

MANAGEMENT PLAN

August, 2001

for Gladstone
Provincial Park



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Water, Land
and Air Protection
Parks Division

Gladstone Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by
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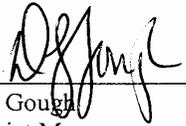
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Gladstone
Provincial Park

Management Plan

Approved by:



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Date: 8/24/01



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Assistant Deputy Minister

Date: 01 09 26

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Plan Highlights

- The vision is that the park's ecosystem is managed to maintain important wildlife habitat and fish spawning areas. Its frontcountry along the shore of Christina Lake provides motorized accessible recreation opportunities that are in harmony with natural values and social carrying capacities. Its backcountry is a place of solitude providing outstanding wilderness recreation opportunities.
- Gladstone Provincial Park will be managed to protect and support the recovery of grizzly bears and other rare, endangered or vulnerable species. Management of the park will be adjusted to reflect direction from the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan.
- BC Parks will work cooperatively with other government agencies, community groups, and the public to address key resource issues that affect the integrity of the Gladstone Park ecosystem.
- An Ecosystem Plan will be developed with components for vegetation, wildlife, fish, fire and cultural resources.
- Most of Gladstone Park will be zoned as Wilderness Recreation. Xenia Lake, the shoreline of Christina Lake and the northeast corner of the park will be zoned as Natural Environment. Two small areas will be zoned as Special Feature (north end of Christina Lake and pictographs), and Texas Point Campground zoned as Intensive Recreation.
- Within Gladstone Provincial Park, proposed backcountry and Christina Lake visitor facility development (trails, campsites) will be limited to the Natural Environment and Wilderness Recreation zones.
- No new commercial recreation operations will be permitted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that they do not compromise natural, cultural and recreational values. An impact assessment will be completed as part of the evaluation process.
- BC Parks will ensure that Ministry of Forests is aware of the conservation values of the park that may be affected by grazing and those Range Use Plans reflect current policy for range management and consider these park conservation values.
- Work will be undertaken with the Ministry of Forests and the grazing tenure holders and others to establish ungrazed areas representative of the ecosystem and special feature values of the park.
- Snowmobiling will be permitted in the Natural Environment zone from December to May. Management of snowmobiling and other winter activities will be revisited when better scientific information is available from the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan or other research.

Introduction

Introduction

Gladstone Provincial Park is a remote and relatively undeveloped area located approximately 25 km northeast of Grand Forks (Figure 1). This 39,322 ha protected area includes the northern half of Christina Lake, all of the Sandner Creek drainage and most of Lynch and Texas Creek drainages. The landscape is moderately mountainous and predominantly forested. The park protects provincially significant low elevation forests, provincially significant cultural heritage sites, important kokanee spawning beds, ungulate winter range and four-season recreation opportunities along Christina Lake.

The area that is now Gladstone Park was originally proposed for protection by the B.C. Ministry of Forests (MOF) and the B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (MELP) as a wilderness area through the *Parks and Wilderness for the 90's* initiative. As *Parks and Wilderness for the 90's* evolved into the *Protected Area Strategy*, the Gladstone area was ranked as one of the highest priority areas for protection in the Nelson Forest Region. There was considerable public support for protecting the area. This was reinforced by the recommendations forwarded to government by the Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE) for the West Kootenay-Boundary Land-Use Plan. In July 1995, Gladstone Park was established as a Class 'A' provincial park through the *Park Amendment Act, 1995*.

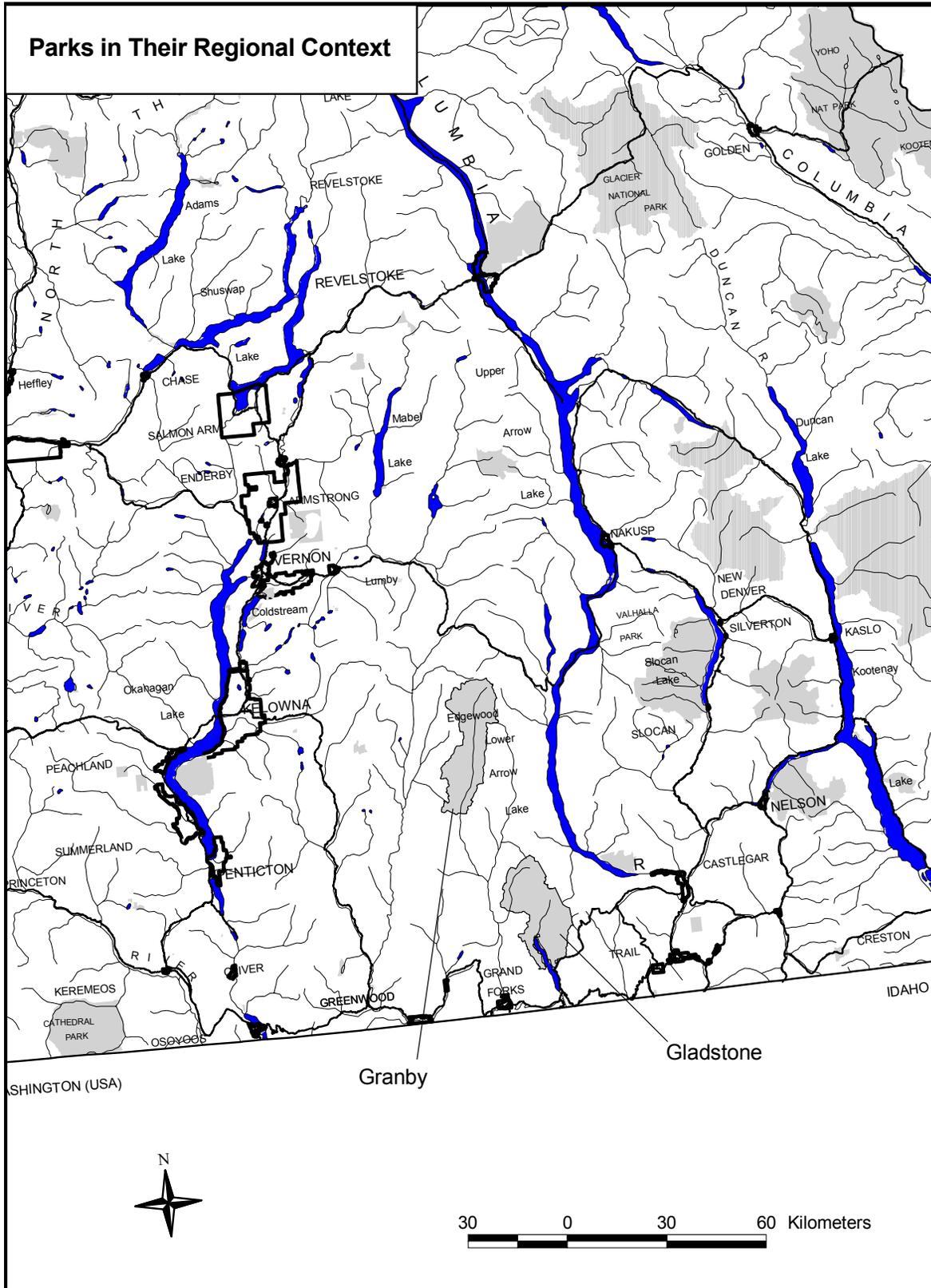
The Okanagan First Nations traditional territory includes Gladstone Provincial Park. It is understood that this management plan shall not limit aboriginal rights or any current and future treaty negotiations the Okanagan First Nations participate in. Once formal treaty agreements are reached with First Nations, this management plan will be reviewed to determine whether it is in compliance with the treaty(ies). If it is not in compliance, then this management plan will be revised accordingly. Changes will be accomplished through an open public review process so everyone understands what these changes mean to the park and its use.

Purpose of the Plan

The management plan, prepared by BC Parks and approved by the Assistant Deputy Minister for Parks, guides the management of Gladstone Park for the next several years. The management plan defines the role of Gladstone Provincial Park in the British Columbia Protected Areas System and establishes objectives and strategies to guide management and development. The management plan must also deal with issues that require immediate attention within the parks. Some of these issues include the level of development, management of park access, and management of natural and cultural values.

A management plan is a public document. BC Parks prepares a management plan with a high degree of public involvement. The spirit and intent outlined in a management plan is a reflection of a society's values, interests and priorities at a given point in time. Thus it is necessary to review and update a management plan periodically.

Figure 1 - Gladstone Provincial Park Regional Context



The Planning Process

The planning process for Gladstone Provincial Park involved a number of steps. The first step was the production of a background report for the park. The background report formed the information resource base for the production of the management plan.

The second step involved the creation of a working group comprised of individuals and organizations that had expressed an interest in Gladstone Park. A series of three planning workshops were held with this group.

Several factors formed the basis upon which this plan was developed. Some of these factors include: the results of the workshops; discussion with knowledgeable persons (both inside and outside of government); and consideration of broad land use policies, BC Parks policies, zoning criteria and existing facility developments within the park.

The draft plan was distributed to the working group and First Nations for public review and two public open houses were held in February 2000. Following public review of the draft plan, BC Parks staff resolved outstanding issues with the various interests and finalized the management plan for approval.

The development of this draft plan reflects the wide array of public comments and inputs that BC Parks has received throughout the planning process.

Relationship to Other Land Use Plans

West Kootenay-Boundary Land-Use Plan (KBLUP) submitted by the Commission on Resources and Environment, was approved and adopted by the British Columbia government in March 1995. The KBLUP and Implementation Strategy represents the corporate policy of the provincial government. It is a "*higher level plan*" that provides strategic context and workable direction for more detailed, operational levels of land and resource planning, and day-to-day administrative decision-making. Gladstone Provincial Park is one of several new protected areas in the West Kootenays established as a result of the KBLUP. The land-use plan recommended policy direction on several issues involving the proposed new protected areas. By approving the land-use plan, the government directed BC Parks to implement the following policy direction, which has relevance for Gladstone Park:

- Pre-existing tenures within new protected areas (including grazing, guide-outfitting, trapping) will be permitted to continue;
- Existing owners of private land inholdings within new parks will continue to exercise their property rights;
- Park management emphasis will be placed on maintaining the ecosystems and features for which these areas were established;
- BC Parks will work with other agencies to ensure connectivity of wildlife habitat between the park and surrounding area and to identify areas of the park that may complement landscape unit planning biodiversity objectives;
- Rare, endangered and vulnerable species, and their habitats will be protected;

- BC Parks will continue to manage parks to provide a wide range of recreation experiences. Where appropriate, existing access and trails within protected areas may be closed or decommissioned to support primitive recreational experiences. Similarly recreational access to some areas may be limited to maintain the quality of the recreational experience.

Planning Issues

The management plan for Gladstone Provincial Park will address a number of planning issues. These are outlined below.

Management of Park Access

The primary means of access to Gladstone Park is by either the Texas Creek road to Texas Point Campground, or by boat from Christina Lake. A number of old trails provide access into the backcountry areas of the park. However, almost every drainage surrounding the park has logging roads and as a result, access is possible to within a few kilometres of the park boundary. All of these locations of access have an impact on the park's natural, cultural and recreational values. The management plan will review the direction for access management.

Level of Development

Gladstone Provincial Park is known for its accessible wilderness experience. However, increased numbers of visitors can detract from the park's wilderness attributes and result in both social and environmental impacts. The management planning process will review the current level of visitation and development and give direction for future development.

Relationship to First Nations

Gladstone Provincial Park falls within the traditional territories of the Okanagan Nation. This First Nation has aboriginal rights in the park. The *Constitution Act 1982* and recent court decisions recognized and affirmed aboriginal rights. Park use could have implications for those rights and must be taken into consideration in this plan. The management plan will provide direction to ensure there is no infringement upon aboriginal rights.

Management of Natural Values

Gladstone Provincial Park protects a representative sample of the Selkirk Foothills Ecosystem. Some of the park's natural vegetation and ecosystems in the park have been affected by forest development, grazing by cattle, and introduction of non-native species. The management plan will address the vegetation and wildlife habitat requirements of the park, and the impact that recreation activities have on these natural values.

Management of Cultural Values

Gladstone Provincial Park protects examples of both First Nation and post-contact history. Currently there is limited information on the park's cultural values. Further clarification of cultural values is required to ensure park use does not negatively impact these values. The management plan will review the direction for the management of cultural values.

Management of Recreational Activities

Gladstone Provincial Park has a number of natural and cultural values that create regionally and provincially significant visual, recreation and tourism opportunities. Commercial and public

recreation and tourism activities have an impact on the park's natural and cultural features. Increased demands for eco-tourism opportunities to help diversify the local economy may also promote increased use of the park. The management plan will suggest the appropriate approach to the management and development of the recreation and tourism opportunities within the park.

Tenures

Gladstone Provincial Park contains several tenures for grazing, guide outfitting, and trapping. Tenure activities have the potential to create impacts on the natural and cultural values of the park. Many of the private inholdings along the shores of Christina Lake have an impact on the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems of the park. The management plan will give direction on how to work with these tenures and inholdings to minimize their impacts.

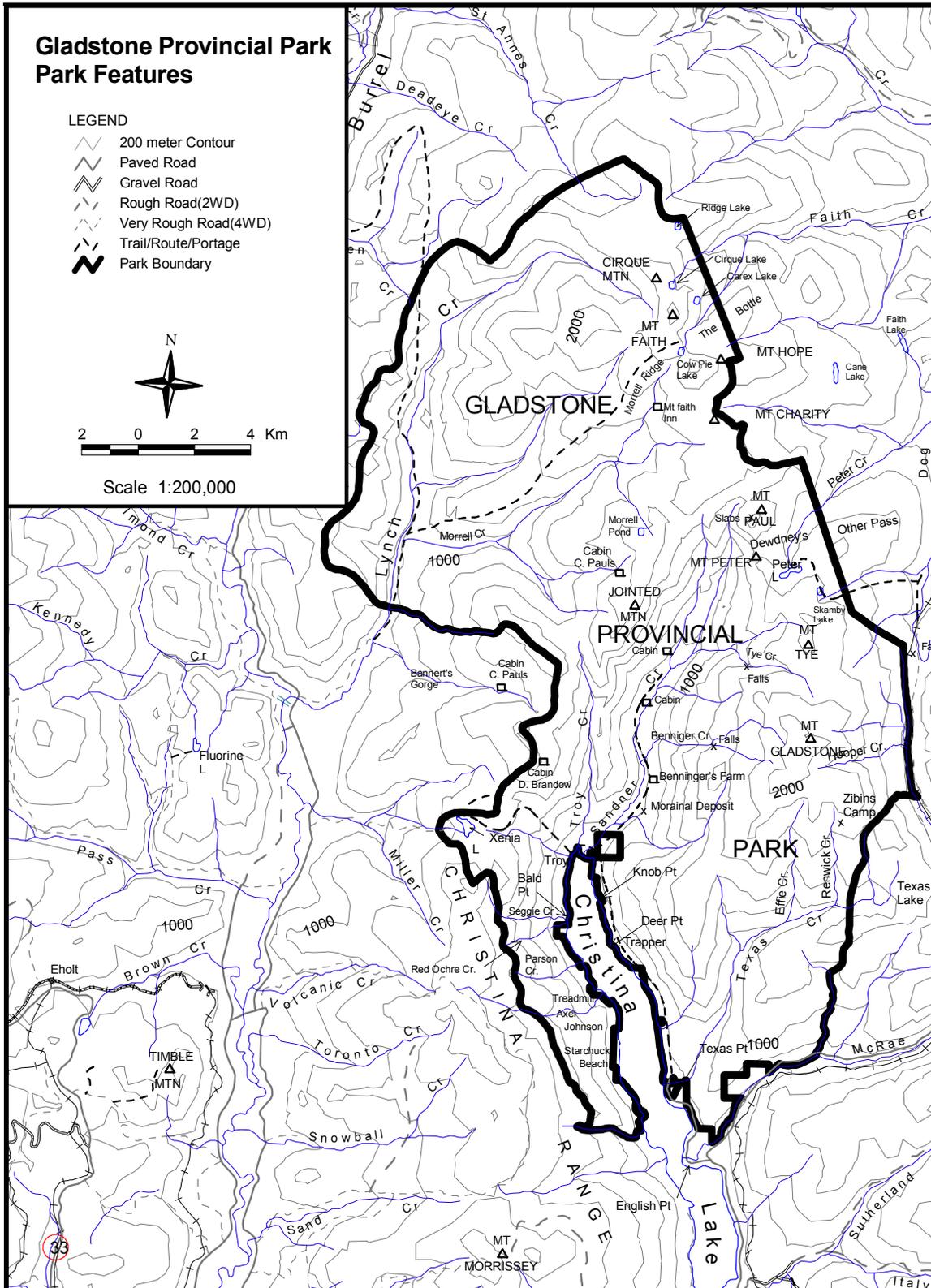
Background Summary

Gladstone Provincial Park is located on the north end of Christina Lake in the Monashee Mountains of the Boundary Area of British Columbia, between the communities of Grand Forks and Castlegar. The park encompasses 39,322 hectares, and includes about 16 km of shoreline along Christina Lake (Figure 2). It contains the drainages of Sandner, Troy, Texas and Morrell creeks, the headwaters of Lynch Creek, and the peaks of Mt. Gladstone (2225 m) and Mt. Faith (2280 m). The Gladstone area is unroaded and relatively undisturbed. It includes important low elevation Interior Cedar-Hemlock forest type, and provides important winter ranges for deer and elk. The area is also important for grizzly bears and contains high value for kokanee.

The creation of Gladstone Provincial Park incorporated two small existing provincial parks along Christina Lake, Texas Creek and Ole Johnson parks, and five former Ministry of Forests (MOF) recreation sites. In addition, the Sandner Creek property that was purchased by the Fish, Wildlife and Habitat of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to protect kokanee spawning habitat, was also included in the park.

The park contains an extensive network of trails used by hikers, anglers, ranchers and hunters. Numerous paddlers and power boaters also use the park's Christina Lake shoreline as a landfall. The park includes several entire watersheds and is considered to be of sufficient size to be ecologically viable. Vegetation diversity is wide ranging from the shores of Christina Lake to the old growth cedar stands in lower Sandner Creek to the alpine of Mount Faith.

Figure 2 - Gladstone Provincial Park Features



Role of the Park

Regional and Provincial Context

Gladstone Provincial Park is part of a provincial system of more than 800 protected areas. As such it fulfills important conservation, recreation and cultural roles. Other protected areas in the West Kootenay – Boundary area include Granby and Syringa provincial parks, and several smaller protected areas. These areas contribute to the protection of biodiversity in the region, and in association with the managed forest are integral to conservation of wildlife populations, plant communities and biodiversity.

Significance of Gladstone Provincial Park in the Protected Areas System

Gladstone Park is a large, for the region, natural protected area that remains in a relatively untouched natural state. The park protects provincially significant low elevation forests, provincially significant cultural heritage sites, important kokanee spawning beds, ungulate winter range and good four-season recreation opportunities along Christina Lake. Gladstone Park fulfills the following conservation, recreation and cultural roles in the protected area system:

Conservation Role

In conjunction with Granby Provincial Park, Gladstone Park provides protection for most of the known biological diversity found in the Selkirk Foothills Ecoregion. A significant increase in the protection of this ecoregion's biological diversity results from the park's elevation gradient from lakeshore to alpine. The park protects 6,972 hectares of the Interior Cedar Hemlock mk1, the only large representative of this variant. Other habitats of which the park protects are 6,753 ha of the ICHdw variant, 10,797 ha of ICHmw2, 13,352 ha of ESSFwc4 and 1,487 ha of ATp. The area between Gladstone and Granby parks has been identified as important for regional connectivity. The two parks have the potential to function together as cores of protection for the species, which move between and around them.

According to British Columbia Conservation Data Centre records, no red or blue listed species have been recorded in the park.

As well, except for the portion within privately owned D.L. 1188, the park protects the entire drainage of Sandner Creek, which provides critical spawning habitat for kokanee and rainbow trout. Seventy percent of the stream-spawning kokanee from Christina Lake use Sandner Creek.

Recreation Role

Gladstone Park contains high recreation and tourism values, particularly along Christina Lake. The recreation amenities associated with Christina Lake help to support a regionally important tourism industry drawing recreationists from around the province, as well as international visitors. The area provides opportunities for warm water swimming, boating, lakeside picnic and camping areas and sport fishing. Texas Point Campground on the shores of Christina Lake is an

extremely popular camping destination and is full on most days during the summer. In the backcountry, the Mount Faith area draws people internationally for guided hunting provided by the licensed guide outfitter. The greater park area offers excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing in the various small lakes and creeks, horseback riding, mountain biking and hiking.

Cultural Role

Gladstone Park contains provincially significant cultural values including several pictograph sites and evidence of First Nations' resource use of the area. Other heritage values include the historic use of the area by early explorers, miners, and ranchers, and the boom and bust history associated with the construction of the railway as evident by the old railway grade that runs through a small area on the southeast side of the park.

The park provides boating opportunities to view the pictograph sites on the east side and explore the historic remains of logging at the north end of the lake. The Sandner Creek area has excellent potential for presenting information about the cultural as well as the conservation values.

Vision

The development of a vision statement is an important tool in the overall management of a park. A shared vision helps to focus and guide the planning, management, operation and development of a park while facilitating closer cooperation between park managers and visitors. A clear vision provides the context to guide the short-term and long-term management of a park. It can assist in providing direction to park managers in regard to evolving demands for recreation and incorporate new approaches to conservation management.

The vision statement is forward looking, and describes the desired future for Gladstone Provincial Park.

Gladstone Provincial Park Vision Statement

Gladstone Provincial Park is a place of solitude where the spirit of wilderness remains in backcountry areas. Motorized access has been restricted to frontcountry camping at Texas Point and along the shores of Christina Lake, and snowmobiling in the northwest corner of the park. The park ecosystem is managed to maintain important wildlife habitats and fish spawning areas. Along with Granby Provincial Park, it provides core protection for the threatened population of southern interior grizzly bears. Public and commercial recreation opportunities are in harmony with natural values and social carrying capacities. Future expansion of recreation opportunities are evaluated in terms of their environmental impact, sustainability and cost-benefit to the park, and limited to those which have little impact on existing use and pose no serious threat to the park's conservation values. Existing and proposed new activities are monitored and assessed to ensure impacts are within acceptable limits. Designated primitive camping sites and wilderness hiking trails are in keeping with the low-impact recreational activities found in the park. A variety of education and interpretation opportunities are provided to enhance public and visitor knowledge and appreciation of the natural and cultural values of the park. Public input is an important component of the ongoing management of Gladstone Provincial Park

Park Zoning

Introduction

BC Parks uses zoning to assist in the planning and management of a provincial park. In general terms, zoning divides a park into logical units to apply uniform and consistent management objectives based on natural, cultural and recreational values. It also takes into account existing and projected patterns of access and recreation use in relation to specific conservation goals. The zones reflect the intended land use, the degree of human use, and the level of management and development. At one end of the spectrum, the Intensive Recreation Zone permits high levels of recreation and facility development. At the opposite end, the Wilderness Conservation Zone provides the highest level of protection for natural and cultural values with minimal human presence. Between these two extremes, there are three additional zones providing a range of conservation and recreation priorities.

As indicated by Figure 3, the zoning plan for Gladstone Provincial Park divides the park into four zones: Intensive Recreation, Natural Environment, Special Feature and Wilderness Recreation. No part of Gladstone Provincial Park is zoned as Wilderness Conservation.

Intensive Recreation Zone

The Intensive Recreation Zone objective is to provide for a variety of readily accessible facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities. This zone may be intensely developed for user convenience. Facilities may include campgrounds, picnic areas, parking areas, and boat launches. The management intent of this zone is to accommodate vehicle based users in as natural a setting as possible.

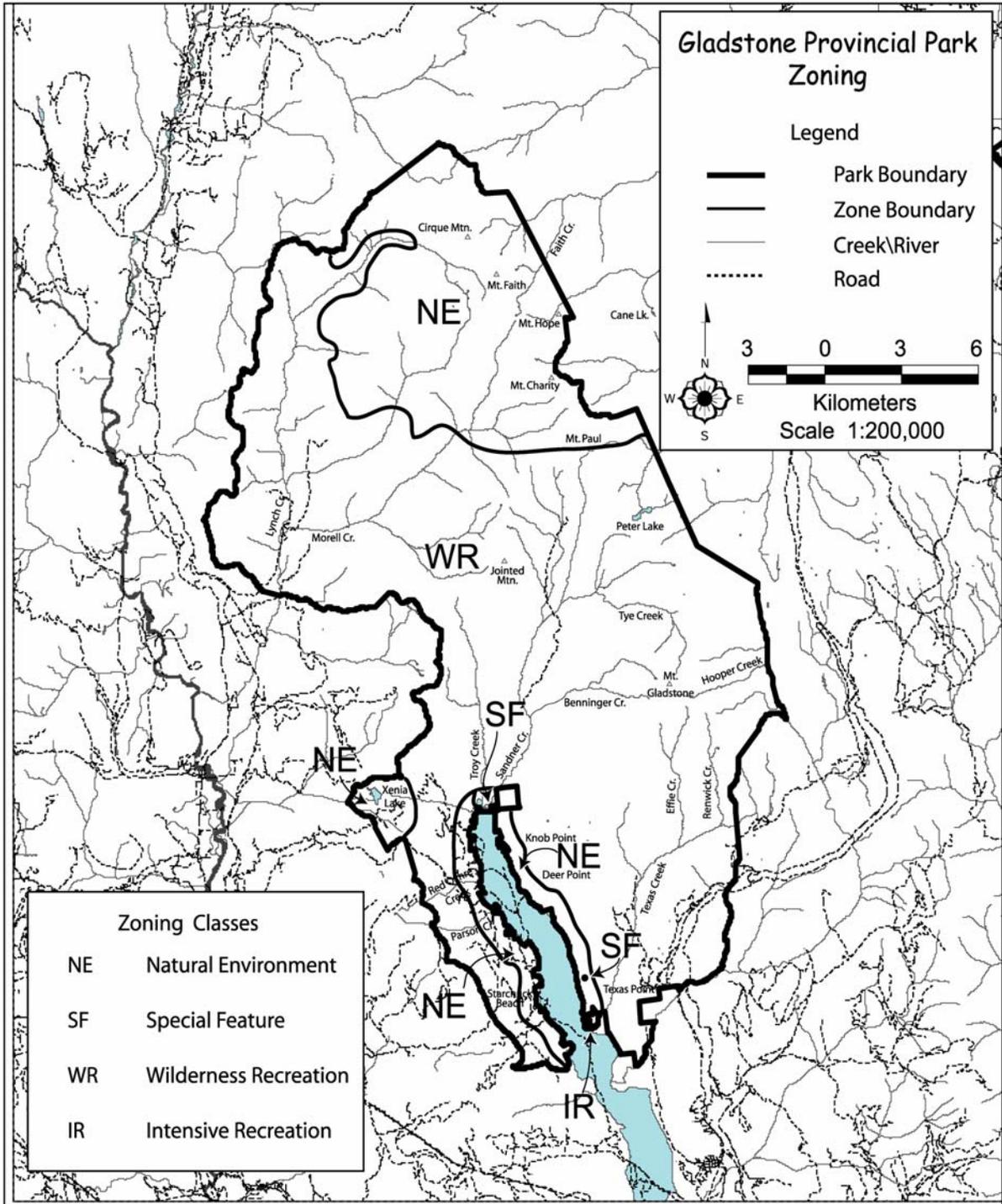
In Gladstone Provincial Park, the Intensive Recreation Zone is for the frontcountry camping and day use opportunities found at Texas Creek Campground. This zoning allows for the continued high level of recreational use and development associated with the campground.

Natural Environment Zone

The objective of this zone is to ensure that facilities do not dominate the natural environment and to provide for a higher level of recreation use and development than is permitted in the Wilderness Recreation Zone.

In Gladstone Provincial Park, three areas of the park are zoned as Natural Environment. The first area is the east and west shores of Christina Lake. This includes all the area between 100 meters offshore to 100 meters on shore on the west side of the lake, and from the Deerpoint Trail north on the eastside of the lake. This area incorporates all of the water accessible campsites along the shores of Christina Lake. This zoning takes into consideration the current level of use and development associated with Christina Lake. It excludes all private inholdings that ring the lake, and the areas zoned Special Feature along the lake.

Figure 3 – Gladstone Provincial Park Zoning



The Xenia Lake area on the western edge of the park is zoned Natural Environment. This zoning takes into consideration the existing vehicle access to the lake for fishing. The portion of the road within the park will not be maintained.

The northeast corner of the park is also Natural Environment Zone. This zoning includes all of the area above the 1600 meter contour interval in this corner of the park. The Natural Environment Zone allows snowmobile use. This zoning takes into consideration the existing recreational use found in the area. It excludes all high quality grizzly bear habitat in this corner of the park. It includes all of the cabins and campsite locations in this area. This zoning may be adjusted, as more information on natural values becomes available. ATV's are not permitted.

Special Feature Zone

The Special Feature Zone objective is to protect and present significant natural and cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values. Natural and cultural values are to be maintained unimpaired. Recreational use may be restricted to protect the special feature.

Within Gladstone Provincial Park, two areas are identified as Special Feature Zone: the pictographs on the east shore of Christina Lake (just north of the Texas Point Campground), and the Troy/Sandner Creek Area at the north end of Christina Lake.

The pictographs are of provincial significance and warrant Special Feature designation in order to ensure their protection and proper management.

The area between Troy and Sandner Creek at the north end of Christina Lake (including all area between 100 meters off shore to one kilometer inland) is also Special Feature Zone. This zoning designation will protect the provincially significant spawning habitat for the kokanee and rainbow trout, and the area's importance for grizzly and black bear habitat during the annual fish spawn. It excludes the private inholdings at the north end of the lake.

Wilderness Recreation Zone

The Wilderness Recreation Zone objective is to protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where no motorized activities will be allowed. Facility development is minimal, at a level sufficient to satisfy user needs and to protect the overall environment of the park. Ecological processes occur largely uninfluenced by human activity. Low levels of recreation use are permitted but evidence of human presence is confined to specific primitive sites and facilities.

The remainder of the park is Wilderness Recreation Zone. It includes the entire Sandner Creek, Troy Creek, and Texas Creek drainages, lower portions of the Lynch Creek and Morrel Creek drainages, and the western slopes above Christina Lake. This zone incorporates all existing backcountry recreation use areas and features such as trails, huts/cabins, and campsites.

Natural & Cultural Values Management

Introduction

Gladstone Provincial Park conserves important elements of British Columbia's natural and cultural heritage. The primary goal of park management is to ensure the long term protection and enhancement of the parks natural and cultural values. To ensure these values are managed in perpetuity, BC Parks will apply an ecosystem management approach in the management of Gladstone Provincial Park.

Ecosystem Management

BC Parks promotes an ecosystem approach to management of provincial parks. Ecosystem management requires an integrated view of environmental systems, acknowledging the relationships among ecosystem components. It focuses attention on important long term and large scale issues and encourages interagency cooperation. Gladstone Park will be managed by applying the principles and practices of ecosystem management.

Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To manage the park with an overall emphasis on conservation of natural values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop an Ecosystem Plan that would include components on vegetation, fire, fish and wildlife.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To maintain the ecosystems, natural values and features for which the park was established. This includes protection of: the Selkirk Foothills ecosection, important low elevation forest types, high value spawning areas for kokanee, grizzly bear habitat and important winter range for ungulates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage, support, and undertake timely research and scientific studies to ensure science-based decision-making.• Work cooperatively with other government agencies, community groups and the public to address key resource issues that affect the ecological integrity of Gladstone Park.• Coordinate the development of communication and educational resources with other agencies and private groups to enhance the overall effectiveness of activities that support ecosystem integrity.• Provide input through provincial referral systems for proposed developments that may impact the park's ecosystem values.

Vegetation

Gladstone Park is largely covered by extensive forests of mixed age classes, which give way to open grasses and shrub lands near the higher mountain tops. The large elevation gradient provides for considerable diversity of vegetation. This is reflected in the presence of three biogeoclimatic zones (groupings of areas with similar climate, vegetation, soil and topography): Interior Cedar - Hemlock (ICH), Englemann Spruce - Subalpine Fir (ESSF), and Alpine Tundra (AT).

Natural disturbances such as fire, disease and insect infestations are fundamental in maintaining ecosystem complexity. In general, BC Parks' philosophy and policy is to allow natural processes to occur. However, BC Parks also has a responsibility to safeguard important cultural values, recreation values and facilities, and to be a good neighbor to adjacent crown land managers and private owners. Active management may, therefore, be required.

Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and restore natural plant communities and processes for their inherent value and for their contribution to the diversity of wildlife habitats and recreation attractions in the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare an ecosystem plan that includes objectives and strategies for conserving vegetation patterns and rare species, re-establishing natural fire regimes, maintaining public safety, and safeguarding adjacent forest resources. Prepare a fire management plan that will indicate specific circumstances and locations for which wildfires may be allowed to burn or be suppressed, or prescribed burning to be conducted. Prepare an insect and disease management plan that adheres to the principles of the ecological integrity and places emphasis on natural processes, while recognizing the need to take possible management actions to ensure the safety of park visitors. Retain trees and snags for various bird and animal species except where there is a hazard to people or facilities that cannot be mitigated.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect rare, endangered and vulnerable native plant communities and species, and to prevent the establishment of non-native species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and protect sensitive vegetation from adverse impacts of grazing and recreational uses. Assess, monitor and control noxious and other invasive weed species through biological, mechanical or chemical means.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve knowledge of the park's vegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage low impact scientific studies to ensure protection of the vegetation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage public appreciation of forest and vegetation values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop interpretive information on vegetative features and values.

Fish and Wildlife

Gladstone Provincial Park provides a diversity of habitats and is home to a wide variety of fish and wildlife species. Suitable habitat is essential for functioning ecosystems and healthy fish and wildlife populations. Gladstone Park is one of only a few relatively undeveloped areas in this part of the province. It protects important kokanee spawning grounds and ungulate winter range, as well as contributing regionally important habitat for grizzly bears.

Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the contribution and importance of the park to the habitat needs of fish and wildlife populations in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a fish and wildlife inventory strategy with Fish, Wildlife and Habitat of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and other agencies, to address inventory needs both inside and adjacent to the park.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve and sustain the natural diversity of fish and wildlife species and populations and their habitats over the landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a long-term plan for fish and wildlife with Fish, Wildlife and Habitat of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection with an emphasis on grizzly bear management incorporating direction from the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan. Key elements in this strategy will include: ongoing fish and wildlife inventories; inventory of habitat requirements. Monitor the condition of critical habitats and implement habitat protection or restoration measures as appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect and support recovery of grizzly bears and other rare, endangered, or vulnerable species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in the development of the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan for the Kettle-Granby grizzly population. Review the recommendations of the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan and revise park management of conservation and recreation activities as needed. Monitor the implementation of the Grizzly Bear Access Management Strategy (MoF/MWLAP) to ensure it and the park conservation objectives are in harmony and working towards common goals.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect critical kokanee shoreline and creek spawning habitat in Christina Lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and/or restore critical kokanee spawning locations. Work cooperatively with cottage/home owners, recreational boaters and other agencies to maintain the aquatic ecosystems of Christina Lake. Undertake appropriate scientific research to determine the health of the kokanee and other fish populations in Christina Lake.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage public appreciation of fish and wildlife values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop interpretive information on fish and wildlife features and values. Undertake proactive measures to address and avoid conflicts between people and wildlife, such as education, and if necessary the re-routing or closure of trails. Prepare an information package on grizzly and black bears providing bear avoidance behaviors for park visitors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure recreational and commercial activities and facilities do not negatively affect fish and wildlife or their habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess, monitor and regulate hunting and trapping in conjunction with Fish, Wildlife and Habitat of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure healthy fish and wildlife populations are maintained. Assess conditions and monitor levels of recreation use to limit impact on fish and wildlife. Take management actions where necessary.

Grazing

There are existing grazing permits and licenses within the park area. Four range units with their associated pastures, overlap the park. These units are: Lynch Creek in the northwestern area, Mt. Faith-Morrell in the centre core of the park, Xenia Lake on the southwestern edge of the park, and Overton-Moody at the southwestern tip of the park. The southeastern area of the park currently does not have a range tenure. The Lynch Creek/Mt. Faith is by far the largest range unit in the park. It has not been divided into formal pastures at this time. Most of the Lynch Creek portion and all of Mt. Faith-Morrell is within the park. The tenure area is used jointly by two parties. The total estimated available Animal Unit Months (AUM's) for the combined range units are 1293. Livestock has been allocated 778 AUM's (60% of total) and wildlife has been allocated 289 AUM's (40% of total). Additional management directives from the Range Use Plan include a minimum 200 m setback of salt blocks from riparian areas and measures to minimize cattle use in alpine areas.

As directed by the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan, grazing will be allowed in the park. Grazing will continue to be managed under the *Range Act*, in accordance with the MOU between Ministry of Forests and BC Parks. Ministry of Forests is responsible for the control of weeds resulting from range use activities within the park. BC Parks maintains the responsibility to control weeds that result from any other activities within the park. Existing grazing authorizations issued under the *Range Act* are fully transferable.

Objective	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage grazing in the park to minimize impacts on natural ecosystem values, specifically vegetation, wildlife, and water quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure Ministry of Forests are aware of the conservation values of the park that may be affected by grazing. Ensure grazing operations remain current with best management practices designed to sustain ecological integrity. Liaise with the Ministry of Forests and Fish, Wildlife and Habitat of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to assess, monitor and manage grazing activities to minimize the impact on wildlife habitat and other park and ecosystem values. Minimize the spread of invasive weeds by liaising with the Ministry of Forests and Fish, Wildlife and Habitat of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. Ensure Range Use Plans are prepared and up to date for all Range Units in the park that reflect current policy for range management and consider park conservation values. Work with the Ministry of Forests and the grazing tenure holders and others to establish one or more ungrazed areas that are representative of the ecosystem and special features values of the park. The ungrazed area(s) should be larger than a traditional enclosure.

Aquatic Values

The water bodies and water courses are an important component of Gladstone Provincial Park. The park includes approximately half of Christina Lake shoreline and foreshore, as well as several smaller lakes in their entirety. It also protects the entire drainage of Troy Creek, which is a very important creek for fish spawning. As well, most of Sandner Creek, Lynch Creek, Texas Creek and the headwaters of smaller creeks, such as Dog, Faith and McRae creeks, are within the park.

Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect and maintain the natural qualities of aquatic resources and their ecological processes within the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a high standard of water quality entering Gladstone Provincial Park by working with the Ministry of Forests, Fish, Wildlife and Habitat of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Regional District and forest companies. Ensure that riparian habitat is not degraded by cattle grazing activities. Ensure that trail and campsite development and maintenance minimize erosion of surface materials into creeks, rivers and lakes. Ensure that sanitary facilities are properly designed and located. Prepare and provide information on procedures for proper disposal of human waste in the backcountry.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure the park's portion of Christina Lake's shore and foreshore are managed to protect natural, cultural and recreational values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work cooperatively with cottage/home owners, recreational boaters, and other agencies to maintain the aquatic ecosystems of Christina Lake. Work with the Fish, Wildlife and Habitat of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and Regional District to maintain the water quality of Christina Lake. Work cooperatively with cottage/home owners to encourage protection and restoration of shoreline habitat and upland areas. Undertake active management activities with other agencies to eradicate invasive aquatic weeds such as Purple Loosestrife, Eurasian Watermilfoil as funds permit.

Visual Values

The visual values of Gladstone Provincial Park are a fundamental component of the visitor experience. The visual values of the park and the emotional, spiritual and inspirational senses they stir in visitors, are often what is recounted and recalled by park visitors.

The visual values and the opportunities for visitor experiences they create, range from one of water-based intensive recreational activities on and along the shores of Christina Lake, to one of wildness and remoteness in the upland areas of Gladstone Park. Christina Lake tends to be the dominant attractant for the park.

Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the views within the park so that the visual qualities and wilderness atmosphere of the park is protected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design, locate, construct and maintain all park facilities in a manner that is in harmony with the surrounding landscape and environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work cooperatively with other agencies, companies and individuals so that the views external to the parks are maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Ministry of Forests, forest licensees and individuals, and provide comments for resource activities adjacent to the park to ensure the park's integrity is maintained. Participate in referral processes and review forest development plans and land development plans in areas adjacent to the park.

Cultural Values

The area around Gladstone Provincial Park has been traditionally used by First Nations for many years. The park contains numerous archeological sites including pictographs, an old village, and campsites. The park is also rich in post-contact history. Areas within Gladstone such as Benninger's Farm were home to early settlers and pioneers. Gladstone was also the site of gold prospecting activities.

Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect the park's cultural heritage values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake an archaeological and cultural resource assessment of the park in consultation and cooperation with the First Nation, the Archaeological Planning and Assessment Section, Registries Department, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and other knowledgeable sources. Develop management strategies for the park's cultural heritage values. Conduct archaeological impact assessments and apply management measures (i.e. buffering, avoidance, access controls, signage, mitigation) where appropriate. Where cultural resources are deemed to be of provincial significance, higher levels of protection and intervention may be required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect the park's provincially significant First Nations cultural values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local First Nations to increase the historical and cultural knowledge and record of the area. Encourage the development of a Traditional Use Site Inventory.

Inholdings, Reserves and Other Tenures

Within Gladstone Park there are tenures for guide/outfitting and trapping. All *Forest Act* tenures, except those for grazing purposes, have been extinguished. The park also contains numerous private inholdings along the shores of Christina Lake.

Guide Outfitting Territories

There are two guide outfitting territories that overlap with Gladstone Provincial Park. The vast majority of the park is under one guide outfitter, permit GO105117. The guiding territory east of the height of land, of which only a small portion is within the park, is vacant.

Traplines

Four trapping territories overlap with the park:

TR0815T002;
 TR0815T001;
 TR0815T003; and,
 TR0424T006.

There are a number of cabins located along these traplines throughout the park.

Private Land and Inholdings

Within the Gladstone, approximately 854 hectares of privately held land was excluded when the park was established. The way these parcels of private land and inholdings are managed can have a significant impact on the park’s natural and cultural values, and opportunities for visitor experiences.

Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To eliminate alienations not required to preserve or maintain the conservation and recreation values of the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire where possible, any inholdings, licenses or tenures.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work cooperatively with individuals who are responsible for the management of private inholdings, tenures and licenses, to ensure British Columbia Parks’ conservation and recreation goals and objectives are not compromised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with landholders to ensure that developments on private land are compatible with park management goals and objectives. Liaise with other agencies, companies and private individuals to ensure the park’s natural and cultural values and opportunities are protected and enhanced. Monitor the impacts of private land development on the park’s natural and cultural values and opportunities for visitor experiences.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities Management

Introduction

Gladstone Provincial Park has a number of natural and cultural values that create regionally and provincially significant outdoor recreation opportunities. Given the wilderness character of the park, a conservative approach to the management and development of outdoor recreation opportunities will be adopted.

Access Management Strategy

The management of different types of access is important to maintain the wilderness qualities of the park, as limiting access is one way of keeping visitor numbers low. At present, hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders and snowmobilers can access the park from various locations along the Burrell Forest Service Road, and from the old CPR railway grade. Additionally, logging roads are present in almost every drainage surrounding the park and provide potential access to within a short distance of the park boundaries. Some roads are gated by Ministry of Forests to prevent access and maintain biodiversity objectives such as protection of grizzly bears.

Commercial air access to the park is controlled through the issuance of a Park Use Permit. BC Parks does not have jurisdiction over air space and can only regulate landings within the park.

Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To manage access with respect to timing, level and mode of use to protect fish and wildlife habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitor external access roads to remote areas of the park. Participate in access management planning and provide information to assist in determining status of roads adjacent to the park. Work with the Ministry of Forests and others to deactivate external roads where appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To maintain the current level of visitor access to the park, while minimizing the effects on wildlife, vegetation and other visitors' enjoyment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No roads leading to the park will be improved, and no new roads will be built within the park.Within the park, deactivate and rehabilitate the old roads.Prohibit visitor use of ATV's within the park.

Recreational Opportunities

Recreational activities enhance most visitors' enjoyment of a park. Generally, recreational opportunities are judged on their possible impacts on natural values, facilities and trails, the wilderness character and other visitors. The provision of recreational opportunities must be managed in harmony with the natural and cultural values for which the park was created. Recreation is an important part of visitor enjoyment and appreciation of protected areas. However, protection of natural values is a high priority and, as such, limitations on recreation may be required.

Management of recreation activities must also take into account the ability of First Nations to continue to pursue traditional activities in the park area.

Objective	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimize the impact of recreational use on natural and cultural values to ensure they are maintained and protected for future generations to enjoy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Backcountry Recreation Plan to manage commercial and public recreation activities. The plan will also review all existing recreational infrastructures including trails, huts and shelters, to determine which structures need to be maintained, upgraded or removed. Develop a Frontcountry Recreation Plan for vehicle and lake accessible activities. Develop a monitoring program to evaluate impacts of recreational use on the park's natural and cultural values. If monitoring of impacts necessitates additional management actions in order to protect the park's natural and cultural values, then visitor management techniques such as limits, closures, quotas may be instituted.

Hiking, Backpacking, Mountain Biking and Horseback Riding Opportunities

Hiking, backpacking and horseback riding are activities that have occurred for decades in Gladstone Park. Mountain biking is a more recent activity. Currently there is a myriad of trails within the park. Hunters, fisherman, licensed trappers, licensed guides and ranchers developed most of the trails. Most of the trails receive minimal annual maintenance. Many of the trails are situated in bear habitat. Interactions between park visitors and black and grizzly bears can result in harm to both visitors and the bears.

Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide and maintain opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, backpacking and horseback riding within Gladstone Provincial Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a trail network in Gladstone Provincial Park that is in accordance with the Backcountry Recreation Plan. Advise hikers, backpackers, mountain bikers and horseback riders about appropriate bear avoidance behavior to reduce the chances of encountering bears. Provide opportunities for mountain biking on designated trails. Maintain opportunities for hiking, backpacking and horseback riding on designated trails. No new public huts or shelters will be permitted.

Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage hiking, backpacking, mountain biking and horseback riding opportunities to ensure the park's natural and cultural values are not degraded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor annually the impacts on the park's natural and cultural values associated with hiking, backpacking, mountain biking and horseback riding activities. Implement appropriate management actions such as temporary closures, site hardening, visitor education, and annual maintenance programs where necessary.

Camping Opportunities

For many visitors to Gladstone Provincial Park, a key experience is camping. Visitor camping opportunities exist at various locations throughout the park including the frontcountry campground at Texas Creek, at water- accessible campsites along the shores of Christina Lake, and at remote backcountry campsites in the upland areas of the park. There are a number of old cabins and huts located throughout the park.

Objective	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a range of backcountry and frontcountry camping opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit camping opportunities along the shores of Christina Lake to the seven areas that are currently developed. Provide road accessible frontcountry camping opportunities in the Texas Point Area. Provide backcountry camping opportunities according to the Backcountry Recreation Plan. Locate and design all sites to minimize impacts on the park's natural and cultural values. Monitor the impacts on the park's natural and cultural values associated with camping.

Winter Recreation

Winter recreation activities have traditionally represented a small segment of the overall recreational use of Gladstone Provincial Park. The alpine and sub-alpine terrain of the eastern side of the park is used occasionally by snowmobilers from early-December through to late-April.

Snowmobiling, like other forms of recreational activity, has the potential to impact the grizzly bear population. The concern is greatest during the mid-March to mid-May period when research in other areas has shown that the bears leave their dens. However, there is not sufficient scientific information at this time neither to evaluate the possible impact of snowmobiling on the bears nor to determine what management guidelines might be needed regarding snowmobiling in the park. It is anticipated that this type of information will be developed as part of the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan or other research.

Ski touring is the other winter activity that occurs in the park. The area that is used by ski tourers is Hooper Creek in the Burnt Basin, on the southeast part of the park. Use currently is quite low due to rather restricted access.

Objective	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide safe, low impact winter recreation opportunities while limiting conflict between wildlife, commercial and public users, and mechanized and non-mechanized users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage winter recreation activities to ensure wildlife values are not negatively impacted. Manage winter recreation activities (both commercial and public) by applying spatial and temporal restrictions where appropriate. All winter activities must adhere to a 'pack-in / pack-out' policy. Permit snowmobile use in the designated areas of the park for the designated period only. Revisit the management of snowmobiling and other winter activities when better information becomes available from the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan or other research. The review should be conducted with input from the snowmobiling community, Fish, Wildlife and Habitat of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and other interests.

Water Based Recreation

Christina Lake is one of the most significant natural attractions in Gladstone Park. During the summer, this beautiful lake is one of only a very few large, warm-bodied lakes that has major road access in the Kootenay-Boundary Region. The lake is nestled in a natural setting amongst rolling mountains and provides for a variety of water-based recreational activities.

The lake provides four season recreational potential, though the winter season is dictated by the length of time that the surface is frozen. Popular summer water-based recreational activities include boating, swimming, and fishing. The shoreline of the lake is used for camping (at seven boat accessible campsites and at Texas Point Campground), picnicking, hiking and mountain biking along shoreline trails, and other beach activities.

The lake supports both warm and cold water fish, with the main species of interest for sport fishing being bass, kokanee and rainbow trout.

Gladstone Park protects 16 kilometers of the shoreline at the northern end of Christina Lake. The park boundary extends 100 meters into the lake to protect the foreshore. There are numerous private shoreline inholdings that have both seasonal cottages and permanent residences within the park.

Christina Lake also has a number of provincially significant First Nations archeological sites.

Objective	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide high quality beach-based recreational opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide opportunities for high quality, lake and beach oriented recreational activities by maintaining the existing developed camping and day use beach areas along Christina Lake. Ensure that boat launch and parking facilities at Texas Point are adequate. Work cooperatively with local tourism officials, marinas, cottage/home owners, and the boating public to ensure the park's unique scenic and wilderness values are protected. Encourage the Regional District to implement noise, speed, and closure restrictions where required. Work cooperatively with cottage/home owners to encourage protection and restoration of shoreline habitat and upland areas. Work with First Nations to ensure the lake's provincially significant cultural values are protected, and where appropriate interpreted to enhance public understanding and appreciation.

Commercial Recreation

Commercial recreation can be an important part of some visitors' enjoyment and appreciation of protected areas. Gladstone is currently used as a destination for a small number of commercial recreation operators. Demand for commercial operator services may grow as the awareness and popularity of the park becomes more widely known.

The Kootenay - Boundary Land Use Plan stipulates that commercial backcountry recreation activities that had pre-existing tenures prior to park establishment, shall be permitted to continue. Consideration must be given as to how to accommodate both commercial and public recreation users, while not diminishing the recreational experiences sought by either group.

In considering new commercial recreational opportunities, the emphasis will be on protecting natural values and minimizing the impacts on other users. New proposals must have an impact assessment completed that considers their implications to environmental, social and economic values and will be evaluated on the basis of their capability, long-term sustainability, and cost-benefit to the park.

Objective	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To keep the number of permitted commercial recreation services within the park's social carrying capacity, and limits of acceptable environmental change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorize by park use permit existing tenured commercial recreation operators. Consider new commercial recreation applications periodically as required to determine if they meet environmental and social carrying capacities and are in keeping with the long-term vision and zoning for the park. Where appropriate, permits may be issued on a temporary basis and reviewed upon completion of the Backcountry Recreation Plan. Require all permit holders to prepare a 5-year business plan that is compatible with the management plan.

Objective	Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with the Backcountry Recreation Plan, quotas may be set for commercial guides and a limit set on public visitation when monitoring shows the environmental and/or social carrying capacities are close to being exceeded. • Minimize conflict between public and commercial recreational interests. • Develop and implement a monitoring program to assess impact from commercial and public recreation of the park’s natural and cultural values. • Heli-hiking will not be permitted. • No new commercial huts or shelters will be permitted. • Work with commercial operators to develop a code of conduct that is in keeping with the management plan.

Hunting

Hunting is a recreational and commercial (guide-outfitting) activity that has occurred in the area for a long time. A single registered guide-outfitting territory (GO105117) covers the park, with the majority of the guide outfitting activity occurring in the vicinity of the Mount Faith and Mount Gladstone areas every fall. This business provides hunting for all wildlife for which there is an open season including black bear, mountain goat, elk, mule deer and white-tailed deer, cougar, lynx and bobcat. Gladstone Park is open to legal hunting as specified in the British Columbia Hunting Regulations, but is closed to both moose and grizzly bear hunting.

BC Parks, in cooperation with Fish, Wildlife and Habitat of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, manages hunting conservatively to ensure healthy wildlife populations, while still maintaining hunting opportunities, by applying a spectrum of management techniques including open seasons, limited entry permits, and hunting closures.

Objective	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide hunting opportunities in a sustainable manner, using sound and accepted wildlife management principles and practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting and guide outfitting will continue subject to existing regulations; regulations will be adjusted, as necessary, subject to the park wildlife management plan. • Assess, monitor and regulate hunting in cooperation with Fish, Wildlife and Habitat of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure healthy wildlife populations are maintained. Use or obtain updated wildlife information in order to manage appropriate harvesting levels. Harvest levels will be adjusted upwards or downwards to meet population objectives or according to fluctuation in wildlife populations and/or population parameters. • Prepare and provide educational information for park visitors on the background to commercial and recreational hunting. This will provide an explanation of these activities and avoid conflicts between users.

Management Services

BC Parks Branch of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks is the provincial government agency responsible for the planning and management of Gladstone Provincial Park. The *Park Act* and its Regulations, BC Parks policies and procedures, and overall government policy and legislation, guide the management of these parks. BC Parks undertakes a number of park management strategies, activities and actions to ensure that government legislation and policies are implemented.

Objective	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure the various management responsibilities are carried out according to the guidelines of the Management Plan and the established policies and procedures of the Ministry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare an annual management plan for Gladstone Park that provides direction for recreation, conservation and cultural management initiatives. Maintain a seasonal presence by park rangers or contractors, as funding permits. Develop and maintain adequate signage and information materials to ensure public safety and security, protection of the park's natural, cultural and recreational values, and compliance with park rules and regulations. Investigate opportunities for the use of volunteers and others to supplement management activities and services. Enforce the <i>Park Act</i> and regulations.

Communications

Introduction

Communication products, programs and services are an important function of visitor management. Communications products can play a number of key roles. First, communication products can serve to set visitor expectations and assist in the planning of holidays and recreation activities. Secondly, communications can promote outdoor etiquette and careful use of the park's resources. Thirdly, communications can create an awareness and appreciation about cultural features, natural settings and conservation principles and initiatives.

Information

The information strategy for the park will rely primarily on non-personal information media as well as some personal interpretation to communicate important park themes and messages. BC Parks is an agency with a number of important functions, and education is one of them. As such, there is an obligation to identify and deliver important education/interpretation themes and messages. The following are the core themes that will form the basis of the communication program in Gladstone Provincial Park are. The themes will be refined when the provincial review of BC Parks 'key themes' is complete.

Key Themes

The Nature of the Place

This is the most basic theme that BC Parks needs to present at all parks and in most communications. It is of primary importance to help park visitors and residents understand the unique characteristics of Gladstone Provincial Park and what its unique role is in the system of protected areas. Messages will focus on the combination of features which make the park special.

Why protected areas?

British Columbia is a spectacular and diverse province that can still preserve relatively undisturbed examples of natural and cultural heritage, and outdoor recreation values. The establishment of protected areas reflects society's values and the value that citizens place on heritage preservation. Park users should know the values that Gladstone Provincial Park contributes to the protected area system.

Humans in the Landscape

BC Parks needs to connect park visitors with the other humans who have lived in the landscape. Gladstone Park has evidence of First Nations presence. Gladstone Park communications programs will seek to inform the visitor about First Nations and Post-Contact history.

Protecting the Resource and Yourself

One of the key themes that is of particular importance to Gladstone Park is that of Protecting the park resources and the visitor. Among the messages that will be presented are those around trail etiquette, campfires, and low-impact camping. Safety and procedures in the presence of wildlife (especially bears) will also be presented.

Global Change and Parks

No park is an island: making park visitors aware of and understanding the notion that parks are heavily affected by outside influences will be an important element of the programming. Global change, ecological footprints, environmental carrying capacity, human population growth, and adjacent land-use compatibility are some of the concepts that this theme will emphasize.

Objective	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a park information strategy that informs and enlightens park visitors through the provision of accurate and interesting information on Gladstone Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop information materials that relay important information on the park's opportunities for recreational activities, and that will enhance visitor use, safety and enjoyment of the park's facilities and services. Develop an integrated communication package for printed material and signs using consistent themes, messages and designs. Install adequate signage to inform visitors of important park messages including safety and security, rules and regulations, and visitor information. Develop information and interpretive messages that tell important park stories, and relay information on the natural and cultural values of the park. Work closely with local First Nations to ensure their culture and history is accurately portrayed in park communication material. Upgrade and keep current information and maps regarding the park on the BC Parks Website (www.elp.gov.bc.ca/bcparks).

Recreation, Natural and Cultural Heritage Education

Recreation, natural and cultural heritage education programs and services are an important activity in protected areas management. Recreation and heritage education programs and services encourage the natural sense of wonder and curiosity people feel about their history and environment. They leave them with a desire to know more, and inspire people to increase their commitment to the care and protection of their natural and cultural heritage. Gladstone Provincial Park both protects and portrays important recreation, natural and cultural heritage values.

Objective	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide opportunities for people to understand, appreciate and enjoy the recreation opportunities, and natural and cultural heritage that is protected within Gladstone Provincial Park through high quality education products, programs and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop heritage education programs including but not limited to the following messages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ role of parks and protected areas; ➤ the role of Gladstone Provincial Park in the provincial protected areas system; ➤ the importance of managing protected areas on an ecosystem basis; ➤ the park's unique and special natural and cultural values; ➤ the relationship between human history and the environment including First Nations, and Post-Contact exploration and development; ➤ information that will enhance visitor use, safety and enjoyment of park facilities and services.

Objective	Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure heritage products, programs and services, in addition to their specific message, contain information on the values of protected areas to humankind. • Encourage and support research aimed at increasing our knowledge and understanding of the parks natural and cultural values. Knowledge developed through research will be presented in heritage education products, programs and services. • Ensure relevance and quality of all heritage education products, programs and services by reviewing and updating periodically.

Plan Implementation Strategy

This management plan provides the direction for planning, management and development of Gladstone Provincial Park. Once approved, the implementation of this plan is the responsibility of the District Manager for BC Parks - Okanagan District.

This Management Plan forms the basis from which operational level plans will be developed. Priority will be given to preparation of a backcountry recreation plan and an ecosystem plan. The ecosystem plan would include sub-components covering fish and wildlife, vegetation, insect and disease and fire management. Some of the sub-components may be prepared prior to the overall plan as the need arises. The fire management plan has been completed. These plans will be developed through discussions with local agencies, stakeholders and the general public. They will set priorities and give details of the specific actions for implementation.

Appendix A

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 ecosystem.

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

- ❶ The first priority in the use and management of protected areas is to protect their ecological viability and integrity.
- ❷ 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 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 B
BC Parks Management Planning
Zone Descriptions
(2001)

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.
Facilities	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic/play areas, trail accommodation or interpretative 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.	Interpretative facilities only - resources are to be protected.
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.
Management Guidelines	Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and a high quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation modes. Designation of transportation may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).	High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high quality recreational and interpretative experience. Active or passive management depending on size, location, and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts.
Examples of Zoning	Campground in Rath Trevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski area in E.C. Manning Park.	Core area in Cathedral Park; North beach in Naikoon Park.	Botanical Beach tidepools within Juan de Fuca Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mount Assiniboine Park.

Protected Areas Management Planning Zone Descriptions		
	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
Objective	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where no motorised activities will be allowed.
Use Level	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.
Means of Access	Non-mechanised & non-motorised - except may permit low frequency air access to designated sites; foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).	Non-mechanised & non-motorised (no air access); foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).
Location	Remote - not easily visited on a day-use basis.	Remote - not easily visited on a day-use basis.
Size of Zone	Large - greater than 5,000 hectares.	Large - greater than 5,000 hectares.
Boundary Definition	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Boundaries will encompass areas of visitor interest for specific activities supported by air access.	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features.
Recreation Opportunities	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialised activities (e.g., caving, climbing).	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialised activities (e.g., caving, climbing).
Facilities	Minimal facility development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment e.g. trails, primitive campsites, etc. Some basic facilities at access points, e.g., dock, primitive shelter, etc.	None.
Impacts on Natural Environment	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings. Evidence of human presence is confined to specific facility sites. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings.
Management Guidelines	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.
Examples of Zoning	Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park; Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park.	Upper Murray River watershed within Monkman Park; Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy Area.