Around a campfire, a woman shares her grandmother's stories about the caribou that once covered these mountains; their tools found on the moutaintop ice patches so well preserved, they look as though they might have been dropped yesterday.

Kusawa immerses visitors in a sense of escape and opportunity – close to Whitehorse but worlds away. Steep mountains and narrow valleys carved by glaciers; the long, twisting lake at its heart. This valley connects the Yukon interior to the Pacific coast and the past to present. Rich in history, the park honours the heritage and cultures of the Carcross Tagish, Champagne and Aishihik, and Kwanlin Dun peoples.

Kusawa Park continues a tradition of co-operation and respect – for the land, the plants and animals, and for each other. As Nù]átà once welcomed his neighbors to gather at Nekh̄, today 3 First Nations and Yukon Government share responsibility for managing this special place. Many hearts and hands working together – tending a campfire to which all are welcomed.

Guiding Principles:

Kusawa Park will be managed in adherence with the following guiding principles. These principles will guide management and decision-making in achieving the objectives of the plan.

1. Inclusive Engagement and Management

The management of Kusawa Park, as led by the Parties, is inclusive, transparent and uses innovative strategies. There are clear and meaningful opportunities for people to learn about and contribute to the management processes.

2. Ecological Integrity

The management of Kusawa Park ensures ecological integrity. The wellbeing of ecosystems, biodiversity, fish and wildlife populations is considered in all management decisions.

3. First Nation Homeland

First Nation people pursue traditional activities, honour sites and remnants from the past, and experience First Nation values, culture and language.

4. User Experiences

Kusawa Park respects and sustains opportunities for Park users to experience the natural beauty and cultural resources of the area. While the appreciation and enjoyment of the park is encouraged, the principles of Ecological Integrity and First Nation Homeland take precedence and are not compromised.

5. Two ways of knowing

Kusawa Park management embraces two ways of knowing. It integrates modern and traditional approaches to research, knowledge, learning and communicating about the Park environment, history and culture.

6. Economic Benefits and Opportunities

Kusawa Park provides economic benefits and opportunities. Park management supports First Nations people to participate in these benefits and opportunities.