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## Management Planning

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Khutze Conservancy has some of the highest value habitat for grizzly bears on the British Columbia Coast. Khutze River, estuary and adjacent head of inlet in the anchorage area is an especially significant area for bears and other wildlife.

The area is mostly used by grizzly bears and some black bears. Several grizzly bears are now habituated to bear viewing but others remain wary and can be negatively impacted if proper guidelines are not followed.

A management plan is under development to reduce the impacts of bear-viewing and other activities on bears and their habitat. This brochure provides interim guidelines for visitors.

Please respect these guidelines and help protect these magnificent bears and their home. This includes not going onto the estuary or on land around the head of the inlet except in designated areas to provide sufficient bear refugia.



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## Contact Information

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The Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation actively protects and stewards the resources, lands, and oceans in their territory. Guardian Watchmen and Kitasoo Xai'xais Stewardship Authority (KXSA) staff are out in the territory daily conducting research, monitoring and compliance activities.

Please help us protect and steward the territory for future generations by following the rules and guidelines.

Please report any unusual or suspicious activities to the Guardian Watchmen or the KXSA.

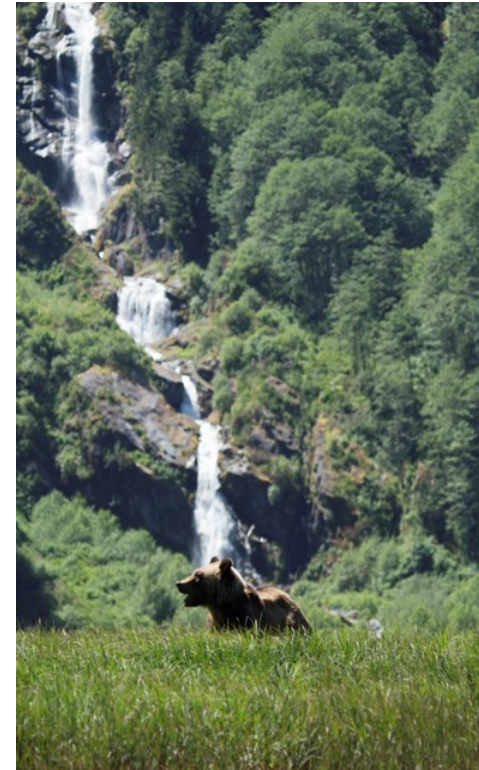


### **Kitasoo Xai'xais Stewardship Authority**

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Web: [www.klemtu.com](http://www.klemtu.com)



## **K'ootz/Khutze Conservancy**



### **Protected Area Information and Bear Viewing Guidelines**

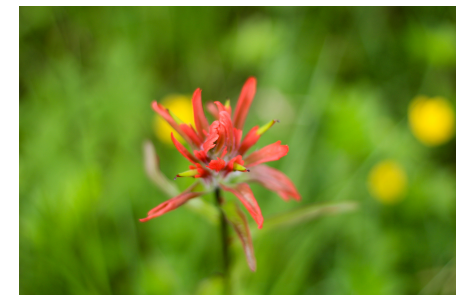
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## Khutze Conservancy

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The Khutze Conservancy was established in 2006 by First Nations and the BC government to fully protect coastal old-growth forests, a large estuary, high value habitat for grizzly bears and other wildlife, salmon spawning streams, and First Nations cultural values.

Located on the east side of Tolmie Channel, along the Inside Passage route, the 34,168 ha Conservancy includes the Khutze River watershed and fiord-like inlet. It shares its northern boundary with Q'altanaas (Aaltanhash) Conservancy. A safe anchorage is found at the head of the inlet.



Ga'atz (Khutze) Conservancy is in the territory of Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation who collaboratively manage the area with BC Parks. While visiting Ga'atz please respect the land, water, and cultural, wildlife, and heritage values.

## Bear Viewing Guidelines

- Stay at least 30m (100ft) away from bears at all times.
- Approach and depart at slow boat speeds (less than 5 km/3 knots).
- Maximum two vessels viewing any bear (s) at any time. Vessels must stay together.
- Limit viewing time to 20 minutes.
- Limit bear viewing to 1 hour after sunrise and 1 hour before sunset.
- No pursuit viewing of bears.
- Be sensitive to bear reactions. If a bear acts nervous (yawning, staring, moving towards cover) you may be displacing it. Move back. If a bear shows aggressive behavior (ears back, jaw popping, growling, stomping feet), leave the area.
- Never use flash photography with animals.
- Backcountry areas are not suitable for pets due to potential problems with bears.
- Bear spray is required by at least one person who is trained in its use.
- Respect the guided, wilderness bear-viewing experiences offered by permitted tour operators and Spirit Bear Lodge.



## Khutze Viewing Area

- Public bear viewing is water-based only. Public access to the Interpretive Sites is allowed only with a Kitsoo Xai'xais Guardian or certified bear guide.
- Maximum group size of 16 people total.
- Guides and guests can beach their skiffs and go ashore within four (4) meters (12 ft) of their skiff
- No pets are permitted in the viewing area. A designated dog-walking area is located in the small intertidal meadow area on the North side of the inlet (see map).
- Camping is only permitted at the designated camping site at Green Spit on south side of inlet.
- No smoking or fires.
- Leave no trace. Do not leave anything behind, including compostable food, human waste and toilet paper.
- Please do not take anything with you, such as flowers, wood, shells and cultural artifacts.
- Jet boats, jet-skis and paddleboards are not permitted in the water-based viewing area.
- Use of drones is not permitted.
- Aircraft landing is not permitted in the Khutze estuary and viewing areas. Land at least 500m from the estuary.

