

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

June, 1999

for Clearwater River Corridor
(Addition to Wells Gray 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clearwater River Corridor | <input type="checkbox"/> Porcupine Meadows Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cornwall Hills Park | <input 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

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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

CLEARWATER RIVER CORRIDOR

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context

The 3,100-hectare Clearwater River Corridor contains significant recreation and conservation values. The area has many hiking trails (including a trail to Mahood Lake), spectacular waterfalls, volcanic features, narrow canyons, quality angling and provincially significant river rafting and kayaking opportunities.

The protected area supports many ungulates, birds, salmon spawning habitat, migration corridors and old-growth Douglas-fir and Cedar-Hemlock forests. Much of the corridor is high value critical moose winter range.

Access is via either the Clearwater Valley road (paved access to Wells Gray Park on the east side or the Clearwater River road, a rough two-wheel drive gravel road on the west side. Both roads extend north from the Community of Clearwater. Access trails lead off from Clearwater Improvement District at the south end of the park.

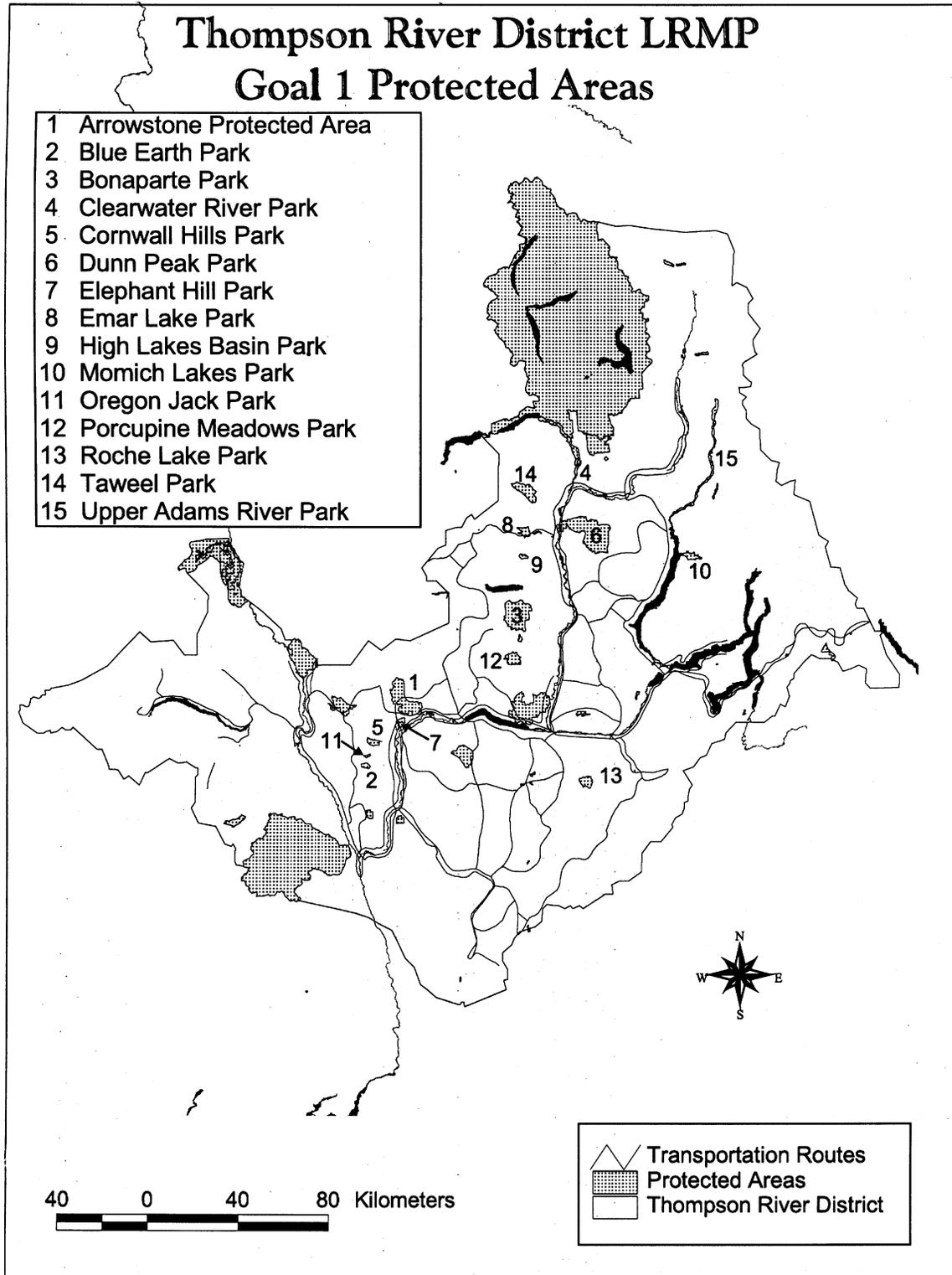
The Clearwater River Corridor protected area was added to Wells Gray Park by Order-in-Council on April 30th, 1996. The Corridor boundaries include the previous Clearwater River Recreation Area. This corridor is now part of Wells Gray Park as designated under Schedule E of the *Park Amendment Act, 1997*.

II. Protected Area Values

A. Conservation

- extends the boundaries of Wells Gray Park to essentially capture all of the Clearwater River and associated uplands
- primarily young forests of Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine and extensive deciduous stands of aspen and birch that came in after a 1926 fire that burned most of the valley
- includes the canyon features of the lower Clearwater River
- volcanic features including lava flows, columnar basalt, pillow lava
- the lower portions of many small creeks into the Clearwater River with spectacular waterfalls, narrow gorges and steep escarpments
- many riparian ecosystems and back channels rich in fauna and flora
- includes many plants not found in Wells Gray Park; rare member of the nettle family (*Parietaria pennsylvatica*)
- White-throated Swift, habitat for mule deer, black bear, coyote, moose, white tailed deer, badger, chinook, sockeye and coho salmon

Figure 1 – Regional Context Map



B. Recreation and Tourism

- Hiking; includes trails to the many spectacular recreation features of the Clearwater Valley
- spectacular waterfalls (e.g. Spahats Falls, Moul Falls), volcanic features, narrow canyons
- a natural rock bridge
- extensive trail system through the area with some sections outside of the park. Some of these sections are administered by the Ministry of Forests and the Clearwater Improvement District
- camping along the river
- quality trout fishery, chinook and char angling opportunities
- provincially significant river rafting, kayaking
- wildlife viewing, horseback riding, photography

C. Cultural Heritage

- extensive evidence of prehistoric use

D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- Clearwater River Corridor rates provincially significant for its combination of conservation and recreation values.
- one of the best opportunities to protect a large river floodplain in the Interior Douglas fir - Cedar Hemlock zones in the province

III. Other Land Uses and Interests

A. Existing Tenures

- 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
- all private lands are excluded
- grazing tenure at Moul Creek
- trapping licences and any other rights including water rights existing at time of designation will be respected
- existing rights of Interior Whitewater launching site (on the west side) at seven kilometres will be honoured.

B. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- southern end abuts community of Clearwater
- bounded by woodlots and homesteads along portions on the east side
- garbage dump south of Spahats Falls

C. First Nations Interests

- unknown, but BC Parks understands that First Nations interests are extensive

D. Other Agency Interests

- The park will be managed in close co-ordination with various resource agencies, particularly BC Environment and Ministry of Forests.
- Federal Fisheries - salmon fishery management
- BC Environment - rainbow and char fisheries management; moose and deer management
- Ministry of forests - trail management
- Clearwater Improvement District

E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- rafting companies
- local fish and game associations
- College of the Cariboo
- recreation user groups
- local ranchers and adjacent land owners
- Clearwater River Chalet
- woodlot licences
- Slocan Forest Products

IV. Park Role Statement

The primary purpose in the addition of the Clearwater River to Wells Gray Park is to protect the natural setting and environments of one of the few rivers in the southern portion of the province that still remains in a relatively pristine condition. Recognized for its wild river setting and spectacular scenery, the Clearwater River provides a regional recreation and tourism attraction, with provincial significance for white water rafting and kayaking. The river supports wild trout fisheries and runs of chinook salmon. The Clearwater River's riparian and upland-forested ecosystems include many varied and rich habitats.

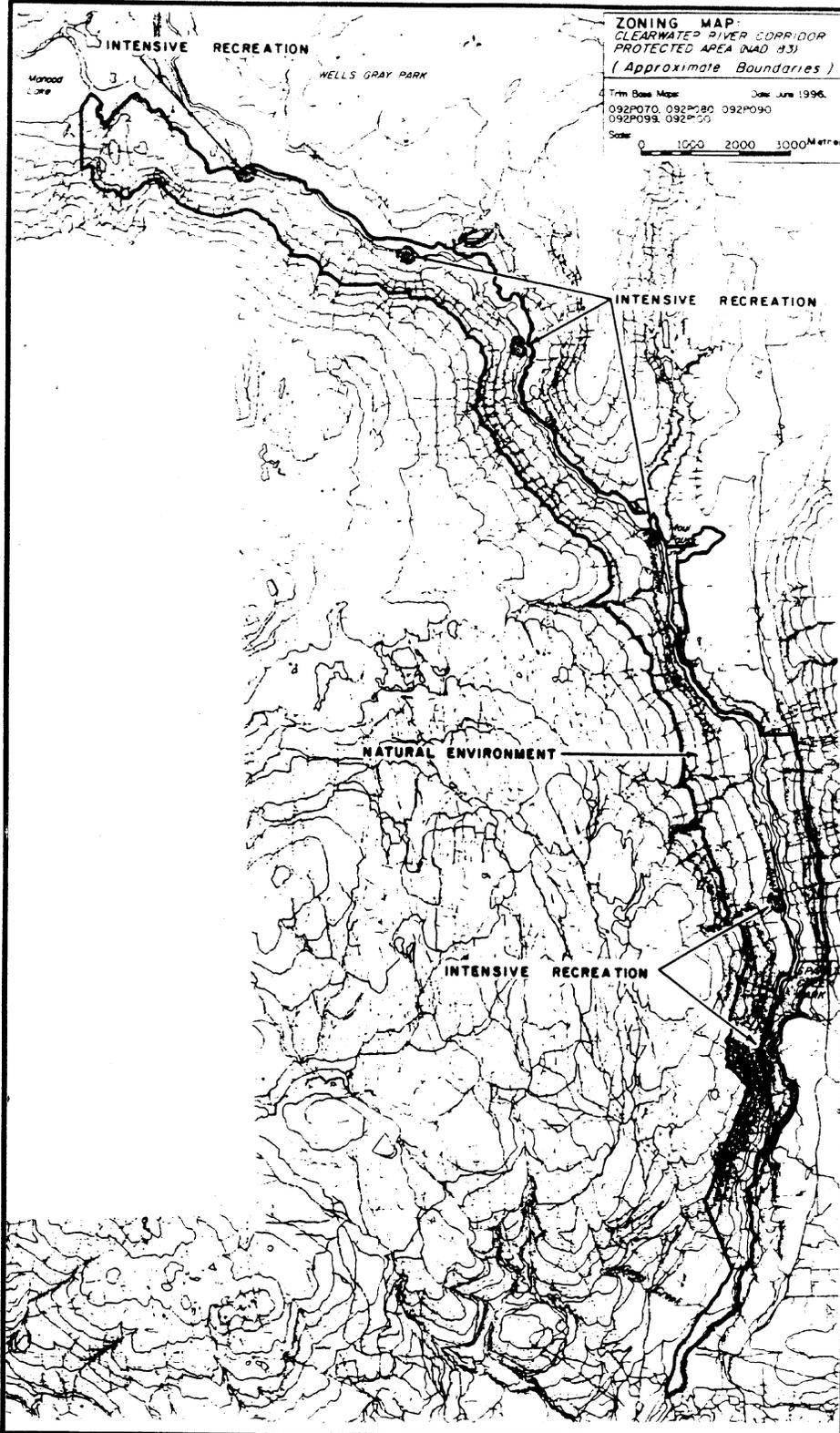
V. Management Issues and Concerns

A. Integration With Other Land Use Planning Processes

This Management Statement, future Management Statements, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for the Clearwater River protected area. The previous Management Statement for the Corridor and the 1990 Clearwater Recreation Corridor Plan will serve to guide use and management of the park. The Corridor Plan was endorsed by government agencies and was reviewed through a public process. The Wells Gray Park Master Plan (1986) will also serve to guide the management of the Clearwater River Corridor.

The park will be planned and managed in co-ordination with other agencies' planning processes.

Figure 1 - Zoning Plan



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 implementation team.

The LRMP table considers Clearwater River Corridor as medium priority for management planning. The Corridor will be incorporated within a review and updating of the Wells Gray Park Master Plan. The plan will be developed through involvement of other agencies, stakeholders and groups.

C. Zoning Plan

This zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page is preliminary and reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for the Clearwater River Corridor protected area. The zoning plan may be changed in a future management planning process. The only zones identified at this time are **Natural Environment**, covering the majority of the park, with the objective to protect and retain the natural qualities and character of the protected area, and **Intensive Recreation** to focus camping and concentrated day use activities (boat drop offs, loading, etc.) to specific locations.

D. Management Strategies and Objectives

- 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 maintain the visual, recreational and tourism values
- to maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats
- to provide for continued recreation use with opportunities for kayaking, canoeing, rafting, fishing, hiking, hunting, camping, nature viewing and other dispersed recreation activities

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

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 broad topics:

Conservation

- vegetation management - insect and disease control and fire management
- use of fire to maintain seral stages required for habitat

- fisheries management - fishing use of the river has to be strictly managed to ensure fish stocks are sustained

Recreation and Tourism

- access management - long term viability of maintaining the Clearwater River road will have to be addressed through co-ordination and with local level planning
- recreation use - appropriate activities, ensuring compatibility between user groups; motorized use on the river will have to be addressed

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 management uses, activities and facilities in the park. The types and nature of recreation uses of the park will not change, however, more intensive levels of management may be applied; i.e. periodic park ranger patrols.

- issue of motor boat use (river jet boats and seadoos) may force early attention
- funding source will have to be found to provide continued short term maintenance of the Clearwater River Road

Appendix A - Activity/ Use Matrix for Clearwater River Corridor

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