

KEREMEOS COLUMNS PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

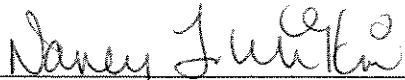
February 2006

Approved by:



Drew Carmichael
Okanagan Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 8, 2006



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 25, 2006

Keremeos Columns Provincial Park Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Keremeos Columns Provincial Park, 20 hectares in size, is located in the Armstrong Creek area about 8.5 km north of Keremeos. Access is off Highway 3A via a gated, steep, rough non-status road that passes through private property. The volcanic columns are on privately owned Lot 2963. The park lies about 150 metres north and upslope of the columns. Permission to use the road to hike or drive to the columns must be obtained from the landowner. The park can be reached on foot from the columns area or further north off the non-status road.

The volcanic formation consists of slowly-cooled lava with the characteristic vertically-hexagonal jointing of basalt. The basalt columns rise 50 metres out of the surrounding Douglas fir forest and the cliff face extends about 200 metres. The Keremeos columns share the same geological phenomenon status as the Giant Causeway in Northern Ireland and the Devil's Tower in Wyoming. *Lewisia* add colour to the area when in bloom.

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Keremeos Columns Park is to protect a small area of Douglas fir forest and red-listed Columbian Goldenweed (*Pyrrcoma carthamoides var. carthamoides*) and red-listed Strict Buckwheat (*Eriogonum strictum var. proliferum*).

Management Issues

Known Management Issues	Response
The park does not contain the geological feature for which it is named. Park name suggests the feature is in the park. Access to the park is via private property.	Consider purchase of the private land occupied by the columns if the owners are interested and public access can be resolved to the owners' and BC Parks' satisfaction. If purchase is not feasible, consider re-naming the park to reduce public confusion about the location of the columns. As long as access is through and the columns are on private property, BC Parks should not encourage public use of the park.
Limited information is available on rare and endangered species and communities.	Complete a rare/endangered species and communities inventory or a sensitive ecosystem assessment

Zoning

The entire park is zoned Nature Recreation to protect its forest habitat and rare species and allow low-impact recreation activities such as hiking.

Protected Area Values and Significance Summary Matrix

Conservation

Representation

Ecosection

Okanagan Range – minimal contribution (0.03%) to the protected area system representation. This ecosection is well represented (14.2%) in the protected area system.

Biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

IDFdk1 – This ecosystem unit is well represented (11.4%) in the protected area system. The park makes a minimal contribution (0.23%) to the overall protected area system representation of this subzone/variant.

IDFhx1 – This ecosystem unit is moderately represented (7.14%) in the protected area system. The park makes a minimal contribution (0.09%) to the overall protected area system representation of this subzone/variant.

Special Features

Rare/Endangered Values

X Red-listed Columbian Goldenweed and red-listed Strict Buckwheat

Scientific/Research Opportunities

Recreation

Representation

Backcountry

Destination

Travel corridor

Local recreation

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

Cultural Heritage

Representation

Special Feature

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations

Relationship to Other Protected Areas

Collaborative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

Area

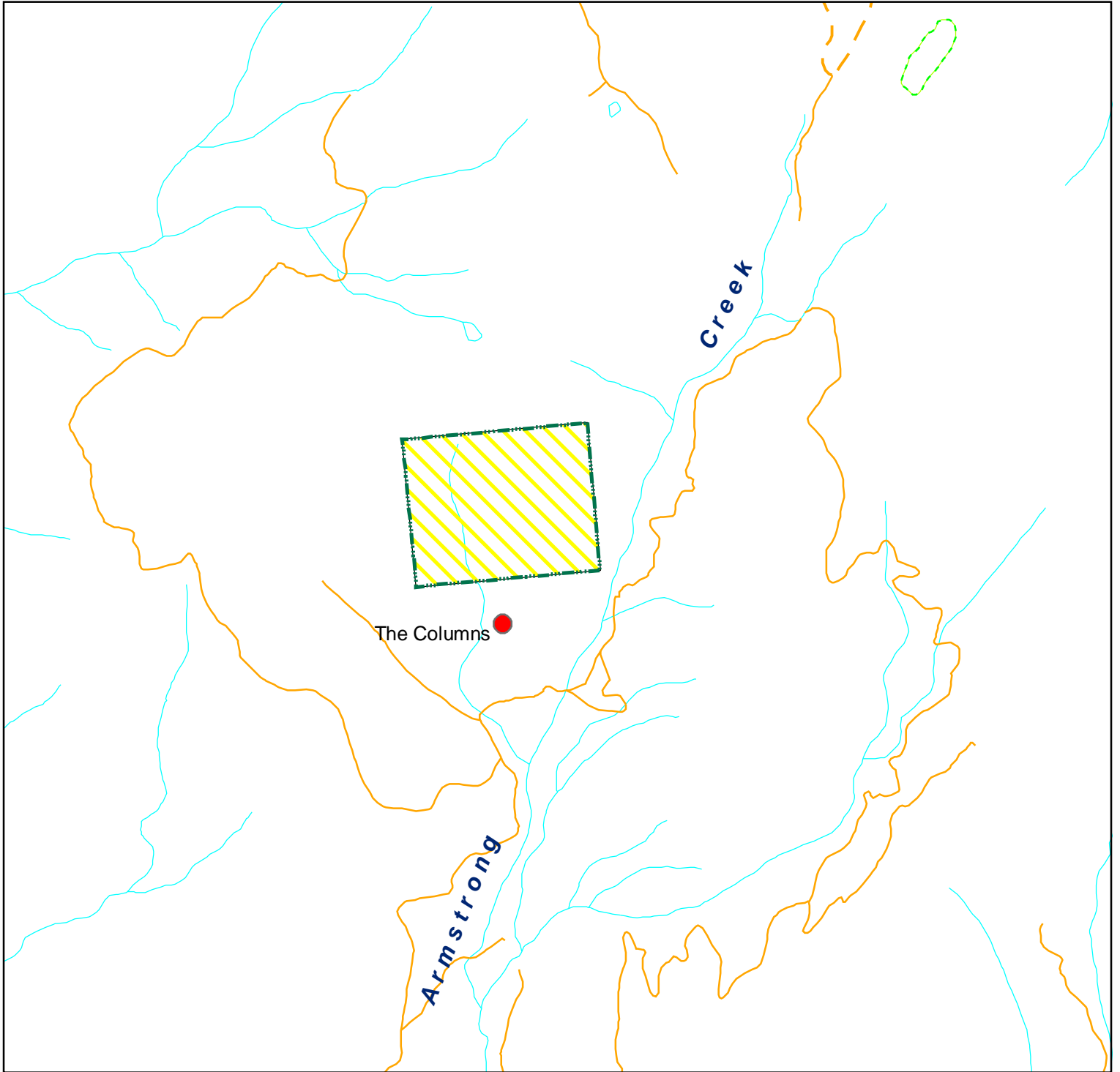
20 ha

Date of establishment

July 31, 1931

Zoning Map

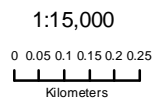
Keremeos Columns Provincial Park



 Nature Recreation



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Projection: UTM Zone 11
Datum: NAD83

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