

## 8.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of actions in this management plan is dependent upon the availability of staff and resources within BC Parks and the Ministry of Forests. Approval of this management plan will not constitute automatic approval of funding for implementation.

Timeframe indicates when action is initiated. An asterix (\*) means the action is ongoing.

### **Immediate (1-2 Years)**

#### *Conservation Program*

- Continue taking photographs at existing photopoints.\*
- Establish new photopoints at important areas. Section 4.1 provides direction on areas to be photomonitored.
- Map occurrences of noxious weeds. Complete reconnaissance level mapping for areas that are not currently inventoried for noxious weeds.
- Develop annual weed management priorities with other agencies with a weed management mandate, including Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Transportation and Highways.\*
- Make a concerted effort to eliminate invasive noxious weeds, including blueweed, spotted knapweed, diffuse knapweed and leafy spurge.\*
- Establish wildlife population census areas in the Protected Area and ensure long-term monitoring..

#### *Planning Program*

- Ensure that access management plans and forest development plans in the vicinity of the protected area include considerations for the protection of protected area values.\*

#### *Recreation Program*

- Offer a long-term proposal for the ranching/hay operation opportunity.
- Upgrade existing dams and diversion structures to provincial standards.
- Ensure access management is advertised with appropriate signage
- Sign the industrial corridor to ensure users are aware of potential hazards. Signage should be completed in cooperation with industrial users i.e. Blackdome Mine and Forest Licensees.

- Sign the trail through the Clyde Mountain benchmark.
- Develop a staging area for horseback riders and other Protected Area users. This area should be located in the vicinity of the Calving Barn in the Intensive Use/Recreation Zone.
- Review any maintenance work to the industrial corridor and issue Park Use Permits to users of the industrial corridor. \*
- Provide a small interpretive site and parking lot adjacent to the Empire Valley Ranch headquarters.
- Authorize, by Park Use Permit, pre-existing operations (guide-outfitting, bee-keeping, trapping, commercial recreation, etc).
- Remove structures with public safety concerns and no interpretive or ranch operations value.

### ***Extension Program***

- Develop interpretive themes for the Protected Area that focus on its contributions to the Protected Area system, its history, First Nations values, the multiple use nature of the area, conservation values, protection of natural resources and safety.
- Provide basic levels of interpretative signage in the Protected Area, working with First Nations and stakeholders where appropriate.
- Create an information brochure. The focus of the brochure and its limits of distribution will avoid encouraging increased use.
- Create and maintain a webpage with the same purpose as the brochure.

### **Short Term (2-5 Years)**

#### ***Conservation Program***

- Develop a long-term management plan for wildlife with Wildlife Branch, BC Parks, Ministry of Forests and First Nations.
- Complete fish and fish habitat overview inventory on Grinder and Koster Systems.
- Prepare a fire management plan. Detailed criteria on how this fire management plan should be prepared can be found in *Appendix C: Criteria for Fire Management Plan*.
- Fence Benchmark Areas.
- Fence Onion Lake, Coffee Lake, and Two Cabin Lake.
- Undertake a photo-inventory of all old buildings, heritage sites and archeological sites.
- Screen irrigation inputs (culverts, dams and irrigation ditches) where fish are present.

- Locate new exclosures on Alkali Flats, Churn Flats, New Pasture, and Fraser South range units.

### ***Planning Program***

- Examine existing water licenses to ensure they are necessary.
- Work with Ministry of Energy and Mines and tenure holders to minimize impact of mineral exploration and development on protected area values through existing interagency referral process.\*
- Consider adding the lands to the Protected Area when placer leases and claims are forfeited.\*
- Complete an Archaeological Overview Assessment and Traditional Use Study.
- Save and Except the Empire Valley Ranch Road from the Protected Area.
- De-gazette the 2.81 kilometers of the Blackdome Road.

### ***Extension Program***

- Work with government agencies, commercial operators and tourism associations or groups to portray the Protected Area in a manner that does not encourage increased visitation.\*
- Encourage continued investigation of non-native and early settlement history by historical organizations or individuals.\*
- Undertake interpretation and/or investigation of First Nations heritage on the Churn Creek Protected Area only with participation of First Nations.\*

### ***Recreation Program***

- Monitor snowmobile use (cougar, lynx and bobcat hunters) of the Protected Area for impact to grasslands.\*
- Monitor impacts and levels of horse use.\*
- Monitor impacts and levels of other recreational use (mountain bikes, hiking etc).\*
- Monitor primitive camping in the Natural Environment Zone and identify environmentally sensitive sites where overnight use will not take place. Monitor use and impacts.\*
- Monitor the effects of commercial recreation use and adjust Park Use Permits where need is demonstrated to control environmental impacts from concentrated visitor use.\*

## **Longer Term (6+ years)**

### ***Conservation Program***

- Complete reconnaissance surveys of the principal ecosystems identified in Section 4.1 every ten years to estimate the proportion of each seral stage in each principal ecosystem.

### ***Recreation Program***

- A campground will be developed when use levels warrant.
- Open the road to Wycott Flats when erosion and knapweed are controlled.
- The road across the grasslands on the East Side of Goose Lakes will be deactivated. This deactivation is conditional upon the upgrade of the road on the West Side of Goose Lakes.

### ***Planning Program***

- Undertake formal review of the Management Plan after ten years.

## **Future Role of the Local Advisory Group**

BC Parks acknowledges the important role of the Local Advisory Group in helping to determine the long-term vision for the Churn Creek Protected Area and providing the mechanics of how that vision will be implemented over time.

The Local Advisory Group will be invited to meet once a year to discuss and review the ongoing implementation of the Management Plan. BC Parks will keep a mailing list of LAG members. In the interest of costs and efficiencies, members who are not participating may be deleted from the list over time. A letter asking if the member is still interested in receiving information will be sent prior to that person being removed from the list.

New members may be added to the LAG.