

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

June, 1999

**for Roche Lake
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division



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APPROVALS

KAMLOOPS GOAL 1 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward

This binder contains 15 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 15 management direction statements provide strategic direction for these protected areas until management plans can be developed with full public involvement. 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"/> Arrowstone Protected Area | <input type="checkbox"/> High Lakes Basin Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Earth Lake Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Momich Lakes Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon Jack Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clearwater River Corridor | <input type="checkbox"/> Porcupine Meadows.Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cornwall Hills Park | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roche Lake Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dunn Peak Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Taweel Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elephant Hill Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Adams Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emar Lakes Park | |

Approved by:

District Manager
Thompson River District
BC Parks Division

Date:

98/04/30

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Division

Date:

99 10 25

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	
A.	Setting and Context.....	1
II.	Protected Areas Values	
A.	Conservation	1
B.	Recreation	1
C.	Cultural Heritage.....	1
D.	Significance in the Protected Areas System.....	1
III.	Other Land Uses and Interests	
A.	Existing Tenures.....	2
B.	Adjacent Patterns of Land Use.....	2
C.	First Nations Interests.....	2
D.	Other Agency Interests.....	2
E.	Private and Public Stakeholder Interests	2
IV.	Park Role Statement	2
V.	Management Issues and Concerns	
A.	Integration With Other Land Use Planning Processes.....	4
B.	Consultation and Future Planning.....	4
C.	Zoning	4
D.	Management Strategies and Objectives	6
E.	Longer Term Issues and Concerns	6
F.	Short Term Issues and Concerns.....	7
	Appendix A	8
	Figures:	
	Figure 1 – Regional Context Map	3
	Figure 2 - Zoning Map	5

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

ROCHE LAKE PARK

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context

The 2,067 hectare Roche Lake Park protects a series of a world class recreational trout fishing lakes in a plateau setting. It is situated 36 kilometres southeast of Kamloops, off Highway 5A at the north end of Trapp Lake.

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 *Environment and Land Use Act*. The park was redesignated in July 1997 under Schedule E of the *Park Amendment Act, 1997*.

This Management Direction Statement is intended to provide direction and guidelines for managing Roche Lake Park until a more comprehensive management plan is developed for the area.

II. Protected Area Values

A. Conservation

- some small stands of old-growth Douglas-fir
- diversity of habitats - especially lakes and wetlands, creating highly productive habitat for moose, waterfowl and perching birds

B. Recreation and Tourism

- world-class recreational rainbow trout fishing with a diversity of opportunities in 7 stocked lakes
- good, poor and 4x4 roads join the lakes
- Recreation sites on Roche and Horseshoe Lakes and a resort on Roche Lake; rustic camping on Black, Ernest, John Frank, Frisken, and Bulman
- fishing, camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, ice-fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling

C. Cultural Heritage

- unknown

D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- a set of world class trout fishing lakes on the Thompson plateau
- Roche Lake Park is provincially significant for its outdoor recreation values

III. Other Land Uses and Interests

A. Existing Tenures

- all private lands are excluded
- designation under the *Park Amendment Act, 1997* 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.
- park designation provides for continuance of existing grazing under administration and management of the *Range Act*

B. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- Tree Farm Licence adjacent to eastern boundary; forestry roads and cutblocks
- cattle grazing
- major hydro line corridors

C. First Nations Interests

- unknown

D. Other Agency Interests

- The park will be managed in close co-ordination with various resource agencies, particularly BC Environment and Ministry of Forests.
- cattle grazing is managed by Ministry of Forests
- lakes are stocked by BC Environment

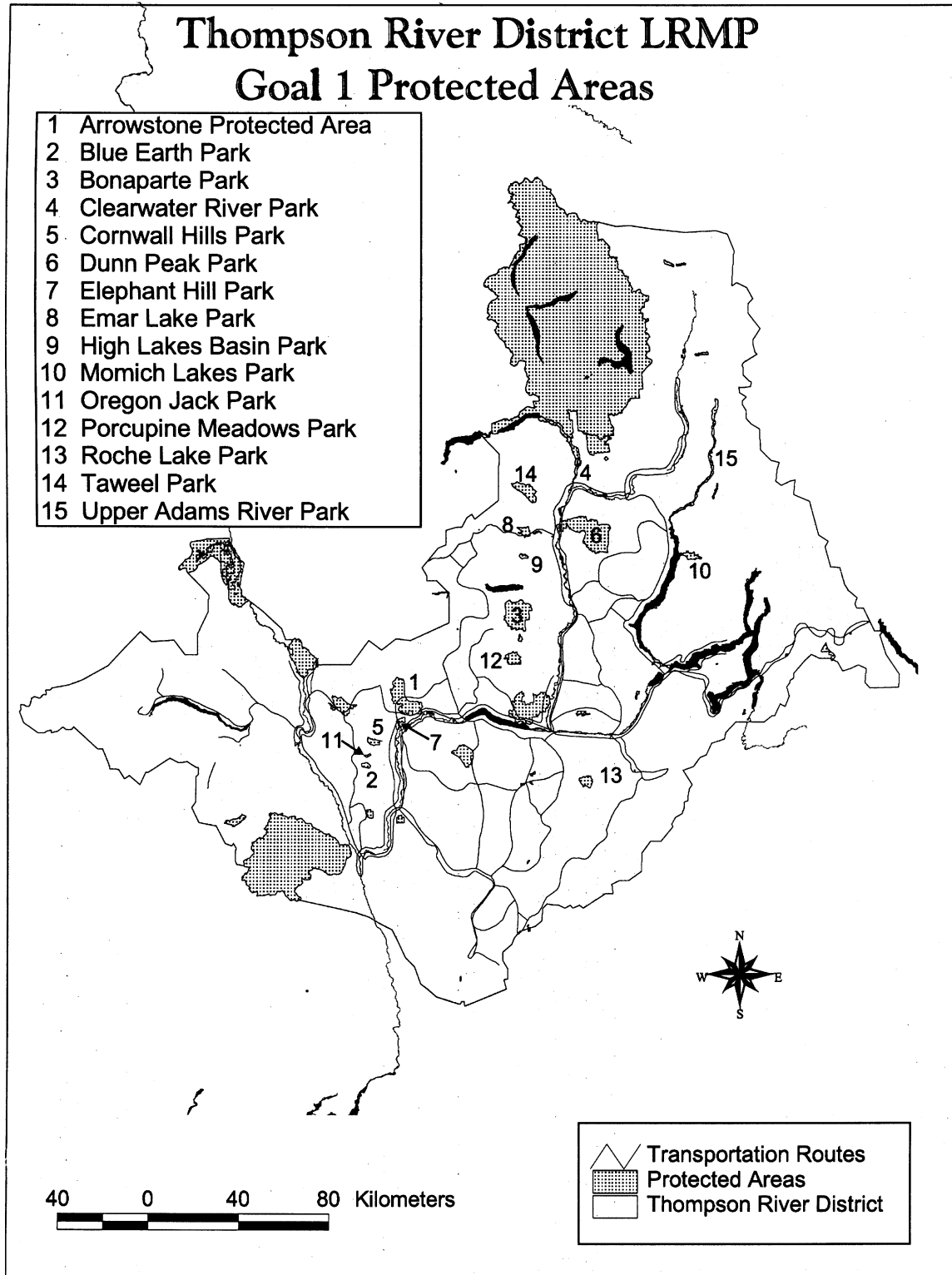
E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- resort on Roche Lake
- private cabins on Roche Lake
- Ducks Unlimited - enhancement projects
- BC Hydro - hydro lines
- Kamloops and District Fish and Game Club - volunteer projects
- Kamloops Fly Fishers - volunteer projects

IV. Park Role Statement

Roche Lake Park protects mid elevation forests, lakes and wetlands of the Southern Thompson Plateau. With its diversity of productive fisheries lakes, the park is of provincial significance for recreational rainbow trout fishing. The park has an important role in providing for recreation and tourism opportunities in the Kamloops area

Figure 1 – Regional Context Map



V. Management Issues and Concerns

A. Integration With Other Land Use Planning Processes

This Management Direction Statement, future management plans, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for the Roche Lake protected area.

Also the park will be planned and managed in co-ordination with the Bleeker-Stump Local Resource Use planning process of the Ministry of Forests to ensure compatibility and complementary support for objectives of the protected area and surrounding forest land base.

B. Consultation and Future Planning

Planning and management of the park will conform to the intent and directions 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 developing management plans for all of the new parks arising from the Kamloops LRMP.

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

The LRMP table considers Roche Lake Park as high priority for management planning. A background document will be prepared for the park in the next few years as the first stage of management planning, depending on available funding. The management planning process, which will be undertaken after the background document is completed, will likely require 6 to 8 months to complete. The plan will be developed through involvement of other agencies, First Nations interests, stakeholders and public interest groups.

C. Zoning

This zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page is preliminary and reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for the Roche Lake Park. The zoning plan may be changed in a future management planning process. Tentative zones include:

Strict Preservation

- proposal for one ungrazed benchmark involving one of the smaller lakes and associated riparian areas and forest

Natural Environment

- Includes the major portion of the park except for the ungrazed area and the campsites; the objective is to manage the area in a natural condition

Figure 2- Zoning Map

Unavailable

Intensive Recreation

- covers existing campsites at Roche and Horseshoe Lakes, but future management plan may identify other intensive use sites; the objective is to focus camping and concentrated day use activities (boat drop offs, loading, etc.) to specific locations on the lakes.

D. Management Strategies and Objectives

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 appropriate (see Appendix A for uses) traditional use patterns and recreation experiences
- to maintain the natural qualities and conditions of the park
- to maintain the visual, recreational and tourism values
- to maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats
- to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species
- to provide opportunities for a variety of quality fishing experiences, camping, nature viewing, hunting, and controlled use of recreation vehicles

The more detailed management planning process will define how these strategies and objectives will be implemented. As well, there will undoubtedly be other strategies and objectives added to the list through the management planning process.

E. Longer Term Issues and Concerns

The longer term issues will be identified in detail through the background document. As a result of the LRMP process there are a number of apparent longer term issues that will be addressed in the management planning process that can be highlighted under the following topics:

Conservation

- vegetation management - insect and disease control; fire management; grazing management
- fisheries and wildlife management

Recreation and Tourism

- access management - lakes access plan and trail and road designations
- recreation use - appropriate activities, levels of development, types of facilities, carrying capacities, ensuring compatibility between user groups
- management plan will consider the impact of visitor management actions at Roche Lake on adjacent recreation sites

Culture

- inventory and protection of archaeological sites and recognition of any identified traditional First Nations uses

F. Short Term Issues and Concerns

Appendix A outlines guidelines for managing uses, activities and facilities in strict preservation, natural environment and intensive use zones. The following provides further elaboration on some uses:

Grazing

- an ungrazed benchmark is under consideration

Resort and private cottages

- park boundaries exclude private and leased lands; access to the resort and cottage sites will be maintained

ATV Use

- some short term controls on ATV use may be required to reduce conflicts with other users and to minimize environmental impacts

Recreation Use

- more intensive levels of management may be applied; i.e. security, to provide better services to the public
- fishery use pressures will be evaluated and regulations will be changed accordingly

Appendix A - Activity/ Use Matrix for Roche Lake Park

Activity/Use/Activity	Strict Preservation Zone	Natural Environment Zone	Intensive Recreation Zone
Hunting	N	Y	N
Fishing	N	Y	Y
Trapping	N	Y	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N	Y	N
Recreational gold panning/ rock hounding	N	N	N
Utility corridors	N	N2	N2
Communication sites	N	N2	N2
Horse use/ pack animals	N	Y ³	Y ³
Guide outfitting (hunting)	N	Y ²	Y ²
Guide outfitting (fishing)	N	Y ²	Y ²
Guide outfitting (nature tours)	N	Y ²	Y ²
Guide outfitting (river rafting)	N	N/A	N/A
Cat-assisted skiing	N	N/A	N/A
Ski-hills	N	N/A	N/A
Heli-skiing	N	N/A	N/A
Heli-hiking	N	N	N
Tourist infrastructure - resorts	N	N2	N2
Backcountry huts/lodges/ cabins	N	N2	N/A
Water control structures	N	N2	N2
Fish stocking and enhancement	N	Y	Y
Road access	N	Y ¹	Y ¹
Off-road access (snowmobiles)	N	Y ³	Y ³
Off-road access (motorized)	N	Y ³	Y ³
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	N	Y ³	Y ³
Motorized water access	N	Y ⁴	Y ⁴
Aircraft access	N	Y ⁴	Y ⁴
Fire management Wildlife management Prevention & preparedness Prescribed fire management	N1	N1	N1
Fire management (suppression)	N1	Y	Y
Forest insect/disease control	N1	Y	Y
Noxious weed control	N1	Y	Y
Exotic insect/disease control	N1	Y	Y
Scientific research (specimen collection)	N1	N1	N1
Scientific research (manipulation activities)	N1	N1	N1

Y = allowed, subject to conditions identified in the management direction statement or management plan

N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

¹ = road access plan for this area designates open and closed roads

³ = on designated trails only

N = not allowed

N2 = not normally allowed, but if present at time of PA establishment, will normally be allowed to continue

² = by permit only

⁴ = on designated lakes only