

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

June, 1999

**for Cornwall Hills
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

**Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division**



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APPROVALS

KAMLOOPS GOAL 1 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward

This binder contains 15 management direction statements developed under the direction of the Kamloops Land and Resource Plan Implementation Table and BC Parks. The government designated these protected areas in May, 1996. The 15 management direction statements provide strategic direction for these protected areas until management plans can be developed with full public involvement. Protected areas' roles, strategies and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, implemented through operations plans, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arrowstone Protected Area | <input type="checkbox"/> High Lakes Basin Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Earth Lake Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Momich Lakes Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon Jack Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clearwater River Corridor | <input type="checkbox"/> Porcupine Meadows.Park |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cornwall Hills Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Roche Lake Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dunn Peak Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Taweel Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elephant Hill Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Adams Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emar Lakes Park | |

Approved by:

District Manager
Thompson River District
BC Parks Division

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Division

Date: 98/04/30

Date: 99 10 25

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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

CORNWALL HILLS PARK

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context

The 1,158 hectare Cornwall Hills Park, situated 15 kilometres southwest of Cache Creek contains significant conservation and cultural heritage sites. This is one of very few opportunities to protect Engelmann Spruce-Sub-alpine Fir grasslands in the region. Access is from the Trans Canada Highway 17 kilometres south of Cache Creek, then by the gravel roads along Oregon Jack Creek and north up Two Sisters Creek.

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 *Environment and Land Use Act*. The park was designated under *Schedule E of the Park Amendment Act, 1997*.

This Management Direction Statement is intended to provide direction and guidelines for managing Cornwall Hills Park until a more comprehensive management plan is developed for the area.

II. Protected Area Values

A. Conservation

- extensive uncommon Engelmann Spruce-sub-Alpine Fir parklands and grasslands
- patches of old growth in all three forest zones represented
- rich diversity of habitats
- wildflower meadows

B. Recreation

- opportunities for hiking, wildlife viewing
- only active Forest Service Lookout Tower in the Kamloops District
- provincial hang-gliding site

C. Cultural Heritage

- regionally important upland archeological sites
- traditional First Nations use

D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- few opportunities available to protect the type of grasslands found in Cornwall Park
- Cornwall Hills Park rates as regionally significant for cultural and conservation values.

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III. Other Land Uses and Interests

A. Existing Tenures

- designation under the *Environment and Land Use 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 trapping licences and other legal tenures and rights.
- park designation provides for continuance of existing grazing under administration and management of the *Range Act*

B. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- logging roads and cutblocks
- cattle grazing, ranching activities

C. First Nations Interests

- interests of Ashcroft Indian Band unknown

D. Other Agency Interests

- The park will be managed in close co-ordination with various resource agencies, particularly BC Environment and Ministry of Forests.
- Forest Service communications tower
- Forest Service Fire Lookout tower
- Ministry of Forests manages grazing in the area
- Ministry of Forests has a trap tree program to assist in monitoring a serious infestation of Douglas-fir bark beetle on the eastern side of the park

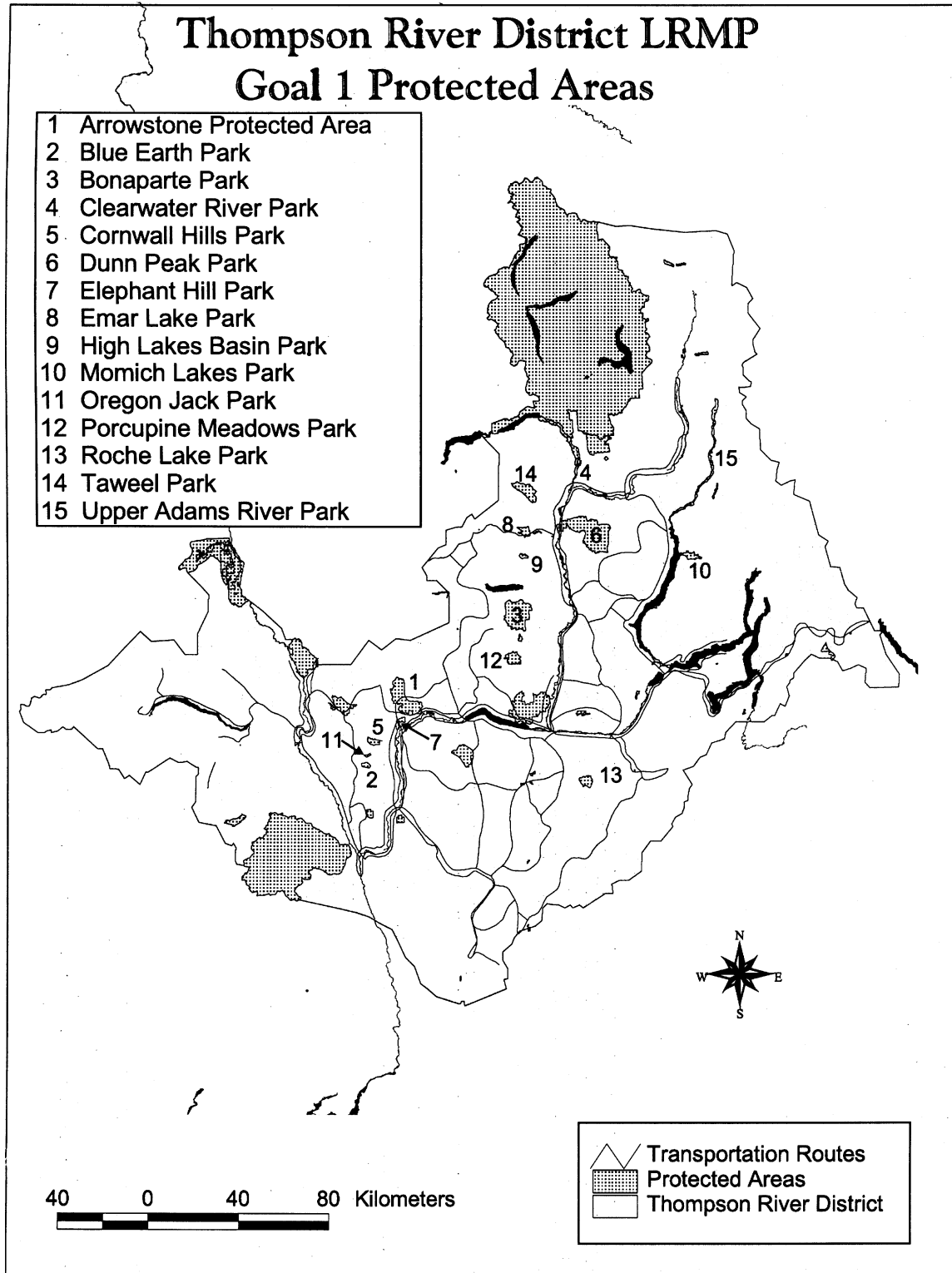
E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- unknown

IV. Park Role Statement

The primary role of Cornwall Hills Park is to protect the subalpine forest and grassland habitats and cultural features of this site. This park provides one of the few opportunities in the Thompson River District to protect Engelmann Spruce - Sub-Alpine Fir grasslands. The park also contains regionally significant archaeological sites and is of special value for traditional First Nations uses. Cornwall Hills Park is one of a number of small parks in the BC Parks Thompson River District (Blue Earth Lake, Oregon Jack, Bedard Aspen and Harry Lake Aspen) and larger parks in Cariboo District (Marble Range and Edge Hills) that together represent the diverse ecosystems of the Pavilion Ranges Ecosession. A secondary role is to continue providing traditional and regionally significant recreation opportunities for wildlife and wildflower viewing, hiking, hunting and hang-gliding.

Figure 1 – Regional Context Map



V. Management Issues and Concerns

A. Integration With Other Land Use Planning Processes

This Management Statement, future Management Statements, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for Cornwall Hills protected area.

Also the park will be planned and managed in co-ordination with Ministry of Forests and other agencies' planning processes.

B. Consultation and Future Planning

Planning and management of the park will conform to the intent and directions 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 developing management plans for all of the new parks arising from the Kamloops LRMP.

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

The LRMP table considers Cornwall Hills Park as low priority for management planning. This Management Direction Statement will provide direction and guidelines for managing the area for the next five years or so until a management plan is developed. Any future management plan will be developed through involvement of other agencies, stakeholders, First Nations interests and public interest groups.

C. Zoning Plan

This zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page is preliminary and reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for Cornwall Hills Park. The zoning plan may be changed in a future management planning process. Tentative zones include:

Natural Environment

- includes the major portion of the park; the objective is to maintain the area in a natural condition

Heritage Areas and Natural and Cultural Sites

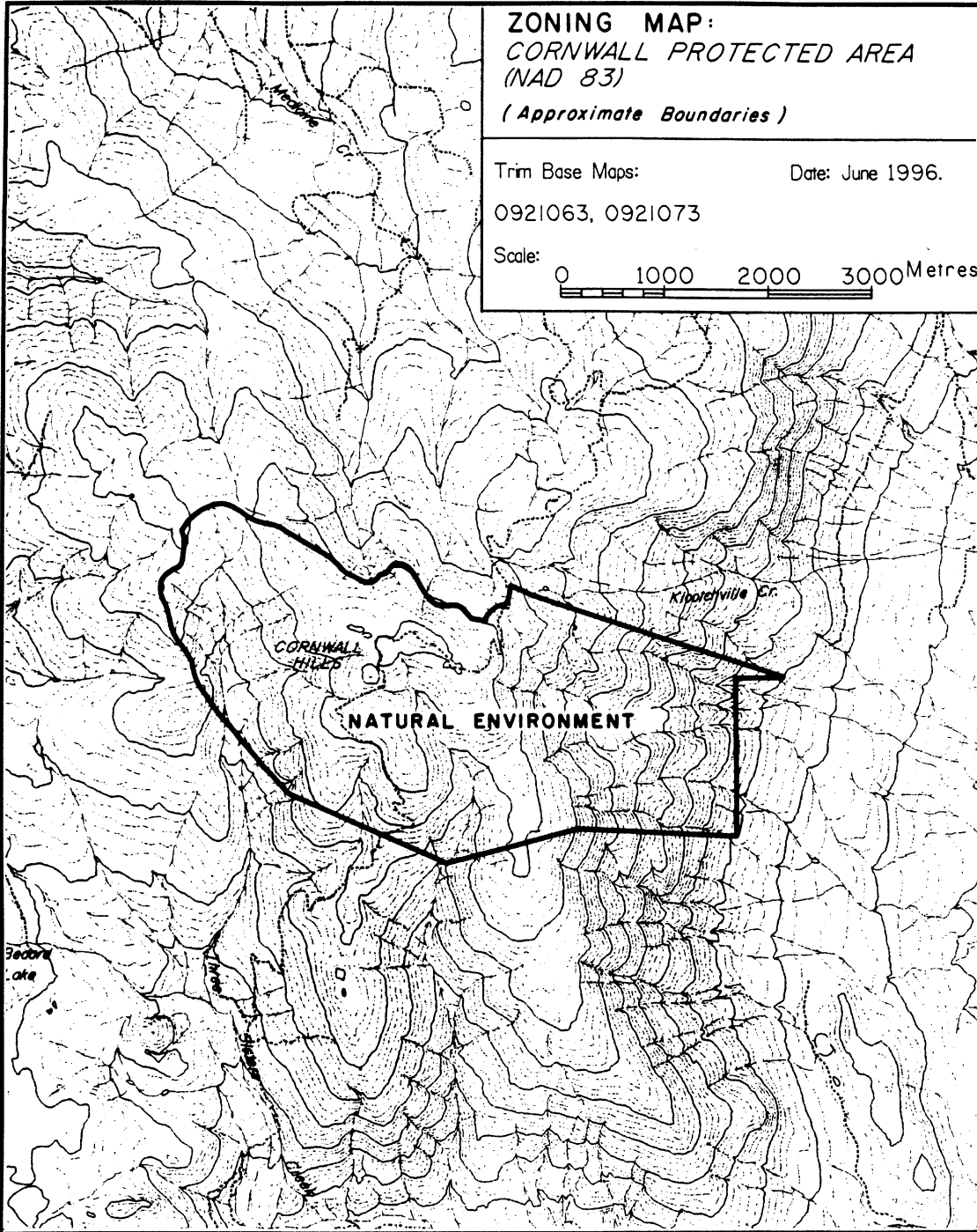
- a grasslands benchmark may be considered within or adjacent to the park

D. Management Strategies and Objectives

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 maintain the visual and recreational values
- to maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats

Figure 2 - Zoning Plan



- to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species
- to provide for continued recreation use with opportunities for hiking, nature viewing, hand gliding, hunting and other dispersed recreation activities

The more detailed management planning process will define how these strategies and objectives will be implemented. As well, there will undoubtedly be other strategies and objectives added to the list through the management planning process.

E. Longer Term Issues and Concerns

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

Conservation

- vegetation management - insect and disease control and fire management
- fisheries and wildlife management

Recreation and Tourism

- access management - through co-ordination with local level planning
- recreation use - appropriate activities, insuring compatibility between user groups

Culture

- inventory and protection of archaeological sites and recognition of any identified traditional First Nations uses

F. Short Term Issues and Concerns

Appendix A outlines guidelines for managing uses, activities and facilities in the park. The types and nature of recreation uses of the park will not change, however, more intensive levels of management may be applied; i.e. periodic park ranger patrols.

Appendix A - Activity/Use Matrix for Cornwall Hills Park

Activity/Use/Activity	Natural Environment Zone	Heritage areas & natural/ cultural sites
Hunting	Y	N
Fishing	N/A	N/A
Trapping	Y	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N2	N2
Recreational gold panning/ rock hounding	N/A	N/A
Utility corridors	N2	N2
Communication sites	N2	N2
Horse use/ pack animals	Y ³	Y ³
Guide outfitting (hunting)	Y ²	Y ²
Guide outfitting (fishing)	N/A	N/A
Guide outfitting (nature tours)	Y ²	Y ²
Guide outfitting (river rafting)	N/A	N/A
Cat-assisted skiing	N/A	N/A
Ski-hills	N/A	N/A
Heli-skiing	N/A	N/A
Heli-hiking	N	N
Tourist infrastructure - resorts	N2	N2
Backcountry huts/lodges/ cabins	N/A	N/A
Water control structures	N1	N1
Fish stocking and enhancement	N/A	N/A
Road access	Y ¹	N1
Off-road access (snowmobiles)	Y ³	Y ³
Off-road access (motorized)	N	N
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	Y ³	Y ³
Motorized water access	N/A	N/A
Aircraft access	N1	N1
Fire management Wildlife management Prevention & preparedness Prescribed fire management	N1	N1
Fire management (suppression)	Y	Y
Forest insect/disease control	Y	Y
Noxious weed control	Y	Y
Exotic insect/disease control	Y	Y
Scientific research (specimen collection)	N1	N1
Scientific research (manipulation activities)	N1	N1

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

N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

¹ = road access plan for this area designates open and closed roads

³ = on designated trails only

N = not allowed

N2 = not normally allowed, but if present at time of PA establishment, will normally be allowed to continue

² = by permit only

⁴ = on designated lakes only