Gwyneth Lake Park
Management Plan

Approved by:

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this document is to guide the management of Gwyneth Lake Park. This management plan:

- articulates the key features and values of Gwyneth Lake Park;
- identifies the types and levels of management activities;
- determines the appropriate levels of use and development;
- clearly establishes the long-term vision and management objectives to be met; and
- responds to current and predicted future threats and opportunities by defining a set of management strategies.

1.2 Planning Area

Gwyneth Lake Park is 132 hectares in size and situated on the Hurley Forest Service Road approximately six kilometres south of the town of Gold Bridge, 70 kilometres west of Lillooet and 60 kilometres north of Pemberton (Figure 1). The park centres on Gwyneth Lake, a small (29 hectares), shallow, marshy lake with a six unit rustic campground. The park provides opportunities for fishing, camping, picnicking, and as a base for hiking and ATV touring in the surrounding area.

The park and surrounding area have been logged and are in a state of vigorous regeneration. Logging is the primary activity taking place on surrounding lands. The network of logging roads and trails is used by ATV users and snowmobilers.

Gold Bridge and Bralorne are the nearest communities to Gwyneth Lake Park.
Figure 1: Context Map for Gwyneth Lake Park
1.3 Legislative Framework

This park was recommended through the Lilooet Land and Resource Management Plan in 2004 and formally established as a Class A park by the Protected Areas of British Columbia Amendment Act, 2010 on June 3, 2010. The park is presently named and described in Schedule D of the Protected Areas of British Columbia Act.

Class A parks are Crown lands dedicated to the preservation of their natural environments for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public. Development in Class A parks is limited to that which is necessary to maintain the park’s recreational values. Some activities that existed at the time a park was established (e.g., grazing, hay cutting) may be allowed to continue in certain Class A parks but commercial resource extraction or development activities are not permitted (i.e., logging, mining or hydroelectric development).

1.4 Management Commitments/Agreements

The Lilooet Land and Resource Management Plan identified Gwyneth Lake as a small lake for destination and day use for motorists on the Hurley Forest Service Road and to be used for intensive recreation. The goal for the campground was to retain the present rustic condition.

1.5 Management Planning Process

BC Parks consulted with other government agencies, public interest groups, stakeholders and the general public in the development of this draft management plan. Summaries of input from various groups were posted to the BC Parks website as they became available. BC Parks obtained information on values, uses, present and future desired activities, the desired experience, public and commercial recreational use, issues and items needing management attention. Input received during the public review of the first draft was taken into consideration in the development of this revised draft management plan.

1.6 Relationship with First Nations

Gwyneth Lake Park is situated within the traditional territory of the St’at’imc Nation. BC Parks will seek an ongoing relationship with First Nations to find common interests and direction for the future management of Bridge River Delta Park.

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1 Applies only to Class A parks listed in Schedule D of the Protected Areas of British Columbia Act.
2.0 Values and Roles of the Protected Area

Gwyneth Lake Park is primarily a recreational stop catering to visitors travelling over the Hurley Forest Service Road from the Vancouver area. It provides a location to camp while participating in other recreational activities in the surrounding area, primarily hiking, hunting, touring roads in the surrounding area or visiting the communities of Gold Bridge or Bralorne. The six site campground is rustic in nature. Old forest access roads and skid trails provide an opportunity to explore the park and area beyond the campground.

Almost all of the park has been previously logged and contains numerous access roads and skid trails. The forest is now a vigorous, early to mid-aged second growth forest consisting largely of lodgepole pine, Englemann spruce and Douglas-fir.

Due to its small size, the park provides minimal representation to the Southern Chilcotin Ranges Ecoregion and the MSdc1 variant.

The lake contains Rainbow Trout and is used by anglers year round.

Gwyneth Lake is a small, marshy, shallow lake with an abundance of aquatic vegetation. Waterfowl are common on the lake, with some breeding occurring due to the abundance of food in the productive shallow areas of the lake.
3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Management Vision

Gwyneth Lake Park provides a rustic camping opportunity in a secluded setting. Visitors use the campground as a base for hunting or exploring in the surrounding area by mountain bike, ATV or 4X4. The lake continues to provide opportunities for wildlife viewing while hiking or camping, and angling in both summer and winter.

The area continues to support healthy wildlife populations, primarily focussed on the productive wetland areas of the lake.

3.2 Management Objectives and Strategies

The park is considered a key element in the tourism economy of the community of Gold Bridge, giving visitors an opportunity to camp and explore the local area. The campground provides one option in the spectrum of accommodation types close to the local community of Gold Bridge. To encourage more visitors to the area, there is local interest in providing a higher standard of facilities, with possibly more sites becoming available while retaining the rustic, unstructured nature of the campground.

Old skid trails and roads in the park are becoming overgrown, gradually restricting hiking opportunities for campers. There is an opportunity to increase nature appreciation based upon trails, the lakeshore setting and wetland area.

Grizzly Bears are regularly observed in the general area and are considered a viewing attraction, although there is no specific site where regular viewing takes place. The presence of bears brings potential conflict, with the need for campers to be more bear aware and to eliminate bear attractants.

Rainbow Trout spawn outside of the park in the outlet stream where there is marginal spawning substrate, making them susceptible to stream changes such as caused by beaver dams and tree falls.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Objectives</th>
<th>Management Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce or eliminate potential conflicts with bears.</td>
<td>• Ensure a high level of bear awareness and bear management strategies to prevent bears from habituating to human presence. Information on wildlife and how to behave around them (e.g., pamphlets, signs) should be available in the park. • Have zero tolerance for leaving attractants at unoccupied campsites. • Ensure proper storage of food and cleaning of fish. Consider provision of bear proof storage lockers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide a rustic campground with flexibility to cater to different visitor types.</td>
<td>• Improve campground facilities (toilets, tables, fire pits) with the expectation to maintain a rustic and largely unstructured camping experience where campers are self-sufficient. Provide a site layout that caters to both individuals seeking a degree of seclusion and small groups. • Consider expansion of the campground as usage indicates to a maximum of twenty sites. Expansion will be informed by bear hazard evaluations that will 1) determine levels of bear use; 2) protect critical bear habitat; and 3) minimize the potential for bear-human interactions. • Provide hiking opportunities that allow visitors to experience park values and explore natural features outside of the campground. • Provide for hand launch car-top type boat access to the lake. A small, rustic dock may be a consideration depending upon future use levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate exploration of the surrounding landscape outside the park.</td>
<td>• Allow designated access for ATVs from the campground to areas outside the park that will minimize the potential for disturbance to areas used by wildlife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support a continued successful Rainbow Trout fishery.</td>
<td>• Conduct a standard lake fisheries assessment to determine the productivity of the fishery. • Manage the lake and spawning habitat for a productive natural fishery. • Encourage the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations or other interest groups to monitor spawning areas outside the park and restore if necessary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.3 Zoning Plan

In general terms, a zoning plan divides a park into logical management units within which certain activities/uses are permitted and a particular set of management objectives apply. Zoning is often used to physically separate incompatible activities or uses within the park and provides visitors and managers with a quick visual representation and appreciation of how a particular park is managed. Zones are designed to reflect the physical environment, existing patterns of use and the desired level of management and development in a given management unit.

Gwyneth Lake Park is highly accessible from all sides by forest access roads. The park is divided into two zones (Figure 2) that reflect the highest use area around the campground and the remainder of the park that will provide habitat for wildlife but still allow visitors to explore the park.

3.3.1 Intensive Recreation Zone

The objective of this zone is to provide rustic, vehicle-accessed camping opportunities. It comprises approximately 3 hectares, or 2.3% of the park, on the eastern shore of the lake with all of the park’s limited recreational facilities and infrastructure located in this zone. Access for ATVs or snowmobiles can occur.

3.3.2 Nature Recreation Zone

The objective for this zone is to protect scenic values and maintain the value of the area for wildlife habitat. Access to the lake is provided for year-round fishing and hiking. Opportunities are available for visitors to explore and observe the natural features of the park. ATV use along a designated access route through the Nature Recreation Zone from the campground may be considered to access regularly used areas outside of the park. Snowmobiles can use these designated trails or the lake. This zone comprises approximately 129 hectares, or 97.7% of the park.
Figure 2: Zoning Map for Gwyneth Lake Park
4.0 Plan Implementation

4.1 Implementation Plan

Specific projects will be evaluated for priority in relation to the overall protected areas system. BC Parks will collaborate with First Nations on all aspects of park management. Where needed, BC Parks will seek project-specific funding and partners to implement management strategies.

4.2 High Priority Strategies

The following strategies have been identified as high priorities for implementation:

- Ensure a high level of bear awareness and bear management strategies to prevent bears from habituating to human presence. Information on wildlife and how to behave around them (pamphlets, signs) should be available in the park.

- Improve campground facilities with the expectation to maintain a rustic and largely unstructured camping experience where campers are self-sufficient.

4.3 Plan Assessment

In order to ensure that the management direction for Gwyneth Lake Park remains relevant and effective, BC Parks staff will ensure that the management plan is assessed by BC Parks staff on a regular basis (i.e., at least every 5 years). Minor administrative updates may be identified and completed at any time (e.g., correct spelling errors, update protected area details where needed), and will be documented according to BC Parks guidelines.

If an internal assessment reveals that the management plan requires updating or substantial new management direction is needed, a formal review by BC Parks may be initiated to determine whether the management plan requires an amendment or if a new management plan is required.

The management plan amendment process or development of a new management plan includes an opportunity for public input.
Appendix 1: Appropriate Use Table

The following table summarizes existing and potential future uses in Gwyneth Lake Park that are and are not appropriate in each zone. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all uses that may be considered in this park in the future.

Please note that many appropriate uses are geographically restricted (i.e., only allowed in certain areas of Gwyneth Lake Park) or are only appropriate at certain times of the year. Please ensure that you are well informed of any use restrictions as indicated in the table. It is a good idea to review relevant sections of the management plan where indicated in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appropriate Use Table Legend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>N</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Y</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Y1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>N/A</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity/Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating (non-power)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating (power)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping – vehicle accessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish stocking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish habitat enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grazing (domestic livestock)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking/Backpacking/Walking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse use/pack animals (not exotic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanized Off-road Access (non-motorised – i.e. mountain biking)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorised Off-road Access (not snowmobiles – i.e., 4x4, motorcycles, ATV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobiling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trapping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative buildings and compounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat launches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretation and information buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huts, shelters and lodges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roads and parking lots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails (hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wharves/docks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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