

Kootenay District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

May, 1999

for Akamina-Kishenina
Provincial Park



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division



KOOTENAY GOAL 1 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward

This binder contains eleven management direction statements developed under the direction of the Kootenay CORE Land Use Plan and Implementation Strategy and BC Parks. The government designated these protected areas under the *Park Act*. The eleven 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.

- Goat Range Park
- Kianuko Park
- Kokanee Glacier Park additions
- Lockhart Creek Park
- Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park - West Addition
- Syringa Park
- West Arm Park
- Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park- East Addition
- Akamina-Kishinena Park
- Gilnockie Park
- Cummins Lakes Park

Approved by:

District Manager
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BC Parks Division

Assistant Deputy Minister
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BC Parks Division



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Purpose of Management Direction Statements

Management Direction Statements provide strategic management direction for all protected areas which 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

AKAMINA-KISHINENA PROVINCIAL PARK

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context (Figure 1)

Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park encompasses 10,921 ha in a relatively narrow band of higher elevation lands in the southeastern corner of British Columbia adjacent to Waterton Lakes National Park (in Canada) and Glacier National Parks (in USA). This is a rugged landscape of high peaks, broad valleys and steep-sided forested slopes.

This park was a *Park Act* Recreation Area since 1986 and was proposed for full protection under the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) and Commission of Resources and Environment (CORE) process. The area received Class A provincial park status on July 12, 1995 under the *Park Amendment Act, 1995*, following the recommendations of the East Kootenay Land Use Plan.

Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park creates an ecological connection between Waterton Lakes National Park and Glacier National Park resulting in a vast international wilderness region. The area contains highly productive riparian areas along the floodplain of Akamina creek and contributes to the long term viability of wide ranging carnivores such as grizzly bears and wolves. The park also supports several rare plant and animal species.

II. Protected Areas Attributes (Figure 2)

A. Conservation

- completes gaps in the Engelmann Spruce Subalpine Fir (ESSFdk) and Montane Spruce (MSdk) subzones in the Crown of the Continent (COC) ecosection.
- is viable and diverse, given that it is adjacent to Waterton and Glacier National Parks
- is internationally significant for bull trout, grizzly bear and wolf populations shared with Montana
- supports black bear, moose, elk, white-tailed deer and cougar
- protects rare plant and animal species, including the Rocky Mountain red-tailed chipmunk, the Rocky Mountain least chipmunk, the Rocky Mountain southern red-backed vole and the tailed frog
- contains rock formations of the oldest type found in the Rocky Mountains
- captures karst features and classic cirque basin lakes

B. Recreation

- high demand, given ease of access from Waterton
- rugged landscape provides high recreation values for hiking, fishing, horseback riding, mountaineering, caving, hunting, nature study and ski touring
- recreation values are enhanced through connection to other parks

Kootenay District

Park Location

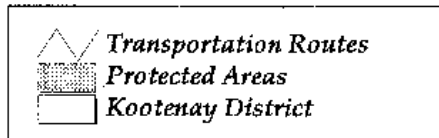
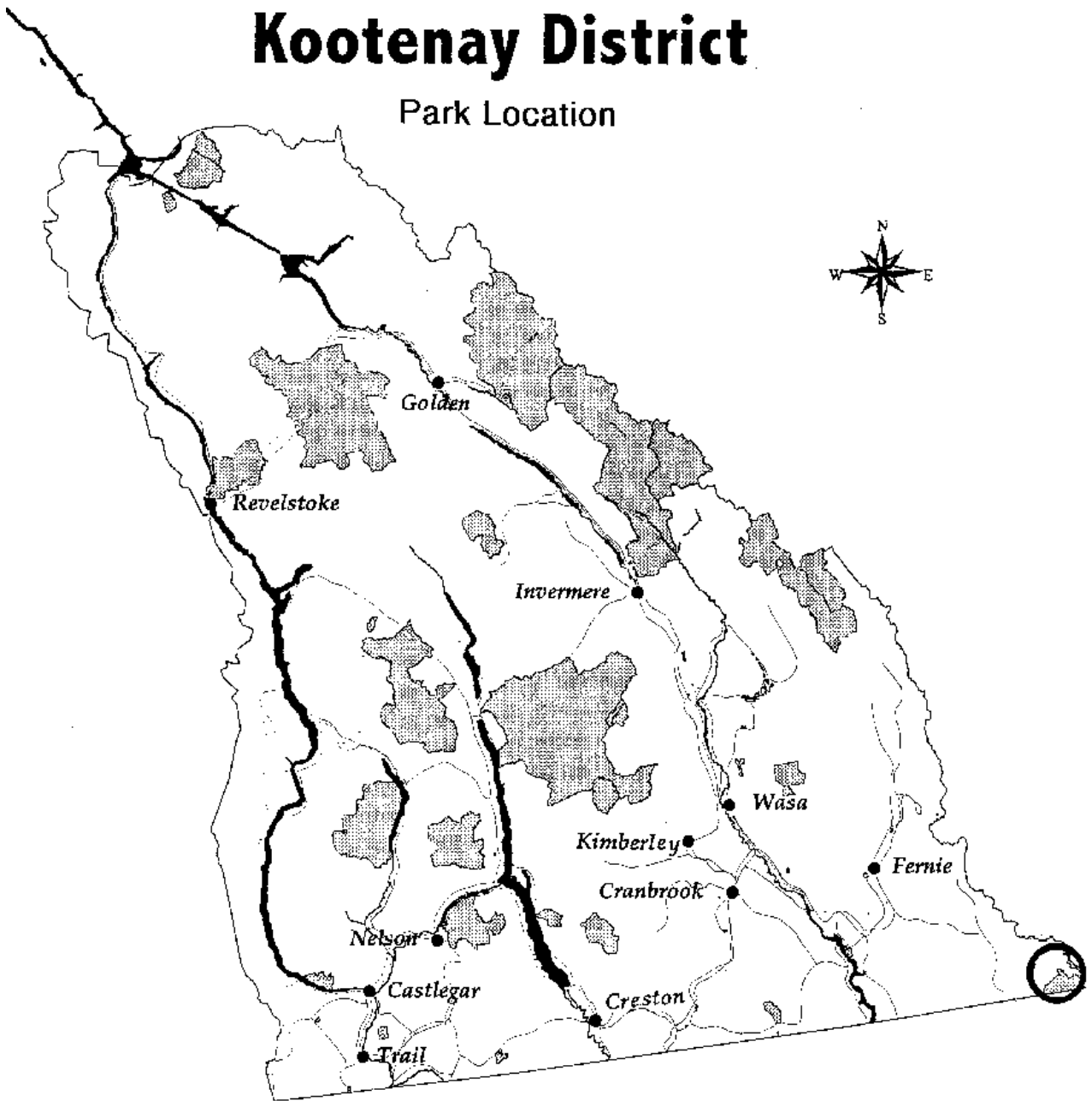


Figure 1

NTS

AKAMINA – KISHINENA PROVINCIAL PARK

Legend

Hiking Trail	.....
Route (not maintained)	.....
Camping	.....
Park Boundary	.....
Mountain	.....	▲
Trails		Distance from Akamina Pass
West Lake	.....	4 km
Forum Lake	.....	9 km
Grizzly Gulch	.....	20 km
South Kootenay Pass	.....	17 km
Ranger Station	.....	1 km

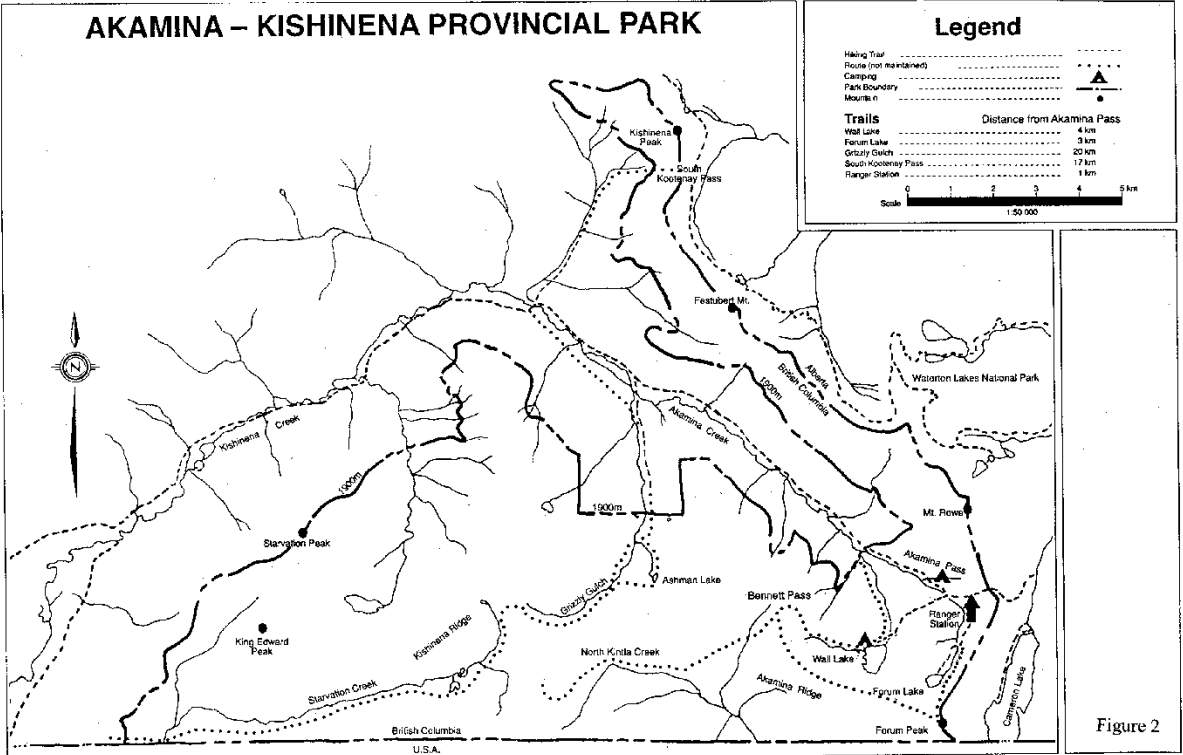
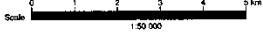


Figure 2

C. Cultural Heritage

- regionally significant given:
 - ⇒ pre-contact communications Kootenai buffalo hunting route over Rocky Mountains (South Kootenay Pass)
 - ⇒ pre-contact mineral quarrying
 - ⇒ archeological sites
- contains nationally significant site of one of the first oil wells west of the Rockies (1890s) in Akamina Creek and ruins of two 1880-1890 period sawmills and a cabin near Akamina Pass

D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- high conservation values - internationally important grizzly bear and wolf populations
- connector between Waterton and Glacier National Parks; number of rare and endangered plants
- high backcountry recreation values
- high cultural values - nationally significant oil exploration; regionally significant First Nations
- part of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation initiative¹

III. Land Use, Tenures and Interests

A. Access

- gravel roads from Highway 3 at Morrisey south to Kishinena Creek logging road north of the US border
- logging road from main Flathead valley logging road system up to Akamina Valley mid-point (bridge washouts at km 104 and 114)
- from the US, north across the border at Flathead, north of West Glacier and up the Kishinena logging road
- heavily-used trail over Akamina Pass from Waterton Lakes National Park

B. Existing Tenures

- guiding License No. G0106968/PUP 2179 Territory No. 04101G001
- trapping License No. RT118919/PUP 2098 Territory No. 0401T003
- Letters of Authority to horse operators

C. Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities

- good trails up Akamina Creek from head of logging road to Waterton Lakes National Park boundary and from Waterton Lakes National Park, to Wall Lake and Forum Lake
- designated campsites at Akamina Creek.

¹ Proposal by Canada and USA conservation groups to create a thread of ecological connectivity linking protected areas in both countries from Yellowstone National Park to the Yukon.

D. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- national parks to the east and south
- timber harvesting and petroleum, natural gas and CO2 exploration to the west and north

E. First Nations Interests

- Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council have included Akamina-Kishinena Park within their asserted traditional territory
- while direct consultation with tribal council representatives on this management direction statement was requested, limitations of time and resources have prevented First Nations from directly participating in the planning process
- this management direction statement provides a foundation upon which continued relationships between BC Parks and the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council are based

F. Other Agency Interests

- National Parks - amount of use and pressure on values
- BC Environment (BCE) - biodiversity objectives; health of wildlife populations; administration of traplines and guide outfitting tenures
- Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture (STC) - opportunities for viable commercial tours.
- Ministry of Forests (MOF) - adjacent/overlapping recreational activities; adjacency issues such as access, visual quality, connectivity

G. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- guides
- trappers
- hikers
- anglers
- environmental groups concerned about protected area management

IV. Management Commitment and Issues

A. Management Direction from Previous Planning

- existing tenures for guide outfitting and trapping will continue under Park Use Permits
- objectives and strategies of the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy (KBLUP-IS) Chpt 4
- natural occurrences such as fires, insects and forest diseases will be managed as in other parks through consultation and joint action by BC Parks and Ministry of Forests at the District level
- interim management statement developed in 1989

B. Management Issues

- adjacent resource extraction and irregular boundaries
- restoring previously harvested sites
- high potential for human/grizzly bear interaction
- consistency of management with adjacent protected areas
- continued motorized access which is not compatible with other uses

- increasing recreation use of this park and spill over effect from national parks
- lack of information on First Nation traditional uses

V. Management Strategy

While key strategies or actions are identified, the completion of all these strategies is subject to funding and funding procedures. As such, strategies are ranked according to priority and completed as funding permits. As well, all development within provincial parks is subject to the BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy.

A. Priority Management Objectives and Actions

Objectives

- manage park consistent with adjacent National Parks to ensure protection of natural systems and wildlife populations
- maintain ecosystem representation of Crown of Continent Ecosection
- protect rare, threatened and endangered species
- ensure protection of grizzly bears and wolves, which range internationally
- maintain high backcountry /wilderness recreation values
- manage the area to protect cultural heritage values
- honor commitments in the KBLUP-IS
- develop relationships with First Nations to enhance understanding and management of park values
- restore biodiversity to previously harvested sites

Actions:

- work with BCE and MOF to revegetate harvested areas to a natural condition
- work with BCE and National Parks to inventory and manage for grizzly bear and wolf
- work with agencies to ensure connectivity of wildlife habitat outside the park and between the protected areas
- work with MOF to address adjacent access and visual concerns in Akamina Creek
- pursue World Heritage Site designation for Akamina-Kishinena to ensure consistency of management and recognition of values
- complete bear management plan in conjunction with Waterton Lakes National Park
- address horse use issues through a review of the formal permitting system
- retain existing types and levels of recreational use
- pursue assessment, monitoring and management of recreational use in the Akamina core area
- participate in the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation initiative
- work with First Nations to identify traditional uses and management needs
- assess threats to rare vegetation in the upper North Kintla Creek

B. Consultation and Future Planning

The KBLUP-IS indicated that this park is a moderate priority to develop a management plan. When this process is initiated it would be based on public, First Nation and interagency input. The process would define acceptable uses, use levels and management needs for protecting park values.

C. Zoning Plan

BC Parks uses zoning as a tool to assist in the planning and management of a provincial park. In general terms, zoning divides a park into logical units for management. It applies uniform and consistent management objectives based on natural, cultural and recreational values, and existing and projected patterns of access and recreation use in relation to specific conservation goals. The zones reflect the intended land use, the degree of human use, level of management and development permitted. The spectrum includes five zoning options: Intensive Recreation, Natural Environment, Special Feature, Wilderness Recreation and Wilderness Conservation.

Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park is separated into three management planning zones (figure 3): Wilderness Recreation Zone, Natural Environment Zone and Special Features Zone.

Wilderness Recreation Zone

The intent of this zone is to place a high priority on conserving the natural environment while providing some level of backcountry use that is consistent with its wilderness atmosphere. Facility development is minimal, at a level sufficient to satisfy user needs and to protect the overall environment of the park.

Areas zoned Wilderness Recreation are large natural areas where natural ecological processes occur largely uninfluenced by human activity. Low levels of recreational use are permitted but evidence of human presence is confined to specific primitive facilities and sites. The Wilderness Recreation Zone encompasses approximately 79% (8,627 ha.) of the park.

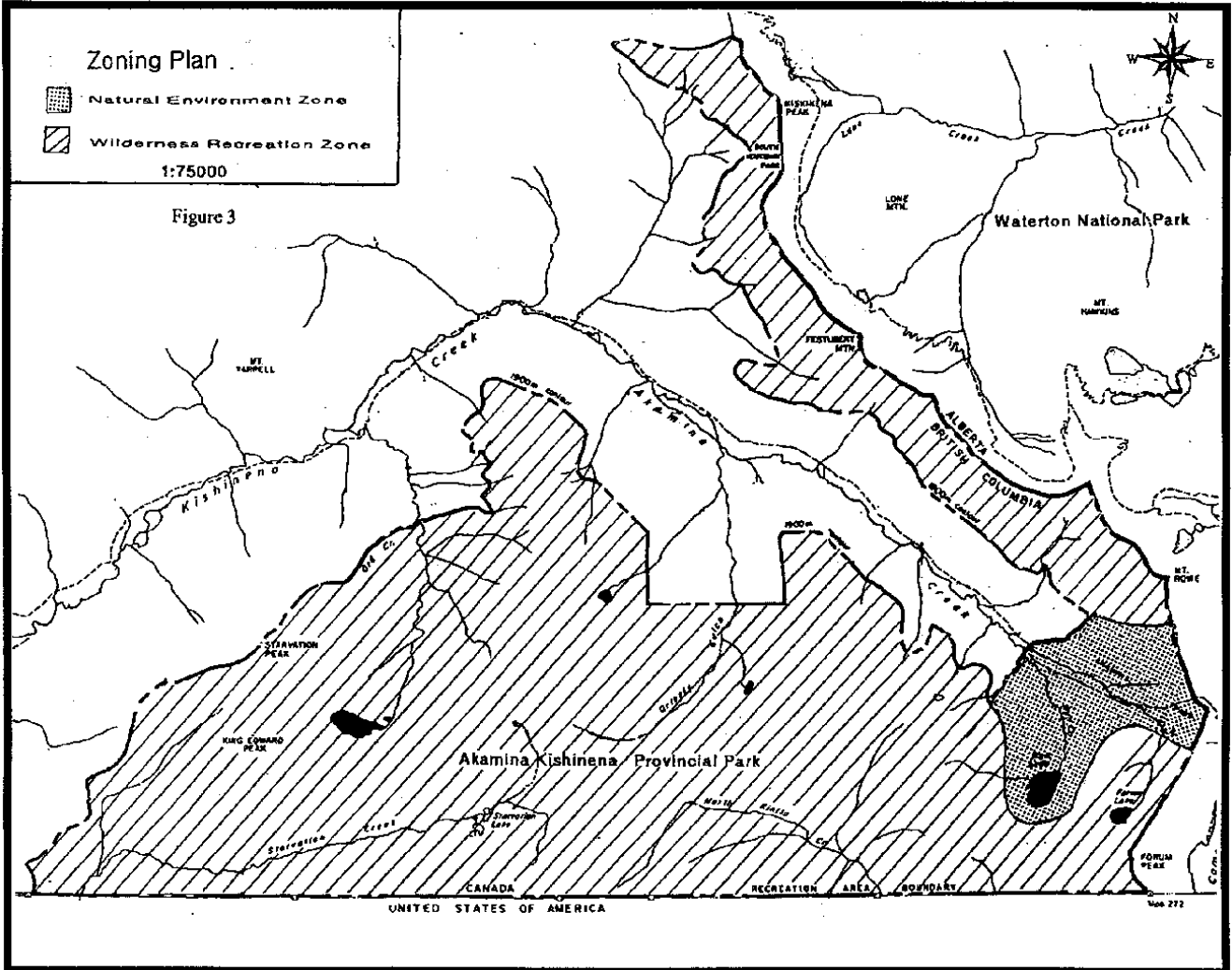
While large portions of Akamina-Kishinena Park are essentially unmodified, the presence of facilities and the significant hunting occurring in many areas, prevent it from being considered for the Wilderness Conservation Zone designation. The Wilderness Recreation Zone allows for the continuation of dispersed, traditional recreational activities and primitive support facilities for horse packing, guided outfitting, hunting, fishing, backpacking and hiking. It is applied to the Starvation Creek, Beavertail Creek, North Kintla Creek, Forum Lake and Grizzly Gulch drainages as well as the eastern slopes of the Akamina Creek drainage above 1900 metres. Areas of the park with high grizzly bear activity are included in this zone to reduce the potential for bear and human conflict through low levels of use and facilities.

Natural Environment Zone

The objective of this zone is to provide for a variety of recreational activities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. The intent is to ensure that the activities and facilities do not dominate the natural setting and to provide for a higher level of recreation use than is provided for in the Wilderness Recreation Zone.

In Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park, the Natural Environment Zone encompasses an area around Wall Lake and the Akamina drainage below 1900 metre contour. This designation is intended to reflect the current level of use at this site, including the number of horse parties, hikers, anglers, and campgrounds found here.

The Natural Environment Zone covers approximately 5% (580 ha). of the park.



Appendix A

Summary Table of Land and Resource Use Commitments

The following table provides a summary of commitments made through land use processes with regard to acceptable uses, activities and facilities within this protected area.

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptable Uses
Hunting	Y
Trapping	N2
Fishing	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Utility Corridors	N
Communications Sites	N
Horse Use/Pack Animals	Y
Guide Outfitting (hunting)	Y
Guide Outfitting (fishing)	M
Guide Outfitting (nature tours)	M
Guide Outfitting (river rafting)	N
Cat-Assisted Skiing	N
Ski Hills	N
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	N
Backcountry Huts	N
Heli-Skiing	N
Heli-Hiking	N
Water Control Structures	N
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	M
Road Access	N
Off-Road Access (snowmobiling)	N
Off-Road Access (motorized)	N
Off-Road Access (mechanical)	Y
Motorized Water Access	N
Aircraft Access (fixed wing)	N
Aircraft Access (helicopters)	N1
Fire Management (suppression)	M
Fire Management (prevention)	M
Fire Management (prescribed)	M
Forest Insect/Disease Control	M
Noxious Weed Control	M
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	M
Scientific Research (collection)	M
Scientific Research (manipulation)	M

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

M = may be permitted if compatible with protected area objectives.

N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

N2 = present and allowed to continue but not normally allowed

N = not allowed