

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

February 2001

for Epsom Provincial Park



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

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



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Environment,
Lands and Parks

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APPROVALS

KAMLOOPS GOAL 2 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS - GOAL 2 BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward

This binder contains 32 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 32 management direction statements provide strategic direction for these protected areas. 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"/> Adams Lake Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiuihill Creek Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams Lake Marine Park - Poplar Point | <input type="checkbox"/> Lac Le Jeune Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams Lake Park – Spillman Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> Monte Creek Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banana Island Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Mount. Savona Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedard Aspen Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Mud Creek Delta Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue River Black Spruce Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Islands Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue River Pine Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbows East Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caligata Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbow Jensen Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Castle Rock Hoodoos Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbow Manteau Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chu Chua Cottonwood Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Painted Bluffs Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Canyon Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Pritchard Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Canyon Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Pyramid Creek Falls Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Floodplain Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Tsintsunko Lakes Park |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Epsom Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Wallachin Oxbows Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finn Creek Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Wire Cache Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenstone Mountain Park. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harbour - Dudgeon Park. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harry Lake Aspen Park. | |

Approved by:

Monty Downs
Monty Downs
District Manager
Thompson River District

Date: 99/11/30

Denis O'Gorman
Denis O'Gorman
Assistant Deputy Minister
Parks Division

Date: 99/12/29

06.04.2001.

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Epsom Park Management Direction Statement

Introduction

Purpose of the MDS

Management direction statements (MDS) 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. While strategies may be identified in the MDS, the completion of all these strategies is subject to funding and funding procedures. In addition, all development associated with these strategies within the protected area is subject to the BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy. This management direction statement is intended to provide direction and guidelines for managing Epsom Park for the foreseeable future.

Setting and Context

- The 74-hectare Epsom Park is situated 20 kilometers south of Cache Creek and is accessed directly off of the Trans Canada Highway. This park provides access to the Thompson River and includes river and upland habitats.
- This park was recommended through the Kamloops LRMP process and formally established in Schedule E of the *Park Amendment Act, 1997*.

Protected Area Attributes

Conservation

- River riparian habitats on large accretion bend with ponderosa pine, cottonwoods, and large specimens of juniper; includes a shallow side channel of the river; grassland habitats above the railway tracks
- The park includes grassland and riparian habitats of the BGxh2 (Thompson Very Dry Hot Bunch Grass) variant of the Thompson Basin Ecoregion. This variant is under represented within the protected areas system.

Recreation and Tourism

- One of the few potential access points along this portion of the Thompson River (steep terrain and highway and railway rights-of-way have severely limited potential for access along much of the Thompson River).

Cultural Heritage

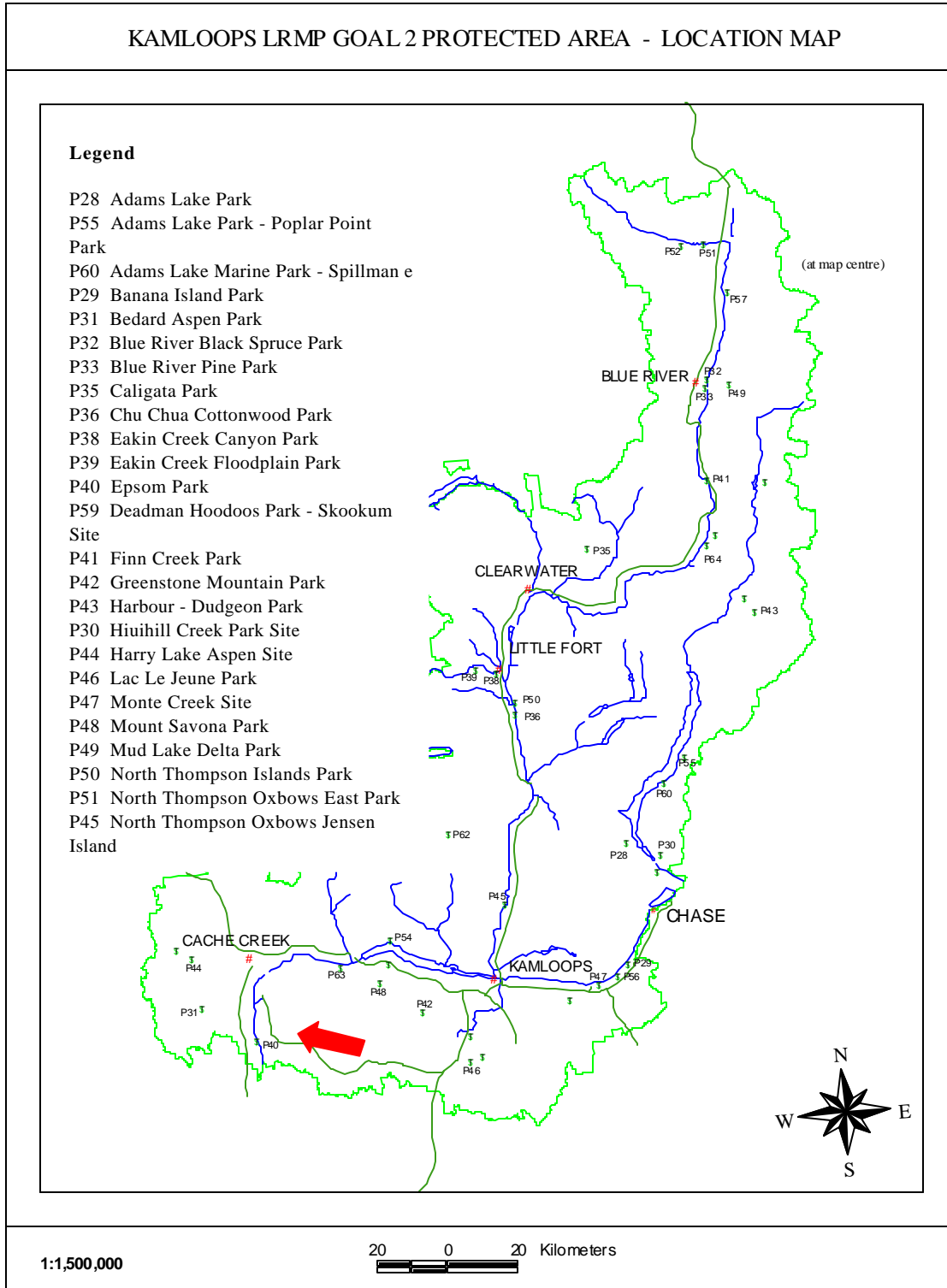
- Unknown

Significance in the Protected Areas System

- The Thompson River is recognized provincially and internationally for its recreation and tourism potential, particularly relating to steelhead and rainbow trout fishing; Epsom Park is one of the

few sites along a major section of the river from Ashcroft to Spences Bridge that offers reasonable potential for public river access.

Figure 1 - Location Map



Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

The park is located on the North Thompson River approximately 15 kilometres south of the town of Ashcroft. Access is gained off Highway 1. Railway tracks prevent road access to the river. To reach the river visitors must walk across the railway tracks.

Existing Tenures

Park designation under the *Park Amendment 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.

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- Trans Canada Highway right-of-way
- Canadian National Railway right-of-way
- Indian Reserve to north
- Cattle grazing on adjacent lands, illegally extending into park

First Nations Interests

- Management of the park will require ongoing consultation with the local Indian Bands (Oregon Jack and Cook's Ferry) to incorporate First Nations interests.

Other Agency Interests

The park will be managed in close co-ordination with various resource agencies, particularly the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans) and BC Environment, to protect fisheries and riparian habitat values.

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

BC Steelhead Society interest in establishing better access to the river

Role of the Park

For the present, the role of the park is to secure and stabilize the site for future use and development. As one of six parks (Steelhead, Walhachin, Juniper Beach, Epsom, Skihist and Goldpan) on the Thompson River, the park has potential to serve a role in providing an access point for recreation use of the river.

Management Commitments and Issues

Integration with Other Land Use Planning Processes

This management statement, future management plans, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for Epsom Park.

Longer Term Issues and Concerns

Specific issues that will be considered in the longer term can be highlighted under the following topics:

Conservation

- Vegetation management – insect and disease control; fire management; control of livestock grazing.
- Site has been disturbed by railway activity and grasslands are in poor shape from heavy overgrazing by cattle.

Recreation and Tourism

- access management
- recreation use - appropriate activities and levels of use

Culture

- inventory and protection of archaeological values

Short Term Issues and Concerns

There are no apparent short-term issues in the park.

Management Direction

Management Strategies and Objectives

The Table of Acceptable Activities, Uses and Facilities outlines guidelines for managing uses, activities and facilities in the park. These guidelines reflect the intent of the LRMP and, in general principle, follow the policies as set out for use and management of provincial park Natural Environment zones.

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

- To maintain the natural qualities and conditions of the park
⇒ Until the park is formally developed, recreation use will not be encouraged.
- to maintain ongoing consultation with First Nations
- to maintain the visual, recreational and tourism values
- to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species

Consultation and Future Planning

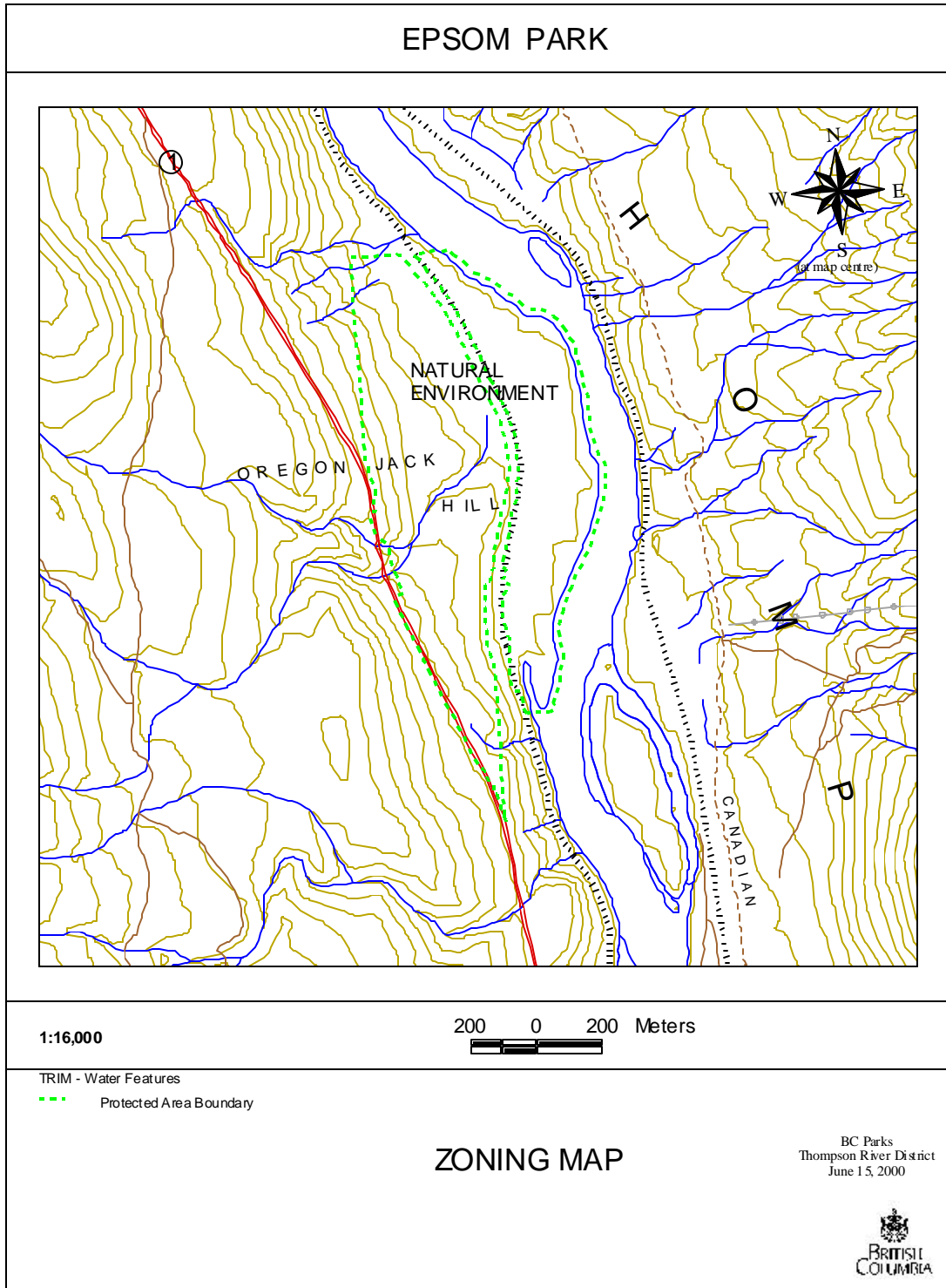
Planning and management of the park will conform to the intent and directions as set forth in the Provincial Protected Areas Strategy. BC Parks is accountable for planning, administration and management of the park through application of the laws, policies and regulations granted under the *Park Act*. 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.

Zoning Plan

The zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for Epsom Park. The park is zoned as **Natural Environment** to maintain the area in a natural condition.

Figure 2 - Zoning Map



**Appendix I - Table of Acceptable Activities, Uses
and Facilities for Epsom Park**

Activity/Use Facility	Natural Environment
Hunting	Y
Fishing	Y
Trapping	N2
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational Gold Panning/Rock Hounding	N
Utility Corridors	N
Communication Sites	N
Horse Use/Pack Animals	N/A
Guide Outfitting (hunting)	Y ²
Guide Outfitting (fishing)	Y ²
Guide Outfitting (nature tours)	Y ²
Guide Outfitting (river rafting)	Y ²
Cat-Assisted Skiing	N/A
Ski-Hills	N/A
Heli-skiing	N/A
Heli-hiking	N
Tourist Infrastructure - Resorts	N/A
Backcountry Huts / Lodges / Cabins / Guest Ranches	N/A
Water Control Structures	N/A
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N1
Road Access	Y ¹
Off-road Access (snowmobiling)	N/A
Off-road Access (motorized)	N
Off-road Access (mechanical activities)	N
Motorized Water Access	Y
Aircraft Access	N
Fire Management (Prescribed) Wildlife Management Prevention & Preparedness Prescribed Fire Management	N1
Fire Management (suppression)	Y
Forest Insect / Disease Control	N1
Noxious Weed Control	Y
Exotic Insect / Disease Control	Y
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	N1
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	N1

Y= allowed, subject to conditions identified in the interim management statement or management plan
 N= not allowed
 N1= allowed for expressed management purposes only
 N2= not normally allowed, but if present at time of PA establishment, will normally be allowed to continue

¹ Road access plan for this area designates open and closed roads
² By permit only
³ On designated trails only
⁴ On designated lakes only