

Land and Natural Resources

The protection and advancement of rights related to land and natural resources is fundamental to the work of NNTC. This work is done on the ground, in courtrooms, through commissions and enquiries, in board rooms, and most importantly in the community. Since 2017 with the formation of AEW Limited Partnership (Archaeology, Environment and Wildlife) by members of the NNTC, there has been additional technical/scientific support available to NNTC. Decisions regarding land and natural resources are based on the knowledge and principles of the Nlaka'pamux and the best science available. Modelling is implemented to support decision making.

Work done by NNTC to protect land and resources is done pro-actively by resource sector such as water, salmon, ungulates, medicinal and food plants, and is also done in response to proposed projects such as CN Twin Tracking, Teck /Highland Valley Copper, Cache Creek Landfill, Interior to Lower Mainland Transmission Line, and Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. Work is done for conservation and harvesting including fishing and hunting. The Nlaka'pamux homeland has become a transport/communication corridor which impacts virtually all land and resources as all things are connected. Resource extraction has been highly impactful beginning with the gold rush of 1858 and continuing today with multiple mines, forestry, and transport/tele-communication activities in the Nlaka'pamux homeland. NNTC was protecting the forests of the Stein Valley 40 years ago and is still having to fight against the logging of the old growth forest in the Nahatlatch today. With climate change, fire and floods add further threats to be managed in order to protect land and resources.

Fishing is the lifeblood of the Nlaka'pamux Nation and is of central importance to NNTC. The fishery is communal in nature and the salmon being anadromous means we must take into consideration other Nations and competing interests. While dealing with historical wrongs, protecting the fishery through court cases such as *Pasco v CN* and protecting the fishery from proponents' proposed projects and incursions by neighbouring Nations, NNTC also runs a fishery program.

The NNTC fishery program provides for the individual exercise of rights consistent with the communal nature of the right and involves:

- Natural Resource Officers
- Permitting
- Monitoring
- Habitat protection
- Conservation
- Openings and closures
- Liaising with DFO
- Coho in the classroom
- Fish camp

In the protection and management of land and resources, NNTC does not merely say no to activities which may threaten Nlaka'pamux best interests, but rather works to find a solution that is consistent with sustainability and Nlaka'pamux title and rights – part of the principled and disciplined approach of the NNTC.