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The cover photograph of the kayaker on the Upper Matthew River was taken by Don Olesiuk.

Chris Hamilton took all the photographs in the document with the exception of those noted in the plate captions or those underlined below.

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Appendix A: Commercial Recreation Opportunities and Public Use Targets

Introduction

The Cariboo-Chilcotin Land-Use Plan (*CCLUP*) led to the establishment of Cariboo Mountains and Cariboo River Parks. As part of its recommendations for parks, the *CCLUP* states that the parks should be “available in principle and where appropriate for commercial tourism . . .”.

Growing interest in commercial recreation is one factor that prompted the development of this park management plan. Some communities adjacent to the park, and elsewhere in the province are increasingly interested in commercial recreation as a means to diversify local economies. Commercial recreation includes fee-for-service businesses that provide visitors with guiding, accommodation or transportation. It typically does not include rental or accommodation businesses operating outside the park.

In terms of effect and presence on the land, commercial recreation is usually similar to independent recreation. Guided groups of park visitors on foot, horseback, skis, or canoe are much the same as other groups. Public huts and commercial huts in parks have similar effects on the landscape. In consultation leading to the development of this plan, recreational groups indicated concern that commercial recreation should not significantly displace or limit opportunities for independent or non-commercial recreation.

With commercial recreation, as with recreation generally, BC Parks plans for and manages these uses with the goals of providing opportunities while protecting ecological integrity. Commercial recreation differs from other recreation in terms of how it is managed by BC Parks. To operate in parks, commercial recreation businesses require a Park Use Permit; an authorization under the *Park Act*. Evaluation, impact assessment and permitting can typically take several years, particularly in the absence of planning that addresses commercial recreation.

This appendix identifies commercial recreation opportunities that are consistent with the park management plan. The intent of this appendix is to streamline responses to applications for Park Use Permits, and potentially to enable BC Parks to actively promote certain business opportunities in the parks.

This appendix does not present a comprehensive assessment of commercial recreation opportunities in the parks. The commercial recreation activities and opportunities described here should be regarded as examples consistent with the park management plan.

Commercial Recreation Opportunities and Public Use Targets Map

Development and Use of this Appendix

This appendix identifies 17 recreation activities/opportunities in the parks. The Non-Motorized and Motorized Task Groups that were involved in developing the management plan identified the majority of these activities. The groups used local knowledge of the areas to look at the capability of the areas to support the activities, appropriate levels of access, and areas where there were relatively few potential conflicts with natural values.

Each activity/opportunity identified has a number of descriptions. They include:

a) Area of Use.

This sets out an approximate extent of where the activity should take place. This area has been outlined on the accompanying *Commercial Recreation Opportunities and Public Use Targets* map. This is only an very approximate area, and it is expected this will be fine-tuned through a commercial operator's management plan and discussions with BC Parks.

b) Potential Uses

This sets out the broad category of uses that are considered acceptable in the area. Hiking, for example, could include mountaineering, walking, nature appreciation etc. Again, this is a broad class of uses, and can be modified based on a business plan or discussions between the potential operator and BC Parks.

c) Season of Use

The season of use is intended to address two issues. First, activities may be restricted by season to address key wildlife issues (i.e. caribou early winter use areas, calving grounds, spawning salmon/grizzly bear interactions, grizzly bears on blueberry patches etc). Second, this category sets out the broad season of use in order to calculate approximate user days. For example, ice freezes thick enough to ski/walk on around the Bowron Circuit approximately January 1, and thaws by late April, leaving a season of approximately 4 months or 120 potential days of use.

d) Number of parties/users per day

A user density target is a tool used quite commonly by fish, wildlife and park agencies to achieve "wilderness" conditions. For example, the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection calculates the desired density of anglers per kilometer of fishable river using a formula. The Dean River has a target of 2 people per kilometer, while the Horsefly River has a target of one person per kilometer of fishable water. Parks Canada permits 52 users on the West Coast Trail every day, with 26 departing from either end of the trail. BC Parks currently allows 54 canoes, staggered over the course of the day, on the Bowron Circuit. The Turner Lake Chain in Tweedsmuir Park has a calculated capacity of 40 persons over the entire chain of lakes.

BC Parks satisfaction surveys consistently show user satisfaction decreases dramatically after four encounters with other parties in a day.³³ This number is consistent with much of the research on wilderness experiences completed by the US Forest Service and the US National Park Service. Numbers of acceptable encounters vary by the activity and the expectations of users.³⁴ For the purposes of this appendix, several numbers have been used. They are deliberately conservative, as the public consultation process strongly suggested adopting the precautionary principle. The following numbers have been used as a guideline:

- i) 1-2 people per day in areas where there are possible wildlife concerns or where very few encounters with other people are deemed appropriate.
- ii) 3-4 people per day in areas where wildlife concerns are minimal and where wilderness expectation are lower.

³³ 1995. BC Parks. *Survey of Bowron Lake Canoe Circuit Users*.

³⁴ For example, 1.5 encounters a day on a wilderness river, 2.9 on a semi-wilderness river, 4.4 on a recreation river and 20 encounters per day for whitewater rafting.

iii) 5-6 people per day in road accessible areas or where few wildlife values exist.

The numbers 1 - 6 represent the range of acceptable encounters that have been outlined in the literature on carrying capacity.³⁵

e) Total User Days

This represents a simple multiplication of desired density and user days. A density of 4 people per day, multiplied by 120 days = 480 user days over the season.

f) Public Commercial Split.

Given the user day “target” that has been identified, it is important to recognize that not all use is commercial. The 70% public and 30% commercial split is generally used by BC Parks and broadly accepted by user groups (e.g. BC Wildlife Federation). In some instances this split can be varied depending on levels of access or safety concerns. For example, allocations to commercial use could be increased to 40% or higher if access is only by airplane or if there are safety issues (i.e. grizzly bear viewing may require a trained guide equipped with safety equipment and having an approved evacuation plan). Alternately, in areas with high levels of public access or lower risk, commercial use could be 20% or lower.

g) Opportunities/Limitations/Special Considerations.

This section generally sets out potential limitations (e.g. caribou early winter range, grizzly bears and berries, avalanches) as well as opportunities (increased presence in winter, safety, education) and any special considerations that may apply (minimum party size in the case of activities in bear country, as the larger the party size the fewer attacks).

Limitations to the Method

As in any use of a quantitative measure to reach a qualitative goal, the numbers themselves are a “best guess”, and should always be tested against the spirit and intent expressed in the body of the plan. As such, the numbers are a starting point for discussions around acceptable levels of public and commercial recreation and are subject to adaptive management. As this is an appendix to the management plan, these numbers have no formal standing and will be used by BC Parks staff as a point to begin discussions with interested operators and communities. They are not meant as either minimum levels of use or a cap, nor do they address commercial viability. Again, they should be considered a starting point for discussions.

In addition, the numbers have been derived from research on wilderness experiences and do not consider the “cumulative impact” of these levels of recreational use on wildlife, vegetation or water resources in the parks.

Implementation of the Appendix

This appendix has a number of uses. Firstly, by setting “targets” of public and commercial use, BC Parks can monitor levels of use to determine if use is higher or lower than anticipated. For example, trail counters may be installed along a key section of trail. If the target for use was 480 people a year and only 12 were counted, management can reflect these low levels of use (e.g. limited additional monitoring or

³⁵ Stankey; LAC. Heberlein; Graefe, Vaske, Kuss, 1990. *Visitor Impact Management, A review of Research*. National Parks and Conservation Association, Washington DC. Etc etc

perhaps commercial use can be increased or an extra operator can be permitted). Similarly, if 594 people were counted, this might be an area where additional monitoring is required to determine if wildlife are being displaced, or if impacts on vegetation are occurring.

At the time of the writing of this plan, the supply of opportunities in the parks is larger than current demand. As such, BC Parks staff should work with other stakeholders (appropriate government ministries, communities such as Wells, Likely, McBride and Quesnel, Chambers of Commerce etc) to review the identified opportunities. At that time, a determination can be made to see if market demand exists for additional opportunities.

Once an opportunity is ready to offer to a public bidding process, BC Parks should publicly advertise the opportunity. Criteria for a successful application may include the proponents’ safety plan, management plan, proposed activities, past experience and/or bonus bid to government. Preference to local operators can be considered if all other conditions are met.

Opportunities

While this appendix identifies a number of opportunities, creative operators may approach BC Parks with other ideas. While preference will be given to the identified opportunities, other ideas may be considered and will have to be consistent with the vision for the park and with other management direction contained in the plan. A small number of these opportunities are currently under permit (i.e. Bowron Lake canoe circuit).

(1)	Kibbee Lake / Bowron Lake (Winter)
Potential Uses	Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing
Season	January 1 - April 1
Number of Parties	5 people/ day
Total User Days	600
Public/Commercial Split	75/25
Commercial User Days	150 (30 trips at 4-6 users)
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (+) Increased presence can monitor use and decrease vandalism; • (+) Potential for overnight use of Bowron River Cabin; • (-) Potential displacement of moose; • (-) Concerns regarding ice conditions on the Bowron River.

(2)	Bowron Lake Wetlands (Summer)
Potential Uses	Wildlife viewing
Season	June 1 – October 1
Number of Parties	10 trips per year @ 6 people /trip
Total User Days	60
Public/Commercial Split	100% Commercial

Commercial User Days	60
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No motorized access. • Code of Ethics to be developed and followed by commercial operators.

(3)	Bowron Lake Chain of Lakes (Summer)
Potential Uses	Canoe/Kayak Tours – Commercial
Season	April – October
Number of Parties	20 trips from July 1 – August 31. Others may be added outside this “core” period
Total User Days	
Public/Commercial Split	
Commercial User Days	
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group campsites only to be used. • This use addressed in body of plan. • Commercial use fully allocated.

(4)	Bowron Lake Chain of Lakes (Winter)
Potential Uses	Snowshoeing, dog sledding, ski touring
Season	January 1 – March 31.
Number of Parties	10 trips per year @ 6 people /trip
Total User Days	60
Public/Commercial Split	100% Commercial
Commercial User Days	60
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No motorized access.

(5)	Wolverine Corridor (Summer)
Potential Uses	Hiking or horse tours
Season	July1 – October 1
Number of Parties	Hiking – 7 people per day per trip Horse tours – 1 trip every 2 weeks @ 5 horses per trip
Total User Days	Hiking = 630 (Task group reduced this number by 50% to account for the very poor and wet weather in the area, so figure of 315 is used.) Horse tours = 30 horses
Public/Commercial Split	Hiking = 80/20

	Horse tours = 50/50
Commercial User Days	Hiking = 63 Horse tours = 15
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (+) Linkages from Robson Valley to the Cariboo; • (+) Interpretation of culture and history; • (+) Increased use of Bowron Lake Campground and Lodges/commercial facilities; • (+) Linkages to National Hiking Trail; • (-) Wet and muddy trail, many river crossings; horses may have significant impact on wet trail; • (-) Potential impact of introduced weed species from horses; • (-) Potential to displace wildlife.

(6)	Wolverine Corridor (Winter)
Potential Uses	Snowmobile tours, ski tours
Season	
Number of Parties	
Total User Days	
Public/Commercial Split	
Commercial User Days	
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers, season of use and other considerations subject to feasibility study.

(7)	Cariboo River (Summer)
Potential Uses	Drift boating, canoe/kayak, fishing, wildlife viewing
Season	May 15- October 1
Number of Parties	23 users per day (1.5 people per kilometer of river)
Total User Days	3,105
Public/Commercial Split	80/20
Commercial User Days	621
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (+) Access into park from Cariboo River Bridge, egress from Forest Service Recreation site on Cariboo River; • (-) Potential impacts to waterfowl from boat wake; • (-) Visual impacts from harvesting adjacent to park; • (-) No overnight use. • Use numbers need to be refined based on specific values on river. 3,105 users would likely exceed ecological and social carrying capacity. Monitoring required to look at impacts of motorized use.

(8)	North Ghost Lake (Summer)
Potential Uses	Hiking, mountaineering
Season	June 1 – October 1
Number of Parties	1 user per day
Total User Days	120
Public/Commercial Split	80/20
Commercial User Days	24
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible hiking from F-Road • (+) Good access into mountains and small alpine lakes • (-) Grizzly habitat, narrow valleys, limited vehicle access.

(9a)	Ghost Lake (Summer)
Potential Uses	Boating, wildlife viewing
Season	June 1 – October 1
Number of Parties	4 people per day
Total User Days	480
Public/Commercial Split	80/20
Commercial User Days	96
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (+) Proposed boat launch and improved campsite; • (+) Road accessible; • (-) Limited shoreline for use on the lake; • (-) Currently few facilities.

(9b)	Ghost Lake/Upper Matthew River Valley (Summer)
Potential Uses	Boating, hiking, mountaineering, wildlife viewing
Season	July 1 – October 1
Number of Parties	3 people per day
Total User Days	270
Public/Commercial Split	60/40
Commercial User Days	108
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motorized access 7-8 kilometers up Matthew River;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (+) Good backcountry access via Matthew River; • (-) Early season grizzly bear habitat on avalanche slopes.
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(10)	Upper Cariboo River/North Mitchell Alpine (Summer)
Potential Uses	Helicopter access hiking and mountaineering
Season	July 15- September 15
Number of Parties	1 helicopter trip per week (4 people per trip)
Total User Days	32 (4 people x 8 weeks)
Public/Commercial Split	100% Commercial
Commercial User Days	32
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (+) These areas avoid summer habitat of most species; • (+) Spike camps may be permitted; • Potential alpine hut option (see polygon 11); • (-) Physical impacts on sensitive alpine ecosystems; • (-) Limited current knowledge of alpine species; • (-) Potential impacts of helicopter noise.

(11)	Twin Lakes Alpine
Potential Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed wing (float plane) summer hiking, mountaineering • Helicopter access winter alpine hut
Season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 15- September 15 (summer) • Winter use to be determined
Number of Parties	1 trip (4 people per trip) a week
Total User Days	32
Public/Commercial Split	100% Commercial
Commercial User Days	32
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (+) Easy access from Twin Lakes to surrounding alpine; • Possible spike camps; • (-) 2 BC Parks administrative jurisdictions • (-) Sensitive alpine ecosystems; • Feasibility and impact assessment required for any alpine huts constructed.

(12)	Mitchell Lake/Christian Lake/Niagara Creek (Summer)
Potential Uses	Hiking, kayaking/canoeing
Season	July 1- September 15
Number of Parties	1 trip per week (4-6 people per trip)
Total User Days	10 weeks x 6 people per trip = 60 user days
Public/Commercial Split	50/50
Commercial User Days	30
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (+) Fixed wing access to Christian or Mitchell Lake, hike out Niagara, pickup by Niagara Falls/Quesnel Lake; • (+) Possible loop trip by joining with (13); • (-) Grizzly habitat requires party size of at least 4; • (-) Extensive wetlands mean tough travelling.

(13)	Christian/Niagara Alpine (Summer)
Potential Uses	Hiking/mountaineering
Season	July 15 – September 15
Number of Parties	1 trip per week (4-6 people per trip)
Total User Days	8 weeks x 6 people = 48
Public/Commercial Split	50/50
Commercial User Days	24
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (+) Fixed wing access to Christian Lake, hike out along west side of Niagara, pickup by Niagara Falls./Quesnel Lake; • (+) Possible loop trip by joining with (12); • (-) Some goat habitat along route. • (-) Possible risk to alpine ecosystems.

(14)	Mitchell Lake
Potential Uses	Angling and boating
Season	May 15 – October 15
Number of Parties	5 parties on lake per day, 3 per boat
Total User Days	8 weeks x 5 parties people = 900 parties or 2700 people
Public/Commercial Split	50/50
Commercial User Days	450 parties
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (+) Float plane access to lake; • (-) Concerns about bull trout and rainbow trout populations. Regulations may be changed to protect fish populations.

(15)	Upper Mitchell River (below Mitchell Lake) (summer)
Potential Uses	Angling/wildlife viewing
Season	July 1 – September 31
Number of Parties	8.8 people per day on total river. One person per kilometer on upper 3.8 km, 2 people per kilometer on lower river.
Total User Days	Angler days = 8.8 per day x 92 day fishing season = 810 angler days – 81 days for First Nations = 510 public fishing days, 219 commercial angler days
Public/Commercial Split	70/30
Commercial User Days	239 angling days
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Mitchell River recommendations in section 4.3 • Commercial wildlife viewing and angler days fully allocated for upper river. • Public/commercial split reviewed in 2005.

(16)	Mitchell Wetlands (summer)
Potential Uses	Wildlife viewing
Season	May 15- October 1
Number of Parties	4 people per day
Total User Days	540
Public/Commercial Split	80/20
Commercial User Days	108
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (+) Excellent waterfowl, migratory bird loafing, nesting and feeding area; • (+) Many other wildlife species present (moose, beaver, bears etc); • (+) Good access from Quesnel Lake; • (-) Potential impacts on nesting bird populations and other wildlife; • Code of Ethics to be developed and followed by commercial operators.

(17)	Quesnel Lake/Hobson Lake Trail (Summit Lake Trail)
Potential Uses	Wildlife viewing (grizzly bears) and hiking
Season	June 1 – October 1
Number of Parties	4 people per day
Total User Days	480
Public/Commercial Split	50/50
Commercial User Days	240
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (+) Trail links Wells Grey Park to Cariboo Mountains Park; • (+) Spawning salmon population and some grizzly bear presence; • (+) Close to lodge facility; • (-) Trail is overgrown and not maintained; • (-) Grizzly bear hazards to be explored prior to any permits for wildlife viewing considered.

Appendix B: Protected Areas Strategy Goals and Guiding Principles

Goals

Goal 1: Representativeness

To protect viable examples of the natural diversity of the province that are representative of major terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems, the characteristic habitats, hydrology and landforms, and the characteristic heritage values of each ecosection.

Goal 2: Special Features

To protect the special natural, cultural heritage and recreation features of the province, including rare and endangered species and critical habitats, outstanding or unique botanical, zoological, geological and paleontological features, outstanding or fragile cultural heritage features, and outstanding outdoor recreational features such as trails.

Guiding Principles

1. The first priority in the use and management of protected areas is to protect their ecological viability and integrity.
2. Recreational activities, facilities, services and cultural heritage policies in protected area must be compatible with each area's objectives and the long-term protection of ecological viability and integrity, while enhancing the public's experience of the natural and cultural heritage of the province.

BC Parks Conservation Goals - Parks

Goal 1 Representation

To contain viable representation of all the natural and cultural heritage diversities across the province to conserve sustainable ecological values.

Goal 2 Special Features

To protect the special natural and cultural heritage features of British Columbia. These have been identified as physical, biological or cultural elements.

BC Parks Conservation Goals – Ecological Reserves

Goal 1 Representation

To preserve representative examples of British Columbia's natural ecosystems and perpetuate important genetic values.

Goal 2 Special Features

- To protect rare and endangered plants and animals in their natural habitat.
- To preserve unique, rare or outstanding botanical, zoological or geological phenomena.

Goal 3 Research and Education

To promote scientific research and educational uses associated with the natural environment.

BC Parks Recreation Goals

Goal 1 Outdoor Recreation Holiday Destination Opportunities

To provide park attractions which serve as or improve key destinations for outdoor recreation holidays.

Goal 2 Tourism Travel Route Opportunities

To provide parks and services which enhance tourism travel routes.

Goal 3 Regional Recreation Opportunities

To ensure access to local outdoor recreation opportunities for all residents of this province.

Goal 4 Backcountry Recreation Opportunities

To provide outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities throughout the province.

Appendix C

BC Parks Management Planning Zoning Descriptions

Zone Descriptions Protected Areas Management Planning Zone Descriptions			
	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment	Special Feature
Objective	To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.	To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.	To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.
Use Level	Relatively high density and long duration types of use.	Relatively low use but higher levels in association with nodes of activity or access.	Generally low.
Means of Access	All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see "Impacts" below).	Motorised (powerboats, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles), non-motorised (foot, horse, canoe, bicycles). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pickup points will be permitted.	Various; may require special access permit.
Location	Contiguous with all-weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas.	Removed from all-weather roads but easily accessible on a day-use basis. Accessible by mechanised means such as boat or plane.	Determined by location of special resources; may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones.
Size of Zone	Small - usually less than 2,000 ha.	Can range from small to large.	Small - usually less than 2000 hectares.
Boundary Definition	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas.	Boundaries should consider limits of activity/facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features.	Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of cultural resources (adequate to afford protection).
Recreation Opportunities	Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, power-boating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, snowplay, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialised activities.	Walk-in/boat-in camping, power-boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, and specialised activities.	Sightseeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.
Impacts on Natural Environment	Includes natural resource features and phenomena in a primarily natural state but where human presence may be readily visible both through the existence of recreation facilities and of people using the zone. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas.	Area where human presence on the land is not normally visible, facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	None - resources to be maintained unimpaired.
Facilities	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic/play areas, trail accommodation or interpretive buildings, boat launches, administrative buildings, service compounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, wood lots; parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk-in/boat-in campsites, shelters, accommodation buildings may be permitted; facilities for motorised access - e.g., docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.	Interpretive facilities only - resources are to be protected.