Thompson River District

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

October, 1999



for Chu Chua Cottonwood Provincial Park

Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks BC Parks Division



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APPROVALS

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

Forward

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

- □ Adams Lake Park
- Adams Lake Marine Park Poplar Point
- □ Adams Lake Park Spillman Beach
- □ Banana Island Park
- Bedard Aspen Park
- □ Blue River Black Spruce Park
- □ Blue River Pine Park
- Caligata Park
- Chu Chua Cottonwood Park
- Eakin Creek Canyon Park
- Deadman Hoodoos Park Skookumt Site
- Eakin Creek Canyon Park
- Eakin Creek Floodplain Park.
- Epsom Park.
- □ Finn Creek Park.
- Greenstone Mountain Park.
- □ Harbour Dudgeon Park.
- □ Harry Lake Aspen Park.

Approved by:

Monty Downs

Monty Downs District Manager Thompson River District

Date: <u>99/11/30</u>

- □ Hiuihill Creek Park.
- □ Lac Le Jeune Park.
- □ Monte Creek Park
- □ Mount. Savona Park
- □ Mud Creek Delta Park
- □ North Thompson Islands Park
- □ North Thompson Oxbows East Park
- □ North Thompson Oxbow Jensen Park
- □ North Thompson Oxbow Manteau Park
- Deainted Bluffs Park
- □ Pritchard Park
- D Pyramid Creek Falls Park
- □ Tsintsunko Lakes Park
- □ Wallachin Oxbows Park
- \Box Wire Cache Park

<u>Denis O'Gorman</u>

Denis O'Gorman Assistant Deputy Minister Parks Division

Date: <u>99/12/29</u>

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Purpose of Management Direction Statements

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

CHU CHUA COTTONWOOD PARK

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context

The 100-hectare Chu Chua Cottonwood Park protects typical floodplain islands in the North Thompson River lowlands. It is situated 80 kilometers north of Kamloops along Highway 5 (Yellowhead), and is accessed by boat.

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

This Management Direction Statement is intended to provide direction and guidelines for managing Chu Chua Cottonwood Park for the foreseeable future.

II. Protected Area Values

A. Conservation

- typical large floodplain islands in a natural, undisturbed condition
- cottonwood, hybrid spruce, red osier dogwood, black twinberry, hazelnut, carex
- successional stages of colonization of islands from point bar to old-growth cottonwood stands
- important habitat for wildlife species associated with cottonwood stands; bats, Vaux swifts, cavity-nesters, probably black-headed grosbeak
- juvenile rearing area for salmonids

B. Recreation and Tourism

- nature study, green space, canoe and boat access
- access from Highway 5 (Yellowhead)

C. Cultural Heritage

• unknown: First Nations would have used islands on Thompson River

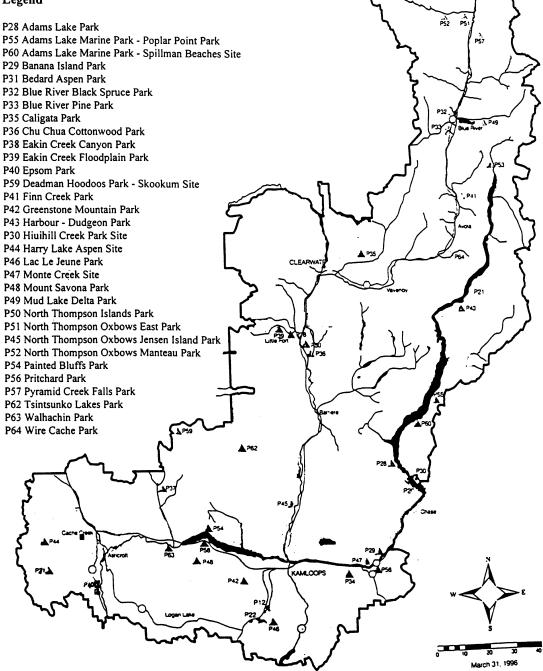
D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- a series of islands representing a variety of successional stages; this type of habitat in a natural condition is rapidly disappearing through private acquisition and harvesting of cottonwoods for pulp fiber
- a small representative of the North Thompson River valley lowlands not represented in large protected areas. Contributes typical large floodplain islands and associated habitats to the series of protected areas along the North Thompson north of Kamloops.

Figure 1 - Location Map

Kamloops LRMP Goal 2 Protected Areas Location Map

Legend



III. Other Land Uses and Interests

A. Existing Tenures

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

B. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- Highway 5 (Yellowhead) on West side of river with associated developed private land
- cleared private land, Canadian nation Railway and gravel roads on East side of river

C. First Nations Interests

• Management of the park will require ongoing consultation with the North Thompson Indian Band to incorporate First Nations interests.

D. Other Agency Interests

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

E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

• unknown

IV. Management Issues and Concerns

A. Integration with Other Land Use Planning Processes

This management statement, future management plans, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for the Chu Chua Cottonwood protected area.

B. Consultation and Future Planning

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

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

C. Role of the Park

The primary role of Chu Chua Cottonwood Park is to protect the ecological integrity of the river riparian and island habitats at this site. The park contributes a key component within a system of small protected areas distributed along the North Thompson River, which together capture representative examples of the river's diverse riparian and upland ecosystems.

D. Zoning

The zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for Chu Chua Cottonwood Park. The Park is zoned as **Natural Environment** to maintain the area in a natural condition while allowing some recreational use.

E. Management Objectives and Strategies

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

- to maintain the natural qualities and conditions of the park
- to foster relationships with First Nations through ongoing consultation and discussion of their concerns and views on protected area management and planning
- to maintain the visual, recreational and tourism values
- to maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats
- to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species
- to allow for continued casual recreation use nature study, canoeing and boating
 ⇒ do not emphasize recreation and make no provisions for public access and use of the site.

F. Longer Term Issues and Concerns

Specific issues that will be considered in the longer term can be highlighted under the following topics:

Conservation

- inventory of conservation values
- vegetation management protection of riparian areas for shade and food supply for salmonids; insect and disease control; fire management

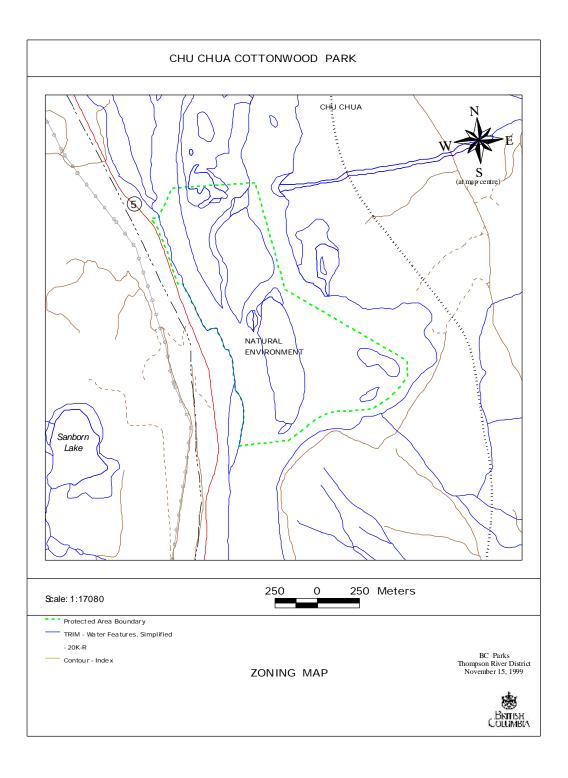
Recreation

- access management, especially in relation to fish rearing areas
- recreation use appropriate activities and levels of use

Culture

- inventory and protection of archaeological sites in conjunction with North Thompson Indian Band
- recognition of any identified traditional native uses

Figure 2 - Zoning Map



G. Short Term Issues and Concerns

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

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

Appendix - Activity / Use Matrix for Chu Chua Cottonwood

Y=allowed, subject to conditions identified in the interim management statement or management plan

N= not allowed

N1=

allowed for expressed management purposes only not normally allowed, but if present at time of PA establishment, will normally be allowed to continue N2=

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