Kootenay Region

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

September 2004

for Champion Lakes Provincial Park



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Champion Lakes Provincial Park Approvals Page

Foreword

This management direction statement for Champion Lakes Provincial Park provides management direction until such time as a more detailed management plan may be prepared. Champion Lakes Provincial Park protects representative forest, lake, and riparian ecosystems of the Selkirk Foothills Ecosection and an under-represented biogeoclimatic subzone The park also preserves essential habitat for known wildlife species at risk, while maintaining destination and local community recreation opportunities within the lower Columbia River area

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Champion Lakes Provincial Park Management Direction Statement

Introduction

Purpose of the Management Direction Statement

Management direction statements (MDS) provide strategic management direction for protected areas that do not have a full management plan. MDS do not necessarily negate the need for future more detailed management plans. Management direction statements also describe protected area values, management issues and concerns; a management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies; and directional statements from other planning processes. While strategies may be identified in the MDS, the completion of all these strategies is subject to funding and funding procedures. In addition, all development associated with these strategies within the park is subject to the Environmental Stewardship Division's Impact Assessment Policy. This management direction statement is intended to provide direction and guidelines for managing Champion Lakes for the foreseeable future.

Context

The 1,408 hectare Champion Lakes Provincial Park is located in the West Kootenay Region of British Columbia, situated approximately 20 km northeast of the City of Trail (pop. 21,000) and 10 km south of the City of Castlegar (pop. 15,000) off of Hwy 3B. Nestled in the Bonnington Range of the Southern Selkirk Mountains, the park contains a series of three small lakes that lie at an elevation of 1,000 meters. An additional lake, Kearns Lake, is located within the park at a slightly higher elevation (1310 metres) and is the source of Kearns Creek which drains into the most northerly of the Champion Lakes. There are a number of protected areas within an hour's drive of Champion Lakes, offering a wide variety of recreation opportunities and natural attractions. They include wilderness parks such as Gladstone, Stagleap and West Arm, as well as smaller parks along or proximal to the southern trans-provincial highway, such as Nancy Greene, Beaver Creek (Hwy 22A), Syringa, and King George VI (Hwy 22).

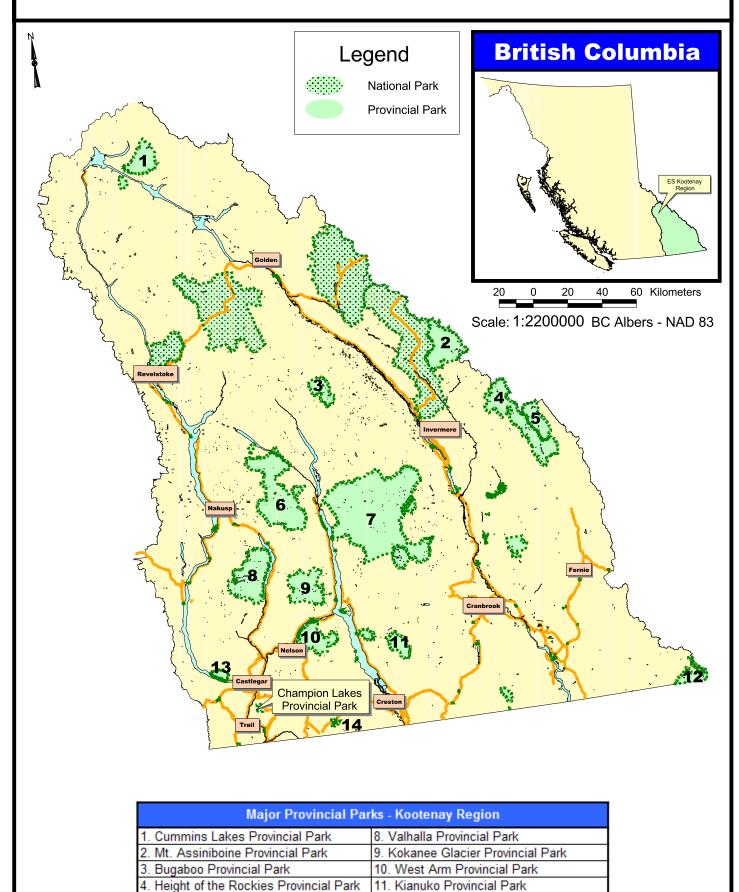
Established in March 1955 by Order in Council #581, the park provides diverse recreational opportunities such as camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming, non-motorized boating, fishing and nature appreciation. The park's largest lake, 3rd Lake, is one of the few warm water lakes in the region. Champion Lakes also contributes to goals of the Protected Area Strategy by maintaining essential habitat for 49 bird, 5 mammal, 2 reptile and 3 amphibian species, as well as containing over 170 vascular plant species. The concentration of known rare and endangered species (1 bird, 1 reptile and 1 plant species) is focussed primarily on the two upper lakes. 1st and 2nd Lake are relatively undisturbed and offer excellent wetland and riparian values when compared to 3rd Lake, where facility infrastructure is more pronounced.

1



Champion Lakes Park

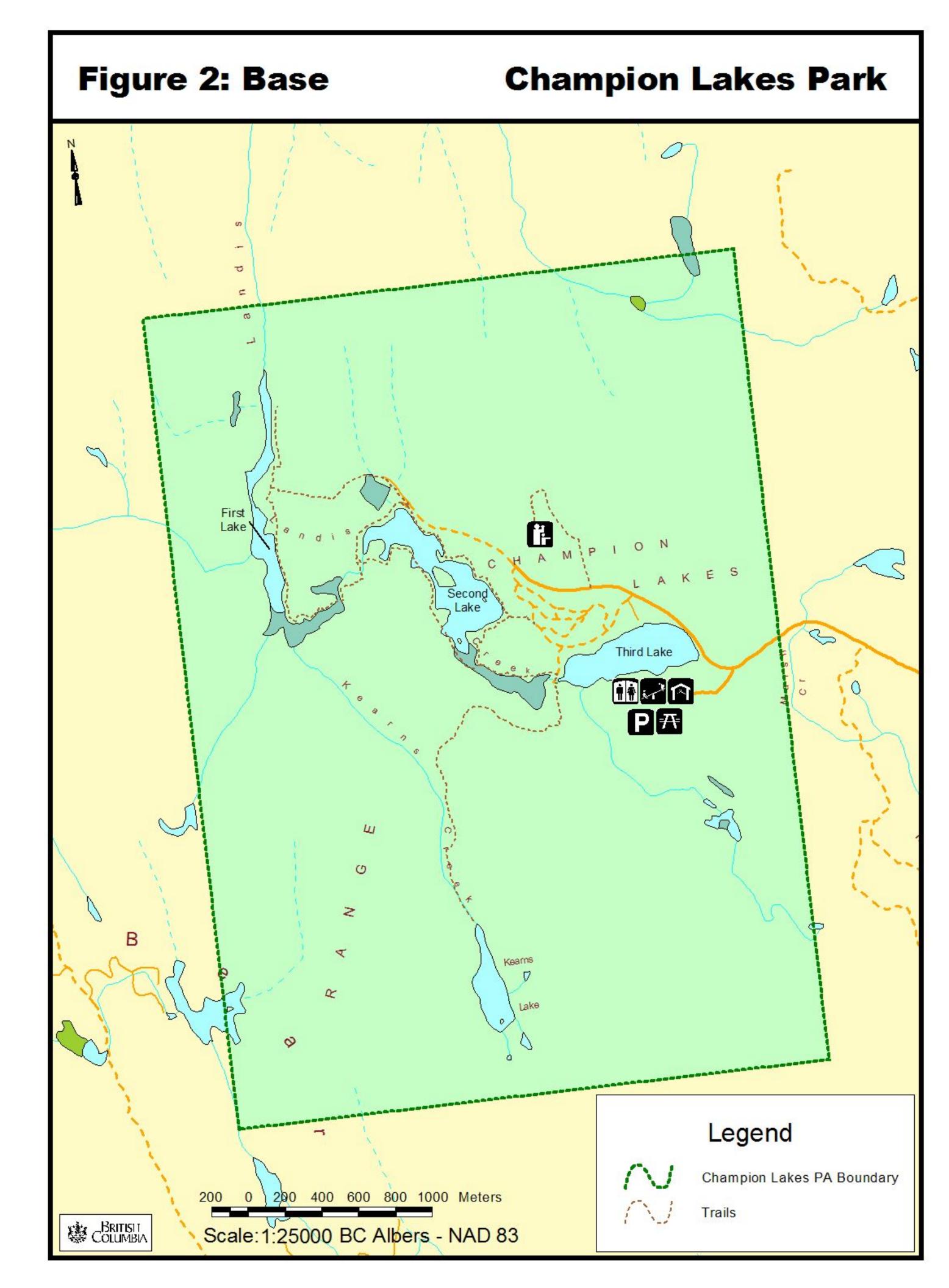
BRITISH COLUMBIA



 5. Elk Lakes Provincial Park
 12. Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park

 6. Goat Range Provincial Park
 13. Syringa Creek Provincial Park

 7. Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park
 14. Stagleap Provincial Park



Protected Area Attributes

Conservation

- Situated in the well represented Selkirk Foothills Ecosection (11% protected province wide).
- One of the few mid-elevation chain lake ecosystems in the Kootenays.
- Moist warm Interior Cedar Hemlock (ICHmw2) and dry warm Interior Cedar Hemlock (ICHdw) biogeoclimatic subzone/variants.
- ICHdw subzone/variant is under-represented in the protected area system (4%).
- Forest contains a mixture of Douglas-fir, western larch, hybrid white-spruce, western hemlock and western red cedar.
- Contributes significantly to province wide protected area representation of ICHdw (7%).
- Contains a high diversity of plant and animal species, particularly those associated with a lacustrine environment.
- Two blue-listed wildlife species (painted turtle and great blue heron).
- One blue-listed vascular plant species (Regel's rush) has been identified within the park, but more rare and endangered species are suspected.

Recreation and Tourism

- Provides recreational opportunities for resident and visitors of the Salmo-Fruitvale-Trail-Rossland-Castlegar area.
- Warm water lake with beach and day use amenities.
- Over 1 km of developed sandy beach.
- Non-motorized vessel regulation on all lakes within the park.
- Fully serviced campground (95 sites) and day use area (parking for 200 cars).
- Extensive lakeside hiking trail network.
- Scenic upland "Lookout Trail" offers commanding views of 3rd Lake and 2nd Lake.
- Cross-country ski trails are maintained by volunteers throughout the campground portion of the park.
- Nature appreciation and wildlife viewing opportunities (1st Lake and 2nd Lake).

Cultural Heritage

- Within the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa Nation and the Okanagan Nation Alliance- but values are unknown at this time.
- The Archaeological Registry (Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management) has no records of archaeological sites within the boundaries of the park.
- The park was named after James W. Champion, an early settler and orchardist in the area.

Significance in the Protected Area System

- Third Lake is one of the few warm water lakes in the West Kootenay with a developed beach and day use/camping facilities.
- Mid-elevation chain lake ecosystems are rare within the Kootenays.
- Contains a high diversity of plant and animal species, particularly those associated with a lacustrine environment.
- The two upper lakes and associated wetlands contain rich ecological diversity and provide essential habitat for known species at risk.
- One of only two frontcountry lakeside parks within the West Kootenay that prohibit motorized watercraft.
- Champion Lakes is known regionally for its rainbow trout fishery.
- The park provides year round recreational activities which help support local communities developing as tourism destinations.

Land Use, Tenures and Interests

Access

10 km northwest of Hwy #3B. In winter, the access road is ploughed to within 1 km of the park entrance.

Existing Tenures, Alienations and Encumbrances

- Conditional Water Licence # 31468 is issued to WLAP-Parks and Protected Areas for diversion of water at Kearns Lake¹.
- PUP #VC00100008 is issued to MSRM -Terrestrial Information Branch for the Provincial Change Monitoring Inventory (CMI) Ground Sampling Program².

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- Trapping territory TR0408T001 (Lic# RT132025) abuts the north, south and west park boundary³.
- Trapping territory TR0408T003 (Lic #RT125677) abuts the east boundary of the park.
- The Arrow Timber Supply Area surrounds the park.
- Forest Licence #A20193 abuts the park (Licensee Atco Lumber Ltd.). Bordering directly on the park boundary are Category A Blocks 111-7, 118-2, 131-2. Recently logged Cutting Permits bordering park are CP 77-3, 7-10, 134-1, 134-2.

¹ Until 2000, water for the day use area and campground was sourced from Kearns Lake through CWL#31468. A well has since been constructed rendering the water diversion unnecessary (no site restoration or removal of the diversion works has yet been undertaken).

 $^{^{2}}$ Goal of the CMI program is to monitor the changes and trends over time of timber and non-timber resources in BC.

³ There are no existing traplines within the park.

First Nations Interest

- Ktunaxa Nation and Okanagan Nation Alliance have included the park within their asserted traditional territory.
- Aboriginal Rights will be honoured and protected subject to conservation, health and safety concerns. Consultation with First Nations will be done before implementing any of the management strategies that potentially may affect First Nations interests.

Other Agency Interests

- Regional District of Kootenay Boundary assists in a diving/harvesting program to eradicate Eurasian milfoil in 3rd Lake.
- The park will be managed in close coordination with the Ministry of Forests (MOF) to address adjacent logging impacts/issues and implementation of the Change Monitoring Inventory (CMI)program.

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- Beaver Valley Cross-Country Ski Club track sets trails within the park and arranges for snow removal along access road to within 1km of park entrance. The volunteer group also maintains the public cabin at 3rd Lake in winter months (firewood and general maintenance).
- Scouts Canada and the Girl Guides of Canada utilize the park for special events.
- Selkirk College (Wildland Recreation Program) conducts student field trips into the park for limnology and forestry education.
- Service Clubs (e.g., Kiwanis) from Castlegar and Trail utilize the park for senior citizens field trips and day use activities.

Park Role Statement

The primary role of Champion Lakes Provincial Park is to protect representative forest, lake and riparian ecosystems of the Selkirk Foothills Ecosection. The park contains a high diversity of plant and animal species and is one of only a few mid-elevation chain lake ecosystems in the Kootenays. The park also provides protection of an under represented biogeoclimatic subzone (ICHdw) and preserves essential habitat for known wildlife species at risk, namely the great blue heron and painted turtle.

Secondly, Champion Lakes Provincial Park maintains destination and local community recreation opportunities within the lower Columbia River area. Depending on the season, the park offers a multitude of outdoor activities. As such, the park has been a year round holiday and day use destination for many generations.



Management Commitments and Issues

Management Direction from Previous Planning

There has been no previous management planning for Champion Lakes Provincial Park.

Theme	Issue
Park use	• Over the last several years park use has been down significantly.
Protecting ecological values	 Known species at risk (painted turtle) are susceptible to impacts from recreational use/manipulation (e.g., public/domestic pets disturbing turtles from basking and nesting sites), road mortality, illegal removal for pet trade. Terrestrial invasive non-native plant species (e.g., spotted knapweed, orange hawkweed) threaten indigenous species and wildlife habitat, particularly around roadways, campground and 3rd Lake. Adjacent commercial logging may impact park values (e.g., wind throw, wildlife connectivity, aesthetics, access). Milfoil control in 3rd Lake is ongoing. The removal/monitoring program is very successful, but without active harvesting, root removal and filtering (gate installed at outlet of lake) the species would infest a large portion of the lake and downstream areas. Perceived threat of mountain pine and Douglas-fir beetle spreading from adjacent Crown forest. Currently, the Ministry of Forests has issued cutting permits abutting the park boundary to eradicate beetle infestations.
Recreational fishery	• Angling pressure at Third Lake has increased from seasonal use to year round use. The sustainability of this level of angling must be investigated.
	 It is well documented that stocking rainbow trout in lakes with a resident population of cutthroat trout is likely to result in the elimination of the cutthroat population through hybridization. Effects of the current rainbow trout stocking program in 1st Lake on the cutthroat population

	must be investigated.
Theme	Issue
Vandalism	 In non-peak season, vandalism of facilities (e.g., public washroom, day use area) is a common occurrence.

Management Direction

Management direction for appropriate activities, uses and facilities is provided in Appendix A.

Priority Management Objectives and Strategies

Objective	Strategy
To increase visitor use of all facilities.	• Work with tourism interests, local community and park facility operator to develop a marketing strategy that promotes the park as a distinct family holiday destination offering diverse recreational activities and interesting attractions in nearby communities.
To protect known species at risk and native flora/fauna.	 Minimize disturbance in habitat where species at risk are known to occur (e.g., reroute trails, post signage, enhance habitat, enforcement). This is of particular importance in footpath areas around 3rd Lake. Target weed infested areas with aggressive mechanical/biological control. Continue milfoil harvesting and monitoring program and maintenance of the outlet screen at 3rd Lake.
To ensure old growth forest ecosystem is maintained along periphery of the park.	 Monitor forest health for potential beetle infestations. Liaison with Forest Licensee and MoF to ensure adequate buffers are placed along park boundary (as per MOU⁴).
To maintain recreational fishery	• Monitor impacts of summer and winter angling (creel survey) on local fishery.

⁴ The Management of Forestry Issues of Mutual Interest in Relation to Provincial Protected Areas 01/03)

Objective	Strategy
	 Investigate effects of increased fishing pressure at 3rd Lake Develop a Fish Management Plan for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Lakes. Investigate impacts of rainbow trout stocking program on resident Westslope cutthroat populations in 1st Lake.
To prevent vandalism	 Install vandal resistant facilities. Encourage "Observe, Record, Report".
To ensure public safety and minimize the impacts of aircraft on park visitors.	• Consult with stakeholders to determine appropriate restrictions on aircraft access.

Consultation and Future Planning

Environmental Stewardship Division (ESD) is accountable for the planning, administration and management of the park through application of laws, regulations, and policies ESD will consult and coordinate management of Champion Lakes Provincial Park with other agencies, various public planning groups, and First Nations.

Zoning Plan (Figure 3)

The zoning plan defines the types of uses and overall level of use, including the facilities that are permitted in a given area of a park. Champion Lakes has been divided into three management planning zones: Intensive Recreation, Nature Recreation, and Special Feature;

Intensive Recreation Zone: The objective of this zone is to provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

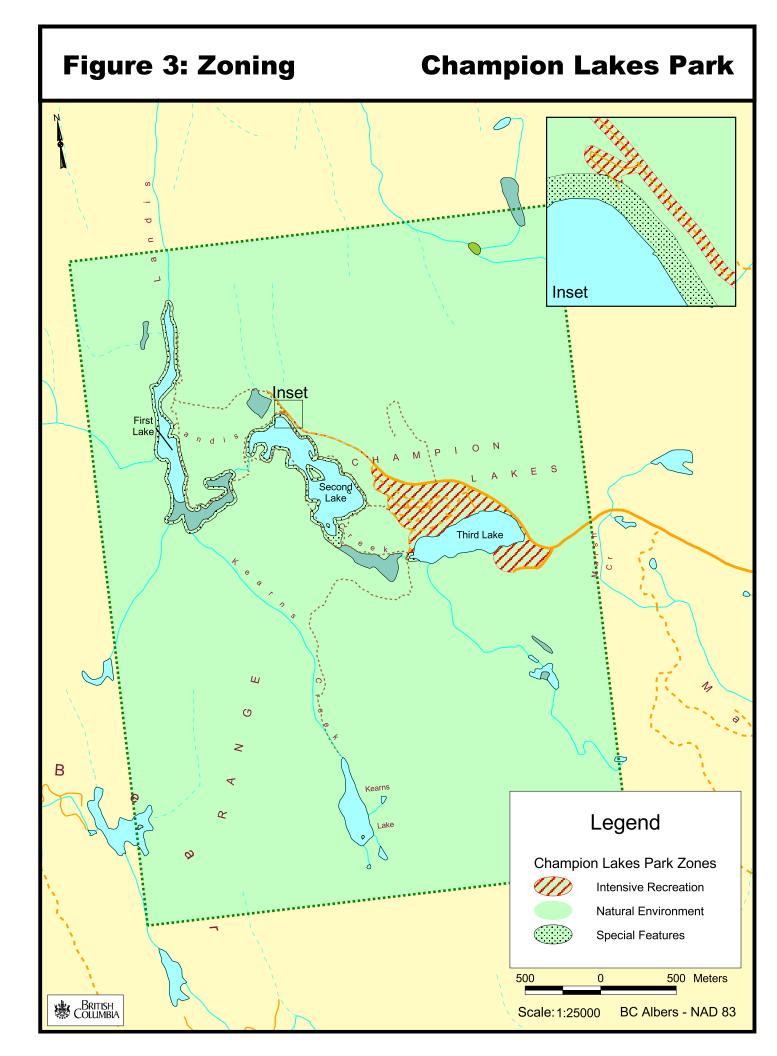
This zone (29.2 ha.) has been applied to the campground, entrance road, gravel road to its terminus at 2^{nd} Lake, and the lakeshore at 3^{rd} Lake from the playground south to the picnic area.

Nature Recreation Zone: The objective of this zone to protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

This zone (total 1,343.6 ha.) has been applied to all areas other than the Intensive Recreation Zone and Special Feature Zone, and includes upland areas of Champion Lakes including Kearns Lake.

Special Feature Zone: The objective of this zone is to protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.

This zone (total 52.3 ha.) has been applied in areas where known species at risk have been observed and their associated habitat. This zone applies to all standing water of both 1st Lake and 2nd Lake (including a 20 metre buffer zone from the lakeshore inland). Also included are all marsh/wetland complexes in the vicinity of 1st Lake and 2nd Lake. In addition, there is a small Special Features zone located at the inlet of 3rd Lake. No facilities will be constructed in areas where this zone occurs. Footpaths may border the periphery of this zone (e.g., along the lake side trail network).



Appendix A: Table of Acceptable Uses, Activities and Facilities

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 (pursuant to direction from the KBLUP) but not normally allowed; N/A = not applicable.

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptability
Aboriginal traditional activities and uses	Y
Hunting	Ν
Fishing	Y
Hiking	Y
Paddling	Y
Windsurfing	Y
Bicycling	Y
Picnicking	Y
Pet/Domestic Dogs (on leash)	Y
Adventure Playground	Y
Wheelchair Access (land)	Y
Wheelchair Access (water)	Ν
Trapping	Ν
Grazing (Domestic Livestock)	Ν
Recreational Gold Panning/ Rock Hounding	Ν
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	Ν
Commercial recreation (non-facility based)	М
Backcountry Huts	N/A
Water Control Structures	N/A
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N1
Road Access	Y
Off-road Access (snowmobiling)	Ν
Off-road Access (motorized)	Ν
Off-road Access (mechanized activities)	Ν
Motorized Water Access	Ν
Aircraft Access	Y
Fire Management (suppression)	Y
Fire Management (prescribed fire management)	N1
Fire Management (prevention)	Y
Forest Insect/Disease Control	N1
Noxious Weed Control	Y
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	N
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	N1
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	N1

Champion Lakes Provincial Park: Management Direction Statement 2004

Appendix B: Flora Species at Risk in Arrow Forest District

(shading indicates confirmation in Champion Lakes Provincial Park)

Scientific Name	English Name	G Rank	Subnational	COSEWIC	BC Status
	nettle-leaved giant-				
Agastache urticifolia	hyssop	G5	S3		BLUE
Agoseris lackschewitzii	pink agoseris	G4	S2S3		BLUE
Arabis holboellii var. pinetorum	Holboell's rockcress	G5T5?	S2S3		BLUE
Arnica longifolia	seep-spring arnica	G5	S2S3		BLUE
Aster ascendens	long-leaved aster	G5	S2S3		BLUE
Actro coluce micro quetio	least bladdery milk- vetch	05	64		
Astragalus microcystis Astragalus vexilliflexus var.	bent-flowered milk-	G5	S1		RED
vexilliflexus	vetch	G4T?	S2S3		BLUE
Botrychium simplex	least moonwort	G5	S2S3		BLUE
Carex amplifolia	bigleaf sedge	G4	S2S3		BLUE
Carex epapillosa	blackened sedge	G5	S2S3		BLUE
Carex lenticularis var. lenticularis	lakeshore sedge	G5T5	S2		RED
Carex saximontana	Rocky Mountain sedge	G5	S3		BLUE
Carex scoparia	pointed broom sedge	G5	S2S3		BLUE
Castilleja tenuis	hairy owl-clover	G5 G5	S1		RED
Cheilanthes gracillima	lace fern	G4G5	S2S3		BLUE
Clarkia pulchella	pink fairies	G5?	S3		BLUE
Clarkia rhomboidea	common clarkia	G5	S1		RED
Coreopsis tinctoria var. atkinsoniana	Atkinson's coreopsis	G5 G5T5	S1		RED
•			S1		RED
Crepis occidentalis ssp. pumila	western hawksbeard	G5T5 G?	S2S3		BLUE
Delphinium sutherlandii	Sutherland's larkspur				
Dicentra uniflora	steer's head	G4?	S2S3		BLUE
Dryopteris cristata Epilobium glaberrimum ssp.	crested wood fern	G5	S2S3		BLUE
Fastigiatum	smooth willowherb	G5T?	S2S3		BLUE
Tuonglatani	small-fruited	0011	0200		DLUL
Epilobium leptocarpum	willowherb	G5	S2S3		BLUE
Erysimum asperum	prairie rocket	G5	S1		RED
				NAR	
Floerkea proserpinacoides	false-mermaid	G5	S2S3	(1984)	BLUE
Hesperochiron pumilus	dwarf hesperochiron	G4	S1		RED
Hesperostipa spartea	porcupinegrass	G5	S1		RED
Heterocodon rariflorum	heterocodon	G5	S3		BLUE
	western St. John's-				
Hypericum scouleri ssp. nortoniae	wort	G5T?	S2S3		BLUE
Impatiens ecalcarata	spurless touch-me-not	G3G4	S2S3		BLUE
Juncus regelii	Regel's rush	G4?	S3		BLUE
Lewisia triphylla	three-leaved lewisia	G4?	S2S3		BLUE
	verticillate-umbel	0405	0000		
Ligusticum verticillatum	lovage	G4G5	S2S3		BLUE
Linanthus harknessii	Harkness' linanthus	G4?	S1		RED

					BC
Scientific Name	English Name	G Rank	Subnational	COSEWIC	Status
Linanthus septentrionalis	northern linanthus	G5	S2S3		BLUE
Lotus unifoliolatus var. unifoliolatus	Spanish-clover	G5T5	S2S3		BLUE
Melica smithii	Smith's melic	G4	S2S3		BLUE
Melica spectabilis	purple oniongrass	G5	S2S3		BLUE
Mertensia paniculata var. borealis	tall bluebells	G5T?	S2S3		BLUE
Mimulus breweri	Brewer's monkey- flower	G5	S2S3		BLUE
Oxytropis campestris var. columbiana	Columbia River locoweed	G5T3	S3		BLUE
Polemonium occidentale ssp. Occidentale	western Jacob's-ladder	G5?T5?	S2S3		BLUE
Polygonum polygaloides ssp. Kelloggii	Kellogg's knotweed	G4G5T3T5	S2S3		BLUE
Rubus nivalis	snow bramble	G4?	S2		RED
Salix boothii	Booth's willow	G5	S2S3		BLUE
Scirpus pallidus	pale bulrush	G5	S1		RED
Scutellaria angustifolia	narrow-leaved skullcap	G5	S2S3		BLUE
Senecio hydrophiloides	sweet-marsh butterweed	G4G5	S1		RED
Senecio hydrophilus	alkali-marsh butterweed	G5	SH		RED
Solidago gigantea ssp. serotina	smooth goldenrod	G5T?	S1		RED
Stellaria obtuse	blunt-sepaled starwort	G5	S2S3		BLUE
Trichostema oblongum	mountain blue-curls	G5	S1		RED
Trifolium cyathiferum	cup clover	G4	S1		RED
Viola septentrionalis	northern violet	G5	S2S3		BLUE

Appendix C: Fauna Species at Risk in Arrow Forest District

(shading indicates confirmation in Champion Lakes Provincial Park).

Scientific Name	English Name	G Rank	Subnational	COSEWIC	BC Status
Acipenser transmontanus pop. 2	White Sturgeon (Columbia River population)	G4T?Q	S1		RED
Aeronautes saxatalis	White-throated Swift	G5	S3S4B,SZN		BLUE
	Great Blue heron, <i>herodias</i>	0.0			5101
Ardea herodias herodias	subspecies	G5T5	S3B,S4N		BLUE
Argia vivida	Vivid Dancer	G5	S2		RED
Asio flammeus	Short-eared Owl	G5	S3B,S2N	SC (1994)	BLUE
Botaurus lentiginosus	American Bittern	G4	S3B,SZN		BLUE
Catherpes mexicanus	Canyon Wren	G5	S3	NAR (1992)	BLUE
Chrysemys picta	Painted Turtle	G5	S3S4		BLUE
Coluber constrictor	Racer	G5	S3S4		BLUE
Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's Big-eared Bat	G4	S2S3		BLUE
Cottus confusus	Shorthead Sculpin	G5	S2S3	T (MAY 2001)	BLUE
Cottus punctulatus	Rocky Mountain Sculpin	G5T?	S2S3	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	BLUE
Dolichonyx oryzivorus	Bobolink	G5	S3B,SZN		BLUE
Euphydryas gillettii	Gillette's Checkerspot	G2G3	S2S3		BLUE
Everes comyntas	Eastern Tailed Blue	G5	S3		BLUE
Falco mexicanus	Prairie Falcon	G5	S2B,SZN	NAR (1996)	RED
Gulo gulo luscus	Wolverine, <i>luscus</i> subspecies	G4T4	S3	SC (1989) WESTERN POPULATION ONLY	BLUE
Martes pennanti	Fisher	G5	S3		BLUE
, Melanerpes lewis	Lewis's Woodpecker	G4	S3B,SZN	SC (NOV 2001)	BLUE
Oncorhynchus clarki Iewisi	Cutthroat Trout, <i>lewisi</i> subspecies	G4T3	S3SE		BLUE
Otus kennicottii macfarlanei	Western Screech-Owl, macfarlanei subspecies	G5T4	S1	E (MAY 2002)	RED
Parnassius clodius altaurus	Clodius Appolo, <i>altaurus</i> subspecies	G5T3T4	S3S4		BLUE
Plethodon idahoensis	Coeur d'Alene Salamander	G3G4	S3	SC (NOV 2001)	BLUE
Pyrgus communis	Checkered Skipper	G5	<u>S3</u>	T (MAY 2000) SC (MAY 2002) COSEWIC	BLUE
Rangifer tarandus pop. 1	Caribou (southern population)	G5T2Q	S2	recognizes two	RED
Rhinichthys umatilla	Umatilla Dace	G4	S2	SC (1988)	RED
Salvelinus confluentus	Bull Trout	G3	S3		BLUE
Sphyrapicus thyroideus thyroideus	Williamson's Sapsucker, thyroideus subspecies	G5TU	S3B,SZN		BLUE
Taxidea taxus	Badger	G5	S1	E (May 2000)	RED
Ursus arctos	Grizzly Bear	G4	S3	SC (MAY 2002)	BLUE