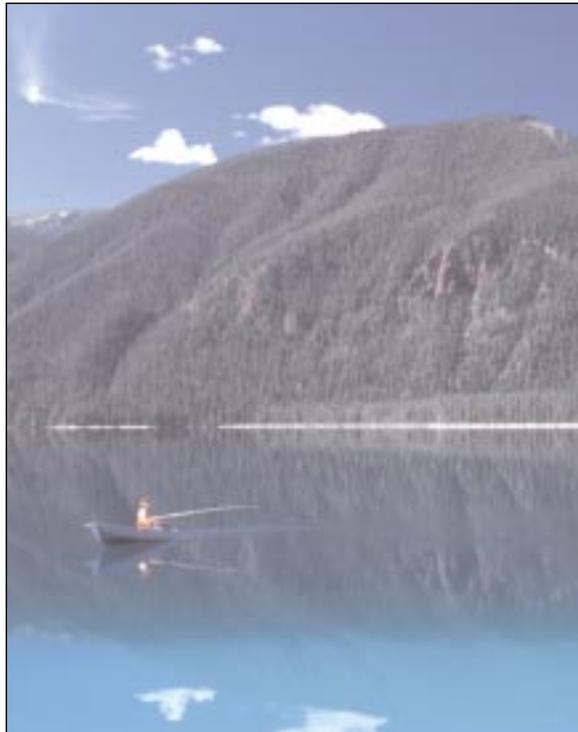




Muncho Lake

PROVINCIAL PARK



Welcome to Muncho Lake Provincial Park. Muncho Lake Provincial Park is named after the large lake that was formed in the last ice age. In the Kaska language, Muncho translates into “Big Lake”. At 86,079 hectares, Muncho Lake Provincial Park protects habitat for a diverse range of plant and wildlife species. For visitors to the area, the breathtaking views and wildlife watching provide some of the most spectacular and memorable opportunities in the province.

Peace Region

Facilities



The park has two campgrounds, each with picnic tables and fire-rings. **Strawberry Flats Campground** (15 vehicle/tent sites) is located at the south end of Muncho Lake, while **MacDonald Campground** (15 vehicle/tent sites) sits roughly at the midpoint of the 12-kilometre lake. There are small beaches at each location. Toilets, water and garbage facilities are provided at each location.



Car-top boats can be launched at Strawberry Flats Campground while MacDonald Campground has its own boat launch.



This park has a day-use and picnic area located adjacent to the two campgrounds.



Lake trout, bull trout, mountain whitefish, Arctic grayling, white and longnose suckers are all native to Muncho Lake. Consult fishing regulations and have a valid fishing licence if you plan on fishing.



From short walks to long wilderness hikes, a number of trails are found in Muncho Lake Provincial Park.



Several viewpoints are located throughout the park alongside the Alaska Highway all of which are readily accessible to visitors. The first viewpoint as you travel north is the Folded Mountain Viewpoint, followed by Peterson Canyon Viewpoint and Sheep Flats Viewpoint. At the northern tip of Muncho Lake the Muncho Lake Viewpoint offers a spectacular view of the lake and surrounding valley. Further north of this point, a good wildlife viewing location can be found at the Rock Quarry Wildlife Viewing Area. The northern most lookout is the Trout River Mineral Lick.

Park Activities

With the scenic mountains, rivers and lake, Muncho Lake Provincial Park provides numerous recreational activities. Some of the more popular activities include angling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, scenic viewing, mountaineering (mainly along Toad River valley where several peaks and walls of dolomite intrusion are readily accessible from the road), hunting, camping, and wildlife viewing.

Access

Muncho Lake Provincial Park can be accessed via the Alaska Highway at kilometre 681 of the Alaska Hwy. The highway bisects the park and provides access to the two provincial campgrounds: Strawberry Flats and MacDonald.

Hazards

After heavy rains, flash flooding (especially at the alluvial outwash on the western flank of Sentinel Range) is possible. During heavy rain, drive with caution when approaching the alluvial fans along the highway.

Park Regulations

- ▶ It is illegal to feed wildlife.
- ▶ Dogs must be on a leash at all times while in the park.
- ▶ Liquor is not permitted in public places.
- ▶ Park visitors value the peace and quiet of provincial parks and campgrounds. Keep noise to a minimum at all times. During quiet time hours (11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) do not operate generators, radios, etc.

For More Information

BC Parks

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>



Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection



History

Evidence of Kaska-Athabaskan use exists in the park with the identification of three sites found along the shores of Muncho Lake. Chert flakes have also been found scattered along beaches. The MacDonald band is found in the southwest corner of the park in the vicinity of Moose Lake. This band moves with the seasons and retains strong traditional practices and values. European colonization occurred with the construction of the Alaska Highway in 1942. Remains of construction camps can be found at Drogheda Lake and at the north end of Muncho Lake there are several old buildings. The park was established on May 31, 1957.

Wildlife

The corridor through Muncho Lake Provincial Park is one of the best locations to view northern wildlife. Some of the more readily observed species include caribou, moose, Stone sheep and mountain goat. Less commonly observed, but found throughout the area, are grizzly and black bear, wolf, coyote, lynx, martin, marmot, fisher and beaver. For the avid birder, Muncho Lake and Drogheda Lake are congregation areas for migrating birds (Canada geese, ducks, grebes, mergansers, loon). Lake trout, bull trout, mountain whitefish, Arctic grayling, white and longnose suckers swim through the crystal clear waters. The cold water temperatures and low nutrient levels found within the lake result in slow growth and late maturation of fish making them susceptible to over fishing. When angling, practice "catch and release" whenever possible.

Seeing wildlife in the wild is exciting and memorable. However, it is important to respect all wild animals by keeping your distance and resisting the urge to approach or feed them. Once animals become accustomed to being around people, they are in danger of losing that very thing that makes them special: their wildness.

Feeding wildlife will:

- ▶ disrupt their normal behaviour
- ▶ deny you the opportunity to observe an animal behaving naturally
- ▶ tame animals, making them more likely to be hit by cars
- ▶ result in some animals becoming very aggressive and others losing their natural fear of people
- ▶ **It is illegal to feed wildlife.**

Help keep wildlife wild

- ▶ Keep food away from bears and other animals by properly storing food and disposing of garbage.
- ▶ Do not cook or store food in your tent and keep your campsite clean.
- ▶ Travel in groups, keep on established paths and trails, and travel during daylight hours.
- ▶ Watch for animals and signs of animals: tracks, droppings, diggings, torn-up logs and turned over rocks.

Attention: Reduce your vehicle speed when animals are on or near the highway and pull well off of the traveled surface of the road if you plan to observe or photograph them. Check your rear-view mirror before braking and give motorists ample warning of your intention to stop.

Plants

Boreal white and black spruce blanket the valley bottoms and rise to 880 metres. Above this elevation (to 1,550 metres) white and black spruce predominate and eventually thin out to the alpine tundra.

Common plant species found in Muncho Lake Provincial Park include:

- ▶ horse tail
- ▶ common mountain juniper
- ▶ death camas
- ▶ bog orchid
- ▶ wild strawberry
- ▶ wild rose
- ▶ lapland rosebay
- ▶ Indian paintbrush
- ▶ white spruce
- ▶ cottonwood
- ▶ mountain alder
- ▶ creeping juniper
- ▶ false asphodel
- ▶ yellow lady's slipper
- ▶ toad-flax
- ▶ yellow dryas
- ▶ fireweed
- ▶ kinnikinnick
- ▶ lodgepole pine
- ▶ balsam poplar
- ▶ trembling aspen
- ▶ shrub birch



kinnikinnick



wild rose



Indian paintbrush

Geology

The mountains surrounding Mucho Lake dominate the skyline. These mountains are divided into Terminal Range west of the Trout River valley and the Sentinel Range to the east and range in elevation from 646 metres to 2,122 metres. Along the North Trout River cream-coloured, silt clay deposits rise steeply above the river. Erosional processes (wind and water) have sculpted the cliffs into tall pillars called hoodoos. Similar formations are present on Prochniak Creek. Exposed minerals in the silt attract moose and sheep.

The other feature which demands attention is Muncho Lake. Muncho Lake is 12 kilometres long, varies in width from 1–6 kilometres and maintains a maximum depth of over 200 metres. The presence of copper oxides leached from the surrounding bedrock turns the water jade green. The average summer water surface temperature is a refreshing 10°C.

Other hydrological features include waterfalls, canyons and tarns (small lakes often found in alpine areas).

Special Features

Extensive alpine plateaus on the west as well as the southeast boundary of the park offer gentle topography, small scenic surface waters, interesting glacial features, and excellent hiking opportunities. Alluvial fans formed by dynamic hydrological processes have cut deep, narrow canyons throughout the Sentinel Range and across the highway in several locations. A short loop trail to a mineral lick provides visitors with the opportunity to view Stone sheep and moose.

