

Monashee Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

Prepared by
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Southern Interior Region
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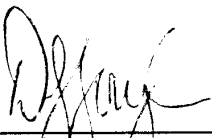
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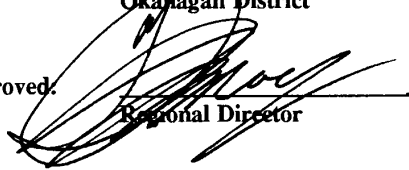
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Monashee

Provincial Park

Master Plan

Recommended: 
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Plan Highlights

Monashee Provincial Park was established in 1962 in recognition of the scenic and recreation qualities of Spectrum Lake and the alpine and sub-alpine country surrounding Peters Lake. Although considered one of the province's most picturesque mountain parks, Monashee Park remains relatively unknown to British Columbians and is primarily used by residents of the Okanagan. This Master Plan sets out directions to maintain the natural qualities and relatively remote wilderness atmosphere of the park while establishing a wider base of public recognition and use of its outstanding recreation opportunities.

Commitments for resource management include:

- undertaking a boundary study to expand the wilderness dimensions of the park;
- development of a park vegetation management plan; and,
- minimizing visitor impacts to mountain caribou and grizzly bears.

Commitments for facility development and maintenance include:

- reconstruction of the Spectrum to Peters Lakes trail to a better gradient;
- relocation of the present trail from Peters to Margie Lakes from the wet meadows to more durable terrain;
- longer term relocation of trail along the west and south side of Peters Lake to provide a more scenic and pleasant access route;
- maintenance of all main access and park trails to good backcountry standard; and,
- phased development of more dispersed designated campsites at Peters Lake.

Development and visitor use management actions are directed toward:

- maintaining present access in Spectrum Creek on the west side of the park and recognizing the potential of the Paint Lake route for access on the east side;
- relating to the traditional and established use of Spectrum and Peters Lakes as the focus for backpacking destinations;
- placing emphasis on backpacking, hiking, exploring and general enjoyment of the natural values and scenic beauty of the park; and,
- increasing public awareness and understanding of the park and its special conservation and recreation values in the provincial park system.

Introduction

Monashee Park was established in 1962 in recognition of the scenic and recreation qualities of Spectrum Lake and the alpine and sub-alpine country surrounding Peters Lake. Beyond the general objective of protecting park values and providing for public safety, no other role for the park or directions for its long term development and management had been identified. Through the intervening years to the present there has, as a consequence, been a deliberate tendency on the part of park managers to maintain a very cautious approach to promotion and development of the park.

By the late 1980's a number of issues had arisen which clearly pointed to the need for an overall Master Plan for the park. As a major issue, construction of a forest harvesting road parallel to the main park access trail in the Spectrum Creek drainage brought into focus a number of questions about how the park should be developed and managed.

The public involvement process for the plan has revealed a wide range of opinions with most people wishing improved park access and facilities but also a large proportion advocating retention of the remote nature and qualities of the park. Between these two widely differing positions, there is a common element of agreement on the need to expand the park. Many of those who presently support the status quo suggest that expansion of the Park would allow for improved access and development.

Largely as a result of this planning process, the Parks and Wilderness for the 90s initiative in 1990 identified the proposed expansion to Monashee Park as candidate area for park study. The Parks and Wilderness for the 90s program relied heavily on public input to review, discuss and prepare a system plan for provincial parks and wilderness areas. This program was supplanted in 1992 by the Provincial Protected Areas Strategy to provide a much more comprehensive analysis and direction for protecting natural, recreational and cultural values in the province. Under this new direction, the Monashee Park expansion was assigned "Category 3" study status with the intent that a park boundary study would be undertaken by 1995 with involvement of resource agencies and the public.

Purpose of the Plan

This Master Plan presents directions for use and development of Monashee Park which, while not likely to satisfy all interests, attempts to reflect an acceptable compromise between various public opinions. The Master Plan states the basic roles and objectives for the park and addresses a number of key issues relating to park access, appropriate levels of use and facility development, and strategies for managing vegetation, wildlife and wilderness resource values. The Plan also makes recommendations for review of the present park boundaries.

The outcome of studies for expansion of park boundaries could significantly influence future park development and management. Expansion of the boundaries to include surrounding wilderness areas and a widened corridor along the Spectrum Creek trail could greatly enhance the potential of the park to provide for a wider range of recreation opportunities from relatively easy access to extensive wilderness trekking. To some extent the Master Plan has been influenced by this longer term potential, and in many respects can be considered as an interim statement for managing the park pending the outcome of the park boundary studies.

As an initial step in the Master Planning process, background information about the park was collected and documented through 1989 and 1991 including assessments of fishery capabilities, location and quality of grizzly and black bear habitats, preliminary data on mountain goat and mountain caribou distribution, general mapping of ecological units and environmental sensitivity and analysis of visitor use data. All of this information is available for viewing upon request from Regional and District Park offices.

The Master Plan was produced through staff co-ordination of the Ministry of Parks Okanagan District and the Southern Interior Region and Victoria Headquarters planning and conservation and visitor services sections. The planning process involved input from park visitors and the participation of many interested individuals and groups at open house meetings in Cherryville, Vernon and Nakusp. Appendix A provides a summary of the public involvement process and its results. Staff of the Ministry of Forests and of BC Environment were consulted on specific issues and concerns relating to their interests and expertise.

For the purposes of this Plan, the 40 metre wide corridor along the Spectrum Creek trail, which Parks has authority to manage through Order-in-Council and Section 6 of the Park Act, is included as a portion of the park.

Planning Issues

Park Role

The Master Plan identifies the role of the park within a regional and provincial context and in relation to a large Ministry of Forest Wilderness Area proposal.

Boundaries

The Master Plan defines a study area for assessing possible additions to the park. Future options for expanding recreation opportunities in the park are contingent upon enlarging the present boundaries.

Resource Management

The Master Plan identifies guidelines for developing vegetation and fire management plans as well as wildlife and fisheries management plans for the park.

Access

The Master Plan outlines management strategies for road access to the park including access requirements in the Spectrum Creek drainage, and from existing and potential access routes on the east and south sides.

Recreation Facilities and Services

The Master Plan recommends suitable distribution, types and levels of facilities and services for the Park.

Background Summary

In the 1950's a local group of outdoors people lobbied strenuously for recognition and protection of the scenic beauty of the Peters Lake area. It was largely through their efforts that Monashee Provincial Park was established on May 9th, 1962 over the beautiful wilderness setting of mountain lakes, forests and meadows found in the upper Spectrum Creek drainage.

For the most part natural features were used to define park boundaries, following heights-of-land above the sub-alpine and alpine country surrounding Peters and Margie Lakes and extending over the north side of the Bill Fraser Creek drainage, to take in a total 7,531 hectares.

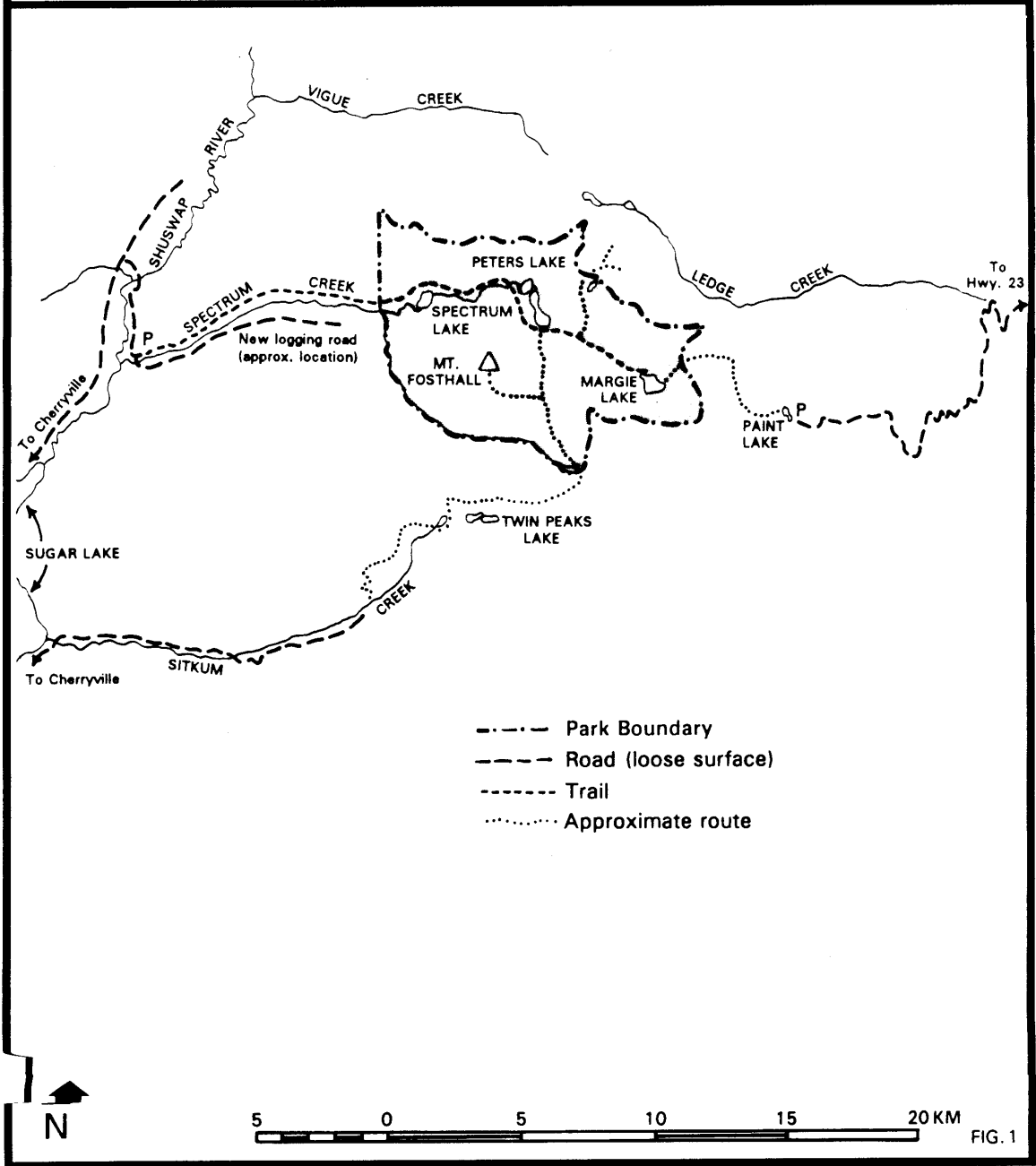
The British Columbia Protected Areas Strategy was introduced in May 1992 to "designate and manage a system of protected areas for the purpose of protecting a diversity of biological, natural and cultural heritage resources, and providing a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities." As the basis for classifying representative landforms and biological conditions, the province is divided into 105 "ecosections". Monashee Park falls within the Central Columbia Mountains Ecosection which is considered to be reasonably well represented by the combined protected areas of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy, Monashee, Valhalla, Kokanee Glacier and St. Mary's Alpine Provincial Parks. Within this grouping of protected areas, Monashee Park contributes to but is not unique in the representation of sub-alpine, alpine and mid-valley landscapes and ecosystems of the Central Columbia Mountains.

The Park is situated about 100 kilometres northeast of Vernon and 90 kilometres southwest of Revelstoke. By far the most popular access route is the Spectrum Creek trail which involves a gradual 13 kilometre climb into Spectrum Lake on the west side of the park. A much less used approach is from the east following 9 kilometres of open ridges into Margie Lake. Lengthy driving distances along gravel forest roads are required to reach either of the trail heads. Most all of the trails predate the park and were established by horse users who visited the Spectrum and Peters Lakes area for fishing and hunting.

The park is distinctively mountainous with Mount Fosthall, at 2679 metres, as the highest and most commanding summit. The rugged terrain reflects past periods of active glaciation as evidenced by steep sided valleys, headwalls, moraine deposits, cirques, tarns and hanging valleys. A steep headwall forms a sharp elevational separation of Spectrum Lake in the lower Spectrum Creek Valley from the Peters Lake basin and the upper reaches of the Valley.

MONASHEE PROVINCIAL PARK

GENERAL LOCATION AND FEATURES



The climate of the Monashee Mountains is typical of the Interior wet belt with relatively long snowy winters, late springs and cool, wet summers. Climate, elevation and slope aspect are the major factors which influence the types and distribution of plants and animals found in the park. Heavy snows and harsh windswept conditions of the higher elevations create extensive alpine and sub-alpine meadows. Sub-alpine forests of engelmann spruce and alpine fir extend down the slopes and eventually give way to stands of western hemlock and western red cedar on the lower valley bottoms. Mountain goats, mule deer, pikas, ptarmigan, grey jays, golden eagles and mountain chickadees are the most commonly observed mammals and birds. The low density of both grizzly and black bear in the park is indicative of the poor habitat conditions for these species. The park lies within the territory of one of the most southerly herds of mountain caribou in the province and forms an important part of their summer range. Most of the lakes have been stocked and are supporting good populations of rainbow trout.

Monashee Park has special appeal for backcountry recreation. The lake basins form the primary recreation features with each offering distinctive charms and attractions. The old growth forests of cedar-hemlock surrounding Spectrum Lake create a peaceful setting for fishing and contemplation. Higher up the open ridges, meadows and mountain basins around Peter and Margie Lakes beckon hikers, photographers and naturalists to explore and enjoy the park.

In spite of its beauty and attractions, compared to other backcountry parks in the Southern Interior, the park receives relatively low levels of use. The park tends to attract backcountry enthusiasts who are looking for a quality backcountry fishing or hiking experience. Most users originate from the nearby communities of the north Okanagan, and half or more are repeat visitors. A relatively small number of visitors enter the park by horse from the east side or fly in by float plane or helicopter.

While to some extent, the long hiking distance into the park tends to discourage inexperienced and less fit backcountry users, the low use levels, especially from outside the local region, can probably be attributed more to concern about changeable weather conditions and lack of park signing, information and promotion than to isolation and difficult access.

MONASHEE PROVINCIAL PARK

REGIONAL LOCATION

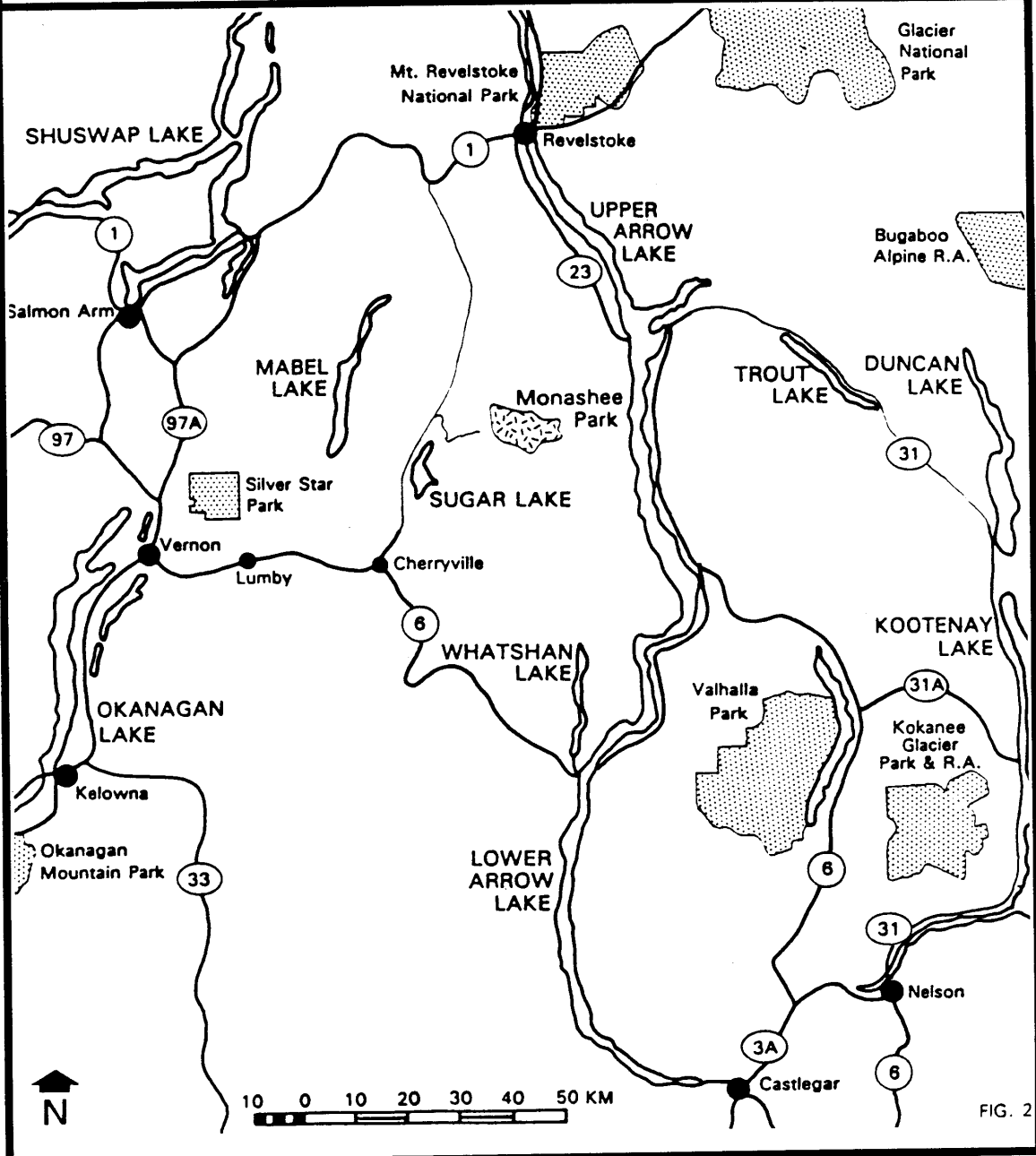


FIG. 2

The Role of the Park

Regional and Provincial Significance

The outstanding wilderness recreation opportunities, scenery and natural values of Monashee Provincial Park are of both regional and provincial significance.

The Monashee Mountains are the closest alpine and sub-alpine setting to the rapidly growing population and tourism base of the north Okanagan. The Park has the natural attributes to serve as the focus for residents and tourists to visit the Monashees. With improved access and facilities, the Park could offer relatively safe backcountry opportunities for inexperienced hikers and backpackers and would serve a similar role in promoting the natural beauty and tourism attractions of the north Okanagan as Kokanee Glacier Park does for the West Kootenay and Cathedral Park for the south Okanagan.

On a provincial basis, the Park is only beginning to be recognized for its natural qualities. Compared to the Rocky Mountains or the Selkirk Mountains, the Monashee Ranges are relatively little known. However, as recreation and tourism demands increase in the southern part of the province, outdoor enthusiasts are discovering the superb backcountry and mountain recreation opportunities of the Monashees.

From Revelstoke south to the Pinnacles, there is close to 100 kilometres of continuous ridgeline with many beautiful tarns and mountain basins offering numerous possibilities for ridge routes and backpacking destinations. The Ministry of Forests has proposed the large "Greenbush Lake" wilderness area covering much of the northern portion of the Monashees and has intentions to pursue some form of protection for the wilderness recreation values in the Pinnacles to the south of the Park. Situated in the centre of this extensive area of wilderness, the Park will be a strategic access point for introducing people to the Monashees. The higher standard of backcountry facilities and services in the core area of the Park will complement the less developed surrounding wilderness both within the Park and in the wilderness areas to the north and south by providing a range of backcountry and wilderness recreation opportunities.

Expansion of park boundaries would significantly enhance the Park's role in meeting provincial conservation and recreation objectives. The Park does not contain the high glaciated peaks as found to the north which form a dominant landscape feature of the Monashee Range nor does it extend far enough down the valleys to satisfactorily represent the range of biophysical conditions found in the Monashee Mountains. The present boundaries limit the potential to improve trails and facilities without reducing the wilderness character of the Park. Addition of alpine and sub-alpine areas to the north, east and south would greatly expand the wilderness dimensions of the Park to satisfy a variety of recreation interests from relatively easy access and safe backcountry use to pristine and unrestrained wilderness travel.

Conservation Role

The Park contributes to provincial park system conservation goals by:

- Representing a portion of the Monashee Ranges of the Central Columbia Mountains, in particular sub-alpine, alpine and mid-valley ecosystems. These characteristics are represented in a number of parks and protected areas on the west side of the Purcells, and in the Monashee and the Selkirk Ranges of the Central Columbia Mountains Ecosection.
- Maintaining the character and qualities of the environment and features which form the aesthetic and recreational appeal of the Park.
- Protecting habitats for mountain goat, mountain caribou, grizzly bear and other wildlife species.
- Allowing natural processes to occur within the limits of compatibility with park recreation and resource management objectives.

Recreation Role

The Park helps fulfil the Ministry's backcountry recreation goal, on both a provincial and regional basis, by providing a range of backcountry recreation opportunities:

- Day hiking along the main Spectrum Creek trail.
- Relatively accessible, safe and comfortable backpacking destination to Spectrum Lake with facilities and services based on the needs of less experienced backpackers, families and groups.
- More remote and challenging backpacking destination access into the Peters and Margie Lakes area with rudimentary backcountry amenities, relating to the expectations of experienced backcountry users.
- Low, dispersed levels of wilderness hiking in the more remote areas of the Park.
- Nature study, photography and appreciation of the scenic beauty of the Park.
- A variety of fishing experiences.
- Traditional horse access to Margie Lake on the east side of the Park.
- Mountain bike access to Spectrum Lake, utilizing the Spectrum Creek trail.

Park Zoning

Zoning criteria will essentially reflect the backcountry or wilderness concept for the Park. The "*Natural Environment*", "*Wilderness Recreation*", and "*Special Feature*" zones are the three zones defined under the provincial park zoning system which apply to management objectives for the Park. General management guidelines for these zones are outlined in appendix B.

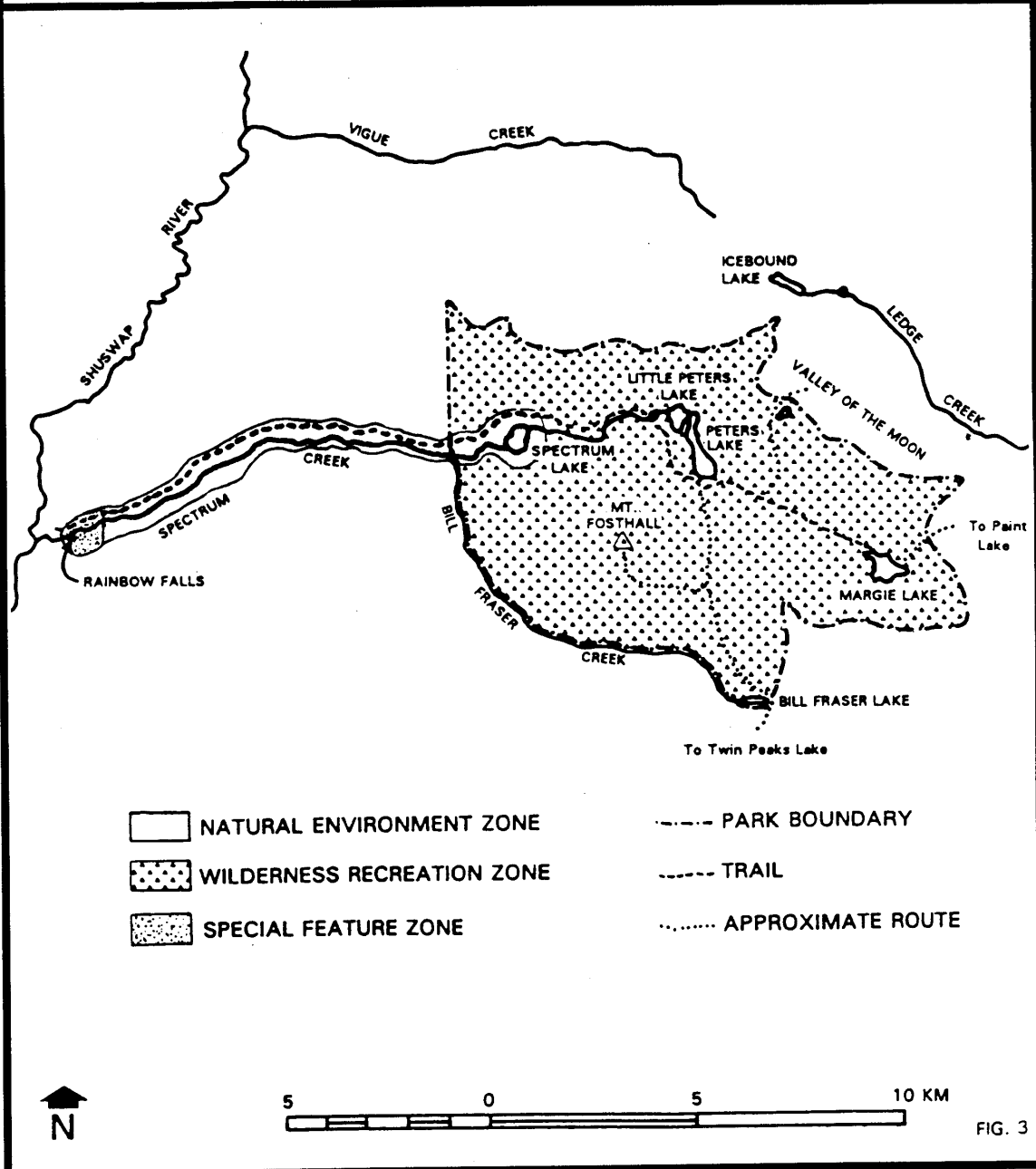
The Spectrum Creek trail and immediate environs of Spectrum Lake are included in the Natural Environment zone. In this zone moderate levels of facility development will be permitted for user convenience. Visitor use and access may be controlled to preserve the recreation experience or to limit environmental impacts.

Most of the Park, including the Peters and Margie Lakes areas, is zoned as Wilderness Recreation to relate to the primary purpose of providing recreation opportunities in a relatively remote natural environment. Facilities are limited and consistent with the wilderness experience and emphasis is placed on solitude and dispersed use.

A Special Features zone covers the Spectrum Creek waterfalls to highlight its significant attraction as a viewing feature.

MONASHEE PROVINCIAL PARK

PARK ZONING



Natural and Cultural Resource Management

Introduction

Resource management will be directed toward conservation of natural features and processes to ensure the maintenance of a quality environment for public enjoyment and recreation. Park zones will define the levels and criteria for resource management. Special measures may be applied to visitor use activities to protect sensitive resources such as the lake environs, alpine and sub-alpine meadows, mountain caribou and other special wildlife values. The confined nature of the Park dictates that natural processes such as fire and forest insects will have to be managed to protect conservation and recreational values.

Park management will be closely coordinated with resource management interests outside the Park, particularly in the Spectrum Creek drainage.

Monashee Park shall be managed in a manner that will provide for the Province's fiduciary responsibility to aboriginal people. In particular, the master plan will take into account the traditional interests of affected aboriginal people with respect to their subsistence or ceremonial activities.

Land

The character and use of the Park is very much associated with Spectrum Lake and Peters Lakes as dominant attractions. While the primary orientation would remain with the Lakes, it is felt that the Park could contribute much more significantly to provincial park conservation and recreation objectives with the addition of some of the surrounding valleys and sub-alpine and alpine country. The Master Planning process and the Parks Plan 90 initiative revealed considerable public interest and pressure for a review of the park boundaries.

Objectives:

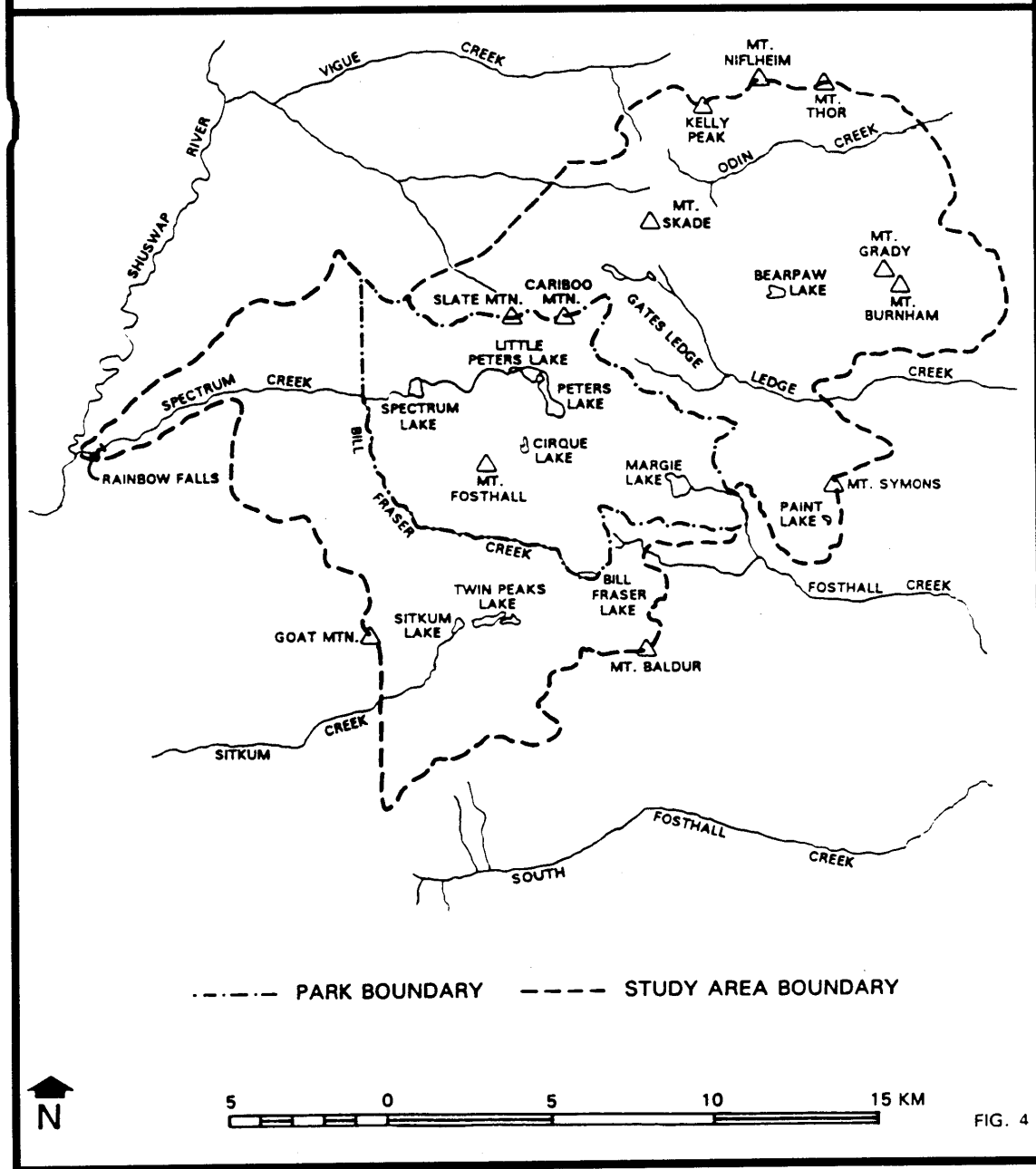
- To pursue possible expansion of park boundaries to enhance conservation and wilderness recreation values of the Park.
- To secure legislated park protection and management over the Spectrum Creek trail corridor.

Actions:

- Work closely with other agencies through established coordinated management processes to gain support for park resource and access interests on lands surrounding the Park. Special care will be given to protection of the visual and recreation qualities of Spectrum Creek and the Spectrum Creek trail. Other areas which will require attention are the Paint Lake access route from the east and the Sitkum Creek access from the south.

MONASHEE PROVINCIAL PARK

PARK ADDITION STUDY AREA



- Undertake review of the boundaries. The east side portion of the proposed boundary expansion area which falls within the Nelson Forest Region is being considered for protected area status by the Commission on Resources and Environment (C.O.R.E.) Kootenay Regional Study. Recommendations from the C.O.R.E. table are expected by the end of 1993. The west side of the boundary study area will be considered for Protected Area Strategy designation under either a similar C.O.R.E. process for the Kamloops Region or a sub-regional Land and Resources Management Plan (LRMP), tentatively by 1996.
- Upon completion of the boundary review, designate any lands added to the Park as Recreation Area under the Park Act to allow for appropriate time limited mineral resource assessment.
- If the boundary review outcome is not favourable to addition of land to the Spectrum Creek trail corridor, seek interagency approvals and clearances to add the existing corridor to the Park.

Water

The Park setting is very much dependent on the pristine appearance and clear, cold waters of its lakes and streams. While water quality is largely taken for granted by visitors, park managers must take care to protect this resource for obvious health and aesthetic reasons.

Objective:

- To maintain the pure, unpolluted quality of the water in all lakes and drainages within the Park.

Actions:

- Ensure that proper sanitary facilities are established at designated use sites in the Park.
- Ensure that the visitors are informed through park brochures of proper camping practices to protect water supplies.
- Periodically monitor selected lakes and water courses in the Park for water quality.

Soils and Vegetation

Factors of very moist climate, late season snow melt, high elevation and variability in slope and soil composition create highly susceptible conditions for soil compaction and erosion. Fragile alpine and sub-alpine meadows, marshy lake and stream edges and saturated organic based soils are particularly sensitive to disturbance and require special measures to minimize impacts.

Dependence on old growth forests and other plant communities for maintenance of the scenic, recreation and conservation values of the Park dictates a cautious approach for vegetation management.

Objectives:

- To ensure that soil and vegetation conditions are considered in all planning and implementation of resource management actions, visitor use activities and facility developments.
- To maintain plant communities and species that contribute to visual and recreation attractions as well as to the Park's representative landscape role.
- To maintain, where compatible with other park objectives, the natural processes that occur in wilderness.
- To maintain the diversity of wildlife habitats in the Park.
- To preserve representative and special sensitive and rare native plant communities and species.
- To discourage the introduction of non-native plant species.
- To encourage non-destructive scientific studies to improve the knowledge of the Park's unique and representative plant associations.

Actions:

- Develop a wildfire suppression plan for the park including:
 - public evacuation measures;
 - priority control areas;
 - fire control methods;
 - fire rehabilitation strategies.

The District Park Manager will co-ordinate with the Ministry of Forests in planning fire fighting measures. Pending more specific guidance from a vegetation management strategy and fire suppression plan, all fires in the Park will be fought in line with present Park and Ministry of Forests policies. Fire suppression will employ methods that minimize ground disturbance; mechanized ground access will be resorted to only if there is no alternative. Unobtrusive fire control facilities such as heli-landing sites may be located in the Park. Priority for fire suppression will be given to the Spectrum and Peters Lakes areas.

- Develop a long term vegetation management strategy for the Park. Key elements in this strategy will include:
 - forest resource inventory including the occurrence of representative and rare plant species and sensitive plant communities;
 - integration of information from fire management research particularly research directed toward determining what role naturally caused fires have in the ecological communities of the Park;

- wildlife habitat inventory;
 - monitoring disease/insect infestations;
 - measures to prevent the introduction of non-native plant species and, where feasible, their removal from the Park;
 - close involvement with the Ministry of Forests in the management of pest, fire and other related forest management concerns;
 - co-operation with the Ministry of Forests and other agencies in protecting commercial forest and other interests adjoining the Park;
 - encouraging scientific research in the Park to expand knowledge of the Park's vegetative resources. Project selection will consider compatibility with park users and resource management objectives.
- Undertake an ongoing program of soil and vegetation protection, including:
 - relocation of trails from sensitive environments to more durable terrain. Priorities will include rerouting of the existing trail through the wet meadows from Peters Lake to Margie Lake to drier ground, portions of the trail along Peters Lake and construction of a trail around Spectrum Lake; sections of old trail that have been replaced through rerouting will be allowed to recover naturally.
 - providing proper drainage and bridging in sensitive and wet soil areas where alternative suitable terrain is not available;
 - rehabilitation of sites damaged through visitor use; some areas may have to be closed off from public use to allow for recovery.
- Encourage visitors to adopt measures to protect soils, plant species and habitats that are sensitive to human disturbance through various means including signs, ranger contacts and park information brochures. Visitors will be asked:
 - to stay on established trails;
 - to walk in separate and dispersed patterns in un-trailed portions of the Park, particularly in meadows, sub-alpine and alpine environments;
 - to practice low impact camping and backcountry travel techniques.
- Restrict all camping along the Spectrum Creek trail and in the Spectrum Lake, Peters Lake and Margie Lakes areas to designated sites. Camping will be discouraged in sub-alpine and alpine regions of the Park.
- Carry out an impact assessment of potential horse use and horse grazing on the east side of the Park. In the interim horse use will be managed on a very conservative basis (see "Horse Use", page 30).

- Introduce a firewood management program for the Park:
 - continue to supply firewood to the Spectrum Lake campground;
 - encourage use of backpacking stoves in the Park. In order to maintain the natural quality of vegetation, the use of campfires may be restricted.
- Snags and trees presenting a public hazard will be removed along trails and around campsites and other facility areas. Snags are significant wildlife habitat and their removal will be avoided except where absolutely essential for public safety.

Fish

The short summer season and cold water temperatures limit the fishery capability of the lakes and streams in the Park. Spectrum is the most productive lake and provides reasonable good sized trout. The trout in Peters and Margie Lakes tend to be small as a result of intense competition for a limited food base and an oversupply of spawning habitat. Under these conditions, there is limited potential to enhance angling experiences in the Park.

A fishery management plan has been developed to maintain existing angling opportunities which are adequate to meet aspirations of the majority of park visitors who only spend a portion of their time fishing, mostly on a casual basis, and are content to catch a few fish for their meal.

Objectives:

- To maintain existing sport fish populations for public recreation.
- To ensure that introduction of new fisheries in the Park does not adversely affect indigenous aquatic lifeforms.

Actions:

- Manage fisheries according to present management plan. The plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- Rely primarily on natural recruitment in all existing park fisheries.
- Conduct assessments of potential ramifications of stocking on aquatic lifeforms before introducing fish or other non-indigenous organisms into presently unstocked park watercourses.
- Maintain records of fishing use, carry out periodic creel census and monitor the impacts of angling pressures and the success of management activities.

Wildlife

Golden eagles, pikas, ruby crowned kinglets, mountain goats, mountain caribou, grizzly bear and other species of wildlife which are associated with the wilderness of the Monashee Mountains occur in the Park. Although some of these wildlife species are sensitive to human presence, they can be viewed from a distance with minimal disturbance.

The relatively low number of grizzly and black bear is indicative of the poor bear food habitats in the Park, however, measures will be taken to minimize conflicts with park visitors. While the Park represents only a small portion of the extensive range used by a small herd of mountain caribou in the Monashee Mountains, it provides one of the best opportunities for viewing these animals in their summer habitats.

Objectives:

- To maintain the natural diversity of species presently found within the Park and to allow the natural establishment of other native species.
- To protect critical habitats and enhance declining habitats where there is compatibility with other park resource management and recreation use objectives.
- To provide opportunities for public viewing and non-consumptive appreciation of wildlife.
- To encourage scientific wildlife studies and inventories, and research programs in the Park, especially those with direct management implications.

Actions:

- Maintain the no hunting policy in the Park.
- Maintain management programs which give high priority to the conservation of mountain caribou, mountain goat and grizzly bear populations.
- Manage wildlife in the Park in close co-operation with the Fish and Wildlife Branch, with attention to integrating management strategies for mountain caribou.
- Undertake wildlife inventories on an ongoing basis in the Park particularly relating to distribution of grizzly bear, mountain caribou and mountain goats.
- Population levels will depend on natural recruitment for all wildlife species. Natural recruitment of new species will be closely monitored through sighting records.
- Ensure that facility developments and visitor use have minimal impacts on wildlife habitats or disturbance of wildlife.
- Manage mountain goats, mountain caribou, whitetail ptarmigan and other mountain wildlife species as primary wildlife viewing opportunities in the Park. Public information and trail and hiking routes will be designed and located for observation of these species from a distance. Visitor activities will be monitored to determine if there are disruptions to wildlife

populations. Visitor activities may be restricted to reduce any apparent disruptions.

- Maintain ongoing program to reduce potential confrontation between bears and park visitors. This program will involve a number of strategies:
 - monitoring of bear populations and movements;
 - managing grizzly bears on an integrated basis with other agencies on adjacent lands;
 - informing the public of bear habits and habitats, and recommended methods for camping and travelling in the Park to avoid problems with bears. Information programs will utilize park brochures, information boards and signs;
 - setting high standards for the control of garbage and fish offal disposal;
 - establishing bear proof food caches for all designated backcountry campsites;
 - relocation of existing trails where possible away from bear feeding areas, and provision of long viewing corridors along trails that cross bear habitat;
 - temporary closures to public use of areas considered hazardous due to the presence of bears.

Cultural

There is no known archaeological evidence of Native Indian use of the Park, however, it is expected that native groups travelled into the area for hunting and gathering activities.

There is a rich lore of information about the early exploration and use of the Park area for hunting and recreation.

Objective:

- To record and, where appropriate, protect cultural resource values which relate to Native Indian and early exploration use of the Park.

Actions:

- Conduct a heritage resource inventory to include old cabins and archaeological resources of the Park. A number of people have suggested that the area may contain archaeological resources.
- Take appropriate measures to protect any identified resources from visitor use and facility development impacts.

Recreation and Visual Resources

Scenery, as the very essence of wilderness, can be easily marred by inappropriate developments. The lake settings and sensitive sub-alpine and alpine meadows are especially vulnerable to overuse impacts.

Objective:

- To ensure that resource management activities, visitor use and park facility developments pose minimal impacts to recreation and visual features of the Park.

Actions

- Locate and design all facilities in harmony with the visual setting. Special attention will be given any location of a ranger cabin at Peters Lake.
- Maintain close involvement with the review of forest development plans and mineral exploration and development referrals in drainages and areas adjacent to the Park to present the case for protection of recreation and aesthetic values.

Visitor Services

General Concept

BC Parks has four recreation goals -- to provide park attractions and services which enhance the province's major tourism travel routes; to provide park attractions that serve as or enhance outdoor recreation holiday destinations in key areas across the province; to provide outstanding backcountry adventure recreation experiences across the province; and to ensure access to local outdoor recreation opportunities for all residents of the province. Two of these goals -- providing outstanding backcountry recreation and ensuring access to local outdoor recreation opportunities are met by Monashee Park. Strategies for provision of visitor services as defined by these goals and the more specific recreation role statements in this plan (page 9) will reflect a general compromise between the widely divergent public viewpoints on development and management of the Park.

Over the lifetime of this Master Plan, the types and levels of services offered in the Park will not change a great deal. This is in keeping with the feedback received from the public and the uncertainties raised by the pending boundary review. There are a number of obvious improvements that can be made to trails and facilities, however, without jeopardising or reducing the wilderness atmosphere and qualities of the Park. The existing trails were primarily established by horse-users and many sections are steep, rough and poorly located for viewing and experiencing the Park's features. Similarly, there is general public support to disperse camping to more sites around Peters Lake than the present concentrated use at the two ends of the Lake.

Pending the outcome of a boundary study, no initiatives will be taken to promote easier access. It is expected that, in time, public awareness of the shorter access in the Spectrum Creek drainage will grow through word of mouth, leading to increased use at Spectrum Lake with likely some spin-off into the Peters Lake area. New access improvements from the east side and increasing use focus in the Peters Lake area will require a greater management presence in the upper portion of the Park.

Current use pressures in the park are relatively light and there are few occasions when park facilities are being used to capacity. At least 80% of the visitors fish while visiting the park. Most visitors use Spectrum Lake as their base camp, spending one to four days at the lake or hiking in the area. Use statistics show a stable pattern of 400 to 500 parties (1,200 to 1,500 people) visiting the park annually. Visitor use could be increased substantially without expanding the present facility base at Spectrum Lake. The Park will be better signed and promoted to encourage increased awareness and use.

Backcountry Recreation Goal

The Park is accessible only by foot, horseback or mountain bike. The long primary access approach generally requires that the visitor have several days available to enjoy the Park. There is some steep and difficult terrain, but the Park also contains many beautiful rolling alpine meadows of gentler gradient, and thus has the potential to appeal to hikers of varying abilities. Monashee Park offers four types of experiences relating to the backcountry recreation goal.

First, "*Hiking the Spectrum Creek Trail*" offers visitors an opportunity to experience Rainbow Falls and the towering cedar and hemlock trees and associated undergrowth of a natural valley bottom. At the end of this enjoyable half day hike, visitors are rewarded with an opportunity to camp beside and fish Spectrum Lake. The Spectrum Creek trail also offers opportunity to mountain bike along most of its length, although it is not specifically designed for this purpose.

Second, "*Camping Beside Spectrum Lake*" is an experience suitable for families and inexperienced back-packers who are looking for a relatively safe and easy introduction in backcountry recreation. The camping experience combined with fishing and exploring the area and nearby trails can occupy one to three days.

Third, "*Camping at the Alpine Lakes*" provides a chance to camp beside and fish several lakes located in the upper basin of the Park. Access to these lakes is provided by hiking or horseback (to Margie Lake). This opportunity is suitable for experienced backcountry campers who are looking for a wilderness vacation of two to four days duration.

Fourth, "*Exploring the Monashee Wilderness*" offers flower-covered meadows, sub-alpine and alpine lakes, open ridge walking, scrambles to summits of several peaks, wildlife viewing opportunities (mountain goats, deer and mountain caribou) and peacefulness and solitude of a pristine wilderness setting. Using either Peters and Margie Lakes as a base, explorations of this upper basin can extend from two to five days.

Local Recreation

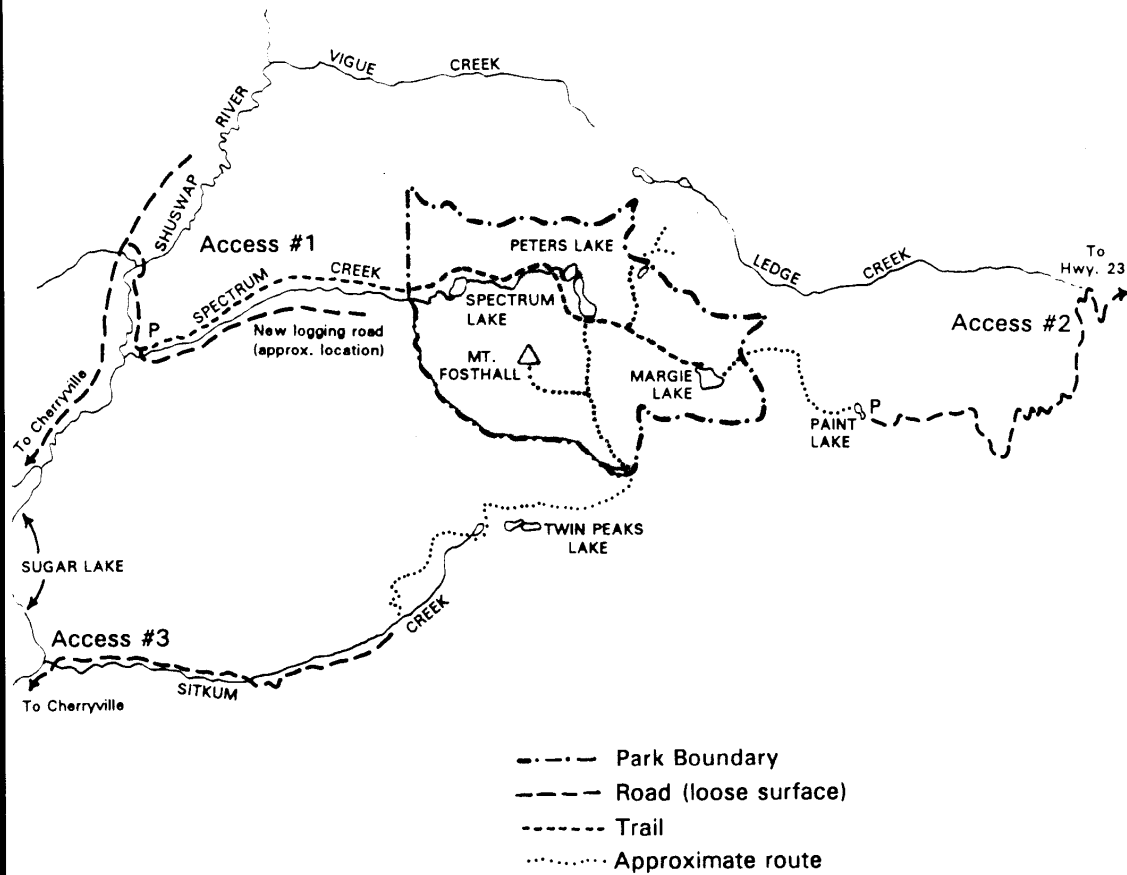
Monashee Park offers the opportunity to local residents of Vernon and Cherryville for day visits to Rainbow Falls, a particularly attractive waterfall located close to the Spectrum Creek Trail parking lot. The lower section of the Spectrum Creek trail also allows people to experience and study an old growth valley-bottom forest.

Continuity of Experience

In delivering these services, BC Parks will manage for continuity of experience focused on backcountry recreation. This expectation will be set from the time the potential visitors receive information about the park concerning its attractions, features, facilities and recommended appropriate activities. It will then be met from the time the visitors enter the park until the time they leave again. Included in this continuity will be pre-trip information, trailhead facilities and information, appropriate trails, facilities and on-site information for the particular activity and appropriate management of vegetation and wildlife to promote this experience.

MONASHEE PROVINCIAL PARK

ACCESS ROUTES



Access #1 Spectrum Creek: 13 km hike from parking lot to Spectrum Lake.

Access #2 Paint Lake: 75 minutes by road from Revelstoke to parking lot near Paint Lake; then 3-4 hour hike to the Park.

Access #3 Sitkum Creek - Twin Peaks Lake: Alternate route into Park; little used, very rough access through bush to Bill Fraser Lake.

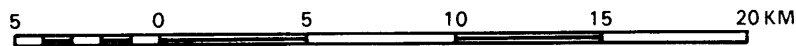


FIG. 5

Access Strategy

One of the major influences on visitor experiences in any park is the mode by which they gain access to their destination within that park. The following access strategy is designed to maintain or enhance the experience of backcountry for all users.

Spectrum Creek:

The main access route into Monashee Park is the Spectrum Creek Trail. It will be maintained to "Type 3" park standards with dry surface, brush clearance and bridge crossings on all creeks to ensure reasonably safe and convenient hiking.

There will be no promotion to direct users to the new road access in the Spectrum Creek drainage. The road lies outside of parks jurisdiction and there is no public consensus on how to deal with the issue. Signs at the Spectrum Creek Trail-head will indicate the alternate access. It is expected that in time the shortened hike-in distance will have some impacts on the use of the Park, perhaps leading to some amount of day-use at Spectrum Lane and more backpack use of the Peters Lake area. Similarly there will likely be increasing use into the east side of the Park as the route from Paint Lake becomes better known.

Paint Lake:

Long term forest management access requirements will likely ensure continued maintenance of road access to the vicinity of the Paint Lake route on the east side of the Park. The Ministry will press for designation of permanent "management road" status for this access through Ministry of Forests access management plans. The Paint Lake route will be recognized as an alternative evolving access into the Park and as the shortest and easiest route into the Peters/Margie Lakes and sub-alpine/alpine regions of the Park.

Sitkum Creek:

Rough road access into Sitkum Creek allows opportunities for experienced backpackers to access the Park over Caribou Pass from the Sitkum Lake - Twin Peaks Lake area.

Other Access Modes:

- Horse use access will occur on the east side of the Park, using the Paint Lake trail.
- Mountain bikes will be allowed along the Spectrum Creek trail to Spectrum Lake.
- Helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft access will be monitored. In keeping with the "wilderness" experience desired for this Park, options regarding control of this mode of access will be discussed with the Aviation Council if the frequency of use increases during the lifespan of this Master Plan.
- All other forms of mechanized recreation access will not be permitted.

Information Strategy

Although considered one of B.C.'s most picturesque parks, Monashee Provincial Park is relatively unknown outside the local area. It has potential to play a key role in providing wilderness recreation in the province. All of the information produced about this park will contribute to:

- creating an awareness of the Park's role in achieving the goals of the provincial park system
- promoting an understanding and appreciation of the natural resources of the Park and the surrounding region
- instilling a sense of stewardship of the Park and the park system
- providing visitors with information that will enhance their use and enjoyment of the Park's facilities

Objective:

- To target information about Monashee Park at backcountry hikers in British Columbia and Alberta both for day-use and overnight stays in the Park by means of (1) awareness and pre-trip planning, (2) orientation and information, and (3) natural heritage education.

Actions:

Awareness and Pre-trip Planning:

- Continue the present program of providing awareness and pre-trip planning by means of the Okanagan District office staff; a park information sheet; a slide-tape program on Southern Interior adventure vacations; television video clips; park postcards; and highlighting in the Cariboo/Shuswap/Okanagan Regional brochure as a wilderness destination.
- Develop a promotional post card (Pro-4 card)
- Encourage private sector advertising appropriate to the backcountry theme of the Park in media directed at and for backcountry hikers.

Orientation and Information:

- Continue present park orientation and information program of onsite signs and the park information sheet.
- Ensure that facilities and signs (including information shelter and trail signs) are consistent and integrated to enhance the Park's identity for backcountry recreation.
- Locate interpretive and informational signs at the trail heads and in the Wilderness Recreation Zones around Spectrum Lake and Peters Lake. Such signs will be used sparingly.

Natural and Cultural Heritage Education

- Ensure that all educational materials produced about Monashee Park help to develop a sense of stewardship for the Park and the features it protects.
- Undertake an interpretive assessment of the Park
- Produce an interpretation and information plan
- Develop a self-guided trail brochure for the section of trail from Rainbow Falls to Spectrum Lake.
- Ensure that messages in the education program use themes that are unique to Monashee Park with emphasis on its role in both conservation and recreation. Major themes will focus on:
 - natural heritage including regional landscape, climate, geologic process, zonation of alpine areas, special features (ie. old growth forest)
 - recreational opportunities available in the Park, outdoor safety, wilderness and conservation ethics, firewood conservation, bear safety, low impact park use, horse etiquette, mountain bike use.
- Use off-site media to describe themes that are located in the Wilderness Recreation Zone.

Marketing and Promotion

The image of Monashee Park is based on its scenic landscape and special features, its wilderness character and the accessibility of backcountry experiences.

Objective:

- To promote the Park's significance in conservation and its variety of backcountry recreational opportunities.

Actions:

- Continue to promote Spectrum Lake as a family backcountry fishing and hiking experience.
- Increase promotional emphasis on Peters Lake and other park areas for their many outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Promote Rainbow Falls and the access corridor as a day-use hiking opportunity for the north and central Okanagan area.
- Continue to use the services of the Tourism Info Centres to inform the travelling public about backcountry opportunities in the Park.

- To achieve the optimum cost per effort, promotion and marketing activities will be directed at the Southern Interior, Lower Mainland and Alberta regional markets.

Management Services

The Park is administered by the North Zone of the Okanagan Park District, headquartered out of Okanagan Lake Provincial Park. Staffing for the Park will ensure that various management responsibilities will be carried out according to the guidelines of the Master Plan and the established policies and procedures of the Ministry.

Objective:

- To effectively carry out the management responsibilities contained within this plan.

Actions:

- Regulate public use to ensure safe and proper use of the Park and its facilities.
- Monitor environmental conditions.
- Maintain trails, cabins and other facilities.
- Conduct tree hazard removal programs and other park user safety measures.
- Conduct necessary work to prevent user impacts and protection of vegetation, wildlife, heritage, water and visual resources.
- Collect user data and fees.
- Provide information, public relations, and visitor programs.
- Inspect permits and oversee private sector activities in the Park.
- Prepare Annual Management Plans that address implementation of approved development and management actions presented in this Master Plan.
- Improve radio communications within the Park and to the outside in the interests of public safety and efficient park management.
- Monitor visitor use.
- Management needs may require locating a ranger cabin at Peters Lake. Any cabin facility at Peters Lake will be located as inconspicuously as possible. There may be long term consideration to convert the Spectrum Lake cabin to a public hut facility.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Angling

At present, Monashee Park provides two distinct types of angling -- a pan-fry fishery at the upper alpine lakes, and a high-quality fishery at Spectrum Lake.

Objective:

- To provide angling opportunities to a range of visitor interests.

Actions:

- Manage angling opportunities at Spectrum Lake to maintain a quality fishery for both casual and serious fishermen.
- Manage Peters and Margie Lakes to meet the expectations of park visitors who wish to fish on a casual basis and to be assured of reasonable success to catch pan-size trout.

Backcountry Camping

Monashee Park offers a variety of backcountry camping opportunities suitable for hikers, horse-riders or mountain bikers. Some attention must be made to relocation of some sites, and the expansion of facilities to ensure that both hikers and horse-riders have high-quality backcountry camping experiences.

Objectives:

- To provide overnight destinations which will allow visitors to explore and appreciate the four backcountry experience areas offered by this Park.
- To ensure that levels of facilities and services for backcountry camping reflect the zoning plan for the Park.

Actions:

- Monitor use patterns at Spectrum Lake and consider the long-term expansion of facilities only as required and to a maximum limit of double the present capacity or 20 sites. Both physical and social carrying constraints must be given careful consideration prior to any further facility construction. Present facilities including shelters, tables, toilets, wood supply, pit toilets, food caches and firepits are appropriate for Spectrum Lake.

- Provide more dispersed camping opportunities at Peters Lake. A site plan will be prepared to guide long-term phased development of dispersed sites along the west shore of the Lake. The site plan will take into account user expectations and will provide variety in scale of designated camping sites with the majority relating to small parties and one site to accommodate group use of up to 10 people. The development plan will have an overall design capacity to accommodate 30 tent sites. Facilities at Peters Lake will be restricted to toilets, individual tent sites, a shelter and cache poles.
- Designate two camping areas at Margie Lake - one will be designed for horse users.

Backcountry Hiking

Monashee Park provides a variety of backcountry hiking from short day hikes to longer excursions of several days duration. Many of the existing trails have followed former horse-packing trails and routes and require upgrading in order to meet the expectations of users or to prevent erosion.

Objective:

- To provide for a variety of hiking opportunities with emphasis on day trips originating from destination campsites at Spectrum, Peters and Margie Lakes.

Actions:

- Undertake a long-term trail enhancement program with the following perceived order of priority:
 - Spectrum Lake to Peters Lake -- reduce gradient and provide safer crossings of brushy slide paths and creeks;
 - Peters Lake to Margie Lake -- rerouting of trail out of wet meadows with the intent to retain or enhance aesthetics;
 - construct trail around Spectrum Lake with route located to minimize interruptions to the natural appearance of the lakeshore as viewed from the campsite, while providing interesting and scenic walk (Some elevated boardwalk sections may be required over boggy ground);
 - investigate possible trail location to lower section of the Chute from the east side of Spectrum Lake to view the falls and the old-growth cedars;
 - relocate Peters Lake Trail along south side of the lake to provide a more aesthetic route with views over the lake and more convenient access to campsites along the lake shore.
- Mark route locations for the following hiking routes: lower portion of route to South Caribou Pass; and lower portion of route to Fawn Lake and Gates Ledge area.

- Provide map and description of routes to Gates Ledge and Valley of the Moon, Cirque Lake, Mt. Fosthall, Caribou and Slate Mountains.

Horse Use

Horses have played an important role in the exploration and early use of Monashee Park. Access and terrain difficulties limit the practical use of horses to the eastern portion of the Park.

Objective:

- To provide horse use recreation opportunities in the east side of the Park.

Actions:

- Horse use will be managed on a very conservative basis until an assessment of potential horse use and grazing is completed. In the interim, the following principles for management of public horse use will apply:
 - opening date for horse use will be set each year by the District Manager dependent upon snowmelt conditions.
 - high-lining of horses will be allowed in designated sites.
 - potential users will require prior authority to enter the Park. Authority will be issued by the District Manager on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Resource Appreciation

One of the roles of Monashee Park is to conserve a representative portion of the Monashee Mountains landscape. As such, it offers excellent potential for the appreciation and interpretation of the features and resources of the Monashee Mountains. The types of signs and information services will be keeping with the backcountry recreation theme.

Objective:

- To encourage and assist visitor opportunities to view, photograph, study and enjoy the natural features of the Park.

Actions:

- Provide interpretive information about the natural environment of the Park on information shelters at trail heads and in park information brochures.
- Involve Ranger staff in park information and interpretation through routine contacts with visitors.

- Request visitor cooperation in reporting sightings of mountain caribou, grizzly bears and of other interesting or rare plant or animal species. Visitors will be asked to view wildlife from a distance to minimize disturbance to the animals and possible danger to humans.

Special Feature Appreciation

The Spectrum Creek Trail provides an opportunity for visitors to appreciate a picturesque water-fall and an untouched, old-growth cedar forest community.

Objective:

- To provide an opportunity to view and gain knowledge and appreciation about Rainbow Falls and the old-growth cedar forest community.

Actions:

- Provide interpretation of the geomorphology and natural history at the Rainbow Falls viewpoint and in the old-growth cedar forest along the Spectrum Creek Trail.

Winter Recreation

Little information is available on which to base any statements about the potential for winter recreation -- yet it is known that some ski-touring does take place. The degree of safety with which this sport can be carried out in this Park is unknown at this time.

Objective:

- To assess the capabilities of winter recreation activities within the Park.

Actions:

- To discourage any winter activity within or on the access routes to Monashee Park until an assessment is completed.
- Evaluate the potential for developing and marketing ski-touring in the park in comparison to access and avalanche hazards.

Private Sector Role

Because of its location and theme, it is anticipated that Monashee Park will offer little incentive for private sector involvement in providing visitor services.

Objectives:

- To allow private sector involvement in the provision of recreation services which are compatible with park objectives, social and environmental carrying capacities and would not otherwise be provided by Parks.

Actions:

- Review private sector proposals in context with park objectives and policies. Appropriate types of commercial activities could include photographic, hiking or outdoor training guiding.
- Mechanized support, permanent assets or fixed structures will not be permitted in conjunction with private sector operations.
- Commercial permit holders will be required to develop a management plan that is compatible with this Master Plan. It will be updated and subject to annual approval.

Plan Implementation

Phase 1 - High Priority (ongoing or implement within the next five years)

Planning

- undertake park boundary study (page 12)
- co-ordinate with other agencies to maintain visual qualities of Spectrum Creek trail

Resource Management

- undertake wildlife inventories (page 18)
- manage visitor use to minimize potential disruptions to wildlife and specifically to grizzly bears (page 19)
- monitor wildlife and plant conditions and implement actions to reduce any apparent impacts from park visitors
- establish sanitary facilities at designated sites (page 14)
- introduce a firewood management policy (page 17)
- monitor fisheries and angling use (page 17)

Visitor Services

- increase public awareness and use of the Park (page 25)
 - park information sheet
 - slide-tape program
 - television video clips
 - park postcards
 - highlighting in regional brochures
- undertake an interpretive assessment and produce an interpretation and information plan (pages 26 and 31)
- maintain ongoing management activities (page 27)
- improve radio communications within the park and to the outside (page 27)
- designate campsites at Margie Lake (page 29)

- improve trail gradient between Spectrum Lake and Peters Lake

Phase 2 - Moderate Priority (long term)

Planning

- involvement with interagency planning efforts in the area
- future updates of the Master Plan

Resource Management

- carry out assessment of potential horse use (page 17)
- develop a fire suppression plan (page 15)
- develop a long term vegetation management strategy (page 16)
 - inventory
 - monitor
 - coordinate with other agencies
 - research
 - visitor management
- undertake inventory of heritage and archaeological resources (page 19)

Visitor Services

- undertake studies and planning for relocation of trail and designated campsites in the Peters Lake area (page 29)
- trail projects (page 29)
 - construct trail loop around Spectrum Lake
 - rerouting of Peters to Margie Lake
 - mark route locations
- produce map and descriptions of routes (page 30)

Monashee Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

Appendix A
Public Involvement Process
Public Input Summary



Monashee Provincial Park

Public Involvement Process

June 17th, 1990	Open House meeting in Cherryville
June 18th, 1990	Open House meeting in Vernon, meetings with interest groups
August 23, 1990	Meeting with interested public in Nakusp
July 1991	Results of public meetings and questionnaire sent out to all participants
June 1992	Draft copy of Master Plan sent out to all participants for review and comment

Monashee Provincial Park

Public Involvement Summary

1. Introduction

Open House meetings were held in Cherryville and Vernon in June of 1990 to allow the general public to meet and have input in deciding long term directions for developing and managing Monashee Park. At the same time parks staff met and discussed the future of the Park with representatives of interest groups. In August, 1991, staff met with people in Nakusp who had expressed special interest in the Park.

A great deal of useful information was gained from these meetings. As well over 70 completed questionnaires were received as follow up to the meetings. The following summary analysis provides tabulation of the questionnaire results expressed in actual numbers and as percentages where relevant. Statements under each major heading in the summary give parks interpretation of public opinions based on the questionnaire results and on the various other written and verbal inputs.

2. Organized Group and Special Interest Submissions

Vernon Outdoors Club

North Okanagan Naturalists

Western Canada Wilderness Committee

Lumby Fish and Wildlife Club

I Care

Shuswap Outdoors Club

Backcountry Horsemen of B.C.

Monashee Guide Service

Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd.

3. Questionnaire Responses (70)

4. Response to Last Visit

The figures confirm staff impressions that most of the participants had a great deal of experience with the Park.

	Total	Percentage
Last year	20	30%
2 years ago	10	15%
3 years ago	5	7 %
5 + years ago	18	27%
Never	12	12%
Almost every year	9	9 %

5. Areas Visited

This was a general question which simply asked people to list areas they had visited in the Park. Spectrum and Peters Lakes are prime destinations, but it is surprising to see that many areas are visited which suggests that a good proportion of visitors enjoy exploring the Park and surrounding area.

	Total
Rainbow Falls/Spectrum Creek	39
Spectrum Lake	36
Peters Lake	31
Margie Lake	22
Valley of the Moon	13
Mt. Fosthall	12
Gates Ledge	10
Fawn Lake	9

	Total
Cariboo Pass	9
Bill Fraser	7
Paint Lake	3
Cirque Lake	1

6. Activities and Interests

We asked what activities people were involved in while visiting the Park. The results are difficult to interpret since most people have a variety of things they like to do. For example, while only a small number listed photography, staff observations suggest that most park visitors carry a camera. Similarly, almost all people reaching Spectrum Lake or Peters Lake will be camping. The results seem to corroborate staff observations that a fair proportion of visitors enjoy fishing.

	Total
Hiking/Scrambling	48
Camping	38
Fishing	32
Backpacking	11
Wildlife viewing/Nature study	10
Photography/painting etc.	9
Horse back riding	5
Swimming	2

7. Options for Future Role and Direction of Park

Few people want to see changes made to the Park unless there is an expansion of the park boundaries. In the "other" category, people indicated that they would like to maintain the present level of access and development in an expanded park.

	Total	Percentage
A. Status Quo	8	11%
B. Enhanced Recreation	1	2 %
C. Enhanced Recreation/ Conservation	54	77%
D. Other	7	10%

8. Spectrum Creek Road

Opinion seems divided on the road issue. There is a substantial number who oppose the use of the road to shorten trail access to Spectrum Lake. However, it is also evident that there would be considerable public criticism if the road was closed. The "other" category includes a variety of suggestions from improving the road to allowing industrial traffic only. As reflected in the opinions for future directions for the Park, expansion of park boundaries could lead to greater support for improving park access.

	Total	Percentage
Provide closer road access	35	46%
Close new Spectrum Creek road	29	38%
Other	12	16%

9. Spectrum Creek Trail

Many would like to see the trail corridor widened and added to the Park.

	Total	Percentage
Widen and include in Park	46	47%
Provide connection to new road	24	25%
Widen trail corridor	24	25%
Other	3	3%

10. Spectrum Lake

The figures seem to confirm the suggestions that some participants were making for more hiking opportunities at Spectrum Lake.

	Total	Percentage
More trails	40	63%
Status Quo	23	37%

11. Spectrum Lake to Peters Lake

A large number of people feel the trail should be developed to a better grade and to minimize length of sections in slide crossings.

	Total	Percentage
Redevelop trail	52	80%
Status Quo	13	20%

12. Peters Lake Trail

People seem to favour relocating the Peters Lake trail closer to the Lake to provide better views. A number of people suggest the trail should be located to reduce environmental impacts.

	Total	Percentage
Relocate trail	46	70%
Status quo	20	30%

13. Margie Lake Trail

The majority of respondents feel that the Peters to Margie Lakes trail should be relocated out of the wet meadows to more durable terrain. There were suggestions that any relocations should be planned to maintain viewing opportunities.

	Total	Percentage
Relocate trail	54	78%
Status quo	15	22%

14. Paint Lake to Margie Lake

Most people favour improving access from the east side of the Park, using the existing trail route from Paint Lake.

	Total	Percentage
Establish as a primary access	40	59%
Maintain present low profile	28	41%

15. Hiking Routes

The majority of respondents support the marking of hiking routes. Those opposed suggest the Park is not intended for inexperienced hikers and that marked routes could give beginners a sense of overconfidence.

	Total	Percentage
Mark location of primary routes	51	75%
Status quo	17	25%

16. Spectrum Lake - Facilities

People generally seem to appreciate the types of comfort and security now provided at Spectrum Lake. However, the immediate edge of the Lake has been developed to environmental and social limits and any further development would have to occur some reasonable distance from the Lake. Only 7 respondents advocate maintaining the status quo but there are a number of people who suggest that a cautious approach should be employed to ensure minimal environmental impacts.

	Total
Expand camping away from lake	47
Additional shelters	29
Additional tables	25

17. Peters Lakes - Facilities

There seems to be more support for providing camping opportunities at dispersed sites along the Lake rather than at concentrated nodes as occurs presently. Surprisingly there is strong interest in shelters, presumably reflecting the frequent periods of inclement weather experienced at Peters Lake. People confirmed our awareness of the present need for more toilets at the Lake.

	Total
Provide camping at dispersed sites on south shore of Lake	55
Shelters	27
More toilets	3
Food cache poles	2

18. Park Management

Most people appreciate the services provided by park ranger staff. There is a perceived need to increase ranger patrols into the Peters Lake area and into the more remote sections of the Park.

	Total	Percentage
Expand management presence	48	64%
Status quo	20	27%
Other - As required	7	9%

19. Aircraft Use

There is general opposition to continued use of both floatplanes and helicopters for gaining access to the Park. Some people suggested that use of aircraft may be justified for emergency situations such as medical evacuations. A few felt that aircraft access to allow the elderly or handicapped to enjoy the Park would be acceptable.

	Total	Percentage
Strictly control air access	33	28%
Prohibit float plane access	33	28%
Prohibit helicopter access	32	27%
Continue traditional float plane use to Peters Lake	11	10%
Permit helicopter access	8	7%

20. Fisheries Management

Present fisheries management policies in the Park appear to be generally well supported. Support for stocking of more lakes is probably attributed to the high level of fishing interest in the Park.

	Total	Percentage
Agree with objectives	61	95%
Do not agree	3	5 %
<hr/>		
Support stocking of other Lakes	44	72%
Do not support further stocking	17	28%

21. Wildlife Management

There is strong support for stated objectives to minimize potential conflicts with bears and to protect mountain caribou.

	Total	Percentage
Agree with recommendations	64	94%
Disagree	4	6 %

22. Vegetation Management

Most people favour phasing campfires out of sub-alpine and alpine areas of the Park. A number who disagree suggest that fires are warranted for emergency situations.

	Total	Percentage
Phase out campfires	45	66%
Disagree	23	34%

A relatively small number of horse users enter the Park from the east. Given the high level of opposition to horse use and the environmental sensitivity of the Park, any continued horse access to the Park will have to be carefully managed.

	Total	Percentage
Oppose horse use	52	83%
Support horse use	11	17%

23. Boundaries

There is almost unanimous support for a review of the park boundaries. In order of preference, respondents advocate park additions in Spectrum Creek, Bill Fraser Creek and in the adjacent area to the northeast. Other areas suggested for park addition are upper Kate Creek and upper Vigue Creek.

	Total	Percentage
Proceed with park boundary studies	65	98%
Maintain status quo	1	2%

Monashee Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

Appendix B
Master Plan
Zone Descriptions



	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment
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.
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.
MEANS OF ACCESS	All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see "Impacts" below).	Mechanized (power-boats, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles), non-mechanized (foot, horse, canoe, bicycle). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pickup points will be permitted.
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 mechanized means such as boat or plane.
SIZE OF ZONE	Small; usually less than 2,000 ha.	Can range from small to large.
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.
RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES	Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, power-boating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, snowplay, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialized activities.	Walk-in/boat-in camping, power boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, and specialized activities.

Special Feature**Wilderness Recreation****Wilderness Conservation**

To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.

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 motorized activities will be allowed.

Generally low.

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.

Various; may require special access permit.

Non-mechanized; except may permit low frequency air access to designated sites; foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).

Non-mechanized (no air access); foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).

Determined by location of special resources; may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones.

Remote; not easily visited on a day-use basis.

Remote; not easily visited on a day-use basis.

Small; usually less than 2000 hectares.

Large; greater than 5,000 hectares.

Large; greater than 5,000 hectares.

Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of cultural resources (adequate to afford protection).

Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Boundaries will encompass areas of visitor interest for specific activities supported by air access. Will be designated under the Park Act.

Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Will be designated under the Park Act.

Sight-seeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.

Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (eg. caving, climbing).

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	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment
FACILITIES	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Roads, trails, campgrounds, picnic/play areas, boat launches, visitor and administrative buildings, service compounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk in/boat-in campsites, shelters, service buildings may be permitted; facilities for motorized access eg. docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.
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.
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	Intensive management of natural values and/or control of visitor activities. Landscape changes may occur to increase carrying capacity of the area. Direct management intervention may occur to protect natural values and enhance recreation opportunities. Compatible scientific research and monitoring encouraged.	Management oriented to maintaining a natural environment where visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Direct management intervention may occur to protect natural values or enhance recreation opportunities. Compatible scientific research and monitoring is encouraged.
RECREATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	Management oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Requires careful management and upkeep of intensive use outdoor recreation facilities. Facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor.	Management oriented to presenting high quality recreation experiences in a natural setting. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and methods of transportation may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (eg. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).
EXAMPLES OF ZONING	Campground in Rathtrevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski area in E.C. Manning Park.	Core area in Cathedral Park; North beach in Naikoon Park.

Special Feature**Wilderness Recreation****Wilderness Conservation**

Interpretive facilities only, resources are to be protected.

Minimal facility development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment eg. trails, primitive campsites, etc. Some basic facilities at access points, eg. dock, primitive shelter, etc.

None.

Natural values are to be protected. Interpretation facilities to be limited to small areas.

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.

High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Natural processes will normally be allowed to continue unhindered; in some instances, protection of rare, unique, outstanding, threatened and endangered natural values may require specific management intervention. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and limit impacts. Any scientific study must be clearly justified and carried out under permit.

High level of management protection for pristine wildland. Active resource management programs may be allowed if essential for protection of significant natural values. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.

Highest level of management protection for pristine wildland. Natural processes will be allowed to continue unhindered. Specific management intervention will not be permitted unless essential to protection or survival of significant natural values. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.

Management dedicated to educating visitors through interpretation of features. Visitor access may be restricted to limit damage to features. Facility development and visitor use will be determined by the area's carrying capacity.

Management dedicated to maintaining a visitor recreation experience of solitude, freedom, and physical challenge in a primitive natural setting. Facility development and visitor use will be determined by the area's carrying capacity.

Management dedicated to maintaining a visitor recreation experience of solitude, freedom, and physical challenge in a primitive natural setting. Visitor use will be determined by the area's carrying capacity.

Tidepools in Botanical Beach Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mount Assiniboine Park.

Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park; Moose River Valley in Mount Robson Park.

Central Valhallas Wilderness in Valhalla Park; Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy area.