First Nation Harvesting Rights in Klunewa National Park & Reserve

Dänńch’i / Welcome

Welcome to Klunewa National Park and Reserve (KNPR). The area is part of the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (C&AN), and Klunewa First Nation (KFN). It is a sanctuary to protect wildlife in the area, a place that has long been traditionally fished by First Nations from hunting and trapping and their subsistence lifestyle. Protecting subsistence harvesting by the area’s indigenous peoples has had serious and lasting effects on First Nations’ culture and livelihoods, as well as the region’s ecosystem. A portion of the Parkto the Gane Sanitarium became what is now Klunewa National Park and Reserve in 1973. Parks Canada recognizes that First Nation harvesting is an integral part of the ecological integrity of Klunewa National Park and Reserve and the greater Klunewa region. Now, a renewal of First Nations subsistence harvesting within the park is helping to restore the relationship between First Nations and their environment.

The rights of citizens of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Klunewa First Nation to harvest all species of fish, wildlife, and edible plants in Klunewa National Park and Reserve are protected under the Constitution of Canada.

The Constitution of Canada has recognized aboriginal and treaty rights of aboriginal peoples of Canada. This includes rights that exist by way of law and claims agreements or may be so acquired.

-Klunewa National Park and Reserve

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What harvest activities will I encounter?

Common harvesting activities in Klunewa National Park and Reserve (KNPR) include hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering plants for food and medicine as well as any travel and camping associated with harvesting activities.

2. Are there any places where I can travel where harvesting activities are not allowed?

The entire area within the boundary of KNPR that falls within both the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (C&AN) and Klunewa First Nation (KFN) traditional territories can be used for harvesting. There are, however, special circumstances that allow for Klunewa First Nation harvest to occur within these bands as well.

3. Who can I contact to report a problem or ask questions?

Contact Klunewa National Park and Reserve in Riding Mountain National Park for any questions or information. Contact the First Nation’s Conservation and Parks Wardens for any questions related to wildlife, law enforcement, or to report a kite site. All contact information is provided at the end of the brochure.

4. Is it possible to know ahead of time, what harvest activities are taking place where I am?

Yes, it is always possible. Visitors to the park will be able to find out what is going on at the park through the park’s website or at the KFN office.

5. What if I encounter a hunter while I am out?

If you encounter a hunter while you are on the trail, it is best to be respectful and maintain a safe distance. If you are uncomfortable, you can contact the KFN office for information.

6. How can I know that I am safe?

The KFN office provides information on safe hunting practices and procedures.

7. What are the consequences of illegal harvesting?

Penalties for illegal harvesting include fines, community service, and imprisonment.

8. Are there any specific areas where I should not hunt?

Yes, there are specific areas within the park where hunting is not allowed. These areas are identified on the park’s website and on the park map.

9. Are there any special regulations for hunting?

Yes, there are special regulations for hunting in the park. These regulations are available on the park’s website and at the park office.

10. How can I report a violation of hunting regulations?

Contact the KFN office or the park wardens for information on reporting violations.

Visitor Information

Klunewa National Park & Reserve

Heritage Resources

A Land Rich In History. A Land That Provides First Nations have occupied this landscape for time immemorial. As a result, there are numerous historic sites and artifacts in the park. Common types of heritage sites and artifacts in the park include:

- Beach sites, brush shelters and drying racks
- Trail markers
- Cabins, caches and dog houses
- Canoe grounds with old poles, trails and mining equipment
- Archaeological sites with stone tools (scrapers, spear points, etc.) and flake tools left behind when making stone tools.

Evidence of old firespots (cracked rocks, small fragments of cooked meat), piles of rocks covered with lichen (especially in the high subalpine country), indicating hunting, birding, canoe, or other activities.

Heritage sites in the park are protected and are not to be disturbed. Please respect these sites by avoiding them in the same condition as they are found. Do not collect artifacts, burn stumps or wood structures or remains. If you see something unusual, please report it to the KFN office and if possible GPS the site and take images of the location.

Remember that this is the homeland of C&AN and KFN and their presence on the land forms a vital part of the park’s ecological integrity. Parks Canada recognizes that the First Nations of this region are integral to a functioning and healthy ecosystem.

Contact Information

Klunewa National Park & Reserve

118 Louis Place

PO Box: 5400

Hejnales Junction, Yukon Y1B 1L0

Phone: (867) 634-7240

Fax: (867) 634-7037

Environmental Protection Office

Klunewa National Park & Reserve

P.O. Box 5400

Hejnales Junction, Yukon Y1B 1L0

Phone: (867) 634-7240

Fax: (867) 634-2043

Resoure Conservation & Park Wardens

Law Enforcement Branch

P.O. Box 5400

Hejnales Junction, Yukon Y1B 1L0

Fax: (867) 634-2043

B.C. Conservation Officer Service

24-hour Provincial Police Dispatch (867) 852-3100

Fax (867) 634-2043

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Nänk šyáshshutín ukt’sánatâ - The earth, take care of it

For thousands of years, Dännn (Indigenous peoples) pursued a subsistence-hunting and gathering lifestyle. This lifestyle is an integral part of the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik (C&AN) First Nations and Klunewa First Nation (KFN).

C&AN and KFN citizens have rights to use both traditional and current tools and methods to engage in subsistence harvesting within KNPR, which may include the use of snowshoes and ATVs. In the event that you do encounter any signs of harvesting activities during your visit, please be respectful to First Nations’ harvesting rights and follow these guidelines:

1. If you see any harvesting activities taking place in the park, please take a picture and report it to the park office.

2. Do not disturb the area in which the harvest is taking place.

3. If you see any evidence of illegal harvesting, please report it to the park office.

4. Please do not interfere with any harvesting activities.

5. Do not disturb the area where the harvest is taking place.

6. Do not take any pictures or photographs of harvesting activities.

7. Do not interfere with the harvesters.

8. Do not disturb the area where the harvest is taking place.

9. Do not interfere with the harvesters.

10. Do not disturb the area where the harvest is taking place.

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