

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

October, 1999

**for Blue River - Black Spruce
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division



Ministry of
Environment,
Lands and Parks

BC Parks
Headquarters
2nd Floor, 800 Johnson
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Phone: (250) 387-5002
Fax: (250) 387-5757

APPROVALS

KAMLOOPS GOAL 2 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS - GOAL 2 BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward

This binder contains 32 management direction statements developed under the direction of the Kamloops Land and Resource Plan Implementation Table and BC Parks. The government designated these protected areas in May, 1996. The 32 management direction statements provide strategic direction for these protected areas. Protected areas' roles, strategies and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, implemented through operations plans, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams Lake Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiuihill Creek Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams Lake Marine Park - Poplar Point | <input type="checkbox"/> Lac Le Jeune Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams Lake Park – Spillman Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> Monte Creek Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banana Island Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Mount. Savona Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedard Aspen Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Mud Creek Delta Park |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blue River Black Spruce Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Islands Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue River Pine Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbows East Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caligata Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbow Jensen Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chu Chua Cottonwood Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbow Manteau Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Canyon Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Painted Bluffs Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deadman Hoodoos Park - Skookumt Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Pritchard Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Canyon Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Pyramid Creek Falls Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Floodplain Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Tsintsunko Lakes Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Epsom Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Wallachin Oxbows Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finn Creek Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Wire Cache Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenstone Mountain Park. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harbour - Dudgeon Park. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harry Lake Aspen Park. | |

Approved by:

Monty Downs
Monty Downs
District Manager
Thompson River District

Denis O'Gorman
Denis O'Gorman
Assistant Deputy Minister
Parks Division

Date: 99/11/30

Date: 99/12/29

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	
A.	Setting and Context.....	1
II.	Protected Areas Values	
A.	Conservation.....	1
B.	Recreation and Tourism.....	1
C.	Cultural Heritage.....	1
D.	Significance in the Protected Areas System	1
III.	Other Land Uses and Interests	
A.	Existing Tenures	3
B.	Adjacent Patterns of Land Use.....	3
C.	First Nations Interests	3
D.	Other Agency Interests	3
E.	Private and Public Stakeholder Interests	3
IV.	Management Issues and Concerns	
A.	Integration With Other Land Use Planning Processes.....	3
B.	Consultation and Future Planning	3
C.	Role of the Park	4
D.	Zoning.....	4
E.	Management Objectives and Strategies.....	4
F.	Longer Term Issues and Concerns.....	4
G.	Short Term Issues and Concerns.....	6
	Appendix - Activity / Use Matrix	7
	Figures	
	Figure 1 - Location Map.....	2
	Figure 2 - Zoning Map	5

Purpose of Management Direction Statements

Management Direction Statements provide strategic management direction for all protected areas that do not have a full management plan. MDS do not negate the need for future, more detailed management plans. Management Direction Statements also describe protected area values management issues and concerns; management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies; and, directional statements from other planning processes. While strategies may be identified in the MDS, the completion of all these strategies is subject to funding and funding procedures. In addition, all development associated with these strategies within the protected area is subject to the BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy.

BLUE RIVER - BLACK SPRUCE PARK
MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context

The 175-hectare Blue River - Black Spruce Park protects a unique stand of black spruce in the North Thompson valley lowlands. It is situated 230 kilometers north of Kamloops by Highway 5 (Yellowhead), on the northern boundary of the community of Blue River.

This protected area was recommended through the Kamloops LRMP process and formally established on April 30th, 1996 as a provincial park through Order-in-Council under the *Park Act*. The park was then designated in Schedule E of the *Park Amendment Act, 1997*.

This Management Direction Statement is intended to provide direction and guidelines for managing Blue River - Black Spruce Park for the foreseeable future.

II. Protected Area Values

A. Conservation

- deep river meanders, oxbows, sandbars, and uplands in the North Thompson River
- extensive stand of black spruce is unique in the region - southernmost extension of black spruce; old growth mixed cottonwood, spruce, cedar
- acidification of soils with associated plants such as sundews, trapper's tea, and sphagnum moss
- rainbow and bull trout spawning habitat; chinook and coho juvenile rearing habitat
- excellent moose habitat - calving, rearing and winter ranges; bear use in spring
- historically great blue heron nesting

B. Recreation and Tourism

- nature study - could be used for ecological education
- river access

C. Cultural Heritage

- unknown

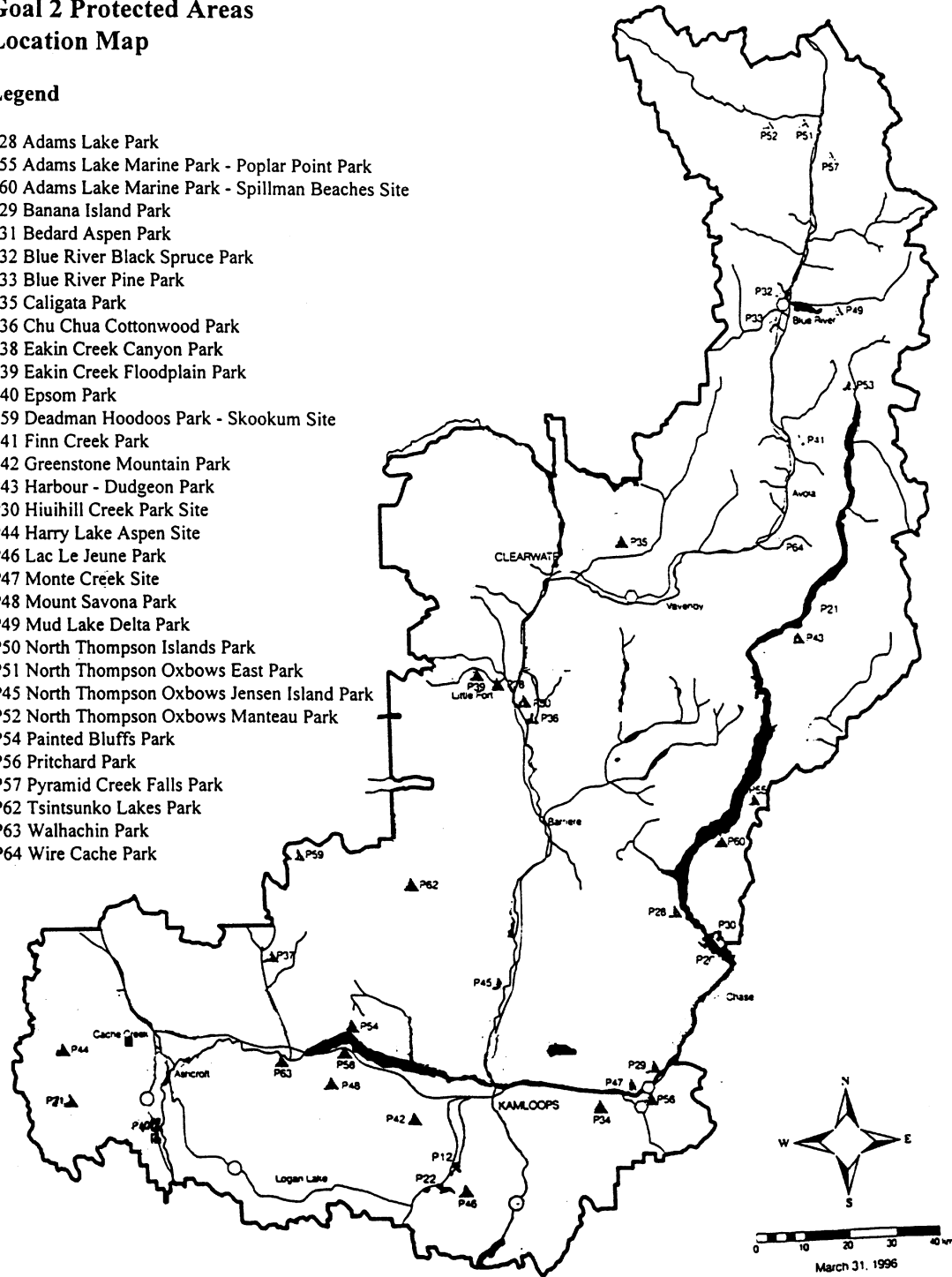
D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- southernmost extension of black spruce into the region
- a small representative of the North Thompson River valley lowlands not represented in large protected areas. Contributes wetland and acidic soils habitats to the series of protected areas along the North Thompson north of Clearwater.

**Kamloops LRM
Goal 2 Protected Areas
Location Map**

Legend

- P28 Adams Lake Park
- P55 Adams Lake Marine Park - Poplar Point Park
- P60 Adams Lake Marine Park - Spillman Beaches Site
- P29 Banana Island Park
- P31 Bedard Aspen Park
- P32 Blue River Black Spruce Park
- P33 Blue River Pine Park
- P35 Caligata Park
- P36 Chu Chua Cottonwood Park
- P38 Eakin Creek Canyon Park
- P39 Eakin Creek Floodplain Park
- P40 Epsom Park
- P59 Deadman Hoodoos Park - Skookum Site
- P41 Finn Creek Park
- P42 Greenstone Mountain Park
- P43 Harbour - Dudgeon Park
- P30 Hiuihill Creek Park Site
- P44 Harry Lake Aspen Site
- P46 Lac Le Jeune Park
- P47 Monte Creek Site
- P48 Mount Savona Park
- P49 Mud Lake Delta Park
- P50 North Thompson Islands Park
- P51 North Thompson Oxbows East Park
- P45 North Thompson Oxbows Jensen Island Park
- P52 North Thompson Oxbows Manteau Park
- P54 Painted Bluffs Park
- P56 Pritchard Park
- P57 Pyramid Creek Falls Park
- P62 Tsintsunko Lakes Park
- P63 Walhachin Park
- P64 Wire Cache Park



III. Other Land Uses and Interests

A. Existing Tenures

- all private lands are excluded
- Park designation under the *Park Amendment Act* ensures that all existing liens, charges, and encumbrances other than those applying to commercial logging, mining or energy exploration and development will continue to be authorized through issuance of park use permits. This policy recognizes all existing act tenures, water rights, trapping licenses and other legal tenures and rights.

B. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- Highway 5 (Yellowhead) and Canadian National railway rights of way on west boundary
- Mud Lake Forest Service road through private land along southern boundary and across the North Thompson River

C. First Nations Interests

- interests of local First Nations unknown

D. Other Agency Interests

The Park will be managed in close coordination with various resource agencies, particularly BC Environment, Ministry of Forests, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Government of Canada).

E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- unknown

IV. Management Issues and Concerns

A. Integration with Other Land Use Planning Processes

This management statement, future management plans, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for the Blue River - Black Spruce protected area.

B. Consultation and Future Planning

Planning and management of the park will conform to the goals, objectives and guiding principles as set forth in the Provincial Protected Areas Strategy. BC Parks is accountable for planning, administration and management of the park through application of the laws, policies and regulations granted under the *Park Act*. BC Parks will coordinate with other agencies, the LRMP table, various public planning groups and First Nations in amending the MDS or developing management plans for all of the new protected areas arising from the Kamloops LRMP.

This Management Direction Statement has been reviewed and approved in principle by the Kamloops LRMP implementation team.

C. Role of the Park

The primary role of Blue River - Black Spruce Park is to protect the ecological integrity of the river riparian and upland habitats at this site. The park forms part of a system of small protected areas distributed along the North Thompson River which together capture representative examples of the river's diverse riparian and upland ecosystems

D. Zoning

The zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for Blue River - Black Spruce Park. The Park is zoned as **Natural Environment** to maintain the area in a natural condition while allowing some recreational use. Protection may be required for special species and/or habitats.

E. Management Objectives and Strategies

In addition to accepting the basic principles of maintaining existing tenures and rights, the following objectives will direct the short and long-term management of the area:

- to maintain the natural qualities and conditions of the park
 - to foster relationships with First Nations through ongoing consultation and discussion of their concerns and views on protected area management and planning
 - to maintain the visual and recreational values
 - to maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats
 - to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species
 - to provide for continued casual recreation use - walking, wildlife viewing, nature study, river access
- ⇒ do not emphasize recreation or provide facilities and services for public access and use of the site.

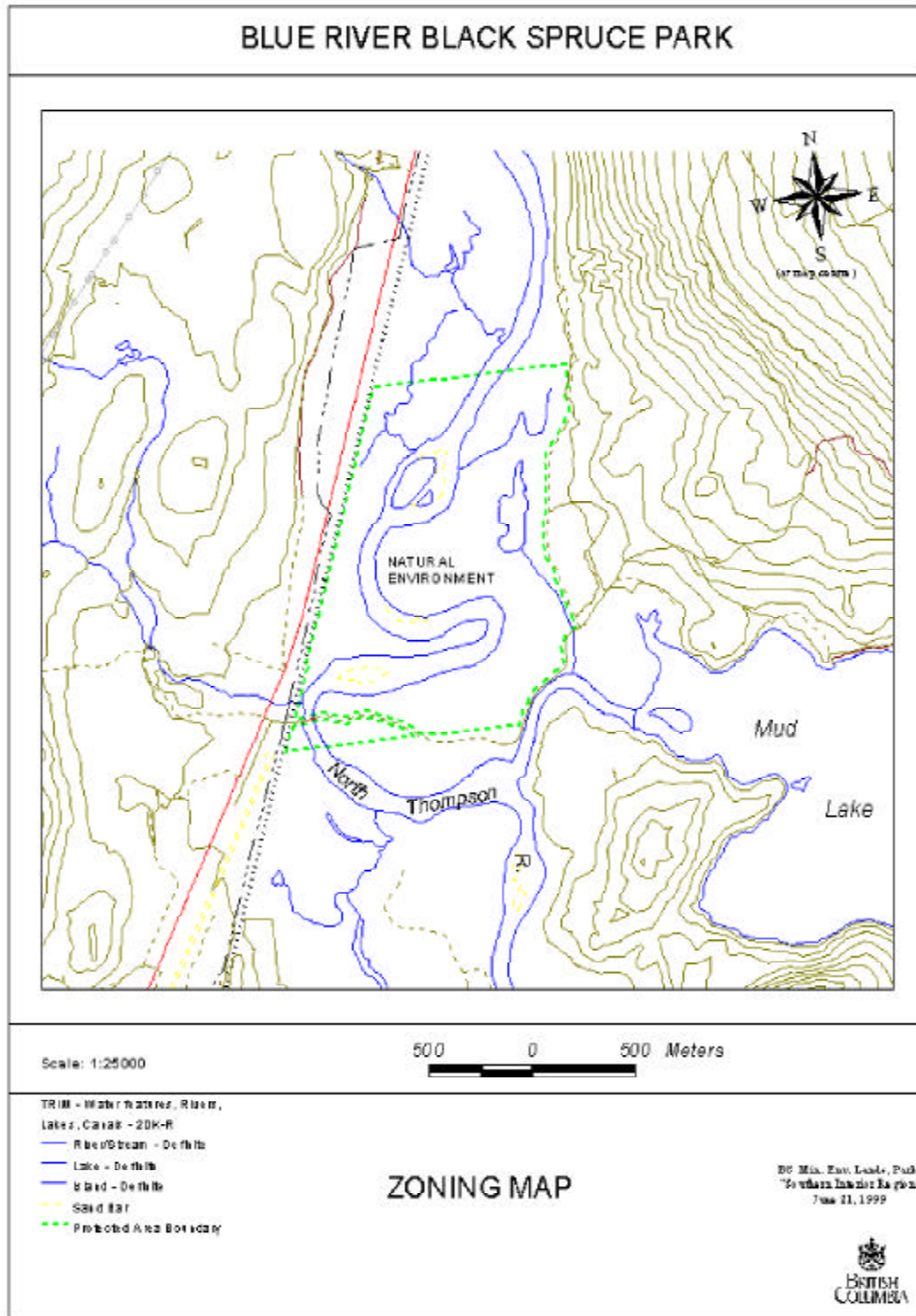
F. Longer Term Issues and Concerns

As a result of the LRMP process longer term issues will be addressed in the management planning process that can be highlighted under the following topics:

Conservation

- inventory of conservation values, particularly the acidic habitats
- vegetation management - protection of special plants and/or habitats; protection of riparian areas for shade, food supply for salmonids; insect and disease control; fire management
- fisheries and wildlife management in coordination with management activities on surrounding lands

Figure 2 - Zoning Map



Recreation

- access management
- recreation use - appropriate activities and levels of use

Culture

- inventory of archaeological sites
- protection of archaeological sites
- recognition of any identified traditional native uses

G. Short Term Issues and Concerns

The following Activity/Use Matrix outlines guidelines for managing uses, activities and facilities in the Park. These guidelines reflect the intent of the LRMP and, in general principle, follow the policies as set out for use and management of provincial park natural environment zones.

Appendix - Activity / Use Matrix for Blue River -Black Spruce

Activity/Use Facility	Natural Environment
Hunting	Y
Fishing	Y
Trapping	Y ²
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational Gold Panning/Rock Hounding	N
Utility Corridors	N
Communication Sites	N
Horse Use/Pack Animals	N
Guide Outfitting (hunting)	Y ²
Guide Outfitting (fishing)	Y ²
Guide Outfitting (nature tours)	Y ²
Guide Outfitting (river rafting)	Y ²
Cat-Assisted Skiing	N/A
Ski-Hills	N/A
Heli-skiing	N/A
Heli-hiking	N
Tourist Infrastructure - Resorts	N/A
Backcountry Huts / Lodges / Cabins / Guest Ranches	N/A
Water Control Structures	N2
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N
Road Access	Y ¹
Off-road Access (snowmobiling)	Y ³
Off-road Access (motorized)	N
Off-road Access (mechanical activities)	N
Motorized Water Access	Y
Aircraft Access	N
Fire Management (Prescribed) Wildlife Management Prevention & Preparedness Prescribed Fire Management	N1
Fire Management (suppression)	Y
Forest Insect / Disease Control	N1
Noxious Weed Control	Y
Exotic Insect / Disease Control	Y
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	N1
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	N1

Y= allowed, subject to conditions identified in the interim management statement or management plan
 N= not allowed
 N1= allowed for expressed management purposes only
 N2= not normally allowed, but if present at time of PA establishment, will normally be allowed to continue

¹ Road access plan for this area designates open and closed roads
² By permit only
³ On designated trails only
⁴ On designated lakes only