

**TAKU RIVER TLINGIT FIRST NATION**

*Land & Resources Department*

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**Land Guardian Protocols**

***Interacting with the General Public***

The purpose of this protocol is to provide guidance for TRTFN Land Guardians when interacting with the general public to ensure the safety of Land Guardians, as well as ensuring there is consistency in how the public (including hunters) are approached and what messages they receive.

Please note that this protocol is organic, always changing and will need to be adjusted for each specific situation.

Objectives of approaching the general public:

* Gather information about land use, specifically;
  1. Type of land use engaged in;
  2. Information on hunters, species they target, hunt details;
  3. Fishers, species targeted;
  4. Other activities occurring in the territory;
  5. The condition of the land.
* Share information about the Traditional Territory, wildlife disease, attractants management, Wildlife Act Regulations, TRTFN culture and expectations including respectful use of the land.

Safety measures:

* Safety should always be put first—data collection and patrol completion are secondary matters. Guardians should not do anything they feel unsafe to do.
* Guardians should always check in with each other before entering any situation to ensure that both individuals are in consensus on how to proceed. Guardians should always feel comfortable with each other to voice concerns or make suggestions; it is the responsibility of each individual to speak up in these situations.
* Do not approach anyone (including hunters or a hunting camp) or travel down a questionable trail/road if you feel uncomfortable or unwelcome. Rely on your gut feelings to determine whether it is safe to approach. When in doubt, play it safe. Always try to record your comfort level on the Outreach card.
* When addressing the public (including hunters and/or their camps) remain respectful, polite and non-confrontational.
* If a person is rude or aggressive, withdraw from the situation. It is very important to note this down on the Outreach card. Using your discretion, we may want to inform the Conservation Office and/or the RCMP, depending on the level of rudeness/aggression.
* If it is deemed necessary or appropriate, Guardians may remove TRTFN logo from side of the truck or their uniforms. This is a judgement call which may be made if Guardians feel they can gather more information or increase their level of safety by doing so.

Clear Violations of the Wildlife Act or other Laws/Regulations

* If Guardians observe clear violations of Wildlife Act or other laws/regulations, they should use their discretion for how to respond
  + Significant violations should result in the Guardians contacting the Conservation Officer Service (via the RAPP) or RCMP as soon as they are able to/it is safe to. Guardians should ensure that violators do not observe them making the call to ensure Guardians safety as well as the longevity of the evidence (if any exists).

Steps for Interacting with land users:

1. Introduce yourself; Name and position (Land Guardian for Taku River Tlingit First Nation);
2. Explain what you are doing: monitoring the traditional territory (“eyes and ears” of the Lands Department), gathering and sharing information, helping land users, monitoring hunting, fishing and mining;
3. Ask if they are willing to complete a Land User Survey;
   1. If they say no just share the brochure (if appropriate) and continue on. Note as much information on the Land User Survey card as possible.
   2. If they say yes, continue with filling out the Land User Survey card.