



PHASE 1 AND 2 LAND USE PLANS

Frequently Asked Questions

In order to help community members to better understand the land use planning process, we have compiled a list of some of the frequently asked questions.

What is a Land Use Plan?

The purpose of a Land Use Plan is to:

- Establish a long term (10-20 year) vision for an area based on the community's values
- Outline, at a high-level, how land should be used
- Identify areas for potential development and areas for protection
- Identify infrastructure upgrades that may be needed

Is Land Use Planning something new to OKIB?

Historically, OKIB has always actively managed our lands according to our own laws and governance structures. The community has always set areas aside for housing, hunting/gathering, community gatherings, cultural activities, trade, etc. The Phase 1 and 2 Land Use Plans are just a more formalized way of outlining these land uses on community held lands.

What are the benefits of having Land Use Plans?

Land use planning is about managing the challenges of growth and development based on community values, which helps to:

- Identify and protect sites of environmental and cultural importance
- Provides guidance on what land uses should be considered for various parcels of Band-land
- Maximize community benefits from our lands
- Facilitate economic development
- Outline important infrastructure considerations

Who benefits from the Land Use Plans?

The benefits provided through land use planning, including protection of environmental and cultural resources, clarity on land use, facilitating economic development, outlining key infrastructure considerations and maximizing community benefits from our lands, extend to the OKIB community as a whole. Individual community members, Band administration, Chief and Council, CP Holders and future generations can all benefit from having community informed land use plans in place.

Do the Land Use Plans apply to all OKIB lands?

The Land Use Plans only apply to all community held (Band lands) and not CP lands. While this is generally limited to on-reserve lands, some guidance is provided for OKIB's off-reserve land holdings.

Do the land use plans apply to CP lands?

No, they only apply to community held (Band) lands. CP Holders can benefit from the Land Use Plan by utilizing some of the guidance provided in the use and development of their lands.

Who developed the Land Use Plans?

While the OKIB Lands Department led the land use planning process, these plans are ultimately community-driven documents. The initial planning process for the plans started in 2013 and since that time extensive community engagement has occurred, including community surveys, home visits, Elders meetings, Youth meetings, CP holder meetings, staff meetings, the set-up of advisory and steering committees, community dinners, land site tours, and community open houses. All of this community input was compiled and forms the basis for the Plans.



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How will the Land Use Plans be used?

The Plans provide a high-level overview on how the community wishes to see the community-held (Band) lands used in the future and will act as an important decision making tool for OKIB Chief and Council, staff and community members regarding future land management and development on community-held lands.

The Land Use Plans will be referred to when future development, such as housing, community facilities, and economic development initiatives, are proposed on Band lands. Any such development should align with the vision and direction outlined within the Plans.

It is important to note that the Land Use Plans will not be the only consideration when determining future land use on Band lands, nor are they intended to provide a comprehensive and complete list of all the potential considerations facing future land use decisions. Rather, the Plans will provide general guidance and a framework for land management decisions that is based on the community's values and desires.

Future plans and policies established by OKIB that relate to the community's Band lands should also align with the direction provided in the Land Use Plans. This could include plans and policies related to range management, housing, and economic development, among others.

The implementation items listed in the Plans will also be leveraged to pursue future government funding.

Why are there 2 Phases to the Land Use Plans?

The Phase 1 Plan was the initial plan that looked at the Okanagan 1, Okanagan 4 (Swan Lake) and Duck Lake 7 reserves, as well as the Band-owned private properties. Through this initial process, it became clear that further community engagement was required for some areas. The Phase 2 Plans, which include the Goose Lake and Madeline Lakes ranges, are two such areas that were identified as requiring a more detailed review and further community engagement.

Are the Land Use Plans the same as a Zoning bylaw?

No. The Land Use Plans only provide high-level guidance on how the community-held lands could be used in the future. They do not contain specific rules and regulations on how individual parcels can be developed.

Do the Land Use Plans contain rules and regulations on how land can be used?

No, the Land Use Plans are high-level vision-oriented documents and do not contain rules, regulations and policies. While they do include some guidelines to ensure future development is safe and of high quality, as well as guidelines aimed at protecting the environment, heritage/cultural resources, and natural resources, these guidelines are written in a manner that provides some flexibility, rather than strict rules.

What if the community's view on how our lands should be used changes in the future?

Land Use Plans are living documents and are intended to be revisited on a regular basis. If conditions or community sentiment changes, the Plans can be updated to reflect this.