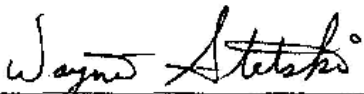


KIKOMUN CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

February 2003

Approved by:



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Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: 13-02-03



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Date: 25-02-03

KIKOMUN CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Kikomun Creek Provincial Park is to protect a rare open forest and grassland ecosystem within the East Kootenay Trench Ecoregion.

Most of these ecosystems are located on private land and utilized for consumptive land practices such as grazing and forestry. The East Kootenay Trench Ecoregion is a major landscape component of the East Kootenay which is significantly under-represented within the protected areas system. Although there are 15 parks in the ecoregion, combined they cover only about 3,000 ha in total area. Among these protected areas, Kikomun Creek Provincial Park is integral in sustaining a variety of “at risk” flora and fauna species.

The prevalence of the remnant IDFm2 biogeoclimatic zone within Kikomun Creek Provincial Park outlines the importance of this protected area in maintaining province-wide biodiversity. Moreover, the landscape is complemented by a system of kettle lakes and a major reservoir further enhancing fish and wildlife habitat.

Secondary Role

The **secondary role** of the park is to maintain the outdoor recreation destination and tourism travel corridor opportunities oriented to a lake and grasslands setting.

Kikomun Creek Provincial Park is a major holiday destination that is an attraction unto itself providing a wide range of opportunities, park features, facilities and services. It is strategically close to major population centres in Alberta drawing visitors into the province and situated near major east-west and north-south (international border) transportation corridors.

The park also has a role in providing day use recreational opportunities to communities throughout the region. Kikomun Creek Provincial Park is the largest intensive day use area in the East Kootenay. It is unsurpassed in the diversity and quantity of recreational opportunities provided.

Tertiary Role

The **tertiary role** of the park is to provide wildlife viewing, study and nature appreciation opportunities in grassland and kettle lake environments. Kikomun Creek Provincial Park is used for nature study, outdoor recreation skills development training and scientific grassland research. Abandoned railway beds, portions of the historical Kalispel Trail and archaeological remains can be found throughout the park.

Known Management Issues	Response
Recreational use is threatening the extremely high ecological values of the park as well as species at risk.	Re-inventory of species at risk as well as assessment of recreational use pressures and threats. Strategic plan required.
Non-native invasive plants (spotted and diffuse knapweed, burdock, hounds-tongue, St. John's Wort) threatening natural species and landscapes.	Inventory required showing extent of species locations and vigor. Active control of knapweed and hounds-tongue has been ongoing and should be continued.
Illegal motorized vehicle use threatening the open forest/grasslands.	Continued management in terms of park boundary, associated information signage and enforcement required.
Forest in-growth and a lack of natural fire are threatening the open forest/grassland ecosystem.	An Ecological Restoration Plan has been in place for a number of years and work has been initiated. It is critical that research monitoring be done as well as actual restoration work. As outside funding is required to pay for some of this work, annual applications for funding are required. Continue to implement priority recommendations of plan.
Recreational use may be threatening aquatic and invertebrate populations associated with water bodies in lake.	Overview assessment needs to be done to determine species and abundance.
Human use levels nearing capacity.	Limit any further recreational facility development and initiate day use fees to cover operational costs as well to address carrying capacity issues. Management strategy required.
Recreational use expanding out onto endangered ecosystem lands.	Monitoring of this gradual expansion onto sensitive grasslands is required as is a management strategy to address the impact.
Non-native fish in lakes.	Assessment/inventory required and strategy.
Significant ecological areas in park threatened.	Closure of Hunts Hill to recreational use.
Private land development in park may pose a threat to park values.	Purchase in-holding private land when available.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation (approximately 52 ha or 8% of the park)

Objective: To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural Environment (approximately 630 ha or 92% of the park)

Objectives: To protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EKT (East Kootenay Trench) This ecosection is very poorly represented (0.68%) in the PA system. Kikomun Park makes a significant contribution to the protected area of this ecosection (24%). The park ranks as one of the highest in representation of EKT within the entire PA system. Other significant contributors include Premier Lake (27%), Burges and James Gadsden (13%) and Columbia Lake (8%).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contributes significantly to the representation of the very poorly represented IDF dm2. Only 0.93% of the IDF dm2 is represented in the PA system. 23% of the overall representation of the IDF dm2 is provided by Kikomun Creek Park, ranking it second behind Premier Lake Park (27.7%). Only 0.2 % of the BEC in the entire Kootenay region is represented in this park.
Special Feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eskers (drumlins), kettle lakes and sand beach. 80-100 elk use the park as winter range and the area has been enhanced to improve forage (tree removal, controlled burning, and planting of native species).
Rare/Endangered Values	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Endangered open forest/grassland ecosystem with kettle lakes and many known SAR which include amphibians (2r) (2b), reptiles (1b), birds (12r)(19b) mammals (4r)(3b), plant species (3r).
Scientific/Research Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ecological restoration monitoring is being carried out with other agencies and NGO`s.

Recreation

Representation backcountry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.
destination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Albertans make up the majority of users.
travel corridor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.
local recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Some use by local residents for water

oriented activities.

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| Special Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> | None identified. |
| Education/Interpretation Opportunities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Great opportunity for informing park visitors about grassland restoration, respecting species/ habitat at risk, and cultural history respecting early “European” settlement and transportation as well as First Nations use of the area. The multi-use park is host to a variety of visitors (campers, day use, mountain bikers and hikers) particularly in the summer months. |

Cultural Heritage

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|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Representation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Both First Nations and European heritage values in park. |
| Special Feature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Area of hunting and gathering by the Ktunaxa/ Kinbasket.
One known archeological site and numerous traditional use sites spread throughout park.

Kalispel Trail and old railway bed. |

Other Management Considerations

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Other Designations | <input type="checkbox"/> | None identified. |
| Relationship to other PAs | <input type="checkbox"/> | None identified. |
| Co-operative Management Arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/> | None identified. |
| Partnerships | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | A number of NGO`s as well as other Government agencies have worked with the ES division on grassland conservation/restoration initiatives. |
| Vulnerability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | As this park is very small and is surrounded by private and public lands, it has a “high” conservation risk. |
| Relationship to other Strategies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ES division continues to work with other grassland restoration initiatives such as The Land Conservancy, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. |

Area: 682 hectares

Date of establishment: May 18, 1972