

MANAGEMENT PLAN

September 2003



for
Cape Scott
Provincial Park



Ministry of Water, Land and
Air Protection
Environmental Stewardship
Division

Cape Scott Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT
PLAN

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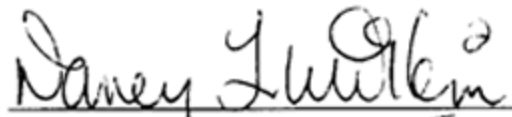
Cape Scott Provincial Park

Approved by:



Dick Heath
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Date: October 17/03



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Executive Summary

- Cape Scott Provincial Park will primarily be managed as a wilderness park that protects important wildlife and its habitat and provides outstanding wilderness recreation opportunities.
- Management actions will focus on protecting the natural values and interpreting the cultural values while providing visitors with continuing opportunities to pursue recreational activities that are in keeping with the wilderness character of the park.
- An Ecosystem Management Plan will be developed for Cape Scott Provincial Park to address the management of vegetation and wildlife in the context of the ecosystem rather than individual parts.
- Environmental Stewardship will work co-operatively with other government agencies, community groups, and the public to address key management issues that affect the integrity of Cape Scott Provincial Park's terrestrial and marine ecosystems.
- Within Cape Scott Provincial Park, zoning allows for the future development of the proposed North Coast Trail.
- Most of Cape Scott Provincial Park is zoned Wilderness Recreation which acknowledges the natural values in a remote and wild setting. Existing and proposed visitor facility development will be limited to the Natural Environment and Intensive Recreation zones.
- Four areas are zoned as Special Feature and include Danish settlement areas such as Hansen Lagoon, the 'sandneck' at Guise Bay, Spencer Farm, and the wetlands on Mt. Saint Patrick.
- An Intensive Recreation Zone has been established at Shushartie Bay to provide for development of a new front country campground, boat launch and trailhead facilities. These developments are contingent on the establishment and maintenance of suitable road access to the area, the completion of an environmental impact assessment, and detailed recreation site plans.

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Introduction

Cape Scott Provincial Park is located on the northwest corner of Vancouver Island (Figure 1). In 1995, the addition of the Nahwitti-Shushartie area to Cape Scott Provincial Park enlarged the park to 22,220 hectares. This addition made Cape Scott the third largest provincial park on Vancouver Island. The park protects an array of natural and cultural landscapes ranging from wind swept sand and cobble beaches with adjoining coastal vegetation communities of Sitka spruce to upland bog ecosystems in the park's interior. Some of the provincially significant cultural values found within the park include First Nation's archaeological sites and remnants of late 19th century European agricultural settlements. The park has long been a destination for hikers seeking a coastal backcountry experience.

Purpose of the Plan

This management plan updates the existing management plan for Cape Scott Provincial Park, and is the first management plan for the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition to the park. The management plan guides the management of the park for the next decade. The plan defines the role of Cape Scott Provincial Park in the provincial system of protected areas and establishes the objectives and strategies that will guide the management of the area. The management plan also deals with issues that require immediate attention within the park. Some of these issues include the level of development for the proposed North Coast Trail, management of park access, and management of natural and cultural values.

The plan also reflects the public's expectations for the park. Based on this public input and policy, this plan directs government staff to protect the area's natural values and interpret cultural values while providing recreation opportunities. The spirit and intent outlined in a management plan is a reflection of a society's values, interests and priorities at a given point. Thus, it is necessary to review and update this document periodically.

The Planning Process

The planning process for Cape Scott involved a number of steps. The first step was the production of a background report. The background report forms the information base for the creation of the management plan and is key to understanding the management strategies proposed in the plan. The background report was prepared in 1998 and was sent to individuals and groups on the Cape Scott mailing list and distributed at public workshops.

A series of five workshops were held throughout 1998. The first workshop was held in February at the Seven Hills Golf Resort located half way between the communities of Port Hardy and Port McNeill. The focus of this workshop was to develop a "vision" that would help to guide the overall management and development of the park. Subsequent to this workshop, it became apparent that additional workshops were required to focus on the new North Coast Trail in the Nahwitti-Shushartie area of Cape Scott Provincial Park. As a result, in October of 1998, four additional workshops were held in the communities of Vancouver, Victoria, Courtenay, and Port Hardy. These workshops focused on developing a common vision for the development of the North Coast Trail.

Once a draft management plan was developed, open houses were held in the communities of Victoria, Campbell River and Port Hardy in February 2001. The intent of the open houses was to present the draft management plan and receive public comments. Following the open houses, a meeting was held with the Mount Waddington Community Resource Board and parks staff to review the public comments and to finalize the draft management plan.

The development of this plan reflects the wide array of public comments and inputs that the Environmental Stewardship Division received throughout the planning process. Based on public input and existing policies, zoning and facility developments are described in this plan. Following public review of the draft plan, the management plan was finalized and submitted for approval to the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Environmental Stewardship Division, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Relationship to Other Land Use Plans

In 1973, Cape Scott was established as a Class A Provincial Park. The first master plan was developed for Cape Scott Provincial Park in 1985 and was updated in 1991. Since then, to meet the requirements of the Protected Areas Strategy, the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan recommended the protection of the Nahwitti-Shushartie. On July 12, 1995, the Nahwitti-Shushartie area was added to Cape Scott Provincial Park.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is leading a comprehensive planning process for the coast of British Columbia. Part of this process is the Marine Protected Areas Strategy, a joint federal and provincial program to protect representative and special marine values. The foreshore area of Cape Scott Provincial Park is a marine protected area as defined in this strategy. As such, the park is an integral part of a growing system of marine protected areas on the British Columbia coast.

Cape Scott contributes to the goals and objectives of the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan and various other landscape level plans.

Relationship to First Nations

Aboriginal people have traditionally occupied and used the area included in Cape Scott Provincial Park. By virtue of this traditional use and continued presence in the region, three First Nations - the Quatsino, the Tlatlasikwala, and the Kwakiutl - assert their aboriginal rights over the area.

The people of the Quatsino First Nation are based in Coal Harbour and their asserted traditional territory covers the northwest portion of Vancouver Island, from the north side of Brooks Peninsula to Cape Scott including Holberg Inlet and Alice Lake. The Tlatlasikwala have been repatriated to Hope Island, and their asserted traditional territory covers the north end of the Vancouver Island and includes Cape Scott. The Kwakiutl First Nation's asserted traditional territory includes an area around Shushartie Bay.

These First Nations have been contacted directly by Environmental Stewardship and were invited to participate in the preparation of this management plan. Effective working relationships are needed between agency staff and First Nations people to ensure that the exercise of aboriginal rights is not impaired by park management activities and the park management objectives are as compatible as possible with First Nations' interests.



Plate 1: Beach at Experiment Bight

Cape Scott Provincial Park – Regional Context

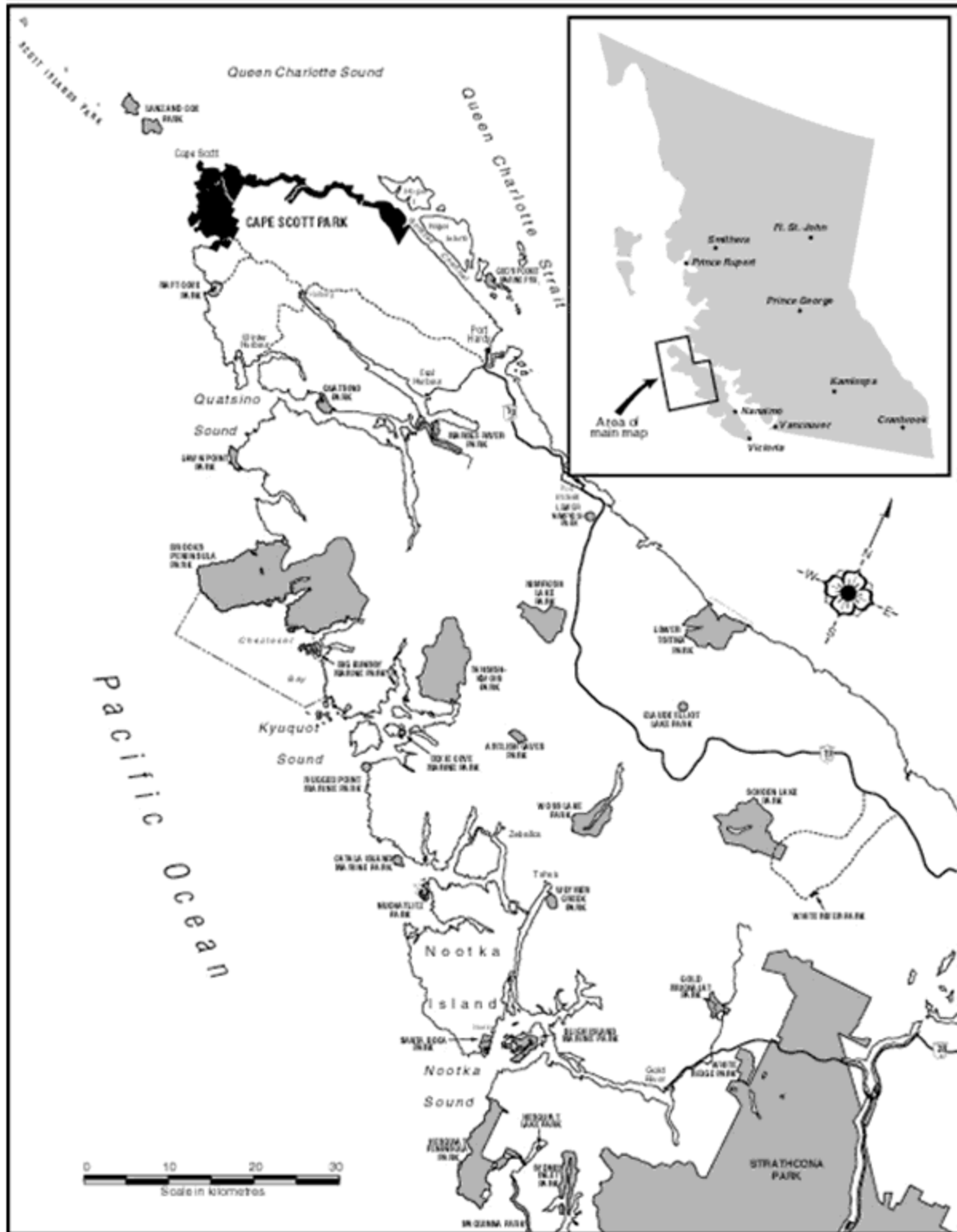


Figure 1: Regional Context

Summary of Planning Issues

This plan addresses a number of key issues, outlined below.

Management of Park Access

The amount and type of access provided to a park will often determine the type of visitor use, number of visitors, seasonality of visitation, the degree of management required, and the ultimate “character” of, and impacts on the park. Vehicle access to Cape Scott is via the San Josef mainline logging road. Marine access is possible at various locations and aircraft access is allowed through a permit system. The management plan addresses the issue of access, with a particular focus on the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

Level of Development

Cape Scott Provincial Park is known for its accessible wilderness recreation opportunities. However, increased numbers of visitors can detract from the wilderness attributes and result in both social and environmental impacts. Demands for eco-tourism opportunities to diversify the local economy may also promote increased use. A balance must be reached between protection of park values, and the recreational experience offered by the park. The management planning process reviewed the current level of development and type of recreation opportunity, and provided direction for future management activities. Focus will be on the Nahwitti-Shushartie, which is currently undeveloped.

Relationships with First Nations

Cape Scott Provincial Park overlaps with the asserted traditional territories of the Quatsino, Kwakiutl and Tlatlasikwala First Nations. These First Nations have stated that they have aboriginal rights in the parks. The management plan provides direction to establish a relationship with First Nations to avoid infringement of aboriginal rights.

Management of Natural Values

Cape Scott Provincial Park protects ecosystems that are representative of the Nahwitti Lowlands Ecoregion. Some of the natural ecosystems have been affected by forest development, clearing by settlers, and introduction of non-endemic species. The management plan directs the need to address the vegetation and wildlife habitat requirements of the park and the impact recreation activities have on these natural values.

Management of Cultural Values

Cape Scott Provincial Park protects and interprets glimpses of both First Nations and European history. In the 1991 master plan, the theme, “Wilderness reclaiming the works of man” was adopted. This management plan endorses this direction.

Inholdings

Cape Scott Provincial Park contains 12 parcels of land that are privately held and two parcels that are held by the federal government. Private development of these parcels can have significant impacts on the natural and recreational values of the park. The management plan provides direction on Environmental Stewardship's relationship with the private landholders.



Plate 2: Beach at San Josef Bay



Plate 3: Remnant of early European pioneer settlement

Background Summary

Cape Scott Provincial Park

Cape Scott Provincial Park lies on the northwest corner of Vancouver Island, and represents one of the western-most points of Canada (Figure 2). The park is within the Nahwitti Lowland Ecoregion and contains 15% of that ecoregion's Coastal Western Hemlock very wet hyper maritime (CWH vh1) variant. The park encompasses wild scenic coastlines with picturesque white sandy beaches and rocky headlands. The park is a mosaic of ecosystems that includes the stunted vegetation of the bog lands and poorly drained uplands, old-growth forests, wind-swept sand dunes and abundant marine flora and fauna. Its remote location and rich physical and cultural values add to Cape Scott's contribution to the protected areas system. The park, with an area of 22,220 hectares (17,348 ha of uplands and 4,872 ha of foreshore), offers a high quality wilderness experience along a stretch of relatively accessible wild coast.

The park provides habitat for a wide range of wildlife. Cougars, wolves, black tail deer and black bears are residents of the park. Herds of Roosevelt elk utilize the Nahwitti and Stranby drainages. A wide variety of bird life is found in the park including Townsend's warbler, rufous hummingbird, pileated woodpecker, short-eared owl and American kestrel. A number of bald eagles nest in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition. Shorebirds such as sandhill cranes, common snipe, spotted sandpiper, semipalmated plover, and killdeer frequent the mudflats in the park. Great blue herons, Canada geese and trumpeter swans are some of the migratory species that utilize the park.

Along the park's coastline, species such as periwinkles, limpets, large mussels and barnacles can be found on rocky shores, and sculpin, crabs, sea stars and sea anemones inhabit rock pools. The sandy beaches support clams and snails. The tidal mud flats have a wide variety of species, including geoducks, clams, crabs and eelgrass. The rivers in the park support a number of salmon species including coho, pink, chum, and sockeye. Rainbow (steelhead) trout, cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden char and sculpin are also found in the park.

Cape Scott Park is accessible by automobile over 64 km of gravel road off Highway 19 at Port Hardy. The gravel logging road leads westward from Port Hardy, passes through Holberg at kilometre 48 and terminates in a parking lot next to the park boundary. There is no automobile access within the park. Historic trails provide the means of traversing the upland area of the park. A boat launch near the parking lot makes it possible to enter San Josef Bay by small boat or canoe along the river. Aircraft access into the park is closed except by authorization from a park officer to a number of designated sites.

Currently, the park receives approximately 6,500 overnight visitors annually. The vast majority of this visitation occurs during the summer months for the purposes of backpacking and beach camping.

Cape Scott Provincial Park (West) – Existing Facilities

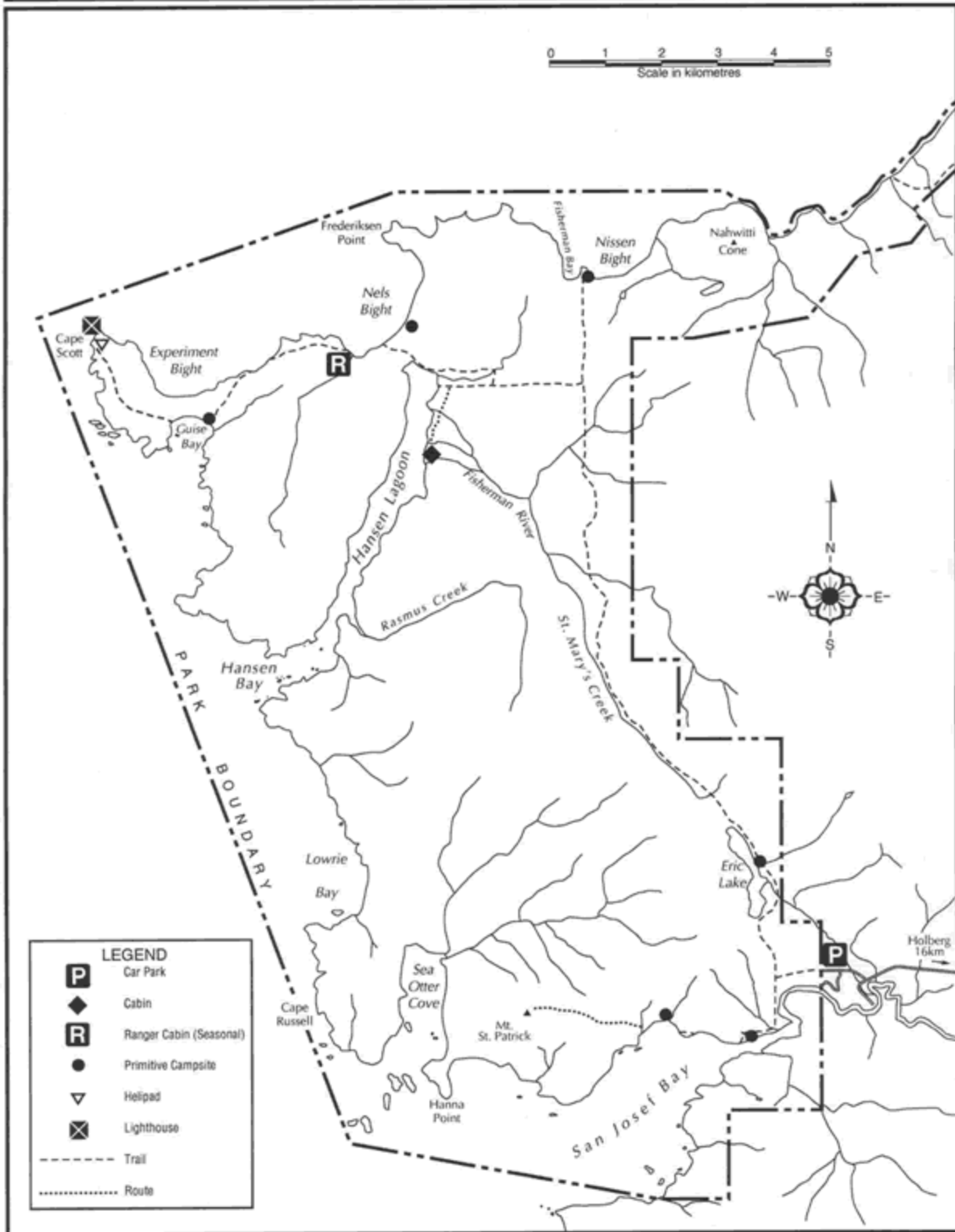


Figure 2: Existing facilities – West

Role of the Protected Area

Conservation Role

Cape Scott Provincial Park provides the largest representation of the Nahwitti Lowlands Ecoregion (NWL), protecting 87.2% of the 7.57% that is protected in the protected areas system. The park contains characteristic low plains of mature forests, remote sandy and cobble beaches interspersed with rugged rocky headlands. It protects special natural features such as the estuaries of the Stranby and Shushartie rivers, mature spruce forests, important fish rearing and waterfowl habitats, raised bogs and a portion of the most northerly range of Roosevelt elk on Vancouver Island.

In terms of biogeoclimatic zone and variants, Cape Scott protects CWH vh1 (very wet, hypermaritime Coastal Western Hemlock) biogeoclimatic zone. This biogeoclimatic variant is well-represented in the protected areas system at 19.34%; Cape Scott contributes 18.8% of the overall protected areas system representation of the CWH vh1, placing it second behind Brooks Peninsula Park (34%).

The park makes small contributions to the protection of Queen Charlotte Sound (QCS) and Vancouver Island Shelf (VIS) marine ecoregions. The protected areas system contains representation of 3.1% and 5.4% of these ecoregions. Cape Scott encompasses approximately 1,450 hectares or 1.30% of QCS that is protected, and approximately 4,000 ha or 3.84% of VIS.

Recreation Role

Cape Scott Provincial Park provides provincially significant recreation opportunities for visitors to experience the rugged and wild northwest coast of Vancouver Island. It is the largest protected area on northern Vancouver Island. The park provides opportunities for remote coastal backpacking and hiking, sea kayaking and boating, hunting, wildlife watching, appreciation of First Nations' history and homesteading cultural heritage, and nature study of a unique "muskeg" landscape. In addition, park zoning allows for the provision of front country camping and day-use activities in a coastal setting.

Cultural Role

Cape Scott Provincial Park contains and protects important cultural and heritage values of British Columbia including pre-contact First Nations' traditional sites and early European agricultural settlements. The park falls within the asserted traditional territory of the Tlatlasikwala, Quatsino and Kwakiutl First Nations. To date, a number of First Nations archaeological sites have been identified. The park was also home to Danish and English pioneers at the turn of the twentieth century. Small farming communities and settlements existed in Shushartie Bay, Hansen Lagoon, Sea Otter Cove, and San Josef Bay. Remnants of their settlement efforts can still be found at many areas within the park.

Cape Scott Provincial Park (West) – Special Features

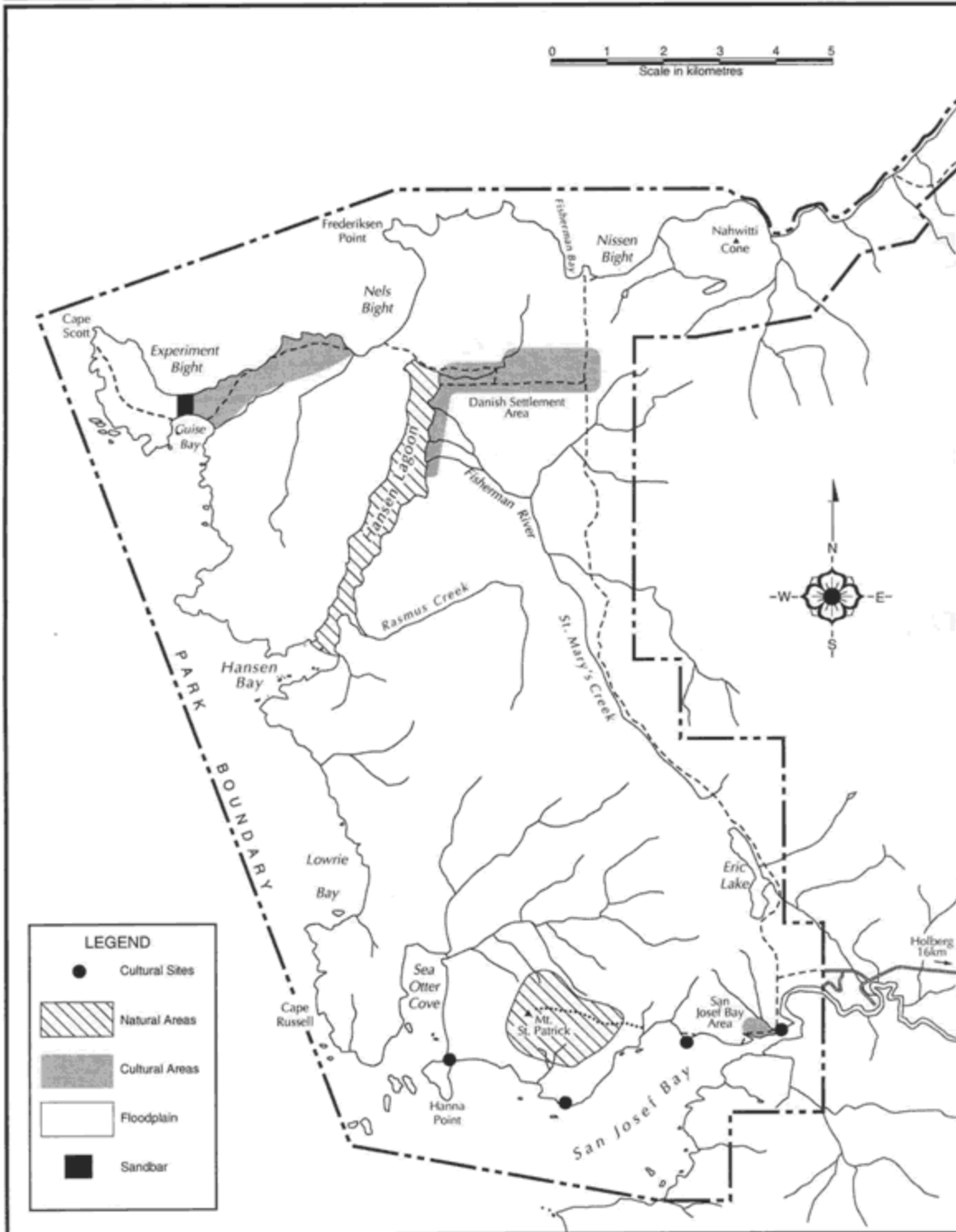


Figure 3: Special Features

Vision

A vision statement looks forward to describe the character and management of the park in the future. A shared vision of the future helps to focus and guide the planning, management, operation and development of the park while facilitating closer co-operation and integration between the people who care for and use the park. A clear vision provides the context and helps to guide the short-term and long-term management strategies and assist in reacting to changing demands in recreation and incorporating new approaches to conservation management.

Cape Scott Provincial Park Vision Statement

Ecological values and features of the Nahwitti Lowlands Ecosection contained in Cape Scott Provincial Park are highly valued by residents and visitors to northern Vancouver Island. Cape Scott Provincial Park protects representative examples of intact functioning ecosystems and serves an important role in conserving wildlife species. Wildlife and plant diversity have been protected, and visitor impacts on the natural and cultural values of the park have been minimized. The recreation opportunities offered in the park are the cornerstone of a vibrant North Island tourism economy as visitors come to Cape Scott to experience and appreciate its natural beauty and history.

Enthusiasts enjoy multi-day wilderness hiking on beaches or backcountry trails, while families or the less able enjoy shorter hikes on more developed trails that have been improved for safety and convenience. Designated campsites cater to the majority of visitors who are seeking a self-sustained outdoor recreation experience, while huts along the North Coast Trail provide shelter for visitors in bad weather and help to reduce the environmental damage by visitors. For those seeking a less physically demanding experience, private in-holdings provide accommodation that is more comfortable. Limited access is provided by boat and aircraft to facilitate access in a small number of areas but minimizes the impacts to the wilderness experience.

The park is accessible by road to Shushartie Bay, by trail to San Josef Bay, and by sea and air to designated locations. Local commercial operators are running a number of successful tour/guide businesses and are renowned for their code of ethics, which enables groups with different interests to enjoy their visits without disturbing others. The North Coast Trail is a world renowned backcountry hiking destination and provides a strong addition to the North Island tourism industry. The Environmental Stewardship Division is working closely with First Nations to protect, present and promote the natural and cultural values of the park. Federal, provincial and private agencies are working co-operatively with the public to ensure long-term protection of the land and marine components of the park.

Park Zoning

Zoning is used to assist in the planning and management of a provincial park. In general terms, zoning divides a park into logical units to apply uniform and consistent management objectives based on natural, cultural and recreational values, existing and projected patterns of access, and recreation use in relation to specific conservation goals. The zones reflect the intended land use, the degree of human use, and the level of management and development required.

At one end of the spectrum, the Intensive Recreation Zone indicates a portion of a park that is appropriate for high levels of recreation and facility development. At the opposite end, the Wilderness Conservation Zone indicate areas of a park that receive the highest levels of protection and minimal human presence. Between these two extremes, there are three additional zones (Wilderness Recreation, Special Feature, Natural Environment) that provide for a range of conservation and recreation priorities. Appendix C has a full description of the zoning policy.

As indicated by Figures 4 and 5, Cape Scott Provincial Park is divided into four zones: Wilderness Recreation; Special Feature; Natural Environment; and Intensive Recreation. Below is the objective, description and rationale for all the zones found in Cape Scott Provincial Park. See Appendix A for a matrix on the application of activity, use and facility in the park.

Wilderness Recreation Zone

The primary objective of the Wilderness Recreation Zone is to protect a remote, undisturbed landscape while providing some level of backcountry use that is compatible with the natural environment and its wilderness atmosphere.

This zone covers **85%** of Cape Scott Provincial Park, including the majority of the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition, and the most eastern upland portions of the park.

The rationale for establishing this zone is:

- The land lying west of St. Mary's Creek and Eric Lake, and the land in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition are largely free of human use and are remote and undisturbed.
- Several important populations of wildlife species and their habitat exist in this zone and should be relatively unaffected by human development and activity.
- The area covered by this zone provides the park visitor with a significant wilderness-oriented experience and confirms relatively low levels of use and minimal development.

Special Feature Zone

The objective is to protect and present significant ecological and cultural features or processes because of the special character, fragility and heritage values.

Within Cape Scott Provincial Park, Special Feature zoning is applied to Danish settlement areas (Hansen Lagoon, the "sandneck" at Guise Bay, and Spencer Farm) and the upland wetlands on Mt. Saint Patrick. **3%** of Cape Scott falls under Special Feature zoning.

The remains of the Danish settlements that represent a significant part of our post-contact history and the unique upland wetlands are the reasons for establishing this zoning. The Special Feature Zones serve to acknowledge that significance and draw management attention to it.

Natural Environment Zone

The objective is to protect scenic values and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Areas of Cape Scott Provincial Park, with higher levels of visitor service development such as the Cape Scott Trail, and development nodes in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition fall in the Natural Environment Zone. In addition, the foreshore and marine areas in the western portion of the park have been zoned as Natural Environment. This zone comprises **10.5%** of the park.

The rationale for the establishment of this zoning is:

- This zone recognizes the recreational values of the Cape Scott Trail, the destination of Nels and Nissan bights, the trail to San Josef Bay and the North Coast Trail.
- The zone indicates the intent of the Environmental Stewardship Division to maintain these trails and facilities.
- This zoning provides for higher levels of visitor use where people will see interesting features in a natural environment but expect to see other park visitors participating in similar activities.
- Natural Environment Zone allows for motorized access of the marine portions in the park.

Intensive Recreation Zone

The objective is to provide for a variety of readily accessible facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities. This includes such facilities as campgrounds, picnic areas, parking areas, and boat launches. The management intent of this zone is to accommodate vehicle-based users in as natural a setting as possible.

In Cape Scott Provincial Park, Intensive Recreation zoning applies to a portion of Shushartie Bay, and allows for the future development of a front country campground, a new trailhead and day use facilities. An additional Intensive Recreation Zone is situated near the current trailhead to allow for the possible expansion of the existing parking facility. Only **1.5%** of the total area of the park is zoned Intensive Recreation.

The rationale for establishing this zoning is that it defines the intent to develop a relatively small area at Shushartie Bay and may include a campground, trailhead, parking and day use facilities for park visitors.

Cape Scott Provincial Park (West) – Zoning

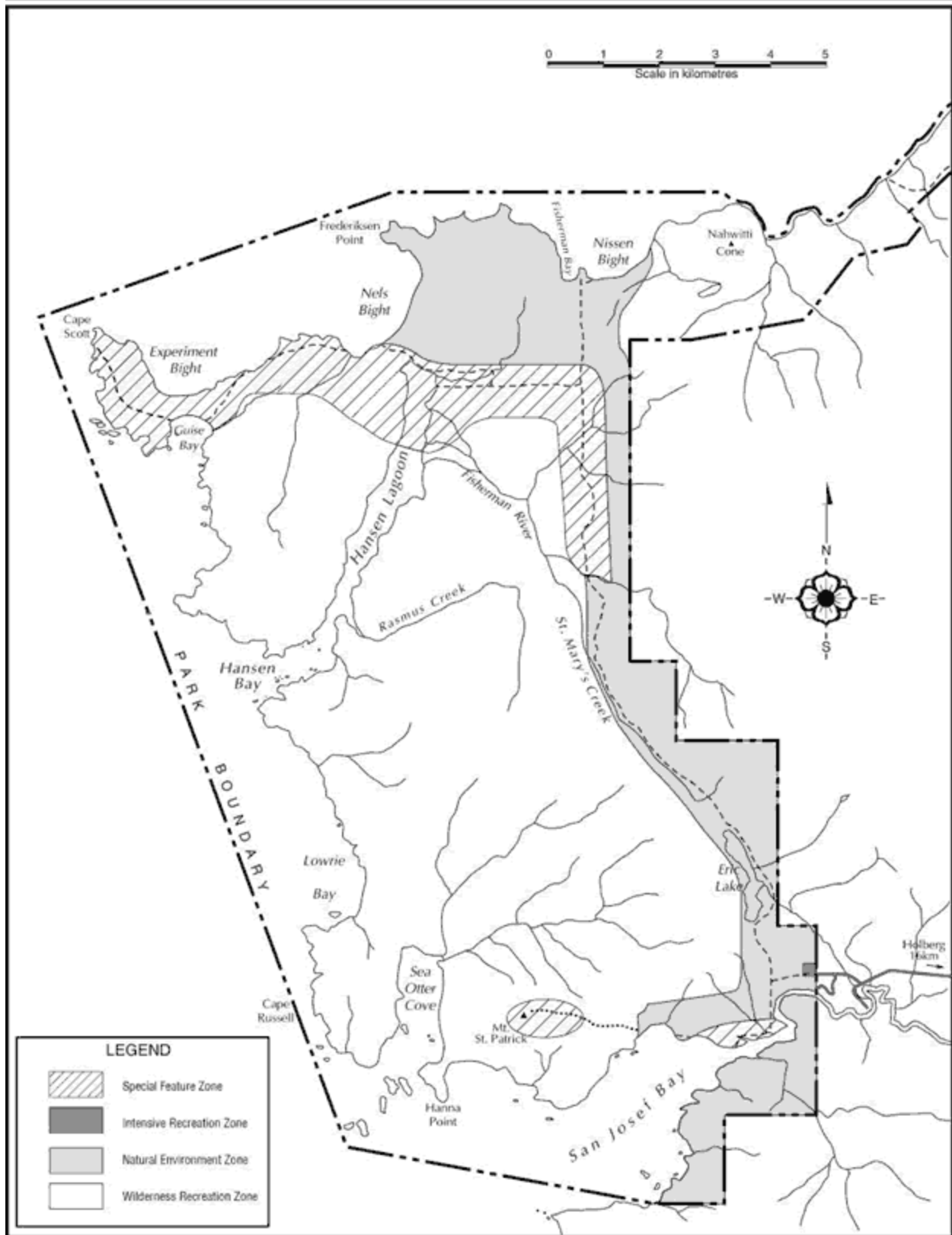


Figure 4: Zoning – West

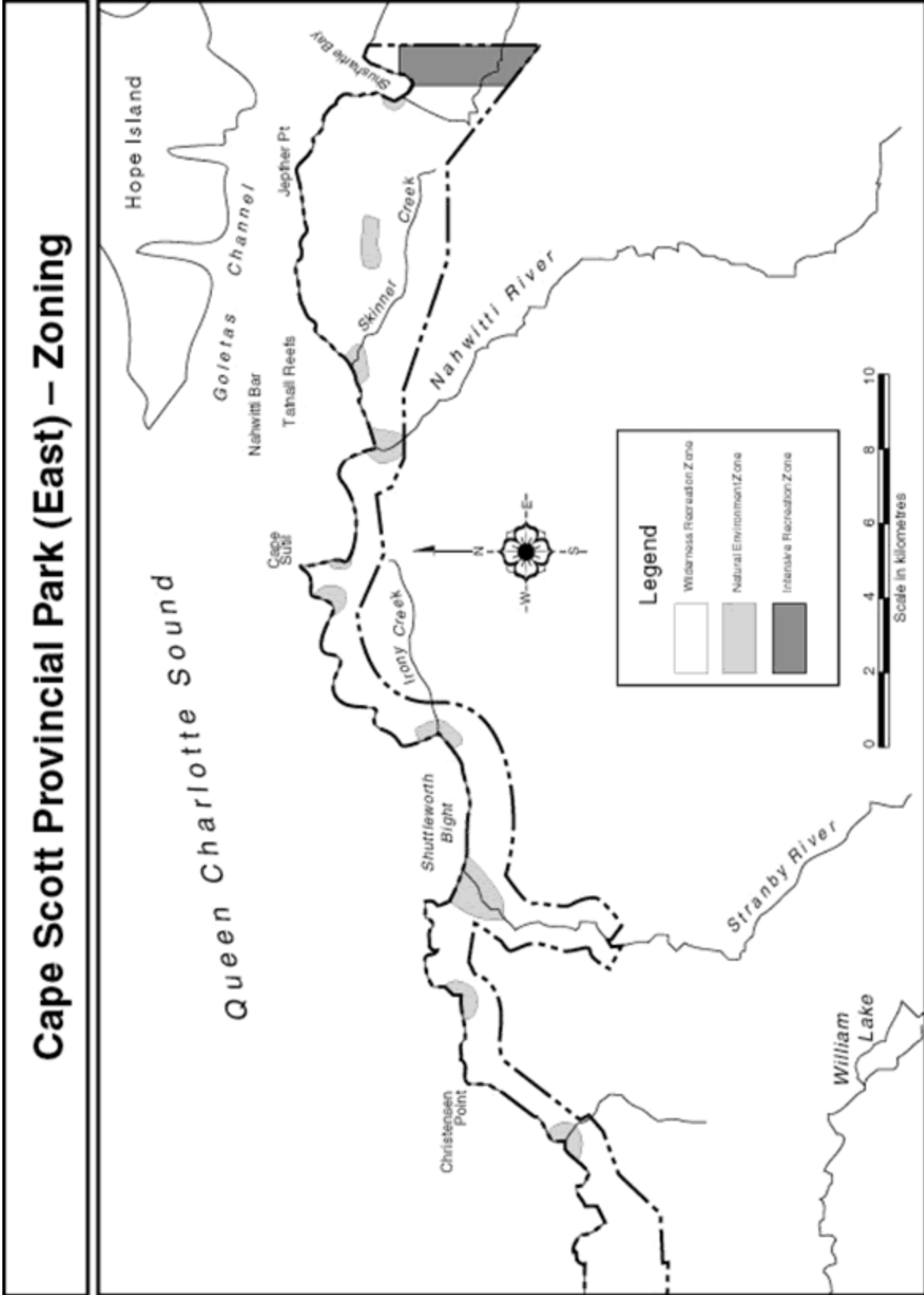


Figure 5: Zoning - East

Natural and Cultural Values Management

Cape Scott Provincial Park conserves significant elements of British Columbia's natural and cultural heritage. The primary management goal is to ensure the long-term protection and interpretation of the natural and cultural values of the parks. To ensure these values are managed in perpetuity, an adaptive approach will be applied in the management of Cape Scott. By adopting this management approach, Environmental Stewardship will focus on the inter-relationships among ecosystem components such as water, vegetation, and wildlife, and the integrated management of these components.

Land and Resource Tenures

Within the Cape Scott Provincial Park boundaries, a number of parcels of land are held by government agencies, companies and private individuals. Three Indian reserves are found in the park and Transport Canada has a large reserve that encompasses the tip of Cape Scott where the Canadian Coast Guard operates a light station. The park contains 12 parcels of private land totalling approximately 124 hectares and two parcels of federally controlled land covering approximately 160 hectares (Figures 6 and 7). In the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition, there are some outstanding mineral tenures, timber sale licenses and two trap lines.

The older part of the park includes marine and foreshore areas which protect marine values and assist in controlling access and activities. The Nahwitti-Shushartie addition does not have any foreshore area included.

Management of these inholdings, reserves and tenures can have a significant impact on the park's natural and cultural values, and opportunities for visitor experiences.

Objective:

To work co-operatively with other government agencies, companies and individuals who are responsible for the management of private inholdings, tenures and licenses, to meet the conservation and recreation roles of the parks.

Strategies:

- Acquire, where possible, any inholdings, licenses or tenures.
- Pursue the addition of the foreshore along the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.
- Encourage landowners and tenure holders to minimize impacts to the park and promote compatibility of developments with park management goals and objectives.
- Monitor the impacts of private land development on the park's natural and cultural values and opportunities for visitor experiences.
- Issue permits to trap line holders; acquire trap lines as they become available.

Cape Scott Provincial Park (West) – Inholdings

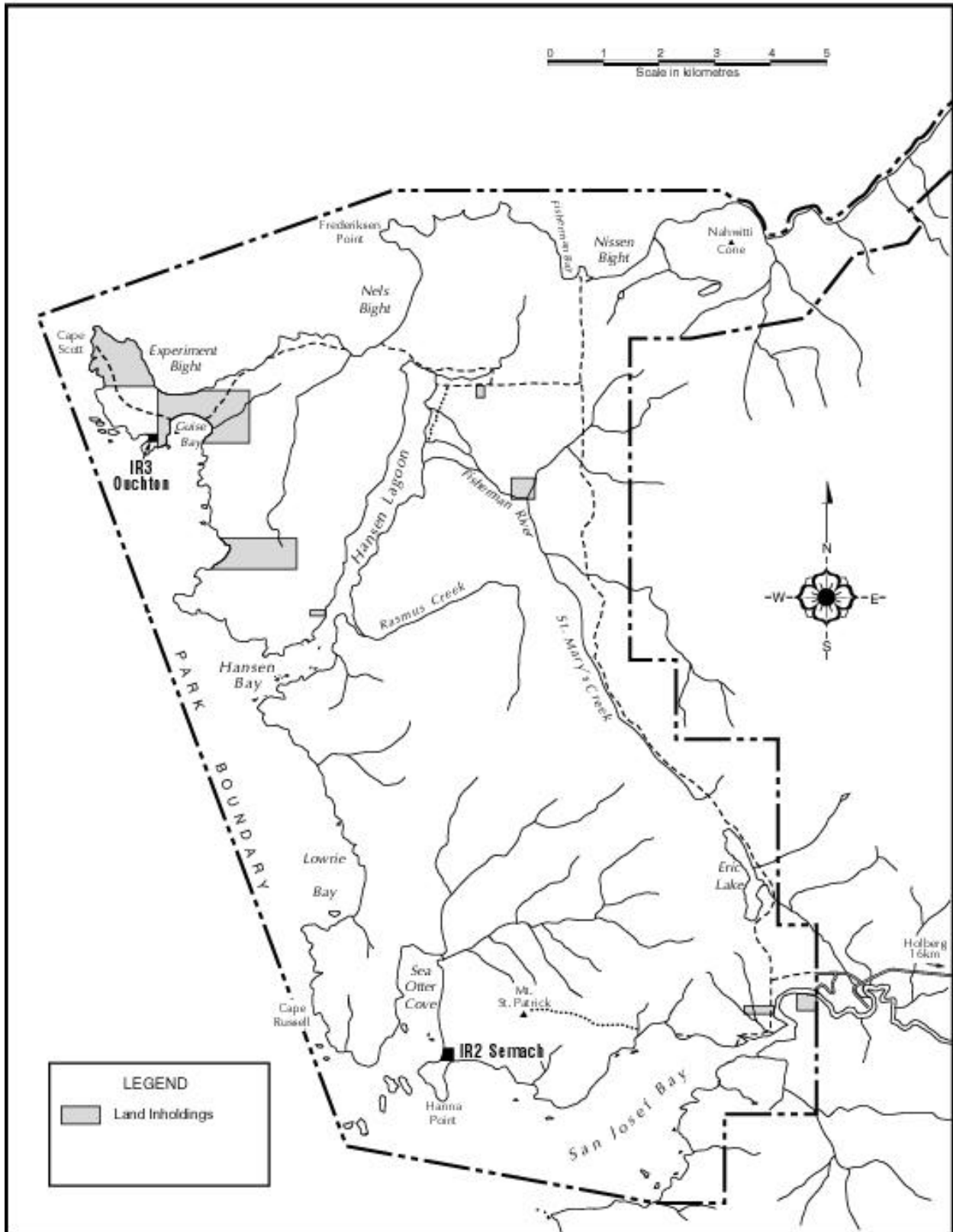


Figure 6: Inholdings – West

Cape Scott Provincial Park (East) – Inholdings

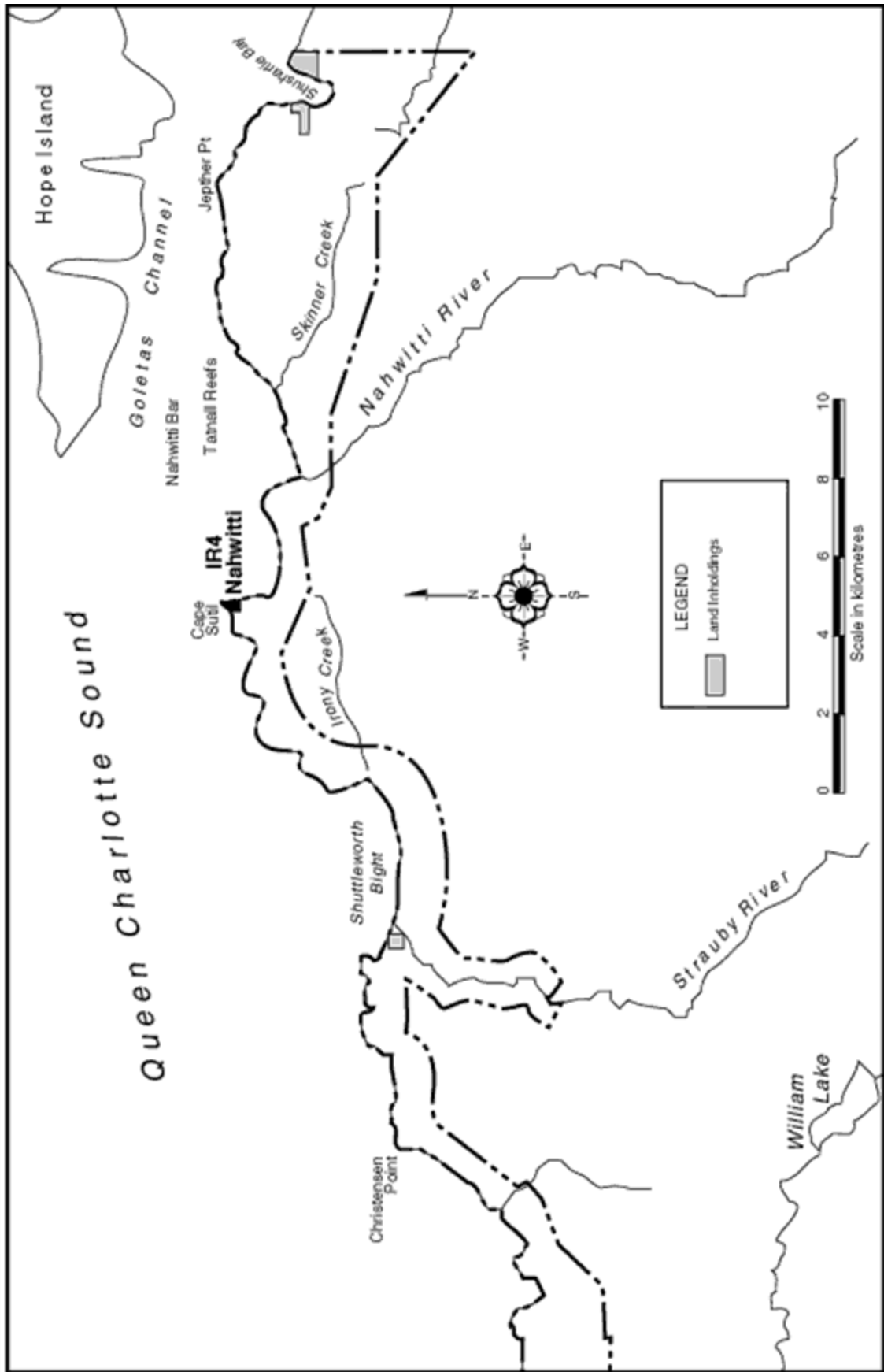


Figure 7: Inholdings – East

Freshwater

Cape Scott Provincial Park is exposed to moisture-laden ocean winds that bring a considerable amount of precipitation. This precipitation is critical to the replenishment of the freshwater supply in Cape Scott, which includes sizeable rivers such as the San Josef, Fisherman, Stranby, Nahwitti and Shushartie rivers and their tributaries, and unique upland peat bogs.

Objectives:

- To protect and maintain the natural qualities of water and their ecological processes within the park.
- To protect the unique upland wetland ecosystems.

Strategies:

- Encourage the Ministry of Forests and forest companies to maintain a high standard of water quality entering the park.
- Ensure that the development and maintenance of trails and campsites minimize erosion of surface materials into creeks, rivers and lakes.
- Monitor upland wetland ecosystems and take management action to limit recreational impacts.
- Ensure that sanitary facilities are properly designed and located.
- Prepare and provide education on procedures for proper disposal of human waste.

Vegetation

Cape Scott Provincial Park contains a wide array of plant communities that vary relative to geographic location, proximity to the ocean environment, and elevation. To ensure the long-term viability of the park's diverse vegetation, an adaptive and integrated approach to ecosystem management is required.

Objectives:

To manage the vegetation of the park to ensure the natural biodiversity and ecological integrity is maintained.

To manage the park's vegetation communities at the ecosection level in consultation with adjoining private and public landowners, management agencies, and institutions.

Strategies:

- Develop an ecosystem-based management plan that includes:
 - forest and plant inventory;
 - wildlife habitat inventory;
 - occurrence of rare plant species and sensitive plant communities;
 - disease and insect infestation monitoring;
 - review of disturbed areas; and
 - monitoring of areas susceptible to establishment of non-native species, especially adjacent to Special Features zones.
- Allow natural processes and functions (disease infestations, re-vegetation of previously cleared forested areas, fire) to occur unless special natural or cultural values in the park, or land values external to park boundaries are threatened or endangered.

- Actively participate in the review of proposed forest developments adjacent to the park to mitigate impacts to wildlife populations and habitats.
- Liaise with neighbouring agencies and individuals to ensure compatible management objectives are achieved wherever possible.
- Evaluate proposed access points and facility sites for the occurrence of rare vegetation before development or issuance of park use permits.

Wildlife

Cape Scott Provincial Park provides habitat to a large variety of wildlife species including wolf, cougar, black bear, black tailed deer and elk. In the marine environment, sea otters, mink, grey, sperm, humpback and killer whales can be found. Protection of wildlife habitats is critical to the continued survival of many of these species.

Objectives:

To maintain and protect the natural diversity of wildlife species and populations with special attention to sensitive, rare, threatened and endangered animals.

To maintain sustainable wildlife populations.

To protect critical habitats and restore disturbed habitats where it is compatible with other park objectives.

To inform the public about non-intrusive appreciation of wildlife.

To encourage scientific wildlife research in the park, particularly those with direct management benefits.

Strategies:

- Develop an ecosystem-based management plan that assesses:
 - the need for inventory,
 - diversity of wildlife and habitat requirements,
 - insects and disease, and
 - minimizing negative encounters between people and wildlife.
- Evaluate proposed access points and facility sites for wildlife use before development or issuance of park use permits.
- Cooperate and establish common objectives with government agencies, interest groups and the public to manage wildlife and marine species that move into and out of the park.
- Develop a wildlife-human interaction management plan to address potential bear, cougar and wolf and visitor conflicts. Produce an information package on bear avoidance behaviours for park visitors.
- Assess, monitor and regulate hunting, fishing and trapping in conjunction with Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section in the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure healthy wildlife and fish populations are maintained.
- Develop interpretative information on wildlife features and values.

Fish

The rivers and lakes in Cape Scott Provincial Park provide habitat for four salmon species (coho, pink, chum, sockeye), rainbow (steelhead), cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden char, Aleutian sculpin and prickly sculpin.

Objectives:

To maintain fish habitat and, where possible, restore damaged habitat.

To conserve all natural fish populations.

Strategies:

- Monitor and regulate angling in conjunction with Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure that natural fish populations are maintained.
- Maintain freshwater fisheries within the Wilderness Recreation Zone with methods other than stocking.
- Undertake an inventory of fish bearing streams and rivers and rearing habitat within the park.
- Evaluate the significance of fish habitat.

Coastal and Marine Values Management

Cape Scott Provincial Park is greatly influenced by the coastal and marine environments that surround it. The park contains a marine component within its legislated boundaries. Management in aquatic environments (both freshwater and marine) is complicated by an overlap in federal and provincial mandates. Many of the marine objectives for Cape Scott Provincial Park can only be fully achieved with complementary management by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). DFO is responsible for the management of fisheries and fish habitat through the *Fisheries Act* (Canada) and the *Oceans Act*. The *Oceans Act* also provides a marine protected area designation to enable a greater emphasis on conservation. The marine protected areas designation can be used to complement provincial protected areas.

Much of the visual attraction of the area is due to the interrelationship between the marine and coastal ecosystems and the terrestrial ones. Natural features which contribute to the visitor experience include long secluded beaches, rocky headlands, intertidal areas rich with marine life, and the presence of offshore marine birds and mammals. The older part of the park includes marine and foreshore areas which protect marine values and assist in controlling access and activities. The Nahwitti-Shushartie addition does not have any foreshore area included.

Objectives:

To protect the marine and coastal ecosystems within the park with the application of complementary federal authorities and regulations.

To protect high valued marine ecosystems that extend beyond the park boundaries through federal marine protected area designation.

Strategies:

- Seek complementary federal recognition or designation of marine protected area status for Cape Scott Provincial Park through the Marine Protected Areas Strategy.
- Pursue the addition of the foreshore along the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.
- Work with DFO to enact complementary closures for benthic finfish. Monitor recreation harvests and consider full protection for sensitive species such as California mussel and goose barnacle.

Cultural Values Management

Cape Scott Provincial Park is within the traditional territories of the Quatsino, Tlatlasikwala and the Kwakiutl First Nations. The park contains numerous archaeological and traditional sites. The park is also rich in post-contact history. Areas within Cape Scott such as Shushartie Bay and Hansen Lagoon were home to early settlers and pioneers.

Objectives:

To protect the cultural heritage values of the park.

To present information on First Nations and post-contact settlement histories of the area.

Strategies:

- Establish working relationships with local First Nations.
- Work with local First Nations to increase the historical and cultural knowledge and record of the area.
- Conduct research with First Nations to increase the knowledge of the pre and post-contact history of the area.
- Develop management strategies for the park's cultural heritage values in consultation with First Nations and other knowledgeable sources. Where appropriate, cultural values will be left *in situ*. Where cultural values are deemed to be of provincial or national significance, higher levels of protection and intervention may be required.
- Develop information and educational material on the park's cultural values in consultation with First Nations and other knowledgeable sources.

Visual, Recreation and Tourism Opportunities Management

Cape Scott Provincial Park has a number of natural and cultural values that create regionally and provincially significant visual, recreation and tourism opportunities. Given the wilderness character of the park, a conservative approach to the management and development of the recreation and tourism values will be adopted.

Visual Values

The visual values of the park are a fundamental component of the visitor experience. These visual values and the emotional, spiritual and inspirational senses they stir in visitors are often what is recounted and recalled.

The visual values and associated visitor experiences range from one of isolation and remoteness to one of a strong sense of hardships faced by pioneers at Cape Scott. The sweeping ocean views and the beautiful sand beaches are visual attractants for visitors to Cape Scott Provincial Park.

Objectives:

To retain the visual values within the park so that the viewsapes and wilderness atmosphere of the park are protected.

To work co-operatively with other agencies, companies and individuals so that the viewsapes external to the park are maintained.

Strategies:

- Encourage other agencies, particularly the Ministry of Forests, forest companies and individuals, to minimize impacts of the visual values external to the park.
- Design, locate, construct and maintain all park facilities in a manner that is in harmony with the surrounding landscape and environment.

Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Values

Cape Scott Provincial Park is a well-known destination for wilderness-based outdoor recreation opportunities and has the potential to play an important role in the North Vancouver Island tourism industry. The park protects part of the island's north coast as an accessible backcountry park with excellent interpretive potential that all ages can appreciate. It fulfils a unique role in the provincial park system as a backcountry park with minimal development and that is easily accessed by hikers, backpackers, and nature enthusiasts. Cape Scott, in fact, is one of the more accessible west coast wilderness parks and it currently receives approximately 6,500 visitors annually. With the addition of the Nahwitti-Shushartie, Cape Scott Provincial Park could provide a backcountry hiking experience that is less developed than the West Coast or Juan de Fuca trails but with more facilities than is found hiking on Nootka Island or the Brooks Peninsula. With the new Inland Highway, the development of the North Coast Trail and growth of tourism in the future, this park will become increasingly important as a destination area.

Objectives:

To ensure that recreation and tourism promotion and development are compatible with the conservation objectives for the park.

To manage recreational use of natural and cultural values for minimal impact to ensure these values are maintained and protected for future generations to enjoy.

Strategies:

- Manage recreational use in accordance with the zoning for the park.
- Develop a monitoring program in conjunction with First Nations to evaluate impacts of recreation use on the natural and cultural values of the park. If monitoring indicates more than acceptable levels of impacts, management actions (such as limits, quotas and closures) may be instituted to protect the park's natural and cultural values.

Access Strategy

The management of access into a park has far reaching impacts on most other management issues. The amount, type and location of access can change the visitor experience from a solitary backcountry wilderness one to a shared front country experience. As well, access can have significant impacts on the natural and cultural values of a park.

Currently, road access to Cape Scott Provincial Park is via the Holberg Forest Road, which is maintained by Western Forest Products. A parking lot is located just outside the park boundary near the San Josef River on private property owned and maintained by Western Forest Products. There are no other road accessible entry points into the park. The park is closed to aircraft landings except by permit to Lowrie Bay and the mouth of the Nahwitti River. Commercial water access is permitted at Shushartie Bay, Nahwitti River, Stranby River, Fisherman's Bay and Experiment Bight.

Objectives:

To provide road, marine and air access points at specific locations.

To maintain the remote backcountry experience of the park.

Strategies:

- Develop visitor information kiosks at all access entry points into the park. The kiosks will display important visitor information including education, safety and security information.
- Expand and relocate, if necessary, the parking opportunities at the San Josef River area to increase vehicular safety and security. To reduce the impact of parking on Western Forest Products privately-held lands, Environmental Stewardship will seek to acquire this property. If this land acquisition is not possible, the parking facilities may be relocated to an area within the park.
- Develop an access road to Shushartie Bay to enable the development of a vehicle accessible front country campground, boat launch and trailhead for the proposed North Coast Trail. This would be contingent upon: the adjacent forest licensee developing and maintaining a suitable forest logging road in the vicinity of the park boundary; the completion of an impact assessment; and the completion of recreational site planning for the area. Alternatively, develop a trail to accommodate access to the proposed North Coast Trail.

- Allow commercial aircraft landings at Shushartie Bay, the mouth of the Nahwitti River, mouth of the Stranby River (western portion of Shuttleworth Bight), and maintain Lowrie Bay as a commercial landing site, subject to impact assessments.
- Permit boat access for commercial purposes to Experiment Bight, Guise Bay, Fisherman’s Bay, mouth of the Stranby River (western portion of Shuttleworth Bight), the mouth of the Nahwitti River and Shushartie Bay.
- Monitor level of use of aircraft and boat access and possible impacts on wildlife to ensure that ecological values are maintained and the recreation experience is not eroded.
- Encourage air companies and private pilots flying over the park to control noise and disruption of wildlife and park visitors. Develop a code of conduct in conjunction with pilots.
- Allow owners of inholdings access to their property by air or water-based transportation.
- Minimize the number and frequency of helicopter flights and landings in the park by government personnel and contractors. Reroute flight paths where possible to avoid the disturbance of recreationists and wildlife.
- Prohibit air and road access at all other locations except for emergencies and operational requirements.



Plate 4: Hansen Lagoon Meadows

Hiking and Backpacking Opportunities

In Cape Scott Provincial Park, travel by foot has been the historical means of transportation for centuries. With the arrival of European settlers, new wagon routes of ‘corduroy’ wood construction provided access to the area. Today, many of the park trails follow these old trails and wagon routes. The park’s main hiking trail leads from the parking lot near San Josef Bay, past Eric Lake to a variety of locations including Nissen Bight / Fisherman Bay or Hansen Lagoon, Nels Bight, Experiment and Guise Bays and the Cape Scott (Figure 2). Portions of the old abandoned and overgrown Shushartie (Skinner) trail can be found in the Nahwitti-Shushartie area. A trail for people with impaired mobility currently provides access to San Josef Bay.

In 1994, the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan recommended that the Nahwitti-Shushartie area be added to Cape Scott Provincial Park, in part, to provide a high quality coastal hiking experience, and that a new North Coast Trail be developed within this park addition. The concept behind the development of a North Coast Trail was to help diversify the economy of northern Vancouver Island by developing a major tourism attraction that would draw visitors to the area. Since 1994, numerous studies have been undertaken to further refine and develop the concept for the North Coast Trail. The North Coast Trail has been suggested as a potential ‘tourism anchor’ for the region.

Objective:

To develop a remote backcountry hiking opportunity along the North Coast Trail from Cape Scott to Shushartie Bay. The trail will be designed for day or multi-day wilderness hiking and backpacking trips.

Strategies:

- Finalize the site plan for the location and construction of the North Coast Trail, subject to impact assessment and in consultation with First Nations, the public, government agencies, and private landowners.
- Develop access to and egress from the North Coast Trail at Shushartie Bay including a trailhead with parking facilities and an information kiosk. If a vehicle accessible campsite is developed, use those facilities to provide the access to the North Coast Trail.
- Negotiate easements and rights of ways through private land, or acquire private land in order to build the North Coast Trail.
- Maintain existing trail network in the old Cape Scott Provincial Park; do not develop any new trails.
- Develop a monitoring program in conjunction with First Nations to evaluate the impacts of recreation. Implement appropriate management actions such as temporary closures, site hardening, visitor education, and maintenance programs.
- Maintain the hiking only designation for all trails in the park.

Overnight Opportunities

For many park visitors that come to Cape Scott Provincial Park, a key aspect of the experience is to stay overnight in a remote backcountry area. Most visitors come for a backcountry experience that can last from one to seven days. Tents are now the only opportunity currently available to overnight in the park.

Objective:

To provide an array of overnight opportunities ranging from random and designated backcountry campsites, to a road-accessible developed front country campground, to simple shelters or huts.

Strategies:

- Limit backcountry camping opportunities in Cape Scott Provincial Park to beach camping and other designated campsites. Locate and design all sites to minimize impacts on the natural and cultural values of the park.
- Develop a vehicle accessible front country campground in the Shushartie Bay area, following the completion of an impact assessment,. The development would be confined to old logging roads and areas that have been previously harvested. This development is contingent on suitable road access becoming available to the area, and upon the completion of a recreation site development plan.
- Construct a series of designated campsites for hikers and kayakers along the new North Coast Trail, subject to an impact assessment.
- Construct a series of simple shelters or huts along the new North Coast Trail. These structures will be able to accommodate up to ten people and will be located at similar points as the designated campsites, except fewer in number. Design and construct structures to minimize impacts on the natural and cultural values of the park.
- Maintain the current level of facility and trail development for the rest of the original portion of Cape Scott Provincial Park but allow for the future reconstruction of the shelter and a small number of tenting sites at Fisherman River.
- Monitor the impacts on the park's natural and cultural values associated with overnight opportunities.
- Allow for existing mooring along the coast. Moorage buoys currently exist in Sea Otter Cove and are maintained by the Canadian Coast Guard. No additional moorage buoys will be provided in the park.

Angling

Freshwater angling occurs in Cape Scott Provincial Park. The target species of salmon and cutthroat trout are present in Hansen Lagoon, Fisherman River, San Josef River, and Eric Lake. The Stranby, Shushartie and Nahwitti rivers support salmon, winter rainbow (steelhead) and cutthroat trout. At present, angling pressure is light but is expected to increase as access is provided through the North Coast Trail.

Objective:

To maintain recreational fishing opportunities in Cape Scott Provincial Park.

Strategies:

- Maintain freshwater fisheries within the Wilderness Recreation Zone with methods other than stocking.
- Monitor and regulate angling in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure that natural fish populations are maintained.
- Continue to recognize traditional rights of First Nations as they may apply.

Hunting

Hunting occurs in Cape Scott Provincial Park. Waterfowl are hunted at Hansen Lagoon and black bears, elk, deer, cougar and wolves may be hunted in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

Objective:

To maintain current opportunities for hunting, subject to conservation and safety considerations.

Strategies:

- Monitor and regulate hunting, in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure sustainable wildlife populations and public safety.
- Continue to recognize traditional hunting rights of First Nations as they may apply.

Commercial Recreation

Cape Scott Provincial Park is currently used as a destination for a small number of commercial recreation operators. The number of commercial recreation operators will continue to grow as the awareness and popularity of the park becomes more widely known. One of the reasons that the North Coast Trail was designated was to develop a vibrant North Vancouver Island tourism-based economy. The range of potential commercial recreation services that could be provided to park visitors include shuttle and ferry services by land, water and air, professional guiding services, and trip expediting services.

Objective:

To keep the licensing of companies providing commercial recreation services in the park within the limits of acceptable environmental change and at a level that maintains a wilderness experience.

Strategies:

- Ensure all commercial recreation activities are in keeping with the vision for the park, and do not degrade the park's natural and cultural values, or the experiences of other visitors.
- Develop and implement a monitoring program in conjunction with First Nations to assess impacts from commercial and non-commercial recreation of the natural and cultural values of the park.
- Develop a code of conduct in conjunction with tourism operators to ensure a high quality wilderness recreation experience.

- Work with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to enforce the regulations for marine wildlife (whales, seabirds, sea lions, etc.) viewing.
- Require all commercial operators within Cape Scott Provincial Park to develop a five-year business plan that is compatible with the park management plan.
- Determine the acceptable amount and type of commercial operators through impact assessments.
- Encourage landowners and tenure holders to minimize impacts to the park and promote compatibility of developments with park management goals and objectives. Emphasize the need for compatible development that is in keeping with the ‘vision’ for the park and the park management plan.

Management Services

Environmental Stewardship Division of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection is the provincial government agency responsible for the planning and management of Cape Scott Provincial Park. The *Park Act* and its associated regulations, protected areas policy and procedures, and overall government policy and legislation guide the management of the park. Environmental Stewardship undertakes a number of park management strategies, activities, and actions to ensure that legislation and policies are implemented.

Objective:

To ensure the various management responsibilities are carried out according to the guidelines of the management plan and the established policies and procedures of the Ministry.

Strategies:

- Prepare annual operational plans that include data collection, monitoring and assessment, and management activities.
- Maintain a seasonal presence by park rangers or contractors as funding allows.
- Develop and maintain adequate signs and information materials to ensure public safety and security, protection of the park’s natural and cultural values, and compliance with park rules and regulations.
- Investigate opportunities for the use of volunteers and others to supplement management activities and services.
- Enforce the *Park Act* and *Park and Recreation Area Regulation*.

Communications

Communication materials, programs and services are an important function of visitor management. Communications initiatives can play a number of key roles. First, communication initiatives can serve to set visitor expectations and assist in the planning of holidays and recreation activities. Secondly, communications can promote outdoor etiquette and careful use of the park's values. Thirdly, communications can create an awareness and appreciation about cultural and natural values/features, and conservation principles and initiatives.

Information Strategy

The natural and cultural values of Cape Scott Provincial Park provide Environmental Stewardship Division with the opportunity to communicate important messages and information. These include the importance of managing the park on an ecosystem basis, First Nation history and values, the era of European homesteading in a remote coastal wilderness, and appropriate visitor activities and behaviours. Information about the park will be distributed primarily through the BC Parks web site as well as relying on on-site media, such as signs and brochures, to communicate important park messages. Limited on-site or off-site interpretive and outreach information programs may be included when and where appropriate.

Objective:

To inform and enlighten park visitors through the provision of accurate and interesting information on the park.

Strategies:

- Develop an integrated communication plan to direct the development and delivery of park messages, consistent interpretive themes, and applicable information.
- Develop interpretive messages which primarily focus on:
 - the role of British Columbia parks and protected areas;
 - the role of Cape Scott Provincial Park in the provincial protected areas system;
 - the importance of managing protected areas on an ecosystem basis;
 - the relationship between human history and the environment including First Nations and European settlement and development;
 - the unique natural and cultural values that are found within the park; and,
 - important information that will enhance visitor use, safety and enjoyment of the park's facilities and services.
- Develop park communication material in conjunction with the local First Nations to ensure their culture and history is accurately portrayed.
- Ensure signs adequately inform visitors of important park messages including safety and security, rules and regulations, and visitor information.
- Dependent on a communication plan, deliver visitor information at all access points into the park utilising an appropriate facility (i.e. shelter or kiosk).

Marketing

Promotion of a park can affect the level of use and type of visitor it attracts. Consequently, marketing strategies must be consistent with the management objectives for the park. Cape Scott Provincial Park currently attracts visitors from around the world seeking to experience an accessible, yet rugged west coast wilderness area. Many of these visitors come for a multi-day backpacking trip. The North Coast Trail would meet a market niche for a coastal hike that fits between the popular developed Juan de Fuca or West Coast trails and the wild undeveloped Nootka Island or Brooks Peninsula. With the completion of the North Coast Trail and development of facilities in Shushartie Bay, Cape Scott could play a large role in the tourism economy of North Vancouver Island.

Objective:

To portray Cape Scott Provincial Park as an accessible west coast wilderness. Special emphasis will be placed upon visitor opportunities offered by the North Coast Trail, and recreational opportunities at Shushartie Bay.

Strategies:

- Provide accurate and appropriate information on the park on the BC Parks website and to government agencies, associations, institutions, companies and individuals.
- Encourage local, regional and provincial tourism authorities to market Cape Scott Provincial Park in a manner that is sensitive to its wilderness qualities.
- Support appropriate marketing opportunities which provide economic benefits to local businesses and communities.

Natural and Cultural Heritage Interpretation

Natural and cultural heritage interpretation programs and services can assist in park management. Heritage interpretation programs and services encourage the natural sense of wonder and curiosity people feel about their history and environment. The programs leave people with a desire to know more, and inspire people to increase their commitment to the care and protection of their natural and cultural heritage. Cape Scott Provincial Park protects natural values while providing an opportunity to interpret important cultural heritage values.

Interpretive Themes

The Nature of the Place:

This is the most basic theme to present at all parks and in most communications. It helps park visitors and residents understand the basic characteristics of Cape Scott Provincial Park and why it is special. Messages will include information on biodiversity, physical geography, geology, weather, climate, and ecological classification schemes.

Why Protected Areas:

British Columbia is a spectacular and diverse province that can still preserve relatively undisturbed examples of natural and cultural heritage, and outdoor recreation values. The establishment of protected areas reflects society's values and the value that citizens place on heritage preservation. Park users should know that Cape Scott Provincial Park is set aside to protect these values.

Humans in the Landscape:

Park visitors can connect with the other humans who have lived in the landscape. First Nations have a strong past and present association with Cape Scott Provincial Park. In addition, Cape Scott contains a rich European pioneer history that needs to be told. Park communications programs will seek to inform the visitor about this special First Nations connection and about the post-contact history of the park.

Protecting the Resource and Yourself:

One of the key themes that is of particular importance to Cape Scott Provincial Park is that of protecting park values and the visitor. The following messages could be presented: trail etiquette; campfires; low-impact camping; and safety and procedures in the presence of wildlife (especially bears and cougars).

Global Change and Parks:

No park is an island: making park visitors aware of and understanding the notion that parks are heavily affected by outside influences is an important element in park management. Global change, ecological footprints, environmental carrying capacity, human population growth, and adjacent land-use compatibility are some of the concepts that this theme emphasizes.

Objective:

To provide opportunities for people to understand, appreciate and enjoy the natural and cultural heritage associated with Cape Provincial Park through high quality interpretive and outreach materials, programs and services.

Strategies:

- Develop heritage interpretation messages focussing on but not limited to:
 - role of parks and protected areas;
 - the role of Cape Scott Provincial Park in the provincial protected areas system;
 - the importance of managing protected areas on an ecosystem basis;
 - the park's unique and special natural and cultural values;
 - the relationship between human history and the environment including First Nations, and European settlement and development; information that will enhance visitor use, safety and enjoyment of park facilities and services.
- Ensure cultural heritage programs and information explain the values of protected areas to humankind.
- Encourage and support appropriate research aimed at increasing our knowledge and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values. Present knowledge developed through research in heritage interpretation products, programs and services.
- Ensure relevance and quality of all heritage interpretation products, programs and services by reviewing and updating periodically.

Plan Implementation

This management plan provides the direction for the planning, management and development of Cape Scott Provincial Park. As new information becomes available or conditions and trends change, amendments to the plan may be required. In the event that the Environmental Stewardship Division feels that the overall direction for the planning and management of the park needs to change substantially from the approved management plan, a formal review of the plan with public consultation will be undertaken.

The on-going land claim negotiations between First Nations and the federal and provincial governments may result in changes to this management plan.

Once approved, the implementation of this management plan is the responsibility of the Vancouver Island Regional Manager of Environmental Stewardship Division. A number of strategies have been suggested in this plan. Fiscal, staff, and operational constraints facing government may dictate phasing in the strategies over time. Those strategies that relate to public safety, protection of the park's natural and cultural values, or that enhances visitor understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the park, and that require a minimum of resources, will be given priority.

High Priority Strategies

Access

- Expand and/ or relocate the parking opportunities at the San Josef River area to increase vehicular safety and security.
- Develop an access road to Shushartie Bay to enable the development of a vehicle accessible front country campground, boat launch and trailhead for the proposed North Coast Trail. Alternatively, develop a trail to accommodate access to the proposed North Coast Trail.

Hiking and Backpacking Opportunities

- Finalize the site plan for the location and construction of the North Coast Trail.
- Develop access to and egress from the North Coast Trail at Shushartie Bay.
- Negotiate easements and rights of ways through private land or acquire private land in order to build the North Coast Trail.

Overnight Opportunities

- Develop a vehicle accessible front country campground in the Shushartie Bay area, following the completion of an impact assessment.
- Construct a series of designated campsites for hikers and kayakers along the new North Coast Trail, subject to an impact assessment.
- Construct a series of simple shelters or huts along the new North Coast Trail.

Task or Project Strategies

Land and Resource Tenures

- Pursue the addition of the foreshore along the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

Freshwater

- Prepare and provide education on procedures for proper disposal of human waste.

Vegetation

- Develop an ecosystem-based management plan.

Wildlife

- Develop an ecosystem-based management plan.
- Develop a predator management plan.
- Develop interpretative information on wildlife features and values.

Fish

- Undertake an inventory of fish bearing streams and rivers and rearing habitat within the park.
- Evaluate the significance of fish habitat.

Coastal and Marine Values Management

- Seek complementary federal recognition or designation of marine protected area status for Cape Scott Provincial Park through the Marine Protected Areas Strategy.
- Pursue the addition of the foreshore along the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

Cultural Values

- Conduct research with First Nations to increase the knowledge of the pre and post-contact history of the area.
- Develop management strategies for the park's cultural heritage values in consultation with First Nations and other knowledgeable sources.
- Develop information and educational material on the park's cultural values in consultation with First Nations and other knowledgeable sources.

Access

- Develop visitor information kiosks at all access entry points into the park.

Commercial Recreation

- Develop a code of conduct in conjunction with tourism operators.

Information Strategy

- Develop an integrated communication plan to direct the development and delivery of park messages, consistent interpretive themes, and applicable information.
- Develop interpretive messages which primarily focus on roles, human relationships with the environment, ecosystem-based management, park values and visitor use information.

Interpretive Themes

- Develop heritage interpretation messages focussing on roles, ecosystem-based management, park values, human relationship with natural environment, and visitor information.

Ongoing or Monitoring Strategies

Land and Resource Tenures

- Acquire any inholdings, licenses or tenures where possible.
- Encourage landowners and tenure holders to minimize impacts to the park and promote compatibility of developments with park management goals and objectives.
- Monitor the impacts of private land development on the park's natural and cultural values and opportunities for visitor experiences.
- Issue permits to trap line holders; acquire trap lines as they become available.

Freshwater

- Encourage the Ministry of Forests and forest companies to maintain a high standard of water quality entering the park.
- Ensure that the development and maintenance of trails and campsites minimize erosion of surface materials into creeks, rivers and lakes.
- Monitor upland wetland ecosystems and take management action to limit recreational impacts.
- Ensure that sanitary facilities are properly designed and located.

Vegetation

- Allow natural processes and functions to occur unless special natural or cultural values in the park, or land values external to park boundaries are threatened or endangered.
- Actively participate in the review of proposed forest developments adjacent to the park to mitigate impacts to wildlife populations and habitats.
- Liaise with neighbouring agencies and individuals to ensure compatible management objectives are achieved wherever possible.
- Evaluate proposed access points and facility sites for the occurrence of rare vegetation before development or issuance of park use permits.

Wildlife

- Evaluate proposed access points and facility sites for wildlife use before development or issuance of park use permits.
- Cooperate and establish common objectives with government agencies, interest groups and the public to manage wildlife and marine species that move into and out of the park.
- Assess, monitor and regulate hunting, fishing and trapping in conjunction with Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section in the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure healthy wildlife and fish populations are maintained.

Fish

- Monitor and regulate angling in conjunction with Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section in the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure that natural fish populations are maintained.
- Maintain freshwater fisheries within the Wilderness Recreation Zone with methods other than stocking.

Coastal and Marine Values

- Work with DFO to enact complementary closures for benthic finfish. Monitor recreation harvests and consider full protection for sensitive species such as California mussel and goose barnacle.

Cultural Values

- Establish working relationships with local First Nations.
- Work with local First Nations to increase the historical and cultural knowledge and record of the area.

Visual Values

- Encourage other agencies, particularly the Ministry of Forests, forest companies and individuals, to minimize impacts of the visual values external to the park.
- Design, locate, construct and maintain all park facilities in a manner that is in harmony with the surrounding landscape and environment.

Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Values

- Manage recreational use in accordance with the zoning plan for the park.
- Develop a monitoring program in conjunction with First Nations to evaluate impacts of recreation use on the natural and cultural values of the park and implement limits, quotas and closures to protect the park's natural and cultural values.

Access

- Allow commercial aircraft landings at Shushartie Bay, the mouth of the Nahwitti River, mouth of the Stranby River (western portion of Shuttleworth Bight), and maintain Lowrie Bay as a commercial landing site, subject to impact assessments.
- Permit boat access for commercial purposes to Experiment Bight, Guise Bay, Fisherman's Bay, mouth of the Stranby River (western portion of Shuttleworth Bight), the mouth of the Nahwitti River and Shushartie Bay.
- Monitor level of use of aircraft and boat access and possible impact on wildlife to ensure that ecological values are maintained and the recreation experience is not eroded.
- Encourage air companies and private pilots who fly over the park to control noise and disruption of wildlife and park visitors. Develop a code of conduct in conjunction with pilots.
- Allow owners of inholdings access to their property by air or water-based transportation.
- Minimize the number and frequency of helicopter flights and landings in the park by government personnel and contractors.
- Prohibit air and road access at all other locations except for emergencies and operational requirements.

Hiking and Backpacking Opportunities

- Limit backcountry camping opportunities in Cape Scott Provincial Park to beach camping and other designated campsites. Locate and design all sites to minimize impacts on the natural and cultural values of the park.
- Maintain existing trail network in the old portion of Cape Scott Provincial Park; do not develop any new trails.
- Develop a monitoring program in conjunction with First Nations to evaluate the impacts of recreation and implement appropriate management actions.
- Maintain the hiking only designation for all trails in the park.

Overnight Opportunities

- Maintain the current level of facility and trail development for the rest of the original portion of Cape Scott Provincial Park but allow for the future reconstruction of the shelter and a small number of tenting sites at Fisherman River.
- Monitor the impacts on the park's natural and cultural values associated with overnight opportunities.
- Allow for existing mooring along the coast. Moorage buoys currently exist in Sea Otter Cove; however, no additional moorage buoys will be provided.

Angling

- Maintain freshwater fisheries within the Wilderness Recreation Zone with methods other than stocking.
- Monitor and regulate angling in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, to ensure that natural fish populations are maintained.
- Continue to recognize traditional rights of First Nations as they may apply.

Hunting

- Monitor and regulate hunting, in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, to ensure sustainable wildlife populations and public safety.
- Continue to recognize traditional hunting rights of First Nations as they may apply.

Commercial Recreation

- Ensure all commercial recreation activities are in keeping with the vision for the park, and do not degrade the park's natural and cultural values, or the experiences of other visitors.
- Develop and implement a monitoring program to assess impacts from commercial and non-commercial recreation of the natural and cultural values of the park.
- Enforce the regulations for marine wildlife (whales, seabirds, sea lions, etc.) viewing as legislated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- Require all commercial operators within Cape Scott Provincial Park to develop a five-year business plan that is compatible with the park management plan.
- Determine the acceptable amount and type of commercial operators through impact assessments.
- Encourage landowners and tenure holders to minimize impacts to the park and promote compatibility of developments with park management goals and objectives.

Management Services

- Prepare annual operational plans that include data collection, monitoring and assessment, and management activities.
- Maintain a seasonal presence by park rangers or contractors as funding allows.
- Develop and maintain adequate signs and information materials to ensure public safety and security, protection of the park's natural and cultural values, and compliance with park rules and regulations.
- Investigate opportunities for the use of volunteers and others to supplement management activities and services.
- Enforce the *Park Act* and *Park and Recreation Area Regulation*.

Information Strategy

- Develop park communication material in conjunction with the local First Nations to ensure their culture and history is accurately portrayed.
- Ensure signs adequately inform visitors of important park messages including safety and security, rules and regulations, and visitor information.
- Dependent on a communication plan, deliver visitor information at all access points into the park utilising an appropriate facility (i.e. shelter or kiosk).

Marketing

- Provide accurate and appropriate information on the park on the BC Parks website to government agencies, associations, institutions, companies and individuals.
- Encourage local, regional and provincial tourism authorities to market Cape Scott Provincial Park in a manner that is sensitive to its wilderness qualities.
- Support appropriate marketing opportunities which provide economic benefits to local businesses and communities.

Interpretive Themes

- Ensure cultural heritage programs and information explain the values of protected areas to humankind.
- Encourage and support appropriate research aimed at increasing our knowledge and understanding of the park's natural and cultural values. Present knowledge developed through research in heritage interpretation products, programs and services.
- Ensure relevance and quality of all heritage interpretation products, programs and services by reviewing and updating periodically.

Cape Scott Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Appendices

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Appendix A: Matrix of Activities, Uses and Facilities for Cape Scott Provincial Park

Activity/Use/Facility	Allowable in WR Zone	Allowable in SF Zone	Allowable in NE Zone	Allowable in IR Zone
Activity				
Beach activities (swimming, sunbathing, etc.)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Boating (power)	N	N	Y	Y
Boating (non-power)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Camping - no trace	Y	Y	Y	N
Camping - other	Y	Y	Y	Y
Commercial recreation (facility-based)	M	N	M ¹	N
Commercial recreation (non-facility based)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fishing	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hiking and walking	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hunting	N ^{Y2}	N ^{Y3}	N	N
Natural and cultural values appreciation (birding, photography, wildlife viewing)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Recreational gold panning/rock hounding	N	N	N	N
Scientific research (manipulative activities)	M	N1	N	N
Scientific research (specimen collection)	M	M	M	M
Trapping	N ²	N	N	N
Use				
First Nations traditional uses and activities	Y	Y	Y	Y
Aircraft access	Y ⁴	N	Y ⁵	N
Exotic insect/disease control	M	M	M	M
Filming (commercial)	M	M	M	M
Fire management (prescribed fire management)	N	N	N	N
Fire management (prevention)	N1	N1	N	N
Fire management (suppression)	N1	N1	N	Y
Fish stocking and enhancement	N	N	N	N
Forest insect/disease control	N1	N1	N1	N1
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N	N	N	N
Guide outfitting (fishing)	Y	Y	Y	Y

¹ In the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition only.

² Only waterfowl hunting is only allowed in the old Cape Scott Provincial Park.

³ Only waterfowl hunting is only allowed in the old Cape Scott Provincial Park.

⁴ By permit only to Lowrie Bay.

⁵ By permit only and only to Shushartie Bay, mouth of the Nahwitti and the mouth of the Stranby River (western portion of Shuttleworth Bight).

Activity/Use/Facility	Allowable in WR Zone	Allowable in SF Zone	Allowable in NE Zone	Allowable in IR Zone
Guide outfitting (hunting)	Y/N ⁶	Y/N	N	N
Guide outfitting (nature tours)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Guide outfitting (river rafting)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Horse use/pack animals (not exotic)	N	N	N	N
Motorised water access	N	N	Y ⁷	Y
Non-motorised water access	Y	Y	Y	Y
Noxious weed control	N1	N1	N1	N1
Off-road Access (mechanical activities)	N	N	N	N
Off-road Access (motorised - not snowmobiles)	N	N	N	N
Pack animals (exotic)	N	N	N	N
Facility				
Administrative buildings and compounds	N	N	N	M
Backcountry huts and shelters	N ⁸	N	Y ⁹	Y
Boat launches	N	N	M ¹⁰	Y
Campgrounds and picnic areas (vehicle access and serviced))	N	N	N	Y
Campgrounds (other)	M	Y	Y	Y
Communication sites	N	N	N	N
Interpretation and information buildings	N	N	N	Y
Roads and parking lots	N	N	N	Y
Lodges and other serviced accommodation	N ¹¹	N	N	M
Trails (hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Utility corridors	N	N	N	N
Water control structures	N	N	N	N

Y = allowed subject to conditions identified in the management plan

M = may be permitted if compatible with protected area objectives

N = not allowed

N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

N2 = present and allowed to continue but not normally allowed

⁶ Hunting is only allowed in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

⁷ Commercial permits at Experiment Bight, Guise Bay, Fisherman's Bay, the mouth of the Stranby and Shushartie only.

⁸ Pre-existing cabin at Lowrie Bay.

⁹ Limited to the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

¹⁰ Only boat ramp at San Josef; no further ones to be developed.

¹¹ Only on private property.

Appendix B: Summary of Public Comments

The planning process for Cape Scott Park had a high degree of public involvement. The public was involved at three stages – developing a vision for the park, reviewing development concepts and reviewing the draft plan. Workshops, open houses and a community focus meeting were held in various communities including Victoria, Vancouver, Courtenay, and Port Hardy.

To assist in the planning process, a background document was prepared. This document, which summarizes all the pertinent information, and invitations to workshops were broadly distributed to a mail list of over 100 individuals and groups. The background document was later posted on the BC Parks website.

In the early winter of 1998, workshops were held in five communities to develop a vision for Cape Scott Provincial Park. This vision would help to guide overall management and development of the park. The results of the workshops were wide ranging and it was identified that further work was needed to develop a common vision for the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

In the fall of 1998, another three workshops were held to discuss the level of development for the North Coast Trail based on a series of development scenarios. Once again, a wide range of opinions were presented, with the more immediate community favouring more access and development than the other communities. In total, over 130 people attended the various workshops.

In February of 2001, public open houses were held in Victoria, Campbell River and Port Hardy to review the draft management plan. Close to 80 people attended these sessions and 21 written submissions were received. Following the open houses, a meeting was held in Port Hardy with the Mount Waddington Community Resource Board, community leaders and parks staff to review the public comments and to finalize the draft management plan.

Most people supported the proposed management direction for the park and expressed their desire to ensure that the park's natural and cultural values were well protected. In Port Hardy, attendees wished to have the North Coast Trail developed to assist the North Island's tourism industry and local economies and to have a road developed into Shushartie Bay.

Below is a synopsis of the main written and verbal comments taken from the open houses, meetings and written submissions, and the rationale of how they were incorporated.

Level of Development of the North Coast Trail

Situation: One of the reasons the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition was protected is to develop a North Coast Trail. The draft management plan directs government to develop the North Coast Trail by finalizing the site plan for trail location and actually constructing the trail, subject to impact assessment and First Nation consultation. The plan also gives the direction to develop a vehicle accessible campground in the Shushartie Bay area and to construct a series of camping sites and simple shelters or huts along the trail.

Public Comment: There was a wide range of comment on the North Coast Trail. Most supported the development, although a few disagreed with building a trail.

Level of development - Some people would like to see destination facilities including lodges, hostels and campgrounds; others supported formalized campsites to limit site degradation, while others wanted the trail to be remote, difficult challenging and only primitive facilities. Others asked for the area not to be over developed and left as pristine and wild as possible.

Type of facilities - Some supported roofed structures but indicated that they should not be advertised as accommodation for overnighting as it may pull too many visitors in or attract people who were not prepared for the rigours of the North Coast. Others supported use of cabins to extend the season and for safety purposes; they felt that cabins would not compromise the wilderness aspects. Some respondents wanted a vehicle access campsite at Shushartie Bay which would serve as both a destination and a staging area, where as others wanted vehicle-accessible campgrounds at the mouth of the Nahwitti and Stranby rivers as well.

Routing - Some respondents indicated that it will be important to some to keep the trail as close to the water as possible to attract visitors, while others suggest using the old corduroy road.

Carrying Capacity – Some people were concerned about overcrowding and destroying the experience; a permit system was suggested to avoid this.

Analysis: In order to be a tourist draw, the North Coast Trail must occupy its own niche, so that it is an alternative to the popular trips such as the Juan de Fuca Trail, West Coast Trail, Nootka Island and Brooks Peninsula. Given the climate of that part of the island, some facilities are needed to appeal to the wider range of hikers. The natural scenery and coastline should be used as much as possible to attract international visitors. A vehicle-accessed campsite has been added to provide a staging area for the trail and to address the call for such a campsite that presently is not available on the North Island. Vehicle-accessed campgrounds at the mouth of each river are not appropriate in terms of providing an international attraction; however, one campground would serve to anchor the trail.

Plan Recommendation:

- That the North Coast Trail be built to provide opportunities for extended and remote backpacking trips along the coast.
- That some facilities would be provided to provide an less rustic experience than Nootka Island and Brooks Peninsula.

Access

Situation: Currently, access into the park is primarily by foot from the parking lot located just outside the park on Western Forest Products' property. Access can also be gained to some locations by boat, fixed winged planes or helicopter. The draft management plan suggests that a route from Shushartie Bay be developed to assist with egress and access to the trail, and that access planning take place to address boat and air traffic.

Public Comment: This was one of the most common points raised. Many people wanted some form of road access into the park which would access the beach. This would primarily be for families or for those who are less physically able. Preferred locations were San Josef Bay and Shushartie Bay, although some people wanted access down every major watershed in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition.

On the other hand, some were concerned that increased access would mean more vandalism and wildlife poaching. Others recommended that moorage be developed at Hansen Lagoon.

Analysis: San Josef Beach already has a wheel-chair accessible path from the parking lot to the San Josef Beach, that facilitates families and those that are less physically able. A staging area is needed at the far end of the North Coast Trail in order for hikers to gain access to the trail. Development of access down each of the watersheds would defeat the purpose of the wilderness trail and make it less attractive as an international destination. The Canadian Coast Guard maintains moorage buoys in Sea Otter Cove for safety purposes. Additional buoys there or elsewhere in the park are not appropriate for the wilderness experience being provided.

Plan recommendation:

- Only access to Shushartie Bay would be developed, and depending on an impact assessment and consultation with First Nations, a vehicle accessible campground would be developed to provide access to the shoreline.
- That the moorage at Sea Otter Cove remain under the maintenance of Canadian Coast Guard and that no further moorage be provided in the park.
- That access by boat for commercial purposes be permitted to Experiment Bight, Guise Bay, Fisherman's Bay, mouth of the Stranby (western portion of Shuttleworth Bight), the mouth of the Nahwitti River and Shushartie Bay.
- That commercial aircraft landings be permitted at Lowrie Bay, mouth of the Stranby (western portion of Shuttleworth Bight), the mouth of the Nahwitti River and Shushartie Bay.

Economic Opportunities

Situation: The North Island has been heavily impacted with the downturn in the timber markets and the fishing industry and the residents are looking to tourism to bolster their economy. The development of an international hiking destination could be a keystone to a tourism economy.

Public Comment: Local and regional residents of the North Island are concerned that Environmental Stewardship Division take their views into consideration in the management and potential development of the park such that they can develop tourism opportunities and enjoy the park themselves. They would like to see more tourism opportunities near or adjacent to the park and the opportunity for private commercial tourism ventures to be developed on Crown land adjacent to the park. They also stated that there is a need to work together with major stakeholders to facilitate the development of the trail. Other attendees did not support economic development and activities in parks.

Analysis: One of the reasons that the Nahwitti-Shushartie was added to Cape Scott Provincial Park was to develop a North Coast Trail that would serve as a tourism draw to the North Island. The trail needs to be developed so that it occupies a different market niche than the West Coast Trail, the Juan de Fuca Trail, Nootka Island or Brooks Peninsula. A wilderness trail with a few amenities such as huts to escape the rain would set this trail apart from the rest and provide a basis in which to develop a healthy ecotourism industry.

Plan Recommendations :

That the North Coast Trail be developed with facilities to provide a comfortable backcountry experience. This includes development of:

- access and egress from Shushartie Bay area
- trail that provides day or multi-day wilderness hiking and backpacking trips through the use of loops
- series of designated campsites to serve hikers and kayakers.

Protection of Natural and Cultural Values

Situation: The enlarged Cape Scott Provincial Park captures a wide range of natural values from marine areas to upland bogs. It captures a representative example of the Nahwitti Lowland Ecoregion and protects old growth forests, estuaries, and important fish rearing habitats. A variety of wildlife utilize the park including blue and red-listed species, such as Roosevelt elk, sandhill cranes and Dolly Varden char. The park also protects the remnants of Danish and English pioneers at the turn of the twentieth century and a number of First Nation archaeological sites.

Public Comments: The public were concerned that over-development and visitation would degrade the values for which the park was created. Another comment focussed around concerns over the sensitive cutthroat trout populations that may be over fished if promoted.

Analysis: With proper impact assessments and mitigation strategies, the development and management of the North Coast Trail would have minimal impact on the natural and cultural values.

Plan Recommendations :

- That impact assessments be undertaken for development of North Coast Trail and its associated facilities to ensure the significant impacts to the park's natural and cultural values are minimized.
- Monitor use to ensure that park values are not being compromised, and if they are, undertake steps to address impact. In terms of fish, the populations and fishing pressure would be monitored and angling regulated to maintain populations.
- That staff work with First Nations to develop a monitoring program to ensure protection of values important to First Nations.

Hunting

Situation: Waterfowl hunting is permitted in older portions of Cape Scott Provincial Park and hunting for elk, black bears, deer cougar and wolves is permitted in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition. The draft management plan stated that hunting will continue.

Public Comment: As with many parks, some people objected to hunting in the park, and believed that the animals should be protected from hunting. Other people support hunting as a valid recreational activity in a park.

Analysis: Unless there is safety or conservation concerns, hunting is an acceptable recreation activity in Cape Scott Provincial Park.

Plan Recommendations:

- Monitor and regulate hunting, in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to ensure sustainable wildlife populations and public safety.



Plate 5: Old fence line along Guise Bay

Appendix C: Management Planning Zoning Descriptions

	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment	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 in association 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).	Motorised (powerboats, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles), non-motorised (foot, horse, canoe, bicycles). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pickup 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 mechanised 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 ha.	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/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, snowplay, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialised activities.	Walk-in/boat-in camping, power-boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, and specialised activities.	Sightseeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.
Impacts on Natural Environment	Includes natural resource features and phenomena in a natural state but where human presence may be readily visible both through the existence of recreation facilities and of 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.
Facilities	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic/play areas, trail accommodation or interpretive buildings, boat launches, administrative buildings, service compounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, wood lots; parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk-in/boat-in campsites, shelters, accommodation buildings may be permitted; facilities for motorised access - e.g., docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.	Interpretive facilities only - resources are to be protected.

Management Guidelines	Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and a 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 interpretive 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.
Examples of Zoning	Campground in Rathtrevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski area in E.C. Manning Park.	Core area in Cathedral Park; North beach in Naikoon Park.	Botanical Beach tidepools within Juan de Fuca Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mount Assiniboine Park.

	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
Objective	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent 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 dependent on a pristine environment where no motorised 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-mechanised & non-motorised - except may permit low frequency air access to designated sites; foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).	Non-mechanised & non-motorised (no air access); foot, canoe (horses 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, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialised activities (e.g., caving, climbing).	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialised activities (e.g., caving, climbing).
Impacts on Natural Environment	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern 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 modern human beings.
Facilities	Minimal facility development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment e.g. trails, primitive campsites, etc. Some basic facilities at access points, e.g., dock, primitive shelter, etc.	None
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.
Examples 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.

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This document was prepared with the assistance of Dave Kaegi of Wildland Consulting and Roger Beardmore of Beardmore Consulting of Revelstoke, BC. The maps in this background report were prepared by Vision Group International, Victoria, BC.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This background document will be used as an information base for producing a strategic management plan for the Cape Scott Protected Areas which include Cape Scott Provincial Park (including the Nahwitti-Shushartie), and the Scott Islands Provincial Park. The purpose of the background document is to provide an overview of the natural, human heritage and recreational values of the Cape Scott Protected Areas in the context of provincial goals for conservation and recreation. While not an exhaustive resource atlas, this report provides sufficient information for understanding the various issues that will need to be addressed in a strategic management planning process.

2.0 PARK LOCATION AND SETTING

2.1 Cape Scott Provincial Park

Cape Scott Provincial Park lies within the Nahwitti Lowland Ecoregion on the northwest corner of Vancouver Island, and represents one of the western-most points of Canada (Figure 1). The park encompasses scenic and wild coast and uplands. Its remote location and rich physical and cultural resources make Cape Scott Provincial Park unique within the present provincial park system. The park provides a wilderness experience along a stretch of relatively accessible wild coast land and serves as an extensive, high-quality recreational area.

Cape Scott Provincial Park was established to preserve its wilderness quality and the essence of the area's cultural heritage. In 1973, an area of 15,070 hectares surrounding the cape was designated by the provincial government as a Class A Provincial Park. It was established to protect, exhibit and interpret an example of the natural features and processes of the Nahwitti Lowland Natural Region. The Nahwitti-Shushartie was identified during the Vancouver Island Land Use Planning and was added to Cape Scott Provincial Park in July 1995. This 6,779 hectare addition contributes to the unique scenic character of the original Cape Scott Provincial Park, and enhances the park's ability to provide a wilderness experience along a stretch of high-quality, wild, and relatively accessible coast-land. There is no marine component to this addition. In total, the park protects 22,220 ha, 1,7348 ha upland and 4,871 ha of foreshore.

Cape Scott Provincial Park consists of coast and upland areas (Figures 2 and 3). It has low relief, poor drainage, picturesque white sandy beaches, and rock headlands. The park encompasses an intriguing array of life zones including the stunted vegetation of the bog lands, abundant marine flora and fauna, and the extreme environment of the sand dunes. The Nahwitti-Shushartie extends the original north-eastern border of Cape Scott Provincial Park, running from Dakota Creek east along the north coast of Vancouver Island to Shushartie Bay, and extending inland along the Stranby and Shushartie river valleys.

The park is accessed from a gravel road off Highway 19 at Port Hardy. The gravel logging road leads westward from Port Hardy, passes through Holberg and terminates in a parking lot next to the park boundary. There is no automobile access within the park. Historic trails are the only means of traversing the upland area of the park. A boat launch near the parking lot makes it possible to enter San Josef Bay by small boat or canoe along the river.

The park can be accessed by water at Fisherman Bay, the Stranby River estuary in Shuttleworth Bight, or the Shushartie River estuary in Shushartie Bay. These last two access are at private land.

2.2 Scott Islands Provincial Park

Scott Islands Provincial Park is comprised of five islands and associated rocks lying from ten to 46 kilometres off the northwest tip of Vancouver Island (Figure 4). Their approximate latitude is 50° 50' north, and their longitude is 128° 40' west. The five islands are aligned in a northwesterly direction, and from east to west are: Cox; Lanz; Beresford; Sartine; and Triangle. Lanz and Cox are the largest, at 764 hectares and 978 hectares respectively, while Beresford is the smallest measuring 14.5 hectares. Lanz and Cox were identified for protection in the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan. These islands have been combined with three existing ecological reserves - Anne Vallée (Triangle Island), Beresford Island and Sartine Island - to form Scott Islands Provincial Park. In this process, an area of one kilometre around each of the islands, including the three ecological reserves, was designated as park. In total, the park covers approximately 6,216 hectares. Of this, 2,339 ha is upland and 4,077 ha is foreshore.

The ecological reserves were established in 1971. In 1982, Triangle Island Ecological Reserve was renamed Anne Vallée Ecological Reserve as a tribute to Anne who died while studying puffins on the island.

These remote rocky islands protect colonies of breeding seabirds, including Cassin's and rhinoceros auklets, tufted puffins, common murre, pelagic and Brant's cormorants, and glaucous-winged gulls. The park also protects one of four Northern sea-lion breeding rookeries in British Columbia.

Access to Lanz and Cox islands is by boat or by aircraft. Access to the three ecological reserves is restricted to scientific research and monitoring and requires a permit.

Figure 1 Regional Context
Figure not available at this time

figure 2 Cape Scott park west
Figure not available at this time

figure 3 Cape Scott Park - East
Figure not available at this time

Figure 4: Scott Island park
Figure not available at this time

3.0 NATURAL VALUES

3.1 CAPE SCOTT PROVINCIAL PARK

3.1.1 Topography

For the most part, Cape Scott Provincial Park consists of low rolling terrain, lying under 300 metres (one thousand feet) in elevation. Exceptions to this are the four mountains in the park, the highest being Mount St. Patrick at 422 metres (1,383 feet). The entire area is dominated by an extensive bog ecosystem. As the land is poorly drained, leached soil conditions and dense scrubby vegetation prevail. Bogs abound, with one at the very top of Mount St. Patrick. Muddy conditions exist year-round and large wet areas can be found at the head of Sea Otter Cove, San Josef River estuary, Eric Lake, St. Mary Creek, Rasmus Creek and Upper Hansen Lagoon. The park falls within the Coastal Western Hemlock Biogeoclimatic Zone, which is the rainiest biogeoclimatic zone in British Columbia.

The northern coast of Cape Scott Provincial Park fronts onto Queen Charlotte Strait and Goletas Channel and extends for approximately 50 kilometres from Cape Scott east to Shushartie Bay. Extensive stretches of beach are found along the coastline. Five large bays feature white sandy and cobble beaches and include Experiment Bight, Nels Bight, Nissen Bight, Shuttleworth Bight, Shushartie Bay. They are interspersed with smaller bays, like Fisherman Bay, which have steeper gravel beaches. Large expanses of cobble beach can be found between the Nahwitti River and Shushartie Bay. These long stretches of cobble beach are interspersed with rocky headlands which are impassable at low tide. Approximately halfway along the northcoast is Cape Sutil, which is the most northern point of Vancouver Island.

Other features of the north coast component of Cape Scott include a tombolo (which is a gravel and sand bar that connects a small island to the mainland), black gravel beach, blow holes, large black cliffs, and sea stacks.

The western coast of the park fronts onto the Pacific Ocean where it is vulnerable to the southwest storms, making it a more rugged and exposed shoreline. The three sandy beaches, Guise Bay, Hansen Bay and Lowrie Bay, are smaller than the northern beaches and are separated by long stretches of rocky coast. The more southerly beaches of Sea Otter Cove and San Josef Bay are larger and are protected slightly from the southwest storms by headlands. Along this coast, Hansen Lagoon, with its mouth at the head of Hansen Bay, stretches five kilometres inland and forms a large salt water marsh and tidal mud flats.

The lower portions of five main rivers are found within the park boundaries. These are the San Josef River, Fisherman River, Stranby River, Nahwitti River and the Shushartie River. Only a small part of the San Josef River is in the park. Fisherman River is the most completely represented in the park; it is fed by St. Mary's Creek and flows through an incised channel to its mouth near the head of Hansen Lagoon. The Stranby River is the

most intact of the parks' five river systems. Although the entire upper watershed of this river has been logged, the old growth timber in the lower reaches is still intact.

The Nahwitti River which lies just east of the Stranby is in poor condition due to both human-made and natural damage. Intensive logging in the early 1990s, slides and floods which have eliminated the lower river's holding pools, and altered its original course. The lower river now meanders over a broad flood plain. The lower river valley at the Shushartie River is still intact with significant stands of virgin timber.

Estuaries, which are highly productive systems given the mix of fresh and saltwater, are found at the mouth of the San Josef, Stranby, Nahwitti and Shushartie rivers. The estuary in the Stranby may have been reduced in size by earlier farming activities. The Nahwitti estuary has been substantially changed through timber harvesting and booming; it is now a tidal flat with only one large deep holding pool that forms an outfall to the ocean.

Other minor fresh water systems found within the park include St. Mary's Creek, Rasmus Creek, Dakota Creek, Laura Creek, Skinner Creek, and Irony Creek.

3.1.2 Geology

Cape Scott Provincial Park, situated on the Nahwitti Lowland, is an emergent part of the northern coastal trough. The bedrock geology has been identified as a mixture of sedimentary and volcanic formations of the Tertiary time period belonging to the geologic sub-group Bonanza. The dissected erosional surface of these Tertiary formations slopes northward to reach sea level between Cape Scott and Cape Sutil along the northern coast. The area is considered to be geologically more part of the Queen Charlotte Islands than Vancouver Island. During the Pleistocene era, glacial ice moved south and southwest across the Queen Charlotte Strait scouring the Cape Scott area. Today, remnants of the glacial outwash form well-drained upland pockets amongst the predominantly boggy lowlands.

3.1.3 Climate

Exposed on both the north and west coasts to moisture-laden ocean winds, Cape Scott Provincial Park receives a considerable amount of precipitation. Yearly figures represent twice as much precipitation as falls in Campbell River (Appendix A). Frequent and sudden storms batter the cape's coastline, with gale force winds and violent surf. During the winter months, prevailing winds from the southeast can reach velocities of 100 kilometres per hour. In summer, the prevailing winds are from the northwest and south, reaching speeds of up to 64 kilometres per hour. These winds moderate the temperatures year round.

3.1.4 Vegetation

The park's vegetation represents the very wettest hypermaritime variant of Coastal Western Hemlock Biogeoclimatic Zone (CWHvh1) (Krajina, 1969) and characterized by stands of redcedar (*Thuja plicata*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) and Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*). Within the park, the differences in topography, exposure and drainage affect the cover vegetation.

Along the coastal fringe, Sitka spruce is the dominant tree cover as it is the most tolerant of salt water spray and thrives in well-drained exposed soil. With the high winds and stormy conditions, the trees appear stunted, unable to grow to great heights. Here, ocean spray is the dominant factor influencing understory species. Along the north coast of the park, high winds, lack of shelter and wet soils have resulted in extensive blowdown in the area between Laura Creek and Christensen Point, and north of Shuttleworth Bight. However, some Sitka and hemlock have withstood the harsh conditions along the coast and are over 250 years of age, measuring between 36 to 37 metres in height. Coastal areas that contain these trees include: the stretch between Laura Creek and two kilometres east of Christensen Point; the east side of the Stranby River to Irony Creek; west of Cape Sutil; just west of the Nahwitti River, and just west of Shushartie Bay.

The Stranby valley bottom contains a significant stand of old growth spruce forest. Virtually no logging has taken place along the Stranby valley bottom and as a result, a narrow riparian spruce flood plain ecosystem is intact in the lower watershed. The Shushartie valley bottom has had minimal logging and also contains a substantial old growth spruce forest. In contrast, the Nahwitti valley bottom has been heavily logged and no longer contains first growth trees. Instead, it consists of dense second growth with red alder (*Alnus rubra*) dominating the riparian zone. East of Jephther Point the forest has been recently harvested.

Within the interior of Cape Scott Provincial Park, vegetation types are diverse. Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) is common especially in higher-elevation muskeg areas. Yellow-cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*) has been noted in pockets between Cape Sutil and the Nahwitti River. Yellow-cedar is probably common in all the boggy areas of the park. Wild lily of the valley (*Maianthemum dilatatum*) and bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) are common understory plants in the forested areas.

Marshland areas can be found at the head of Hansen Lagoon, Sea Otter Cove and in the estuaries. Here, vegetation consists of stunted yellow and redcedar and lodgepole pine trees, while mosses, grasses, salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) and skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanum*) dominate the understory. Land that is not continuously water-saturated supports climax hemlock and redcedar forest with dense canopies and thick understory.

The extensive beach area supports many varieties of small herbs and grasses which yield to dense cover of shrubs, such as salmonberry and salal, near the forest edge. Sea Beach

Sandwort (Honkenya peploides), Hairy Rockcress (Arabis hirsuta), Coast Strawberry (Fragaria Chiloensis) and Indian Paintbrush (Castilleja miniata), Sea Plantain (Plantago maritima) and pea (Lathyrus japonicus, L. littoralis) are among the plants found inhabiting the sand above the high tide line. Gravel bars are dominated by Sea Milkwort (Glaux maritima) and cinquefoil (Potentilla pacifica).

The sand dunes of Guise Bay and Experiment Bight are a feature unique to Cape Scott. As a result of Danish pioneers to settle the land, they are home to many common garden weeds, hyacinth, snowdrops, daffodils, holly, ivy, laurel, rhododendrons, monkey puzzle trees, and cinquefoil. The native plants of arrow grass (Triglochin maritimum), and sedges (Carex lyngbyei) can also be found in the dunes.

Rocky headlands provide a home to some of the more hardy coastal plants such as Rusty Saxifrage (Saxifrage ferruginea) and the colourful Indian Paintbrush. Another salt water tolerant plant, Cinquefoil (Potentilla villosa), can be found clinging to the exposed rocks along with stunted Western Yew (Taxus brevifolia) and Saskatoon berry (Amelanchier alnifolia) (Cannings, 1975).

3.1.5 Marine and Aquatic Values

Cape Scott Provincial Park protects a wide variety of marine and aquatic values, from the rich intertidal life of the rock pools to the deep water habitat of grey whales to the inland rivers.

The rocks of the park's exposed shoreline are often encrusted with various lichens or blanketed by green or red algae (Enteromorpha intestinalis/Petrocelis). Periwinkles, limpets and barnacles are found in abundance on the rough rocky surfaces. The Tidepool Sculpin (Oligocottus maculosus), Hairy Hermit Crab (Pagurus hirsutiusculus), a variety of seastars and sea anemones are some common inhabitants of the rock pools. Farther out from shore and below low-tide, the Rock Scallop (Crassadoma gigantea) and Northern Abalone (Haliotis kamtschatkana) are found.

Interspersed between these rocky headlands, white sandy beaches support the Razor Clam (Siliqua patula), Purple Olive Snail (Olivella biplicata), and Jumping Sandhopper (Orchestoidea californiana).

Associated also with park's marine component are the tidal mud flats of Hansen Lagoon, Sea Otter Cove and the San Josef River Estuary. The mixing of fresh and salt water provides for numerous ecological niches. Geoducks (Panope generosus) and variety of clams can be identified including the Sand Clam (Macoma secta), Mud Clam (Mya arenaria), Butter Clam (Saxidomus giganteus) and Littleneck Clam (Protothaca staminea). Crabs are also abundant in the tidal flat area with such species as Hairy Hermit Crab (Pagurus hirsutiusculus), Helmet Crab (Telmessus chaeiragonis) and Dungeness Crab

(Cancer magister). Among the most abundant plant life is eelgrass (Zostera marina) which grows in large mats and harbours numerous small crustaceans.

The Stranby and Shushartie rivers are highly valued for fish and fish habitat. Coho salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch), pink salmon (O. gorbuscha), and steelhead trout (O. mykiss) are found throughout the Stranby River. Chum salmon (O. keta) is found in the lower three kilometres. Sockeye (O. nerka), coho, pink, chum and steelhead use the Shushartie River. The Nahwitti River, although not as pristine as the Stranby and Shushartie rivers, also contains fish. Coho, chum, pink, and sockeye salmon, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout (O. clarki), and Dolly Varden trout (Salvelinus malma) use this river system. Aleutian Sculpin (Cottus aleuticus) and Prickly Sculpin (C. asper) have also been found in the Nahwitti. In 1989, a small variant of rainbow trout (O. mykiss) was discovered in a blocked tributary of the Stranby River.

Hansen Lagoon, Fisherman River and Eric Lake provided a suitable habitat for Cutthroat Trout. Steelhead trout and sockeye, pink, chum and coho salmon are thought to occur here. It is unknown whether the smaller creek systems in the Nahwitti-Shushartie support any fish species.

For many park visitors, the marine mammals represent the park's most spectacular wildlife resources. The sight of a pod of Killer Whales (Orcinus orcus) or Gray Whale (Eschrichtius robustus) grazing amongst the kelp beds is not uncommon. Sea lions and seals reside in the offshore waters and can often be seen lazing on the coastal rocks and islets. The occasional sightings of Harbour Porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) and Elephant Seal (Mirounga angustirostris) have also been noted by park visitors.

3.1.6 Terrestrial Wildlife

The inland forest area is known to support a variety of mammals. The Red Squirrel (Tamiasciurus hudsonicus) and White-footed Mouse (Peromyscus sp.) are the most common of these. Gray Wolf (Canis lupus), Cougar (Felis concolor), American Beaver (Castor canadensis), River Otter (Lontra canadensis), mink (Mustela sp.) and Raccoon (Procyon lotor) are residents of the park. Herds of Roosevelt Elk (Cervus elaphus roosevelti), which is a blue listed or vulnerable species, have been noted in the Nahwitti and Stranby drainages. Elk may occupy other drainage areas, but no observation data confirms their occupation.

During the 1970s, high populations of Mule Deer (Odocoileus hemionus) were recorded in the area. However, increased wolf populations during the late 1970s and the 1980s have reduced deer populations to a very low level. Information to date does not indicate that deer populations are recovering.

A significant population of Black Bear (Ursus americanus) inhabit the north coast and can frequently be seen foraging in the intertidal zone. Extensive bear trails are found along the

coast between Laura Creek and Christensen Point, as well as along the ridge that starts east of Cape Sutil.

Birdlife within the forest and forest clearings is diverse. The more common species include Rufous Hummingbird (Selasphorus rufus), Pileated Woodpecker (Dryocopus pileatus), Steller's Jay (Cyanocitta cristata) and Winter Wren (Troglodytes troglodytes). In the marshlands, the Short-eared Owl (Nyctea scandiaca) and American Kestrel (Falco sparverius) have been seen along with an occasional Snowy Owl (Nyctea scandiaca) and Northern Harrier (Circus cyaneus). Other feathered inhabitants range from Townsend's Warbler (Vermvora celata) to Pine Siskin (Carduelis pinus) (Cannings, 1975).

Aerial surveys taken during 1993 and 1994 show a considerable population of Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) in the Nahwitti-Shushartie addition. A total of 25 occupied nests were located along the coast between Nissen Bight and Shushartie Bay.

The estuaries and tidal flat ecosystems in the western section of the park are prime feeding grounds for a variety of shore and migratory birds. Sandhill Cranes (Grus canadensis) and Common Snipe (Gallinago gallinago) are often found at the head of Hansen Lagoon. Spotted Sandpiper (Actitis macularia), Semipalmated Plover (Charadrius semipalmatus) and Killdeer (C. vociferus) are frequently seen feeding in flocks on the mud flats. Great Blue Herons (Ardea herodias), Canada Geese (Branta canadensis) and Trumpeter Swans (Cygnus buccinator) are among the migratory birds taking refuge in the sheltered lagoons and estuaries (Cannings, 1975).

3.2 SCOTT ISLANDS PROVINCIAL PARK

3.2.1 Topography

Cox Island is the easternmost and largest of the Scott Islands group. It is separated from Lanz Island by a channel that is about one kilometre wide. The island is roughly rectangular in shape and measures about 4 km long by 2.5 km wide. It has a rugged shoreline with many bays and high-tide beaches between and around numerous pinnacles, cliffs, gorges, and steep rocky ridges. As is the case with the other islands in the group, the land rises sharply from the tide-mark, except in a few places where shallow valleys run up from the shore. The island has a maximum elevation of 312 metres and has an upland area of 978 ha.

Lanz Island is only slightly smaller than Cox Island, measuring about four by two kilometres. It has a rugged rocky shoreline with many pinnacles, cliffs, crevices and precipitous slopes, and numerous small bays and high-tide cobblestone beaches. A larger bay with a sandy beach is located on the east side. Interior slopes rise to a maximum elevation of 212 metres. The island has a total upland area of 764 hectares, 692 of which are forested.

Beresford Island is actually a series of six small, rocky islets located 4 km southwest of Lanz Island. It has a total upland area of 14.5 ha, of which 5.6 ha is forested. The largest islet is dome-shaped with steep rocky sides, and is 98 metres high. Rocks and pinnacles are found at the north and southwest ends. The shore is rock, which emerges directly from deep water, making it possible to land only on a relatively calm day.

Sartine Island is a windswept treeless island with steep rocky slopes. Located about half-way between Lanz and Triangle islands, it is composed of a series of rounded, flat-topped knolls, rising to a maximum elevation of 113 metres, and joined by knife-edged saddles. Except for large boulders and a fringe of gravel at the base of some east slopes, there are no beaches or shelves. The main island is 28 ha in size, 16 ha of which are vegetated. Outer rocks are bare pinnacles, with a cumulative upland area of 5.2 ha.

Triangle Island (Anne Vallée Ecological Reserve), perched 46 km off the northwest tip of Vancouver Island, is the vanguard of the southern British Columbia coast. Perimeter slopes are steep with beaches or tidal rock shelves. The southwest peninsula (“Puffin Rock”), and the offshore rocks and pinnacles drop more abruptly into the sea. The island rises to a maximum elevation of 194 metres with an undulating central plateau and has a total upland area of 144 hectares, 106 of which are vegetated. Bare offshore pinnacles comprise an additional 5 ha. The soil is enriched by an abundance of bird droppings.

3.2.2 Climate

Meteorological data are available for Triangle Island from May 1910 to June 1921 through the Department of Naval Service and for Sartine Island from 1984 when an automatic station was installed. Generally speaking, the climate is mild and moist. Precipitation is moderate and fairly well spread out over the year, with a small proportion in the form of snow. Temperatures are characteristic of Pacific marine climates, with moderated seasonal variations and mean values approximately 4°C in January and 13°C in July. Throughout the year, fog and cloud predominate. Winds continually buffet the islands; hurricane force winds are frequent with speeds up to 193 km/hour.

3.2.3 Vegetation

On the seaward side of **Lanz Island**, Sitka Spruce is dominant, forming a bulwark against the storms that frequently lash the coast. Many trees are scarred or stunted, contorted or tilted by the wind, and the trunks are often disfigured as a result of injury or fungal infection. Dense understory stands of honeysuckle (Lonicera sp.), elderberry (Sambucus sp.), twinberry (Lonicera involucrata), alder (Alnus sp.), salal, and willow (Salix sp.) form an impenetrable barrier in many places. Bare litter areas with scattered Lady Fern (Athyrium filix-femina) are found under densely canopied spruce. Grass and forbs grow along much of the forest fringe. An extensive grassy area (Calamagrostis nutkaensis) occurs on the southwest tip.

Cox Island is floristically similar to Lanz Island. Salal and salmonberry dominate the understory of the spruce, hemlock and redcedar forest that covers 880 ha of the island. Grass and forbs fringe forest slopes, especially above steep rock faces, but there are no extensive grassy areas. Much of the forest appears diseased.

Beresford Island exhibits transitional features between large forested islands to the east, and treeless islands to the west. The only trees are Sitka Spruce, very old and much battered by the elements, growing on the rounded summit of the highest part of the island. Slopes are grassy with areas of dense shrubbery. Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) grows on the exposed rocky edges, while *Elymus* and *Calamagrostis nutkaensis* dominate most grassy slopes. Hairy goldfields (*Lasthenia maritima*), a rare blue listed species is found on this island. Salmonberry is the most abundant shrub, occurring under sparse stands of spruce and on slopes. The highest sections of attached rocks and pinnacles are grassy.

Sartine Island is treeless. Despite its steep rocky appearance, in places there is deep rich soil, favourable to plant growth. It is grassy, predominately *Calamagrostis nutkaensis*, with *Elymus mollis* on lower slopes and *Deschmosua caespito* on edges above rock faces. *Conioselem pacificum* and *Montia* sp. are common on grassy slopes. Dense salmonberry, one to two-metre high, covers the entire northern slope of the largest section of the island.

Triangle Island has no trees but has an unique distribution of coastal vegetation (Carl *et al.*, 1951). The heavy growth of vegetation appears to be the result of the mild humid climate combined with a soil rich in minerals, and supplied with an abundance of nitrogen from seabirds that frequent the island. It is covered by a blanket of one to two metre-high salmonberry at its top. Stunted, wild crab-apple (*Malus fusca*) mixes with salmonberry in many areas making slopes impassable. On the highest part of the island, Saxifrage Ridge, salmonberry gives way to an expansive area of fragile, heavily burrowed soil covered with *Saxifraga ferruginea* and wood fern (*Dryopteris assimilis*). Extensive hummocks of licorice fern (*Polypodium glycyrrhiza*) and ground-hugging salal also occur along Saxifrage Ridge. *Calamagrostis nutkaensis* is the dominant grass species on top of the island, covering substantial areas on the east side of Saxifrage Ridge and on the southeast ridge. Many perimeter slopes are grassy covered primarily by Tufted Hairgrass.

3.2.4 Marine and Aquatic Values

The rocky shores and islets of Triangle, Sartine and Beresford islands are used by Northern Sea Lions, or Stellar Sea Lions, (*Eumetopias jubatus*) as hauling out grounds, breeding grounds and rookeries. This species is considered rare both provincially and globally. This colony is the largest in British Columbia, surviving a federal policy of eradication from 1915 to 1965 to protect the commercial fishery.

Other marine mammals that are found in the waters around the islands include Sea Otter (Enhydra lutis), Minke Whale (Balaenoptera acutorostrata), Humpback Whale (Megaptera novaeangliae), Sperm Whale (Physeter macrocephalus) and Killer Whale. Sea otters are on the provincial red list, that is they are endangered. The islands are also on the seasonal migratory corridor of the Gray Whale.

The Scott Islands is important breeding habitat for several species of seabirds including Pelagic Cormorant (Phalacrocorax pelagicus), Leach's Storm Petrel (Oceanodroma leucorhoa), Fork-tailed Storm Petrel (O. furcata), Black Oystercatcher (Haematopus bachmani), Glaucous-winged Gull (Larus glaucescens), Common Murre (Uria aalge), Thick-billed Murre (U. lomvia), Pigeon Guillemot (Cepphus columba), Cassin's Auklet (Ptychoraphus aleuticus), Rhinoceros Auklet (Cerorhinca monocerata), and Tufted Puffin (Fratercula cirrhata). Associated species include: Northern Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis); Bald Eagle; Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus); Marbled Murrelet (Brachyramphus marmoratus); Horned Puffin (Frateraila corniculata); Northwestern Crow (Corvus caurinus); and Common Raven (C. corax). The pelagic cormorant, common murre, thick-billed murre, peregrine falcon, marbled murrelet, and tufted puffin are all on the provincial red list, or are endangered.

The Scott Islands are an important groundfish area, and squid spawning occurs along the shorelines. Geoduck and red sea urchin beds occur around Lanz and Cox islands.

3.2.5 Terrestrial Wildlife

The only endemic terrestrial mammal species on the islands are the White-footed Mouse and the Meadow Vole (Microtus pennsylvanicus). Despite the complete isolation of Triangle Island, in particular, both species are well-established, and morphological characteristics apparent in both populations on the island indicate that these mammals have diverged significantly from similar species inhabiting the nearest land-masses. Both species exhibit evidence of gigantism, which may be due to longer life, abundant food supply in summer, absence of predation and possible absence of parasitic or non-parasitic diseases. The Triangle Island Vole (Microtus townsendii cowani) is recognized as a provincial "red list" species.

A number of species have been introduced to the island and include rabbits (Triangle Island), mink (Lanz and Cox islands), and raccoon (Cox Island). Mink, in particular, had apparently eliminated pelagic bird nesting sites from Lanz and Cox islands (Carl *et al.*, 1951). Surveys in the mid-1980s show small isolated colonies of pelagic cormorants and possibly pigeon guillemots.

4.0 CULTURAL VALUES

4.1 CAPE SCOTT PROVINCIAL PARK

4.1.1 First Nations History

The Cape Scott area was home to First Nations peoples of the Kwakiutl Nation. The Nahwitti lived to the north and the Quatsino further south.

The Nahwitti¹ territory stretched from Shushartie Bay to Cape Scott, and included the offshore islands, and consisted of three groups. As a result of decline in populations from war and disease and vulnerability to raids by northern peoples, by the 1870s, the Yutlinuk passed out of existence, and the Nakomgilisala and Tlatlasikwala became a 'single tribe' for external purposes such as in dealings with the Department of Indian Affairs (Galois, 1994:283).

In the early, Nakumgilisala village sites were at hanse Bay, Fisherman Bay, Hanna Point (now IR 2, Semach) and at the mouth of San Josef Creek. IR 3, Ouchton was an important village site.

During much of the 19th century, the main First Nations population was concentrated on the east side of Cape Sutil at the fortified village of Nahwitti (Mason, 1995). In 1879, a native reserve, the Nahwitti IR4, was confirmed at Cape Sutil. Today the reserve is uninhabited, but evidence of the village remain.

Other areas of First Nations habitation included Shuttleworth Bight and Shushartie Bay. Shuttleworth Bight was referred to as an old village site called "go'saa", and was used as a main fishing station. At the head of Shushartie Bay was another village site called Khatis. It was located at the head of Shushartie Bay, and was valued for its clam and crab beach.

To date, twelve archaeological sites have been identified. They include burial grounds, shell middens, remnants of a fish trap, pictographs, and remnants of a fortified village.

4.1.2 Post Contact History

In the late eighteenth century, English and Spanish explorers prescribed many of the present place names, such as Guise Bay, the Scott Island and San Josef Bay. Around 1800, Shushartie Bay became the primary trading centre on Vancouver Island based on the sea otter fur trade until the otters were virtually eliminated by 1830. Shushartie Bay lost its importance as a fur trading centre by 1836.

¹ Originally, the name Nahwitti (newitty) was a native place name for Cape Sutil (formerly Cape Commerell) and the name of a Kwakiutl chief (Galois, 1994:277). However, by the mid 1800s, Nahwitti was used to describe the three tribes and their village.

Prior 1896, the only non-native people in the region were prospectors searching for gold in areas including the creeks and black sand beaches east from the cape to the Stranby River (Mason, 1995). Gold placer mining took place briefly at Dakota Creek and at Gold Beach, opposite Nahwitti Bar. Most prospectors left for the Klondike when gold was discovered there. The only non-native 'resident' was William McGary who lived in a house at Shushartie Bay, and traded with the natives and prospectors (Frey, 1975; Peterson, 1974).

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, the newly-formed government of British Columbia encouraged colorization by European settlers. In 1897, the Cape Scott area was settled by a group of hardy Danish pioneers attracted by the area's farming potential, particularly the flat fertile land at the head of Hansen Lagoon. They built a dyke across the lagoon and attempted to stabilize the sand dunes at Guise Bay. A store and post office were built at Fisherman Bay and in 1899, they hired a schoolteacher for their children's education. Their efforts, however, were not rewarded. Harsh weather conditions, the isolated location, and a changed government policy that would not grant the settlers title to their land or provide any services forced the majority of the original colonists to leave. By 1907, Cape Scott was deserted. The dedication and determination of the Danish to tame the land and eke out a living is still evident in the landscape today.

In the late 1800s, Shushartie Bay was a landing point for settlers as it was one of the few safe harbours along the coast. By the 1900s, a wharf, post office, hotel store and salmon cannery were constructed. Apart from the wharf, no remnants of the settlement can be found.

Also in the late 1800s, the Dominion Government Telegraph was built and connected the settlements in that area. Parts of the line are still visible near the Stranby River and near an old homestead on a ridge top just west of Skinner Creek.

A wagon route to Cape Scott was proposed through the Nahwitti Shushartie to the Cape Scott settlement, but it was never completed. Instead, a small road, approximately four feet wide, was built along the telegraph route, and was used to transport goods and supplies between Shushartie Bay and Cape Scott. The road was built of corduroy over muskeg in many places, and originally only connected Shushartie Bay to the Stranby River. Eventually it was extended to Fisherman Bay. The poor transportation route greatly discouraged settlers from remaining in the area on a long-term basis.

In the early 1900s, five families settled near Cache Creek, now called the Stranby River. By 1915, a store, church, post office, and one-room school were located at the mouth of Cache Creek. The Shuttleworth family was one of the first settlers at the mouth of the Stranby River; Shuttleworth Bight was named after them. The harsh climate, poor transportation routes and limited natural resources resulted in most settlers abandoning the area by the 1920s, and leaving the land to be reclaimed by nature.

When the Cape Scott area was officially opened for preempting, another wave of settlers followed in the Danish footsteps. They too made heroic efforts to settle the land and by 1914 had built a church, post office and community hall/school near Hansen Lagoon. But, without proper transport facilities, either by land or water, the settlement was doomed. At the end of World War I, the area once again was abandoned by all but five families. The 1950s saw the last of the settlers give up efforts to farm the Hansen Lagoon meadow.

For over 25 years after this second desertion, Cape Scott was all but forgotten. It regained significance in 1942, when, in the midst of World War II, Canada was looking to bolster its coastal defenses. Due to its strategic position, a combined military/air force base and radar station was constructed. The station's life was short, as it was demolished after the war.

Today the only inhabitants of the Cape Scott region are a few residents of the San Josef Valley and the crew at the Cape Scott lighthouse.

4.1.3 Historical Artifacts

Although there is an interesting story to tell of the history of the cape, few visible signs of the settlement still remain. The many buildings have disintegrated over time and are barely discernible. Rusting farm tools litter the Hansen Lagoon meadows and a decrepit steam boiler from the Danish sawmill lies on the east side of the lagoon.

One of the most impressive historical features is the dyke at the end of Hansen Lagoon which dates back to the original Danish settlement. The remnants of other efforts to tame the land can be detected in the sand neck where posts of a fence made from driftwood still stand, as an attempt to reclaim the sands as pasture land. In the boggy areas, ditches that were dug by the Danes to drain the water-saturated upland are still evident.

Today's hiking trails follow the same path as the old wagon routes of the past. The original corduroy track and ditching by the settlers can be seen in places, particularly around San Josef Bay.

Gravesites, including two cemeteries, are an intriguing reminder of the early settlers. The most unusual of these is a six foot tall pink granite monument that marks the grave of William Christiansen, age 12. The adopted son of the local school teacher, died in 1906 of blood poisoning after stepping on a rusty nail. A second gravestone, that of N. P. Jensen, can be found at the sand neck amid a disappearing hay pasture, part of his lasting efforts to check the shifting sands.

4.2 SCOTT ISLANDS PROVINCIAL PARK

4.2.1 First Nations History

Historically, the Scott Islands are recognized as being the territory of the Yutlinuk (Yut'linuxw), or Yuleno (Boas, 1934). Documentary evidence points to the continued use of their traditional Yutlinuk territory off Cape Scott, particularly for the procurement of seabird eggs (Galois, 1994). Since the Cape Scott region was the shared ancestral home to the Quatsino, Koskimo, and Nakomgilisala, there is some possibility that the Quatsino also used Triangle Island (Yasui *et al.*, 1995). Archeological information is limited for the majority of the Scott Islands, with the exception of Triangle Island.

Triangle Island lies within the traditional Kwakwaka'wakw territory. Little information is known about the people who once occupied the island. Archeological evidence suggests extensive Kwakwaka'wakw occupation and use of the island and surrounding waters. The island has four sites, three of which are shell midden sites, and the fourth being a village site (Yasui *et al.*, 1995). The size and complexity at the middens suggest extensive occupation and use of the island and surrounding waters.

4.2.2 Post Contact History

A lighthouse was constructed on Triangle Island in 1909 and 1910. Built during a period of undeterred optimism in the technological mastery of steam and iron over nature, the Triangle Lighthouse sent a million candlepower light some fifty miles out to sea from its perch on top of the island. After nine years of operation, with despairing light-keepers tormented by wind, rain and fog, it was dismantled. The installation proved to be just too exposed to the elements, and too high to be effectively seen in low clouds.

4.2.3 Historical Artifacts

The gigantic lantern from the light station at Triangle Island is housed in the Canadian Coast Guard base in Victoria. The base of the lighthouse and at least two other structural foundations remain visible on the peak of the island. In a large bay on the island's northeast side are the remnants of a tramway built to hoist supplies up the steep cliff face from the beach to the lighthouse.

5.0 SPECIAL FEATURES

5.1 CAPE SCOTT PROVINCIAL PARK

The special features of Cape Scott Provincial Park include botanical, geological, archaeological and historic features/processes (Figure 5). Mount St. Patrick is one such special area. As the highest point in the park (422 metres), it exhibits an unusual vegetative phenomenon. Unlike any other point in the park, the summit of Mount St. Patrick is a **blanket bog**. The vegetation here is extremely stunted, consisting of lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, mountain hemlock and dwarf juniper. Where there are not open pools of water, the ground cover is a thick layer of sphagnum moss.

The “**sand neck**”, or “blow out” that separates the cape from the rest of the park is another significant site both the ecological diversity and in the archaeological and historical aspects of Cape Scott Provincial Park. Here, the shifting sand dunes present a habitat in which few plants can survive. Amongst the plants that do naturally exist are a variety of plant species introduced by the Danish settlers in an attempt to stabilize the dunes. Dandelion (*Taraxacum* sp.) and common chickweed (*Stellaria media*) are two examples. The sand neck also holds historical significance. The remnants of old fences made of driftwood are still visible and N. P. Jensen’s grave site, outlined by a small picket fence, is nestled by the forest edge. Archaeologically, the sand neck is believed to be the site of a major Indian battle in the past and is an identified Indian burial site.

Hansen Lagoon presents another area of special natural and cultural significance within the park. The mixture of fresh and salt water provides diverse habitats for water-based plants and animals. The resulting abundance of food and the sheltered nature of the lagoon make it one of the richer resting areas for migrating waterfowl on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island. Historically, the meadows of Hansen Lagoon, the most fertile land in the area, served as the hub of the initial Danish settlement. Here, the sites of both the first and second dyke built by the Danes to improved their agricultural land are still evident. Also significant is the site of Alfred Spencer’s homestead to the east of the lagoon. The homestead was occupied until 1956 but has since deteriorated. It is located next to the site of the old school house and community hall. Of additional note within the park is the site of the Christiansen grave located near the turn-off to Hansen Lagoon from the main trail.

San Josef Bay exhibits sites of both historical and natural significance. The bay area served as a second focus to the early pioneer settlement. Along the shore, the sites of Henry Ohlsen’s store, the Anglican Church and old homesteads can be determined. Physically, the bay’s wide expansive white sandy beach is a significant natural feature. In addition, cut into the headland separating the two beaches at San Josef Bay, are a set attractive marine erosional features known as sea stacks or pillars.

The natural features of the **Nahwitti-Shushartie** include old growth spruce forests along the Stranby and Shushartie river valleys and interesting geomorphological features (Figure

6). The large spruce trees that are thought to be over 250 years old are found in pockets along the coast and offer interesting contrast to the often stunted vegetation that has been subject to many years of harsh climatic conditions. The geomorphological special features include tombolo, black gravel beach, blow holes, and sea stacks. The three archaeological sites offer a glimpse into the past. In particular, the petroglyph at Cape Sutil proves evidence of human existence from many years ago. More recent human encounters with the Nahwitti-Shushartie environment are also noticeable. Apple trees in the farm meadows, old homestead remains, telegraph wires and the old telegraph trail, with some of the corduroy trail still intact.

5.2 SCOTT ISLANDS PROVINCIAL PARK

The Scott Islands are the most important breeding grounds for seabirds in British Columbia. The outer three islands support over two million breeding birds, comprising over 38% of the breeding seabird population of British Columbia (Rodway *et al.*, 1990). They are the most important colonies for Cassin's Auklets in the world, housing 58% of the estimated world population. Triangle Island supports the majority of Common Murre and Tufted Puffins breeding in British Columbia, and is the only breeding site for Thick-billed Murre in the province. Breeding populations may have been larger in the past prior to the introduction of mink and raccoon to Cox and Lanz islands in the 1930s.

Fossils occur on the sedimentary shelves on Cox Island.

Figure 5 Special Features- Cape Scott West
Figure not available at this time

Figure 6 Special Features- Cape Scott East
Figure not available at this time

6.0 VISUAL, RECREATION AND TOURISM VALUES

6.1 CAPE SCOTT PROVINCIAL PARK

6.1.1 Visual Values

The visual values of Cape Scott Provincial Park are associated primarily with its coastline. Although the upland vistas are limited due to the dense interior vegetation, a number of vantage points allow the visitor to appreciate park's visual values.

The summit of Mount St. Patrick offers the visitor a 360° view of the park's forested upland and scenic beach expanses. An excellent perspective is gained of San Josef Bay from the 422 metres in elevation. The beach in San Josef Bay has a view of a sheltered estuary and bay protected by the forested headlands further out to sea. The cape itself presents a view of an expanse of Pacific Ocean from a headland surrounded by frothing water and crashing waves. Other vantage points on Nels Bight, Experiment Bight and Nissen Bight present an open expanse of north coast beach characterized by unending rolling breakers.

The Nahwitti-Shushartie's wild, rugged character and rich supply of physical and cultural resources combine to offer some spectacular views and interesting features. With the proposed North Coast Trail corridor running almost entirely along the coast of the addition, there will be plenty of opportunities to view the stretches of sandy and cobble beaches, and the many steep headlands. Some of the high ridges offer clear views of the rugged shoreline. Other interesting visual features include the tombolo, Cape Sutil, Nahwitti Bar, and blowhole, Tatnall Reefs, and Shushartie Bay.

Visual values are also associated with the cultural landscape and artifacts. Farm machinery rusting in the meadows, rotting shakes and boards strewn amongst the underbrush, or grave sites hidden by a tangle of new growth are other visual experiences of Cape Scott Provincial Park.

6.1.2 Recreation Values

Cape Scott Provincial Park has numerous recreational values. It provides recreational opportunities for hiking, camping, nature study and appreciation, sight seeing, canoeing, kayaking and small pleasure craft use. Key recreational opportunities in the Nahwitti-Shushartie pertain to the coastal/beach setting, where there are opportunities for hiking, nature appreciation in the near-shore portions of the muskeg landscape, wildlife viewing, camping, cultural heritage appreciation, and fishing and boating along the river corridors and estuaries.

6.1.2.1 Existing Use

Cape Scott Provincial Park serves two functions in supplying recreation opportunities to the public. Although both are directly linked to the wilderness experience, one function is as a primarily day-use recreational opportunity, where use is concentrated at San Josef Bay. The other is as a relatively accessible wilderness hiking opportunity in the northern and eastern portions of the park.

Due to the heavy winter rains and frequent violent storms, Cape Scott Provincial Park experiences almost its entire visitor use during the less wet summer months between June and September with August being the peak month. Even within these months, use figures can fluctuate considerably depending on the weather conditions. Weekends are the most popular with use decreasing during the week. On most summer weekends, an average of 20 to 30 tenting parties are camped on Nels Bight. Use has peaked at 60 tents. During the August long weekend, the trail head parking lot is full with excess vehicles parking along the side of the road.

Visitor use of Cape Scott Provincial Park has been sparsely and inconsistently documented in the past. However, over 3,523 people visited Cape Scott Provincial Park in 1990. This increased dramatically by 1996 when there were 6,849 visitors, and in 1997, 6,333 visitors. A 1974 user survey showed that the majority of day users were of local origin, while the majority of overnight users are of Lower Island or Lower Mainland origin.

Visitor use of the area is increasing and is expected to continue. Such an increase will be tempered by distance from large population centers, access along logging roads and increasing ferry fares, but balanced by the improved Inland Island Highway. The type and origin of the visitor and the season of visitation are likely to remain the same.

There is evidence of rising use of the Goletas Channel by sea kayakers. However, the roughness of the water and the limited safe harboring points may restrict this recreational pursuit to the more experience kayakers.

6.1.2.2 Supply

Cape Scott Provincial Park fulfills an important role as a West Coast wilderness park. The experience in Cape Scott differs from that offered by parks on the east coast, such as Rath Trevor or Miracle Beach, which have relatively calm water, automobile access directly to the beach and extensive recreation development.

Together with Cape Scott, the other large parks such as Juan de Fuca Marine Trail, Brooks Peninsula and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve assist in providing a spectrum of West Coast experiences. Brooks Peninsula offers remote and rigorous wilderness opportunities. Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is a major destination area with a high level of use and, as a result, has lost much of its true wilderness character. Juan de Fuca provides a close-to-

urban day-use and extended hiking opportunities. Cape Scott's market niche is situated between the Brooks and Pacific Rim, in that it offers an accessible, yet less-developed, West Coast wilderness experience.

In the vicinity of Cape Scott Provincial Park, a number of small provincial parks and forest recreation sites offer mostly day-use opportunities such as picnic areas on the ocean or on a lake. In some cases, a few campsites are available. For the most part, Cape Scott Provincial Park is the only accessible protected scenic wilderness on the North Island.

6.1.2.3 Existing Facilities

To date, visitor facilities within Cape Scott Provincial Park, have been minimal, consisting of trails, primitive campsites with pit toilets and unmaintained cabins (see Figure 7). In the newly-added Nahwitti-Shushartie, visitor facilities are non-existent. With the exception of the overgrown old Cape Scott or telegraph trail.

Trails within Cape Scott Provincial Park provide relatively easy access into the park and follow the original wagon routes of the Danish pioneers. In some places, the Danish 'corduroy' trail construction and ditching methods can still be seen.

The trail leading from the parking lot to San Josef Bay, a section heavily used by day-users, is the best maintained portion of trail. It is wheelchair-accessible and a relatively easy short walk through an historically significant area of the park.

The main trail from the parking lot to Hansen Lagoon to Nels Bight runs through dense vegetation and boggy areas. At Hansen Lagoon, the vegetation opens up where bogs were drained and fields were cleared by the Danish settlers. The main trail has some of the longest stretches of mud in the park, particularly between Eric Lake and the Fisherman River. Trail conditions here are made worse by the large number of hikers using the trail and attempting to avoid the mud. Inevitably, as hikers walk around the mud, the extent of the mud spreads. Many of the mud holes now have boardwalks to minimize the environmental degradation along the trail. Near Hansen Lagoon, a secondary trail heads Nissen Bight.

From Nels Bight, a trail goes to Experiment Bight, Guise Bay and the cape. This trail is one of the drier ones, although thick undergrowth poses a problem near the shoreline. The Canadian Coastguard has constructed a series of steps, boardwalks and suspension bridges leading out to the fog alarm building past the lighthouse. This is proposed to be dismantled.

Figure 3 Existing Facilities Cape Scott West
Figure not available at this time

Within the Nahwitti-Shushartie, trail access currently is limited. The trail system that was built in the 1800s is overgrown and difficult to travel. The North Coast Trail Action Committee has identified a preliminary trail corridor for the North Coast Trail that primarily extends along the coast run through some of the private land in-holdings and Indian reserves (Courville and Rusel, 1994).

Cape Scott Park also offers less-travelled routes. The Mount St. Patrick route, the only hiking opportunity that does not follow an original Danish wagon route, rises from San Josef Bay, crosses over the summit of the mountain and down to Sea Otter Cove, then terminates at Lowrie Bay. Conditions on this trail are wet and the route is fairly undefined, as much of the route passes through bog and is not maintained.

A route connects San Josef Bay to the south end of Eric Lake and intersects the main trail to the east of Eric Lake. It has not been maintained over the years. It is one of the original Danish wagon routes with the corduroy track and ditching still evident in many places.

The only developed **campsite** is Eric Lake, which has 13 raised tent pads and a food cache. Informal sites are at Guise Bay, Nissen Bight, Nels Bight, Donaldsen Farm, and two along the north shore of San Josef Bay. Camping within the park is not restricted to these sites. Thus hikers can enjoy unrestricted camping on the beaches, especially at San Josef Bay, Sea Otter Cover and Nels Bight. As yet, camping sites not have been established in the Nahwitti-Shushartie. Nine pit toilets are presently in place, three in San Josef Bay, two at Nels Bight, and one each at Nissen Bight, Donaldsen Farm, Eric Lake, and trailhead.

Five **cabins** exist in Cape Scott. Two of these, one at Fisherman River and the other at Donaldsen farm, are in poor repair. Another two, one at Hansen Lagoon and one at Lowrie Bay, are in good condition but are not maintained. The fifth cabin is the ranger cabin at Nels Bight, which is not available to the public.

6.1.3 Tourism Values

Cape Scott Provincial Park protect one of the last large areas of the island's west coast as an accessible wilderness park with excellent interpretive potential that all ages can appreciate. It fulfills an unique role in the provincial park system as a wilderness park with minimal development. Cape Scott, in fact, is one of the more accessible West Coast wilderness parks. With the new Inland Highway and growth of tourism in the future, this park could become increasingly important as a destination area.

With the addition of Nahwitti-Shushartie, the park has the potential to become one of the tourism anchors for northern Vancouver Island. The proposed North Coast Trail would offer travelers the chance to traverse the entire width of Vancouver Island. The experience could be similar to hiking the West Coast Trail in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.

6.2 SCOTT ISLANDS PROVINCIAL PARK

6.2.1 Visual Values

The visual values of the islands are primarily associated with the rugged shorelines which rise abruptly from the sea, the prolific wildlife that inhabits the area, and the critically important colonies of breeding seabirds and Northern Sea Lions. However, these islands are frequently obscured by fog and inclement weather.

6.2.2 Recreation Values

Scott Islands Provincial Park's three outermost islands are ecological reserves and, as such, have restricted access. The intense concentration of breeding seabirds and sea-lions makes the colonies highly vulnerable to any form of human visitation. Nesting birds and sea-lion rookeries are easily disturbed by boats, planes or helicopters which approach too close. To walk anywhere on the main nesting slopes collapses burrows and destroys nesting habitat.

Visitation to Lanz and Cox islands is estimated at ten to thirty visitors and are primarily fishers and kayakers. No existing recreational facilities are available on any of the islands.

6.2.3 Tourism Values

Remoteness and difficult ocean conditions limit accessibility to the Scott Islands. Lanz and Cox Islands do have some limited tourism potential, given their size and proximity to Vancouver Island. Recreational boating, including kayaking for experienced adventurers, is possible. Occasional diving opportunities and whale watching may have potential in the area. Off site interpretation of the ecological reserves could be an added attraction for North Island visitors.

7.0 LAND TENURES, OCCUPANCY RIGHTS AND JURISDICTIONS

7.1 CAPE SCOTT PROVINCIAL PARK

7.1.1 Reserves, Permits and Tenures

Reserves

Transportation Canada holds a reserve over the cape for the purposes of maintaining a lighthouse station. The cape is a major destination for park visitors and use of these federally held lands is not discouraged by the Canadian Coast Guard.

Three Indian reserves which are under federal jurisdiction are excluded from the park. They include IR2 Semach, IR3 Ouchton, and IR4 Nahwitti (Figures 8 and 9, Tables 1 and 2). At present, the reserves are unoccupied.

Permits

The following hold permits for Cape Scott Provincial Park.

- BC Telephone Company - for use and maintenance of a telecommunication comshell for the purposes of providing marine radio coverage;
- Sea to Sky Trails - for provision of commercial guided backpacking trips.
- Good Earth Productions - for commercial film productions for “Great Canadian Parks” series;
- McCrory Wildlife Services - for scientific research on beetles; and
- Natural Resources Canada - for forest insect and disease surveys.

Tenures

There are mineral tenures in the lower Stranby River area, forest licenses in township 23, sections 7 and 9, and timber sales licenses in sections 19 and 30.

The three river systems do not contain any registered traplines, and the Stranby and Shushartie rivers do not have any angling guides registered. In the Nahwitti River there are four guides registered for a total of 132 angler days.

7.1.2 Inholdings

Within the park boundaries, a number of parcels are held by government agencies, companies and private individuals. In total, there are 22 parcels of private land totaling approximately 854 hectares.

Within the original park, a total of eight parcels totaling approximately 184 hectares exist (Figure 8 and Table 1). The largest inholding of 94.9 hectares, under the control of Transport Canada (Canadian Coast Guard) and includes the sand neck and Guise Bay. The

smaller properties are primarily undeveloped. Some owners have expressed interest in selling their properties to the Province or exchanging them for other comparable lands. In 1989, the Hunter property (26.31 ha) at Nels Bight was purchased, followed in 1990 with the Stevens' property (0.62 ha), and Kendall/Corwin property (31.77 ha) in 1991.

The Nahwitti-Shushartie addition contains 14 parcels of fee simple lands held by companies and private individuals, totaling approximately 670 hectares (Figure 9 and Table 2). They are mostly undeveloped. The largest one of 281.7 hectares near Shushartie Bay is owned by MacMillan Bloedel. Another major land holder is Shuttleworth Bight Holdings Company, Ltd. which owns 244.02 hectares along the west and east sides of Shuttleworth Bight.

7.1.3 Adjacent Land Use

Outside the park to the west, there has been extensive forestry development, and timber harvesting continues to be the primary activity. Along the Nahwitti-Shushartie, not much timber development has taken place as yet. As a result of the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan, Low Intensity Areas have been established on both the west and east sides of the park. In these areas, priority will be given to: maintenance of coastal visual and recreational opportunities; protection of cultural and heritage values; protection of sensitive coastal fish and wildlife habitats; and recognition of biodiversity connectivity.

In the marine and coastal areas, harvesting of finfish, crabs, urchins, and clams occur. These activities are managed by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

7.1.4 Other Agency Interests

The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans manage the water column and the commercial fishery in the park and are responsible for the maintenance and enhancement of salmonid habitat. They are also the agency responsible for the Ocean Act, which will be addressing marine protected areas. Currently the Marine Protected Areas Strategy is being developed in conjunction with the other federal and provincial agencies and stakeholders. The Canadian Coast Guard continues to operate the light station at the cape and has jurisdiction over the sand neck.

Provincially, the Heritage Conservation Branch of the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture has an interest in seeing that the archaeological sites remain undisturbed. BC Environment is interested in wildlife populations and habitat, administration of angle guide permits, and biodiversity connectivity with the adjacent land base. BC Lands has the authority to issue licenses for foreshore use and the Ministry of Forests is interested in forest health issues and the eventual development of the North Coast Trail from Shushartie Bay to Port Hardy.

7.2 SCOTT ISLANDS PROVINCIAL PARK

7.2.1 Reserves, Permits and Tenures:

Reserves

Fish and Wildlife have a Land Act reserve over Lanz and Cox islands for scientific research. As these islands are now protected as park, this reserve can be released.

Permits

Two permits are held for all the Scott Island and they are:

- Natural Resources Canada - for forest insect and disease surveys; and
- McCory Wildlife Service - for scientific research on beetles.

On Triangle Island, Simon Fraser University has a permit for long-term demographic research on seabirds. A research station has been set up on the island by Simon Fraser University and the Canadian Wildlife Service to support this research. A weather station was established on Sartine Island in 1954.

Tenures

The only known tenure on Lanz and Cox islands is a trapline.

7.2.2 Adjacent Use

Fishing and commercial harvesting of sea life occur around the Scott Islands. The islands provide anchoring spots in poor weather. In addition, log booms are moved through the area.

7.2.3 Other Agency Interests

Department of Fisheries and Oceans control the water column and commercial harvest of marine resources. Canadian Wildlife Service and BC Environment are interested in the bird and sea lion populations.

Figure 5 Land In-holdings Cape Scott West

Figure not available at this time

Table 1: Inholdings and Reserves in Cape Scott Provincial Park - West

as of September 21, 1994

MAP REF.	LEGAL	SIZE (ha)	OWNER	CT	PID
1&2	DL 97, 1282 Rupert District	94.90	Transport Canada		
3	E1/2 of NE1/4 of NE1/4 os Sec 23, Tp. 43, Rupert District	1.93	Anglican Synod of BC	186501	006-598-641
4	Frac. S1/2 of S1/2 Of Sec 16, Tp. 43 Rupert District	60.05	Niho Land & Cattle Company Ltd.	EC135548	001-268-929
5	Frac. SE1/4 of SE1/4 of Sec 17, Tp. 43 Rupert District		Niho Land & Cattle Company Ltd.	EC135547	001-268-970
6	Lot 4, Plan 2503, Sec 21, Tp. 41, Rupert District	3.78	Zeilski, G	K49913	006-459-188
7	Lot 5, Plan 2503, Sec 21, Tp. 41, Rupert District	3.83	Godby & Nickon, Executors	2334931	002-041-782
8	NE 1/4 of NW 1/4, Sec. 13, Tp. 43, Rupert District	16.19	Niho Land & Cattle Company Ltd.	EC135546	001-268-775
9	Pcl.A(DD97997) of NW 1/4 Sec. 10, Tp. 43, Rupert District	0.92	Martin, Mary	R21270	003-657-906
10	Pcl.A(DD46505) of Sec's 20 & 21, Tp. 41, Rupert District	2.43	Anglican Synod of BC	465061	009-879-773
11	Indian Reserve # 2 - Semach				
12	Indian Reserve # 3 - Ouchton				

Figure 6 Land In-holdings Cape Scott east
Figure not available at this time

Table 2: Inholdings and Reserves in Cape Scott Provincial Park - East

MAP REF.	DESCRIPTION	SIZE (ha)	OWNER	CT
13	Parcel B of SW ¼ of Sec. 20, Tp. 23	0.79	Turner & Amos	EC12181
14	NW ¼ of Sec. 8, Tp. 35	64.75	Shuttleworth Bight Holdings	J28477
15	SW ¼ of NE ¼ of Sec. 16, Tp. 35	38.85	Shuttleworth Bight Holdings	CTM15069
16	S ½ of NW ¼ of Sec. 16, Tp. 35	38.85	Shuttleworth Bight Holdings	CTR23428
17	NW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec. 16, Tp. 35	38.85	Shuttleworth Bight Holdings	CTR23431
18	SW ¼ of Sec. 17, Tp. 35 except the part lying east of Cache Creek	16.59	Shuttleworth Bight Holdings	CTEB11600
19	SE ¼ of Sec. 18, Tp. 35	46.13	Shuttleworth Bight Holdings	CTEB11601
20	NW ¼ of Sec. 2, Tp. 42A	64.35	Niho Land & Cattle	CTEC135545
21	N ½ of NE ¼ of Sec. 12, Tp. 42A	25.09	Angus	CTEC5418
22	SE ¼ of Sec. 13, Tp. 42A	22.66	Angus	CTEC5147
23	DL 19	262.44	MacMillan Bloedel	CTJ98559
24	DL 78	11.75	Chambers-Owander	CTEB84696
25	Blk A of Sec. 5, Plan 556 (11T5)	19.27	MacMillan Bloedel	CTJ69234
26	Blk C of Sec. 5, Plan 556	19.27	Higgins, E.M.	CT2324381
27	Indian Reserve # 4 - Nahwitti			

8.0 PLANNING ISSUES

Many issues need to be addressed in the management planning process. A number are highlighted below, but this listing is by no means exclusive.

8.1 Management of Park Access

The amount and type of access provided to a protected area will often determine the type of visitor use, number of visitors, seasonality of visitation, the degree of management required, and the ultimate “character” of the protected area. Currently the park is only accessed by vehicle via the San Josef mainline. Marine access is permitted at various locations and aircraft access is allowed through a permit system. Access to the three ecological reserves in Scott Islands Provincial Park is prohibited except by permit for scientific research and monitoring projects. Lanz and Cox, although have important and sensitive natural values, can be visited by boat. The management plan will address the issue of access with particular focus on the Nahwitti Shushartie.

8.2 Level of Development

Cape Scott Park is known for its accessible wilderness experience. However, increased numbers of visitors can detract from the wilderness attributes and results in both social and environmental impacts. For example, BC Parks has constructed boardwalk over some of the challenging muddy trails to minimize environmental impact. As more use occurs, so does the pressure to increase the level of development to improve the quality of the experience and protect the environment. Demands for ecotourism opportunities to diversify the local economy may also increase use and fuel the pressure for development. A balance must be reached between development and protection of park values, and the recreational experience offered by the park. The management planning process will review the current level of development and type of experience and give direction for future development, if any. Focus will be on the Nahwitti Shushartie which is currently undeveloped.

8.3 Management of Natural Values

Cape Scott Provincial Park protects a representative sample of the Nahwitti Lowlands Ecosystem but some of the natural vegetation and ecosystems has been affected by forest development, clearing by settlers, and introduction of non-endemic species. Introduced animals and plants on the Scott Islands put at risk the breeding bird colonies and the rare and endangered species. The management plan needs to address the management of vegetation and wildlife habitat requirements of the parks’ wildlife and recreation management.

8.4 Management of Cultural Values

Cape Scott Provincial Park and Scott Islands provincial parks protect glimpses from both First Nation and European history. In a previous master plan, BC Parks has adopted the theme of '*Wilderness reclaiming the works of man*'. The management will review this direction.

8.5 Inholdings

Cape Scott Provincial Park contains 24 parcels of land held by companies or private individuals. Development of these parcels can have significant impacts on the natural and recreational values of the park. In addition, the inholdings in the Nahwitti Shushartie may influence location of the trail corridor and the level and extent of recreational activities and development within the park. The management plan will give direction on the management of these inholdings.

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APPENDIX A

Comparison of Monthly Climate Data Cape Scott and Campbell River

Cape Scott

Monthly	Mean	Average
	Daily Temp (° C)	Precipitation (mm)
January	4.1	307.6
February	5.3	252.7
March	5.4	234.5
April	7.2	187.5
May	9.4	135.3
June	11.5	103.2
July	13.2	83.1
August	13.9	106.4
September	12.7	191.5
October	10.2	351.5
November	6.9	331.3
December	5.1	344.0

Campbell River

Monthly	Mean	Average
	Daily Temp (°C)	Precipitation (mm)
January	1.1	222.6
February	3.4	172.5
March	4.5	154.8
April	7.4	77.4
May	11.3	53.0
June	14.2	49.1
July	16.9	40.0
August	16.7	55.0
September	13.7	77.1
October	8.8	162.8
November	4.6	239.7
December	2.5	276.5

**VANCOUVER WORKSHOP
SPORTS B.C
OCTOBER 16, 1998**

VISIONING EXERCISE

Section I. Vision Comment Cards

Workshop participants were provided with index cards on which they were asked to outline their vision of the ideal Nuhwitti-Shushartie Park 10 years hence. The responses were grouped and sorted into similar categories. The following categories emerged and participants comments have been listed below each accordingly.

1. Wilderness Pristine Environment
2. Minimal Development - Low Impact
3. Access
4. Information/Interpretive Signs

Participants' vision of:

1. Wilderness Pristine Environment

- Protect bears and sandhill cranes
- Protect tide pools
- No impact on wildlife
- Need safe drinking water
- Like a wilderness experience in a near pristine environment
- Primitive campsites both on the beaches and the rocky headlands
- No commercial outfits (No MacDonalds!)

2. Minimal Development - Low Impact

- Take away memories of 2 or 3 parts of trail that really physically challenged me (i.e. like surge channels on West Coast Trail - by-pass trails could be located in these spots for faint of heart
- No more boardwalks
- Long stretches of rugged trail which provide a challenge for the hiker
- Marked hiking trail to Nissen Bight with 2 campsites with water and toilets
- Campsites that looked as if no one had camped there before my group
- Cater to low impact users
- Keep it rugged

VANCOUVER WORKSHOP VISIONING EXERCISE - Section I

3. Access

- Shushartie Bay access road for quicker access to users (kayaks, fishers, divers, possible coast guard station)
- Mooring buoys - strategically located in various areas
- Accessibility for multi-day hikers
- Boat service (paid private for hikers to and from Shusharti) (seasonal - 1 a day)
- Shelter/resupply points
- No roads/cars
- Loop trails - in and out of area

4. Information/Interpretive Signs

- Boards explaining wildlife and history
- Journey with a guide book (with detailed maps) that allow me to discover and place the natural wildlife, native and early white history (in that order) of the site
- Signage explaining the history and geology

VANCOUVER WORKSHOP VISIONING EXERCISE

Section II. Flip Chart Unedited Notes:

Comments/Constraints Resulting from Group Discussion:

Access:

- loops/boats - loops may not be needed if had boats
- re-supply points to support longer hikes
- mooring buoys - more applied to outer islands (safety issue)
- challenge is defined differently by different users
- access provided by boat like Sunshine Coast Trail i.e.: Shushartie Bay
- logging road access to head of Stranby
- safe access by water is problematic - Shushartie/Shuttleworth
- loop trail provide opportunities for shorter trip for aging population

Minimal Development - Low Impact:

- not a lot of commercial development
- not necessarily pristine - but rugged
- environment - pristine - no impact on wildlife
- development can define experience
- boardwalk can have impact
- crossing water may require bridge
- minimal development may be defined by environment

Wilderness/Pristine Environment:

- Safe drinking water indicative of pristine conditions
- 1/2 mile from beach is muskeg
- use of intertidal for sanitation

Information/Interpretive Signs:

- role of pamphlets in place of sign supply - accessibility is important
- guidebook can replace signs
- recycling of maps/brochures

VANCOUVER WORKSHOP VISIONING EXERCISE - Section II

Concerns:

- Some discomfort with human values balanced with natural values - emphasis should be on “natural”
- Should be one or more shelters (roofed) for safety in extreme weather
- Makes sense to have at least one access in middle of trail (besides either end)
- More access is more difficult to manage - but opens spectrum to more users
- Marine access would give other access options
- Not comfortable with air/marine access - some okay but not too much
- Need designated campsites - but no development (except pit privy)
- Shelter mid-way - one or two places
- 10 sites (camping) too few - one group of scouts could fill it up
- Have designated camp sites but permit random camping too

**VICTORIA WORKSHOP
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
OCTOBER 17, 1998
VISIONING EXERCISE**

Section I. Vision Comment Cards

Workshop participants were provided with index cards on which they were asked to outline their vision of the ideal Nuhwitti-Shushartie Park 10 years hence. The responses were grouped and sorted into similar categories. The following categories emerged and participants comments have been listed below each accordingly.

1. Backcountry Wilderness Experience
2. Basic/Primitive Backcountry Facilities
3. Natural and Cultural Values
4. Access
5. User Fees

Participants' vision of:

1. Backcountry Wilderness Experience

- A wilderness experience with a reasonable low impact trail system and designated overnight areas
- The lighthouse and fog horn lookout should be an integral part of the Park experience
- A pristine wilderness experience
- The North Coast trail is a world class trail designed for backcountry use only
- A rugged and challenging hike

2. Basic/Primitive Backcountry Facilities

- The trail would be basic in facilities - offering a 'wilderness backcountry' experience
- Warming huts scattered along the trail
- Some primitive shelters
- Primitive camping sites (pit toilets and food caches)
- Trail building, maintenance; and on-going clean-up
- Three areas developed/not developed to different standards
- Campgrounds and simple accommodation - an easy walk apart
- Toilets and water

VICTORIA WORKSHOP VISIONING EXERCISE - Section I

3. Natural and Cultural Facilities

- The existing heritage trails are the only trails used in the areas where they are.
- New trails are constructed where trails never existed, or have disappeared, from Grant's Bay to San Josef Bay and from Shushartie Bay to Port Hardy.
- Focus for the Park would be on conservation of flora and fauna (using interpretive tools to educate users) and native historical sites.
- Ensure protection of endemic species by identifying threats and developing strategies to limit or avoid impacts.
- The Park's environment and its natural flora and fauna and history should have priority in the development process
- Communicate the unique characteristics of freshwater environments and species to visitors, other agencies and surrounding land area activities
- Nahwitti-Shushartie trail would be constructed to the same level as already exists within the Park - to protect the ecosystem
- Inventory of freshwater species and habitats with an objective to identifying endemic species
- Minimize ecological impact

4. Access

- Access to trailheads would be limited and not of the type to encourage overuse/abuse (i.e. RV sites).
- Probable logging road access = potential degree of settlement.
- Not elitist, open to all who are interested in getting there.
- Should be controlled and limited at a level that will ensure its natural attributes are preserved
- Secured parking lots

5. User Fees

- Group sizes never exceed ten people and there is a cap on the number of people in the Park at any given time.
- Reasonable fees and reservation system
- User pay (operating but not capital expense)

VICTORIA WORKSHOP VISIONING EXERCISE

Section II. Flip Chart Unedited Notes:

Comments/Constraints Resulting from Group Discussion:

Access:

- Problem with air access (note: feeling among participants not unanimous - some felt restricted air access okay at designated sites)
- Marine access okay (non-motorized) at designated sites
- Designated air/water access more palatable

Experience:

- Natural values take precedence

Overnight Use:

- Comment: Simple cabin okay as well as camping (perhaps a reservation system)
- Other comments: don't want cabins or any public overnight structures
- Don't want tour bus loads - small camping parties only
- Random beach camping okay - on designated beaches
- Most campers will go to areas with fresh water/bear caches/pit toilets

Training:

- Safety training needed - let community/volunteers get involved

Ethics:

- N.Z./U.S. - look at examples of procedures/policies in parks in these countries on how to educate /train visitors
- Denali - backcountry simulator (to avoid bear attack etc.)
- Bear Aware - promote bear awareness in schools
- User Survey - have user survey at trailhead for ongoing management issues
- 1st Nation Consultation

VICTORIA WORKSHOP VISIONING EXERCISE - Section II

Additional Flip Chart Unedited Notes Resulting from General Group Discussion:

- Implications/consequences of access and resulting development of private inholdings need to be studied
- access - need for permits or limitations to avoid changes to present natural experience
- natural attributes are first
- need for broad vision - northern end of island include Grant Bay and historic trails/world class/sustainable
- use heritage trails, rather than build new
- plan simple, organized basic facilities for backcountry
- level of “commercial” development - more information needed on the extent of what “commercial” entails
- rights of private inholdings, what are they?
- private commercial vs commercial development in the park
- what are the implications of private holdings on the edge of the Park?
- need for conservation of ecology and heritage; protect environment
- focus/emphasis on natural and cultural values through minimum impact development
- classify the Park: backcountry facilities, wilderness experience
- use visitation standards
- spectrum of user opportunities and fees applied to whole Park - San Josef /Cape/Nahwitti-Shushartie
- fees - multi-level variety
- boardwalk - opens access but protects the trail environment
- trail access - okay - not highway - no mountain bikes

COURTENAY WORKSHOP
LEWIS CENTRE
OCTOBER 19, 1998
VISIONING EXERCISE

Section I. Vision Comment Cards

Workshop participants were provided with index cards on which they were asked to outline their vision of the ideal Nuhwitti-Shushartie Park 10 years hence. The responses were grouped and sorted into similar categories. The following categories emerged and participants comments have been listed below each accordingly.

1. Conservation/Habitat Protection
2. Development to Minimize Impact
3. Coastal Trail
4. A Wilderness Experience
5. Improved/Secure Parking
6. Managed Access

Participants' vision of:

1. Conservation/Habitat Protection

- The trail should follow coast as much as possible and not deviate too far inland
- Clearly define areas of access in order to maintain natural environment
- Ensure the Roosevelt Elk at the mouth of the Nahwitti don't clash with any trailhead

2. Development to Minimize Impact

- Provide rustic shelters
- Provide "easier" water access
- Educational shelters at start of trail - i.e. what to do in case of bears, what to do with waste etc.
- Like to see a dry out cabin where you can dry your wet clothes
- Board walk in wet ground
- Designated campsites
- Outhouses at main campsites

COURTENAY WORKSHOP VISIONING EXERCISE - Section I

3. Coastal Trail

- Maximize trail on beach so winter tides erase tracks

4. A Wilderness Experience

- Minimal campsite development - camping allowed on beaches
- Retain some of the status quo
 - Distance to trailhead has kept Cape Scott less of a tourist destination
 - Extreme challenges mixed with easier ones
- Strictly wilderness backpacking trail
- Maximum wilderness (tough trail)
- Challenge: lack of facilities, stress on self-reliance, few structures, routes rather than trails
- Wilderness - limited access and little evidence of people
- Rustic circle trail
- Preservation of wilderness/wildlife (designated camping areas, etc.)
- Solitude: few encounters with people, a sense of aloneness, low density experience, opportunities to experience “nature”
- Wilderness trail - simple but well maintained
- Wild, long trail connecting beaches from Raft Cove onward
- Not a “sausage machine” like the West Coast, and likely the Juan de Fuca will be. How to do this? Good question. Not a been there, done this. Very wild.
- Keep it challenging
- Wilderness hike
- Keep the challenge
- Limited facilities
- Wilderness Experience
- Feeling of solitude/remoteness complete with degree of difficulty /satisfaction
- Wilderness - i.e. at least one day hike in. Cuts down on vandalism, noise, parties

5. Improve/Secure Parking

- Better security for trail head lots. “Where is my stereo??”
- Secure parking at access points
- Drive-in campsite at San Joseph Bay - basic, no hookups, pit toilets, etc and visitor centre (Danish, Indian, Contemporary)
- Parking/access at each end
- Better access to trail head i.e. winter flooding costs exhaust system per year
- A real boat launch on San Josef River

COURTENAY WORKSHOP VISIONING EXERCISE - Section I

6. Managed Access

- North Coast Trail with interim river access via kayak/canoe
- Trail and beach accesses only with campsites at creeks
 - no horses, mountain bikes, ATVs, trail bikes
 - no motor vehicle access
 - no air access
 - no commercialization
 - no hunting
- Kayaking destinations - launch areas, routes
- Unrestricted access i.e. don't have to book a year or more in advance
- Restricted access
- Preference given to Island and B.C. residents (West Coast Trail experience not the way to go)

COURTENAY WORKSHOP VISIONING EXERCISE

Section II. Flip Chart Unedited Notes:

Comments/Constraints Resulting from Group Discussion:

Access:

- Air access not good - would destroy vision
- Helicopters would ruin experience
- Human powered access should be unlimited
- No bike access
- Human powered access - less likely to have garbage etc.
- Have one way in, one way out
- No motorized marine access
- Visitor education is a good way to help preserve secure area
- Maybe restricted marine access, but some access for kayakers
- Undesignated camping - the impacts are too severe
- No cabins - expect poor weather and be prepared
- Trust the rangers - they know what they are doing and wouldn't do anything stupid
- Roofed shelters wouldn't be bad - to get relief from rain - danger of hypothermia
- Boat charter access to Shushartie will lead to loss of control of numbers on trail

Trail/Hiking:

- Wide trails attract more people
- Trail improvements to protect environment are necessary
- Bridges over rushing rivers - Maximum width 1m.
- Where damage may occur - make necessary improvements
- Corduroy okay - still there after 80 years
- The more muddy and wet sections the better
- Initial selection of trail routes to avoid environmental impact
- Have people concentrated at camping nodes to minimize damage
- No need for quotas? Need some form of limitation to keep numbers from destroying the area
- More development will attract more people. Therefore, go slow, and limit it as long as possible
- Okay with more rules/restrictions to preserve environment
- Ribbons to mark trails not a good idea
- Smaller camping numbers
- Trail on beach at Nahwitti - potential impact on elk - down river

COURTENAY WORKSHOP VISIONING EXERCISE - Section II

Wilderness Experience:

- Minimum impact/development - leave as is
- Flag it, don't trail it
- Impact from the hiker on the environment
- No hunting
- Emphasize wildlife protection

General:

- Parking lot needs to be larger
- Parking and garbage are problems
- Facilities at trailhead vs facilities at campsite - 2 different things

***WORKSHOP RESPONSES TO
ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES
IN THE NAHWITTI-SHUSHARTIE***

In the workshop, participants were asked to indicate in the columns below what they felt best reflected their experiences in the Nahwitti-Shushartie area of Cape Scott Provincial Park. The results of this exercise are shown on the proceeding pages.

LINEAR TRAIL - access from either end -	LINEAR TRAIL WITH LOOPS - access at either end -	LINEAR AND LOOP TRAILS - numerous access points -
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undeveloped access, limited to existing trailhead in Cape Scott, and current undeveloped access to Shushartie Bay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop trailhead access points at either end of trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • road access developed for three major river drainages, formalization of hiking loops
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no air access permitted to area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restricted air access at designated sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multiple air access opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no marine access permitted to area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restricted marine access at designated sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multiple marine access opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • linear trail with access at either end only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mainly linear trail with a few loops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • linear and loop trails with numerous access points
<u>VANCOUVER RESPONSE</u>	<u>VANCOUVER RESPONSE</u>	<u>VANCOUVER RESPONSE</u>
50%	50%	0%
<u>VICTORIA RESPONSE</u>	<u>VICTORIA RESPONSE</u>	<u>VICTORIA RESPONSE</u>
13%	87%	0%
<u>COURTENAY RESPONSE</u>	<u>COURTENAY RESPONSE</u>	<u>COURTENAY RESPONSE</u>
33%	77%	0%

***WORKSHOP RESPONSES TO
HIKING OPPORTUNITIES
IN THE NAHWITTI-SHUSHARTIE***

LINEAR TRAIL - access from either end -	LINEAR TRAIL WITH LOOPS - access at either end -	LINEAR AND LOOP TRAILS - numerous access points -
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rugged, muddy, narrow and winding wilderness trails, rough trail tread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rugged narrow and winding wilderness trails, consistent 3 foot trail tread, trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trails range from developed to natural beach walks, wide 5 foot trail tread
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strenuous effort required, personal commitment and hardship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hiking challenge is present but not extreme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feeling of experiencing a remote wilderness area without many of the discomforts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obstacles on trails are common and part of the hiking experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only worst obstacles on trail are mitigated for safety or hikers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all major obstacles have been mitigated for the safety of hikers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trails built to backcountry standard, grubbed into landscape, wet and muddy sections still present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trails built to higher backcountry standard, minimum one metre trail tread, minimal wet and muddy sections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well established and maintained trail network complete with circle loops, minimal wet and muddy sections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no active management techniques applied to trails, minimal annual trail maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improvements to trails are only to minimize environmental impacts rather than enhance the visitor experience, some annual trail maintenance and brushing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improvements to trails are to enhance the visitor experience, annual trail maintenance and brushing of entire trail
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimal recreational use levels, minimal number of human encounters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low recreational use levels, low number of human encounters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • moderate recreational use levels, moderate number of human encounters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no human made structures such as signs, bridges, or other amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimal human made structures such as signs, bridges, or other amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • moderate human made structures such as signs, bridges, board walks or other amenities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sense of isolation, remoteness, and being a part of nature throughout area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sense of isolation, remoteness, and being a part of nature is common except at nodes for overnighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas where one can experience a sense of remoteness, and other areas where social interactions with others is common
<u>VANCOUVER RESPONSE</u>	<u>VANCOUVER RESPONSE</u>	<u>VANCOUVER RESPONSE</u>
13%	87%	0%
<u>VICTORIA RESPONSE</u>	<u>VICTORIA RESPONSE</u>	<u>VICTORIA RESPONSE</u>
0%	100%	0%
<u>COURTENAY RESPONSE</u>	<u>COURTENAY RESPONSE</u>	<u>COURTENAY RESPONSE</u>
38%	58%	4%

***WORKSHOP RESPONSES TO
OVERNIGHT OPPORTUNITIES
IN THE NAHWITTI-SHUSHARTIE***

LINEAR TRAIL - access from either end -	LINEAR TRAIL WITH LOOPS - access at either end -	LINEAR AND LOOP TRAILS - numerous access points -
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> undeveloped, random camping, no roofed overnight accommodations or emergency shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designated rustic backcountry campsites with minimal facilities (water, outhouses, bear poles), some emergency overnight shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designated backcountry campsites with facilities (water, outhouses, tent pads, picnic tables), overnight shelters and cabins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> small camping parties only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sites can accommodate up to 10 camping parties, emergency shelters can accommodate 6 people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sites can accommodate up to 20 camping parties, shelters and cabins can accommodate 12 people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no public overnight accommodations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> low key overnight accommodations in keeping with remote character of area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> development of overnight accommodations on private land/in-holdings that form basis of the experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> overnight opportunities are only made available to assist in hiking experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> overnight opportunities enhance hiking experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> overnight opportunities are destinations in and of themselves, exclusive of the hiking experience
<u>VANCOUVER RESPONSE</u> 50%	<u>VANCOUVER RESPONSE</u> 50%	<u>VANCOUVER RESPONSE</u> 0%
<u>VICTORIA RESPONSE</u> 0%	<u>VICTORIA RESPONSE</u> 87%	<u>VICTORIA RESPONSE</u> 13%
<u>COURTENAY RESPONSE</u> 50%	<u>COURTENAY RESPONSE</u> 50%	<u>COURTENAY RESPONSE</u> 0%

***WORKSHOP RESPONSES TO
THE EXPERIENCE
IN THE NAHWITTI-SHUSHARTIE***

LINEAR TRAIL - access from either end -	LINEAR TRAIL WITH LOOPS - access at either end -	LINEAR AND LOOP TRAILS - numerous access points -
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a rugged wilderness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an accessible wilderness area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an accessible semi-wilderness area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evolution of natural processes is dominant management regime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management regime is a balance of evolution of natural processes and management for human activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evolution of natural processes is actively managed to allow for human activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimal signs of human development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some signs of human development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • moderate signs of human development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management for natural values takes precedence over human values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management for natural values and human values are given equal emphasis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management for human values given greater emphasis than management for natural values
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimal recreational use levels, minimal number of human encounters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low recreational use levels, low number of human encounters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • moderate recreational use levels, moderate number of human encounters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimal site improvements (e.g. pit toilets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • moderate site improvements (e.g. designated sites) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • numerous site improvements (e.g. cooking shelters, hardened campsites with picnic tables, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sense of isolation, remoteness, and being a part of nature throughout area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sense of isolation, remoteness, and being a part of nature is common except at nodes for overnighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas where one can experience a sense of remoteness, and other areas where social interactions with others is common
<u>VANCOUVER RESPONSE</u>	<u>VANCOUVER RESPONSE</u>	<u>VANCOUVER RESPONSE</u>
63%	37%	0%
<u>VICTORIA RESPONSE</u>	<u>VICTORIA RESPONSE</u>	<u>VICTORIA RESPONSE</u>
0%	100%	0%
<u>COURTENAY RESPONSE</u>	<u>COURTENAY RESPONSE</u>	<u>COURTENAY RESPONSE</u>
58%	42%	0%

PORT HARDY WORKSHOP
PORT HARDY INN
OCTOBER 20, 1998

Due to the large unexpected turnout in Port Hardy (approx. 70 people), it was necessary to modify the process which had been used at the Victoria, Vancouver and Courtenay workshops. Vision comment cards were not distributed. A vision template exercise using predefined headings was conducted instead. Participants were asked to comment on the following subjects:

1. **The Experience**
2. **Hiking Opportunities**
3. **Overnight Opportunities**
4. **Access Opportunities**
5. **Other (Economic, Educational, Cultural, etc.)**

Individuals were clustered into groups. Each group presented one bullet for each category. The following are the entire group results:

1. **The Experience**
 - Wilderness Experience (with recognition of 1st Nations and European traditional cultures)
2. **Hiking Opportunities**
 - Variety of hiking opportunities
 - Boardwalks over wet areas
 - Bridges over gullies/creeks
 - Trail on beaches/wildlife watching areas
3. **Overnight Opportunities**
 - Designated camping areas with primitive facilities
 - Cabins
 - Drinking water
 - Waste management
4. **Access Opportunities**
 - Air access
 - Marine access
 - Land access
 - Quotas to be set locally
5. **Other (Economic, Educational, Cultural, etc.)**
 - Interpretation Centre
 - Research - university - ecosystem monitoring
 - Trailhead information
 - Interpretive information along trail
 - Harvesting of native plants

PORT HARDY WORKSHOP - GROUP COMMENTS/CONCERNS

1. The Experience:

- Accessible beach/shoreline hike with challenging alternatives in natural setting
- Wilderness experience - with recognition of 1st Nations and European culture
- A coastal wilderness experience
- A multi-access wilderness trail that provides a number of hiking possibilities to various standards
- Unique, rugged, world class wilderness hiking opportunity and interpretation of natural and cultural values

2. Hiking Opportunities:

- Opportunities for weekend and dedicated hikers
- A spectrum of opportunities in varying difficulty and length of trip
- Increase in difficulty as you go further into Park
- A range of hiking opportunities varying in difficulty, length, and loops
- Variety of opportunities - boardwalks over wet areas - bridges over major creeks - trail on beaches where possible - wildlife viewing areas
- A main trail of moderate difficulty with challenging side loops - user pay

3. Overnight Opportunities

- Designated campsites at easily attainable distances (10 km). Camp spots would be off the main trail and have toilets, tent pads, water and primitive shelters
- The greater the commitment (i.e. from trail head), the greater the sense of remoteness and solitude
- A range of opportunities from rustic backcountry to RV; roofed commercial on private lands
- Designated camping areas - primitive facilities. Cabins in one or two locations. Drinking water and waste management
- Designated clusters of tent sites with simple amenities
- Possibility of rustic shelters

4. Access Opportunities

- Access road to Shushartie
- Designated air and marine access
- Limited (by permit) vehicular access; marine and air at geographically amenable sites
- One way in - one way out - start to finish; possibility of other access by kayak or roads
- Road access to Shushartie Bay controlled boat and air access
- Designated (limited) air and marine access. Access trail ends and one or two in middle. Visitor quotas set locally

PORT HARDY WORKSHOP - GROUP COMMENTS/CONCERNS

5. Other:

- Highlite special features
- Opportunities for interpretation - natural and cultural; commerical development on private property
- Interpretive Centre. Research (university) ecosystem monitoring. Trailhead info and interp info along trail (limited)
- Managed and operated by 1st Nations
- Permit system
- Affordable to use
- Viable
- Affordable to build in environmentally responsible manner
- Educational/interpretive signs along trail
- Interpretive/cultural centres at Park entrances

6. General Group Discussion

- Wilderness experience a common theme - unique coastal wilderness experience - natural cultural history
- Multi-access equals difference
- Hiking - something for everyone - with challenging side trails or rugged and challenging with Cape Scott being easier
- Spectrum of opportunities
- Overnight - possible accommodation for all
- No RVs - simple campsites with focus on tenting; rugged experience
- RV camping at east end
- There are RV sites in Port Hardy already for those that want RV sites
- Prefer camping with those with similar interests/lifestyles
- RV access into private property
- Lack of accessibility and remoteness is an international draw
- Roof shelter/open sided to dry out and to use as emergency shelter
- Both (developed and sheltered) can exist in Park/private inholdings
- Enough potential accommodation in surrounding area
- For economic reasons, need to meet other island attractions
- Lodge with day use opportunity - economic development
- Should not be discouraging any private development
- Access - road, air and water at variety of locations with limits/restrictions
 - strategic locations as not to interrupt experience
 - think about area and communities - progressive access
 - trails that finish with facilities at end
 - one way in, one way out - medivacs may be required
 - Nahwitti can provide challenge option to San Joseph/Cape Scott

PORT HARDY WORKSHOP - GROUP COMMENTS/CONCERNS

6. General Group Comments (continued)

- Information centres at either end but maintain trails first
- Trail establishment with international input to meet international needs
- Town needs to promote itself and cater to visitors
- Important to keep Park a unique coastal wilderness experience
- Not just 1st Nation culture - west coast lifestyle
- Environmentally responsible management practices