

Project Plan for Windermere Lake Park Management Planning Project

1. Originating Region and Project Lead

Region: Kootenay Okanagan Region; Lead: Dani Money, Planning Section Head, Kootenay

2. Project Purpose and Background

The purpose of the project is to develop a management plan for Windermere Lake Park.

Windermere Lake Park (220 hectares) is located approximately 10 kilometres south of Invermere, along the shores of Windermere Lake in the Regional District of East Kootenay. The park is accessed off of Westside Road.

This management plan will replace the Windermere Lake Park Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan approved in March 2003.

3. Known or Anticipated Management Issues and Opportunities

The following known management issues and (or) opportunities will be addressed in the management plan. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all management issues and opportunities that may arise during the management planning process.

Theme (or Value)	Management Issue/Opportunity Description
Rare or endangered plants and wildlife.	This park contains habitat for at least one species at risk: the red-listed American Badger.
Unauthorized recreational use	A number of unauthorized recreational activities have occurred in this park in recent history including mountain bike trail building, camping, large parties and use of motorized vehicles. Installation of boundary fencing and increased Park Ranger patrols have helped, but unauthorized use of the park continues to be a concern.
Interest in increased recreation opportunities.	Area residents continue to express interest in increasing park recreation opportunities.
Ecosystem Restoration	Areas of the park could benefit from additional targeted ecosystem restoration activities including prescribed burning/thinning to address forest ingrowth and treatments to prevent the

Theme (or Value)	Management Issue/Opportunity Description
	establishment and/or spread of invasive plant species.

4. First Nations Engagement Plan

There are two First Nation Indian Reserves located in close proximity of Windermere Lake Park and both of those First Nation communities include the Windermere Lake Park area within their traditional territories. The ?Akisq'nuk First Nation's Reserve is located directly across Windermere Lake from the park and the Shuswap Indian Band's Reserve is located less than 10 kilometres north of the park. Both the Ktunaxa Nation Council (whose member bands include the ?Akisq'nuk First Nation) and the Shuswap Indian Band will be engaged directly in the management planning process for Windermere Lake Park and offered opportunities to convey their interests in the park.

5. Public Engagement Plan

Expected Level of Public Engagement	Rationale
Medium	This is a small park with no existing facilities and little current use; however it is located in close proximity to several small population centres, including two First Nation communities. There are a number of known cultural heritage sites in the park and additional cultural heritage sites are expected to be discovered over time. There is also local interest in increasing the recreational opportunities in the park.

The draft management plan will undergo consultation with key stakeholder groups and will be posted on the BC Parks website for a period of 30 days to seek broader public comment and input. An Open House will be scheduled for mid-March (in Invermere). The Regional District of East Kootenay will also be engaged in the draft management planning process/stage.

6. Project Budget:

There is a maximum of \$925 allocated to this project.

Expense Description	2018/2019	Totals
Initial Planning/Onsite Visioning Exercise	\$225	\$225
Open House (including travel)	\$700	\$700
Total Project Expenses	\$925	\$925

7. Project Schedule:

Project Phase	Task	Target Date
Initial Planning	• Completion of project plan	December 10, 2018
	• MLA email notification of project initiation prepared and sent to HQ.	December 11-12, 2018
	• First Nations notified of the management planning process initiation.	January 3-4, 2019
	• Website launched (management planning process initiated and Project Plan shared).	January 3-4, 2019
	• Draft plan developed. (sent to region to review on Jan 17)	December 2018 – January 17, 2019
Draft Management Plan	• Draft plan approved by region and HQ.	January 17, 2019 – February 2019
	• MLA email notification of draft plan sent to HQ.	February 6, 2019
	• Draft plan posted to website. (30 days)	March 1, 2019 – March 31, 2019
	• First Nation review of draft plan is initiated.	March 1, 2019
	• Public review of draft plan is initiated.	March 1, 2019
	• Open House (Invermere).	Mid-March 2019
	• Draft management plan revision is completed to reflect First Nations and public engagement processes.	April 2019
Final Management Plan	• Final management plan will be submitted for approval.	May 2019
	• First Nations and key stakeholder groups will be notified about relevant recommendations, as needed.	May 2019
	• Final management plan will be released to the public.	May 2019

7. Management Planning Team Members and Responsibilities

Name	Position	Responsibility
Dani Money	Planning Section Head	• Coordinate planning process, conduct First Nations engagement and public review, and prepare draft and final management plan.
Amanda Webber-Roy	Conservation Specialist	• Assist with provision of park information and review of management plan.

Name	Position	Responsibility
Dave Heagy	Area Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist with provision of park information and review of management plan; implement management plan.

Project Plan Approval



John Trewhitt
Regional Director, Kootenay Okanagan Region
BC Parks

December 5, 2018

Date

Appendix A: Windermere Lake Park location map

