



Atna River Park Management Plan

October 2010



BCParks

Cover photo – A. de Groot.

Atna River Park
Management Plan

Approved by:



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May 7th, 2010

Date



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On behalf of
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September 2/10

Date



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Acknowledgements

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This management plan:

- establishes long-term strategic direction for Atna River Park;
- sets out a vision for the future state of the park;
- addresses current issues affecting that long-term vision; and,
- guides day-to-day park management.

1.2 Planning Area

Atna River Park covers 21,092 ha and is located in west-central British Columbia, approximately 80 km southwest of Houston (Figure 1).

The park is one of seven parks and protected areas resulting from the Morice Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and associated government-to-government discussions with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en. Other nearby protected areas include: Morice Lake Park adjacent to the east, Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park 20 km to the east, Burnie-Shea Park 15 km to the north, Burnie River Protected Area 10 km to the north, Nadina Mountain Park 50 km to the northeast and Old Man Lake Park 110 km to the northeast. These moderate to large backcountry parks were established to increase representation of regionally significant ecosystems, to provide opportunities for unroaded wilderness recreation, and to protect cultural heritage resources¹.

Other nearby protected areas include: Morice River Ecological Reserve 60 km to the northeast, Topley Landing and Red Bluff parks 130 km to the northeast, Babine Mountains Park 100 km to the northeast, Uncha Mountains Red Hills Park 100 km to the east and Tweedsmuir Park 80 km to the southeast.

Atna River Park includes the Atna River, Atna Lake and most of the area surrounding the lake to the height of land (Figure 2). The park protects a broad moist subalpine valley with vegetation that is transitional between coastal and interior ecosystems. It contains important Grizzly Bear and Mountain Goat habitat, and an extensive wetland complex along the lower Atna River. Forests are predominantly subalpine fir and mountain hemlock with patches of whitebark pine at higher elevations and on small islands in Atna Lake. The park also contains important fish habitat including spawning habitat for Sockeye Salmon.

¹ Cultural heritage resources, as defined by the Wet'suwet'en, include cultural heritage features and sites such as culturally modified trees, cultural depressions, symbolic markers, artefacts, gravesites, home places, gathering places and traditional use sites (e.g., for fishing, hunting, tool manufacturing, food processing, etc.).

Within the Wet'suwet'en territory, the park lies in the C'iniggit Nenikëkh house territory in the house of Yextsowiten ("Thin House") that belongs to the Gilseyhyu (Big Frog) clan (Figure 3). (See Section 1.7 for a description of the Wet'suwet'en clan and house system.) C'iniggit Nenikëkh house territory played a critical role for the Wet'suwet'en and is known as "Common Basket". This area is known to be very productive for resources and remains important to the Wet'suwet'en today.

Access to the park is by air or by the Morice River Forest Service Road from Houston to Morice Lake, then by boat to Atna Bay, and portage trail to Atna Lake. Due to its remote location, recreational use is likely low; recreational activities include canoeing, hiking, mountaineering, hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing. The waterfalls on the Atna River between Atna Lake and Morice Lake are located in Morice Lake Park.

Atna River Park lies within the Morice Timber Supply Area in the Nadina Forest District, and is surrounded by the Morice Range/Nanika Lake No Timber Harvesting Area (Morice Land and Resource Management Plan 2007), except on the northeastern boundary, which is adjacent to Morice Lake Park, and the southwestern boundary, which is adjacent to the Kalum Forest District. That portion of the Kalum Forest District is identified as a Grizzly Watershed Unit with constraints on logging activities to allow for adequate levels of berry feeding and natural levels of forage supply. There is a large mineral claim block (New Moon) in the Morice Range area adjacent to the southeastern boundary of the park.

A detailed account of available information for Atna River Park can be found in the Morice Protected Areas Background Report (Ronalds and Jaward 2008). This background report is available on the BC Parks website.

1.3 Legislative Framework

Atna River Park was established as a "Class A" park in July 2008 by the *Protected Areas of British Columbia (Conservancies and Parks) Amendment Act, 2008*. The park is named and described in Schedule D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

Its management and development is directed by the *Park Act*. Section 8 of the *Park Act* directs that any interest in land in a park must be authorized by a park use permit. Section 9 directs that most uses of a natural resource in a park must be authorized by a park use permit.

1.4 Obligations and Agreements

Atna River Park was established as a result of the recommendations of the Morice LRMP process and subsequent government-to-government processes with First Nations, which concluded in 2007. Appendix 1 contains management direction from the Morice LRMP for the park.

General management direction for all new protected areas includes:

- maintaining the conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values and features for which the protected area was established;
- completing management plans with First Nations and public participation;
- continuing existing eligible tenures (i.e., trapping, guiding, commercial recreation) and hunting and angling opportunities;
- maintaining existing access routes (e.g., trails and traditional trails) within the protected area;
- maintaining existing access opportunities for First Nations, guide outfitters, trappers and other tenure holders where motorized opportunities have been restricted; and,
- identifying and protecting archaeological sites, special sites, traditional use (past and present) and heritage trails (First Nations and pioneer).

The Morice LRMP also provided the following area specific goals for Atna River Park:

- protect as a pristine wilderness area;
- conservation of ecosystem integrity, rare plant communities and wildlife habitat;
- conservation of First Nations' cultural spiritual and heritage values; and,
- opportunities for education and interpretation of natural and cultural features.

The specific management intent of the park is to:

- conserve the wilderness condition, unique ecological values and highly important cultural and spiritual values through education and compatible recreational and tourism uses.

Other specific management direction for Atna River Park from the Morice LRMP includes:

- maintaining cultural and heritage features and values; and,
- maintaining natural and ecological features.

The Morice LRMP also provides direction on motorized uses. Motorized use is not permitted in the southern portion of the park around the Atna River. Summer motorized use is not permitted in an area in the northern portion of the park. Motorized restrictions apply to land-based activities and do not include aircraft access or motorized boat use.

Atna River Park also lies within the Caribou Habitat Management Area and the Morice Water Management Area, as identified in the Morice LRMP. Management direction for the Caribou Habitat Management Area focuses on identifying habitat and limiting disturbance from development activities on caribou. Management direction in the Morice Water Management Area focuses on developing a water monitoring program and an area-based water management plan to provide the maximum practicable water quality.

1.5 Existing Tenures and Facilities

Atna River Park lies entirely within one hunting guiding territory (609G006) and one trapline territory (609T022). There is a hunting guide cabin at the northeast end of Atna Lake.

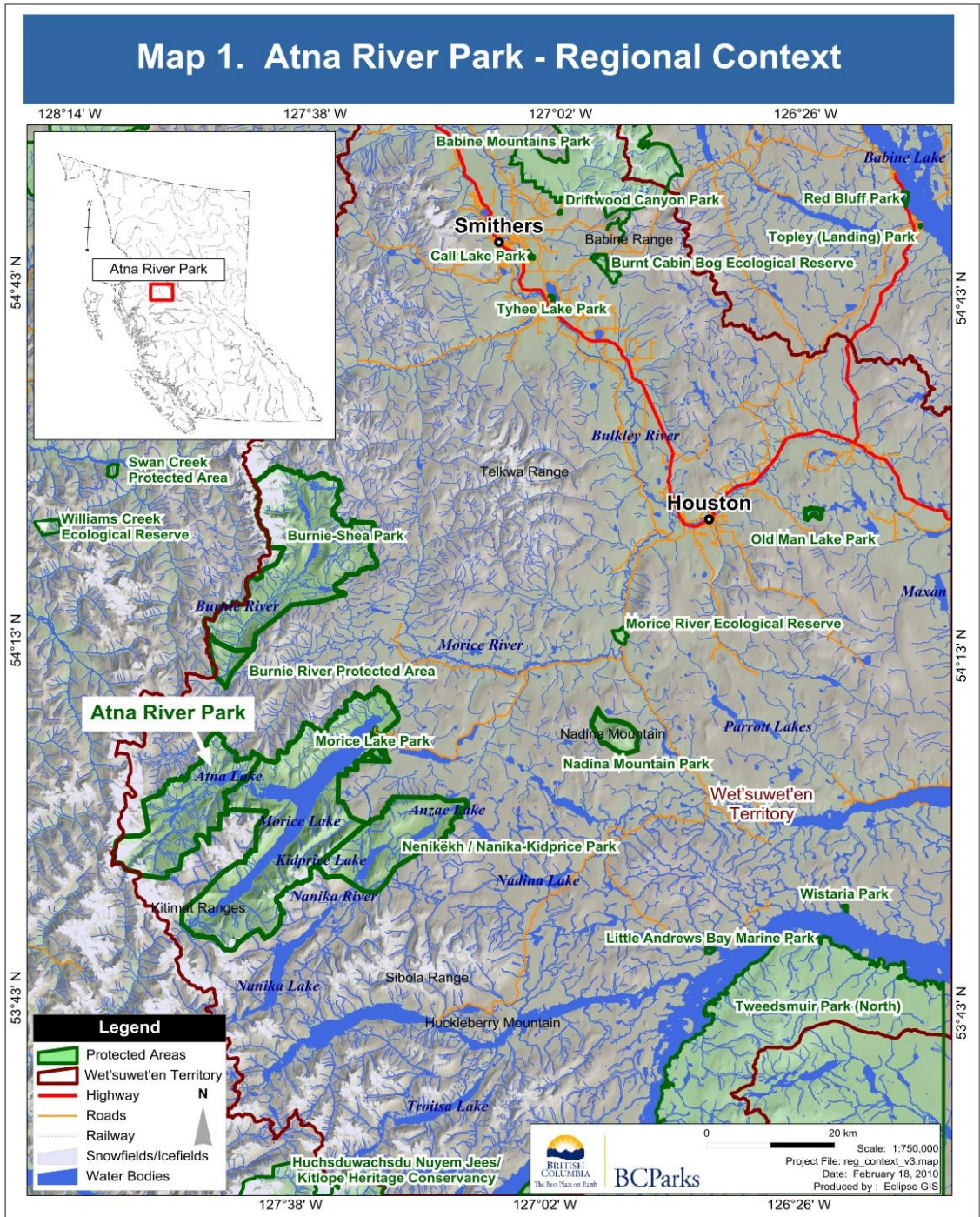


Figure 1: Map 1 - Atna River Park Regional Context

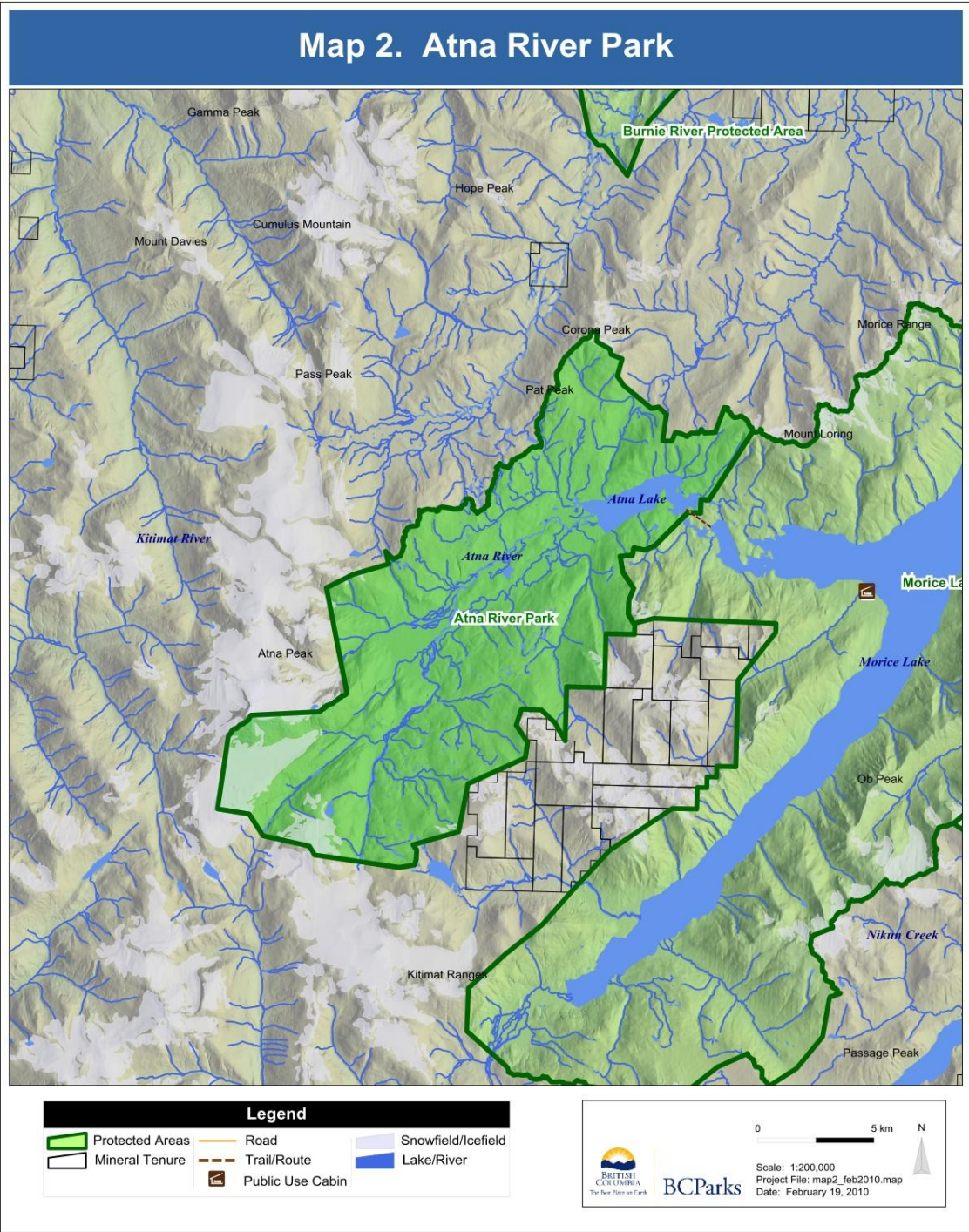


Figure 2: Map 2 - Atna River Park

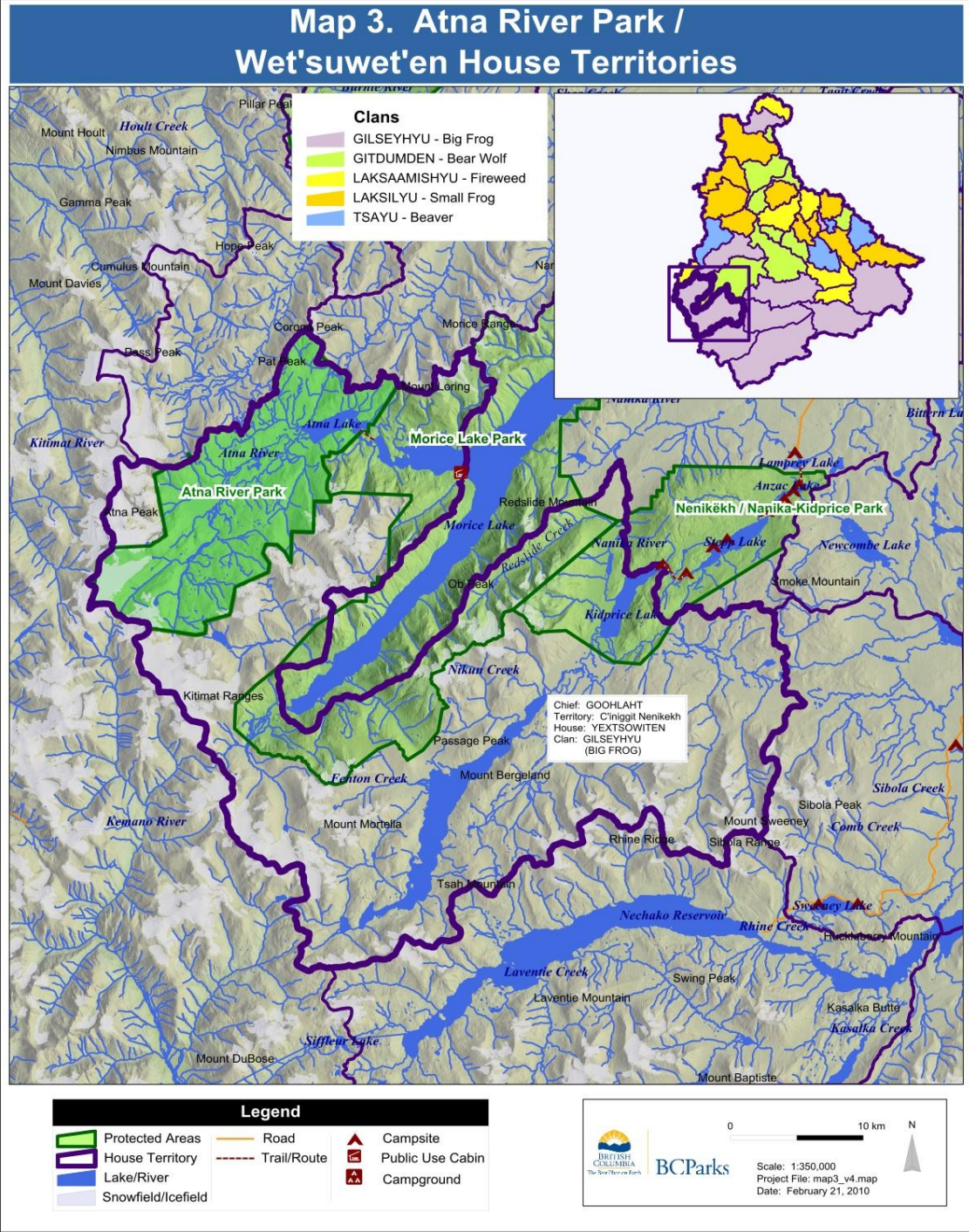


Figure 3: Map 3 - Atna River Park/Wet'suwet'en House Territories

1.6 The Planning Process

The management plan for Atna River Park was developed together with management plans for six other parks and protected areas (Burnie-Shea Park, Burnie River Protected Area, Morice Lake Park, Nadina Mountain Park, Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park, Old Man Lake Park) that were established as a result of the Morice LRMP process and associated government-to-government processes with First Nations. All seven parks and protected areas fall within the Wet'suwet'en territory. Draft management plans were developed co-operatively with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en and were based on: management direction from the Morice LRMP, park values (natural, cultural, and recreation), discussions with Ministry of Environment staff, discussions with stakeholders, and public input. Discussions with stakeholders and bi-monthly meetings with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en were initiated in September 2008. Public input into the management plans was solicited through open houses that were held in Smithers on October 28, 2009 and in Houston on November 2, 2009. In the fall of 2009, draft management plans were also available for review on the BC Parks website for 30 days.

1.7 Collaborative Working Relationship with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en

This management plan reflects the results of a joint park management planning initiative within Wet'suwet'en territory between representatives of the Office of Wet'suwet'en and the BC Government. The parties were committed to working together in a spirit of mutual respect, understanding, and co-operation in a government-to-government manner. The recommendations for the management plan were collaboratively developed and based on achieving consensus.

Wet'suwet'en Matrilineal and Hereditary Chief Systems

"People of the lower drainage", the Wet'suwet'en, have been living in this part of the continent since time immemorial. The Wet'suwet'en territory covers 22,000 km² and the Wet'suwet'en people are highly dependent on many types of fish and wildlife in the area.

The Wet'suwet'en people have a matrilineal system and are socio-politically structured by the clan. There are five clans:

- Gilseyhyu (Big Frog);
- Gitdumden (Bear/Wolf);
- Laksaamishyu (Fireweed/Killer Whale);
- Laksilyu (Small Frog); and,
- Tsayu (Beaver).

Each clan has two or three houses, which are kin-based groups also known as Yikhs. There are 13 houses in total, each an autonomous collective that has jurisdiction over up to six

defined geographical areas known as house territories, for a total of 38 house territories in the Wet'suwet'en territory. Every Wet'suwet'en person belongs to the clan and house group of their mother (matrilineal). A Wet'suwet'en person cannot marry another person of his or her own clan.

Each extended family has a 'dinize' (man) or 'tsakze' (woman) chief who is responsible for making important decisions and settling disputes. Hereditary chiefs are entrusted with the stewardship of a territory by virtue of the hereditary name they hold. It is the responsibility of a head chief to ensure that the house territory is managed in a responsible manner so that the territory will always produce enough game, fish, berries and medicines to support the subsistence, trade and customary needs of house members. All hereditary titles or names, which belong to specific house groups, are given out at feasts or potlatches.

The chief's name is closely linked to the house and survives the death of a chief. The name is passed on to the next house chief that earns the responsibility by demonstrating commitment to the nation, the clan, and the house and through participation in the feast system. Becoming a chief is a lifelong process. Feasts or potlatches have long been recognized as the Wet'suwet'en form of governance.

1.8 Community Involvement

The village of Houston, 80 km to the northeast of the park, is the closest community to Atna River Park. Many residents who live in Smithers, Telkwa and Burns Lake also share an interest in the management of this area. The park lies within Wet'suwet'en Territory; therefore, representatives of the Wet'suwet'en people in particular, will play a key role in the management of Atna River Park, due to their strong cultural ties and interest in maintaining the conservation values. The park is also located within the Bulkley-Nechako Regional District.

Ongoing engagement and outreach with local communities will be required to ensure that residents are aware of, and supportive of, Atna River Park. This will include continued dialogue with residents in the local area and any provincial and/or local interest groups or local governments who have expressed interest in the park.

Interests will be addressed through ongoing outreach activities associated with management operations. Collaboration, along with community outreach activities, will help to increase First Nation and non-aboriginal community awareness and engagement in the management of this park.

2.0 Values and Roles of the Park

2.1 Significance in the Protected Areas System

Atna River Park is significant in the parks and protected areas system because it:

- protects a pristine ecosystem transitional between the coast and interior, including regionally rare old-growth coastal forest and wetland ecosystems;
- significantly contributes to the protection of the moist cool subzone of the Engelmann Spruce - Subalpine Fir biogeoclimatic subzone (ESSFmk);
- protects a tributary of the Morice River, a provincially significant salmon and steelhead river;
- protects important Grizzly Bear and Mountain Goat habitat, Sockeye Salmon spawning areas and whitebark pine ecosystems;
- protects a remote pristine wilderness; while many perceive this area a wilderness, Wet'suwet'en have lived here for thousands of years;
- protects part of a much larger park complex that includes Morice Lake and Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice parks; and,
- protects part of the C'iniggit Nenikëkh house territory, which is known as "Common Basket" and which played a critical role for the Wet'suwet'en.

2.2 Values and Roles

Biological Diversity and Natural Environment Values and Role

Values

Large Relatively Intact Ecosystem Complex

Atna River Park protects a remote area with ecological values largely unaltered by human disturbance. The significance of this ecological feature is compounded by the fact that Atna River Park is part of a larger park complex of 90,531 hectares.

Due to its size and remoteness, Atna River Park provides important ecosystem services (the benefits that people receive from ecosystems) that include clean water, natural flood control, carbon storage, air purification, nutrient cycling, food, biodiversity, recreation, aesthetic experience and spiritual experience. The park plays an important role in regulating water quantity, water temperature, and release of spring melt waters, which is important for both fish habitat and downstream water users.

Water sampling was conducted in Atna River Park in 2008. Although final results are not yet available, water quality is consistent with a relatively pristine watershed.

Ecosystem Representation

Atna River Park lies almost entirely within the Kimsquit Mountains Ecosection and provides a significant contribution to the amount of this ecosection protected in B.C. (i.e., 6.4%). Two very small portions of the park lie within the Bulkley Ranges (41 ha) and Kitimat Ranges (32 ha) ecosections.

The park contains eight biogeoclimatic subzones/variants and contributes significantly to the protection of the Engelmann Spruce - Subalpine Fir moist cool (ESSFmk) and moist cool parkland (ESSFmcp) biogeoclimatic subzones (Table 1). Atna River Park, together with Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park and Morice Lake Park protect over 43% of all the ESSFmk currently protected in the provincial protected areas system. Whitebark pine is a distinctive feature of the ESSFmk, especially on dry rocky sites, but it also occurs on dry sites in the ESSFmc.

Table 1: Biogeoclimatic Zone Representation

Biogeoclimatic (BEC) subzone		Area of BEC in Atna River Park (ha)	Total Area of BEC Protected in the Province (ha)	% Total Area of BEC Protected in the Province Contributed by Atna River Park	% BEC Protected in the Province
Coastal Western Hemlock wet, subarctic, Montane variant	CWHws2	1 856	100 937	2%	16%
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir moist, cold parkland	ESSFmcp	43	46 441	<1%	19%
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir moist, cool	ESSFmk	11 761	73 369	16%	41%
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir moist, cool, parkland	ESSFmcp	4 204	22 902	18%	40%
Mountain Hemlock moist maritime, Leeward variant	MHm2	157	171 667	<1%	14%
Mountain Hemlock moist maritime parkland	MHmmp	33	69 597	<1%	31%
Boreal Altai Fescue Alpine	BAFA	2 261	839 357	<1%	27%
Coastal Mountain-heather Alpine	CMA	18	1 000 893	<1%	24%
Fresh Water (in all subzones)		773	436 424	<1%	16%
Total		21 106 ¹			

¹ Total area is calculated using GIS; therefore, it differs slightly from the legal area

Old-Growth

The forest cover in Atna River Park consists primarily of subalpine fir and hemlock, with alpine at higher elevations. Almost 100% of the forested landscape in the park is old forest (>140 years old).

The area at the west end of Atna Lake, south of the Atna River has representative stands of old-growth western hemlock and amabilis fir in the CWHws2, close to the eastern extent of their range.

Species and Ecological Communities of Conservation Concern

Predictive Ecosystem Mapping (PEM) analysis predicts the occurrence of three plant communities of conservation concern in the park:

- Amabilis fir-western redcedar/oak fern (CWHws2/04) (blue list)²;
- Lodgepole pine/kinnikinnick (CWHws2/02) (red list); and,
- Sitka spruce/salmonberry Wet Submaritime 2 (CWHws2/07) (blue list).

Both whitebark pine trees and whitebark pine ecosystems (ESSFmk/02) are blue-listed and also occur in the park. In general, while whitebark pine stands on dry rocky sites are more common, whitebark pine stands on coarse parent materials are very rare. The park also contains regionally rare coastal old-growth forests.

Mountain pine beetles are present in the area and may kill both mature lodgepole pine and whitebark pine. White pine blister rust (an alien invasive pathogen introduced to British Columbia in the 1920s) is also killing whitebark pine trees; young trees are more susceptible to white pine blister rust than older trees. Seed caching by Clark's Nutcrackers is the primary dispersal mechanism for whitebark pine. The primary food source for Clark's Nutcrackers is whitebark pine seed, which they cache for winter; therefore, the mountain pine beetle epidemic could result in declines in Clark's Nutcracker populations. Some Grizzly Bears also feed on whitebark pine seeds in Clark's Nutcracker caches.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Atna River Park provides important habitat for wildlife that live in and around the park. The low pass (1,200 meters) at the southwest end of the park provides an important wildlife corridor to the Kemano, Dala and Kildala river valleys in the Coast Range, and the low pass between Atna Lake and the Gosnell River is an important travel corridor for wildlife at the northern end of the park. The park contains moderate to high value Grizzly Bear summer and fall habitat and high quality Mountain Goat winter range. The valley-bottom along the Atna River contains an extensive wetland system.

The Atna River is in the Morice River watershed and contains Sockeye and Coho salmon, Lake Trout, whitefish and blue-listed Dolly Varden. Atna Lake provides important beach spawning habitat for Sockeye Salmon. The Office of the Wet'suwet'en are concerned with low annual returns of the Morice-Nanika Sockeye Salmon stocks.

² Blue list = list of ecological communities, and indigenous species and subspecies of special concern in B.C. Red list = list of ecological communities, and indigenous species and subspecies that are extirpated, endangered or threatened in B.C. (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/faq3.html#1>).

Role

The conservation role of Atna River Park is to protect: water quality and important fish habitat and fish populations; wildlife (Grizzly Bears, Mountain Goats, Caribou); habitat and movement corridors for wildlife that use the park and that use the adjacent landbase of the Morice, Gosnell, Dala, Kildala, and Kemano watersheds; ecosystems in the ESSFmk biogeoclimatic subzone; old-growth forests; and, whitebark pine ecosystems in a remote pristine wilderness area. It is also part of a larger park complex, which will play an important role in maintaining connectivity as species and ecosystems move and evolve with climate change.

Cultural Heritage Values and Roles

Values and Uses

Mt. Loring (Leez Be'h) was utilized in times of need by all Wet'suwet'en clans and the Gitxsan to harvest Hoary Marmot and Caribou. C'iniggit Neníkëkh house territory played a critical role for the Wet'suwet'en and is known as "Common Basket". This area is known to be very productive for resources and remains important to the Wet'suwet'en today.

Cultural heritage resources provide a connection to the past; they are critical elements in stories and teachings. Teachings from Wiggus (respect for all living beings) to Inuk Nu'et'en (our laws) are grounded in natural law and experience on the land. Methods of managing land use over long periods of time are derived from these teachings. It is the intent of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs to share these teachings to ensure sustained use and occupation of these parks.

Role

The cultural heritage role for Atna River Park is to provide a "connection to place" for the Wet'suwet'en Nation. Cultural heritage on the land is the essence of the Wet'suwet'en identity. Connection to place can be achieved through protecting significant cultural heritage values and resources, supplying food for sustenance, providing cultural education, exercising traditional activities, and linking to the land through job opportunities and management of the park.

Recreation Values and Roles

Values

Recreational use of Atna River Park is low due to its remote location. The small waterfall on the Atna River (between Atna Lake and Morice Lake) and most of the portage trail from Atna Bay on Morice Lake to Atna Lake, are located in Morice Lake Park. Potential recreational activities in the park include canoeing, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, mountaineering, snowmobiling (in the northern part of the park) and hunting.

Role

The recreation role of Atna River Park is to provide for recreational opportunities such as canoeing, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, mountaineering, snowmobiling and hunting in a remote wilderness setting.

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Vision

Atna River Park conserves regionally rare coastal old-growth forest, wetland ecosystems and a pristine lake with associated drainages at the headwaters of a provincially significant salmon river. The clean waters provide important habitat for salmon and other fish species. Grizzly Bears, American Black Bears, Moose and Mountain Goats thrive in the low elevation forested and mountain habitats. The Wet'suwet'en people maintain and use the park's resources for social, ceremonial and cultural activities. Conservation of natural and cultural values is paramount. Recreational uses reflect the remote wilderness setting and respect the natural and cultural values in the park.

3.2 Management Issues, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Biological Diversity and Natural Environment

Management Issues/Interests:

- The park contains moderate to high value Grizzly Bear habitat. Recreational use could result in negative human-bear interactions.
- Mountain pine beetles and white pine blister rust are affecting whitebark pine stands. Mountain pine beetle attack affecting mature whitebark pine trees could result in declines in Clark's Nutcracker populations.
- There is no ground-based information on the location or state of species and ecological communities of conservation concern in the park. Recreational use of the park could negatively impact species and ecological communities of conservation concern.
- Development on the landscape surrounding the park will continue to alter adjacent habitat and access. Forest harvesting is occurring northeast of the park and could potentially affect park values, including wildlife that uses areas both within and outside of the park. Extension of the road up Gosnell Creek could compromise the wilderness nature of the park by improving access. Mineral claims near the southeast boundary of the park could result in new access and on-going exploration or development with potential effects on water quality, visual quality and ecological values.
- Global climate change will continue to alter weather patterns, hydrology, and vegetation, with resulting effects on fish, wildlife and human activity. Potential effects of climate change include: melting glaciers and a resulting long-term reduction in water supply; reorganization of ecosystems including potential new ecosystems; changes in wildlife ranges including the possibility of extirpation of

wildlife from the park or park complex; and, increased likelihood of wildfire and forest insect epidemics.

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
<p>Intact water quality and other park values</p>	<p>The carbon footprint from park operations is minimized.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Measure carbon footprint of park activities (both management and visitor activities). ▪ Minimize greenhouse gas emissions from park management actions where feasible. ▪ Use "green" technology for designing and developing new facilities where feasible.
	<p>Effects of climate change on park values are better understood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summarize/evaluate potential effects of climate change on park weather, hydrology, vegetation, fish and wildlife based on existing information. ▪ Use the summary to determine appropriate actions for managing climate change impacts. ▪ Encourage research/monitoring of the effects of climate change on park values and ecosystem functioning.
	<p>The public, industry and communities are aware of the ecological services and benefits that the park provides.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highlight the ecological services and benefits that this park provides for downstream users, communities and industry (e.g., on park signs, in brochures, in newspapers, on the BC Parks website, etc.).
	<p>Access management planning adjacent to the park considers park values.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support and participate in developing an interagency access management plan (Morice LRMP objective) in areas adjacent to the park.
	<p>Forest harvesting activities and related access on neighbouring lands have minimal impacts on park values.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the Ministry of Forests and Range and forest licensees to minimize the effects of forest harvesting activities and related access (especially the road up Gosnell Creek) on adjacent lands on park values.
	<p>Mineral exploration and development activities and related access on neighbouring lands have minimal impacts on water quality and other park values.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and mineral exploration and mining companies to ensure that any new access to mineral claim areas or ongoing exploration and development has minimal impact on park values.
	<p>Water quality is protected.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Track the progress of the Morice Watershed Management Protection Area Team. Support activities conducted by the team including monitoring water quality and implementing riparian management.
<p>Healthy wildlife populations and habitat</p>	<p>Grizzly Bears and American Black Bears continue to occupy Atna River Park and interactions with humans are avoided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct bear hazard assessments for current facilities and trails. ▪ Reduce potential for bear-human interactions where necessary. ▪ Conduct bear hazard assessments for areas where recreational use is occurring. ▪ Support access management initiatives to conserve Grizzly Bears in landscape units adjacent to the park.
<p>Naturally functioning species and ecological communities of conservation concern</p>	<p>Species and ecological communities of conservation concern are viable and are protected from human disturbance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess current facilities and trails for impact on or overlap with species and ecological communities of conservation concern. ▪ Re-route trails and remove facilities where possible to avoid negative impacts to species and ecological communities of conservation concern.
	<p>Whitebark pine is represented on the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the Ministry of Forests and Range to identify the extent of mountain pine beetle attack and white pine blister rust in whitebark pine stands. ▪ When assessing whitebark pine ecosystems, distinguish between those that occur on dry rocky slopes and those that occur on coarse parent materials. ▪ Identify potential whitebark pine ecosystems on coarse parent materials, and work to minimize any disturbance to

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
		<p>those sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support research on the function of whitebark pine ecosystems, including the status, diet and dynamics of Clark's Nutcrackers following the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Collect rust resistant whitebark pine seed and plant whitebark pine trees where viable and feasible. Monitor the status of any new strategies for maintaining whitebark pine stands and consider applying those strategies where possible. Consider prescribed fire for managing/ conserving whitebark pines stands where appropriate.
Naturally functioning and resilient ecosystems and processes	Park lands are not isolated from the larger ecosystem in which they are embedded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify important links between ecosystems within the park and areas outside the park. Work with adjacent land managers to maintain connectivity between the park and the broader landscape.

Cultural Heritage Management

Management Issues/Interests:

- The Wet'suwet'en Nation wants to ensure that cultural heritage resources are protected.
- The Wet'suwet'en Nation is interested in having a greater connection with the park.
- The Wet'suwet'en Nation is interested in sharing in the economic benefits of the park.

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
Intact cultural heritage and historical resources	Cultural heritage resources and historic sites are identified and protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform historical and ethnographic research, and cultural heritage field inventories as opportunities arise. Identify threats to cultural heritage resources and implement protective measures that may include marking areas as off-limits and distributing maps of prohibited areas. Educate rangers and Watchmen on how to identify cultural heritage resources. Promote Wet'suwet'en language by indicating Wet'suwet'en name places (creeks, lakes, summits) on maps and other publications.
First Nations people reconnect with the park	First Nations people use the park for traditional and sustenance activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain opportunities for Wet'suwet'en traditional, sustenance and harvesting activities. Increase public and Wet'suwet'en community awareness regarding traditional, sustenance use and harvesting activities. Deliver annual community workshops that facilitate the sharing of park management issues and gather input from traditional knowledge. Support management approaches that help maintain wildlife populations for traditional and sustenance activities.
	The park name is meaningful to the Wet'suwet'en Nation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify an appropriate addition of a Wet'suwet'en name in Wet'suwet'en language to the park name. Recommend legislation be revised to be consistent with the new park name.
Healthy local tourism industry	The park contributes to local employment,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage tourism operators to establish working relationships with the Wet'suwet'en and seek opportunities

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
	especially cultural tourism associated with the Wet'suwet'en.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for mutual benefits. Permit and support development of appropriate cultural tourism activities. Identify and allocate appropriate tenured opportunities to assist local economic diversification, particularly local First Nations.
Collaborative park stewardship with the Wet'suwet'en Nation	Foster collaborative park stewardship between British Columbia and the Wet'suwet'en Nation in a government-to-government manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider undertaking a formal agreement for collaborative stewardship. Engage Wet'suwet'en in operation and management of the park. Include Wet'suwet'en in management activities and monitoring.
Communication of cultural heritage	Visitors to the park are aware of the rich cultural heritage of the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include cultural heritage information in interpretive materials. Facilitate education and sharing of Wet'suwet'en culture through the use of historical names in the park.

Recreation Values Management

Management Issues/Interests:

- There are no designated campsites on Atna Lake.
- Currently, recreation information available for Atna Lake Park is limited.
- Proposed recreational facilities in the future could potentially negatively affect other park values.

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
Limited wilderness recreation opportunities in a remote, natural setting	Park visitors focus on water-based wilderness recreation activities during summer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the portage trail from Atna Bay on Morice Lake to Atna Lake (including the portion in Morice Lake Park). To maintain the wilderness nature of the park, do not establish any new campsites or trails. Encourage visitors to practice no-trace camping. Follow Morice LRMP direction on motorized use including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no motorized use in the Atna River valley; no summer motorized use in the northern portion of the park (does not apply to motorized boats or aircraft); and, maintain existing access opportunities for First Nations, guide outfitters and trappers.
	Park visitors are aware of park values and recreational opportunities in the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on recreational opportunities and visitor safety (e.g., heavy winds on Morice Lake, bear-human interactions, travel on industrial roads) on the brochure and website.
	Proposed new park facilities and changes to existing park facilities comply with Ministry standards and impact assessments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow Morice LRMP direction that allows for existing tenure holders to build a new cabin if necessary when expanding their operations with due consideration for conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values. Follow Ministry design guidelines and conduct impact assessments for any proposed facilities or proposed changes to existing facilities.

3.3 Zoning

Zoning assists in the planning and management of protected areas. In general terms, zoning divides an area into logical units to apply consistent management objectives. The zones

reflect the intended land use, the degree of human use desired, and the level of management and development required.

At one end of the spectrum, the Intensive Recreation Zone indicates a portion of a protected area that is appropriate for high levels of recreation and facility development. At the opposite end, the Wilderness Conservation Zone indicates an area of a protected area that receives the highest level of resource protection and minimal human presence. In addition, there are three other zones providing a range of conservation and use priorities – Nature Recreation Zone, Special Feature Zone and Wilderness Recreation Zone.

All of Atna River Park is zoned Wilderness Recreation to protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities. The zoning is also consistent with the Morice LRMP direction for the park area.

The Wilderness Recreation Zone is divided into two areas (Figure 4).

- 1) Wilderness Zone A (16,671 ha): This zone includes the Atna River valley south of Atna Lake. No motorized activity is permitted in this zone except aircraft access.
- 2) Wilderness Zone B (4,435 ha): This zone includes Atna Lake and the area to the north of the lake. Although motorized activities are not normally permitted in wilderness recreation zones, some seasonal motorized uses are permitted in this zone to be consistent with Morice LRMP direction. In the summer, aircraft use and motorized boat use are the only motorized activities permitted in this zone. In the winter, motorized uses identified as appropriate (i.e., aircraft access and snowmobiling) are permitted in this zone.

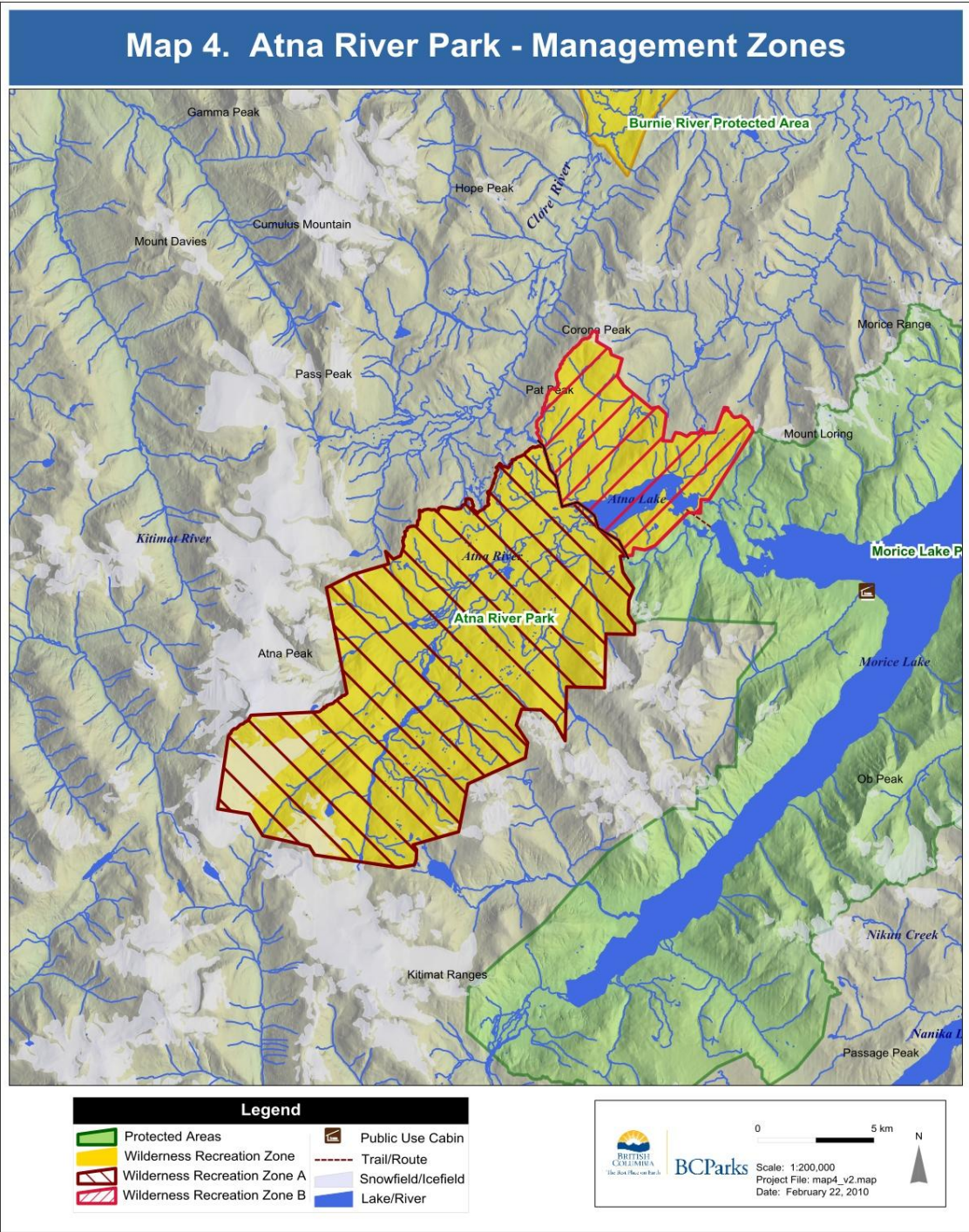


Figure 4: Map 4 - Atna River Park Management Zones

Table 2 defines the activities and facilities that are appropriate in Wilderness Recreation Zone A and Wilderness Recreation Zone B in Atna Lake Park.

Table 2: Appropriate Use Table

Activity/Facility	Appropriate in Wilderness Recreation Zone A	Appropriate in Wilderness Recreation Zone B
Biological Diversity and Natural Environment Management		
Activities		
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	Y	Y
Fire Management (prescribed fire management)	Y	Y
Fire Management (prevention)	Y	Y
Fire Management (suppression)	Y	Y
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N	N
Forest Insect/Disease Control	Y	Y
Noxious Weed Control	Y	Y
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	Y	Y
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	Y	Y
Scientific Research (assessment)	Y	Y
Cultural/Heritage Management		
Activities		
Cultural, ceremonial and social uses by First Nations	Y	Y
Cultural Tourism	Y	Y
Recreation Value Management		
Activities		
Aircraft Access	Y	Y
Boating (power)	N	Y
Boating (non-power)	Y	Y
Camping – backcountry	Y	Y
Camping – auto accessible	N	N
Camping – motorized boat accessible	N	N
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	N	Y ³
Commercial Recreation (no facilities)	Y	Y
Exotic Pack animal Use	N	N
Fishing	Y	Y
Heli-hiking	N	N
Hiking/Backpacking/Walking	Y	Y
Horse/Non-Exotic pack Animal Use	N	N
Hunting	Y	Y
Mechanized Off-road Access (non-motorized – i.e., mountain biking)	N	N
Motorized Off-road Access (not snowmobiles – i.e., 4x4, motorcycles, ATV)	N	N
Off-road Access (non-mechanical – dog sleds, horse sleds)	N	N
Rockclimbing	Y	Y
Skiing (downhill and cross-country – groomed runs or trails)	N	N
Skiing (helicopter or cat-assisted)	N	N
Skiing (self propelled, not groomed)	Y	Y
Snowmobiling	N	Y
Wildlife/Nature Viewing	Y	Y
Facilities		
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	N	N

³ Guide-outfitter cabin only

Activity/Facility	Appropriate in Wilderness Recreation Zone A	Appropriate in Wilderness Recreation Zone B
Backcountry Huts and Shelters	N	N
Boat Launches	N	N
Campgrounds and Picnic Areas (vehicle access and serviced)	N	N
Campsites (other)	N	N
Interpretation and Information Buildings	N	N
Roads and Parking Lots	N	N
Ski Hills and Snowplay Areas	N	N
Trails (hiking, portage)	Y	Y
Wharves/docks	N	N
Natural Resource Use Management		
Activities		
Angling Guiding	Y	Y
Filming	Y	Y
Guide Outfitting	Y	Y
Trapping	Y	Y
Facilities		
Communication Sites	N	N
Utility Corridors (power/transmission lines and other rights-of-way)	N	N
Water Control Structures	N	N
Water Sampling Structures	N	N

Y Appropriate

N Not appropriate

N1 Not appropriate except for expressed management purposes as identified in the Management Plan

N2 Not appropriate, but if the specific activity or facility existed at the time of establishment of the protected area, it is normally appropriate for it to continue

4.0 Plan Implementation

4.1 Implementation Period

Implementation Resources

Implementing management strategies in this management plan will be subject to available funding. Where possible, partnerships will be developed with First Nations, stakeholders and local communities to achieve specific strategies in this management plan.

High Priority Strategies

The following strategies were identified as high priorities for implementation for Atna River Park:

1. Conduct bear hazard assessments for current facilities and trails. Reduce potential for bear-human interactions where necessary.
2. Provide information on recreational opportunities and visitor safety (e.g., heavy winds on Morice Lake, bear-human interactions, travel on industrial roads) on the brochure and website.
3. Identify an appropriate addition of a Wet'suwet'en name in Wet'suwet'en language to the park name. Recommend that the legislation be revised to be consistent with the new park name, which contains a Wet'suwet'en name in Wet'suwet'en language.
4. Engage Wet'suwet'en in operation and management of the park and try to hire Wet'suwet'en rangers or Watchmen.
5. Deliver annual community workshops that facilitate the sharing of park management issues and gather input from traditional knowledge.
6. Monitor the status of any new strategies for maintaining whitebark pine stands and consider applying those strategies where possible.
7. Follow Morice LRMP direction on motorized use including:
 - no motorized use in the Atna River valley;
 - no summer motorized use in the northern portion of the park (does not apply to motorized boats or aircraft); and,
 - maintain existing access opportunities for First Nations, guide outfitters, trappers and other existing tenure holders.
8. Work with the Ministry of Forests and Range and forest licensees to minimize the effects of forest harvesting activities and related access (especially the road up Gosnell Creek) on adjacent lands on park values.

9. Work with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and mineral exploration and mining companies to ensure that any new access to mineral claim areas or ongoing exploration and development has minimal impact on park values.

Management Plan Review

A management plan review is an internal process to identify if any changes are needed to the management plan. A management plan review looks for any necessary updates to the management plan that: are required to keep management direction current and relevant; correct the intent of a policy statement; address some error or omission; or, address a new proposal.

In order to ensure management plans remain contemporary and relevant, it is important that the entire management plan is reviewed on a regular basis. Management plan reviews should occur within a timeframe that reflects the complexities of the management issues in a protected area as well as the time and money needed to conduct the review. A review of the management plan content should be triggered by changing circumstances (e.g., circumstances such as a natural disaster or environmental change like the mountain pine beetle), and not a by a specific time period.

5.0 Performance Measurement

Performance will be measured using one or more indicators for each objective. Indicators are based on the strategies developed for each objective. The following table provides a list of indicators for each objective, the baseline status of the indicator, and the target to be achieved. Where possible, objectives and indicators will be reviewed on an annual basis to determine how well targets are being achieved.

Objective	Indicator	Baseline	Target
The carbon footprint from park operations is minimized.	Carbon footprint measurements	Not applicable	All activities measured
Effects of climate change on park values are better understood.	Summary of potential effects of climate change on weather, hydrology, vegetation, fish and wildlife	Zero	Summary completed
The public, industry and communities are aware of the ecological services and benefits that the park provides.	Number of newspaper articles per year	Zero	One
Access management planning adjacent to the park considers park values.	Participation in access management planning in areas adjacent to the park	Not applicable	100% participation
Forest harvesting activities and related access on neighbouring lands have minimal impacts on park values.	Communications established with forest licensees working in areas adjacent to the park	Not applicable	Communications established with all licensees
Mineral exploration and development activities on neighbouring lands have minimal impacts on water quality and other park values.	Communications established with mineral exploration and development companies working in areas adjacent to the park	Not applicable	Communications established with all mineral exploration and development companies
Water quality is protected.	Water quality measurements (trace mineral levels, etc.)	Reference state	Reference state
	Updates from Morice Watershed Management Protection Area Team	Information not compiled	Updates from all meetings
Grizzly Bears and American Black Bears continue to occupy Atna River Park and interactions with humans are avoided.	Number of negative interactions	Information not compiled	Zero
	Number of bears removed/destroyed due to negative bear/human interactions	Information not compiled	Zero
	Number of trail/park closures	Information not compiled	Zero
Species and ecological communities of conservation concern are viable and are protected from human disturbance.	Area (ha) of plant communities of conservation concern impacted	Information not compiled	Zero
Whitebark pine is represented on the landscape.	# locations/live trees	Current level	Current level
Park lands are not isolated from the larger ecosystem in which they are embedded.	Links between ecosystems within and outside the park	Not applicable	Links are identified
	Connectivity between the park and broader landscape	Not applicable	Discussions on connectivity with adjacent land managers are ongoing

Objective	Indicator	Baseline	Target
Cultural heritage resources and historic sites are identified and protected.	Number of Cultural or historical resources damaged or destroyed	Not applicable	Zero
First Nations people use the park for traditional and sustenance activities.	Number of community workshops on park management and traditional use	Zero	One
The park name is meaningful to the Wet'suwet'en Nation.	Park name	Current park name	Park name that includes a Wet'suwet'en name in Wet'suwet'en language
The park contributes to local employment, especially cultural tourism associated with the Wet'suwet'en.	Presence of a relationship between the Wet'suwet'en Nation and tourism operators	Not applicable	Communication established between tourism operators and the Wet'suwet'en Nation
Foster collaborative park stewardship between British Columbia and the Wet'suwet'en Nation in a government-to-government manner.	Presence of a collaborative stewardship agreement	Not applicable	Collaborative stewardship agreement is in place
	Wet'suwet'en participation	Not applicable	Wet'suwet'en participation
	Collaborative Stewardship committee acts on implementation	Not applicable	Implementation of management plan
Visitors to the park are aware of the rich cultural heritage of the park.	Presence of interpretive materials containing cultural information	Not applicable	All appropriate interpretive materials contains cultural information
	Use of Wet'suwet'en names on park signs and materials	Not applicable	All appropriate signs and materials uses Wet'suwet'en names
Park visitors focus on water-based wilderness recreation activities during summer.	Water-based recreational use	Information not compiled	Facilities and trails encourage water-based activities
Park visitors are aware of park values and recreational opportunities in the park.	Information on brochure/website	Zero	Appropriate Information available in brochure and on website
Proposed new park facilities and changes to existing park facilities comply with Ministry standards and impact assessments.	Proposed facilities or proposed changes to existing facilities	Not applicable	100% with impact assessments and in compliance with design guidelines

6.0 References

Morice LRMP. 2007. Morice Land and Resource Management Plan. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Integrated Land Management Bureau. Victoria, B.C. 259p.

Ronalds, I., and S. Jaward. 2008. Morice Protected Areas Background Report. Prepared for Ministry of Environment, Smithers, B.C. 125p.

Appendix 1. Management Direction for Protected Areas from the Morice LRMP

This appendix contains Section 5 from the Morice LRMP. This section is not part of a higher level plan but provides management direction guidance for new protected areas in the Morice LRMP area. The first two sections (5.1, 5.2) contain general management direction for all new protected areas, while the third section (5.3) contains park-specific management direction. Park-specific management direction is provided only for Atna River Protected Area (5.3.7).

5. Protected Areas

5.1 Introduction

Protected areas are managed for their significant natural, recreational and cultural heritage values. The Morice LRMP area has four protected areas that existed prior to the LRMP: Red Bluff, Topley Landing and Little Andrews Bay Provincial Parks and the Morice River Ecological Reserve. The three provincial parks focus on recreational use; the Morice River Ecological Reserve is the only pre-existing protected area with a conservation focus. The following is a brief description of these protected areas:

- Red Bluff Park (148 hectares): On Babine Lake near the community of Granisle, this park is named for the iron-stained cliffs that drop into the lake. Activities include swimming, angling or taking in the salmon enhancement projects at nearby Fulton River and Pinkut Creek. The area is also a popular stopover for boaters on Babine Lake.
- Topley Landing (Babine Lake Marine) Park (12 ha): On Babine Lake 12 kilometres east of Granisle, immediately west of the community of Topley Landing. The park, adjacent to the spawning channel on the Fulton River, has a large natural beach.
- Little Andrews Bay Marine Park (45 ha): Located on the north shore of Ootsa Lake, the park provides camping and boat access to North Tweedsmuir Park. The park protects part of the Nechako Upland ecoregion and the Ootsa Lake reservoir system.
- Morice River Ecological Reserve (358 ha): This ecological reserve was established to preserve, for research purposes, forest ecosystems representative of the western edge of the sub-boreal spruce biogeoclimatic zone.

Collaborative management agreements are to be considered between First Nations and the Province for management of new parks/conservancies.

The planning and management of new protected areas is carried out in a cooperative manner, encouraging the involvement of First Nations and parties with a key interest or stake in each area. While commercial logging, mining and energy exploration and development are not allowed in protected areas, many other existing activities can continue, subject to the management plan for each protected area.

5.2 General Management Direction for Protected Areas

The table below contains a set of general objectives and implementation direction that applies to all protected areas that are created as a result of this plan. Specific management direction for each protected area follows in Section 5.3. Overall, this direction will guide management of these protected areas until such time as a management plan of some form is developed for each protected area. Any subsequent management plans will be consistent with the initial management direction provided by the LRMP.

Prior to the development of these management plans, the protected area boundaries must be confirmed at an operational scale. This exercise typically involves adjustment to the boundaries that were proposed at the strategic scale during the planning process. Boundary adjustments may be the result of terrain or ecological considerations, adjacency concerns or access issues. Protected area boundaries will be established in a manner that does not constrain access to known resources or utility corridors.

Issues:

- Loss of ecological integrity, recreational opportunities and cultural heritage values.
- Reduced opportunities for compatible economic development.
- Incremental constraints to pre-existing tenure holders
- Decrease in quotas for pre-existing tenure holders.

Goals:

- Maintenance of ecological integrity, recreational opportunities and cultural heritage values.
- Continuation of First Nations social, cultural and ceremonial activities.
- Opportunities for compatible economic development.
- Maintenance of existing tenure conditions.

Objective	Measures/Indicators	Target
1. Maintain conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values and features within protected areas.	1.1 Completion of management plans (includes a range of planning products) for protected areas.	By 2012
	Implementation Direction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize management planning with respect to the priority resource values at risk. • Comprehensive management plans shall define management objectives specific to each protected area as well as acceptable uses and acceptable levels of use, zoning, and other strategies to minimize conflicts and help ensure the integrity of important protected area values. • Develop management plans collaboratively with the benefit of public (i.e., Morice LRMP Monitoring Committee), First Nations and inter-agency participation; incorporate direction and consider advice from the approved LRMP. • Encourage economic opportunities for small, locally based commercial recreation. 	
2. Recognize the rights and interests of existing eligible tenures and landowners within newly established protected areas.	2.1 Percent of existing eligible tenures that are retained that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible uses under the <i>Park Act</i>; and • Compatible with the new protected area. 	100%
	Implementation Direction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible tenures that are eligible to continue under the <i>Park Act</i> will be grandfathered into newly established protected areas where consistent with the management direction for each protected area. • Trapping, guiding and commercial recreation will be considered acceptable uses. • Issue 10-year tenures for trapping, guiding and commercial recreation. • Tenures are to be eligible for transfer. • Guide outfitter and trapping tenures to be re-issued under existing conditions when an area changes hands. 	

Objective	Measures/Indicators	Target
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No loss of species quotas for guide outfitters, except for reasons based on biological or habitat science and in consultation with the guide outfitter. Retain over time, all existing and future access routes (including new trails) and methods of transportation (pickups, snowmobiles, horses, boats, aircraft, ATV's, dog sled) across all land use designations. Management plans for protected areas will incorporate provisions for maintenance of access (e.g., trails and traditional trail locations) to trap line areas. Recognize the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the BC Trappers Association and BC Parks. Existing tenure holders should be able to perform maintenance on their existing trails and cabins if necessary. Existing tenure holders should be able to build a new cabin if necessary when expanding their operations with due consideration for the conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values of the protected area. 	
3. Maintain ecosystem representation, abundance and integrity, and protect key resource values and natural features.	<p>3.1 Incidence of human recreation or management practices that impact negatively on the natural resource values of the protected area.</p> <p>3.2 Number of identified red and blue-listed plants, animals and communities that are lost or negatively affected by human disturbance.</p> <p>Implementation Direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management emphasis will be placed on maintaining the ecosystems, resource values and natural features for which the protected areas were established. Management interventions will not significantly alter natural ecological, hydrological and geomorphic processes, except for express management purposes as defined in a protected area management plan. Consider forest health issues in the management of parks. Where any alleged conflicts involving wildlife or environmental impacts occur between recreation users, (both motorized and non-motorized), First Nations, local clubs or representatives must be involved in any process leading to the resolution to the issue, and issues must be supported by documented evidence and/or verifiable science before any proposed restrictions are applied. Subject to Map 7 (Motorized and Non-Motorized Recreation Access – see Section 3.2.6, Recreation) snowmobiling is permitted in these protected areas with due consideration for the conservation, cultural and recreation values of the areas. Facilities will be designed and managed to have the lightest “footprint” possible. Manage natural processes/occurrences (e.g., fires, insects, and forest disease) within park boundaries relative to their impact, both on the ecosystem within the boundaries of the protected area and on the broader ecosystem values of which the protected area is a part. <p>To prevent impact to red-and blue-listed species and other habitat values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain functional habitat, cover and site-specific features for fish and wildlife species. Encourage human use patterns that minimize impacts on the environment (e.g., trails, boardwalks, facilities). 	<p>Zero</p> <p>Zero</p>
4. Protect cultural heritage values.	<p>4.1 Incidence of damage to, or loss of, cultural heritage values</p> <p>Implementation Direction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and protect archaeological sites, special sites, traditional 	<p>Zero</p>
5. Recognize hunting and angling as an acceptable use within protected areas.	<p>5.1 Percent of sustainable hunting and angling opportunities in protected areas maintained.</p> <p>Implementation Direction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide hunting and angling opportunities for First Nations, local and resident hunters, anglers and guide outfitters in protected areas, subject to hunting and fishing regulations, provincial conservation priorities and public safety. No loss of species quotas for resident hunters, except for reasons based on biological or habitat science and in consultation with the Hunter Advisory Committee. 	<p>100%</p>

5.3.7 Atna River Protected Area

Morice Lake and Atna River are adjacent but separate protected areas. The management direction for both of these protected areas is identical (see objectives, measures and targets below). Wet’suwet’en culture is defined by the people’s relationship to the land and a strong protection interest. This holistic relationship recognizes the ecological and spiritual connection of the Wet’suwet’en to the land, water, plants animals and fish, in particular. The Atna River and Morice Lake protected areas form a large wilderness area and are the headwaters to the Morice

River. The Morice River supports a significant fishery for the Wet'suwet'en; the value of these fish to the Nation cannot be overstated.

Final names of these protected areas are to be determined through discussions with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en.

Atna River

The Atna River flows through a narrow valley of steep forested slopes into Atna Lake. Forest associations in the Atna valley are representative of coastal ecosystems, with a predominance of western hemlock, amabilis fir and spruce. Subalpine fir and whitebark pine forest occurs on the lower slopes and on rocky knobs and islands along the shores of Atna Lake.

Coastal old growth and riparian ecosystems near Atna Lake are of ecological significance. The focus of this protected area is on conserving the old coastal western hemlock (CWH) forest and riparian types adjacent to the south shore of Atna Lake and Atna Bay, up to the tree line. There are a number of recreation features, including a portage trail and campsites, adjacent to the lake and river.

Issues:

- Impacts to First Nations spiritual and cultural values.
- Impacts to unique ecosystems and mountain goat habitat.

Goals:

- Protect as a pristine wilderness area.
- Conservation of ecosystem integrity, rare plant communities and wildlife habitat.
- Conservation of First Nations' cultural, spiritual and heritage values.
- Opportunities for education and interpretation of natural and cultural features.

Management Intent:

Area to be managed to conserve the wilderness condition, unique ecological values and highly important cultural and spiritual values through education and compatible recreational and tourism uses.

Objective	Measures/ Indicators	Targets	Implementation Direction
1. Maintain cultural and heritage features and values.	1.1 Incidence of loss of cultural heritage features and values.	Zero	Manage as per the Office of the Wet'suwet'en values and intent.
2. Maintain natural and ecological features.	2.1 Incidence of impacts to ecosystem integrity.	Zero	Includes impacts to plant communities and wildlife habitat.

Appendix 2. BC Parks Zoning Framework

	Intensive Recreation	Nature Recreation	Special Feature
Objective	To provide for a variety of readily-accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.	To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.	To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.
Use Level	Relatively high density and long duration types of use.	Relatively low use but higher levels associated with nodes of activity or access.	Generally low.
Means of Access	All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see "Impacts" below).	Motorized (powerboats, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles) and non-motorized (foot, horse, canoe, bicycles). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pick-up points will be permitted.	Various; may require special access permit.
Location	Contiguous with all-weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas.	Removed from all-weather roads but easily accessible on a day-use basis. Accessible by mechanized means such as boat or plane.	Determined by location of special resources; may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones.
Size of Zone	Small, usually less than 2,000 hectares.	Can range from small to large.	Small, usually less than 2000 hectares.
Boundary Definition	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas.	Boundaries should consider limits of activity and facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features.	Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of cultural resources (adequate to afford protection).
Recreation Opportunities	Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, power-boating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, snow play, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialized activities.	Walk-in or boat-in camping, power-boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heliskiing, helihiking and specialized activities.	Sightseeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.
Facilities	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic or play areas, trail accommodation or interpretative buildings, boat launches, administrative buildings, service compounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, woodlots; parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Permitted: trails, walk-in or boat-in campsites, shelters, accommodation buildings, facilities for motorized access (docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.)	Interpretative facilities only; resources are to be protected.
Impacts on Natural Environment	Includes natural resource features and phenomena in a primarily natural state, but where human presence may be readily visible as both recreation facilities and people using the zone. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas.	Area where human presence on the land is not normally visible. Facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	None: resources to be maintained unimpaired.
Management Guidelines	Oriented to maintaining a high-quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while unobtrusive to park visitors.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and high-quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation modes. Designation of transportation may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g., horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).	High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high-quality recreational and interpretative experience. Active or passive management, depending on size, location and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts.
Example of Zoning	Campground in Rath Trevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski area in E.C. Manning Park.	Core area in Cathedral Park; North beach in Naikoon Park.	Botanical Beach tidepools in Juan de Fuca Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mt. Assiniboine Park.

	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
Objective	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities, depending on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites.	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities, depending on a pristine environment where no motorized activities will be allowed.
Use Level	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.
Means of Access	Non-mechanized & non-motorized. May permit low-frequency air access to designated sites; foot, canoe and horse access may be permitted.	Non-mechanized & non-motorized; foot, canoe and horse access may be permitted.
Location	Remote, not easily visited on a day-use basis.	Remote, not easily visited on a day-use basis.
Size of Zone	Large, greater than 5,000 hectares.	Large, greater than 5,000 hectares.
Boundary Definition	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Boundaries will encompass areas of visitor interest for specific activities supported by air access.	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features.
Recreation Opportunities	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (e.g., caving, climbing, mountaineering).	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (e.g., caving, climbing, mountaineering).
Facilities	Minimal facility development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment e.g., trails primitive campsites. Some basic facilities at access points, e.g., dock, primitive shelter.	None.
Impacts on Natural Environment	Natural area generally free of evidence of human beings. Evidence of human presence is confined to specific facility sites. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	Natural area generally free of evidence of human beings.
Management Guidelines	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.
Example of Zoning	Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park; Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park.	Upper Murray River watershed within Monkman Park; Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy Area.