

KOOTENAY LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK (COFFEE CREEK SITE)

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

February 2003

Approved by:


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KOOTENAY LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK (Coffee Creek Site)

Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary role** of the Coffee Creek site of Kootenay Lake Provincial Park is to provide outstanding recreation opportunities that contribute to the role of Kootenay Lake as a boating, camping and fishing destination. Kootenay Lake is the second largest lake in British Columbia. Stretching over 100 km in length and nestled between the Purcell Mountains and the Selkirk Mountains, this scenic lake has a variety of interesting natural and cultural shoreline features that complement an outstanding sport fishery.

Kootenay Lake Provincial Park is comprised of five sites, which are widely dispersed, mainly small areas along the Kootenay Lake shoreline. The Coffee Creek site is a secluded beach area centrally situated close to the confluence of the north and south arms of Kootenay Lake. A small bay along the foreshore and fishing opportunities at the outlet of Coffee Creek are the most popular attractions within the park. In addition, the proximity to other provincial park sites along Kootenay Lake makes it a desirable stop over for multi-day kayaking trips.

The provincial park no longer has vehicle access because of a recent major mud/debris slide on the lower sections of the Coffee Creek Forest Service Road. The lack of vehicle access has increased the site's popularity as a destination for boaters.

Secondary Role

The **secondary role** is to protect the riparian corridor of Coffee Creek as it flows through the northern fringes of the park and into Kootenay Lake. Bull trout, a known species at risk (blue-listed), utilize Coffee Creek for spawning and are a critical component to the Kootenay Lake fishery. To protect this essential spawning area, regulations prohibit recreational angling along the creek. Fishing is allowed only at the outlet into Kootenay Lake.

Known Management Issues	Response
Invasive weed infestations (e.g. knapweed) along beachfront.	Inventory, monitoring, develop and implement control strategies.
Coffee Creek washout (1999) removed vehicle/pedestrian access.	No new road/trails to foreshore constructed. Shift to marine access only.

Known Management Issues	Response
Protection of bull trout spawning and rearing habitat.	<p>The section of Coffee Creek within the park is closed to fishing. Monitoring and enforcement when appropriate.</p> <p>Liaison with MoF to determine and mitigate negative effects of upstream logging/road development.</p>

Zoning

Intensive Recreation (approximately 9% of the site)

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

Natural Environment (approximately 91% of the site)

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

Conservation

- Representation
-ecosection 1/3 of the park is contained within the Central Columbia Mountains (CCM) ecosection. The CCM Ecosection is well represented (19%) in the protected areas system. Kootenay Lake Provincial Park (all sites) contributes scarcely to total province wide representation of CCM (0.04%). Remainder of Coffee Creek situated in the Southern Columbia Mountains (SCM) Ecosection which is under represented in the protected areas system (6.38%). Kootenay Lake Provincial Park (all sites) is a negligible contributor to the protected areas system representation of the SCM (0.58%).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Province-wide ICHdw is under represented (4%). Kootenay Lake Provincial Park (all sites) contributes minimally to protected areas system representation of ICHdw (1.74%).
- Special Feature None identified.
- Rare/Endangered Values Spawning habitat for bull trout (b). Other values not yet assessed.
- Scientific/Research Values None identified.

Recreation

- Representation
-backcountry Not applicable.
- destination Small, but popular boating destination. Contributes to resort, cottage community and marina infrastructure on Kootenay Lake.
- travel corridor Not applicable.
- local recreation Camping (5 sites), picnicking, boating, swimming and fishing.
- Special Opportunities None identified.

Education/Interpretation Opportunities None identified.

Cultural Heritage

Representation Not yet assessed.

Special Features None identified.

Other Management Considerations

Other designations None identified.

Relationship to other PAs 1 of 4 marine accessible parks on the north arm of Kootenay Lake. Along the western shore of Kootenay Lake, Lost Ledge and Davis Creek are within 42 km and 52 km respectively. Cody Caves is the closest park, 6 km to the northwest.

Cooperative Management Arrangements None identified.

Partnerships None identified.

Vulnerability Upstream logging may adversely effect spawning habitat (siltation, debris flows).

Relationship to other Strategies None identified.

Area: 52 hectares

Date of Establishment: December 4, 1987