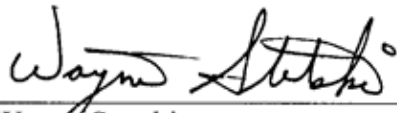


WASA LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

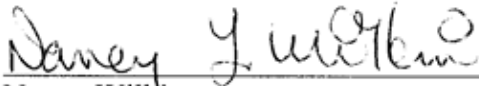
February 2003

Approved by:



Wayne Stetski
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: 13-02-03



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: 25-02-03

WASA LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Wasa Lake Park is to protect remnant open forested, grassland and riparian ecosystems of the East Kootenay Trench.

Most of these ecosystems are on private land and/or used for consumptive land uses such as grazing and forestry. The East Kootenay Trench Ecosection is a major landscape component of the East Kootenay which is under-represented within the protected areas system. There are 15 parks in the ecosection but they are all under 900 ha in area. Although Wasa Lake Park is one of the smaller parks, it offers exclusive protection of the ponderosa pine biogeoclimatic zone (PP dh2) in the Kootenay Region.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to maintain holiday destination, tourism travel route and local outdoor recreation opportunities oriented to a lake and grassland setting.

Wasa Lake Park is one in a system of eleven other provincial parks that enhance the tourism travel routes in southeastern British Columbia. It has long been a holiday destination.

The warm shallow water, sandy beaches and scenic mountain setting are the main attractions. Situated within a half hour drive of Cranbrook and Kimberley, the park is strategic for supporting tourism in nearby communities as well as providing convenient access to outdoor recreational opportunities for residents. Other attractions associated with this destination include Fort Steele Heritage, Kootenay Trout Hatchery and the St Eugene Mission Resort.

Tertiary Role

The **tertiary role** of the park is to provide educational interpretation messages on the unique open forest grasslands protected in the park.

Known Management Issues	Response
Non-native invasive plants (knapweed) threatening natural species and landscapes.	Inventory required showing extent of species locations and vigor. Active control of some species has been ongoing and should be continued.
Forest in-growth and a lack of natural fire is threatening the open forest/grassland ecosystem.	An Ecological Restoration Plan has been completed and some work has been initiated. It is critical that research monitoring be done as well as actual restoration work. As outside funding is required to pay for some of this work, annual applications for funding are required. Continue to implement priority recommendations as per plan.

Known Management Issues	Response
Open forest grassland ecosystem is rare and endangered as well as sensitive to human use.	Remove unused facilities/structures as opportunities arise and carry out restoration.
Recreational use may be expanding out onto endangered ecosystem lands.	Monitoring of this gradual expansion onto sensitive grasslands is required as is a management strategy to address the impact.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation (approximately 29% of the park)

Objective: To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural Environment (approximately 71% of the park)

Objectives: To protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Special Feature (<1% of the park)

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

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EKT (East Kootenay Trench) This ecosection is under-represented (.68%) in the PA system. Wasa Lake Park provides (4%) of the province-wide PA representation. Significant contributors include Premier Lake (27%), Kikomun Creek (24%) and Burges and James Gadsden (13%).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Only protected area that contributes to representation of the very poorly represented PP dh2 subzone /variant (only 0.18% protected).
Special Feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	One of the best beaches and warm water lakes in southeastern British Columbia. Natural sand dunes riparian habitat.
Rare/Endangered Values	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Endangered grassland ecosystem.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.

Recreation

Representation backcountry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.
destination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Major vehicle camping destination (104 sites), swimming, cycling, walking.
travel corridor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Highway 93-95, major corridor for USA and Alberta tourists.
local recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regional and destination day use (440 vehicles), paved trail, boat launch, and children's playground.
Special Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Educational opportunities.
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School groups and other educational NGO's.

Cultural Heritage

Representation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not yet assessed.
Special Feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Some known archaeological resources identified in the park. Also European resources.

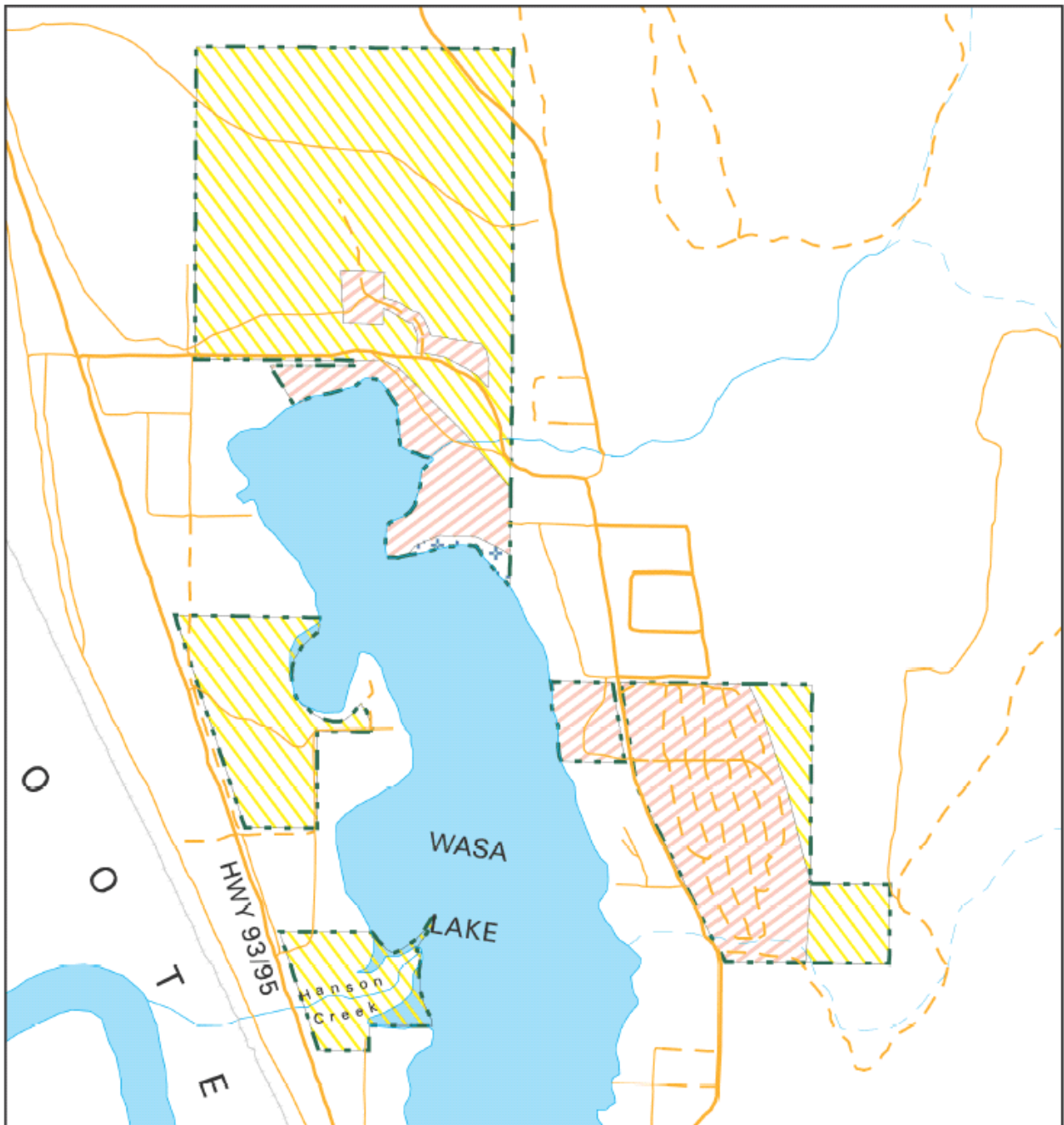
Other Management Considerations

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Other Designations | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not applicable. |
| Relationship to other PAs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Wasa Lions Trail; 1 of 11 provincial parks that contributes to the enhancement of tourism travel routes in southeastern BC. |
| Co-operative Management Arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not applicable. |
| Partnerships | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Wasa Lions volunteer to maintain the trail. |
| Vulnerability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Grasslands at risk (forest encroachment, noxious/ non-native weeds). |
| Relationship to other Strategies | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not applicable. |

Area: 144 hectares





Date of establishment: October 4, 1955

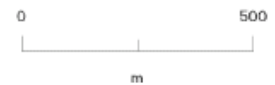
Zoning Map - Wasa Lake Park Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Special Feature
-  Protected Area Boundary



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