

MASTER PLAN

June, 1994

for Monkman
Provincial Park



Ministry of Environment,
Lands and Parks

Monkman
Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

Prepared by
Peace Liard District
Northern B.C. Region
Prince George, B.C.



Ministry of Environment,
Lands and Parks

Monkman Provincial Park

Master Plan

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Hellmut Patzelt	Citizen

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Plan Highlights

- Monkman Provincial Park conserves over 40,000 hectares of largely undisturbed vegetation communities and wildlife habitat within the Central Canadian Rocky Mountains Ecoregion. It protects unique natural features such as fossil beds, caves, Kinuseo Falls, numerous step-falls, and subterranean drainage features. The park also conserves important grizzly habitat.
- Over 90 percent of the park is zoned for wilderness oriented management. Most of the recreation use is focussed on frontcountry activities, with the backcountry retaining its undisturbed environment and complete wilderness character. Monkman Park's backcountry is available for experienced backpackers looking for rewarding wilderness experiences, solitude and personal inspiration.
- Currently, information about the park's resources is limited and the plan sets direction for obtaining increased knowledge of vegetation and wildlife resources so that better informed management decisions can be made. While information is being gathered and detailed management plans prepared, the wilderness (backcountry) areas of the park will be managed conservatively to largely maintain natural ecosystems.
- There is a high priority to work with other resource agencies to define an area which includes Monkman Park and its surrounding lands and which considers landscape level biophysical processes. This area, referred to in this plan as the "*Monkman Area*", reinforces the importance of considering Monkman Park's connection to its surrounding lands. It will define an area for mapping and inventory work, for further resource studies, and for developing conservation strategies in cooperation with other ministries and industries who manage lands and resources around the park.
- The linkages between Monkman Park and its surrounding lands will be considered in all aspects of park management. Cooperation with other government agencies and with forest companies will be encouraged in gathering information and preparing plans that considers landscape-level conservation and recreation strategies.
- The Kinuseo area of the park will be managed for intensive frontcountry recreation. As the Murray River and Imperial Creek valleys adjacent to the park become developed, the Kinuseo area will become an important staging area for recreation opportunities around the park.

- The first half of the Monkman Lake Trail will be managed differently than its second half. The first 12 kilometres of the trail, from the campground to the ridge above Monkman Falls, will be managed for a moderate level of use for day use or overnight opportunities. The remaining portion of the trail to Monkman Lake will be maintained as a wilderness trail for those looking for longer and more challenging backcountry experiences.
- The headwaters of the Murray River within the park is zoned as Wilderness Conservation and human activity in this area will be kept to a minimum. This area will be managed for a very high level of conservation because of its sensitive fish populations and its important grizzly habitat.
- BC Parks will work with local communities, Chambers of Commerce, and tourist associations in developing coordinated marketing and promotional strategies to draw tourists to Monkman Park's frontcountry.



Kinuseo Falls - a frontcountry attraction for the family.

Section One

Introduction

What is a Master Plan?

A master plan is an important document which guides a park's management for about a ten year term. It sets out objectives and actions for conservation, development, interpretation, and operation of a park. A master plan relies on current information relating to such things as park resources, recreation uses, and activities occurring on surrounding lands. This information is available from park managers, discussions with other government agencies, previously prepared reports, public interest groups, study teams, and from the general public.

The process for preparing a plan involves a rigorous analysis of the overall goals of the park, patterns of use, management objectives, and possible sources of conflict among park policies. Through the process various options for managing the park are developed and assessed. In the case of this master plan, BC Parks was assisted by a volunteer study team, however not all master plan processes are assisted by the public in this way. In choosing the most appropriate options, the intent is to reach a balance between conservation and recreation.

Although every large park will have a master plan prepared, the timing for preparation can depend on many factors. For example, the priority for a master plan can be increased if there are serious management issues that need to be resolved.

Master plans establish long-term management direction for a park and also may deal with immediate issues. This means that the plan will generally contain numerous statements describing management actions that need various degrees of attention. Since BC Parks cannot carry out every task at the same time, the plan must also prioritize the management actions.

BC Parks prepares master plans with a high degree of public involvement. The general public and public interest groups have opportunities to provide comments to BC Parks through a variety of means including public meetings, questionnaires, and local study teams.

Each section of the master plan provides a brief summary of relevant background information. More detailed information can be obtained from the Monkman Park Master Plan Background Document which has been prepared separately.

This master plan is presented in six main sections:

- (1) the context of the plan is discussed, highlighting the planning issues that the plan addresses and providing a summary of background information on the park;
- (2) the role of the park and its vision statement are presented. These provide the general essence of the importance of the park and the critical goals and principles that provide the long-term foundation for managing the park;
- (3) the plan presents the park zoning which defines how different areas of the park will be managed;
- (4) the objectives and actions for managing the natural and cultural resources are discussed;
- (5) the plan discusses the objectives and actions for providing outdoor recreation opportunities and for providing information about the park; and,
- (6) the priorities for implementing the management actions are presented.

Relationship With Other Land Use Planning

Master plans provide a forum for endorsement and public review of park additions and management strategies. In this respect, a park master plan must be considered in terms of its relationship with broader conservation and recreation goals for the province and with other land use strategies. This is particularly important where a master plan has recommendations for additions to a park.

Additions to Monkman Park were first suggested by the public in the *Parks and Wilderness for the 90s* process. This process was initiated in December 1990 by BC Parks and the Ministry of Forests to identify study areas that would be considered for park or wilderness designation.

In 1992, the Parks and Wilderness for the 90s process evolved into the *Protected Areas Strategy* to provide a much more comprehensive analysis and direction for protecting natural, cultural and recreation values. The target for this process is to develop and expand a system of protected areas that will conserve 12 percent of the province by the year 2000.

The Protected Areas Strategy is led by regional teams of representatives from various ministries. The teams will oversee the examination of the study areas and will make recommendations based on which ones meet the criteria for protection. Recommendations for study areas will be considered in other land use processes such as *Land and Resource Management Plans* and "round table" processes initiated by the *Commission on Resources and Environment* (C.O.R.E.).

This master plan's considerations for protecting resources and natural features adjacent to Monkman Park are being considered within the Protected Areas Strategy and within land use processes such as the *Herrick Local Resource Use Plan*, the *Prince George Land and Resource Management Plan*, and the *Dawson Creek Land and Resource Management Plan*. First Nations consultations continue to be an integral part of considering recommendations for protected areas study and designation. In this way, the master plan recommendations are coordinated with broader land use processes and the provincial Protected Areas Strategy.

How This Plan Was Prepared

Reason For the Plan:

The previous master plan for Monkman Park was completed in 1984. In 1991-92 a road from Tumbler Ridge to the park was constructed and a campground, a viewing platform overlooking Kinuseo Falls, trails, a picnic shelter, parking lots and a service yard were also constructed. These facilities were officially opened at a park ceremony on August 6 1992. These park facilities were identified in the 1984 master plan and were dependent on the construction of the road.

This new access and facility construction changed the visitor patterns for Monkman Park and a new master plan is needed to deal with managing this change. As well, a new master plan can deal with current resource management issues.

Start Up:

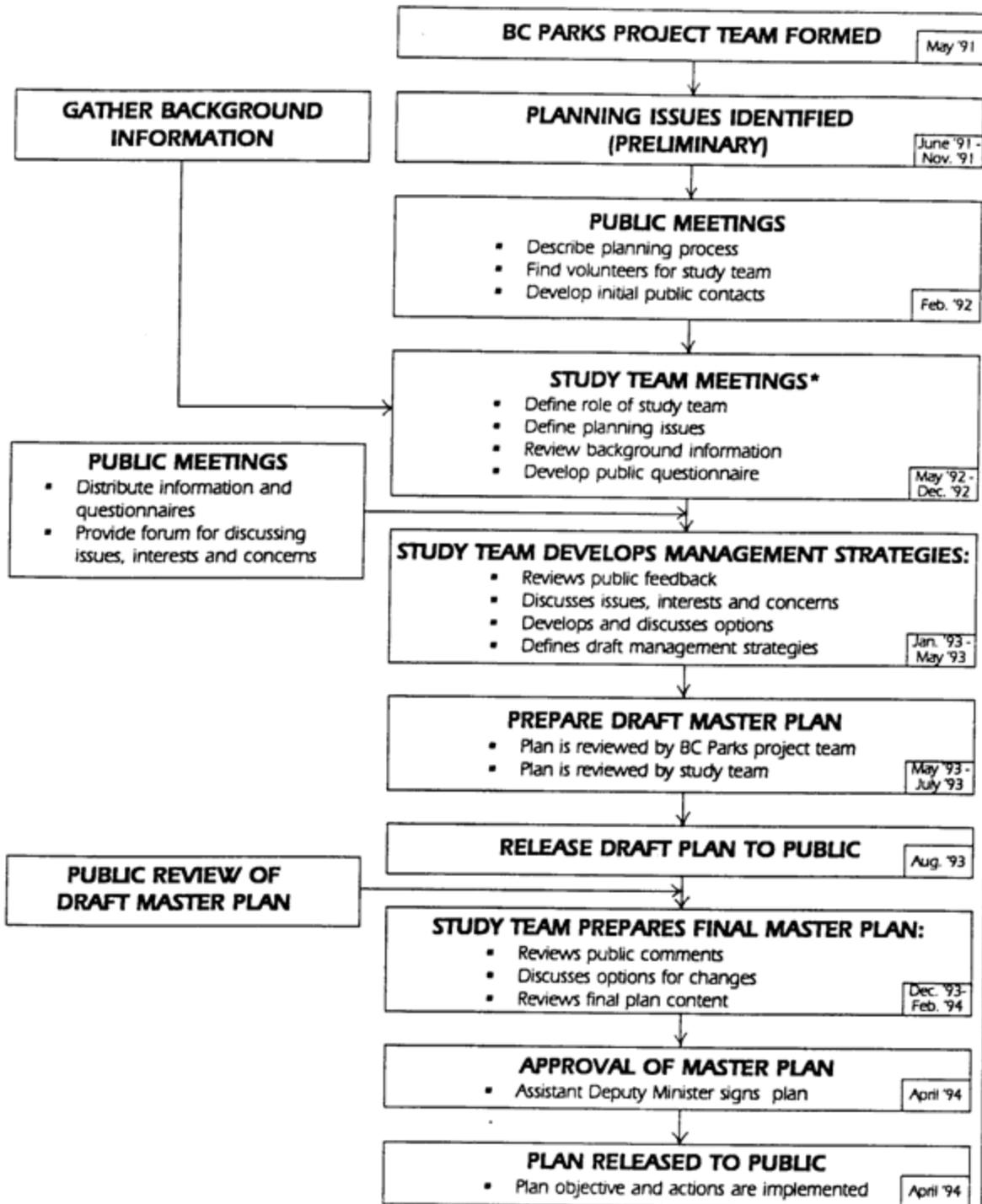
During the spring, summer, and fall of 1991 BC Parks began compiling background information about the park's resources and patterns of visitor use (figure 1). The Background Document was prepared by contract and BC Parks prepared the Terms of Reference for the master planning project. In February 1992, public meetings were held in Prince George, Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, and Fort St. John to discuss the master planning project and to ask for volunteers to represent various interests in forming a study team.

The study team played an important role by providing local knowledge about various interests in the park and by giving guidance on how the park should be managed. The Study Team operated by rules the team formed for consensus decision-making. Study Team meetings began in May 1992 and initially dealt with reviewing background material and a questionnaire, defining the issues, discussing and learning about each member's interests in the park, and helping to prepare for the public meetings.

A second set of public meetings was held in December 1992 to present information on the park, distribute the questionnaire, and to provide a forum for public discussion on various interests and concerns relating to the park. Ads were also put in local and provincial newspapers to increase the general awareness of the master planning process. Information packages about the park and the planning process were sent to various provincial recreation and conservation groups.

All questionnaires, letters and comments received by BC Parks were reviewed and summarized (see Appendix C for questionnaire summary). This information was presented to the study team to assist in developing the general direction of the master plan.

FIGURE 1: MONKMAN MASTER PLANNING PROCESS



* Study Team refers to public interest representatives and BC Parks representatives.

Preparing the Draft Master Plan:

In January 1993, the study team met to review the general public's responses to the issues and to develop and discuss options to deal with the issues. The intent was to come to an agreement on preferred options that would be written into the draft master plan.

By April 1993, the draft plan was prepared for review by various BC Parks staff knowledgeable in resources management, visitor services, interpretation, and outdoor recreation. The intent of this internal review was to ensure that the contents of the plan are consistent with the Park Act and Regulations, is compatible with current policies, and that it contains realistic objectives and management actions.

The draft plan was reviewed by the Study Team in May and June of 1993 to ensure that the strategies agreed upon are accurately communicated in the plan. The draft plan was released in August 1993 to the general public for review. Copies were sent to everyone who attended the public meetings, to provincial groups, and to anyone responding to newspaper and radio ads.

The Approval of the Master Plan

During the fall of 1993, BC Parks received comments about the draft master plan. The Study Team met in December 1993 to review public comments, to discuss any necessary changes, and to come to agreement on the contents of the plan. During the period from December 1993 to February 1994, BC Parks met and reviewed the draft master plan with First Nations Chiefs and Councils and Metis people who have aboriginal interests in the park area. BC Parks completed the review of the draft master plan and prepared the final master plan in March 1994. A final internal review of the master plan was completed by May 1994 to ensure that it conforms to the study team agreements and BC Parks policies. In July 1994 the plan was approved by BC Parks' Assistant Deputy Minister. The approved plan was printed and sent to the study team, other ministries, and persons and groups on the project mailing list. A Press Release informs the general public that the plan is available.

Planning Issues

In balancing conservation goals with recreation goals in Monkman Park, this master plan addresses several planning issues. These issues were identified by members of the study team and BC Parks staff. The following is a summary of the issues:

Role of the Park

Monkman Park plays a significant role in protecting a portion of the region's ecosystems and biodiversity. The park also provides recreation and interpretation opportunities for local and regional residents and tourists. The master plan defines these roles in terms of its current situation as well as considering how the landscape around the park will change in the decades to come.

Park Boundary

Monkman Park's boundary follows the Continental Divide along its southern portion, and elsewhere it follows heights-of-land, rivers, or straight lines from point to point. The park encompasses the upper watershed of Monkman Creek and the headwaters of the Murray River. However, the Kinuseo area of the park is separated from the rest of the park. In addition, there are features outside of Monkman Park that are being investigated for possible protection. These issues will contribute to the master plan's direction on changes to the park boundary.

Management of Park Resources

Monkman Park conserves vegetation, water, wildlife, fish, and special features. These resources and their associated ecological processes can be affected by what development occurs in and around the park and by how the park is used for recreation. In response to these factors, conserving the resources will increasingly depend on active, or "hands-on", management strategies and obtaining more information about the resources. The master plan sets direction for managing these resources and prioritizing information needs.

BC Parks Relationships With First Nations and Metis

Monkman Park is of interest to First Nations and Metis people and is also within the boundaries covered by Treaty 8. In managing the resources of this park, the plan sets direction for communicating and cooperating with First Nations and Metis people.

Recreation Use and Facility Development

Improved vehicle access and the development of a campground will increase the number of visitors to the park. As more people are attracted to the park, there is a greater need to manage recreation to minimize affects on natural processes and resources and to ensure that there are opportunities available for people looking for different experiences. As well, management of recreation use in backcountry areas needs to consider the long-term affects of grizzly-human interactions. The plan addresses the management of recreation by setting direction for managing frontcountry and backcountry areas differently and for defining acceptable levels of development. The plan also deals with guided recreation opportunities and mechanized recreation uses in the park.

Park Promotion

How Monkman Park is promoted can have considerable effects on long-term visitor patterns for the park as well as on the type of visitor use. The plan provides direction on how Monkman Park will be promoted with consideration given to effects of increasing visitor numbers on the conservation goals for the park.

Interagency Cooperation

In many ways, Monkman Park is connected to the lands surrounding it. Ecological processes, water, air, vegetation, wildlife and people move across the park boundary and consequently Monkman Park cannot be treated in isolation from surrounding lands. This plan sets direction for cooperating with other government agencies, First Nations and Metis, industries, and non-government organizations to develop management strategies for conservation and recreation.

Background Summary

Interest in establishing Monkman Park began in the 1970s when the Peace River Regional District, Fraser Fort George Regional District, and the Grande Prairie Planning Commission, under the direction of Diedger Hollmann, submitted a report to the provincial government calling for a park to be established in the Monkman/Kakwa area. Monkman Provincial Park eventually was established in 1981 to conserve 40,000 hectares of mountainous and rolling forested terrain, lakes, rivers and waterfalls, and wildlife that inhabit the park area. Support for the park's establishment was also driven by its recreation potential for the residents of Tumbler Ridge and other communities in northeastern British Columbia.

The park is named after a local pioneer, Alex Monkman, who explored the area in 1921 and laboured to establish a rail and highway route through the area. The old "Monkman Pass Highway" route still survives in places as a narrow trail running through the heart of the park.

The park lies on the Arctic Drainage side of the Continental Divide and encompasses the upper headwaters of Monkman Creek and the Murray River. The small portion of the park covering the Kinuseo Falls area is separated from the rest of the park by a 1.5 kilometre long "resource corridor". The intent of this corridor was to provide a location for building a forestry road across the Murray River to access the Imperial Creek valley. The road was never constructed.

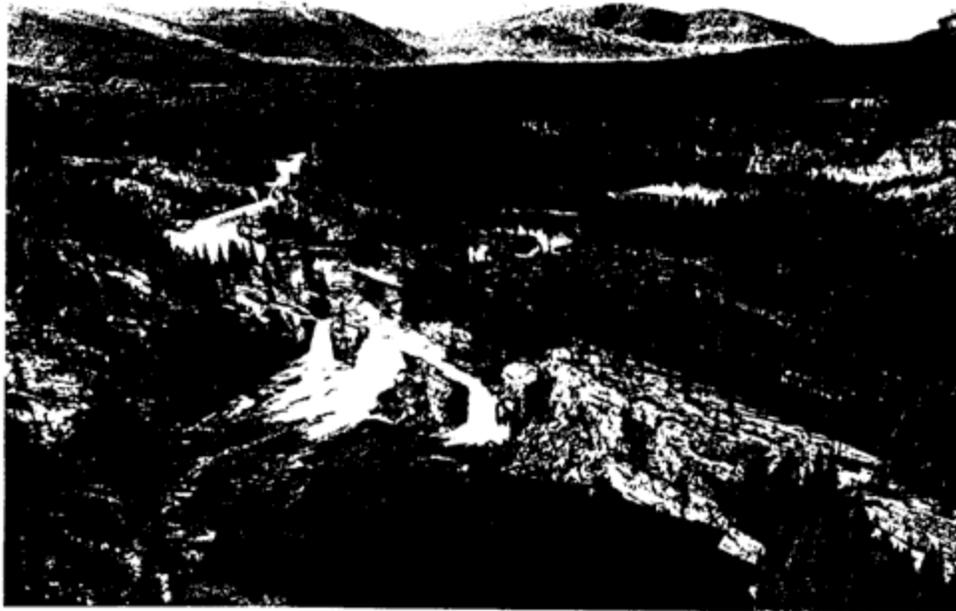
Monkman Park is within the Hart Ranges and Hart Foothills which forms part of the Central Canadian Rocky Mountains. The landscape in this area has less relief and ruggedness than other parts of the Rockies and consists of a series of distinct ridges separated by broad U-shaped valleys. The park contains important special features, including Kinuseo Falls and scenic alpine lakes closer to the Continental Divide.

The park also contains examples of three of British Columbia's fourteen biogeoclimatic zones: Sub-Boreal Spruce, Engelmann Spruce - Subalpine Fir, and Alpine Tundra zones. A wide variety of wildlife inhabits these zones, including grizzly and black bears, gray wolves, wolverines, fishers, river otters, martens, moose, mule deer, caribou, mountain goats, mountain sheep, grouse, owls, and ptarmigan. Some areas of the park have been identified as providing prime grizzly bear habitat.

One of the notable attractions of Monkman Park is the diversity of water features located within its boundaries. The scenic Rocky Mountain landscape is accentuated by the clear, cold streams, waterfalls, rapids, and lakes throughout the area. Along with these lakes and waterfalls, subalpine meadows, quiet forests, and grand mountain panoramas form the spectacular setting of this park.

A road from Tumbler Ridge to Monkman Park was constructed in 1991-92 and park facilities including a campground and viewing platform for Kinuseo Falls were developed. Most visitor use in the park is concentrated in this developed area of the park. A small number of people hike, fly or take horses into the backcountry areas of the park. Most visitors to the backcountry are attracted by the wilderness character, scenic beauty, and solitude that is characterized by the park.

During the 1992 season, the first year the campground operated, 938 camping parties and 2,700 day use parties were recorded. The 1993 season saw the camping attendance drop to 754 parties and day use increase with 4,558 parties recorded. Most of these visitors came from communities within the Peace Country. Six parties were recorded at Monkman Lake during the 1992 season.

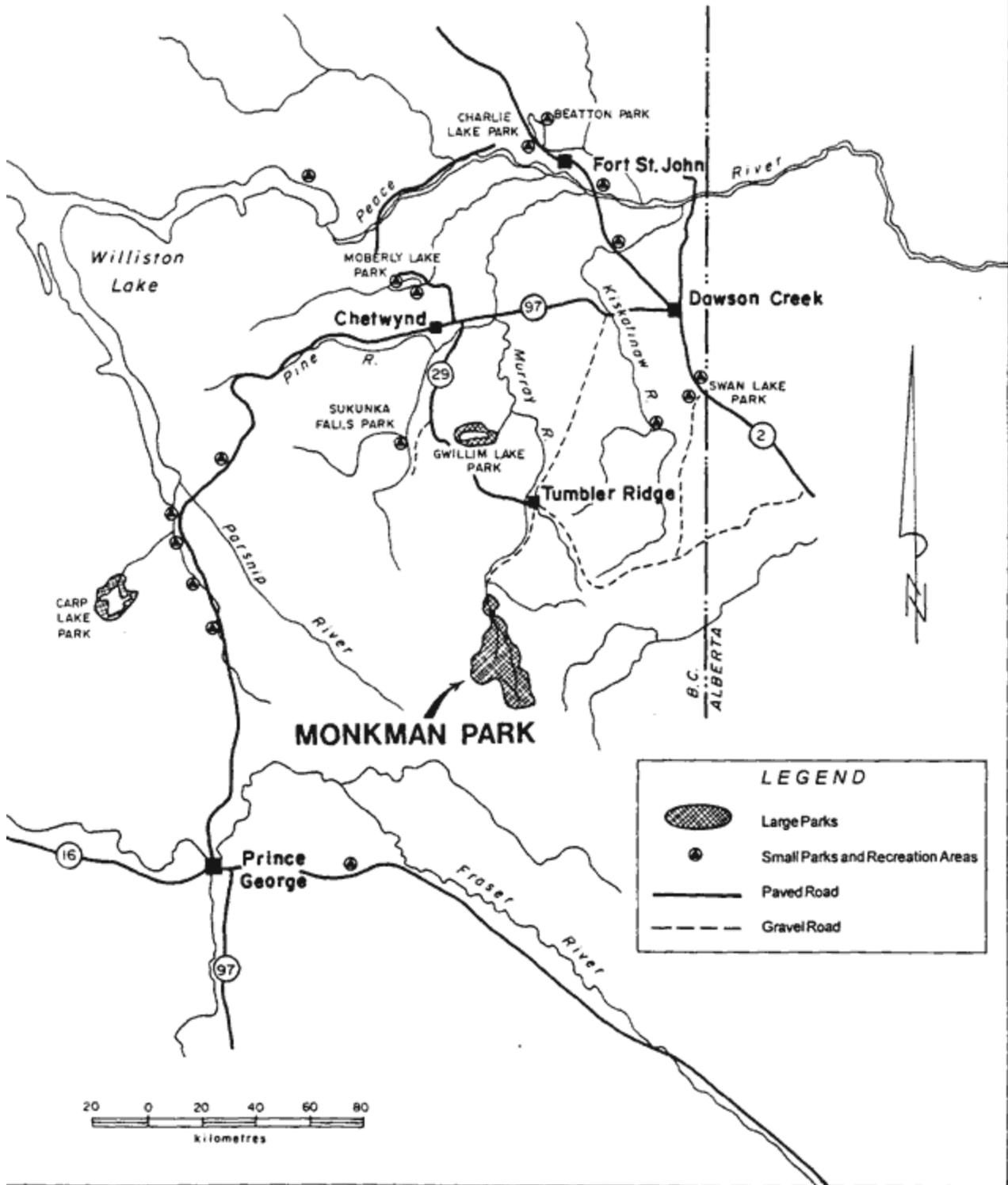


Looking south at Monkman Falls.

MONKMAN PROVINCIAL PARK

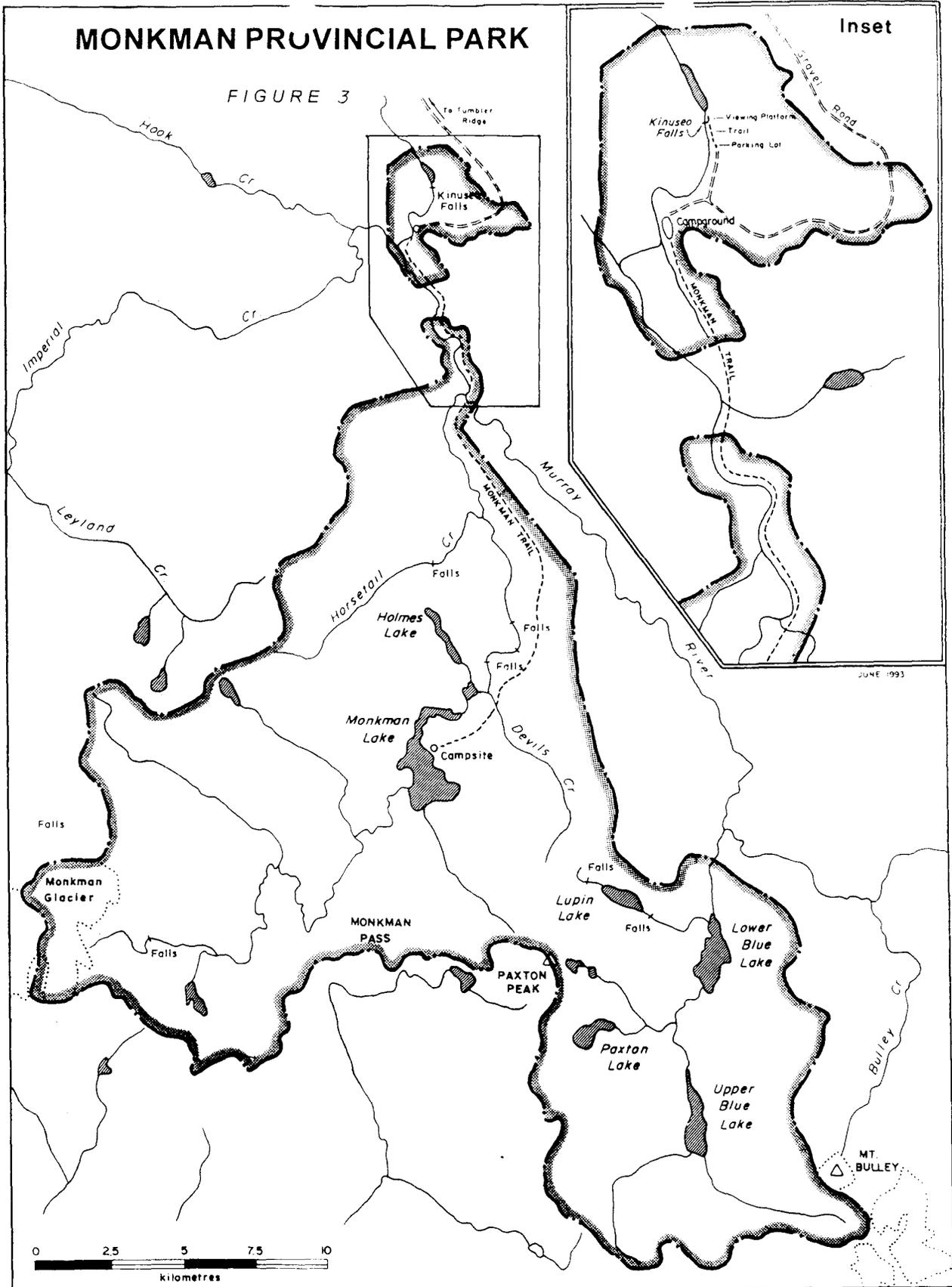
FIGURE 2

REGIONAL CONTEXT



MONKMAN PROVINCIAL PARK

FIGURE 3



Section Two

The Role of the Park

Regional and Provincial Context

Monkman Provincial Park protects the ecological diversity of a central portion of the Canadian Rocky Mountains and provides outdoor recreation opportunities. In addition to conserving ecosystems and wildlife habitat the park also protects special hydrological, physiographic, and cultural features.

Monkman Park is remote and therefore, relatively few people visit the park. Most of the visitors come from local and regional communities and use the facilities in the Kinuseo Falls area. Monkman is two hours from a provincial highway and therefore its role in serving Alaska Highway tourists is limited.

The area surrounding the park is currently undeveloped for resource use, however road development and timber harvesting are planned. As this occurs, Monkman Park's role in protecting natural ecosystems, biodiversity and habitats will become increasingly important.

Conservation Role

- Monkman Park contributes to conserving representative ecosystems and biological diversity within a portion of the Central Canadian Rocky Mountains Ecoregion. Portions of three variants within the Hart Ranges Ecosection and one within the Hart Foothills Ecosection are covered by Monkman Park (see Appendix A for more information). Three of the province's biogeoclimatic zones are found here: the Sub-boreal Spruce, Englemann Spruce-Subalpine Fir, and the Alpine Tundra zones.
- Over 90 percent of the park is designated as wilderness. In these areas effects of visitor use on natural resources are minimized.
- The park contains areas of high quality grizzly bear habitat and conserves a portion of the population's range.
- The complete upper watershed of Monkman Creek and the headwaters of the Murray River are within the park, as well as their associated falls, lakes and fish habitat.
- Monkman Park protects special features of the Hart Ranges and Hart Foothills, such as the provincially significant Kinuseo Falls and step-falls along Monkman Creek, and the numerous alpine lakes, fossil beds, caves, glaciers, and subterranean drainage features.
- A portion of Alex Monkman's historic route and Monkman Pass are within the park.

Recreation Role

- Monkman Park plays a role in providing regional residents with readily accessible outdoor recreation opportunities. The campground, Kinuseo Falls viewpoints, and short trails provide people with readily accessible day use and overnight opportunities in the park's frontcountry. The park also plays a role in increasing public awareness about nature and conservation.
- Monkman Park plays a role in providing opportunities for tourists travelling through the Peace Country.
- The trail to Monkman Lake plays a dual role. First, it provides day use opportunities for people hiking a portion of the trail to the Murray River for nature appreciation, picnicking and fishing. Second, it provides the main access to backcountry areas.
- Monkman Park provides opportunities for destination backcountry hiking, however in keeping with the conservation objectives, this role will be down-played. Experienced outdoors people looking for personal challenges within an environment of solitude, natural scenery, and minimal facilities will find this opportunity in Monkman Park's backcountry.

Vision Statement

A vision statement for Monkman Park has been developed which looks forward to the next decade and sets a tone for how the park may differ from what it is today. Being clear about the long-term vision helps to guide what should be done in the short-term. The vision statement is an important guide for reacting to changing demands for recreation or incorporating new approaches to conservation management. Avoiding reactions to new recreation demands or new management initiatives, without first looking at the "larger picture" and looking at the long-term effects is a priority.

Vision For Conservation

The vision statement for Monkman Park looks ahead 15 years to the year 2009, where the park continues to provide a core protected area surrounded by lands managed for forestry, wildlife, recreation, roads, and other types of land uses. The area managed for conservation purposes has been enlarged and continues to play an important role in providing a relatively undisturbed environment for wildlife and vegetation resources. The park is part of the "*Monkman Area*" where integrated management strategies are implemented. Cooperation between government resource agencies, First Nations, and industries is a priority.

Increased studies and data on vegetation and wildlife resources provides BC Parks with the ability to make informed management decisions. The grizzly bear population continues to be sustained due to conservation efforts and discouraging recreation in areas of high grizzly bear densities.

The backcountry areas of the park have not changed significantly as conservation in these areas remains a high priority. Monkman Park plays an important role in developing public awareness about conservation, natural process, and about park objectives and management. This education process improves vegetation and wildlife conservation because park visitors strongly support and assist in the stewardship of the park and conservation of its resources.

Vision For Recreation

Into the year 2009, Monkman Park continues its important roles in providing people with opportunities for recreation and experiencing nature. The campground is popular with most people coming from local communities, but is also drawing an increasing number of tourists. The frontcountry is well developed with numerous family oriented activities such as nature walks, angling, picnicking and exploring. Within a day, people can hike the first half of the Monkman Lake Trail and visit the step-falls along Monkman Creek. The latter half of the trail continues to Monkman Lake, but is less developed and suited for experienced backpackers.

The Kinuseo Falls area has also developed into an important staging area for recreation opportunities adjacent to the park. Government agencies, industry and clubs cooperate to develop horse, hiking, mountain-biking, ATV and snowmobile trails near the park.

Portions of Monkman Park's backcountry continue to be visited by experienced hikers and they are also able to hike to areas outside of the park. BC Parks and the Lheit-Lit'en Nation work together to ensure that backcountry recreation activities are respectful of the Nation's sacred area in the Limestone Lakes and Ice Mountain areas. Since BC Parks has not promoted backcountry opportunities, visitor numbers have grown slowly and people still find solitude, inspiration, and personal growth. Essentially the backcountry has changed little.

Section Three

Park Zoning

Park Zoning

Introduction

BC Parks applies zoning to Monkman to indicate how different parts of the park will be managed. In general terms, zoning defines a range of management directions. At one end of the spectrum, the Intensive Recreation Zone indicates a portion of the park that is appropriate for high levels of recreation and facility development. At the opposite end of the spectrum, the Wilderness Conservation Zone indicates an area of the park that receives the highest level of protection and minimal human presence. Between these two ends, there are three additional zones providing a range of conservation and recreation priorities. Details of the zoning descriptions are in Appendix B.

Based on Monkman's features, its objectives for recreation and conservation, and its vision statement, the park has been divided into 4 zoned areas (figure 4):

- Wilderness Conservation Zone covering the upper Murray River watershed including Lupin, Paxton, Upper Blue, and Lower Blue lakes and comprising 12,350 hectares;
- Wilderness Recreation Zone covering the upper Monkman Creek watershed including the latter half of the Monkman Trail and comprising 25,080 hectares;
- Natural Environment Zone covering the area around Kinuseo Falls and covering the first part of the Monkman Trail and comprising 1,678 hectares; and,
- Intensive Recreation Zone covering the park road, campground, Kinuseo Falls viewing platform, parking areas, and service yard and comprising 460 hectares.

The extent of wilderness zoning is a recognition of the priority for minimizing effects from human use within backcountry areas of the park. Some visitor use in these wilderness zones will occur with evidence of human presence being kept to a minimum.

Wilderness Conservation Zone

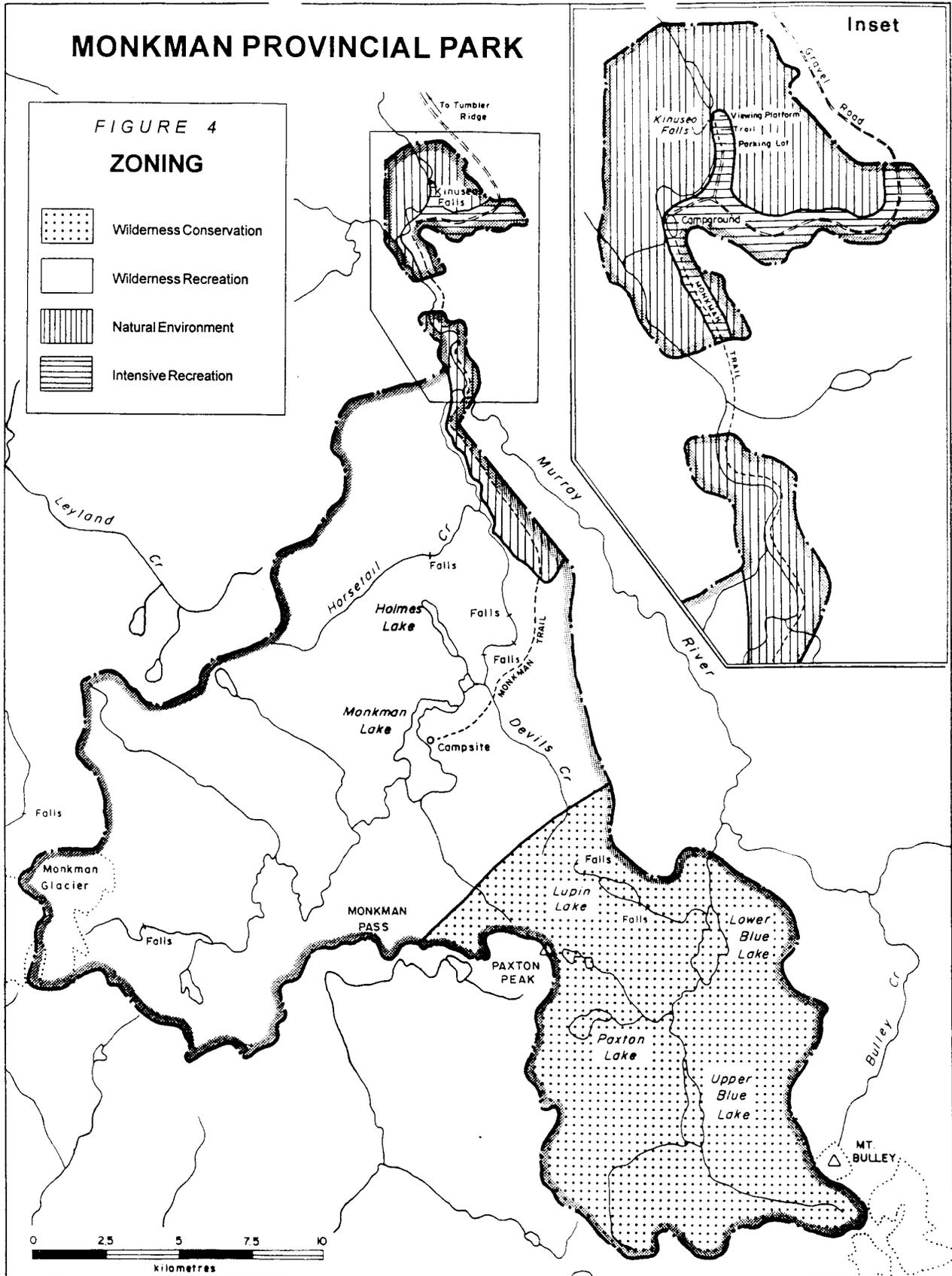
This zone covers the complete upper Murray River watershed including Lupin, Lower Blue, Upper Blue, and Paxton lakes. The objective of this zone is to provide a high level of protection for the park's resources and its undisturbed natural environment. The intent of zoning this area as Wilderness Conservation is to set aside a portion of the park where backcountry use is minimized (since recreation use is not encouraged or promoted) and virtually no evidence of human activity exists.

MONKMAN PROVINCIAL PARK

FIGURE 4

ZONING

-  Wilderness Conservation
-  Wilderness Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Intensive Recreation



This area is chosen to provide this high level of conservation because initial investigations indicate it contains high grizzly habitat capability. As well, its boundaries outline a complete upper headwater, and its lakes contain fish populations that are sensitive to over-harvesting. Although little hunting occurs within this zone, phasing out hunting in this area will complement broader long-term strategies for conserving sensitive species such as grizzly. Further, setting this area aside from encouraged recreation use helps reduce incidence of grizzly-human interactions.

Currently, some uses within this area do not conform with the objectives of the Wilderness Conservation Zone. These include trapping, hunting, and floatplane landings. In the long-term, BC Parks intends to eliminate these activities within this zone through a process of negotiation and consultation with affected individuals and groups¹. In the interim, these activities will be recognized as non-conforming uses within this zone. No commercial air access will be allowed in this zone, except under the current terms of the guide-outfitting permit.



Lower Blue Lake is within the Wilderness Conservation Zone.

¹ Uses such as trapping and guide-outfitting have a form of tenure which would require BC Parks to negotiate their purchase before the uses are eliminated. Uses such as hunting and floatplane access are not associated with tenured rights but are supported by strong interest groups. BC Parks will consult with these interest group associations about eliminating these uses within the zone.

This zone falls within one guide-outfitting territory which contains one guide camp at Lower Blue Lake. BC Parks' policy considers guided hunting as one of several types of commercial recreation opportunities permitted in parks. However, BC Parks will work towards phasing out this activity within Monkman Park's Conservation Zone, because the activity does not conform to the goals and objectives for this zone. In the interim, BC Parks will approach the tenure holder about ways to reduce the effects of guided hunting within the zone (see Land and Resource Tenures).

Generally, within Wilderness Conservation Zones, natural processes, such as wildfire, are not interfered with unless necessary for protecting resources outside of the park. The intent is, as much as possible, to allow natural-caused fires and other natural processes to run their course under fairly normal (non-extreme) environmental conditions. This is an interim measure until a Vegetation Management Plan is prepared.

Within the Wilderness Conservation Zone recreation facilities will not be provided and visitor numbers may be controlled to protect resources and features. Park signs will be used only when absolutely necessary for protection of park resources. The public will be informed that constructing cairns will not be allowed in this zone. As well, mechanized use such as snowmobiles or ATVs will not be allowed. Developing cooperation between BC Parks, Ministry of Forests, local forest companies, and the Fish and Wildlife Branch to ensure that management strategies outside this part of the park recognize and consider the objectives of this zone, will be a priority.

Wilderness Recreation Zone

This zone covers most of the Monkman Creek watershed. The intent of this zone is to place a high priority on conserving the natural environment while providing for a level of backcountry use that is compatible with the natural environment.

This area was chosen for the Wilderness Recreation zone because it provides backcountry camping opportunities at Monkman Lake and primitive hiking opportunities from the Monkman Trail to the Monkman Tarns area (currently outside of the park). This type of low impact recreation opportunity is largely compatible with the conservation objectives of the zone.

Backcountry facilities may be provided if they are necessary for maintaining the natural environment and will be rustic in nature, kept to a minimum, and compatible with the scenery. The intent is to provide facilities at specific sites where concentrated recreation use is identified, such as at Monkman Lake or along the Monkman Lake Trail. This strategy concentrates recreation use in a few areas rather than encouraging recreation use throughout the entire zone. Visitor numbers may be controlled if it is necessary to protect resources and features. Small cairns may be constructed by BC Parks only if necessary for marking routes.

It is a priority to cultivate a cooperative relationship between BC Parks, Ministry of Forests, local forest companies, and the Fish and Wildlife Branch to ensure that management strategies adjacent to this area of the park recognize and consider the objectives of this zone. Limited private aircraft access to Monkman Lake will be allowed and one commercial aircraft operator will be allowed (see Access Strategy).

All terrain vehicles (ATVs), except for snowmobiles, are not allowed in this zone. Snowmobiles can be carefully managed to have minimal effects on the environment, whereas ATVs, such as "four-tracks", are more likely to have damaging effects. As such, snowmobiles are treated differently than other ATVs. While the snowmobile working group investigates snowmobiling routes in the area, snowmobile clubs can travel to Monkman Lake with permission from BC Parks (see Outdoor Recreation Opportunities).

Natural Environment Zone

This zone covers a ribbon of land associated with the first 12 kilometres of the Monkman Trail from the campground to the end of the ridge above Monkman Creek's stepfalls. The zone also covers the general area around Kinuseo Falls, excluding the viewing platform area.

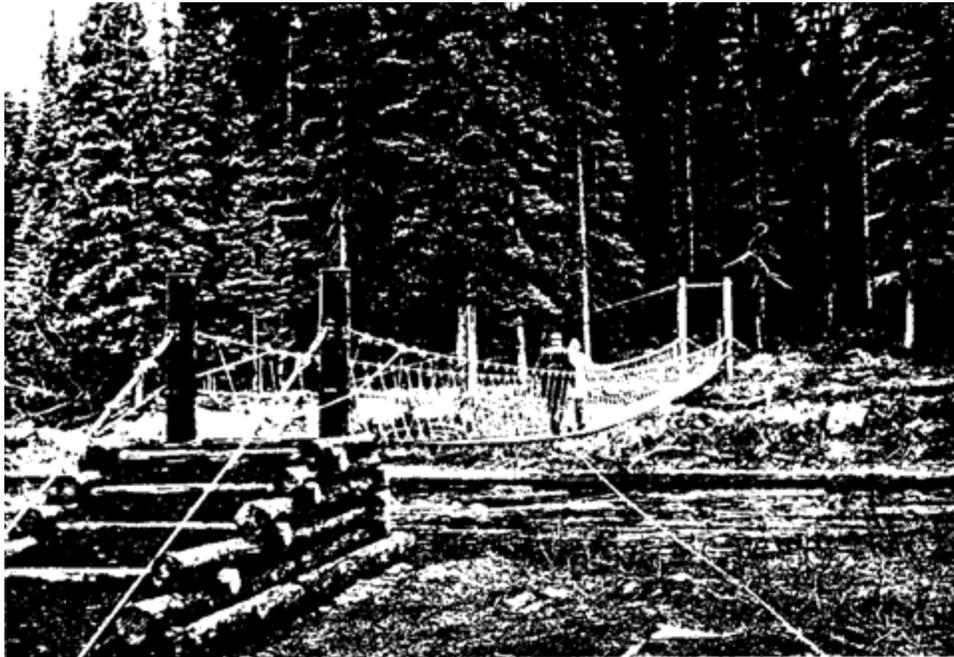
The first 12 kilometres of the Monkman Trail are included in this zone because the hike to the ridge and the steps-falls along Monkman Creek are within a day's hike of the campground. This provides an opportunity for experienced or inexperienced hikers to visit a portion of Monkman's backcountry.

The intent of this zone is to provide for a higher level of recreation use than is provided for in the wilderness zones. Facilities will be provided where they are necessary to maintain the natural environment, where there are interpretation opportunities, and where they will enhance recreation opportunities. The intent is to ensure that facilities do not dominate the natural setting. Trail development will make use of the natural terrain and scenic value. This zone provides a transition area separating the highly visited and developed areas of the park from the undeveloped wilderness areas of the park.

All terrain vehicles, except for snowmobiles, will not be allowed in this zone. Snowmobile use is allowed on designated routes within the zone covering the Kinuseo Falls area. Within the Natural Environment Zone covering the first half of the Monkman Lake Trail, snowmobile use is allowed with permission from BC Parks.

Intensive Recreation Zone

The zone covers the highly visited and developed parts of the park including the campground, park road, parking lots, the Kinuseo Falls viewing platform, and the service yard. In this zone, visitors will have opportunities for a variety of readily accessible facility-oriented recreation and interpretation opportunities. While development is aimed at managing a high number of visitors, the setting will be maintained in as natural a state as possible. Establishment of snowmobile routes conforms with the objectives of this zone.



Foot bridge across the Murray River - Natural Environment Zone

Section Four

Natural and Cultural Resources Management

Natural and Cultural Resources Management

Introduction

Monkman Provincial Park was established in 1981, protecting the physiography and ecosystems of a portion of the Central Canadian Rocky Mountains Ecoregion and providing a picturesque setting for outdoor recreation. A central principle in managing this 40,000 hectare park is to conserve the natural environment, ecosystems, and wilderness character while providing opportunities for compatible outdoor recreation activities. This section of the master plan builds on this central principle by outlining objectives and management actions to provide general guidance on how resources should be managed and identifying priorities for undertaking detailed management plans. There are four important themes within this section:

1. Monkman Park conserves a portion of a larger ecosystem (yet to be defined), with some species relying on areas both inside and outside of the park. As such, in managing for conservation it is important to consider Monkman Park as a core of protection and that interagency cooperation can play an important role in extending conservation management beyond the park boundaries.
2. Any level and type of recreation use must be compatible with the park's natural and cultural resources;
3. More information on Monkman Park's natural and cultural resources is needed to better understand and prioritize what needs to be managed and protected. Information and education strategies can also help in conservation management of the park. Further, this type of information is needed to clearly define what roles Monkman Park can play in strategies for conserving biodiversity at the landscape level; and,
4. While information is being gathered about the park's resources and ecological processes, management strategies will be conservative. The intent is to essentially maintain the status quo of the backcountry areas of the park while specific vegetation and wildlife plans are developed.

The Park Boundary

The boundary of the park is an administrative tool to define lands on which BC Parks has legislative authority under the *Park Act* to manage resources and provide recreation opportunities. It is important to consider whether changes to the park boundary are necessary. For example, natural processes such as species migration, wildfire and forest infestations can move across the park's boundaries. As well, human disturbances, such as timber harvesting, road construction, hardrock mining, natural gas development, hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation on the natural landscape surrounding the park can also have effects on the park itself. Further, there may be features or unrepresented vegetation communities (biogeoclimatic variants) outside of the park that are significant and should be considered for conservation.

This section highlights the main interests and concerns relating to the park's boundary and sets direction for resolving park boundary issues. There are four specific issues related to the park boundary (figure 5).

First, (figure 5, no. 1) the park is split into two areas by a 1.5 kilometre corridor separating the Kinuseo area from the larger portion of the park. The park was established this way in 1981 to allow for a possible forestry road being built across the Murray River to access the Imperial Creek valley. Recent investigations of possible river crossings have revealed that the corridor area does not provide the best option. The corridor remains Crown Land, and BC Parks has no legislative management control over this area.

Second, (figure 5, no. 2) portions of the eastern boundary of the park consist of straight lines that do not follow natural features and exclude some areas that are prominently viewed from the Monkman Trail. Of particular concern is the boundary south of the junction of the Murray River and Monkman Creek. The Monkman Trail is very close to the boundary there and most of the area to the east viewed by hikers is outside of the park and scheduled for timber harvesting.

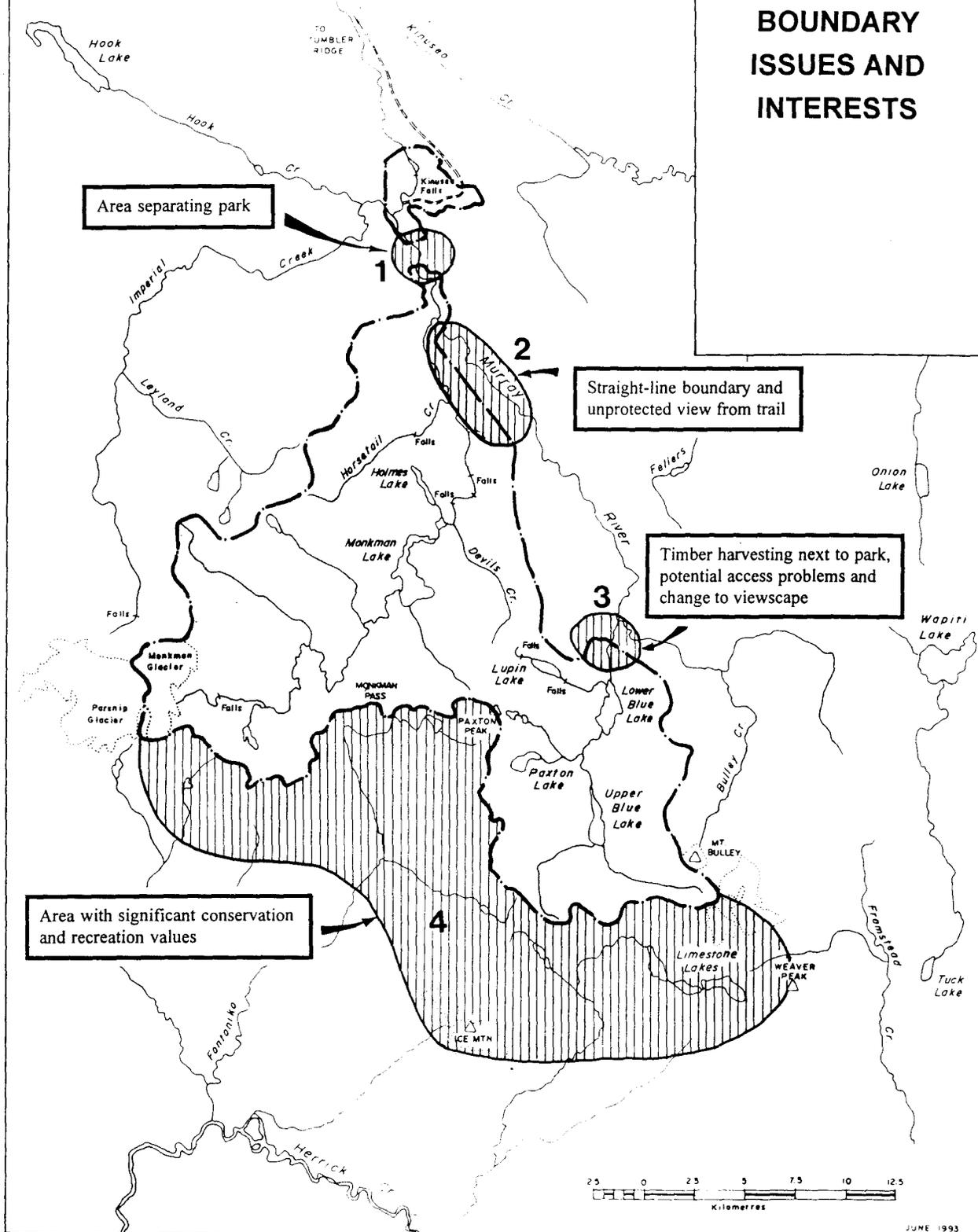
Third, (figure 5, no. 3) the boundary in the Lower Blue Lake area cuts across a wide flat valley. The concern is that roads associated with timber harvesting in the Bulley Creek area may create easy access to this part of the park making it difficult to control unwanted access into the Wilderness Conservation Zone.

Fourth, (figure 5, no. 4) the southern boundary of the park excludes significant features that have high conservation and recreation significance². The upper Fontoniko

² This area of interest is within the boundaries of the Herrick Creek Local Resource Use Planning (LRUP) process. The LRUP working group supports adding these features to Monkman Park. The area is also recognized as a Study Area within the province's Protected Areas Strategy planning process and this area of interest will be dealt with through that process. The Lheit-Lit'en Nation currently are not in favour of park status over the area.

MONKMAN PROVINCIAL PARK

FIGURE 5
AREAS WITH BOUNDARY ISSUES AND INTERESTS



Creek valley has significant stands of old growth spruce (greater than 250 years) and the Limestone Lakes area has wildlife habitat and unique hydrological and geological features. The rolling plateau, referred to as the Monkman Tarns area, has value for alpine hiking opportunities. Also in this area is the Very Wet Cool Sub-Boreal Spruce biogeoclimatic variant which is associated with the Central Canadian Rocky Mountains Ecoregion, but not currently represented in Monkman Park. Much of this area is part of the Lheit-Lit'en Nation's sacred area and they have significant concerns about the area becoming a "protected area". The Ministry of Forests and the Lheit-Lit'en Nation are working towards a Memorandum of Understanding describing a special status for the sacred area and a special management relationship.

Objectives

To work within current land use planning processes to protect areas adjacent to the park that have high conservation or recreation values.

To connect the two separated parts of the park.

To work cooperatively with other government agencies, industries, First Nations, and public interest groups to manage the park in consideration of natural processes, and human activities outside of the park boundary.

Associated Objectives³

Vegetation Resources:	To obtain information about disturbance regimes, vegetation patterns, and the presence of rare species in and around the park. (page 35)
Wildlife Resources:	To increase knowledge and understanding of wildlife resources and habitat in and around the park. (page 39)
Visual Resources:	To minimize unnatural changes to the scenery of Monkman Park and its surrounding lands. (page 49)

³ Associated Objectives are objectives that are found elsewhere in the master plan and are related to objectives stated in the section. There may be numerous relationships between objectives from various sections, however this plan identifies just the most critical Associated Objectives. Master planning tends to divide park management into discrete parts and as such, it is important to highlight links between related objectives to show how different parts of the plan relate.

Actions

- Obtain clearances to join the Kinuseo Falls area to the rest of the park. In conjunction with this, BC Parks and the Ministry of Forests will prepare a Memorandum of Understanding to allow for a road right-of-way to be designated through the park once a route across the Murray River has been chosen. BC Parks will assist in the road location and design so that the goals and objectives of the park are maintained.
- Initiate contact with the Ministry of Forests to have a Landscape Assessment undertaken for the Murray River and Bulley Creek viewsheds (see Visual Resources section).
- Review the Limestone Lakes-Monkman Tarns study area (figure 5, no. 4) within the context of the Protected Areas Strategy, the Herrick Creek Local Resource Use Plan, and the Prince George Land and Resource Management Plan. The study area will be assessed according to how it would improve Monkman Park's representation of the Central Canadian Rocky Mountains Ecoregion and to the significance of its special natural and cultural features and its recreation values.

The protection of the study area will also be assessed in terms of identifying both common and divergent interests held by BC Parks and the Lheit-Lit'en Nation. BC Parks will consult fully with the Nation on matters affecting their sacred area and their interests in the possible Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Forests.

- Continue involvement in inter-agency processes such as the Land and Resources Management Planning process to develop strategies that minimize effects from timber harvesting near the park, particularly along the Bulley Creek and Murray River valleys. Continue to review 5-year forestry development plans for areas adjacent to the park.
- Maintain close communication with Ministry of Forests and forest companies operating on adjacent lands to review forest harvesting plans in terms of how they affect wilderness values, access into the park, recreation, and viewsapes.

Land and Resource Tenures

Before the park was established, oil and gas explorations were carried out in the Kinuseo Falls area. An active Petroleum and Natural Gas Permit (P.N.G. Permit #2722) was established prior to the park's designation but has been cancelled.

A Power Reserve (O.I.C. 443/49) was established over the Kinuseo Falls area in 1940 and covers about 80 hectares. Damming or diverting water from the falls for hydro electricity generation is not allowed in a Class A Park. As such, the Power Reserve contravenes the *Park Act*.

The park is covered by portions of two registered trapline territories and two registered game guide-outfitting territories. BC Parks permits guide-outfitter territories and permits trapline tenures that were established before the park was designated. These tenures do not conform with the objectives of the Wilderness Conservation Zone.

BC Parks and Canadian Forest Products are currently working on the terms for a Park Use Permit that will allow a forest access road to be built through the Intensive Recreation Zone of the park. Construction of this road into the Murray River valley is part of the overall road access agreements in place including the Monkman Road from Tumbler Ridge that was built in 1991-92. The road will be planned and built as far from the campground as feasible and it will be maintained and operated to minimize effects on campground visitors. About 2 kilometres of the road will be within the park boundaries. The intention is for this road to be used for forestry access rather than for public access.

Objectives

To manage non-conforming tenures to meet the conservation objectives of the park.

To eliminate, where possible, tenures in conflict with the *Park Act* or which do not conform with park zoning.

Associated Objectives

Water Resources: To maintain the natural quantity and quality of water resources in the park. (page 34)

Wildlife Resources: To provide limited hunting opportunities in designated areas of the park while ensuring that conservation objectives are being met. (page 39)

Actions

- Attempt to negotiate the purchase of trapline territories that cover the park. The highest priority is for acquiring portions of these tenures that cover the Intensive Recreation and the Wilderness Conservation Zone. In the interim, trapline harvest numbers will continue to be monitored.

- Monitor guide-outfitting activities and harvest data. Approach the guide-outfitter covering the Wilderness Conservation Zone to negotiate ways to reduce guide-outfitting activities in the zone. Items of concern include harvesting quotas within the zone and the location of the guide camp within the zone. The intent is to reduce visitor activities within the zone as a means of reducing grizzly-human interactions and protecting natural fish populations from being over harvested.
- Initiate the process with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources to cancel the Power Reserve over Kinuseo Falls.

Water

Monkman Park protects numerous water features including the headwaters of Monkman Creek, Horsetail Creek, and the Murray River. As well, Monkman Lake, Lupin Lake, Holmes Lake, Paxton Lake, and Upper and Lower Blue lakes are entirely within the park. Seven step-falls, including Monkman Falls, Kinuseo Falls, and Lupin Falls are within the park. Other small lakes and creeks are located throughout the park. The water resources are important components of Monkman Park's ecosystems and also enhance recreation opportunities.

Much of Murray River, Hook Creek, and Imperial Creek are outside of the park and enter the park above Kinuseo Falls. Development in these watersheds adjacent to the park could affect the water quality or water flow over the falls within the park.

Objective

To maintain the natural quantity and quality of the water resources in the park. .

Associated Objectives

Fish Resources: To maintain natural fish habitat. (page 45)

Actions

- Investigate working with Ministry of Forests and BC Environment to establish a water monitoring program for the Murray River before logging roads are constructed. This would aid in documenting the effects of development on water quality and quantity.
- Work with Ministry of Forests' engineers to ensure that any future bridge crossing of the Murray River minimizes negative effects on water quality.
- Work cooperatively with forest companies and the Ministry of Forests to minimize negative effects of logging on water resources flowing into the park from adjacent areas.
- Ensure that sanitary facilities and stream crossings (culverts etc.) are properly designed and located to ensure water quality is maintained.
- Ensure that trail development and maintenance minimizes erosion of surface materials into creeks, rivers and lakes.

Vegetation

Vegetation is a basic biological features of the park and contributes to wildlife habitat and to the visual and recreation values of the park. Monkman Park contains examples of three of British Columbia's biogeoclimatic zones. These are the Sub-Boreal Spruce, Englemann Spruce-Subalpine Fir, and the Alpine Tundra Zones. Further, the vegetation in the park is representative of four of the nineteen biogeoclimatic variants found within the Hart Foothills and Hart Ranges ecosections⁴ (see Appendix A for more information).

Natural disturbances such as fire, disease, and insect infestations are fundamental in maintaining ecosystem complexity. However, there are concerns about how natural disturbances might affect specific conservation goals. Conservation biologists present a view that nature reserves or parks the size of Monkman are too small by themselves to allow natural processes as the sole mechanism for maintaining biodiversity in the long-term. For example, past interference with natural disturbances can create "unnatural" conditions for fire or insect infestation patterns

⁴ The Hart Foothills and Hart Ranges ecosections form part of the Central Canadian Rocky Mountains Ecoregion.

and this makes it difficult to suddenly allow nature to take its course. Further, as logging occurs around Monkman Park, there may be ecosystems inside the park that become increasingly important to conserve. As well, there may be pressures to control some natural disturbances in the park that could affect commercial forests outside of the park. Consequently, conservation of specific vegetation communities in a protected area the size of Monkman Park may require *active management* strategies⁵.

Some wildfire suppression has occurred in Monkman Park, but it is not known to what extent the natural fire regime has been altered. No forest pest management activities have occurred within the park. In general, there is little information about the vegetation resources and disturbance regimes in the park and how they relate to vegetation outside of the park. Generally, BC Parks' management philosophy is to allow natural processes to occur as much as possible. However, in the absence of information, there are concerns about allowing all natural disturbances to run their course without some understanding of the consequences.

Objectives

To obtain information about natural disturbances, vegetation patterns, and the presence of rare species in and around the park.

To largely maintain current vegetation patterns and wildlife habitat in the park while information about natural disturbances and vegetation patterns is being gathered.

To protect rare, endangered or sensitive plant communities and species as they are identified, and to prevent, where possible, the establishment of non-native species.

To encourage public appreciation of forest and vegetation values.

Associated Objectives

Wildlife Resources: To maintain populations of natural wildlife species at current levels. (page 39)

Visual Resources: To minimize unnatural changes to the scenery of Monkman park and its surrounding areas. (page 49)

⁵ The intent of active management strategies is to determine the natural processes affecting the area and then to replicate these under controlled conditions. These strategies require considerable information and study before being implemented.

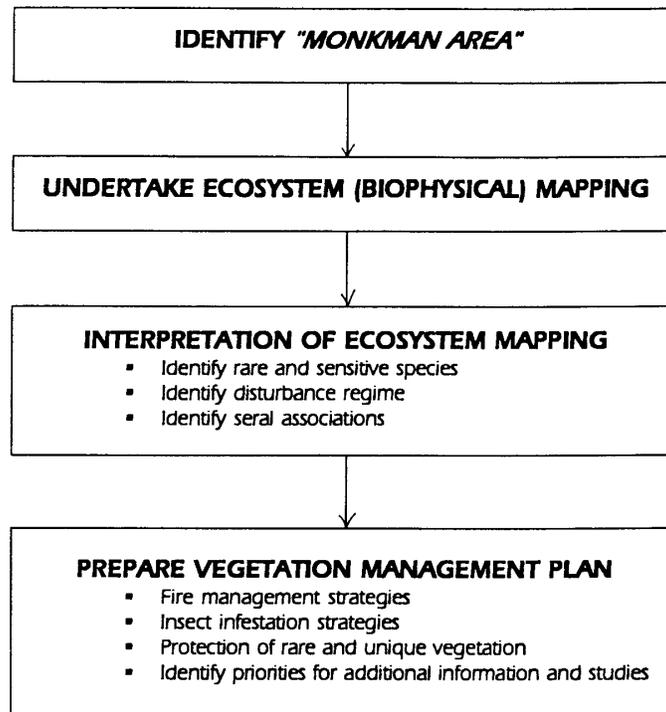
Promotion &
Marketing:

To portray Monkman Park's role in conserving important habitat and biodiversity, while also providing a portion of the park for visitors to experience the outdoors. (page 77)

Actions

- Implement initial attack procedures on all fires, either by Ministry of Forests or BC Parks. If it is determined that the fire will not spread to areas outside of the park or will not threaten park visitors or facilities, the fire may be allowed to run its natural course. The intent is to allow, as much as possible, natural fires that occur under fairly normal environmental (non-extreme) conditions to follow their natural course. Insect infestations that could lead to epidemic proportions will be controlled using low impact, site specific methods. This action is an interim strategy until a detailed vegetation management plan is prepared.
- Undertake to identify with other resource agencies, the "*Monkman Area*". This area will be described using biological and physiographic criteria to define a logical boundary encompassing the park and its surrounding areas. The intent of this project is to define the area that will be mapped and studied, ultimately working towards developing, with other resource agencies, ecosystem-based (landscape-level) management concepts.
- Undertake vegetation ecosystem mapping for Monkman Park and its surrounding areas (the "*Monkman Area*"). Support from other resource agencies will be sought for this project. The intent of this project is to assess the significance of the park's vegetation patterns in relation to surrounding areas and to identify representative and important vegetation communities and habitat.
- Prepare a vegetation management plan that will identify specific management strategies based on the findings of the ecosystem mapping project. As part of the vegetation management plan, a fire management plan will be prepared that will indicate specific circumstances and locations for which wildfires will be allowed to burn or be suppressed. The plan will consider objectives and strategies for conserving vegetation patterns and rare species or ecosystems, natural fire regimes, public safety, forest resources around the park, and the protection of facilities. The fire management plan will consider conditions for the use of prescribed burning for ecological reasons. The vegetation management plan will also identify strategies for protecting rare and sensitive species.
- Work with the BC Forest Service and forest companies in the development of forest management guidelines for areas adjacent to Monkman Park. The intent of these guidelines will be to consider conservation management objectives for vegetation and ecosystems within Monkman Park while practicing forest management in areas surrounding the park (*ie.* the "*Monkman Area*").

**FIGURE 6: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT -
SEQUENCE OF ACTIONS**



- Monitor camping and trail areas to ensure that vegetation is not being damaged. Once identified, protect sensitive or rare species or ecosystems from damaging effects of recreation use.
- Develop methods for public awareness and appreciation of the park's vegetation resources and natural processes (see Natural and Cultural Resources Education section).
- Retain tree snags for wildlife habitat except in situations within the Intensive Recreation or Natural Environment Zones where there is a serious threat to visitors or park facilities.

Wildlife

Monkman Park provides habitat for a wide variety of animals such as grizzlies, moose, fisher, marmots and voles. During the winter months, the harsh climate and deep snow throughout Monkman displaces most of the larger mammals from the park area. Numerous bird species such as owls, geese and song birds also inhabit the park, however little is known about the park's wildlife, especially the reptiles, amphibians, and insects.

Few wildlife inventories have been undertaken in Monkman Park. In 1985, 46 goats were counted in Monkman Park north of Monkman Lake and Paxton Peak and goat tracks were noted in the Mount Bulley-Limestone Lakes area. In 1989 a reconnaissance of grizzly bear habitat was undertaken for the Paxton, Lupin, and the Upper and Lower Blue lakes areas. These areas were found to have high grizzly habitat capability. The BC Environment/BC Forest Service grizzly bear density mapping (based upon biogeoclimatic mapping) provides an overview of the role Monkman Park plays in providing unaltered grizzly bear habitat within the Hart Ranges Ecosection. Grizzlies are also known to range throughout most of the park and adjacent areas. As road and forest development increases around the park, Monkman will become increasingly important for providing unaltered grizzly range.

Hunting is a recreational activity that occurs in Monkman Park. Most game species are open to hunting except for goats and grizzly bears which require Limited Entry Hunting permits. The Kinuseo Falls area of the park is closed to hunting and to the discharge of firearms. There are two registered traplines and two guide-outfitting territories in Monkman which pre-date the establishment of the park. First Nations people belonging to Treaty 8 have traditional hunting and trapping rights that cover the park area.



Monkman Park plays a role in providing unaltered grizzly bear habitat.

There are interests in continuing to work with BC Environment to manage hunting carefully in Monkman Park. Additional wildlife data and habitat information is needed for wildlife and hunting management and while this information is being gathered it is particularly important to manage wildlife harvesting conservatively. Although little hunting occurs in Monkman Park, phasing out hunting in a portion of the park (Wilderness Conservation Zone) will complement broader long-term strategies for conserving sensitive species such as grizzly.

Objectives:

To maintain populations of natural wildlife species at current levels.

To conserve rare, endangered, sensitive or vulnerable species.

To increase knowledge and understanding of wildlife resources and habitat in and around the park.

To provide viewing and interpretation of wildlife species that will not be negatively affected by such activities.

To allow limited hunting opportunities in designated areas of the park while ensuring that conservation objectives are being met.

Associated Objectives

Vegetation Resources: To largely maintain current vegetation patterns and wildlife habitat in the park while information about disturbance regimes and vegetation patterns is being gathered. (page 35)

Access Strategy: To provide a reasonable level of access for visitors to experience the park while minimizing negative effects on the environment, wildlife, and visitor's enjoyment of the park. (page 75)

Education Strategy: To inform and educate park visitors about natural and cultural resources in the area so they have a better appreciation and understanding of natural and historic significance as well as principles of conservation and park management (page 82).

Promotion & Marketing Strategy: To portray Monkman Park's role in conserving important habitat and biodiversity, while also providing a portion of the park for visitors to experience the outdoors.

To focus promotional materials primarily on frontcountry activities in consideration of the objectives for the backcountry areas of the park. (page 77)

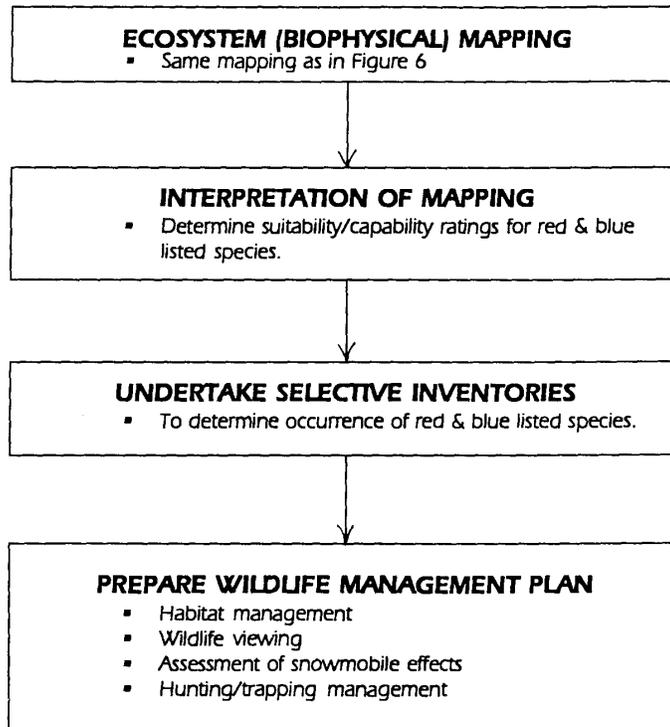
Actions:

- Utilize ecosystem mapping (action from Vegetation Section) to interpret wildlife habitat patterns in and around Monkman Park. This will indicate the types of wildlife habitat that are available, but will not indicate the actual presence of wildlife species. Also, utilize ecosystem mapping to gain a better understanding of how Monkman Park contributes to landscape-level wildlife habitat patterns. The intent is to determine if the park currently provides or will provide important habitat that is becoming less available outside of the park. Support and cooperation will be sought from BC Environment, BC Forest Service, and forest companies to extend this project to include the whole "*Monkman Area*".

- Determine, in cooperation with other agencies, suitability and capability ratings for red and blue listed wildlife species⁶. This project will cover the "*Monkman Area*" and will utilize the ecosystem mapping defined in the Vegetation Section. This project will build on the BC Environment/BC Forest Service capability mapping already prepared.
- Undertake selective wildlife inventories for the "*Monkman Area*" as funding becomes available. The intent of this project is to identify the occurrence of red and blue listed species and other selective species that may be important for conservation management. The inventories will provide a basis for defining species-specific management objectives. Additional support for this project will be sought from other agencies.
- Manage hunting with BC Environment according to park zoning, available wildlife information, and activities (recreation, road development, forestry) that occur in areas adjacent to the park. In keeping with BC Parks policy, wildlife harvesting will generally be managed more conservatively within Monkman Park than in areas outside of the park. All available harvesting data for areas in the "*Monkman Area*" will be monitored to ensure the viability of wildlife populations.
- BC Parks will work towards phasing out guided and resident (non-aboriginal) hunting in the area covering Lupin, Paxton, and Upper Blue and Lower Blue lakes (Wilderness Conservation Zone). This complements the conservation objectives for this area, by reducing opportunities for recreation in the zone. Hunting will be treated as a non-conforming use within the zone until the activity can be phased out. BC Parks will work with other agencies and the BC Wildlife Federation to determine whether hunting should be phased out in other zones of Monkman Park.
- Extend the no shooting zone in the Kinuseo Falls area to include the Monkman Lake Trail in consideration of public safety.
- First Nations covered under Treaty 8 continue to have rights to harvest wildlife for sustenance and ceremonial purposes within the park, except for no shooting zones. BC Parks will work with First Nations in order to reach an agreement to avoid traditional hunting activities within the Wilderness Conservation Zone. First Nations hunters will be encouraged to provide harvesting data.

⁶ BC Environment identifies blue listed species as those that are sensitive or vulnerable. They are not threatened, but potentially at risk because of their low or declining occurrence at the fringes of their range or that the species are located in isolated areas. Red listed species are those having low abundance (rare) and are legally designated as threatened or endangered or considered as becoming threatened or endangered. These are species native to B.C. and face imminent extirpation if current threats continue.

**FIGURE 7: WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT -
SEQUENCE OF ACTIONS**



- Investigate possible effects of snowmobiling on wildlife in the park. This action is in reference to the snowmobile corridor study discussed in the Outdoor Recreation Section (page 61). The intent is to compile current information from relevant studies conducted elsewhere, to use habitat mapping and wildlife inventories, and to gain advice from local wildlife biologists.
- Prepare a wildlife management plan to address specific management issues including: habitat management; wildlife viewing; assessment of snowmobiling effects; surrounding land uses; and, hunting and trapping management. As part of the wildlife management plan and in cooperation with First Nations people and BC Environment, develop a strategy which meets the needs of the First Nations sustenance and ceremonial purposes while protecting viable and sustainable wildlife populations.
- Work within this master plan's public education objectives to reduce stress on wildlife from encounters with backcountry visitors. Wildlife viewing will only be encouraged for species that can tolerate the activity and visitors will be encouraged to keep their distance. All recreation uses will be examined to ensure that affects on wildlife are tolerable.
- Encourage and utilize, where possible, local naturalist and conservation groups to gather information, such as, bird counts.
- Contact the University of Northern British Columbia as well as other universities in British Columbia and Alberta about their interests in research for Monkman Park.
- Retain tree snags for wildlife habitat except for situations within the Intensive Recreation and Natural Environment Zones where there is a serious threat to visitors, park staff, or park facilities.
- Implement management actions regarding habitat enhancement from the Vegetation Management Plan once it is prepared and approved (see Vegetation Section on page 37). In the interim, no habitat enhancement will be undertaken in the park unless it is critical to the survival of a naturally occurring species.
- Purchase portions of trapline territories within Monkman Park as funds become available and if licence holders wish to sell. The highest priority is for acquiring traplines within the Wilderness Conservation and Intensive Recreation zones.

Fish

Kinuseo Falls blocks migrating fish from entering Monkman Creek and the upper Murray River resulting in most of the park being within a fishery system where the fish spawn amongst themselves independent of fish from downstream of Kinuseo Falls (*ie.* an isolated fish community). As such, fish populations within the park rely solely on the habitats of Monkman Creek, the upper Murray River, and Hook and Imperial creeks. Monkman Lake support natural populations of bull trout (known locally as Dolly varden), pygmy whitefish, and longnose suckers. Lower Blue Lake supports bull trout and there are no known fish populations in Upper Blue Lake.

BC Environment have introduced rainbow trout to Monkman Lake and cutthroat trout to Paxton and Upper Blue lakes but these were unsuccessful. The lakes and streams are generally unproductive and therefore fish populations do not thrive and are sensitive to over harvesting. Since stocking has not been successful and fish populations do not thrive naturally, it is important to manage fish populations and habitat carefully. As well, increased visitor numbers to Monkman can result in increased pressure placed on the backcountry fish resource.

First Nations people belonging to Treaty 8 have rights for harvesting fish in Monkman Park for sustenance or ceremonial purposes.

With new road access to the Kinuseo Falls area of the park and new camping opportunities, there are opportunities to develop a managed fishery for the frontcountry. Some of the ponds in the Kinuseo Falls area (Kinuseo Lakes) have been assessed by BC Environment for fishery potential and the ones that appeared to have potential were stocked.

Objectives:

To maintain the current natural diversity and productivity of aquatic systems in backcountry areas of Monkman Park.

To maintain natural fish habitat.

To allow limited backcountry angling opportunities for park visitors without jeopardizing natural fish populations.

To work with other agencies to enhance, where possible, angling opportunities for frontcountry park visitors.

Associated Objectives:

Education Strategy: To inform and educate park visitors about natural and cultural resources in the area so they have a better appreciation and understanding of natural and historic significance as well as principles of conservation and park management (page 82).

Actions:

- Prepare a fishery management plan in conjunction with BC Environment. The plan will highlight which lakes (closed systems) within the Natural Environment and Intensive Recreation Zones have potential for on-going stocking. This plan will consider the assessment and stocking BC Environment has undertaken for Kinuseo Lakes and the lakes adjacent to the park (known locally as Jake's Lakes). The intent is to work with BC Environment in order to develop a *Youth Fishery* for park visitors, where young people can learn to fish and learn about fish conservation.
- Monitor and regulate angling in conjunction with BC Environment to ensure that natural fish populations are maintained. Angling may be closed if necessary to protect populations from falling below sustainable levels.
- No stocking will be undertaken within the Wilderness Recreation Zone (Monkman Lake) or the Wilderness Conservation Zone (Lower Blue Lake). Fishing within the Wilderness Conservation Zone (Lower Blue Lake) will be managed as a catch-and-release fishery. Other initiatives such as habitat enhancement may be considered for any area of the park if it is necessary to maintain natural fish populations.
- Continue to work in partnership with BC Environment and their Fisheries Strategic Plan in consideration to the conservation objectives of this plan.
- Provide material explaining fish conservation objectives in conjunction with the public education objectives of this master plan.

Physiography

Monkman Park provides diverse examples of the physiographic features found in the Hart Ranges. Glacial alpine lakes (tarns), cirques, waterfalls, steep cliffs, fault lines, exposed folded strata, moraines, and subterranean drainage features are all evident in the park. One known site (location not provided) in Monkman Park contains an outcrop of sedimentary bedrock containing significant fossil remains of prehistoric aquatic life.

The park's varied physiography contributes to the diversity of wildlife habitats and contributes to scenic qualities of Monkman. As well, these features are available for interpretation and education and they also provide features for specialized recreation such as caving, rock climbing, ice climbing, and glacier trekking.



There are interesting physiographic features at Kinuseo Falls.

Objectives:

To increase public awareness about special physiographic features within Monkman Park.

To ensure that educational, interpretive and recreation activities do not significantly affect physiographic features and are in keeping with other conservation objectives of Monkman Park.

Associated Objectives

Education Strategy: To inform and educate park visitors about natural and cultural resources in the area so they have a better appreciation and understanding of natural and historic significance as well as principles of conservation and park management (page 82).

Actions:

- Provide information in the frontcountry explaining physiographic processes related to faulting and formation of Kinuseo Falls.
- Reinforce protection of the fossil beds by not promoting locations and informing the public that removal of fossils without permission is not allowed. Removal of fossils will only be allowed for research and educational purposes and with written permission of the District Manager after consultation with the Provincial Museum.

Visual Resources

The natural scenery of Monkman Park is important to the visitor's experience. Views of numerous falls, glaciers, steep mountain sides with lush alpine growth, expanses of forest, clear lakes and meandering creeks all combine to make the park scenic.

Park visitors can view areas outside the park from some locations. For example, hikers on Monkman trail can view areas to the east of the park and visitors in the southern end of the park can see into the Fontoniko Creek drainage and Limestone Lakes. Development in these areas adjacent to the park can affect the viewscape and the experience for the park visitor.

Park visitors to backcountry areas occasionally build cairns by piling rocks, particularly when they reach the top of a mountain. Other people find these "artifacts" affect the natural qualities of backcountry areas. Although they can serve as navigation aids, cairns can be inappropriately used.

Objectives:

To minimize unnatural changes to the scenery of Monkman Park and its surrounding areas.

Actions:

- Develop with the Forest Service and forest companies, visual quality objectives for the Bulley Creek, and the lower Murray River areas. The visual quality objectives will assist in reducing changes to the natural scenery viewed from the park.
- Ensure that any development, particularly in backcountry areas of the park will be oriented and designed to have a minimal effect on the natural scenery. No facilities will be developed in the Wilderness Conservation Zone.
- Inform park visitors that building cairns is not allowed in the Wilderness Conservation or Wilderness Recreation zones. BC Parks may provide cairns only when absolutely necessary for navigation purposes within the Wilderness Recreation Zone.

Outdoor Recreation Features

Monkman Park has a number of natural features that enhance opportunities for a variety of outdoor recreation pursuits. The park's gentle forested landscape features, waterfalls, rivers and lakes provide for easy, relaxing recreation and viewing opportunities for inexperienced outdoors people, seniors, families and those with only a short time to spare (figure 9). The park also has more steeply sloped and rugged mountain areas with alpine vegetation, glaciers, caves, and icefalls for those looking for more challenging opportunities. These features are combined throughout Monkman Park providing visitors with a range of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Objectives:

To ensure that recreation promotion, development and use is compatible with outdoor recreation features and in keeping with conservation objectives for the park's resources.

Associated Objectives

Physiography: To ensure that education, interpretation and recreation activities do not significantly affect physiographic features and are in keeping with other conservation objectives of Monkman park. (page 47)

Backcountry Concept: To provide limited backcountry recreation opportunities that are compatible with conservation objectives. (page 59)

Actions:

- Manage recreation use in conjunction with the park's zoning plan so that outdoor recreation features and natural resources will be minimally affected.

- Monitor use along the Monkman Trail to develop baseline data with which to assess the desired maximum level of visitors for the trail. An inventory for the Monkman Trail, including trail widths and lengths, campsite wear, and other signs of change due to human use will be undertaken. This information will be gathered as backcountry rangers are available and will be carried out as part of their normal duties. This will provide baseline data for a future project dealing with *Limits To Acceptable Change* (LAC).⁷

Cultural Resources

First Nations people have used the area within Monkman Park since before the arrival of Europeans. Within the park and its surrounding areas there are burial sites, vision quest sites and plants known by elders to have medicinal qualities. The route through the pass, that is currently known as Monkman Pass, is an historic trading route. Very little information about these resources is recorded, but is known through stories told by elders. No extensive archaeological assessment has been undertaken for the park area.

Perhaps the best known account of European history is Alex Monkman's journey through the pass in search of a route suitable for a road between Beaverlodge Alberta and Hansard B.C. This journey is well documented in a number of articles and books.

Objectives:

To increase historical and cultural knowledge relating to the park area and protect important cultural and historic resources as they become known.

To maintain public awareness about Alex Monkman's journey and to protect a portion of the historic route.

⁷ LAC deals with defining acceptable levels of change in the physical, social and wilderness character of the backcountry areas of the park. For example, how much wear and widening of Monkman Trail can occur before it loses its appeal for hikers. LAC also can define the appropriate number of people that should be visiting the backcountry.

Associated Objectives

Education Strategy: To inform and educate park visitors about natural and cultural resources in the area so they have a better appreciation and understanding of natural and historic significance as well as principles of conservation and park management (page 82).

Relationships With
First Nations and
Metis:

To develop on-going communication and working relationships with First Nations and Metis people with aboriginal interests that may cover the park area. (page 52)

Actions:

- Undertake archaeological assessment study involving First Nations before any major park facility is constructed.
- Identify a section of the original Alex Monkman route (portion along the Monkman Lake Trail) as an historic feature. Information on his journey may be provided in the frontcountry area of the park.

Relationships With First Nations and Metis

It is important to develop good working relationships between BC Parks and the First Nations and Metis people who may have aboriginal interests in the park area. First Nations who may have an interest in the park area include the Sauteau Band and the West Moberly First Nations, both of the Treaty 8 Tribal Association, the Lheit-Lit'en Nation, and the Metis people of the Kelly Lake Band.

The Treaty 8 territory includes the Monkman Park area. First Nations people covered under Treaty 8 have rights to hunting, trapping, and fishing for traditional and ceremonial purposes which may be applicable in the park area. Aboriginal rights identified in this treaty must be considered when developing strategies to manage the park's fish and wildlife resources.

BC Parks has limited information on the First Nations and Metis culture and heritage features and values covering the park area. Much of this information may be available from elders or other First Nations and Metis people. One example of interest is Ice Mountain which has values for protection is an important spiritual site for people of the Lheit-Lit'en Nation. In general, there are overlapping interests between BC Parks' management objectives for cultural resources and the First Nations and Metis people's interests in protecting their cultural and heritage values.

Objective:

To develop on-going communication and working relationships with First Nations and Metis people with aboriginal interests in the park area.

Actions:

- Continue to honour Treaty 8 rights covering traditional hunting, trapping, and fishing activities as they may apply in Monkman Park.
- Initiate meetings with representatives of First Nations and Metis with aboriginal interests in the park area to discuss possible opportunities to be involved in aspects of the park's management.
- Seek the cooperation and assistance of First Nations and Metis representatives in gathering heritage and cultural information that may be important for conservation purposes.
- Consult relevant First Nations and Metis representatives about interests for protecting significant areas adjacent to the southern boundary of Monkman Park.
- Develop a protocol between BC Parks and First Nations and Metis with aboriginal interests in the park area which sets out contact persons for consultation processes.

Section Five
Visitor Services

Visitor Services

Introduction

Monkman Park contributes to the outdoor lifestyle of the regional population living in the Peace Country as well as those visiting from outside the area. A new road completed in 1992 from Tumbler Ridge to the park's new campground and viewing platform has opened Monkman's frontcountry to a broad spectrum of visitors. The number of people visiting the park is increasing and there is more pressure to provide facilities for outdoor recreation and interpretation, primarily in these frontcountry areas. The areas in Monkman Park not accessible by roads, the backcountry, have natural features and scenery that make it an attractive area for a variety of activities compatible with the wilderness qualities.

This section of the master plan describes the strategies for managing outdoor recreation, park visitors, and providing park information. There are three important themes running through this section:

1. Provide opportunities for people to experience the park in ways that are compatible with the features and conservation of natural resources;
2. Provide outdoor recreation opportunities in such a way that there are minimal conflicts between groups; and,
3. Provide a role for Monkman Park in creating public awareness of natural and cultural resources and conservation, and ensure that appropriate park information is available to people.

General Concept

BC Parks has four outdoor recreation goals which are achieved through a provincial system of parks. Of these goals, Monkman Park provides: 1) a range of outstanding backcountry opportunities; 2) regional recreation opportunities; and, 3) a tourist destination for outdoor recreation. The fourth goal, to provide travel corridor opportunities, is not provided by Monkman Park because it is not located along a major highway corridor.

Currently in Monkman Park, most visitors are from communities in the region and participate in frontcountry recreation opportunities. A small percentage of frontcountry visitors are tourists. The backcountry area receives few visitors. Current use patterns will change over time as the road to the park improves, awareness of the park spreads, and road development around the park increases. The management of visitor services must address current needs but must also consider how to manage for changing visitor use patterns. The general concepts for managing visitor services are discussed in two parts: the frontcountry and the backcountry.

Frontcountry Concept

The park's most heavily visited areas are the campground and Kinuseo Falls viewpoint areas and most visitors come from Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd and Dawson Creek. The main focus is for people to stay at the campground and experience parts of the park on day outings. From the campground, people can visit the Kinuseo Falls viewpoint, walk to the Murray River crossing, fish the Murray River or Monkman Creek, or find a quiet spot for a picnic. The frontcountry is also used as a staging area for those hiking into the backcountry. Snowmobilers also use the Kinuseo area to stage their day's activities.

The new road to the park is still rough in places. This has been the most common complaint from visitors and may keep some people from returning to Monkman. As government funding becomes available, the road will be improved.

The Kinuseo area has potential to provide a central staging area for recreation activities within and around the park. Through interagency processes such as Land and Resource Management Planning recreation features and resources can be identified that occur around the park. As forestry planning progresses for the Bulley Creek, Murray River and Imperial Creek valleys, new areas may be opened up for recreation. These areas around the park may be suitable for ATVs, horseback riding, snowmobiling, hiking or mountain biking. In planning and developing any of these opportunities, BC Parks will consider how the park facilities in the Kinuseo area can contribute to recreation around the park.

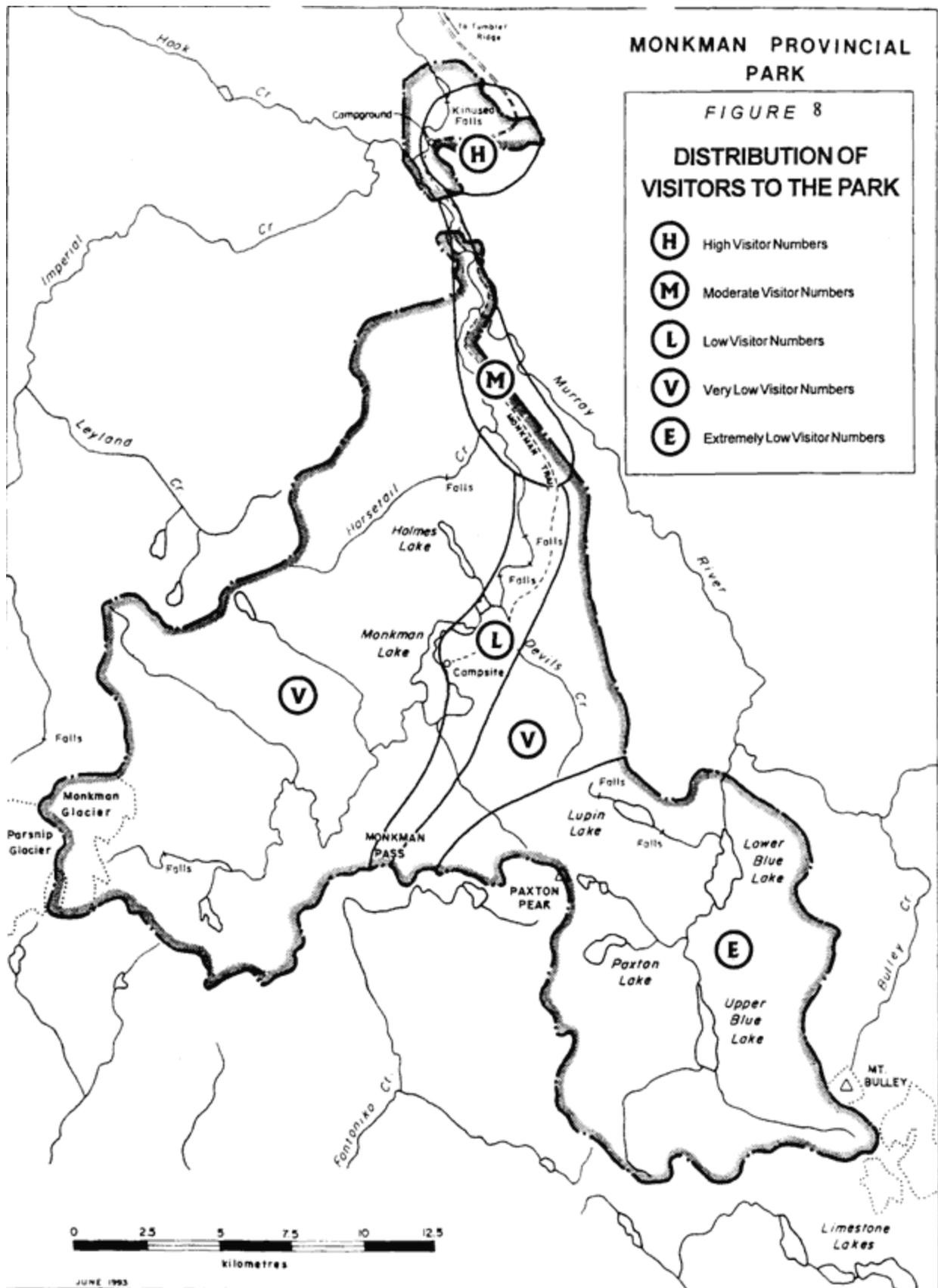
The frontcountry area has potential for additional recreation and interpretive opportunities. Development and promotion of this area for a variety of activities is consistent with the park's zoning and concentrates most of the use to a small portion of the park. In summary, visitors to this part of the park can expect general evidence of human presence, with constructed facilities and a variety of easily accessible outdoor activities.

MONKMAN PROVINCIAL PARK

FIGURE 8

DISTRIBUTION OF VISITORS TO THE PARK

- (H)** High Visitor Numbers
- (M)** Moderate Visitor Numbers
- (L)** Low Visitor Numbers
- (V)** Very Low Visitor Numbers
- (E)** Extremely Low Visitor Numbers



Objectives:

To provide facilities in the Kinuseo area for easily accessible, educational and safe outdoor recreation opportunities for regional visitors and tourists.

To utilize the Kinuseo area as a staging area for recreation opportunities around the park.

Associated Objectives:

Access Strategy: To provide a reasonable level of access for visitors to experience the park while minimizing negative effects on the environment, wildlife, and visitor's enjoyment of the park. (page 75)

Fish Resources: To enhance angling opportunities for park visitors in Monkman Park's frontcountry in cooperation with other agencies. (page 45)

Promotion Strategy: To focus promotional material primarily on frontcountry activities in consideration to the objectives for the backcountry areas of the park. (from page 77)

Actions:

- Refer to sections in this plan covering Outdoor Recreation Opportunities and Information Strategies

Backcountry Concept

Monkman Park, with its varied terrain provides a range of wilderness opportunities for people with some experience and those who are expert wilderness backpackers. The mountain scenery is an integral part of the attraction to the backcountry. The Monkman Lake Trail, from the campground to Monkman Lake, is the only cleared trail into the backcountry. The first half (about 12 kilometres) of the trail will be kept to a standard suitable for inexperienced hikers, while the latter half will be maintained in keeping with wilderness standards. The maintained trail ends at Monkman Lake. Cleared trails beyond Monkman Lake are not provided and experienced hikers will need to rely on map reading techniques and skills.

The natural undisturbed character of Monkman's backcountry is important to maintain and a high priority will be placed on ensuring that recreation activities have minimal effects on the landscape. As well, minimizing human-grizzly interactions will be a priority. In essence people will see some evidence of human presence along the trail to Monkman Lake, while beyond Monkman Lake the landscape will be primarily free of evidence of human presence.



Backcountry hiking opportunities exist for experienced trekkers.

Objectives:

To provide limited backcountry recreation opportunities that are compatible with conservation objectives.

To minimize backcountry recreation use within the Wilderness Conservation Zone.

Associated Objectives:

Vegetation Resources: To protect rare, endangered or sensitive plant communities and species as they are identified, while discouraging the establishment of non-native species. (page 35)

Wildlife Resources: To conserve rare, endangered, sensitive or vulnerable species. (page 39)

To provide viewing and interpretation of wildlife species that will not be negatively affected by such activities. (page 39)

Fish Resources: To provide limited backcountry angling opportunities for park visitors without jeopardizing natural fish populations. (page 45)

Recreation Features: To ensure that recreation promotion, development and use is compatible with outdoor recreation features and in keeping with conservation objectives for the park's resources. (page 50)

Access Strategy: To manage aircraft landings in association with conservation objectives. (page 75)

Promotion & Marketing Strategy: To focus promotional material primarily on frontcountry activities in consideration to the objectives for the backcountry areas of the park. (page 77)

To portray Monkman Park's role in conserving important habitat and biodiversity, while also providing a portion of the park for visitors to experience the outdoors. (page 77)

Education Strategy: To inform and educate park visitors about natural and cultural resources in the area so they have a better appreciation and understanding of natural and historic significance as well as principles of conservation and park management. (page 82)

Actions:

- Refer to sections in this plan covering Park Zoning, Outdoor Recreation Opportunities, and Information Strategies.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Introduction

Monkman Park's natural features provide an attractive setting for a variety of opportunities for outdoor recreation and nature interpretation. These activities must be managed so that they are compatible with the zoning, are not detrimental to natural and cultural resources, and are consistent with visitor's expectations. The underlying principle is that visitors' use of the park must not be detrimental to the park's natural and cultural resources. This section describes what types of activities are appropriate for the park, where they can be allowed, and what type of experience visitors will have.

In general the frontcountry areas (Intensive Recreation and Natural Environment zones) are the focus for recreation in Monkman Park. Here visitors are relatively concentrated, a significant level of facilities are provided, and there are numerous outdoor recreation opportunities. The backcountry area (Wilderness Recreation and Wilderness Conservation zones) comprise over 90 percent of the park and is managed primarily for conservation of vegetation and wildlife species. Recreation opportunities are provided as long as resources are not significantly affected.

Frontcountry Camping

Monkman Park has one campground which meets current demands for camping. As the condition of the access road to Monkman Park improves and as people become more aware of the new campground being available, demand for campsites may increase.

Objective

To provide camping opportunities for people driving to Monkman Park.

Actions:

- Continue to provide facilities for frontcountry camping in consideration of facilities which may be provided in areas adjacent to the park.

Frontcountry Walking

Adjacent to the campground and the Kinuseo Falls area there are opportunities for short easy walks in a natural setting. This is an important activity for day visitors, families with small children, special needs people, and seniors. There is potential to develop additional trails for this type of activity within the Intensive Recreation and the Natural Environment Zones. These interpretive or self-guiding trails provide visitors with opportunities to learn about local natural features and resources, supported by other forms of information such as signs and brochures.

Objectives:

To provide short, easily accessible walking trails within a natural setting to give visitors the opportunity to learn about local natural features and resources.

Actions:

- Investigate areas close to Kinuseo Falls and campground areas for short, low grade walking trails.

Angling

Recreation angling is an activity that enhances the visitors' stay in Monkman Park. Some angling occurs in Lower Blue Lake, Monkman Lake, and the Murray River. There are limited frontcountry angling opportunities, however some of the small ponds near Kinuseo Falls (Kinuseo Lakes) and Jake's Lakes near the park have potential and some have been stocked. This added opportunity will provide a family oriented activity for people staying at the campground.

Objective:

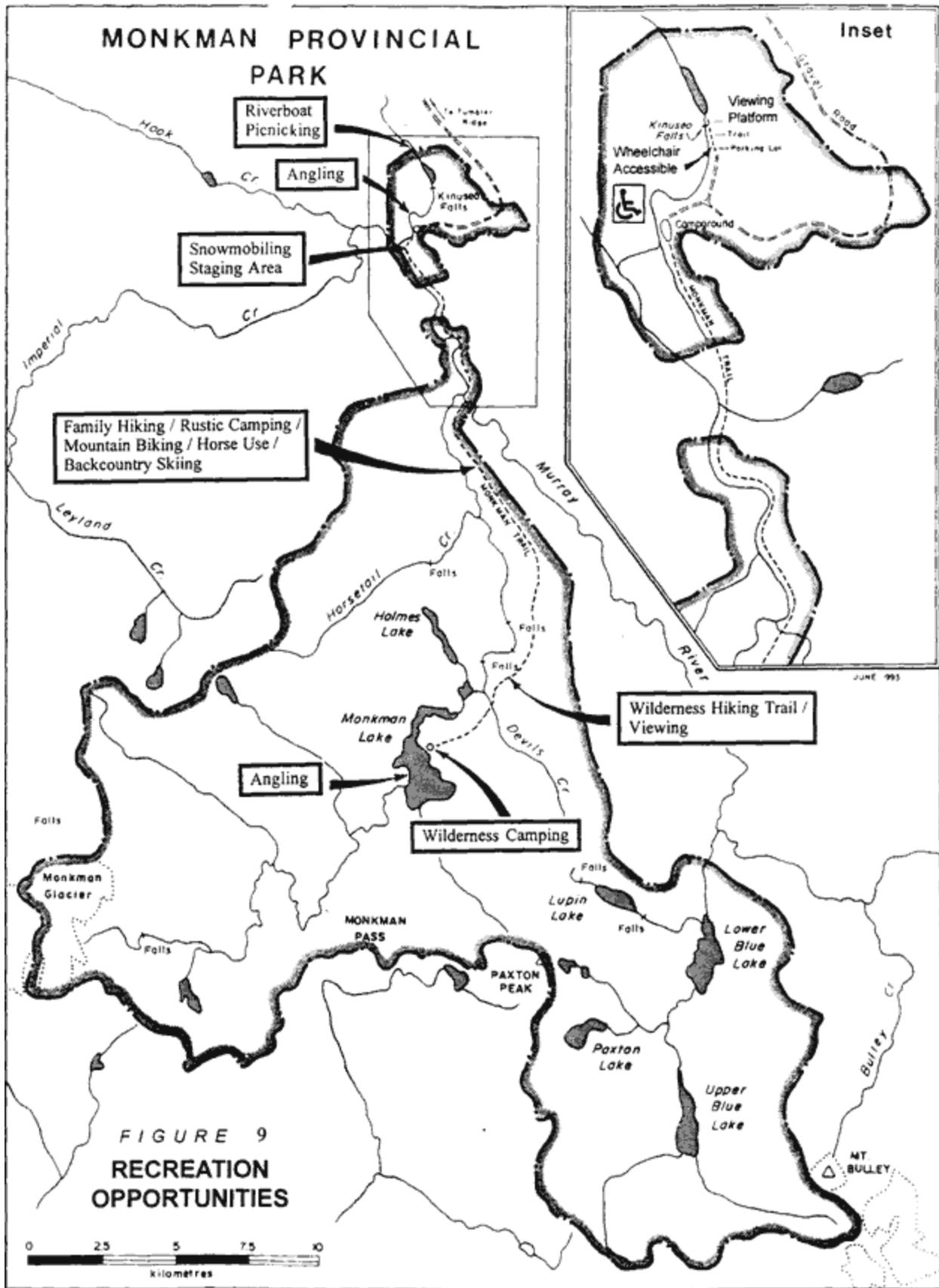
To provide frontcountry family-oriented angling opportunities.

To provide backcountry angling that does not jeopardize native fish populations and that is compatible with conservation objectives.

Actions:

- Work with BC Environment to develop a *Youth Fishery* in conjunction with their assessment and stocking initiatives undertaken for Kinuseo Lakes and Jake's Lakes, located near the park. Information about proper fishing techniques and fish conservation would be provided with the *Youth Fishery*.
- Manage natural fish stocks within backcountry areas of the park using regulations and zoning to maintain natural fish diversity and population viability. Fishing within the Wilderness Recreation Zone, including Monkman Lake and streams will be managed conservatively to sustain populations. Within the Wilderness Conservation Zone, Lower Blue Lake will be managed as a catch-and-release fishery. If there are indications of declining natural stocks, angling will be closed and fish habitat enhancement techniques may be investigated and implemented if they are necessary for the survival of the natural fish species. Fish stocking will not be undertaken within Wilderness Recreation or Wilderness Conservation zones, which is in keeping with BC Environment's Provincial Fisheries Strategy.

MONKMAN PROVINCIAL PARK



**FIGURE 9
RECREATION
OPPORTUNITIES**

Boating

The most popular boating activity associated with Monkman Park is to take riverboats up the Murray River to the base of Kinuseo Falls. A small area below the falls is within the park and here a small picnic site on an island is provided. Visitors with canoes also use the Murray River above the falls but there are concerns about public safety. There are concerns about motorboating above the falls because of safety reasons and possible effects on wildlife and fish species in and along the river.

Objective:

To provide riverboating picnicking sites below Kinuseo Falls.

Actions:

- Maintain the riverboat picnic site below Kinuseo Falls.
- Allow canoeing up Monkman Creek and the Murray River, however since boating above Kinuseo Falls is not a significant activity for Monkman Park and can be hazardous, it will not be promoted. No motorboats will be allowed above Kinuseo Falls.

Opportunities For Special Needs Visitors

Monkman Park's frontcountry area has the potential to provide opportunities for people who have special needs. For example, short, low grade trails near the campground and Kinuseo Falls can provide access for people in wheelchairs or seniors to experience nature and explore special features in the park. As well, riverboats, floatplanes into Monkman Lake, and horses can provide access for special needs people. Planning for the layout of frontcountry trails, facilities, and interpretation signs should consider the special needs of these visitors.

Objective:

To investigate opportunities for special needs people in consideration of opportunities at a regional scale.

To provide special needs facilities where appropriate within the Intensive Recreation Zone.

Actions:

- Determine park priorities for special needs outdoor recreation opportunities within the context of a regional strategy. BC Parks will seek assistance from individuals and organizations with expertise in special needs opportunities.
- Design and develop, where appropriate, trails in the frontcountry area in consideration to standards for special needs people. When planning park facilities, BC Parks will consult with local associations affiliated with special needs people.

Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling in Monkman Park has been minimal. Currently most snowmobile use in the park is confined to the Intensive Recreation Zone, where the local club uses the picnic shelter as a staging area. There is a long-term interest to have a connector route between trails systems on either side of the Continental Divide and the local snowmobile clubs have interests in investigating a route through Monkman Pass. This interest has a number of considerations that must be addressed. First, although large wildlife species generally do not inhabit the park in the winter because of excessive snow depths, snowmobiles can affect animals that travel under the snow. As such, snowmobile use must be looked at for its effects on the environment. Secondly, snowmobiling in the area will open up over the next five years as the Imperial Creek and Murray River valleys next to the park are opened up to logging. As such, there is a need to look at the regional picture in terms of snowmobiling opportunities. Third, there must be consideration given to other types of winter recreation that could be affected.

Objectives:

To investigate a snowmobiling route through Monkman Park and to assess how the park contributes to a regional snowmobile strategy.

Actions:

- Establish a snowmobile working group, involving BC Parks, representatives from the local snowmobile club, the Fish and Wildlife Branch and the Ministry of Forests. The working group will conduct field trips to investigate routes, both inside and outside Monkman Park, that may link trails on both sides of the Continental Divide. The working group will also assess the effects of snowmobile use on wildlife, and other outdoor recreation groups. The recommendations of the working group, if they affect the park, will be presented to the Regional Director of Parks for approval. The working group may consider proposals for a designated snowmobile route through the park. The intent is to consider a route through the park to gain access to other trail networks if it does not conflict with conservation objectives and routes outside of the park are not suitable.
- Allow permitted snowmobile travel by clubs for limited trips to Monkman Lake while the snowmobile working group is conducting its study. Snowmobiles will be permitted for low elevation areas. Tree cutting will not be allowed and alpine areas will be off limits.
- Allow snowmobile use on designated routes within the Natural Environment and Intensive Recreation zones covering the general Kinuseo Falls area.
- Allow snowmobile use within the Natural Environment Zone covering the Monkman Trail area with permission from BC Parks.

Mountain Biking

The Monkman Trail provides for mountain biking opportunities as long as the safety of hikers is not compromised. With the trail's current low use, mountain biking can be accommodated along its first half within the Natural Environment Zone. This part of the trail will be maintained at a higher standard and as such may be less inclined to rutting from mountain bikes. However, if damage to the trail or conflicts arise controls on mountain bikes will be implemented.

Objective:

To allow limited mountain biking opportunities within the Natural Environment Zone that are compatible with the conservation objectives and other park visitors.

Action:

- Allow mountain biking only along the first 12 kilometres of the Monkman Lake Trail (within the Natural Environment Zone).
- Monitor mountain biking use along the Monkman Lake Trail within the Natural Environment Zone to assess damage to the trail or conflicts with other park visitors. If mountain biking causes damage or conflicts with other park visitors the activity will be phased out.

Backcountry Hiking and Backpacking

The Monkman Trail leads people from the frontcountry to the backcountry and ends at Monkman Lake where a few rustic campsites are located. It is the only maintained route into the park's interior. Most people hiking the trail are experienced backpackers as few facilities are provided. Once at Monkman Lake, people may choose to find their own route to other areas within the Wilderness Recreation Zone or to areas outside of the park. Facilities and trails are not provided past Monkman Lake.

There are concerns about the consequences of human-grizzly interaction for two reasons. First, there are concerns that some backpackers may be unaware of techniques to reduce human-grizzly encounters. Second, there may be areas of the park that have prime grizzly habitat and that backpackers should avoid in order to reduce the chances of encountering a grizzly.

The Monkman Lake Trail has potential to provide another opportunity. The first half (about 12 kilometres) of the trail is suitable for managing for inexperienced and family hikers. Providing appropriate facilities along the trail would allow people to easily hike to the ridge above Monkman Falls within a day.



A bear cache - minimal, rustic facilities in the backcountry.

Backcountry visitors may hike in remote and physically challenging areas generally without contact with park rangers. As backcountry visits increase there may be increased concerns about public safety and search and rescue abilities. Currently there is no registry for backcountry visitors for monitoring numbers of backpackers or their destinations. There is limited information available to hikers explaining backcountry features and wilderness etiquette and safety.

Objectives:

To provide a range of hiking and backpacking opportunities for the Natural Environment and the Wilderness Recreation Zones.

To provide a method for documenting backcountry visitor numbers and destinations.

To enhance backcountry visitor's awareness of natural features, wilderness etiquette and safety, and techniques for reducing bear encounters.

Actions:

- Provide rustic facilities, compatible for the Natural Environment Zone, at appropriate places along the first half of the Monkman Lake Trail (to the end of the ridge). Facilities can include campsites, bear caches, small shelters, and pit toilets. Maintain the trail to a standard suitable for inexperienced hikers. Develop trails from Monkman Lake Trail down to Monkman Creek to provide viewing opportunities of the step-falls.
- Review ecosystem mapping (see Vegetation section) to determine grizzly bear habitat for areas joining Monkman Lake, Monkman Tarns, and Bulley Creek. A backcountry hiking route may be identified if the potential for grizzly-human interaction is considered low. Before a trail is identified that might include the Limestone Lakes area, consult with the Lheit-Lit'en Nation.
- Close backcountry areas to hiking if bear and visitor safety is compromised. As more information is collected on grizzly bear habitat, backpackers may be discouraged from entering certain areas of the park.
- Avoid promoting hiking opportunities within the Wilderness Conservation Zone.

- Allow fires only at the Monkman Lake campsite and only for safety purposes (warmth, emergency cooking). Campers will be informed that they will require their own cookstoves.
- Develop a system for documenting backcountry visitor numbers and destinations in order to develop baseline data on backcountry use.
- Prepare a handout for backcountry visitors explaining the parks natural features, wilderness recreation etiquette and safety techniques, low impact camping and wildlife viewing techniques, and bear avoidance techniques.

Backcountry Skiing

There is potential for backcountry skiing opportunities in Monkman Park. This activity is dependent on winter road access to the campground area, where skiers could then follow the Monkman Trail.

Objective:

To work with local ski groups to assess the park's backcountry ski potential.

Action:

- Approach local ski groups to conduct field work into areas with potential for backcountry skiing. This activity will not be promoted until winter access to the park can be relied upon and a proper assessment can be completed.

Hunting

Hunting is a recreational activity that occurs in Monkman Park. Most game species are open to hunting except for goats which require Limited Entry Hunting Permits. The Kinuseo Falls area of the park (including the campground area) is closed to the discharge of firearms.

Monkman Park is covered by portions of two registered game guide-outfitting territories, but only one is currently active. BC Parks has interests in phasing out hunting activities within the Wilderness Conservation Zone (see Wildlife Section) and in general, hunting will be managed conservatively in cooperation with the BC Environment's Fish and Wildlife Branch.

Objective:

To allow limited recreational hunting opportunities in designated areas of the park while ensuring that conservation objectives are being met.

Actions:

- Manage hunting activities in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Branch and utilize updated wildlife information when available in order to maintain conservative wildlife harvesting levels in the park.
- Phase out hunting (non-aboriginal) in the Wilderness Conservation Zone in order to meet the objectives for wildlife conservation (see Wildlife Management section).

Horse Use

Horses will be allowed along the Monkman Trail and within backcountry areas zoned Wilderness Recreation. Horse users will be required to carry feed for their horses. This use will be monitored closely to ensure there are minimal conflicts with hikers and no detriment to the environment. This activity has the potential to create damage to trails and conflicts with other park visitors if numbers increase. Therefore, it is not a priority to promote this activity.

Objective

To allow limited opportunities for horse use as long as the activity does not damage trails or park resources and the activity does not conflict with other park visitors.

Actions:

- Monitor the effects of horse users and restrict use in areas where there is damage to the trails or park resources. The Limits To Acceptable Change project (page 51) would provide an effective method for monitoring horse use along the trail. If horse use continues to damage trails or park resources or conflict with other park visitors the activity will be phased out.
- Distribute information on horse use ethics for trails and backcountry areas.
- Inform horse users that horses are allowed only in designated areas within the Intensive Recreation zone and are not allowed in the Wilderness Conservation Zone.

Recreation Guiding

Recreation guiding can enhance some visitor's enjoyment of Monkman Park. Guiding is a commercial activity and requires a Park Use Permit from BC Parks. Some forms of recreation guiding, such as guided hiking, are compatible with Monkman Park and the objectives of this plan, however some forms, are not compatible. Generally, guiding opportunities are judged on their possible effects on natural resources, increased pressures placed on wildlife populations, park facilities and trails, the wilderness character, and other backcountry visitors. In essence, protection of the natural resources is the highest priority and as such, limitations or restrictions on recreation guiding may be implemented.

Objective:

To allow limited recreation guiding where compatible with conservation and recreation objectives for this park.

Action:

- Assess proposals for recreation guiding for how they affect the conservation and recreation goals of the park. Recreation guiding may be acceptable on a limited basis where the activity does not conflict with conservation objectives, or with other visitors, and the activity does not degrade the wilderness character. Recreation guiding may be considered for the Natural Environment Zone and the Wilderness Recreation Zone. No applications for recreation guiding will be accepted for the Wilderness Conservation Zone. (Current guide-outfitting activities within the Wilderness Conservation Zone will continue as a non-conforming use until they can be phased out.)
- Decline applications for chartered helicopter access to the park, guided horse operators, guided angling, and other such guiding activities that could have significant affects on the park's resources or other visitors.
- Allow one permitted floatplane charter company to provide access to Monkman Lake. The intent is to generally encourage low use levels in the park's backcountry areas and as such low quota levels for charters (numbers of trips allowed per season) will be established.
- Limit the number of recreation guiding permits for each type of accepted activity to one. Ensure permits for guiding services establish conservative quotas in order to ensure that conservation goals are not affected and conflicts with other park visitors are minimized. No permanent facilities will be allowed in the park in association with guiding operations.

Access Strategy

The primary access to Monkman Park is the newly constructed road, the Murray River Road, from Tumbler Ridge to the Monkman Park campground. The surface is rough in places, but it is drivable by most vehicles. This road replaces the old Stoney Lake road which is no longer maintained.

There are two planned extensions for the Murray River Road that are part of an overall agreement for providing public access to the park in exchange for access to forestry areas beyond the park. First, plans exist to find a suitable place away from the campground to cross the Murray River so that forestry vehicles can access the Imperial Creek valley. Second, plans exist to construct a forestry road off the Murray River Road and the junction would be about one kilometre north of the campground. This road would follow the Murray River south to the Bulley Creek area. Just the first two kilometres of the road is within the park where it is zoned Intensive Recreation. While forestry operations are being conducted public access along this logging road will be discouraged. In the long-term these future extensions of the Murray River road will provide access to additional areas near Monkman Park for outdoor recreation such as snowmobiling and mountain biking.

The forestry road planned to access the Bulley Creek area may result in people being able to drive close to the boundary of the park near Lower Blue Lake and this could have significant implications for managing this area of the park. No roads come close to the southern boundary of the park, although planned forestry roads may be built up the Fontoniko Creek valley. This planned road could have implications for managing the southern parts of the park, particularly when the southern park additions are included in Monkman Park.

Private floatplanes currently land on a number of the lakes within Monkman Park. There are concerns about how aircraft use can lead to increased recreation in backcountry areas and can affect conservation objectives. Federal aviation regulations allow private pilots to land on lakes within the park. However, BC Parks maintains an interest in managing where aircraft land in Monkman Park, particularly in the Wilderness Conservation Zone. In dealing with this issue, groups such as the Canadian Operator and Pilots Association and the BC Aviation Council will need to be consulted.

Commercial aircraft use, including helicopters, can also lead to increased backcountry recreation. However, all commercial uses within the park, including aircraft charters, are controlled under the *Park Act*. As such, BC Parks is able to keep commercial charters from landing where it is not appropriate.

Objectives:

To provide a reasonable level of access for visitors to experience the park while minimizing effects on the environment, wildlife, and visitors' enjoyment of the park.

To manage aircraft landings in the park in association with conservation objectives.

Associated Objectives:

Wildlife Resources: To conserve rare, endangered, sensitive or vulnerable species. (from page 38)

Fish Resources: To maintain the current natural diversity and productivity of fish species in backcountry areas of Monkman Park. (from page 41)

Actions:

- Work with Ministry of Forests and local forestry companies to prepare a plan which deals with how to mitigate unwanted effects of forestry road construction near the park's boundary.
- Approach local pilots, the BC Aviation Council, and the Canadian Operator and Pilots Association to gain their support for closing the Wilderness Conservation Zone to aircraft landings for the protection of wildlife, fish populations and to help meet the conservation objectives for this zone. Private aircraft access to Monkman Lake will continue.
- Allow one Park Use Permit to be issued for a floatplane charter operator to access Monkman Lake. Permit restrictions will be put into place to protect the wilderness character of the area. Allowing a permit for commercial floatplane use will reduce the amount of illegal chartering and will provide a mechanism for controlling this activity. Permits for helicopter access for heli-hiking will not be issued.

Information Strategy

Providing current information on all aspects of Monkman Park is an important function of visitor services management. Information can play a number of key roles. First, it can help people organize their holiday and plan what recreation activities they can do in the park. Second, information can promote outdoor etiquette and careful use of the park's resources and third, information can create an awareness about cultural features, nature and conservation.

Monkman plays a minor role as a destination park for tourists. Some Alaska Highway tourists drive the two hours off the highway route to visit the falls and the campground. As well, backcountry hiking and camping opportunities draw some tourists to the park. Aside from the Peace Country residents who are the largest group visiting the park, there are visitors from Alberta and other parts of British Columbia. As such, the three main target groups for information are Alaska Highway tourists, British Columbia residents and Alberta residents.

Park information is discussed in more detail in three sections: 1) awareness and pretrip planning; 2) promotion and marketing; 3) orientation information; and, 4) natural and cultural resources education.

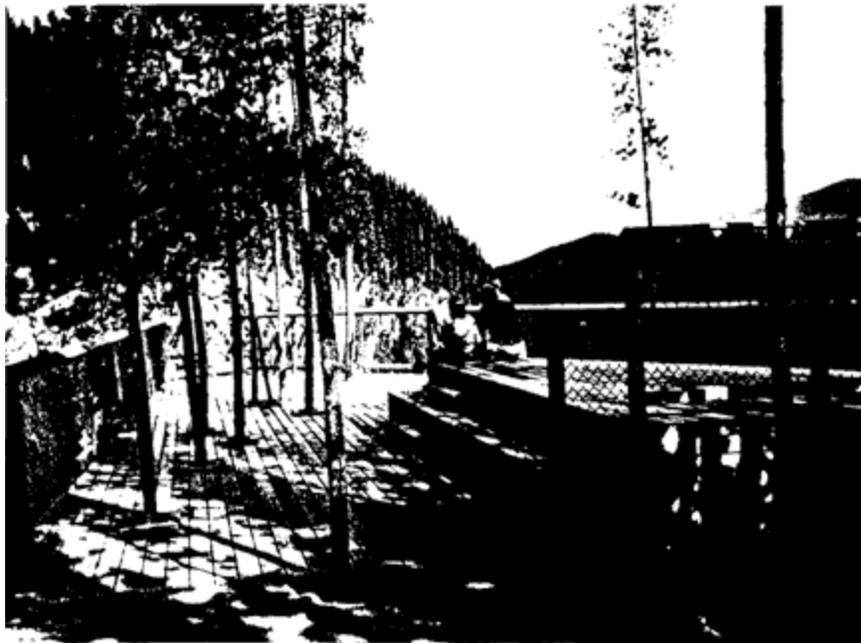
Promotion and Marketing

Promotion of a park can affect the level of use and the type of visitors it attracts and promotion strategies must consider the different objectives between frontcountry areas and backcountry areas.

The high priorities placed on conservation management and maintaining the wilderness values of Monkman Park's backcountry must be considered in strategies for marketing the park. There are concerns that promoting backcountry recreation can lead to significant increases in visitor numbers which in turn can affect the park resources and the wilderness qualities. Alternatively, frontcountry areas of Monkman Park are designed to handle relatively larger numbers of visitors and these areas are accessible to park managers and operators. Therefore promotion strategies will concentrate on the frontcountry opportunities where increased visitor numbers can be well accommodated.

Besides BC Parks, other organizations and groups (local municipalities, chambers of commerce, tourist associations, tour groups) are involved in promoting Monkman Park. In order to ensure that promotional information consistent, accurate, and in keeping with park objectives there is a need for coordination among those that are promoting the park.

Public awareness of Monkman Park is largely concentrated to the Peace and Omineca areas of British Columbia. This is because only recently have people been able to easily drive to the park and camp in a provincial campground. Special events held in the park's frontcountry (Intensive Recreation Zone) of the park help to create awareness of the park and increases numbers of visitors. In contrast, only a limited number of people are aware of Monkman Park's backcountry opportunities and this has helped to maintain the wilderness qualities of the park's backcountry. It is important to ensure that marketing portrays Monkman Park's role of contributing to conserving species habitat and biodiversity, rather than promoting visitors to the backcountry.



The viewing platform at Kinuseo Falls is a popular attraction.

Objective:

To portray Monkman Park's role in conserving important habitat and biodiversity, while also encouraging visitors to experience the Kinuseo Falls area.

To increase the frontcountry use of the park.

To focus promotional materials primarily on frontcountry activities in consideration of the objectives for the backcountry areas of the park.

Actions:

- Initiate direct promotion and marketing activities for the Peace Country and Edmonton as these areas are the main market for the frontcountry. BC Parks will work with other groups and agencies that are also promoting and marketing outdoor recreation to develop a regional strategy for recreation and tourism opportunities.
- Work with tourism associations connected with the Alaska Highway to investigate the opportunities to attract tourists to visit Monkman Park. Also investigate the role Monkman Park could play as part of a "circle tour", linking Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge, and Pouce Coupe.
- Work with local chambers of commerce in promoting and marketing Monkman Park's one to three day frontcountry opportunities. Seek the cooperation of tourist associations in avoiding the promotion of Monkman Park's backcountry opportunities.
- Develop Monkman's image as a park with family-oriented frontcountry recreation opportunities.
- Enhance the public's awareness of Monkman as an area conserving natural and cultural resources and biodiversity through brochures, signs, special events, and other media.

Awareness and Pre-Trip Planning

Most BC Parks offices in British Columbia and BC Tourism Infocentres can provide information about Monkman Park to people planning their trip. The Northern Regional BC Parks brochures describe how to reach the park, what facilities are available, and what activities the park offers. The brochures generally provide enough information for people planning to visit the frontcountry areas of the park. However, people may wish additional information if they are planning extended backcountry trips into Monkman. More specific information is available from the Peace Liard District Office.

Promotional cards are also produced and distributed locally to attract visitors. They contain a small amount of information about the park.

Objectives:

To provide current, helpful information about Monkman Park to assist people in planning their trip and to increase the general awareness of the park's frontcountry opportunities.

Actions:

- Ensure the park promotion cards and park handout remains current and accurate.
- Work with local tourism associations and communities in providing appropriate pre-trip planning and park awareness information.

Orientation Information at Monkman Park

Orientation information is provided in park brochures and on signs in the park to help people become oriented in the park and to become aware of what opportunities are available in the park. Aside from providing important information to park visitors, signs also create an identity for the park. In-park handouts are also practical ways to inform park visitors. For example, handouts can inform backcountry visitors about wilderness recreation etiquette and safety, low impact camping techniques, and bear avoidance techniques.

Monkman Park can also provide a place to inform visitors about other local and regional tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities. In this way, the park becomes a part of a larger system of opportunities for people living in or visiting the area.

Objectives:

To supply information to help orient park visitors and to supply information about other provincial parks and other regional recreation and tourism opportunities in the area.

To provide information for backcountry visitors about wilderness recreation etiquette and safety.

Actions:

- Provide safety and park information signs where needed in the Intensive Recreation and Natural Environment zones.
- Avoid placing information and safety signs the backcountry areas unless absolutely necessary. The intent is to maintain the natural visual quality along the Monkman Lake trail and throughout the Wilderness Recreation Zone. No signs will be posted in the Wilderness Conservation Zone.
- Continue to work with local tourism associations and communities to provide regional tourism and outdoor recreation information.

Natural and Cultural Resources Education and Interpretation

Monkman Park can provide an important role in educating its visitors about local cultural resources, ecology, natural resources and processes, and conservation. This type of information helps to cultivate an understanding of park management and the role that parks play in conserving special features and biological diversity. Monkman Park is ideally suited to providing information on five main themes:

- 1) Geological and geomorphological processes including folded and faulted strata, evolution of waterfalls, erosion processes, and glacial processes;
- 2) Characteristics and features of the Central Canadian Rocky Mountains Ecoregion and the Hart Foothills and Hart Ranges ecosections.
- 3) Vegetation communities and species of Sub-Boreal Spruce and the Engelmann Spruce - Subalpine Fir Biogeoclimatic zones;
- 4) Wildlife ecology and avoiding interactions with grizzly; and,
- 5) History on Alex Monkman's journey through the area and other early pioneers.

Objectives:

To inform and educate park visitors about natural and cultural resources in the area so they have a better appreciation and understanding of natural and historical significance as well as principles of conservation and park management.

Actions:

- Implement the strategies in the regional interpretation and information plan prepared by BC Parks 1992. This includes focussing on the subject areas identified above. As the regional interpretation and information plan was prepared before the road to the park was constructed, a brief strategy should be developed for interpreting these themes to park visitors at the Kinuseo Falls area.
- Approach schools in Tumbler Ridge to assess how Monkman Park can play a role in teaching environmental and outdoor studies. A teachers/visitors guide to Monkman Park should be developed when use warrants it.

- Provide material explaining fish conservation objectives in conjunction with the public education objectives of this plan (see Fish Management section).
- Prepare handout information for backcountry visitors explaining natural features, wilderness recreation etiquette and safety techniques, bear avoidance techniques, and principles for low impact wildlife viewing.

Management Services

Monkman Park is administered out of the Peace Liard District Office in Fort St. John. Staff ensure that various management responsibilities are carried out according to the *Park Act* and its Regulations, this master plan, and established policies and procedures of the Ministry. This includes such priorities as: regulating public use to ensure safe and appropriate use of the park; maintaining trails and facilities; managing permits covering commercial uses within the park; minimizing effects from visitor use; and, assisting in resources management projects and collecting data.

Objectives:

To carry out management responsibilities according to the *Park Act*, regulations, and the guidelines of this master plan.

Actions:

- Provide a seasonal backcountry ranger program for the Monkman Trail and Monkman Lake areas as funding allows. Backcountry rangers will be involved in collecting resource information that will assist in managing the park's resources.
- Assess local public interests in creating a volunteer club where members help to gather information about the park during their trips into backcountry areas. The terms of reference for such a club would be developed with the BC Parks district office to ensure that they conform with BC Parks policies.

Section Six

Plan Implementation

Plan Implementation

Introduction

This section compiles all of the actions listed throughout the master plan in the general order in which they appear in the plan. The summary charts provided in this section highlight the essence of the action statement. The full action statement is located within the plan on the page indicated in the chart.

The actions are listed in three ways. The first list (Highest Priority Actions) highlights a few select actions that are of the highest priority. This list clearly highlights the crucial actions that require attention within the near future.

The second list (Task or Project Oriented Actions) highlights the actions that require a specific task or project. Park managers will review this to plan for upcoming budgets and annual work plans for staff. This is broken into Resource Management actions and Visitor Services actions.

The third list (On-going and Monitoring Actions) describes the actions that require on-going or monitoring types of tasks. These will be regularly reviewed by park managers to ensure that on-going tasks are being carried out and that the spirit and intentions of this master plan are being followed. These are also placed within Resource Management actions and Visitor Services actions.

Highest Priority Actions

Keywords	Highest Priority Actions	Page
Visual Quality Objectives	Initiate contact with the Ministry of Forests to have a Landscape Assessment undertaken for the Murray River and Bulley Creek viewsheds.	32 49
Defining the " <i>Monkman Area</i> "	Undertake a project to identify the " <i>Monkman Area</i> ". This project will use biological and physiographic criteria to define a logical boundary encompassing the park and its surrounding areas.	37
Wildlife habitat information	Utilize ecosystem mapping to interpret wildlife habitat patterns in and around Monkman Park and to gain a better understanding of how Monkman Park contributes to landscape-level wildlife habitat patterns.	41
Ecosystem Mapping	Undertake ecosystem mapping for Monkman Park and its surrounding areas to identify sensitive and rare ecosystems and species.	37
Wildlife habitat ratings	Determine, in cooperation with other agencies, suitability and capability ratings for red and blue listed wildlife species. The project will cover the " <i>Monkman Area</i> ".	42
Backcountry use	Develop a system for documenting backcountry visitor numbers and destinations in order to develop baseline data on backcountry use.	71
Snowmobile study	Establish a snowmobile working group, involving BC Parks, representatives from the local snowmobile club, the Fish and Wildlife Branch and the Ministry of Forests to assess the possible affects and potential of a proposed designated snowmobile route through the park.	67

Task or Project Oriented Actions

Natural and Cultural Resources Management

Keywords	Task or Project Actions	Page
Join the two areas of the park	Obtain clearances to join the Kinuseo area to the rest of the park. In conjunction with this, BC Parks and the Ministry of Forests will prepare a Memorandum of Understanding to allow for a road right-of-way to be designated through the park once a route across the Murray River has been chosen.	32
Cancel power reserve	Initiate the process to cancel the Power Reserve covering the Kinuseo Falls area.	34
Water monitoring	Investigate working with Ministry of Forests and BC Environment to establish a water monitoring program for the Murray River before logging roads are constructed.	35
Vegetation management plan	Prepare a vegetation management plan that will identify specific management strategies based on the findings of the ecosystem mapping project.	37
Forestry planning	Develop, in cooperation with the BC Forest Service and forest companies, forest management guidelines for areas adjacent to Monkman Park in order to link, where possible, conservation strategies across the park boundary.	37
Snowmobiling and wildlife	Investigate effects of snowmobiling on wildlife in the park. See snowmobile study under "Highest Priority Actions".	42
Wildlife Management Plan	Prepare a wildlife management plan to address specific management issues including: habitat management; wildlife viewing; assessment of snowmobiling effects; surrounding land uses; and, hunting and trapping management.	44
Fisheries Management Plan	Prepare a fishery management plan in conjunction with BC Environment. The plan will highlight which lakes within the Natural Environment and Intensive Recreation Zones have potential for on-going stocking in consideration to assessments and stocking already undertaken by BC Environment.	46
Alex Monkman route	Identify a section of the original Alex Monkman route (portion along the Monkman Lake Trail) as an historic feature.	52

Keywords	Task or Project Actions	Page
First Nations meetings	Initiate meetings with representatives of First Nations and Metis with aboriginal interests in the park area to discuss possible opportunities to be involved in aspects of the park's management.	53
First Nations consultation	Develop a protocol between BC Parks and First Nations and Metis with aboriginal interests in the park area which sets out contact persons for consultation processes.	53

Visitor Services

Keywords	Task or Project Actions	Page
Angling opportunities	Work with BC Environment to develop a <i>Youth Fishery</i> in conjunction with their assessment and stocking initiatives undertaken for Kinuseo Lakes and Jake's Lakes, located near the park.	63
Hunting in Wilderness Conservation Zone	Phase out hunting (non-aboriginal) in the Wilderness Conservation Zone in order to meet the objectives for wildlife conservation.	42 72
Monkman Lake Trail	Provide rustic facilities, compatible for the Natural Environment Zone, at appropriate places along the first half of the Monkman Lake Trail (to the end of the ridge). Develop trails from Monkman Lake Trail down to Monkman Creek to provide viewing opportunities of the step-falls.	70
Avoiding grizzly bears	Review ecosystem mapping to determine the grizzly potential for the areas joining Monkman Lake, Monkman Tarns, and Bulley Creek. A backcountry hiking route may be identified if the potential for grizzly-human interaction is considered low.	70
Backcountry information	Prepare a handout for backcountry visitors explaining natural features, wilderness recreation etiquette and safety techniques, low impact camping and wildlife viewing techniques, and bear avoidance techniques.	71 83

Keywords	On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
Frontcountry trails	Investigate areas close to the Kinuseo Falls and campground areas for short, low grade walking trails.	63
Backcountry ski potential	Approach local ski groups to conduct field work into areas with potential for backcountry skiing.	71
Special Needs Strategy	Determine park priorities for special needs outdoor recreation opportunities within the context of a regional strategy.	66
Aircraft in Wilderness Conservation Zone	Approach local pilots and the BC Aviation Council to gain their support for closing the Wilderness Conservation Zone to aircraft landings for the protection of wildlife, fish populations and to help meet the conservation objectives for this zone. Private aircraft access to Monkman Lake will continue.	76
Floatplane charter permit	Allow one permit to be issued for a floatplane charter operator to access Monkman Lake. Permit restrictions will be put into place to protect the wilderness character of the area.	74 76
Tourism and promotion	Work with tourism associations connected with the Alaska Highway to investigate the opportunities to attract tourists to visit Monkman Park. Also investigate the role Monkman Park could play as part of a "circle tour", linking Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge, and Pouce Coupe.	79
Education and Interpretation	Develop a strategy for interpreting the themes identified from the regional interpretation and information plan.	82
Prepare Guide	Prepare a teachers/visitors guide to Monkman Park when use warrants it.	82
Backcountry Handout	Prepare handout information for backcountry visitors explaining natural features, wilderness recreation etiquette and safety techniques, bear avoidance techniques, and principles for low impact wildlife viewing.	83
Volunteers	Assess local public interests in creating a volunteer club where members help to gather information about the park during their trips into backcountry areas.	83 44

On-going and Monitoring Actions

Natural and Cultural Resources Management

Keywords	On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
Interests for protection around Monkman Park	Review the Limestone Lakes-Monkman Tarns study area within the context of the Protected Areas Strategy, the Herrick Creek Local Resource Use Plan, and the interests of the Lheit-Lit'en Nation for protecting important cultural and heritage values.	32
Managing park boundary areas	Continue involvement in inter-agency processes such as the Land and Resources Management Planning process to develop strategies that minimize effects from timber harvesting near the park, particularly along the Bulley Creek and Murray River valleys.	32
Maintaining forestry contacts	Maintain close communication with Ministry of Forests and forest companies operating on adjacent lands to review forest harvesting plans in terms of how they affect wilderness values, access into the park, recreation, and viewscales.	32
Traplines	Attempt to negotiate the purchase of trapline territories that cover the park. The highest priority is for acquiring portions of these tenures that cover the Intensive Recreation and the Wilderness Conservation Zone.	33 44
Guide-outfitting	Monitor guide-outfitting activities and harvest data. Approach the guide-outfitter covering the Wilderness Conservation Zone to negotiate ways to reduce guide-outfitting activities in the zone.	34
Murray River crossing	Work with Ministry of Forests' engineers to ensure that any future bridge crossing of the Murray River minimizes negative effects on water quality.	35
Water quality	Work cooperatively with forest companies and the Ministry of Forests to minimize negative effects of logging on water resources flowing into the park from adjacent areas.	35
Water quality	Ensure that sanitary facilities are properly designed and located. Ensure that trail development and maintenance minimizes erosion of surface materials into creeks, rivers and lakes.	35

Keywords	On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
Fire management	Implement initial attack procedures on all fires. If it is determined that the fire will not spread to areas outside of the park or will not threaten park visitors or facilities, the fire may be allowed to run its natural course.	37
Effects from recreation	Monitor camping and trail areas to ensure that vegetation is not being damaged. Once identified, protect sensitive or rare species or ecosystems from damaging effects of recreation use.	39
Public awareness	Develop methods for public awareness and appreciation of the park's vegetation resources and natural processes.	39
Wildlife trees	Retain tree snags for wildlife habitat except for situations within the Intensive Recreation or Natural Environment Zones where there is a serious threat to visitors, park staff, or park facilities.	39 44
Wildlife inventories	Undertake selective wildlife inventories for the " <i>Monkman Area</i> " to identify the occurrence of red and blue listed species and other selective species that may be important for conservation management.	42
Managing hunting	Manage hunting according to zoning, available wildlife information, and activities that occur in areas adjacent to the park and work to phase out hunting within the Wilderness Conservation Zone.	42 72
No-shooting zone	Extend the no-shooting zone in the Kinuseo Falls area to include the Monkman Lake Trail.	42
Information from volunteers	Encourage and utilize, where possible, local naturalist and conservation groups to gather information such as, bird counts.	44
Recreation and wildlife	Work within this master plan's public education objectives to reduce stress on wildlife from encounters with backcountry visitors. All recreation uses will be examined to ensure that affects on wildlife are tolerable.	44
Research	Contact the University of Northern British Columbia as well as other universities in British Columbia and Alberta about their interests in research for Monkman Park.	44
Habitat enhancement	Implement management actions regarding habitat enhancement from the Vegetation Management Plan once it is prepared and approved. In the interim, no habitat enhancement will be undertaken in the park unless it is critical to the survival of a naturally occurring species.	44

Keywords	On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
Angling	Monitor and regulate angling in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Branch to ensure that natural fish populations are maintained. Angling may be closed if necessary to protect populations from falling below sustainable levels.	46
Fish stocking	No stocking will be undertaken within the Wilderness Recreation or the Wilderness Conservation Zones. Continue to work in partnership with BC Environment and their Fisheries Strategic Plan in consideration to the conservation objectives of this plan.	46
Information on fish conservation	Provide material explaining fish conservation objectives in conjunction with the public education objectives of this master plan.	46 82
Frontcountry information	Provide information in the frontcountry explaining physiographic processes related to faulting and formation of Kinuseo falls.	48
Fossils	Reinforce protection of the fossil beds by not promoting locations and informing the public that removal of fossils without permission is not allowed.	48
Cairns policy	Inform park visitors that building cairns is not allowed in the Wilderness Conservation or Wilderness Recreation zones. BC Parks will provide cairns only when absolutely necessary for navigation purposes within the Wilderness Recreation Zone.	49
Archaeological assessment	Undertake archaeological assessment study involving First Nations before any major park facility is constructed.	52
Maintaining natural scenery	Ensure that any development, particularly in backcountry areas of the park will be oriented and designed to have a minimal effect on the natural scenery. No facilities will be developed in the Wilderness Conservation Zone.	49
Recreation use	Manage recreation use in conjunction with the park's zoning plan so that outdoor recreation features and natural resources will be minimally affected.	50
Trail use levels	Monitor use along the Monkman Lake Trail to develop baseline data with which to assess the desired maximum level of visitors for the trail.	50
First Nations rights	Continue to honour Treaty 8 rights covering traditional trapping, hunting, and fishing activities as they may apply in Monkman Park.	53

Keywords	On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
First Nations heritage	Seek the cooperation and assistance of First Nations and Metis representatives in gathering heritage and cultural information that may be important for conservation purposes.	53
First Nations consultation	Consult relevant First Nations and Metis representatives about interests for protecting significant areas adjacent to the southern boundary of Monkman Park.	53

Visitor Services

Keywords	On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
Backcountry fish management	Manage natural fish stocks within backcountry areas of the park using regulations and zoning to maintain natural fish diversity and population viability. Fishing within the Wilderness Conservation Zone, Lower Blue Lake, will be managed as a catch-and-release fishery.	63 46
Hunting - conservative harvest levels	Manage hunting activities in cooperation with BC Environment and utilize updated wildlife information when available in order to maintain conservative wildlife harvesting levels in the park.	72
Human-bear encounters	Close backcountry areas to hiking if bear and visitor safety is compromised.	70
Backcountry promotion	Avoid promoting hiking opportunities within the Wilderness Conservation Zone.	70
Campfires	Allow fires only at the Monkman Lake campsite and only for safety purposes (warmth, emergency cooking). Campers will be informed that they will require their own cookstoves.	71
Riverboat picnic site	Maintain the riverboat picnic site below Kinuseo Falls.	65
Boating	Allow canoeing up Monkman Creek and the Murray River, however since boating above Kinuseo Falls is not a significant activity for Monkman Park and can be hazardous, it will not be promoted. No motorboats will be allowed above Kinuseo Falls.	65
Frontcountry camping facilities	Continue to provide facilities for frontcountry camping in consideration of facilities which may be provided in areas adjacent to the park.	62
Horse use	Monitor the effects of horse users and restrict use in areas where there is damage to the environment. Distribute information on horse use ethics for trails and backcountry areas. Inform horse users that horses are not allowed within the Intensive Recreation or the Wilderness Conservation Zones.	73

Keywords	On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
Snowmobile use	<p>Allow permitted snowmobile travel by clubs for limited trips to Monkman Lake while the snowmobile working group is conducting its study. Snowmobiles will be permitted for low elevation areas. Tree cutting will not be allowed and alpine areas will be off limits.</p> <p>Allow snowmobile use on designated routes within the Natural Environment Zone covering the Kinuseo Falls area and, with permission from BC Parks, along the Monkman Lake Trail within the Natural Environment Zone.</p>	67
Mountain biking	Allow mountain biking only along the first 12 kilometres of the Monkman Lake Trail (Natural Environment Zone). Monitor mountain biking use along the Monkman Lake Trail within the Natural Environment Zone to assess damage to the trail or conflicts with other park visitors. If mountain biking causes damage or conflicts with other park visitors the activity will be phased out.	68
Special Needs opportunities	Design and develop, where possible, trails in the frontcountry area in consideration to standards for special needs people. When planning park facilities, BC Parks will consult with local associations affiliated with special needs people.	66
Recreation guiding	Limit permits to one for each type of guiding service. Set conservative quotas within permits for guiding services in order to ensure that conservation goals are not affected and conflicts with other park visitors are minimized. No permanent facilities will be allowed in the park in association with guiding operations. Assess proposals for recreation guiding for how they affect the conservation and recreation goals of the park.	74
Helicopter charters	Decline applications for chartered helicopter access to the park, guided horse operators, and guided angling.	74
Forestry access near park	Work with Ministry of Forests and local forestry companies to prepare a plan which deals with how to mitigate unwanted effects of forestry road construction near the park's boundary.	76
Promotion	Ensure the park promotion cards and park handout remains current and accurate.	80
Markets and regional strategy	<p>Initiate direct promotion and marketing activities for the Peace Country and Edmonton. BC Parks will work with other groups and agencies that are also promoting and marketing outdoor recreation to develop a regional strategy for recreation and tourism opportunities.</p> <p>Work with local chambers of commerce in promoting and marketing Monkman Park's one to three day frontcountry opportunities.</p>	79

Keywo rds	On-going and Monitoring Actions	Page
Park information	Work with local tourism associations and communities in providing appropriate pre-trip planning and park awareness information.	80
Frontcountry signs	Provide safety and park information signs where needed in the Intensive Recreation and Natural Environment Zones.	81
Backcountry signs	Avoid placing information signs in the backcountry areas unless absolutely necessary. No signs will be posted in the Wilderness Conservation Zone.	81
Local tourism cooperation	Continue to work with local tourism associations and communities to provide regional tourism and outdoor recreation information.	81
Park image	Develop Monkman’s image as a park with family-oriented frontcountry recreation opportunities.	79
	Enhance the public’s awareness of Monkman as an area conserving natural and cultural resources and biodiversity through brochures, signs, special events, and other media.	79
Backcountry rangers	Provide a seasonal backcountry ranger program for the Monkman Trail and Monkman Lake areas as funding allows. Backcountry rangers will be involved in collecting resource information that will assist in managing the park’s resources.	83

Appendix A

Summary of Protected Areas Strategy Gap Analysis

Appendix A: Summary of Protected Areas Strategy Gap Analysis work, showing area and percentages of ecosection variants represented in Monkman Park and other Protected Areas.

[Cell 1] Hart Ranges Ecosection- Biogeoclimatic variants Total area = 14,460 km ²	[Cell 2] Sq. Km of variants within Ecosection	[Cell 3] % of variants within Ecosection: (cell 2/14,460)	[Cell 4] % of variants within Monkman Park	[Cell 5] % of variants within other Protected Areas
AT & ATp	2426.0	16.8%	4.5%	8.0%
ESSFwk2	8055.0	55.7%	2.6%	15.7%
ICHvk2	330.0	2.3%	-	2.6%
ICHwk2	43.0	0.3%	-	1.2%
ICHwk3	2.0	0.01%	-	-
SBSmk2	7.0	0.05%	-	-
SBSvk	2729.0	18.9%	-	1.2%
SBSwk1	31.0	0.2%	-	-
SBSwk2	837.0	5.8%	7.9%	-
Hart Foothills Ecosection- Biogeoclimatic variants Total area = 7,914 km ²	Sq. Km of variants within Ecosection	% of variants within Ecosection: (cell 2/7,914)	% of variants within Monkman Park	% of variants within within other Protected Areas:
AT & ATp	536.0	6.8%	-	-
BWBSmw1	977.0	12.4%	-	4.7%
BWBSwk1	670.0	8.5%	-	2.6%
ESSFmv2	3037.0	38.4%	-	1.0%
ESSFwk2	1418.0	17.9%	-	-
SBSwk2	1276.0	16.1%	0.8%	-

Appendix B

BC Parks Zoning

	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 foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).	Non-mechanized (no air access); foot, canoe (horses may be permitted). sites;
Determined by location of special resources; may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones.	Remote; generally not visited on a day-use basis.	Remote; not easily visited on a day-use basis.
Small; usually less to 2000 hectares.	Large; greater than 5,000 ha.	Large; greater than 5,000 ha.
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).	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (eg. caving, climbing).

	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment
FACILITIES	<p>May be intensely developed for user convenience.</p> <p>Campgrounds, landscaped picnic/play areas, trail, accommodation or interpretive buildings, boat launches; administrative buildings, service etc. campgrounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, wood lots, parking lots, etc.</p>	<p>Moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk-in/boat-in campsites, shelters; accommodation buildings may be permitted; facilities for motorized access eg. docks, landing strips, fuel storage,</p>
IMPACTS ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	<p>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.</p> <p>Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas.</p>	<p>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.</p>
MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	<p>Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience.</p> <p>Intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities.</p> <p>Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor.</p>	<p>Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and to providing a high quality recreation experience.</p> <p>Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation Modes. Designation of transportation may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (eg. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).</p>
EXAMPLES OF ZONING	<p>Campground in Rathrevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski areas in E.C. Manning Park.</p>	<p>Core area in Cathedral Park; North beach in Naikoon Park.</p>

Special Feature	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
Interpretive facilities only, resources are to be protected.	Minimal facility development. Limited development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment eg. trails, primitive campsites, etc. Some basic facilities at access nodes, eg. dock, primitive shelter, etc.	None.
None; resources to be maintained unimpaired.	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. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high quality recreational and interpretive experience. Active or passive management depending on size, location, and nature of access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.
Tidepools in Botanical Beach Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mount Assiniboine Park.	Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park; Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park.	Central Valhallas Wilderness in Valhalla Park; Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy area.



Appendix C

Summary of Public Comments From Questionnaire

Please follow this link to open Appendix C:

http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/beparks/planning/mgmtplns/monkman/appx-c_mp.pdf