

Public Comments

Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Park and Protected Area & Slim Creek Park Management Plan – Initial Planning Stage

February 14 – April 30, 2019

Question 1: What type of activities do you like to do in the Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Park and Protected Area and Slim Creek Park or in the general land area?

Photography, Hiking, SnowShoeing, Nature Viewing

Hiking only; there has to be constant enforcement to ensure visitors abide by rules in order to preserve the special nature of this area. The old doctrine of "Take only pictures, leave only footprints" must be strictly enforced by park staff at all times.

NO development to allow overnight stays.

NO tourist development within the parks.

NO dogs allowed, whether on leash or not; the mere presence of dogs is tremendously detrimental to species diversity, even if they are not allowed to harass wildlife.

Walk in the Ancient Forest as I'm driving Highway 16. I live in Smithers although am studying in Prince George for the winter.

Photography, Walking, Hiking, Berry Picking

Stop cutting old growth in Canada period.

Hiking, Camping

None

Leave the entire area as a protected sanctuary with zero development. I don't know if people in this govt keep up on climate science, but the facts are real, and old growth forests sequester the most carbon. They need to be left to sequester carbon, and maintain natural ecosystems, because the 6th extinction is also real. The jobs argument does not work. Support local initiatives in geothermal or regenerative farming, not logging, where the money all goes to the owners of logging corporations.

We need the old growth forests, all forests, to prevent the worst case scenarios of climate change. !!!

Walk, Sit/Meditate in Nature

Strictly Hiking the forest to enjoy it's beauty.

Hiking

I like to see trees growing, giving us fresh air and a beautiful place to hike.

Access Driscoll Ridge trail, Walk/snowshoe in ancient forest

We enjoy hiking the planked trail all year long. At least once a summer we hike the Driscoll trail as well

If a trapline were to come up for sale, I would certainly look at buying it. We don't hunt the area as the vegetation and terrain are not conducive to hunting. Fishing of course, however I believe Slim creek is outside of the park.

I have never personally visited the area, but I would use it for hiking and snowshoeing.

Hike, Snowshoe

Walk, Enjoy and Marvel at the Beauty abound.

Walking the trails, observing wildlife, especially vegetation and birds.

Hiking, Picnic, Taking Pictures, Camping nearby

Walk, Listen to Birds, Smell the Smells, Look for Animal Scat, Pray

I like to just walk around and look at everything and take pictures. I like to bring my dog with me.

Hiking, Skiing, Snowshoing

Really enjoyed the Arts in the Park and it would be a way to get more people to hike the whole park. McBride Arts did an awesome job last year.

Hiking, Bird Watching, Photography

Hiking, Trail Walking

Picnicking, hiking and have put dog do so with us.

Hiking

Hike, Take Photos, Pick Huckleberries...and most of all Enjoy! Take visitors to Ancient Forest to enjoy.

Picnics, Walking the Boardwalk, Showing off the Trees to International Visitors, Meeting Family there for a quick Walk/Visit,
I participated in the grand opening last year and was really impressed with the support shown. -loved the art in the forest. Well done

NO RESPONSE Provided

Hiking, Camping

Hike, Picnics

Hiking

Walk out to the falls, spend time with family, explore the old growth

Hiking to see beautiful views and to admire the forest and plants.

Hike

Hiking, Enjoying the Big Trees, Silence and fragrances of forest

Walks, Hike Trails. Sometimes access to the hiking trails above the cedars.

Hiking, Walking, Photography

Walk, Hike, Show Friends

Hiking, Snowshoeing, Viewing Nature, Wildfire Viewing

Walks with Family

NO RESPONSE Provided

Walked the trails with friends and our small pug

Walk the trails and admire the forest. Enjoy the interpretive postings and scenery (ie Mt Sir Alexander).

Hike, Snowshoe, Photography

Hiking, Photography

Walk the trail in summer. Snowshoe in winter. Enjoy packed lunch & coffee. Drink water from streams.

Hike, Sight See

Hiking, Picnicking

Hike, Fish

Hike, Snowshoe

Snowshoeing, Hiking

Hike with the dog.

Walking, Photography. Share with international visitors, and mobility challenged relatives.

Hike, Observe Wildlife, Flora and Wetlands. We camp for the entire summer throughout BC.

The Arts in the Park festival draw many visitors to explore the park, learn about it, see how the forest, the area and the regions influences artists. It is a delightful way to help people understand the gem that is Chun T'oh Whudujut.

Walk the trails, accompany my friends who are wheelchair users on the boardwalk, have a picnic.

Arts in the Parks festival is number one...such a great way to highlight the park and reveal how the Robson Valley artists are influenced by this environment.

Hiking with my dogs, Photography

NO RESPONSE Provided

Walk the Paths.

Hike, Snowshoe. Short Trail Run if not busy in Ancient Forest.

Hiking on the wood platform path that has been built within the park. I avoid walking off the path since foot traffic disturbs the roots of the trees. I do NOT want to hurt the trees.

When I went to the Ancient Forest, all we did was walk through the trees; I think that is what makes it so great. I go there with the intention of seeing very few other people there and just taking a walk and looking at giant trees. It is a delicate ecosystem that shouldn't become any more 'touristy.'

Just simply be able to spend time there with the Ancients.

Seeing these forests as only being valued for wood products needs to give way to attitudes that value trees as essential to our survival

I love to walk the Chun T'oh Whudujut Park every year on my wedding anniversary. We are going to go this weekend to see the forest in the winter. I love to take pictures and post them online in groups that love to see the beauty of the Earth

Id say keep it the same as it is. Maybe make it more wheel chair accesible up to the waterfall

Walk, Hike, Snowshoe, Picnic

Hiking, looking for plants and waterfalls, sitting on benches and looking at the mountains, picture taking, snowshoeing

Walking the trails and then having lunch after the hike.

Hiking

Hiking, Picnics

NO RESPONSE Provided

Hike, Walk the Trails

Picnic, Hike in designated park areas

Hike and pick fiddle heads or ginger.

Hiking, Snowshoeing, Bird Watching

Walk, Enjoy how it looks

I haven't visited the Ancient Forest yet, but would love to hike trails through the park and look at pristine vistas and ancient trees. Backcountry camping is an idea as well, as long as it isn't abused and trash is removed after every visit. Wildlife educational trails and local medical plant identification are other ideas.

Hike, Snowshoe

Hiking, Snowshoeing

Family time, Hike, Walk, learn. Hug big trees

Snowshoe, Hike

Explore (without damage) the standing history of the last 500+years. Take in the beauty that is available to appreciate.

Hike, Pit Stop on road trips, Snowshoe

Hike, Snowshoe this sacred area

The area should be limited to non-powered recreation opportunities as much as possible.

Hunting and trapping should be restricted or limited except for subsistence needs of the traditional indigenous peoples of the area following sustainable principles.

Ancient Forest--hiking and exploring the forest

Slim Creek-hiking and exploring in a non developed park environment

Hiking, Sight Seeing

Walking, Enjoy the Scenery

Hike, Walk Trails

Walking on developed boardwalks is the only activity I like to do in sensitive ecosystems like this and this is the only activity that I deem acceptable.

Appreciate Nature; FYI I have not been there but low impact activities is what I like doing.

Hike

any type of activities that do not encourage unlimited venturing into the undergrowth (ie keep on a trail). No motorized activities.

Hike, Walk, Meditate, Relax! Reconnect with nature, marvel at these age-old trees and be thankful they are there.

My son's family live in the area. We have enjoyed the parks for day trips with grandchildren and other youth. Excellent potential for learning about ecology of the forest.

Look in wonder at the Ecosystem, Walk thru Big Trees, use Nature for Artistic Inspiration

So far we just walk the trails - but would love to know about other opportunities....

NO RESPONSE Provided

Hiking, Bird Wtching, Plant Identifying, Forest Bathing

I love to hike the trail, listen to the forest and water. Admire the trees and read educational information along the trail.

I have not visited this area yet, but would consider doing so when the area is properly protected and made available in such a way that it is not at risk of damage or other threats from the public.

I have spent many enjoyable hours hiking, snowshoeing & exploring the great natural beauty & fabulous scenic opportunities available within these Parks & Protected areas.

Hiking only, no bikes or motor vehicles, as these activities erode the environment very quickly.

Within the Ancient Forest, only hunting and fishing by First Nations.

Within Slim Creek Park activities which do not involve motorized vehicles or loud machinery, eg. snowshoeing, hiking, birdwatching.

Hiking, Walking through the area, Guided talks on the area

Hiking, Bird Watching. No mechanical devices such as ATVs or bicycles. No snow shoeing, cross country skiing or horses. No hunting or foraging. No camping.

Hiking/Walking Trails

Walking, viewing, inhaling the scent of the air. Chatting to the other touring people in awe about the beauty.

Hike, Photograph

If I visited the park, hike/walk

Hiking, Camping

Hiking, Snowshoeing

I prefer NOT to visit. Every footprint kills something. Keep people OUT.

What next, ziplines and a Timmys?

You HAVE to be kidding about this "Management plan".

Hike, picnic with our kids, visiting family and friends.

I have not had the pleasure of vising yet, but I would expect to hike and camp, in the most ecologically-friendly footprint appropriate. (ie take out what you bring in,leave no trace, etc).

Please protect it! Leave it alone. All land is not for human exploitation.

Hiking on trails, observation of rare plant species

Hiking

Hiking

Just admire these wonderful trees and be thankful that we still can be with them!

Walking

I'm not familiar with the area as I live in Victoria

Hiking

The ancient practice of forest bathing. Wild mushroom hunting. Hiking, photography, wild life exploration. Plein Air painting and sketching as a professional artist.

I visited in 2014 for hiking and exploratory purposes and found this area exquisitely rare and deserving of special protection. I'm glad it's getting attention for public comment. I whole-heartedly support creating some form of park to protect much of this area as possible; for ecosystem and habitat protection, local First Nations usage, and for information purposes. Thank you.

Sit and enjoy the forest. Walk around and look and listen.

Hiking, Photography, Snow Shoeing

I have not had the opportunity to visit there yet, but hope to do so in the future.

I don't live there but support the protection of old growth.

I like to hike in and wander thru the magnificent forest with friends...we value this area tremendously as so much of BC's forests have been logged or burned...it's great to be able to see a piece of BC that hasn't changed with settlers. loggers, miners etc...there should be more!!

Primarily hiking but also picnicking and snow shoeing. I am NOT in favor of any hunting in the parks.

Hiking, Snow Shoeing, Observing Wildlife

As a resident of BC, I welcome the news that the government of BC has protected this area. Lets continue this initiative with protecting more old growth forest on Vancouver Island where I live.

Walk, Hike.

Walking, Hiking

Hiking

We use a road that goes through the park in order to access our privately owned property. When our workloads permit, we plan to do summer camping on our property, so we expect to be in residence for months at a time. Once there more regularly, we would refer our friends and family visitors to the nearby parks for hiking, fishing where permitted and opportunities to learn more about the area and wildlife.

Hiking and introducing visitors to the Park by way of interpretive tours for all ages especially young children

1. Driscoll Ridge (Ancient Forest Chun T'oh Whudujut Park and Protected Area)

1.1 Exploration

I have been exploring, hiking, snowshoeing, backcountry skiing, nature interpreting (flora, fauna, and the geology of the Rocky Mountain Trench), and guiding others in these activities on Driscoll Ridge for more than 30 years. Groups that I guided there typically comprised small parties of personal acquaintances, as well as many Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club trips, and at least two Prince George Naturalist Club (PGNC) field trips. I have also helped guide field trips there for two UNBC conferences.

1.2 Key Features of Driscoll Ridge

On a PGNC trip that I led in March 2001, University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) Professor Darwyn Coxson identified several types of arboreal lichens that were indicators of antique forest attributes, raising our awareness of the importance of the lower parts of Driscoll Ridge, and likely raising the UNBC research interest that followed. Prior to then, while the recreational hiking, skiing and snowshoeing community saw the lower elevation Interior Cedar Hemlock forests as being magnificent, most people saw them as secondary to the mountain ridge above that was our primary objective.

Fifteen years earlier, I had discovered that the ridge offered what are possibly the best mountain views in the Prince George area. Driscoll Ridge does not have a large Alpine Tundra (AT) zone, but its stand-alone isolation in the Rocky Mountain Trench affords some unsurpassed views of the Rockies to the north and northeast, and the Cariboo Mountains to the east, south and west. It is also a marvelous place to gain a good all-around perspective of the mountain areas east of Prince George. These vistas can be seen in some of the materials linked to these notes. Today, the Ancient Forest Chun T'oh Whudujut Park and Protected Area not only has highway-accessible world-class ancient forests at its lower elevations, but it also has two mountain trails and a superb 7.5-kilometre higher elevation ridge traverse with grand views and a wild, remote feel that, remarkably, is accessible on a day trip from a key university city, Prince George.

1.3 Accessibility

One of the things that first attracted me to Driscoll Ridge was its wild and sometimes brooding appearance as seen from the highway; plus its year-round access afforded by that highway. During the late 1970s and early 1980s while driving many times along Highway 16 East, I developed a growing curiosity and determination to find out what lay in that forest and on the mountain ridge above. At that time (and still today) many of our backcountry and mountain areas required travel on unpaved forest service roads, whose access varied according to industrial forestry activity and seasonal maintenance. The prospect, therefore, of another highway-accessed mountain trail to add to the Sugarbowl and Viking Ridge trails was enticing. However, until we built the east and west Driscoll Ridge trails in 2005-06, travel on Driscoll Ridge was almost entirely by means of hard bushwhacking over steep terrain [1]. For this reason the area remained essentially 'undiscovered' by local recreationists for several decades after Highway 16 was opened in the 1960s. In the early years, no one else seemed to have an appetite to bushwhack 1,000 vertical metres up a steeply forested slope for possible higher elevation payoffs that weren't obvious from the highway below; but for me it became an amazing place to explore year-round. Soon after I started to speak and write about what I had found, others soon began to follow.

1.4 Naming

Early in my explorations of the ridge in the late 1980s and early 1990s, I coined the informal name 'Driscoll Ridge,' which I took from the formally-named Driscoll Creek west of the ridge. Driscoll Ridge is now largely contained in the new Ancient Forest Chun T'oh Whudujut Park and Protected Area.

1.5 Recognition of Values

As part of a general uplift to the allowable annual cut for the Prince George Timber Supply Area in response to the mountain pine beetle, in June 2002 BC's chief forester also reduced the cut in the ICH from 290,000 to 110,000 cubic meters per year. In his report, he said: "Considerable public input was received concerning these cedar hemlock stands. Many of these submissions described these stands as being ecologically significant as they represent one of the few remaining inland rainforests in the world. Concern was expressed that many of these "antique" cedar-leading stands, some of which may have not experienced disturbance for thousands of years, would be lost over time due to harvesting activities. A number of persons suggested that until more is known about these ecosystems they should be excluded from timber harvesting. Because of the considerable public input received and to better familiarize myself with the issues particular to these stands, I invited a panel of experts to present overviews of their research in the ICH to me on January 28, 2002. These presentations on disturbance patterns and fire history, vegetation, lichens, wildlife habitat, and harvesting trials increased my appreciation of the efforts being undertaken to improve our understanding of this ecosystem's unique features and values. The old ICH forests appear to contain rare and sensitive species such as cyanolichens. The preliminary findings of this research also supports the concerns raised by the public" [2].

On the basis of my early explorations of the ridge, in the early 2000's I provided maps and recommendations to BC government Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) Planner, Shannon Carson (now retired) who was working on the establishment of Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) on the urging of residents of the nearby community of Dome Creek. These were to be among the last spatially-fixed OGMAs approved by the Province. In October 2002 some of these proposed OGMAs were formally established for the Dome and Slim Landscape Units. I had included in my proposal what is now the area of the Ancient Forest Boardwalk trails, but that was excluded from the OGMAs in lieu of the proposed harvesting of Block 486. However, many of my other recommendations were included, providing a high degree of interim protection for the ancient forests of Driscoll Ridge. It is noteworthy that there are many fine examples of antique cedar forest stands along the ridge aside from the popular Ancient Forest Trails. These should afford the larger park some long term resilience from the inevitable impacts of high usage on the trails near the main parking lot.

Also in the early 2000s, I began to write about Driscoll Ridge in an outdoors newspaper column in the Prince George Citizen's weekly 'Prince George This Week' [3]. Some of these writings later appeared in my first book [4]. This work, 'Exploring Prince George' was, as far as I am aware, the first published book about Driscoll Ridge and the future Ancient Forest Chun T'oh Whudujut Park and Protected Area.

Other groups were starting to pay attention to Driscoll Ridge, notably the Crescent Spur based 'Save the Cedars League' that was modeled on the Californian 'Save the Redwoods League,' and the nearby Dome Creek Forest Information Committee [5]. The Crescent Spur group had previously identified an antique stand of large cedars just north of Highway 16 below Driscoll Ridge that they had called 'Primordial Grove.' The Dome Creek group were the first to propose a trail through what is now the boardwalk area, and were instrumental in the making of the documentary film, 'Block 486.' Around the same time, and after years of exploring possible routes, I proposed within the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club that we apply for permission to construct a hiking trail at the west end of Driscoll Ridge, achieving the summit via the scenic ridge top lake (53°46'41"N, 121°18'30"W). I discussed this with participants during a club bushwhacking hike that I led on September 25, 2005 over this route [12], and club member (later president) Nowell Senior took up this challenge. Nowell developed a proposal and much more, recommending two trails at both the east and west ends of the ridge, with a connecting crossover trail along the top. These trails were later approved and built by the club and other community volunteers led by Nowell Senior, and were completed in the fall of 2006. I led the first public crossover hike in October of that year. But Nowell Senior was just getting warmed up, and he went on to champion and lead the mammoth task of building of the Universal Boardwalk and other trails at the East End of the Ridge with the help of Dave King and many other members of the club and the community at large. Nowell Senior, Dave King and UNBC's Darwyn Coxson then led what was ultimately a successful bid for a provincial park. Darwyn recognized from his research in BC and New Zealand that the ridge is one of only three such sites in the world, and his long term vision was, and is for a World Heritage Site designation for the park.

In April 2007, a complaint was made to the Forest Practices Board (FPB) by several public groups about the management of biodiversity in this interior cedar-hemlock rainforest near Prince George and the impacts of approved harvesting on the Driscoll Ridge hiking trail and the Ancient Forest hiking trail [6]. The complainants requested that government spatially define more OGMAs to secure the biodiversity of the interior cedar-hemlock rainforest, to consider all approved cutblocks as part of this process, and to place a moratorium on logging in all known 'antique' cedar stands. The Board published its report in May 2008 [7], followed by government responses as received [8]. From 2008 to 2014 I served as a board member with the FPB, and while I couldn't be directly involved with this file, I did follow its progress with interest.

Also in 2007-08 I was a member of the organizing committee for a UNBC conference, BC's Inland Rainforest - Conservation and Community, a unique combination of science, art and community, with field trips (and even the conference banquet) held in the ancient forests of Driscoll Ridge and the nearby community of Dome Creek.

In 2011, I produced a photo collage of my all-season explorations among the ancient forests of Driscoll Ridge in [9], and more recently in 2018 a winter trip partway up the relocated West Driscoll Trail [10].

1.6 Appropriate Activities for the Park

Hiking, snowshoeing, backcountry skiing, flora and fauna nature interpretation, geology of the Rocky Mountain Trench interpretation [11]. The park is also a haven for individual spiritual walking retreats; that is to say, a way to connect with a primordial natural environment. The higher elevation crossover trail provides unsurpassed views and wild landscapes for such a proximity to a major highway; but it needs work to upgrade it to a higher standard as it would be quite easy for a less experienced hiker to get turned around and into serious trouble, e.g. by descending off the wrong (south) side of the often wooded and convoluted ridge. The park should remain free public access, especially in light of the enormous community effort that has gone into its creation [12] [13] [14] [15]. There is absolutely no suitability for motorized recreation anywhere in the park.

2. Slim Creek Park

This park is presently completely undeveloped, and there is no off-highway parking for those who may wish to enter the park to bushwhack explore. There is, however, a paved widening on the north side of Highway 16 just outside the park boundary, presumably intended for trucks at the top of the Slim Creek Hill. This provides reasonably secure winter parking for a handful of small vehicles. Mid to late winter is the best time to explore the park as the snowpack provides easier travel on snowshoes or touring skis, while at the same time protecting the vegetation foot traffic. Alternatively, the Ancient Forest Parking lot is only two kilometres farther west.

I have explored and/or led many trips into Slim Creek Park since its establishment. I recommend that the park be left in its natural state for the time being. At some future time, a small off-highway parking lot could be constructed near the present road widening, similar in size to those at the Viking Ridge and Sugarbowl trailheads in Sugarbowl-Grizzly Den Park. A rustic interpretive trail could then be built across the high plateau, visiting one or more of the open glades and the giant Douglas fir tree, and possibly descending to the open meadows by the river flats in the northeast corner of the park. In late winter, in appropriate snow conditions, a very nice route is down the creek that forms the west boundary of the park [18]. In the mid-morning it catches the sun for most of its length and is very scenic under a reasonably deep and settled snowpack [16] [17] [18] [19].

FOOTNOTES:

[1] The undergrowth at the lower to mid elevations on Driscoll Ridge contains much Devil's Club (*Oplomanax horridus*), mitigated to an extent by the old growth forest cover which limits other undergrowth; progressing to slide alder and rhododendron at mid to higher elevations. The topography is rugged with steep-sided gullies that one can easily be drawn into, and numerous steep rock bands. The ridgetop is protected by steep, brushy terrain along its entire length, which created difficulty in locating and constructing the upper parts of both the East and West Driscoll trails. This topography also creates difficult trail breaking in winter, along with not-insignificant avalanche potential. I once tried an alternate summer approach from the far western end of Driscoll Ridge where the ridgeline descends down to only a few hundred vertical metres above Highway 16, to see if this might provide easier access. While this later proved to be a viable snow route in winter, the ridgeline west of the ridge-top lake (53°46'41"N, 121°18'30"W) becomes a dense tangle of small cedar, making travel arduous and very slow (less than 1 kilometre per hour on my exploratory hike) in the summer months.

[2] 'Local rainforests gain new recognition,' *Nature's Web*, July 2002, Page 4 <http://www3.telus.net/pgoutdoors/NaturesWeb.pdf>

3] Articles by Mike Nash in Prince George This Week:

'Driscoll Ridge - a vision at your back door,' April 6, 2000, page A6

'Interior rainforest on our doorstep,' October 15, 2000, page A12

'Cathedral Grove is much closer to us than Vancouver Island,' April 5, 2001 pages 14-15

'Traveling back in time on Driscoll Ridge,' March 17, 2002, pages 22-23

'Untapped scientific wealth close to Prince George,' November 14, 2004, page 18

'Research key to understanding area's unique wet belt,' November 21, 2004, page 18

[4] 'Exploring Prince George: A Guide to North Central BC Outdoors' by Mike Nash; Rocky Mountain Books, 2004 (1st Ed.), 2007 (2nd Ed.); ISBN 13: 978-1-894765-49-7; pages 114, 122-130;

YouTube (2010): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRZbDRWiT8o>

[5] The following is summarized from 'A Brief History of the Dome Creek Forest Information Committee and the Ancient Forest' which was posted on the then Dome Creek website:

The Dome Creek Forest Information Committee (DCFIC) was formed in 1990 to advocate for the protection of the Upper Walker Creek watershed. The Committee was next called into action when timber cruise flagging appeared along the Dome Creek access road. A salvage license had been issued to address cedar and hemlock damaged by drought and the Hemlock looper (*Lambdina fiscellaria*). They did not understand why this license allowed the harvest of healthy trees. Thus began a long process of public meetings attended by the licensee, government staff, and Dome Creek residents. In the fall of 2000, a Ministry of Forests (MOF) representative challenged the committee to demonstrate the uniqueness of the old cedar. As a result, various people met in the cedar forest including the licensee, a MOF ecologist, Crescent Spur's Save-the Cedar-League, the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM), and Dome Creek residents. At this meeting, the MSRM representative suggested that the only way to save the trees would be to spatially define Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA's). The committee consulted closely with the Save-the Cedar-League and conducted extensive field reconnaissance to identify and recommend the best old growth areas in the Dome, Slim and Humbug Landscape Units. They knew that members of the Prince George hiking community, government agents, UNBC staff and students and many others were also providing recommendations. The struggle continued for several years until in the June of 2005 DCFIC received a phone call from a UNBC student doing research in the ICH, Dave Radies, who had noted huge trees in an approved cut block, number 486, near the east end of Driscoll Ridge. The committee toured the area with Radies and returned again in October to discover many more large cedars on the upper shelf east of where they proposed to build an interpretive trail. The DCFIC decided that people needed to know about this find, which resulted in a popular award-winning story 'Ancient Cedar Forest Found Near Dome Creek' in The Robson Valley Times. In the meantime, MSRM informed the DCFIC that the Prince George based Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club had submitted a trail proposal for Driscoll Ridge. This comprised East and West mountain trails about 5 kilometres apart on the highway, to be connected on the ridgetop by a 7.5-kilometre ridge traverse. Remarkably, the proposal had the east trailhead end at the same parking lot used to visit block 486. Subsequently, members of the DCFIC met in the Ancient Forest with Mike Nash, Nowell Senior and other members on the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club. The DCFIC was invited to co-sign the trail proposal, and the rest is history.

[6] Biodiversity in the Interior Cedar-Hemlock Forests Near Dome Creek: <https://www.bcfpb.ca/reports-publications/reports/biodiversity-in-the-interior-cedar-hemlock-forests-near-dome-creek/>

[7] Findings: <https://www.bcfpb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/IRC137-Biodiversity-in-Interior-Cedar-Hemlock-Forests.pdf>

[8] Response: <https://www.bcfpb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/IRC137-Govt-Response-to-Board.pdf>

[9] Ancient Snow Forests of Canada - The ancient forests of Driscoll Ridge (2011): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75o4kQjCyXM>

[10] Ancient Forests of West Driscoll Ridge (2018): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAfx-v3VYA4&t=6s>

[11] Rocky Mountain Trench: <http://www3.telus.net/pgoutdoors/Rocky%20Mountain%20Trench%20Interpretive.pdf>

[12] Drama on Driscoll, The Canadian Alpine Journal 2006, Pages 160-161: <http://www3.telus.net/pgoutdoors/Drama on Driscoll.pdf>

[13] Driscoll Ridge Trails Opened - Gazette - National Newsletter Magazine of The Alpine Club of Canada - Volume 22, Number 1, Winter 2007, Page 17.

[14] Ancient Snow Forests of the North Central Interior, BC Nature, Spring 2014, page 11: <http://www3.telus.net/pgoutdoors/Ancient%20Snow%20Forests.pdf>

[15] Driscoll Ridge Crossover Hike 2015:

<http://www3.telus.net/pgoutdoors/Driscoll%20Ridge%20Crossover%20Hike%20Trip%20Report%20Oct%202015%20Web.pdf>

[16] Slim Creek Bushshoe: <http://www3.telus.net/pgoutdoors/SlimCreekBushshoe.pdf>

[17] Ancient Forests of Prince George - Slim Creek Park (2011): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qkWs_JAr14

[18] Slim Creek Provincial Park Snowshoeing (2017): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I82fibMScrM>

[19] Slim Creek 2018 (2018): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNQHPq9tdEg>

[20] 'Outdoor Safety & Survival' by Mike Nash; Rocky Mountain Books, 2012; ISBN: 978-1-927330-01-2; pages 17-20, 222-225 (Reality checks discuss several incidents on the Driscoll Ridge crossover).

Share the Park's nature with visitors, especially those from other countries. Hiking is always included. Viking Ridge trail is sometimes included! It's always enjoyable to bring a lunch and sit where we can hear the stream and waterfall. It's also a lot of fun to snowshoe through the area in the winter. There is a lot of wildlife around in the shoulder seasons, including moose. I suspect that will become less in the developed areas of the boardwalk as visitors continue to increase.

I enjoy hiking and wildlife viewing.

I have never been there but am thrilled to know it's there and protected.

Hiking, backcountry camping, dog-walking, photography, painting, bird watching...etc

Hiking, Picnic

Walk to gaze @ the beautiful surroundings. I have run the ridge trail a few times

Hiking

Breathe deeply, soak up the oxygen and other health-giving aerial gifts that trees release. Everything else is secondary.

I have hiked the short trails through the Ancient Forest and hiked up Driscoll Ridge. I would like to see a trail network throughout the area, where people can hike short or longer distances, at varying levels of difficulty. The trailheads and trails outside of the ancient forest/boardwalk trail loop should be well marked.

Hiking, Picnicing, Bird watching

Hiking, looking at the trees and showing our visitors the interior rain forest, jet boating, hunting, exploring.

Hike/walk

Hiking. Eating lunch. Learning about the forest. Taking pictures.

Hike, relax, picnic, photography

Walk in the summer and snowshoe in winter

The Ancient Forest should be developed as an attraction which people would visit for a few hours at a time. "Rest stop" use should be discouraged. Slim Creek needs to be retained as a year round rest stop for truckers and travellers. It really needs to have wifi so drivers can check in, review road conditions, and send and receive messages.

I enjoy walking on both the Accessible Boardwalk and the trails that have been developed near the parking area. In the past I have also accessed the park on show shoes. It is also a convenient stopping place when travelling on Hwy 16 for a rest stop/walk/and picnic.

Hiking and Arts in the Park Festival

At the opening of the park, it was very well arranged, and enjoyable, to have live music, dancers, and other artists performing. That made the day ! That made it far more interesting than just going for a walk amidst silent trees. [especially the live music "made the day".]

I am not familiar with this particular area, but I want to urge you to stop logging our few remaining old growth forests. They inspire all who have the opportunity to visit them. First Nations peoples' cultures are vitally connected to them. They sequester carbon, are an incredibly rich ecosystem, are needed for health salmon populations, intact systems. Just as we must transition away from fossil fuels, we must/should/ can transition away from harvest old growth, before it's too late.

Walking/easy hiking; sightseeing; photography

I enjoy the trails through the Ancient Forest which enables me to appreciate the natural beauty of the park.

I live in Golden, BC and I have not yet had the opportunity to visit the Ancient Forest Park or the Protected Area. However, I believe that it is vital to preserve as much of the old growth forest ecosystems as we possibly can. Just reading about the old trees, the wetlands, the animals that need this place makes it essential that it be preserved for the future. Just knowing remnants such as these are protected lightens my spirits. I have visited Haida Gwaii, Pacific Rim Park and the Giant Redwoods and Sequoias in the USA. I would plan to visit this area to marvel at the beauty and the peace to be found there. We don't have to actually visit every wilderness or special place to rejoice when it is saved.

I have camped , picnicked , hunting and hiked in this area for the last forty years. We access the park from the Fraser River and a couple of old logging roads coming in from the main highway.

Walking and reading the fabulous information boards.

Hiking, snowshoeing, photography, cultural events (in alignment with the open ceremony in 2018).

Hike, see the waterfall.

Walk on the board walks. Listen to the birds. Breathe deeply of the clean air. View the mountains. Look at the trees and other plants.

Thank you for your effort in helping protect this area around the ancient forest. I support the low impact hiking use of some areas within the park. Despite my personal love of hiking, I believe it is extremely important to protect most areas from human access due to the potential fragmentation a trail system would cause. Further, the construction and maintenance of trails would impact native vegetation and further expose the area to invasive species.

Walking around the boardwalk

I would engage in low impact activities, birding, walking, camping, but only in designated areas. Exposure to natural environments is for me, a high quality experience. To simply see an ancient undisturbed natural area is a goal I want to experience.

Question 2: If it were possible to enhance the recreation opportunities without impacting the parks and protected area's conservation values, what activity would you like to see developed/increased?

More trails, ones that go past the main waterfall perhaps

No. It is NOT possible to enhance recreation opportunities without impacting conservation values; this has been shown over and over in the national parks. Conservation must be the first and only criterion for management of these park areas.

I'm not familiar with the Slim Creek Park. hiking - summer and winter - opportunities are great.

We snowshoed through the ancient forest this winter. I'm a keen back-country skier. I have no idea if there is opportunity to access alpine from either of these parks. If there is, then promoting that (if it doesn't impact conservation value) would be great.

I definitely don't think people should be skiing through the existing hiking area of the ancient forest though.

Dakelh Lanugage Signage

Stop cutting old growth forests!

Probably camping. Besides Purden Lake and LaSalle Lake, there are very few easily accessible camping areas between Prince George and McBride which is a shame since its incredibly lovely! I love that area for hiking (Viking Ridge, Driscoll, Sugarbowl, Goat River, etc). Would be nice to be able to have more options for camping as well.

Some additional Recreation Sites for overnight would be great.

Also, maybe make some of the trailheads a smidgen more accessible? Develop the trails a little more. I don't mind barely there trails for hiking, but making them more accessible I'm sure would draw more visitors.

None

No recreation, allow the forest to live as it is.

The caribou disappeared because of recreation like sledding, quadding, and other motorized activities, not to mention hunting. Let the natural predators keep the numbers of ungulates in line, or let indigenous people take what is needed to survive, but no gas engine vehicle recreation. Climate change, remember? This is far more important than vehicle drivers wanting to drive all over the forests. Let them have a couple of recreation areas near towns and cities, and leave the forests alone.

Leave the area as natural as possible, to preserve what little we have left.

None

More Trails

It's not possible. Stick with hiking please.

A parking spot at the alternate exit to the Driscoll Ridge trail

I do not believe we should be enhancing the opportunities of this park. Keep it untouched. It is the only one like it in the world after all...

More access with hiking trails and/or boardwalks, more interpretive signage.

I like many of the options included in the Lheidli T'enneh's current grant application to the Canada Community, Culture and Recreation infrastructure program, which includes development of such possible facilities in the Ancient Forest as a sweat lodge, pit house, fish-counting station and visitor centre, with minimal environmental impacts on the park.

I also like the proposed development of riparian trails in the park along the Fraser River. I think such features could effectively encourage cultural and historical tourism, in addition to existing recreational tourism such as hiking and snowshoeing, and could definitely enhance reconciliation.

I would also like better promotional signs regarding the Driscoll Ridge trail, both at the trailheads and along Hwy. 16.

NO RESPONSE Provided

I like it the way it is. Of course a pub would be wonderful!!!

More trails to explore the beautiful green Ancient Forest. I'm sure there is a lot more space that could be covered with trails for some extra fun. Maybe even other waterfalls to see.

clear designations of no go areas and passive non consumptive use of other parts.

I'm happy to see any improvements as long as nothing is impacted. I'd like to see the park be a model for accessibility because nature is for everyone.
Maybe more information on the traditional territory or a larger indigenous presence,

Horseback and bicycle, handicap accessible trails.
Mushroom picking with limitations

Another Arts in the Park with the local people and their crafts.

Trails with some accessible to the mobility challenged.

Develop similar trails/walkways, etc, but maybe in a different area. I would prefer if the Ancient Forest doesn't become any more developed than it already is. Something similar in a nearby area would be nice.

Food source and shelter for people using the park

Geocaching.
Expanding the board walk.

I like the fact that in BC we have different parks....some fully developed and some wilderness. I think we should maintain this. This particular park has a bit of both with the ancient forest part having undergone considerable development....that's also good.

Have water on site; picnic tables with barbecue support; flush toilets

NO RESPONSE Provided

Hiking Trails.

Camping

NO REPSONSE Provided

A couple of new trails to explore

In my view access and trail systems must be increased in any high traffic park to the point at which the load on individual trails is reduced to the point of environmental sustainability.

Closing trails is merely a stop gap for it just increases traffic on others. In my opinion this is I growing problem in all of BC because of the lack of new trails and the renewed interest of people in getting out in the backcountry. Reducing access is the wrong approach I believe.

Tours

Info boards at strategic locations to educate visitors to the park

mountain bike trails! A BIG long trail or loop that goes up into the alpine.

a smoother parking lot would help with current opportunities.

A limited bike trail maybe? A way to see more of the area, while minimizing traffics impact

No industrial development should take part in this park.
Recreation activities that should be enhanced are more hiking opportunities to the high alpine, extending boardwalks, and increase the amount of information on local biota.

Snowshoeing.

It is so beautiful and natural the way it is, I wouldn't change a thing about it

Yes lots of room for mire development maybe we can use some money from th bc parks licence plate program

I think the park is great the way it is. Would want to keep the natural beauty

more information along the trail network.

More trails

More rubbish recepticals at the point of entry and easily accessed areas to help reduce litter

Little to no camping

Trail up to the waterfall with viewing deck.

More signage.

More history.

More hiking trails if possible through this amazing forest

If it were possible to add more trails without damaging the environment

NO RESPONSE Provided

Keep the park area smaller not larger.

Since this area has become a Bc park there is way more in the way of tourism and people affecting the land. The foot print on the land is very heavy now compared to the way it was before!

I would rather see it maintained as it already is

More Hiking Trails.

Lengthen day hike loops.

Hiking trails with parking lots only.

Please make sure that the trails are not at all suitable for dirt bikes or ATVs.

Board walks should be built through sensitive areas.

Care should be taken to allow for caribou movement that does not bisect these trails. Two reasons - one that caribou need deep inaccessible places to hide from predators - people and wolves. Second, that poachers find limited access with trails easily blocked completely when necessary.

During the Arts in the Park festival at the opening in 2018 there were young scientists circulating and explaining some of the flora of the forest. This would be a great service to have during times when there is peak usage of the park...the summer months.

Regular bus transportation (eg. once per month in the summer on a weekend) so that those of us who can't drive can enjoy the park too.

The boardwalk is wonderful, perhaps it could be expanded.

Guided walks for plant identification and identification of endangered environments.

larger parking lot to accommodate peak tourist season

the trail has been fairly developed with wood walkways, but there are areas where it bottle necks and can become congested, it would be nice to see double wide walkways to accommodate busy tourist season and avoid trampling on vegetation

more signage on the highway and a merging lane on the highway for entry and exit, I have seen some pretty bold drivers cut off highway traffic leaving the park, or last minute braking to enter the park

water fountains or a pump well for water would be a very nice addition

during peak tourist season it can become very busy, and often with inconsiderate/unaware tourists, perhaps during peak season there should be a registration process to monitor and limit the number of tour buses that can visit on a daily basis

I'd like to get married there one day so possibly something accommodating to that

Nothing, but maintain the walkways.

The more people are encouraged to use these wonders of nature, the more they will be destroyed

We already have activities, such as the annual Chetwynd wood carving competition, using Western Red Ceders for their purposes. Leave these ones alone and protect them.

Improve Driscoll Ridge Trail and include a backcountry campsite along the way.

Wider boardwalks through the Ancient Forest to further decrease the chance for people to step off (to allow for oncoming or quicker traffic).

Have a tour bus make a round trip from Prince George to the park provided so that people who do not have a vehicle can hike at the park. Advertise this tour at PG Tourism & all the hotels in town.

Encourage SD57 to take children & teens to the park on school field trips as part of biodiversity/ecology education.

In collaboration with Exploration Place, have a display explaining the biodiversity of the park and it's location to increase visitation of the park.

Nothing.

There are already board walks in place so life doesn't get trampled, and if people want a more fast-paced activity then they can go somewhere else.

camping, trails, education projects, especially for children and youth

More access for disabled, more trails for all.

Maybe a platform in the trees so a different perspective can be achieved.

Make it more wheelchair accessible up to the waterfall

Guided Tours

More benches and sitting areas, perhaps more bridges to get around

More and more people are becoming aware of it. It's becoming busy. I would like to see more (dirt) trails that would thin the crowds of people and allow for longer walks.

Picnic tables would also be nice by the parking lot.

Nothing. Leave the parks and creeks alone!

The quiet and serenity of those areas is why people go there. Do not make these areas hot spots for loud and littering tourists and locals that aren't there for the wonder of these places.

Small play area for kids at the parking lot or better picnic table area

NO RESPONSE Provided

I'm skeptical that further development of opportunities is possible without impacting conservation values.

it would be great to have a ATV trail along the goat river to barkerville, there used to be trappers trails there, and for a while they were kept open for hikers. It would be great to have that trail for quads. There must be ways to educate motorized backwoods users to be sensitive and careful of the environment. The club itself is great but sometimes others are not so great. Limit the use to smaller groups?? Some solution so that the area is accessible but also protected?

Cedar lookout towers at key view points.

It seems great already

Non

Hiking to beautiful views and lakes, as well as snowshoeing and dogsled activities perhaps

Maybe just some more boardwalk trails, but not too many. I do like the fact that it's NOT too "commercialized". What I mean by that is I like natural trails where everything looks untouched. I wouldn't want it to look urbanized like The Gross Grind etc.

If Raven Lake is included in this zone, or any other road to a main hiking trail I would really like these roads to be improved. Too many pot holes and ruts in the summer! Not accessible in the winter.

I don't think there should be any further development. The activities available are sufficient for the area. By increasing activities and availability moreso you are putting the area and it's uniqueness at risk.

Conservation courses, any post-education learning involvement. Interpretive walks?

No further developement

Hiking/history of the area.

Honestly, so much has been done.

Increased outhouses, parking lot and picnic table were needed.

I hope people with disabilities are surveyed as well since that is where the initial inspiration for the universal boardwalk came from.

Possibly a change area for people/ children who need to be changed (and room for caregivers).

I would prefer that no further enhancement be done and that it be left in its natural state.

Establish walking/skiing trails and wilderness campsites. These facilities should not be accessible to powered vehicles unless 24/7 onsite monitoring is active. Unattended wilderness or remote forestry campsites are frequently damaged or vandalized. A robust regime of maintenance is required. Helicopter only access could be considered for some areas to prevent ground vehicle use and attendant problems and maintenance costs. Commercial helicopter operations specializing in mountain operations already exist in nearby communities such as Blue River or Valemount.

Ancient Forest---establish a roadside campground along the hwy 16 corridor to help service this relatively remote area or enhance camping at other camping locations in the area such as Lasalle Lake down the highway.

Improve Driscoll Ridge hiking trail to a quality that matches other hikes in places like mountain parks or Mt Pope. wide, well graded trail, well maintained if possible.

Is there potential for BC camping??

Slim Creek- develop a simple 2-3km interpretive trail loop from a formalized pull out or parking area on hwy 16 so that it is not necessary to risk life/limb parking along side the highway

More hiking and mountain biking opportunities.

Also, development of camping grounds for rv's would be great

only more walking paths

I think it's great the way it is

I would not like to see any further development in these parks or any of such ecological significance.

Less activity and less people is better for the conservation of this place.

forest-friendly walkways.

Walking Trails

I am in favor of NO new developments at all.

I think the trail system could be expanded using the current method of raised board walks so that more of the parks can be explored safely.
Guided tours in the summer by local elders would enhance the experience. Invitations to ceremonies might be possible. Certainly opportunity for reconciliation.

perhaps increased walking/hiking trail system built to minimize damage to forest floor with boardwalk type protections

It would be really neat to see some efforts into unique recreation opportunities like zip-lining or up-lifted boardwalks , or cable-car systems across rivers....

NO RESPONSE Provided

Nothing

More benches along the trail to sit down and take it all in.

Picnic table to have a lunch or snack.

More bathrooms.

Eco-tourism for recreational and educational purposes, without impacting the parks and protected area's conservation values.

Improvements to the existing West Driscoll Ridge Trail parking lot & signage,

establishment of Pit Toilets at the trailhead

information sign showing distance, elevation & warning of possible wildlife encounters

upgrading of the existing Trail to the 1st Viewpoint

Better signs & trail markers to meadows, upper trail to the summit & cross over trail to link with the East Driscoll Ridge Trail & the AF

Creation & marking of a trail path in the Slim Creek Park that connects the primary sites of interest (creeks & giant old trees), improved parking area, pit toilets & signage.

Only as long as the habitat and environment won't be deteriorated.

It is not possible to enhance recreation opportunities without impacting the natural ecosystem. There will always be a trade-off between promoting access to nature, and the damage that human being inevitably wreck.

I don't think that it is possible to 'enhance the recreation opportunities' and not impact the conservation values.

Monitoring illegal access (e.g., mountain bike use) must be a priority.

walking trails and Conservation Officers.

Hiking/Walking Trails

Absolutely nothing. Do not risk destroying the beauty of this exceptional forest and environment. Somehow private business will exploit and profit from the eventual death of this protected area if let in.

0, None, Nothing

More trails? No bicycles/dirt bikes. No camping. If there are navigable streams, kayaking or canoeing.

Carefully developed hiking trails with well-managed, well-resourced fully sustainable minimal impact camping opportunities.

Hike-in camping w/ extended trails.

NONE WHATSOEVER. It is not possible to 'enhance recreational opportunities without impacting the parks and protected area's conservation values'. KEEP PEOPLE OUT.

No, I would prefer to enjoy the forest without "enhancement".

enhance hiking and camping areas.

It isn't possible. You can't always have your cake and eat it to. Leave it alone.

Continuation of boardwalk trails to allow visiting the area with minimal impact on soils and plant root structures.

Cycling Path

It is not possible. Activity should not be developed.

Hiking, Photography and Sketching

Hiking

I haven't visited these parks so I can't say what recreational activities should be increased or decreased.

NO RESPONSE Provided

Perhaps more posted information on unique ecological traits and history.

A tending to the land as a natural food and medicine creator as the First Nation's people have done traditionally.

Walking, hiking, abilities of First Nations to use as they need.

As little change as possible!

An idea would be to better develop the Goat River Trail that crosses through the inland rainforest in this area. If this trail were better developed and marketed it would become an opportunity for recreational activity in the protected area, as well as a draw, challenge, or reason for people to return to the area.

I think accessibility is important. The Ancient Forest area East of Prince George is well developed with boardwalk and trails that allow people to very easily see what it is that's worth protecting.

Simple developed hiking trails that allow people to appreciate its beauty while protecting it as much as possible.

Anything that raises awareness and connects people with nature.

Guided interpretation would be great but no overnighting please!

Perhaps some interpretive guide led walks with a focus on ecology and First Nations culture and history in this area.

As a past reclamation expert and trail builder in fragile, high-alpine ecosystems along the Great Divide (of Canada) I am astutely aware of the importance of keeping hikers on designated trails. In this goal, I would be in favor of expanding (as required) boardwalks and a perhaps expanding a well-establish system of trails.

Hiking

I think the conservation values should be paramount. As a member of COSEWIC, I am continually surprised by how the distribution of rare plants (particularly lichens) is linked to old growth forests. We are fortunate to have pockets we can still protect, but they should be given the highest level of protection.

Self-guided walking tour with information on the trees.

Clear maps of the trails.

Interpretive nature walks

Hiking

The untouched and private aspect of the area is a significant draw for us. We would like to see opportunities for people to learn more about the area and wildlife in a non-damaging way. We would be concerned about development that is disruptive to the nature around it, animals, water flow, etc. As well as development/enhancement near our property that increased vehicle traffic, foot traffic, noise, litter, conflicts and crime such as vandalism and thefts, etc.

There is already a 456 meter Universal Boardwalk that provides access to all, and that is off the ground surface with railings both sides.

However, the 2 km boardwalk that branches off the Universal Boardwalk does not have railings to contain visitors which has led to compromising the integrity of the forest in certain areas. Therefore, railings to both sides of this boardwalk would help a great deal with this problem.

1. Ancient Forest Chun T'oh Whudujut Park and Protected Area

1.1 Upgrade the upper sections of the East and West Driscoll trails and the ridgetop crossover trail to a higher standard in order to provide more comfortable mountain hiking and added safety, especially for less experienced hikers attempting the crossover hike. I rate this as the highest priority improvement for the park as it is a safety issue.

1.2 Provide interpretive signage of the geology of the Rocky Mountain Trench from high elevation vantage points [11].

1.3 Provide detailed topographic trail signs at both the east and west trailheads, showing elevations, distances and time estimates. Improve the trail marking and provide distance markers at each kilometre along the entire east, west and crossover trails showing distances to each trailhead. Provide additional topographic map signs at each end where the respective trails first gain the ridge.

1.4 Provide a safety sign at each trailhead so that prospective hikers clearly understand what they are undertaking and don't get drawn into something that is beyond their experience, ability, clothing, footwear or equipment. Experienced mountain hikers have got temporarily 'turned around' or encountered bears on this ridge on multiple occasions [20]. Following is a temporary warning sign that I posted at the end of the boardwalk and the start of the east Driscoll mountain trail long before park establishment, with a similar sign at the west trailhead:

WARNING: You are leaving the Ancient Forest Interpretive Trails and Boardwalk area and entering rugged mountain wilderness. Are you prepared? It's over 16 kilometres (10 miles) and 1,400 vertical metres (4,600 vertical feet) of rough and sometimes hard-to-follow trail to hike the Driscoll Ridge crossover route, which typically takes 7 to 10 hours. Good footwear and mountain hiking gear is essential, as well as appropriate fitness level and navigational skill. This is also grizzly and black bear country. Make sure that someone knows where you are and when you're due back.

1.5 The East Driscoll Mountain Trail trends east from the far end of the Universal Boardwalk, maintaining a low elevation for its first kilometre. It then descends a short distance through a glade of ancient cedars to cross a creek and commence its steep ascent of the mountain. This glade is another example of the many magnificent stands of ancient cedars along the lower parts of the ridge. I therefore recommend that this first kilometre of the east mountain trail be upgraded slightly to provide a 'touristy' addition to the popular boardwalk trails. The section follows a low, dry, rocky ridgeline which does not require a boardwalk, while the destination glade just before the commencement of the mountain climb might require some boardwalk to protect the trees and their root systems. This addition to the main day-use area would be fairly inexpensive to develop and would provide much more for average tourists to do. It would help space out visitors and relieve some of their impact on the high use boardwalks. It would also demonstrate to visitors that there are other antique cedar forests in the park than just the area around the parking lot.

1.6 Similarly, the West Driscoll Mountain Trail can be promoted as a relatively easy hike as far as the ridgeline and halfway meadows. This first section of the trail is steep and rugged, but not nearly as hard as going all the way to the ridgetop or to the summit. It passes through some truly magnificent stands of ancient cedar (better than the main Ancient Forest area in my opinion) as it climbs towards the ridgeline, and offers a couple of outstanding viewpoints over the Rocky Mountain Trench from the ridgeline, which is still at a relatively low elevation. This hike should be well within the reach of most people.

1.7 The West Driscoll Mountain Trail can also be promoted as a stand-alone mountain hike to the lake and on to the summit. Short of doing the full crossover hike, this is the best mountain option on Driscoll Ridge, far better than the East Driscoll Mountain Trail in my opinion. This hike is comparable to doing the Sugarbowl Mountain hike, with the option to go only as far as the lake.

2. Slim Creek Park

2.1 The park should be left undeveloped for the near future, and its mention in any park advertising should be as an old growth buffer area for the adjacent Ancient Forest Chun T'oh Whudujut Park and Protected Area.

2.2 Access should not be prohibited into Slim Creek Park, but neither should it be promoted. If anyone should inquire about access, I recommend suggesting mid to late winter season using snowshoes, in order to ease travel and minimize impacts to the flora.

2.3 In the longer term when funds are available, a looped interpretive trail and a small off-highway parking lot could be developed, as discussed in my answer to the first question, above. (FOOTNOTES: See the First Section for all the footnotes.)

I'm not sure that is possible after the fact.

A single large asphalt parking lot, signage, etc. and encouragement of the wheelchair access adjacent to the existing trails foreclosed less impactful development.

It is a very large land area Park with many opportunities for controlled access, yet exposure to a Natural environment that the vast majority of urban inhabitants will never experience. This is critical exposure for children and young adults.

Existing trails and roads need to be identified, and maintained with controlled access points: chute type or metal bar gates for example, for hiking and nature exploration.

A "docent" program is already in demand and could be developed with the help of local conservationists, First Nations and UNBC.

In a perfect world I would love to see increased hiking trails in various difficulty levels as well as increased accessibility to these trails. I understand that this area is very sensitive/delicate and is a wonder of the world with it being part of the only inland temperate rain forest in the world and thus creating new trails is extremely difficult and can have extreme consequences. Increased education/advertisement about this unique area to promote sustainable tourism would also be beneficial to neighboring communities as well as Canada and British Columbia as a whole.

Nothing to do with motorized sports or hunting activities or any permanent short term accommodation, but if walking, hiking and horse back riding trails could be expanded with no impact and a forethought to long term use, I'd say it's ok. Not too many parking lots please.

Hiking

Hiking trails, nature centre

I cannot think of much to add, that wouldn't have an impact. Maybe plant/tree identification hikes ,tying in native uses & traditions. Replanting projects: if there are areas of degradation or if native plant/tree diversity could be enhanced.

Snowshoeing trails

Walking paths.

An overnight campsite facility with basic services, open to tenting and recreational vehicles. An initiative with Tourism BC might be to encourage some small private operators that would take tourists to several areas in our region, as part of a package tour. For instance, they could do an overnight backpack trip to Raven Lake/Grizzly Den, then over to Ancient Forest area, and camp there if there is a facility in the future. There are many other trails established by Caledonia Ramblers that could be part of a customized tour. I was recently overseas and paid for expensive hiking tours, and came to realize we have the best back country in the world.

Connect Ancient Forest to Slim Creek with trail system. Consider making some portion in less environmentally sensitive areas accessible for bicycles (nothing motorized).

More trails, including overnight options, remote hike/snowshoe-in only cabins,

Too much development takes away from its natural beauty

Small backcountry camping site. Maybe a small area for RVs to park overnight. Park fees should be paid.

Leave it as natural as possible and free of charge, please!

More garbage cans with doggy bags along the trails

More accessible trails at the Ancient Forest. Provision of "trail chairs" for the elderly and mobility impaired. Improved picnic facilities, especially for groups with a booking arrangement. Develop a staffed interpretative centre. Keep Slim Creek as a rest stop, but update it.

I would like to see the trails that are already established for hiking mapped and clearly marked.

Hiking opportunities. Arts in the Park Festival

Continue to allow live Musicians and other artists and performers such as the Highland Dancers to be allowed to perform there.

Ropes courses, camping, wilderness adventures, trail building, bird watching, photography courses...

Adding some picnic tables near the parking lot, so there would be a nice place to have lunch.

I would not like to see anymore enhancements of the parks. Being able to hike through the Ancient Forest is enough of a recreational opportunity. My fear is that more development in the park would eventually lead to negative, possibly commercial, activities.

I believe it is essential to make ecological protection the most important priority, overriding any other interests. This area should remain off limits to any motorized travel (including mountain bikes). Quiet trails could be built if there was a way to ensure that the vulnerable roots of trees were protected from trampling and soil compaction. I also think education and enforcement is essential. I enjoy walks in natural areas where there are small signs or brochures highlighting the natural wonders. In general, I think increased recreation usually leads to degradation of habitat, so it needs to be planned carefully, accounting for the needs of animals to feed, find shelter and raise young. I am opposed to hunting and trapping in this area. Please don't build roads or fracture and fragment the habitat.

Leave it as is along the Fraser River

A rack for locking up bikes would be handy for cycle tourists.

I would like to see a kiosk with educational information about the forest, historical information (first nations' use), why this site is under protection, what makes it unique in the world, fauna, wildlife and so forth. An interpretive centre would be welcome.
Also provide a map showing the park(s) and protected lands in relationship to the whole of the Robson Valley and communities.
Provide information on the local caribou herds, migration routes and what properties of this park provide suitable habitat for sustainability of the herds. What predators are of concern within the park.

Having guided hikes of the park would be awesome.

Interpreters so I can ask them questions. Not just on a random basis but maybe scheduled talks about the wonderful stuff in the parks.

I would support some minimal trails and educational nature walks. Please emphasize the construction of narrow trails without cutting or removing trees and excessive ground vegetation.

continued low impact use of walking trails / boardwalk.

Organized natural sciences activities such as birding, botany, species interactions. Walking, or back country skiing where arrangements are made to create low impact use. Generally mechanized sports should not be encouraged

Question 3: What do you see as being key management issues in the Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Park and Protected Area and Slim Creek Park?

Forestry and low snowpack which affects the trees access to moisture

The key management issue is to place environmental conservation first and foremost and to resist the inevitable commercial pressure to appeal to tourists. This is one of the last areas of preserved ancient forest and must be protected.

protecting the old cedars from trampling traffic. and hopefully buffering the park so the trees are also protected as much as possible from environmental changes due to climate change.

Littering, ATV's

Leave nature be before it is all gone!

Protecting the natural beauty and integrity of the area from abuse of users, while still making it accessible for recreation.

The forest should be completely protected from all human activity.

At this late stage of global environmental degradation, we can do no less than to preserve islands of nature, of full biodiversity that we hope can become the "seeds", the instigators of new life.

Leaving the natural ecosystems alone so that they can live and provide the ecosystems services that the planet needs to live past the coming climate change disasters.

Including Indigenous input.

On sight supervision of the public. Dogs are running loose in the parking area and some are not on leash on the hiking trail.

People coming in and cutting down or damaging the trees.

Protecting the trees and wildlife.

Hiking in the highway 16 corridor needs promotion and funding

Managing the high number of daily visitors.

Enforcing the 'no overnight use' rules as well as no fires.

The forest and area will manage itself if we let it.

As far as the 'access management' portion of the plan, there are few, if any, roads left to be concerned about. The ones that are left are quickly growing in.

Old growth logging, disturbance and damage of sensitive habitat by unaware recreationers, adjacent development by landowners.

I am most concerned about continuing to widen and expand plank-ways within the Ancient Forest itself as I do believe there is real potential to do irreparable harm to the root systems of many of the large western red cedars. And as plank-ways are widened and possibly expanded, I'm also concerned more people will be encouraged to come into the park, to the possible detriment of the trees. If you build bigger plank-ways, "They will come," and I don't want to see some of the trees destroyed by too much interaction with humans.

I'd also be very interested to know how the planning process will determine what the park's "optimal carrying capacity" is and how it plans to make sure that is not exceeded.

And although these parks and protected area do not currently allow camping, I'm also wondering if the planners would consider limiting visitors to the park on a daily basis, similar as to what's done now in Mt. Robson Provincial Park, at least, I believe, beyond Kinney Lake.

Protection.

erosion of forest floor - this is being prevented as much as possible.

N/A

adaptation and protection of the natural attributes from climate change and human activity

I can see people not caring that it is traditional territory. Its important that that is clearly stated and that people know and respect it.

I am ignorant to this

NO RESPONSE Provided

Good management putting environmental balance first.

Over development/too much foot traffic

Who cleans up the messes on a regular basis?

Not sure.

encouraging use but preventing damage (overuse)

A roadside park such as this needs to be frequently used and enjoyed...more people need to be aware of what a treasure we have here...but steps need to be taken to protect the area as well.

protecting the trees from being to loved
keeping commercial investments out

NO RESPONSE Provided

Impact from camping, at access if developed/allowed.

NO RESPONSE Provided

Protecting the ecosystem from the visitors.

I feel it is well managed

Keeping up with the demand of the public to visit these areas and balancing that with the ability of the park to sustain its environment while being visited by said public.

More protection around the trees, not just a rope

Preservation. limiting overuse

Garbage management? No idea? Maintaining the walkway? It's really in the middle of nowhere.

Giving people access to the wonderful trees and eco system without making it easy for them to damage the ground and ecosystem.

NO RESPONSE Provided

Slim creek doesn't get much attention other than people stopping to use the rest stop. It would be nice to increase awareness on just how important the interior cedar hemlock zone is and let people know that this zone extends further than just the park boundaries

Protecting the unique ecology of the park.

NO RESPONSE Provided

Keeping it clean and trails well defined to keep people from damaging areas

Littering, overnight campers, lack of supervision/patrols

Keep the First Nation out of the management process as their values are financially based and it's just another area of land that they claim is theirs.

Protecting the park from commercial development should be a priority, and if the First Nation wants to financially contribute it should be from money they raise, not taxpayer money.

Reducing and minimizing human impact on the sensitive ecosystem

More enforcement presence to encourage people to follow the rules of not littering and not venturing off the trail and ensuring compliance to the dog leash rule

None

Protecting important natural processes in the land such as different species of fungi and other pathogens living there.

Nothing

Allowing traditional use, i. e. trapline & guide outfitting.

We enjoyed Arts in the Park.

Too many people causing negative affects on the animals - this should be managed through the Robson valley groups not Prince George

Maintenance of the walkways over time

Minimizing the human impact to retain as natural an area as possible.

Accessible trail maintenance.

Poachers, hunting issues.

ATVs, snowmobiles and dirt bike access is a threat to just about everything! Not the kind of people who appreciate and respect what is there.

Keeping the boardwalk in good repair, perhaps expanding it to explore other parts of the park.

Overuse, dogs not being controlled by owners.

Perhaps a Park Interpreter during the summer months would enhance the walking experience for many visitors.

I hope that this area will not prohibit dog walking in the future, it seems inevitable that popular trails seem to eventually ban dog access, perhaps a better course of action is to strictly enforce and penalize the irresponsible dog walkers that do not pick up waste

Not enough protection past the fence. A sign won't stop anybody

Allowing the public more access would be detrimental to the natural life cycle of these parks.

Education for wilderness policy and conservation. Not everyone who visits, namely the higher traffic Ancient Forest, may know about bear aware and "Leave No Trace" principles.

I certainly hope no off road vehicles are crossing salmon bearing streams in our parks.

More signage along the trail to remind people to stay on the paths to protect the delicate undergrowth and the roots of the giant trees.

It is an extremely important and delicate ecosystem. People may not realise this and mistreat it. I thought there may be an issue of traditional territory but this project has been quite collaborative.

Development of income generation based on regenerative forestry practice

Protection/cleanliness

There's stairs going up towards the waterfall. Make it just a ramp.

Keep the area clean. Fix any vandalism quickly.

Keep up the educational information for people visiting the area. Guided tours or self guided information.

Give the public ongoing information on the UNBC research studies.

Continue to work towards World Heritage status.

Having someone onsite to provide tours or stories of the area, conserving the environment and making sure people do not litter.

Keeping it simple and clean. Do not overdevelop it and put a boardwalk on every inch of trail.

Too many people since the huge boardwalk was put in. I understand the need for the boardwalk but since that was put in there are more people, dogs (with no leash and leaving their dropping instead of picking up), and litter.

Protecting the integrity of the ecosystem for future generations

NO RESPONSE Provided

Key issue is that old growth is difficult to "manage" on a small scale such as this. It turns into an attempt at preservation which is difficult for a dynamic ecosystem.

biggest problem in the backwoods anywhere and everywhere are the "yahoos" who are out for a weekend of partying and behave totally irresponsible, throwing garbage around, shooting at every tree and sign and moving object, making unnecessary noise, etc etc. Finding solutions for this handful of idiots is the greatest challenge for all of parks management.

Dont build to much keep it natural. Preserve its biology

N/A

Leave it be

Protection of the land and forests has to be the number one key issue. This is pristine wildlife habitat and please do your best to keep it safe and intact for them.

As tourism increases, I worry about the protection of the plants and keeping everything in it's natural state.

The idea that activities can be increased without repercussions and negative effects on the area. Poor management.

Logging, maintenance.

Protection against vandalism

Leaving it stand as is. Mother nature has her ways. Not interfering.

NO RESPONSE Provided

To minimize human impact!

Resource and manpower allocation within conservation authorities must be adequate. Indigenous and civilian volunteer wardens working in partnership with conservation authorities should monitor activities within the area.

Eliminate all forestry and lumber operations, eliminate any existing tenure agreements with respect to forestry operations.

Most important is to expand area to cover the watershed or at least adjacent valleys to ensure adequate buffers are in place to protect the immediate and surrounding land base from exploitation by commercial entities.

Managing future growth and popularity, including the likelihood of business and commercial interests utilizing the park for more activities.

Managing commercial film and photography which features the park in many different kinds of publications and sources without a consistent approach or follow-up.

Protecting the ecosystem with limited manpower

need to protect the park, limit the impact of humans on the eco-system

Making sure that garbage is taken out And that the essential echo system is not disturbed

To ensure that the ecological integrity of the park is maintained and that human activity is strictly regulated and minimized.

Balance between people and conservation. You need to prioritize the natural world and limit people in this place. Perhaps have a permit system in place for people to enter the place and have an environmental sustainability test before they enter the place by foot. No motorized, no horses, no high impact activities.

protect as much area as possible

limiting exposure to off road activities and maintaining the 'virgin' forest nature of the area. Also wildfire control so that these forests are not subject to logging, development, etc.

ensuring their protection.

Protection of the site for the next generations while enhancing the exploration of the forests and promoting educational experiences.(Public school programmes)
Limiting unauthorized entry and damage to the forests.
Fire prevention.

minimize the deleterious impact of foot traffic on tree root systems while allowing human/forest interactions

Surrounding active logging. Natural emergencies (wild fire)

Does a treaty exist between either Canada or the Province and any First Nations people?

1. I think every land plan (I don't like the word "use") needs to be a climate plan.
2. I believe all further logging of ancient forests should be banned forever.

Keeping it accessible, protected but restrain the commercial development.

Protect both the ancient forest AND the surrounding areas. The forest is not an isolated artifact. It is part of a much larger whole that ultimately includes the entire province.

Protection of trees, vegetation, streams & wildlife.

Management of increased number of visitors. eg. parking, foot traffic, soil compaction & vegetation trampling, sanitation, information, safety on trails (wildlife encounters, getting lost, injury)

Prevention of access by motorized recreational vehicles.

Prevention of unauthorized activities. eg. Camping. Fires. Picking flowers, berries.

Habitat management, having established trails for people to use with minimal impact to the areas flora & fauna.

Enforcement. Especially hunters, ATV riders, and snowmobilers who often do not think posted notices apply to them because they "love nature".

Managing access to the area while allowing visitors to see the special nature of this area

Having conservation officers on the ground and also enforcement.

NO RESPONSE Provided

Maintaining the beauty exactly as is.

Not buckling to business.

People leave garbage and do foolish things so it'll be a challenge keeping it pristine.

Logging

Tourism/recreation based initiatives

Invasive management techniques

Resource exploitation

protection of the ancient trees

Strict environmental protections, restricting visitor numbers, and meaningful collaboration with and employment opportunities for local First Nations communities.

NO RESPONSE Provided

Several forest wardens on site to watch for intruders and fires. Give them authority to arrest trespasses. Heavy fines.

Protection from "enhanced recreation opportunities" and climate change dangers (ie fires).

I would like to see limits placed on the use of motorized vehicles on trails/paths/roadways to ensure preservation of these areas. (Having a dedicated area for off-road sports would be appropriate). I live near Lac Du Bois Protected Grassland and there is no enforcement of restrictions - thus we see more and more damage occurring. My question is how do you intend to uphold any restrictions placed on activities , motorized vehicles, camping, fires, etc?

Protect it from human impact.

Resist the temptation to exploit it for human appetites.

Ensuring protection of plant species and ecosystem from degradation due to overuse of the area or unintentional damage by visitors. Many parts of the ecosystem are susceptible to damage from things like soil compaction or being touched. Restricting access to low impact trails and ensuring that there is no access for motorized vehicles is very important. Efforts also need to be made to ensure areas of cultural importance are protected, but if appropriate some access for the purpose of educating non-aboriginal visitors about current and historical use of the site would be beneficial.

Protect from Logging.

Consider Fire Protection steps around perimeter.

Protection of trees and Indigenous usage.

The Province has to protect these trees whatever the financial cost to the taxpayers. They are our heritage for future generations. They will thank us for saving all of these trees.

Protection from Logging and Poaching.

I didn't see climate change identified with the plan outline. Clearly it has knock-on effects such as wildfires, forest pests, and changes in hydrology.

NO RESPONSE Provided

Maintaining biodiversity.

Keeping motorized vehicles, illegal activities and resource extraction out of the area!

NO RESPONSE Provided

Prevention of further deforestation

Managing access in a way that protects this area.

Prohibiting any commercial activity now and into the future. No logging ever!

I don't know as i'm not from there.

Having enough regular oversight that this forest will truly be "protected" from people going off paths, or carving their initials, lighting fires, secret camping etc. Some people can't be trusted to appreciate what is there.

Ensuring that not just the immediate park area be protected but the ENTIRE ecosystem upon which the species which exist in the parks is protected, especially the water table. This shortcoming has been over-looked by many park services throughout North America. Consistent with this dedication to conservation, I strongly suggest that protections (particularly against logging) be extremely robust.

Complete ban on any form of logging in these areas, to maintain intact ecosystems

I don't have specific information to comment.

Permanent protection from logging.

Wild fires, tree poaching, pressure from forest industry

Preservation

Keeping the various stakeholder concerns in mind and making decisions that consider all perspectives. Identifying and respecting private ownership such as ours that are adjacent to the parks. Ensuring visitors to the park are also aware and respectful of these adjacent private ownerships. Allowing increased experiences in the parks without damaging the very elements that make it so amazing. Letting people know about it, but not so many that it becomes overrun as a result. Maintaining order and respect throughout a somewhat isolated area.

This is related to the question of enhancing recreation opportunities while protecting conservation values. Railings on the current 2 km boardwalk along with more interpretive signage that shares information about not only the features of the forest, but also the importance of understanding the fragility of the forest.

1. Ancient Forest Chun T'oh Whudujut Park and Protected Area

1.1 Management of the high volume of boardwalk trail use near the main parking lot through signage, boardwalk maintenance, and railings to protect the ancient trees and their root systems.

1.2. Improved safety on the upper sections of the east and west mountain trails and on the linked crossover hike by means of ongoing trail improvements and signage to lessen opportunities for less experienced hikers to lose the trail. Signage to include warnings of potential wildlife conflicts, especially on the ridge traverse, e.g. I've experienced both black and grizzly bear encounters on Driscoll Ridge.

1.3. Familiarization of the park by SAR volunteers in anticipation of likely search and rescue operations as use increases.

2. Slim Creek Park

2.1 In the short term, and absent any trail development there, accessing Slim Creek Park should not be actively promoted. In the long term, careful consideration to the location of a future interpretive trail and protection of the surrounding environment.

2.2 There has been a fair amount of wind fall in the last five years on the plateau (ancient forest) part of Slim Creek Park, which will need to be taken into consideration in any future trail development. (FOOTNOTES: See the First Section for all the footnotes.)

There are no local First Nations in the McBride/Dome Creek end of the Robson Valley. There may be 1 or more families? The relationships in the Community are not widely embraced. I suspect this has to do with Treaty rights as much as fear of the unknown. This relationship needs to be built.

The McBride Community Forest, Village of McBride, TRC and all of the conservationists of especially Dome Creek, Crescent Spur and Dunster feel ownership of the Ancient Forest Park. All indications are the World Heritage site "dream" was not realistic. We will still be here; living here once the current PG champions have retired or are no longer mobile. My grandchildren and perhaps soon great grandchildren will still be here in the Robson Valley.

Local people including the Museum in McBride should be the base for the Park. Not PG.

Sooner rather than later there will be development in or around the Park. We should plan for it.

This area is extremely sensitive to trampling and human impacts. Touching the trees can remove the lichen and stepping off trails can cause serious damage to the plants (some of which are very rare) and ground porosity. Managing these human impacts and educating people about them is a key management issue. Ensuring the ecological integrity of this area is of number one priority because it is a rare ecosystem.

fire protection and watershed management

Minimize destruction of forest by humans.

Enhancing and restoration of the creek, species at risk, invasive species control

I don't know of any-hopefully guests are visiting the park in a respectful manner

Trail maintenance

Fending off encroachment by special interest groups like developers.

impact of hiking on the mature cedars. If there is too much foot traffic some of the trails may have to be set back or have barriers so the roots systems are not damaged.

Ensuring that under no circumstances, is the area of either park subject to harvesting of logs or any other commercial activity.

Protecting indigenous values, maintaining value for local populations while increasing tourism, addressing concerns from people that are against hunting,

Maintenance

People going off the trails. Offleash dogs.

Keep development out, please.

Maintenance

Ban transport trucks from the Ancient Forest. Improve parking lot layout at Ancient Forest, especially for buses.

It will take a concerted effort to co-ordinate the multiple groups that are responsible for the parks to maintain the Parks and Protected Areas in a conserved state.

Protecting the balance between preserving the natural environment and allowing people to enjoy and experience this amazing thing our province has to offer.

The key management issues for the park and area are to ensure and maintain the natural state of the area, without damage, but not restricting the use and enjoyment of that area by the mass of the people.

Stopping old growth logging, transitioning to sustainably use.

I do not see any issues.

Stopping the forestry companies from logging the parks in areas visible to the public and in those areas not accessible to the public.

I read your park planning document and I think you have highlighted key issues. The greatest issue might become pressure to "develop" this area so that some benefit financially. Please make protection of ecological values the overriding priority. I live near the Mountain Parks and I have seen what unrestricted tourism can do. Keep campgrounds out of the protected areas. I also think you should consider a large buffer area around the protected area so it doesn't become an island in the midst of development.

Jet boats accessing Slim Creek from the Fraser River. Should not be allowed as this creek is so small and the damage from jet boats to the riparian areas, fish and water are significant.
Four wheel drive vehicles and Off Highway vehicle use on the old roads and skid trails coming in from the Yellowhead highway are an issue. No vehicle use should be allowed . No electric bike use should be allowed either. People are beginning to build illegal structures in the vicinity of the park. This needs to be monitored and manged as illegal activity.

Visiting the Ancient Forest park on a visit during the summer of 2018 was a highlight of my trip through BC. I've lived in BC all my life, even worked as a tree planter in that region decades ago, and had no idea the inland temperate rainforest was there. I spent a beautiful afternoon walking and learning so much in that park.

Garbage control. There doesn't appear to be any garbage containers? I know that Parks are trying to promote "Take out what you bring in", but this isn't always practical. I guess bins can be brought in if litter becomes an issue. Long term trail maintenance and danger tree assessment and management.

Human impact on the natural environment.

Keeping people on the trails and developed areas so as not to damage any of the fragile plants.

I believe the key issue is to balance the protection of these areas while allowing some human use. Given the large scale human infiltration into much of land areas, these protected areas need to be protected for wildlife and plant diversity.

Protection of this incredibly unique area

Consultation with the local first nations to ensure traditional use and spiritual practices are included in what is acceptable sustainable practices. Public access needs to be done in a planned, and supervised way. Bringing respect and understanding to the local, and general public needs to be included in managements activities.

Question 4: Is there any additional information that you feel would assist this management planning process?

Tours!

Just stop the disasters please.

Just that I've long thought that the PG-McBride corridor was a missed opportunity in terms of giving people the opportunity to explore some real wilderness.
SO MUCH POTENTIAL!

All IPCC reports.

Sure, read the actual climate change science, read about the diminishing glaciers, the fact that old growth forests are critical for reducing carbon in the atmosphere (along with regenerative farming, kelp farming, and others). Perhaps let selective logging of deadfall and dead pine beetle trees take place but only if it is minimalist in effect -- perhaps horse logging as is done in Sweden.

No clear cuts, no taking out live trees, no destruction of the vegetation on the forest floors.

If other countries can have selective logging in living forests and ecosystems, so can we.

NO RESPONSE Provided

Do not allow dogs in the park. Last visit there was dog poop in the parking area and on the hiking trail. Not everyone is a dog lover. I am as we have two dogs but would not think of bringing them to sure a beautiful area and subject others to what could be very off putting.

NO RESPONSE Provided

Don't develop the park please!

Forest health survey

No RESPONSE Provided

That the people of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation deserve the last say in the fate of the Ancient Forest, as they have been a part of the ecosystem for a very long time, and that their knowledge can only help the Forest.

I would just like to continue to be effectively informed as the plan evolves into the draft management and final management stages. I'd like to know when the draft management plan will be posted (on BC Parks' website and not until September?) and be well informed concerning when and where the three planned open houses will be held in Prince George, Dome Creek and McBride in September.

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

Animal friendly is always nice because people love to bring their dogs with them

Old growth forest ecosystem structure takes hundreds of years to form and its intrinsic value is the structure, as we have trees and animals and lovely places in second and third growth, but it does not have the same structure nor microbiome and so on. The remaining old growth needs to be preserved - it can't be here for hundreds and thousand of years and we... whoosh .. take it or harm it.. we don't have the right to do that. Let us reuse the parts we have used in the past and let some places remain as they were.

NO RESPONSE Provided

Probably

Sheilagh Foster of McBride did an awesome job last year

Our planet is in crisis and our actions need to mitigate the damage we are doing which needs to be reflected in managing our parks.
Industrial use such as mining should not be happening in our parks which need to be havens for wildlife.

NO RESPONSE Provided

No RESPONSE Provided

This is a great provincial treasure used by young families, schools and outdoor lovers. Accessibility is very important.
I would hate to see any motorised use of the park or surrounding area.

Last year's celebration of the park's opening...and the presence of artists and musicians was an excellent use of the park. This well attended event brought new people to the park....brought awareness to the visitors of the amenities there....and brought together the wonders of nature and the wonders of art. Artists and those who appreciate art are (in my opinion) likely to see / enjoy nature for what it is rather than see it as something that needs further 'improvement' by people.

as I travel around the province, a lot of visitors to B.C. know about this park

Allow only Hiking in the park. No bikes, horses or motorized vehicles.

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

There are many other areas along this corridor that could be developed that would reduce the load on the ancient forest site.
If you would like more advice or consultation on this subject feel free to contact me.

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

Co- management of this park with the local indigenous bands would assist the management, as a well as partnering with the college and university for further research opportunities.

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

Beautiful nature area the could be expanded greatly which would also put less burden on the trails that are there as people would be more spread out.

Perhaps more interpretive signage

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

Possibly bus service route with Takla Nation. I saw they just recently started operating a bus service and it looks like they aren't using it to full capacity.

I frequent the ancient forest often because I love the beauty of the cedars and the ecosystem that lives there

No, but it would be nice to have more informational signs

We have noted that joint First Nations management has resulted in much better outcomes for all concerned - and certainly for the habitat.

Thank the Caledonia Ramblers for their work and encourage their continued interest and support of the park.

Make sure any improvements are wheelchair accessible (with the obvious exception of anything done up the hill, since that wouldn't be realistic)

Keep supporting the Arts in the Park annual festival

Maintain what you already have there.

Maybe put fences up on the sides of the walk ways so people can't let their dogs loose to dig, disturb the wildlife, poop or pee anywhere.

NO RESPONSE Provided

Lease a building located in the parking lot to local entrepreneur to sell rain ponchos, Native art souvenir framed paintings, carvings, t-shirts, posters, key chains, ice cream cones, metal water bottles, garbage free snacks like hot dogs on a stick, and bannock.

I personally do not see the point in making the ancient forest a tourist destination as high tourist volumes will lead to the decimation of the environment.

NO Response Provided

No

Everything else is good. I wouldnt change anything else

Make sure to have ongoing conversations with natural resource companies, work together. Our natural resource companies pay important taxes and bring employment to the area. Be respectful to each other.

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

Remember that these areas are nature's gems. Mother Nature does an amazing job of mainting these areas and now that you've made these "hot spots" all you need to do is help her out by keeping it clean. Do not build any more or make this a mainstream tourists spot. The true nature lovers and hikers will find it and come with respect for the surroundings.

NO RESPONSE Provided

I had the pleasure of visiting Ancient Forest before it became a park, as a matter of fact, I remember being asked out there by what I believed were University students, if I would like to see this area protected in form of a provincial park; I said yes I would. Unfortunately since then it has been turned into a park they also turned it into a tourist destination, built a boardwalk, added a huge parking lot etc. People bring their dogs that crap everywhere as if this were another dog park. You simply cannot enjoy the serenity and beauty of this place anymore! It brought Tourists from all over and I won't be visiting this place anymore now. It's really sad and I can only hope that you won't be adding any "attractions" or "activities" to this area! All I wanted was to protect this unique ecosystem with it's giant trees!!

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

Dont allow any logging at all in or around the ancient forest. Period

Budget

Leave it alone. Dont disturb it, dont "up grade"

Just leave it how it is

Please listen to the local First Nation peoples as they know their land best, and what it needs to thrive.

NO RESPONSE Provided

The area is beautiful and unique and has been developed in a way that all types are able to enjoy. Don't ruin a good thing by over doing it. Simplicity is a desire often overlooked.

Love this place, such a gem for us PG folks. Keep is safe for future generations!!!

NO RESPONSE Provided

This is a forest I want to bring my grandkids to. Please do not commercialize it. Minimal disturbance but allowing the continued appreciation of it

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

All forestry or lumber operations should be eliminated from the watershed or expanded park/conservation area and a defined buffer zone around the area established

Access points to the area can be monitored by remote solar power devices to assist with the conservation efforts. Environment Canada and the BCFS are experts in remote monitoring stations and could be used as partner organizations for monitoring the area.

NO RESPONSE Provided

Additional parking and signage for hiking/biking would be great

I would like to see more of the accessible paths so that I can walk further on an even surface

The work that has been done to create the boardwalk for people that have accessibility issues is great. I don't really want to see it develop much more other than maybe the boardwalk could go little further so that others that have accessibility issues can see more of the beautiful forest

This is the only temperate inland rainforest in the world - let's keep people out.

NO RESPONSE Provided

standing old growth is extremely valuable to people and other animals.

be strong. Thank you for the opportunity to respond

All research from here and abroad acknowledges that these areas MUST be protected. Canada is very low at present in it's standing on the world stage re looking after this planet.

Make the right decisions here.

The process appears comprehensive. There is obviously a lot being done by a host of dedicated people particularly the firsts nations.

think like a tree!

NO RESPONSE Provided

If a treaty does exist, reference the planned activities with regard to the affected elements of the treaty.

Just this: leave it alone.

I would love to see organized educational hikes for different age groups.

Protecting and preserving these pristine areas is more than just a part of parks and recreation policy. It is a sacred trust with ramifications for both future generations and as a part of our struggle to find ways of living in harmony with nature for the benefit of all.

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

Listen to the First Nations! I'm not indigenous, but I trust their management of the environment.

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

Please protect our ancient forests!!!

Respect the land and First Nations by fully protecting this last piece of unique exceptional wilderness.

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

Is there any reason why you are doing this other than to create jobs?

NO RESPONSE Provided

I noticed there are no plans to log; either that or those plans are separate. It would please me to no end to know that there will be no logging at all in all areas of both parks. these areas are significant and very much worth protecting from logging at all costs. How many areas do we have left where there are trees that have survived so long?

Look at the satellite maps of the surrounding region and understand how little true forest exists let alone old growth forest.

Look with a child's eyes not with your forest management degree eyes. Think of our great great great grandchildren.

NO RESPONSE Provided

NO RESPONSE Provided

Urging to limit development, enhance wilderness and tree protection, support Indigenous usage.

Environmental protection and fighting climate change impact has more supporters than the government can imagine.

Act to save old growth and other trees in the forests.

Preserve the whole damn province, or what's left of the old growth. I can't believe we live in an era where whales and elephants are en route to extinction and even particular trees are in danger. It's only going to get worse with over population.

I didn't see climate change identified with the plan outline. Clearly it has knock-on effects such as wildfires, forest pests, and changes in hydrology.

NO RESPONSE Provided

Emphasis on long term strategies.

Seek information from local First Nations as to their concerns and usage ideas.

NO RESPONSE Provided

I would just like to add that I hope the rain forests around the current and proposed protection areas such as South towards Bowron Lake Provincial Park and Goat River Trail will be considered for protection as well to prevent any further ancient forest logging in those areas.

Protect our environment!!

NO RESPONSE Provided

Plan for the effects of guidance and maintenance...do NOT let this special place suffer from "OK now it's a park, let's go, our job is done"...as more facilities are developed, like outhouses/trails/signage etc, more people will use the area and some will ABUSE the area...that just seems the way it is...plan for that, so it can be kept to a MINIMUM please.

I think I have expressed these above.

Fundamentally, I believe it is crucially important that we protect as much of the little remaining old-growth forests in B.C.

None currently

I would suggest contacting COSEWIC's Secretariat and ask to be put in touch with the Mosses and Lichens SSC CoChair, who might be able to provide further information on the conservation value of this land.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/committee-status-endangered-wildlife/contact-secretariat.html>

I look forward to seeing the park on our next road trip up that way.

NO RESPONSE Provided

I grew up in that area and the amount of logging is unsustainable. In the light of climate change, forested areas are carbon sinks that need to be preserved..

The references to "recognized traditional Lheidli T'enneh Nation territory" can cause concern to a private owner of land adjacent to the parks. We would certainly appreciate a better understanding of what that means practically speaking. Being very concerned about the environment ourselves, we could benefit from an improved understanding of and relationship with the Lheidli T'enneh Nation, so we see any opportunities to enhance that would be helpful to all parties.

Perhaps sharing with visitors to the forest how resilient it is, and how it has survived all natural threats to its survival such as pests, fires and drought, and that we are potential caretakers in ensuring that this unique forest that is indeed ancient, will continue to thrive, reproduce and contribute to the ecosystem for many years to come.

1. I have provided a lot of background information in the first section of the comment form, with many resource links that are footnoted below. I would be happy to meet with park planners to discuss any of this as I have had extensive on-the-ground experience throughout the park.

2. I have long had a vision of the many features of the Rocky Mountain Trench between Prince George and McBride being promoted as a combined world-class destination, perhaps with an expanded Purden Lake Park as a multi-day base of operations for visitors. The list of objectives that can be accessed from there is long, many of them being provincial parks. (FOOTNOTES: See the First Section for all the footnotes.)

Whatever this is, needs to be discussed early on: "Lheidli T'enneh Nation's grant application to the Canada Community, Culture and Recreation infrastructure program, if successful, may result in facility development within the park." !!! See earlier comments! A resident park ranger would be a plus, as soon as possible. Current overnight visitors needs to be addressed versus ignored. PG is the largest city near by at ~ 90 minutes to 3 hr drive E depending on season and road conditions. There is no water on site. Considering the size of the parking lot and current visitor numbers this should be remedied. The Village of McBride is an additional 60 min drive W. If there is water at Slim Creek a local service contract could be created.

This area is a unique ecosystem and it is important that it is protected/managed to ensure it's ecological integrity as well as its cultural value to the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. Continuing to involve the Lheidli T'enneh in managing this area is very important. Thank you.

Please keep up the very important work of wild spaces protection.

Provide people with the tools/means to conserve/protect the natural spaces (e.g. garbage/recycling containers)

LiDAR study

No answer

I hope that whatever steps you take, the forest is preserved against any kinds of degradation or exploitation.

Without trees, and enough of them, this planet will become uninhabitable. Think beyond your own lifetime. (I admit it: that was advice, not information, but I stand by it.)

No Answer

Consult with local groups and in particular the folks who were heavily involved in the development of the trail system in the Ancient Forest

No answer

Good job - tks

No answer

Please keep this gem undeveloped. It's a beautiful place to go as it is and its already getting too busy in summer. Keep the access free.

I commend the planning committee effort so far to include all of the responsible parties who have a part in the development and maintenance of the Park, Protected Area and Slim Creek Park. Thank you for continuing to develop this special place.

No answer

Consult with organizations and groups to give input, more than just only a closed decision by the Parks and Native People.

Look at other areas, even if in other countries, where the transition away from old growth logging, has happened, and/or where sustainable forestry is practiced.

Keep it wild and protect the largest area possible. Just knowing that some natural areas exist is good for the spirit in our world suffering from the ravages of climate change, environmental degradation and "development". Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

The concept of "Art in the Park" that was introduced during the Park opening ceremonies in 2018 was well received by the public with requests to make this an annual or biennial event. I particularly appreciated having the first nations taking a leading role in the ceremonies. Collaboration for future events between the Robson Valley Art Council, BC Parks and the first nations could provide cultural education and would help to build relationships between the various uses of the park.

I like what's been done to make it accessible.

Keep these parks as pristine as possible.

Please continue your efforts to protect and enhance ecological diversity while creating and permitting some human use for recreational and educational uses. I support your emphasis of educational nature trails so that people who access these areas can understand the reasons for protection beyond the fact that this particular area has large trees. Further, I find hunting activities do not belong into BC Parks and protected areas. Much of the province is already open for many uses and it would be of high value to restrict human activities and use of protected areas and some BC Parks. Thank you for your time and work.

No