

MANAGEMENT PLAN

August, 2001

for Granby
Provincial Park



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Water, Land
and Air Protection
Parks Division

Granby Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by
BC Parks
Okanagan District
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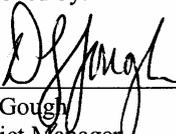
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Granby
Provincial Park

Management Plan

Approved by:



Don Gough
District Manager

Date: 8/24/01



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Plan Highlights

- The vision for the park is that it is a critical component for the protection of the Southern Interior Forest Ecosystem protecting important wildlife and their habitat while providing low-impact wilderness recreation opportunities and conserving its cultural heritage values.
- Granby 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 Granby Provincial Park's ecosystem.
- An Ecosystem Plan will be developed with components for vegetation, wildlife, fish, fire and cultural resources.
- The central portion along the Granby River and the southwest portion of the park will be zoned Wilderness Recreation to be maintained free of developments and to protect critical Grizzly Bear habitat. The north and eastern portions will be zoned Natural Environment. A small alpine/subalpine meadow complex (Draggin' Flats) in the Galloping Hills will be zoned Special Feature.
- 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 that 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

Granby Provincial Park is a 40,845 hectare protected area, located about 65 kilometres north of the City of Grand Forks encompassing the headwaters of the Granby River drainage (Figures 1 and 2). The long narrow valley is a large unroaded drainage in the Southern Interior. The park has an extensive sub-alpine and alpine meadow complex, with a forested valley bottom including some attractive old-growth cedar-hemlock forest. The park provides important habitat for mountain goat and a regionally significant grizzly bear population. The park also provides four-season wilderness recreation opportunities including hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, guide outfitting, camping, snowmobiling and ski touring.

The upper Granby area was originally a candidate for protection through the *Parks and Wilderness for the 90's* initiative. The area had strong public support from a variety of groups and individuals and was recommended for protection in the West Kootenay-Boundary Land-Use Plan submitted by the Commission on Resources and Environment. On July 12, 1995 the upper Granby River area achieved Class 'A' park status, becoming known as Granby Provincial Park through the *Park Amendment Act, 1995*.

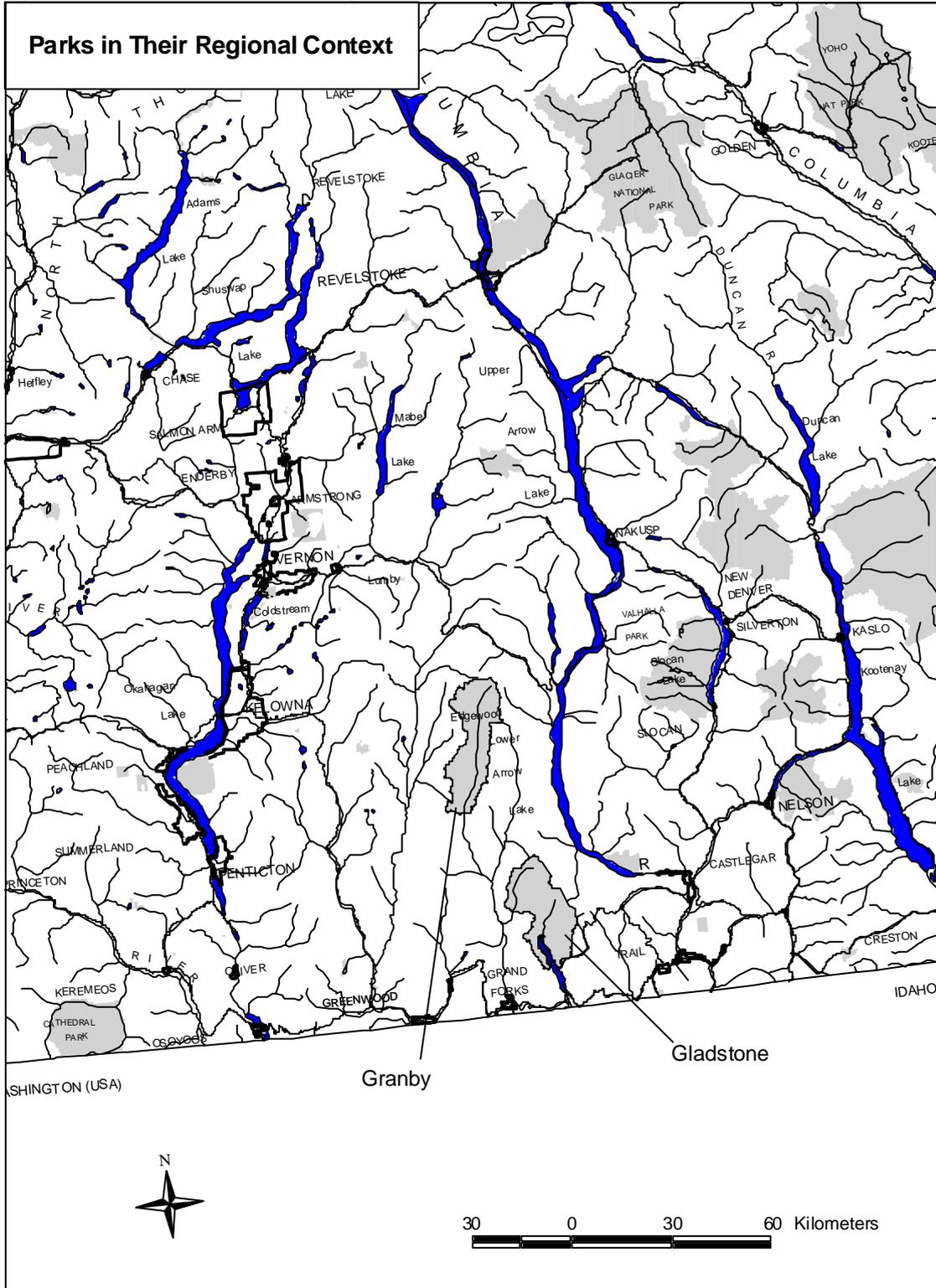
The Okanagan First Nations traditional territory includes Granby Provincial Park. It is understood that this management plan shall not limit aboriginal rights or any current and future treaty negotiations the Okanagan First Nations participate in. Once formal treaty agreements are reached with First 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 BC Parks, guides the management of the park for the next several years. The management plan defines the role of Granby Provincial Park in the British Columbia Protected Areas System and establishes objectives and desired 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 of facilities for the park, 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 these documents periodically.

Figure 1 - Granby Provincial Park Regional Context



The Planning Process

The planning process for Granby Provincial Park involved a number of steps. The first step involved 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 have expressed an interest in Granby Provincial Park. A series of three planning workshops were held with this group.

Several factors formed the basis upon which this draft plan was developed. Some of these factors include: the results of the workshops; discussions 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 review and 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 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 by the British Columbia government in March 1995. The KBLUP and Implementation Strategy represent 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. Granby 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 protected areas. By approving the land use plan, government directed BC Parks to implement the following policy direction, which has relevance for Granby Provincial 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 compliment 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 Granby Provincial Park will address a number of planning issues. These are outlined below.

Management of Park Access

Vehicle access into Granby Provincial Park is only possible via the Mt. Scaia road on the northeast boundary of the park and the old Lightning Peaks mining road on the northern boundary of the park. Road access is possible to the Traverse Creek Recreation Site near the extreme southern limit of the park. From there, a trail follows the Granby River north into the park. However, almost every drainage surrounding the park has logging roads and access is possible to within a few kilometres of the boundary on all sides. All modes and 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

Granby Provincial Park is known for its relatively 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 and expected levels of visitation and give direction for future development.

Relationship to First Nations

Granby 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 have 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

Granby Provincial Park protects a representative sample of the Selkirk Foothills Ecoregion. Some of the 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

Granby 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 have a negative impact on these values. The management plan will provide direction for the management of cultural values.

Management of Recreational Activities

Granby 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 quality of the park's natural and cultural features. Increased demands for eco-tourism to 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 recreation and tourism opportunities in the park.

Tenures

Granby Provincial Park contains several tenures for grazing, guide-outfitting, and trapping that are privately held. Tenured activities have the potential to create impacts on the natural and cultural values of the park. The management plan will give direction on the management of these tenures and their associated impacts.

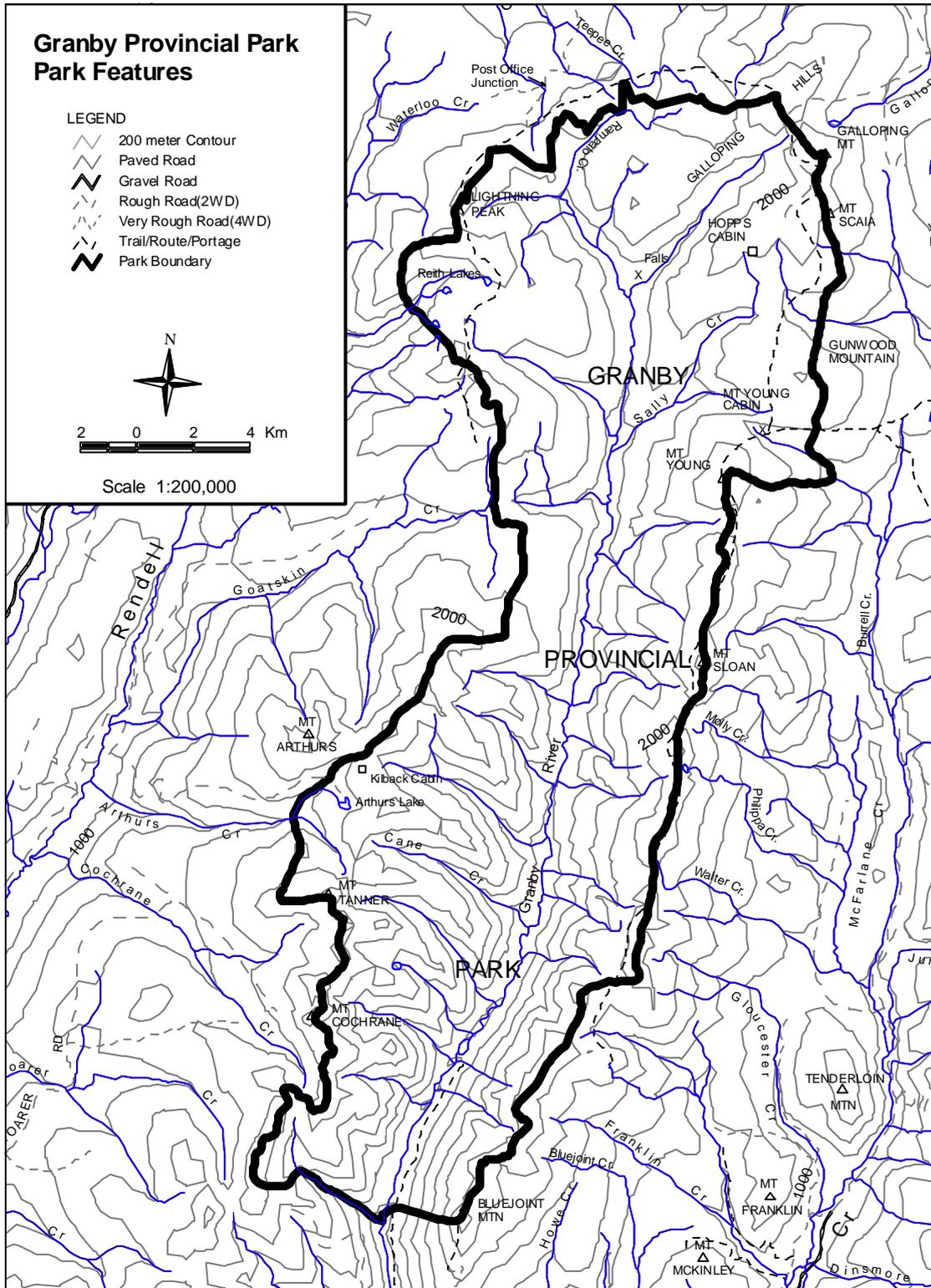
Background Summary

Granby Provincial Park lies within the Selkirk Foothills Ecoregion in the southern Monashee Mountains (Figure 2). The park encompasses wild scenic uplands and steep undisturbed creek valleys. The park has an intriguing array of ecosystems including the stunted vegetation of the alpine meadow complexes, abundant flora and fauna, and impressive stands of old-growth forest (western red cedar, white pine, and western hemlock) in the lower valleys. Its remote location and complete intact watershed make Granby Provincial Park unique within the southern interior provincial park system. The park, with an area of 40,845 hectares, provides a wilderness experience and serves as an extensive, high-quality wilderness recreational area.

The park is accessible by automobile from the Mt. Scaia road off Highway 6 west of Edgewood. The gravel road leads southwest from Highway 6 and climbs 20 km to the summit of Mt. Scaia. There is also an old mining road leading into Lightning Peaks Area on the northern boundary of the Park. There is no automobile access within the park itself. Historic trails are the only means of traversing the upland area of the park. On the southern boundary of the park, road access is possible to the Traverse Creek Forest Recreation Site just outside the park. From here, a trail leads for several kilometres into the park alongside the Granby River.

Granby Provincial Park is part of a provincial system of protected areas. As such it fulfills important conservation, recreation and cultural roles. The park is comprised of the upper Granby River drainage with the boundary largely following the height-of-land (Figure 2). The physiography, therefore, is dominated by the north-south aligned Granby River. It is a long, narrow, steeply-walled valley with many short tributary drainages dropping into the main valley from the east and west. The alpine area, which forms the east, west and northern boundary, is extensive and characterized by high, rolling ridge tops and mountain tops.

Figure 2 - Granby Provincial Park Features



Role of the Park

Regional and Provincial Context

Granby 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 Gladstone and Syringa provincial parks and several other small 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 Granby Provincial Park in the Protected Area System

Granby Provincial Park protects a large, undeveloped watershed in the Southern Interior. This long, narrow, forested drainage is rimmed by extensive rolling alpine and subalpine areas which provide excellent all-season recreational opportunities. The area supports a significant, threatened grizzly bear population and provides important habitat for mountain goat. The area also protects old-growth cedar-hemlock forest in its southern end. Granby Provincial Park provides the following conservation, recreation, and cultural roles within the protected area system.

Conservation Role

In addition to Gladstone Provincial Park, Granby provides protection for most of the known biological diversity found in the Selkirk Foothills Ecoregion, which is part of the larger Selkirk-Bitterroot Foothills Ecoregion, which is, in turn, part of the Southern Interior Mountains Ecoprovince. This diversity is due, in part, to the park encompassing a large elevation gradient from valley bottom to alpine. The park protects 7,732 ha of ESSFdc1 which is 12.93% of the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) unit within this ecoregion. Only Big White Ecological Reserve and Granby Park protect this variant, with Granby accounting for 97% of that of which is protected. Other habitats of which the park protects are 253 ha of the ICHdw which accounts for 0.14% of that BEC unit within the ecoregion, ESSFwc4 (16,082 ha, 10.72% of the BEC unit within the ecoregion), and ICHmw2 (7,860 ha, 2.82% of province).

Draining the southern Monashee Mountains, the Granby River divides the Christina Range on the east from the Midway Range on the west and, flowing south, combines with the Kettle River in Grand Forks to reach the Columbia River in Washington State. Elevations range from 900 m in the lower valley bottom to 2332 m on Mount Sloan. The park contains some of the best grizzly bear habitat in the southern Monashee Mountains and is part of an important ecosystem supporting a regionally significant population of grizzly bears. It also supports rare fish species (Speckled Dace) found only in the Kettle and Granby River drainages.

According to British Columbia Conservation Data Centre records, one red-listed vascular plant (nettle-leaved giant-hyssop) has been recorded in the park and a number of blue-listed vascular

plants have been found adjacent to the north boundary of the park including pink agoseris, small-flowered willowherb, three-leaved lewisia, purple oniongrass, and Kellogg's knotweed.

The park provides excellent ungulate habitat with extensive sub-alpine and alpine grasslands and meadows dominating the higher elevations, while old-growth western red cedar and western hemlock occupy the valley bottom. The area between Granby and Gladstone 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 that move between and around them.

Recreation Role

Granby Provincial Park provides significant recreation opportunities for visitors to experience low elevation old-growth cedar-hemlock forests with locally popular fishing and hunting. The alpine areas of the park offer four season activities including horseback riding, hunting, hiking, camping, snowmobiling and ski touring. Commercial guide outfitting is also available.

Cultural Role

Granby Provincial Park lies within areas of interest of the Shuswap, Sinixt and Arrow Lakes First Nations. There is evidence of some culturally modified trees. Further work is required to clarify the existence of a trail running up the Granby drainage. As the trail would have its origins outside of the park boundary, it will be necessary for BC Parks to work with other government agencies and a variety of local stakeholders to clarify the location of the trail.

Evidence of Post-Contact history in the area is limited to the old mines that exist in the northwest corner of the park.

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 in recreation and incorporating new approaches to conservation management. The vision statement is forward looking, and describes the desired future for Granby Provincial Park.

Granby Provincial Park Vision Statement

Granby Provincial Park is a critical component of the protection and conservation of the Southern Interior Forest Ecosystem that is healthy and functioning well to maintain the natural and cultural diversity of its components. It is a wilderness area with a variety of low-impact opportunities for both daylong and overnight recreation experiences. Visitor access and levels of use are in harmony with the ecological integrity of the area. A primitive trail system and accompanying low-impact camping and overnight facilities provide a range of experiences for those who wish to experience nature in a wilderness setting. Ecologically sound commercial operations are in balance with natural, cultural and social values. 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. Operational tenures within the park are managed to ensure that ecological integrity is accorded priority. Public input is an important component of the ongoing management of Granby 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 required. 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 Granby Provincial Park divides the park into four zones: Wilderness Recreation (Subzone 'A'), Wilderness Recreation (subzone 'B'), Special Feature, and Natural Environment. There is no Intensive Recreation Zone or Wilderness Conservation Zone in Granby Provincial Park.

Natural Environment Zone

The Natural Environment Zone objective is to protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. This zone will ensure that facilities do not dominate the natural environment and provides for a higher level of recreation use and development than is permitted in the Wilderness Recreation Zone. This zone allows for snowmobile use. This zoning may be adjusted as more information on natural values becomes available. ATV's are not permitted.

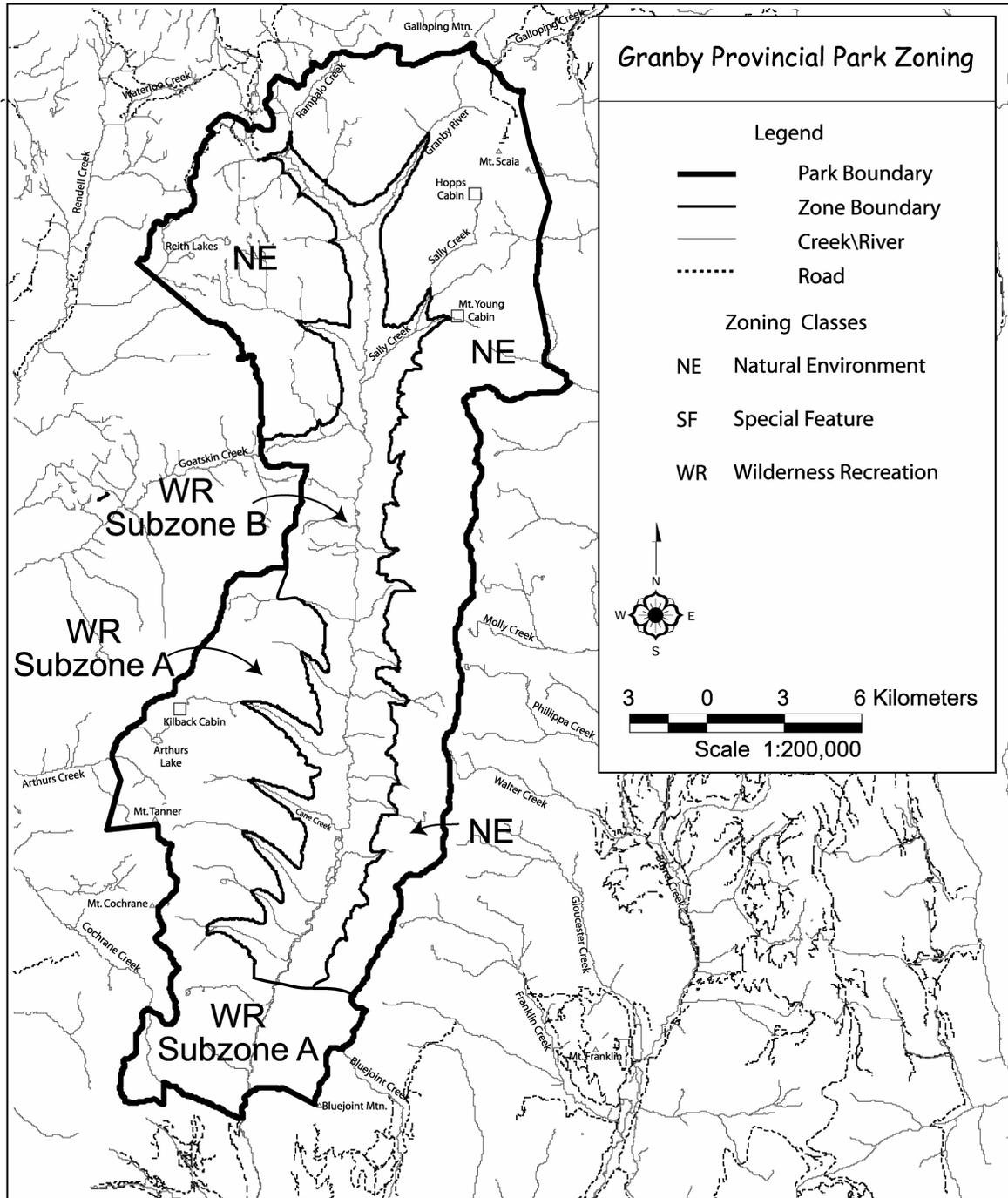
This zoning occurs in the northern portion of the park above 1600 metres elevation, and along the eastern boundary of the park above 1800 metres elevation. The proposed addition to the southern end of the park along the Granby River corridor to Traverse Creek is also zoned as Natural Environment. This will accommodate the trail and facilities associated with overnight camping.

Special Feature Zone

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

Within Granby Provincial Park, Special Feature zoning covers Draggin' Flats, which is an expanse of open subalpine meadow on rolling terrain near Galloping Mountain. This area is dominated by herbaceous broad-leaved plants with scattered clumps of Engelmann Spruce and Subalpine Fir. The area is subject to current research on the effects of grazing on subalpine meadows and contains exclosures to keep cattle from grazing within them. Comparisons between

Figure 3 - Granby Provincial Park Zoning



forage productivity clips will yield important information regarding the future management of grazing within the park.

Another feature that may warrant Special Feature status is along the lower Granby River where Speckled Dace (*Rhinichthys osculus*) may occur. Although not confirmed within the park, they have been collected less than 10 km from the southern boundary. Speckled Dace are restricted to the Granby and Kettle Rivers in Canada, and if found in the park, would be the only protected population in Canada. Further investigation will be undertaken to confirm their presence in the park.

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. The intent of this zone is to place a high priority on conserving the natural environment while providing some level of backcountry use that is compatible with the natural environment and its wilderness atmosphere. Ecological processes occur largely uninfluenced by human activity.

Subzone 'A'

The southwest portion of Granby Provincial Park is zoned as Wilderness Recreation. This includes all higher elevation terrain (above 1600 m) along the southwestern boundary of the park, and the south end of the park as far north as the creek flowing off Mt. Cochrane. Facility development is minimal, at a level sufficient to satisfy user needs and to protect the overall environment of the park.

Subzone 'B'

Within Granby Provincial Park, the entire central portion of the park is zoned as Wilderness Recreation, including all creeks and the main Granby River valley below 1600 metres elevation. This subzone contains the high value spring and early summer habitat for Grizzly Bears and currently receives very low levels of visitor use, which is appropriate for this area of the park. This subzone will be free of facilities and helicopter use to ensure low visitor use levels.

Natural and Cultural Values Management

Introduction

Granby 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 park's natural and cultural values. To ensure these values are managed in perpetuity, BC Parks will apply an ecosystem management approach in the management of Granby 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. Granby Provincial 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. • To maintain the natural and cultural values and features for which the park was established including protection of the Selkirk Foothills ecosection, large undisturbed watershed, old-growth forests, important habitat for mountain goat and the threatened interior grizzly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an Ecosystem Plan that will include components on vegetation, fire, fish and wildlife. • Encourage, support and where appropriate, 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 Granby Provincial 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

The park is comprised of three biogeoclimatic zones (areas with similar climate, vegetation and site conditions such as soil and topography). One of the most prominent vegetative features of Granby is the extensive sub-alpine meadow complex, which is the result of fires in the 1930's and 40's. The resultant meadows provide important habitat for grizzly bear, mule deer and elk. The park also contains a narrow band of old-growth cedar-hemlock forests at lower elevations along the Granby River.

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

Granby 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 wildlife populations. The Upper Granby is one of only a few large undisturbed watersheds in this part of the province. It provides regionally important habitat for mountain goat and grizzly bear. In 2000, the government announced its intention to develop a Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan for the Kettle-Granby Grizzly Bear population unit.

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 wildlife inventories, inventory of habitat requirements, role of fire, insects and disease. 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 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 Grizzly Bear Access Management Strategy (MoF/MWLAP) to ensure it and the park conservation objectives are in harmony and working toward common goals. Undertake an assessment of the status of the Speckled Dace in the Granby River.
<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 the fish and wildlife features and values. Undertake proactive measures to address and avoid conflicts between people and wildlife, such as education, re-routing of trails and closures, if necessary. 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. The following range units overlap with the park: Burrell Creek Range Unit; Main River Range Unit; and Galloping Creek/Lightning Peak/Mt. Scaia Range Unit. There is a total of 361 Animal Unit Months (AUM) allocated under existing grazing tenures for the combined range units within the park. Additional management directives from the range use plans include a minimum of 200 m setback of all 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, soils, wildlife, and water quality values . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure Ministry of Forests is 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. 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 for all Range Units in the park that reflect current policy for range management and consider park conservation values. Assess, monitor and manage grazing activities by liaising with the Ministry of Forests and Fish, Wildlife and Habitat of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to minimize the impact on wildlife habitat and other park and ecosystem 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 feature (e.g. Draggin Flats) values of the park. The ungrazed area(s) should be larger than a traditional enclosure.

Aquatic Values

The peaks and ridge tops of Granby Provincial Park receive an average rainfall of about 580 mm and an average winter snowfall of 860 cm. Rainfall, and the melting snow pack are critical to the replenishment of the park's freshwater resources, which include the entire Granby River watershed and several small creeks that drain into it.

Objective	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 by working with the Ministry of Forests, Fish, Wildlife and Habitat of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, and forest companies. Work with the Ministry of Forests and licensees to 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.

Visual Values

The visual values in and around Granby 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 isolation and remoteness in the alpine meadows, to one of a strong sense of First Nation's history along the Granby Trail. The diversity and richness of the alpine meadows and the impressive height and girth of the old-growth trees along the lower Granby River, are strong visual attractants for visitors to Granby Provincial 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 are 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 maintain views external to the parks by working cooperatively with other agencies, companies and individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with the 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, mineral exploration plans, and land development plans in areas adjacent to the park.

Cultural Values

The area around Granby Provincial Park has been traditionally used by First Nations for many years. The park contains archeological sites including culturally modified trees, remnants of a heritage trail, and a possible aboriginal hunting camp. The park also contains some Post-Contact history. The park area was traversed by mining prospectors, and was the site of some minor mining activity.

Objective	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect the park's First Nation's and Post-Contact 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 Archaeology Branch, 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 or national significance, higher levels of protection and intervention may be required 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

Guide Outfitting Territories: There are three guide outfitting territories that overlap with Granby Provincial Park. The vast majority of the park is under one guide outfitter, permit GO105117. A small area around Mount Scaia in the northeast corner of the park is under territory GO108081. Several small sections along the west side of the park fall under permit number GO105119. These businesses provide guided and outfitted non-resident hunts for all big game for which there is an open season.

Traplines: There are 5 trapping territories that overlap with Granby Provincial Park (TR0815T007, TR0414T003, TR0814T011, TR0815T003, and TR0813T013). The majority of the park is under one license - TR0815T007 - while the other territories cover small areas where the boundary lies beyond the height-of-land.

Leases, Rights of Way and Reserves: The City of Grand Forks has a Watershed Reserve (File No. 092275) over the Granby River. British Columbia Hydro has a power line and access road right-of-way through the northeast corner of the park to Mount Scaia. They also have a Park Use Permit (PUP) for a communication site at Mount Scaia. The RCMP and Pope & Talbot have communication equipment on Mount Scaia as well.

Mineral Tenure: The status of the 31 mineral tenures that predate the establishment of Granby Provincial Park are such that, while no development or working of the claims is allowed, they are in “good standing” until compensation is negotiated with the government. Once compensation is negotiated, the claims will expire.

Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work cooperatively with other government agencies, companies and individuals who are responsible for the management of private inholdings, tenures and, to ensure BC Parks’ conservation and recreation goals and objectives for the park are not compromised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with leaseholders to ensure that developments are compatible with park management goals and objectives. • Liaise with other agencies, companies and private individuals to ensure the parks’ natural and cultural values and opportunities are protected and enhanced. • Monitor the impacts of tenures on the park’s natural and cultural values and opportunities for visitor experiences.
<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.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities Management

Introduction

Granby Provincial Park has a number of natural and cultural values that create regionally and provincially significant visual, recreation and tourism opportunities. Given the wilderness character of the park, a conservative approach to the management and development of the recreation and tourism values 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 gain access to the park from the Mt. Scaia Road or the Lightning Peaks Road on the north side of the park. Road access is possible to the southern perimeter of the park via the Granby and Bluejoint Mountain logging roads. 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 airspace 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"> Close the Mt. Scaia Road to public vehicle use. Work with BC Hydro and other interests to find the best location for a gate near the park boundary and sign the road. In the Lightning Peak area, deactivate the portion of the old road within the park and sign it for non-motorized recreation activities and snowmobile use. 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 de-activate 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. ATV's will not be permitted.

Recreational Opportunities

Recreation is an important part of visitor enjoyment and appreciation of a park. Generally, recreational opportunities are judged on their possible impacts on natural values, facilities and trails, the wilderness character and other visitors to the park. The provision of recreational opportunities must be managed in harmony with the natural and cultural values for which the park was created. Therefore, some 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.

Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimize the impact of recreational use on natural and cultural values to ensure these resources 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 monitoring program to evaluate impacts of recreation 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, and quotas may be instituted.

Hiking, Backpacking, Mountain Biking and Horseback Riding Opportunities

Hiking, backpacking and horseback riding are activities that have been occurring for decades in Granby Provincial Park. Mountain biking is a more recent activity. There are several old trails in the park that weave along the Granby River valley or along ridges and height-of-land routes. Horse trails lead through the alpine and subalpine meadows from Lightning Peak to Mount Scaia. Many of the trails are overgrown or in disrepair. The Granby trail in the southern end of the park is the only trail that has seen recent improvements. Many of the trails traverse through Grizzly habitat. Interactions between park visitors and bears can result in harm to both visitors and bears.

Objectives	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide and maintain opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, backpacking and horseback riding within Granby Provincial Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the trail network in Granby Provincial Park that is in accordance with the Backcountry Recreation Plan. Advise hikers, backpackers, mountain bikers and horseback riders of appropriate bear avoidance behaviour 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 opportunities. Implement appropriate management actions such as temporary closures, site hardening, visitor education, and annual maintenance programs where necessary.

Camping Opportunities

For many visitors to Granby Provincial Park, a key experience is camping. Visitors come for a backcountry experience that can last from one to several days. The only opportunity currently available to overnight in the park is by tenting. There is no vehicle-accessible frontcountry camping available in the park.

Objective	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a range of backcountry camping opportunities within Granby Provincial Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 overnight opportunities.

Winter Recreation

Winter recreation activities represent an important segment of the recreational use in Granby Provincial Park. The alpine and sub-alpine terrain of the Galloping Hills, Gunwad Mountain, Bluejoint and Lightning Peaks areas cater to family-oriented and touring snowmobile opportunities. Several organized snowmobile clubs use the area and have cabins outside of the park. Snowmobiling generally occurs from early December through to May.

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 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 is conducted in the area. Use currently is quite low due to rather restricted access. Some commercial ski touring is conducted in the Midway Range and northern end of the park, and outside the park adjacent to the west boundary.

Objective	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide safe, low impact winter recreation opportunities while limiting conflict between wildlife, commercial and non-commercial 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 various winter recreational/commercial activities by applying spatial and temporal restrictions where appropriate. All winter activities must adhere to a 'pack in – pack out' policy. Allow snowmobile use in the Natural Environment zone for designated periods only.

Objective	Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

Commercial Recreation

Commercial recreation is an important part of some visitors' enjoyment and appreciation of protected areas. Granby Provincial Park is currently used as a destination for a small number of commercial recreation operators. Demand for commercial recreation services may grow as 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 to accommodating 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 social carrying capacity of the park, and within the 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 capacity, 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. In accordance with the Backcountry Recreation Plan, quotas may be set for commercial guides and a limit set on public visitation when monitoring shows that environmental and/or social carrying capacities are close to being exceeded. Minimize conflict between public and commercial recreation interests. Develop and implement a monitoring program to assess impacts 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. Three registered guide-outfitting territories cover the park, although 90% of the park is contained in one of them (GO105117). This business provides hunting for all big game species for which there is an open season including black bear, mountain goat, elk, mule deer and white-tailed deer, cougar, lynx and bobcat. Granby Provincial Park is open to legal hunting as specified in the 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. A spectrum of management techniques including open seasons, limited entry permits, and hunting closures may be applied.

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 Fish and 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 downward to meet population objectives or according to fluctuations in wildlife populations 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 help to avoid conflicts between users.

Management Services

BC Parks of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection is the provincial government agency responsible for the planning and management of Granby 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 Granby Provincial 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 to communicate important park themes and messages. BC Parks is an agency with a number of important functions, and visitor/public information 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 Granby Provincial Park. 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 Granby 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 Granby 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. Granby Provincial Park has evidence of First Nation's and Post-Contact presence. Granby Provincial Park communications programs will seek to inform the visitor about First Nations and Post-Contact history.

Protecting the Resource and Yourself

A key theme that is of particular importance to Granby Provincial 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 communications. 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 inform and enlighten park visitors through the provision of accurate and interesting information on Granby Provincial 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 information and interpretive messages that tell the important park stories, and relay important information on the natural and cultural values of the park. 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. Work closely with local First Nations to ensure their culture and history is accurately portrayed in park communication material. Develop and use off-site interpretation media to deliver the important park messages for Granby Provincial Park. Upgrade and keep current information and maps regarding the park on the BC Parks website (www.elp.gov.bc.ca/bcaparks/).

Recreation, Natural and Cultural Heritage Education

Recreation, natural and cultural heritage education programs and services are an important activity in protected area 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. Granby Provincial Park protects and portrays important recreation, and 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 Granby 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"> ➤ The role of parks and protected areas; ➤ The role of Granby 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;

Objective	Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The relationship between human history and the environment including First Nations, and European settlement and development; ➤ Information that will enhance visitor use, safety and enjoyment of park facilities and services. • 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 Granby 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 areas 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, powerboating, 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 Rathrevor 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.