

**Thompson River District**

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION  
STATEMENT**

**October, 1999**

**for North Thompson  
Oxbows East  
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH  
COLUMBIA**

**Ministry of Environment  
Lands and Parks  
BC Parks Division**



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# APPROVALS

## KAMLOOPS GOAL 2 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS - GOAL 2 BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

### Forward

This binder contains 32 management direction statements developed under the direction of the Kamloops Land and Resource Plan Implementation Table and BC Parks. The government designated these protected areas in May, 1996. The 32 management direction statements provide strategic direction for these protected areas. Protected areas' roles, strategies and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, implemented through operations plans, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams Lake Park                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiuihill Creek Park.                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams Lake Marine Park - Poplar Point | <input type="checkbox"/> Lac Le Jeune Park.                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams Lake Park – Spillman Beach      | <input type="checkbox"/> Monte Creek Park                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banana Island Park                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mount. Savona Park                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedard Aspen Park                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mud Lake Delta Park                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue River Black Spruce Park          | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Islands Park                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue River Pine Park                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbows East Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caligata Park                         | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbow Jensen Park           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chu Chua Cottonwood Park              | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbow Manteau Park          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Canyon Park               | <input type="checkbox"/> Painted Bluffs Park                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deadman Hoodoos Park - Skookumt Site  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pritchard Park                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Canyon Park               | <input type="checkbox"/> Pyramid Creek Falls Park                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Floodplain Park.          | <input type="checkbox"/> Tsintsunko Lakes Park                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Epsom Park.                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Wallachin Oxbows Park                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finn Creek Park.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Wire Cache Park                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenstone Mountain Park.             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harbour - Dudgeon Park.               |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harry Lake Aspen Park.                |   |

### Approved by:

Monty Downs  
Monty Downs  
District Manager  
Thompson River District

Denis O’Gorman  
Denis O’Gorman  
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Date: 99/11/30

Date: 99/12/29

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### **Purpose of Management Direction Statements**

Management Direction Statements provide strategic management direction for all protected areas that do not have a full management plan. MDS do not negate the need for future, more detailed management plans. Management Direction Statements also describe protected area values management issues and concerns; management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies; and, directional statements from other planning processes. . While strategies may be identified in the MDS, the completion of all these strategies is subject to funding and funding procedures. In addition, all development associated with these strategies within the protected area is subject to the BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy.

# NORTH THOMPSON OXBOWS EAST PARK

## MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

### I. Introduction

#### A. Setting and Context

The 293 hectare North Thompson Oxbows East Park protects a stretch of the upper North Thompson River lowlands between Lempriere and Canvas Creeks. It is situated 50 kilometers north of Blue River and 280 kilometers north of Kamloops. Access is by logging road 6 kilometers west of Highway 5 (Yellowhead) where the North Thompson River crosses the highway.

This protected area was recommended through the Kamloops LRMP process and formally established on April 30th, 1996 as a provincial park through Order-in-Council under the *Park Act*. The park was then designated in Schedule E of the *Park Amendment Act, 1997*.

This Management Direction Statement is intended to provide direction and guidelines for managing North Thompson Oxbows East Park for the foreseeable future.

### II. Protected Area Values

#### A. Conservation

- wide meandering river system with high level of diversity; very productive part of the North Thompson River
- floodplain wetlands, numerous oxbow lakes, sandbars, back channels, levees, glacial river
- plant communities indicative of cold air drainage and wet soils - ICHwk1, small patches of old growth hybrid spruce, subalpine fir
- creeks on steep forested slopes on north and south sides add fresh material to the area every spring
- suspected chinook and coho spawning; high potential for rearing habitat; important habitat for bull trout, Rocky Mountain whitefish, rainbow; one of few stable bull trout populations in the region
- excellent moose habitat; wolves, grizzly bear, beaver
- includes cutblocks on southeast logged in 1969-70
- should be considered as one unit with North Thompson Oxbows - Manteau Park

#### B. Recreation and Tourism

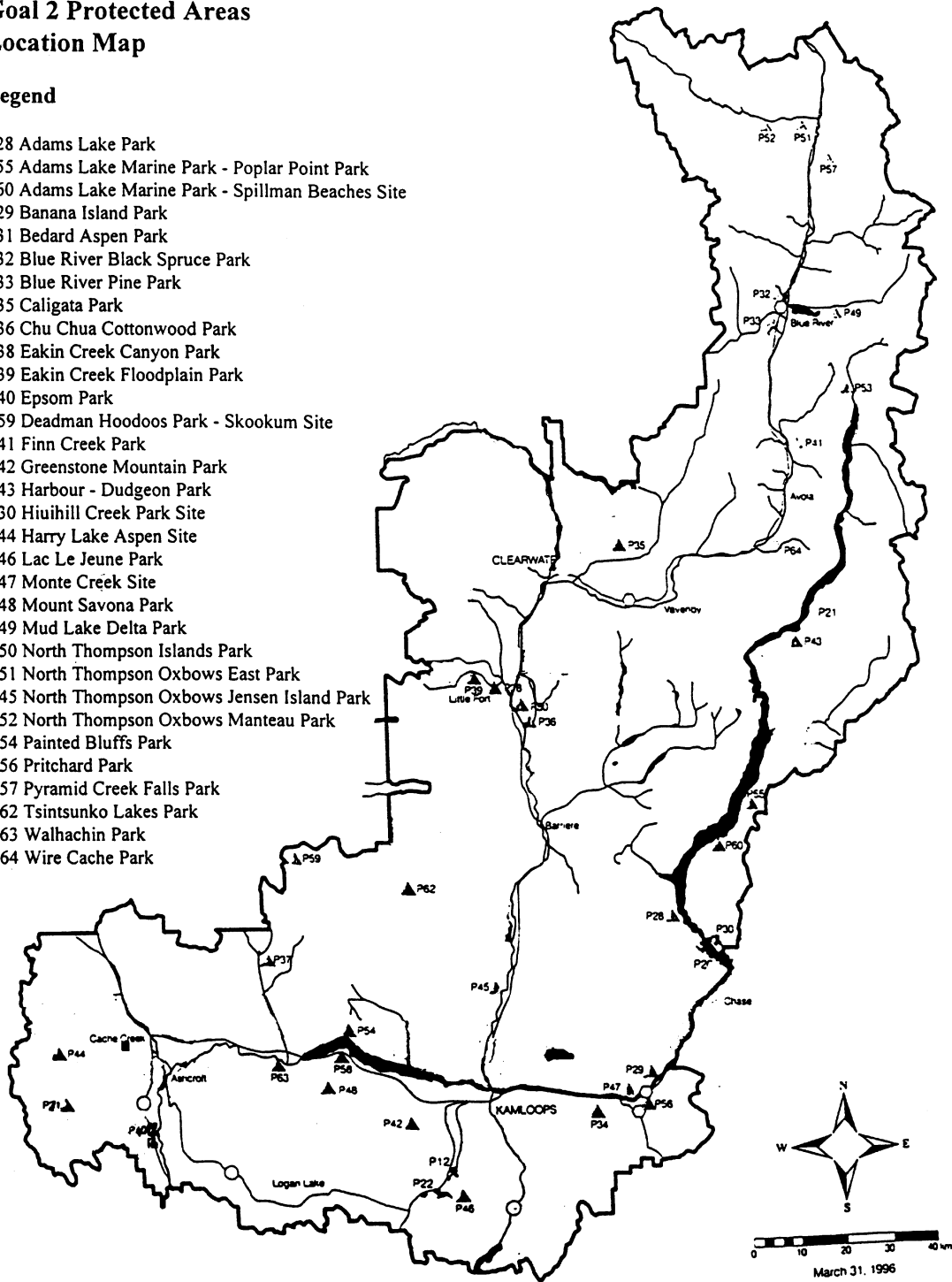
- traditional moose hunting area
- wildlife viewing, nature study

Figure 1 – Location Map

**Kamloops LRMP  
Goal 2 Protected Areas  
Location Map**

**Legend**

- P28 Adams Lake Park
- P55 Adams Lake Marine Park - Poplar Point Park
- P60 Adams Lake Marine Park - Spillman Beaches Site
- P29 Banana Island Park
- P31 Bedard Aspen Park
- P32 Blue River Black Spruce Park
- P33 Blue River Pine Park
- P35 Caligata Park
- P36 Chu Chua Cottonwood Park
- P38 Eakin Creek Canyon Park
- P39 Eakin Creek Floodplain Park
- P40 Epsom Park
- P59 Deadman Hoodoos Park - Skookum Site
- P41 Finn Creek Park
- P42 Greenstone Mountain Park
- P43 Harbour - Dudgeon Park
- P30 Hiuihill Creek Park Site
- P44 Harry Lake Aspen Site
- P46 Lac Le Jeune Park
- P47 Monte Creek Site
- P48 Mount Savona Park
- P49 Mud Lake Delta Park
- P50 North Thompson Islands Park
- P51 North Thompson Oxbows East Park
- P45 North Thompson Oxbows Jensen Island Park
- P52 North Thompson Oxbows Manteau Park
- P54 Painted Bluffs Park
- P56 Pritchard Park
- P57 Pyramid Creek Falls Park
- P62 Tsintsunko Lakes Park
- P63 Walhachin Park
- P64 Wire Cache Park



### **C. Cultural Heritage**

- unknown

### **D. Significance in the Protected Areas System**

- along with North Thompson Oxbows - Manteau Park, protects a section of the upper North Thompson River lowlands
- a small representative of the North Thompson River valley lowlands not represented in large protected areas. Contributes a productive mosaic of wetland habitats to the series of protected areas along the North Thompson north of Clearwater.

## **III. Other Land Uses and Interests**

### **A. Existing Tenures**

- Park designation under the *Park Amendment Act* ensures that all existing liens, charges, and encumbrances other than those applying to commercial logging, mining or energy exploration and development will continue to be authorized through issuance of park use permits. This policy recognizes all existing land act tenures, water rights, trapping licences and other legal tenures and rights.

### **B. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use**

- active logging roads on both sides of the Park with large cutblocks, particularly on the south side

### **C. First Nations Interests**

- Management of the park will require ongoing consultation with the North Thompson Indian Band to incorporate First Nations interests.

### **D. Other Agency Interests**

The Park will be managed in close co-ordination with various resource agencies, particularly BC Environment and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Government of Canada).

- reforestation of cutblocks managed by Ministry of Forests
- in General Caribou Management Zone managed by BC Environment and Ministry of Forests
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans manage salmonids

### **E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests**

- trapline

## **IV. Management Issues and Concerns**

### **A. Integration with Other Land Use Planning Processes**

This management statement, future management plans, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for the North Thompson Oxbows East Park.

## **B. Consultation and Future Planning**

Planning and management of the park will conform to the goals, objectives and guiding principles as set forth in the Provincial Protected Areas Strategy. BC Parks is accountable for planning, administration and management of the park through application of the laws, policies and regulations granted under the *Park Act*. BC Parks will coordinate with other agencies, the LRMP table, various public planning groups and First Nations in amending the MDS or developing management plans for all of the new protected areas arising from the Kamloops LRMP.

This Management Direction Statement has been reviewed and approved in principle by the Kamloops LRMP implementation team.

## **C. Role of the Park**

The primary role of North Thompson Oxbows East Park is to protect the ecological integrity of the river riparian and upland habitats at this site. The park contributes a key component within a system of small protected areas distributed along the North Thompson River, which together capture representative examples of the river's diverse riparian and upland ecosystems.

## **D. Zoning**

The zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page is preliminary and reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for North Thompson Oxbows East Park. The Park is zoned as **Natural Environment** to maintain the area in a natural condition while allowing some recreational use. The zoning plan may be changed in a future management planning process.

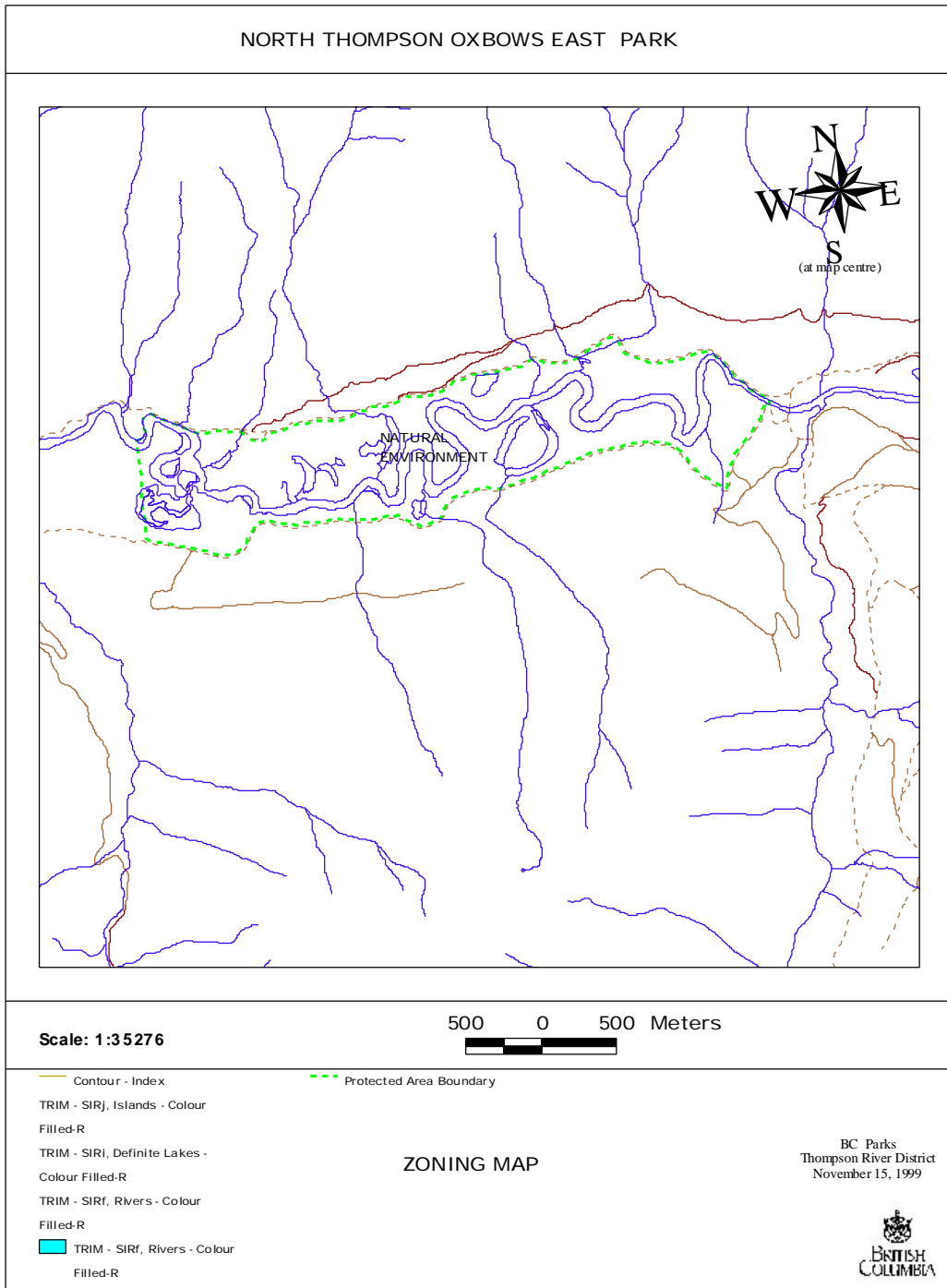
## **E. Management Objectives and Strategies**

In addition to accepting the basic principles of maintaining existing tenures and rights, the following objectives will direct the short and long term management of the area:

- to maintain the natural qualities and conditions of the park
- to foster relationships with First Nations through ongoing consultation and discussion of their concerns and views on protected area management and planning
- to maintain, the visual and recreational values
- to maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats
- to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species
- to allow for continued casual recreation use - walking, nature study, wildlife viewing, hunting
  - do not emphasize recreation and make no provisions for public access and use of the site



**Figure 2 - Zoning Map**



## **F. Longer Term Issues and Concerns**

Specific issues that will be considered in the longer term can be highlighted under the following topics:

### **Conservation**

- inventory of conservation values; access difficulty makes it hard to assess fish populations
- vegetation management - protection of riparian areas for shade, food supply for salmonids; insect and disease control; fire management
- fisheries and wildlife management in coordination with adjacent land and resource use management activities

### **Recreation and Tourism**

- access management
- recreation use - appropriate activities and levels of use

### **Culture**

- inventory of archaeological sites
- protection of archaeological sites
- recognition of any identified traditional native uses

## **G. Short Term Issues and Concerns**

The following Activity/Use Matrix outlines guidelines for managing uses, activities and facilities in the Park. These guidelines reflect the intent of the LRMP and, in general principle, follow the policies as set out for use and management of provincial park natural environment zones.

## Activity / Use Matrix for North Thompson Oxbows

Activity/Use Facility	Natural Environment
Hunting	Y
Fishing	Y
Trapping	Y <sup>2</sup>
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational Gold Panning/Rock Hounding	N
Utility Corridors	N
Communication Sites	N
Horse Use/Pack Animals	N
Guide Outfitting (hunting)	Y <sup>2</sup>
Guide Outfitting (fishing)	Y <sup>2</sup>
Guide Outfitting (nature tours)	Y <sup>2</sup>
Guide Outfitting (river rafting)	Y <sup>2</sup>
Cat-Assisted Skiing	N/A
Ski-Hills	N/A
Heli-skiing	N/A
Heli-hiking	N
Tourist Infrastructure - Resorts	N/A
Backcountry Huts / Lodges / Cabins / Guest Ranches	N/A
Water Control Structures	N2
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N1
Road Access	Y <sup>1</sup>
Off-road Access (snowmobiling)	N/A
Off-road Access (motorized)	N/A
Off-road Access (mechanical activities)	N/A
Motorized Water Access	Y
Aircraft Access	N
Fire Management (Prescribed) Wildlife Management Prevention & Preparedness Prescribed Fire Management	N1
Fire Management (suppression)	Y
Forest Insect / Disease Control	N1
Noxious Weed Control	Y
Exotic Insect / Disease Control	Y
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	N1
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	N1

Y= allowed, subject to conditions identified in the interim management statement or management plan  
 N= not allowed  
 N1= allowed for expressed management purposes only  
 N2= not normally allowed, but if present at time of PA establishment, will normally be allowed to continue

<sup>1</sup> Road access plan for this area designates open and closed roads  
<sup>2</sup> By permit only  
<sup>3</sup> On designated trails only  
<sup>4</sup> On designated lakes only