

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

June, 1999

**for Dunn Peak
Protected Area**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

**Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division**



Ministry of
Environment,
Lands and Parks

BC Parks
Headquarters
2nd Floor, 800 Johnson
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Phone: (250) 387-5002
Fax: (250) 387-5757

APPROVALS

KAMLOOPS GOAL 1 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward

This binder contains 15 management direction statements developed under the direction of the Kamloops Land and Resource Plan Implementation Table and BC Parks. The government designated these protected areas in May, 1996. The 15 management direction statements provide strategic direction for these protected areas until management plans can be developed with full public involvement. Protected areas' roles, strategies and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, implemented through operations plans, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arrowstone Protected Area | <input type="checkbox"/> High Lakes Basin Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Earth Lake Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Momich Lakes Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon Jack Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clearwater River Corridor | <input type="checkbox"/> Porcupine Meadows Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cornwall Hills Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Roche Lake Park |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dunn Peak Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Taweel Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elephant Hill Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Adams Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emar Lakes Park | |

Approved by:

District Manager
Thompson River District
BC Parks Division

Date:

98/04/30

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Division

Date:

99 10 25

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	
A.	Setting and Context.....	1
II.	Protected Areas Values	
A.	Conservation	1
B.	Recreation	2
C.	Cultural Heritage.....	2
D.	Significance in the Protected Areas System.....	2
III.	Other Land Uses and Interests	
A.	Existing Tenures.....	2
B.	Adjacent Patterns of Land Use.....	2
C.	First Nations Interests.....	2
D.	Other Agency Interests.....	4
E.	Private and Public Stakeholder Interests	4
IV.	Protected Area Role Statement.....	4
V.	Management Issues and Concerns	
A.	Integration With Other Land Use Planning Processes.....	4
B.	Consultation and Future Planning.....	5
C.	Zoning Plan	5
D.	Management Strategies and Objectives	6
E.	Longer Term Issues and Concerns	6
F.	Short Term Issues and Concerns.....	6
	Appendix A	9
	Figures:	
	Figure 1 – Regional Context	3
	Figure 2 - Zoning Map	7

Purpose of Management Direction Statements

Management Direction Statements provide strategic management direction for all protected areas that do not have a full management plan. MDS do not negate the need for future, more detailed management plans. Management Direction Statements also describe protected area values management issues and concerns; management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies; and, directional statements from other planning processes

DUNN PEAK PROTECTED AREA

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context

The 19,353-hectare Dunn Peak Protected Area, situated 12 kilometres northeast of Little Fort, about 90 km. north of Kamloops, contains provincially significant conservation and recreation values. It stretches from the North Thompson River to include the alpine areas of Dunn Peak, and over to the bottom of Harper Creek in the Shuswap Highlands. Access can be gained by ferry and road from Little Fort, or by logging road in the Harper valley from Barriere and North Barriere Lake.

This protected area was recommended through the Kamloops LRMP process and formally established on April 30th, 1996, as a provincial protected area through Order-in-Council under the *Environment and Land Use Act*. The *Environment and Land Use Act* allows for possible future consideration of an access corridor through the protected area to connect operating mines.

This Management Direction Statement is intended to provide direction and guidelines for managing Dunn Peak Protected Area until a more comprehensive management plan is developed for the area.

II. Protected Area Values

A. Conservation

- elevational sequence from the North Thompson floodplain to the alpine, including Interior Douglas-fir, Montane Spruce, Engelmann Spruce, and Sub-alpine Fir forests
- large unroaded area has considerable areas of undisturbed old-growth forest, many lakes, tarns, and swamps
- many areas of deciduous trees add to the diversity of the protected area: the large islands in the North Thompson River have mixed stands of aspen, birch and cottonwood; lower Joseph Creek has large stands of aspens
- includes part of the huge 1951 forest fire in the Harper Creek valley
- important habitat for a large variety of significant wildlife populations including: cougar, wolf, black bear, mule deer and mountain goats
- fish migration route and spawning grounds in the North Thompson River
- good representation of glacial erosion features not found elsewhere in the *Thompson River District*

B. Recreation

- outstanding backcountry wilderness opportunities, including hiking, mountaineering, ski touring, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and hunting
- popular regional recreation destination
- matterhorn peak of Dunn Peak (2,634 m) is a dominant feature, visible from Kamloops

C. Cultural Heritage

- old forest service fire lookout station on Baldy Mountain
- First Nations cultural history unknown

D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- this is the only opportunity to protect an elevational sequence of relatively undisturbed habitats from large river floodplain to alpine in this part of the dry southern interior
- the only large protected area in the LRMP with a part of the North Thompson floodplain
- Dunn Peak is the highest mountain between the Stein and the Monashees
- Dunn Peak Protected Area is rated as provincially significant for its combination of conservation and recreational values

III. Other Land Uses and Interests

A. Existing Tenures

- all private lands are excluded
- designation under the *Environment and Land Use Act* ensures that all existing liens, charges, and encumbrances other than those applying to commercial logging, mining or energy exploration and development will continue to be authorized through issuance of park use permits. This policy recognizes all existing land act tenures, water rights, trapping licences and other legal tenures and rights.
- protected area designation provides for continuance of existing grazing under administration and management of the *Range Act*

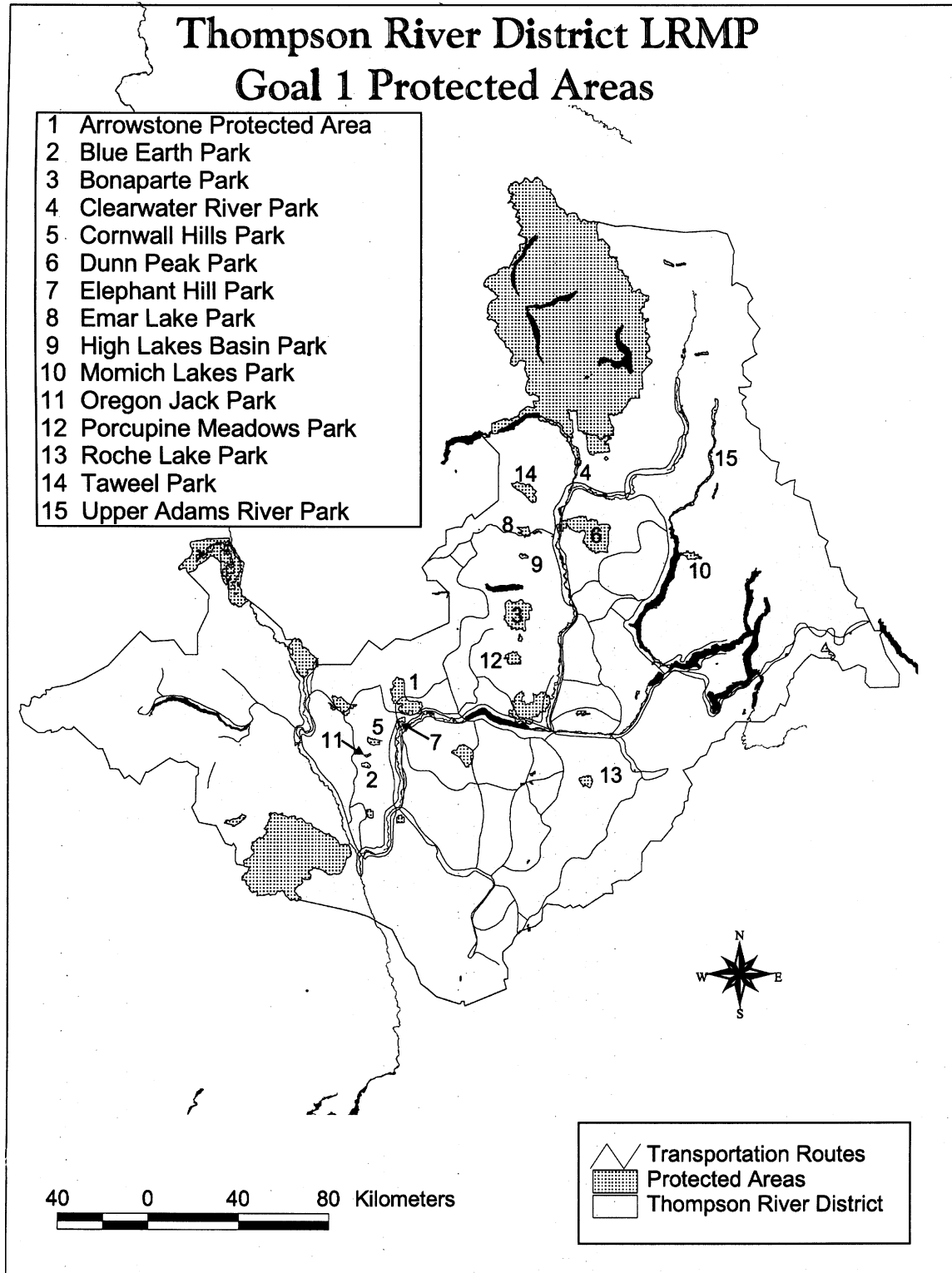
B. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- North Thompson valley section surrounded by private land used mainly for ranching
- logging roads and cutblocks on all other sides
- active mineral claims on the west and north side of Mount Baldy

C. First Nations Interests

- little is known of historic use

Figure 1 – Regional Context Map



D. Other Agency Interests

- The protected area will be managed in close co-ordination with various resource agencies, particularly BC Environment and Ministry of Forests.
- Ministry of Forests manages grazing in the protected area
- Ministry of Highways - Yellowhead Highway 5 through the western portion
- Ministry of Energy and Mines - mineral claims and very high mineral potential east and northeast of Mt. Baldy
- communications tower on Dunn Peak
- the area between the Thompson River and the west boundary of the protected area (including Dunn Canyon and the southwest face of Baldy) will be a priority for local level planning)
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans - fisheries management

E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- McCarthy 4 mineral claims on north end of Mount Queen Bess will be considered for inclusion once the claims lapse or are willingly relinquished
- In the event the Chu Chua Mountain and Foghorn Mountain mineral claims become operating mines, local level planning will consider an access corridor connecting the mines through the protected area.
- The presence of Dunn Peak Protected Area will not negatively impact proposals for mining development in areas adjacent to the protected area.

IV. Protected Area Role Statement

This large protected area was set aside to protect the wilderness character and quality of the Dunn Peak area, with representation of extensive and varied habitats from the valley bottom of the North Thompson River to alpine meadows and mountain summits. The protected area provides outstanding opportunities for wilderness recreation and holds special value for First Nations traditional interests and activities.

V. Management Issues and Concerns

A. Integration With Other Land Use Planning Processes

This Management Statement, future Management Statements, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for the Dunn Peak Protected Area.

Also the protected area will be planned and managed in co-ordination with the Barriere Local Resource Use planning process of the Ministry of Forests to ensure compatibility and complementary support for objectives of the protected area and surrounding forest land base.

Management of the area between the North Thompson River and the west boundary of the protected area (including Dunn Canyon and southwest face of Baldy) will be decided through a local level plan. The area will be a priority for local level planning.

B. Consultation and Future Planning

Planning and management of the protected area will conform to the intent and directions as set forth in the Provincial Protected Areas Strategy. BC Parks is accountable for planning, administration and management of the protected area through application of the laws, policies and regulations granted under the *Park Act*. BC Parks will coordinate with other agencies, the LRMP table, various public planning groups and First Nations in developing management plans for all of the new parks arising from the Kamloops LRMP.

This Management Direction Statement has been reviewed and approved in principle by the Kamloops LRMP implementation team.

The LRMP table considers Dunn Peak Protected Area as medium priority for management planning. A background document will be prepared for the protected area in three to five years as the first stage of management planning, depending on available funding. The management planning process, which will be undertaken after the background document is completed, will likely require 6 to 8 months to complete. The plan will be developed through involvement of other agencies, First Nations, stakeholders and other groups who may have interest in the area.

C. Zoning Plan

This Zoning Plan as shown on the adjoining page is preliminary and reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for the area. The Zoning Plan may be changed in a future management planning process. Tentative zones include:

Strict Preservation

- small fenced ungrazed areas as yet to be identified in specific alpine ecosystems to be used as range reference areas and for other research needs

Wilderness

- eastern portion of the area, from Baldy Mountain eastward; the objective is to protect and retain the wilderness qualities and character of this major portion of the protected area

Natural Environment

- covers the section stretching westward across the North Thompson River; the objective is to maintain the area in a natural condition

D. Management Strategies and Objectives

In addition to accepting the basic principles of maintaining existing tenures and rights, the following management objectives will direct the short and long-term management of the area:

- to maintain the natural qualities and conditions of the protected area
- to maintain the visual, recreational and tourism values
- to maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats
- to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species
- to provide for continued recreation use with opportunities for hiking, backpacking, mountaineering, ski touring, snowmobiling, horse back riding, nature viewing, hunting, and controlled use of recreation vehicles

The more detailed management planning process will define how these strategies and objectives will be implemented. As well, there will undoubtedly be other strategies and objectives added to the list through the management planning process.

E. Longer Term Issues and Concerns

The longer term issues will be identified in detail through the background document. As a result of the LRMP and the LRUP processes there are a number of apparent longer term issues that will be addressed in the management planning process that can be highlighted under the following broad topics:

Conservation

- vegetation management - insect and disease control; fire management; grazing management
- wildlife management

Recreation and Tourism

- access management
- recreation use - appropriate activities, insuring compatibility between user groups

Culture

- inventory and protection of archaeological sites and recognition of any identified traditional First Nations uses

F. Short Term Issues and Concerns

Appendix A outlines guidelines for managing uses, activities and facilities in the Strict Preservation, Wilderness and Natural Environment zones of the protected area until the management plan is in place. The following provides further elaboration on some uses:

Figure 2 – Zoning Map



Grazing

- ungrazed benchmarks are under consideration

Snowmobiling and ATV Use

- existing snowmobiling use on Mt. Baldy is considered a legitimate use of the area
- some short term controls on ATV use may be required to reduce conflicts with other users and to minimize environmental impacts

Recreation Use

- The types and nature of recreation uses of the protected area will not change, however, more intensive levels of management may be applied; i.e. periodic park ranger patrols.
- public safety concerns need to be addressed concerning recreational activities in this alpine area subjected to heavy rain and fog

Forest Fire, Insect and Disease

- until a formal management plan is developed for the area forest insect and disease and fire management decisions will be recommended by the LRMP implementation committee, comprised of specialists from the various resource agencies

Appendix A - Activity/Use Matrix for Dunn Peak Protected Area

Activity/Use/Activity	Wilderness Zone	Intensive Recreation Zone
Hunting	Y	N
Fishing	Y	Y
Trapping	Y	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N2	N2
Recreational gold panning/ rock hounding	N	N
Utility corridors	N	N
Communication sites	N2	N2
Horse use/ pack animals	Y	Y
Guide outfitting (hunting)	Y ²	Y ²
Guide outfitting (fishing)	N/A	N/A
Guide outfitting (nature tours)	Y ²	Y ²
Guide outfitting (river rafting)	N/A	N/A
Cat-assisted skiing	N/A	N/A
Ski-hills	N/A	N/A
Heli-skiing	N	N
Heli-hiking	N	N
Tourist infrastructure - resorts	N2	N2
Backcountry huts/lodges/ cabins	N2	N2
Water control structures	N2	N2
Fish stocking and enhancement	N	N
Road access	N2	Y ¹
Off-road access (snowmobiles)	Y ³	Y ³
Off-road access (motorized)	N	N
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	Y ³	Y ³
Motorized water access	N/A	N/A
Aircraft access	N1	N1
Fire management Wildlife management Prevention & preparedness Prescribed fire management	N1	N1
Fire management (suppression)	Y	Y
Forest insect/disease control	Y	Y
Noxious weed control	Y	Y
Exotic insect/disease control	Y	Y
Scientific research (specimen collection)	N1	N1
Scientific research (manipulation activities)	N1	N1

Y = allowed, subject to conditions identified in the management direction statement or management plan
 N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

¹ = road access plan for this area designates open and closed roads

³ = on designated trails only

N = not allowed

N2 = not normally allowed, but if present at time of PA establishment, will normally be allowed to continue
² = by permit only

⁴ = on designated lakes only