

Kootenay District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

May, 1999

**for Cummins Lakes
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

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



KOOTENAY GOAL 1 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward

This binder contains eleven management direction statements developed under the direction of the Kootenay CORE Land Use Plan and Implementation Strategy and BC Parks. The government designated these protected areas under the *Park Act*. The eleven 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.

- Goat Range Park
- Kianuko Park
- Kokanee Glacier Park additions
- Lockhart Creek Park
- Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park - West Addition
- Syringa Park
- West Arm Park
- Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park- East Addition
- Akamina-Kishinena Park
- Gilnockie Park
- Cummins Lakes Park

Approved by:

District Manager
Kootenay District
BC Parks Division

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Division



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Purpose of Management Direction Statements

Management Direction Statements provide strategic management direction for all protected areas which 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

CUMMINS LAKES PROVINCIAL PARK

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context (Figure 1)

The 21,000 ha. Cummins Lakes Provincial Park is located in south eastern British Columbia approximately 60 km northwest of Golden and east of the Kinbasket Reservoir. It contains a nationally significant feature consisting of three spectacular waterfalls connecting two glacial lakes just below the Clemenceau Icefield.

The park is a portion of the much larger Clemenceau area which is bordered by Jasper National Park and Hamber Provincial Park. Cummins Lakes Park makes a modest contribution to representation of the Central Park Ranges Ecosection as it does not include the headwaters of the Cummins drainage. It does include under-represented Englemann Spruce Subalpine Fir forest, valley floor habitats (meadows, marshes), as well as habitats for grizzly bear, caribou and mountain goat. Protection of the nationally significant scenic and recreational features are the main reasons for park designation; although most of the recreational activities in the area take place just outside the park.

This park was proposed for protection under the Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE) Protected Area Strategy (PAS) process. The area (Figure 2) received Class A provincial park status on July 12, 1995 under the *Park Amendment Act, 1995*, following the recommendations of the East Kootenay Land Use Plan. The lower valley was withheld from designation pending resolution of economic impact concerns but was finally added in July 1998 by Order In Council. A portion of the lower valley (about 190 ha) is designated park under the *Environment and Land Use Act* which protects the park values but subject to permitting the development of an industrial road if needed in the future. It is still managed, as with the rest of the park by BC Parks under the *Park Act*.

II. Protected Areas Attributes (Figure 2)

A. Conservation

- provides a modest contribution to representation of the Central Park Ranges (CPK) Ecosection
- captures significant under represented Engelmann Spruce Subalpine Fir (ESSFwm) subzones
- protects important riparian areas
- contains habitat for grizzly bear, caribou and mountain goat
- protects one of the last unharvested and unroaded river drainages regionally

B. Recreation

- nationally significant recreation mountaineering, ski touring and wilderness expedition activities occur adjacent to the park
- contains nationally significant feature of a spectacular series of waterfalls and lakes against the backdrop of the Clemenceau Icefield and peaks

Figure 1 - Regional Context Map

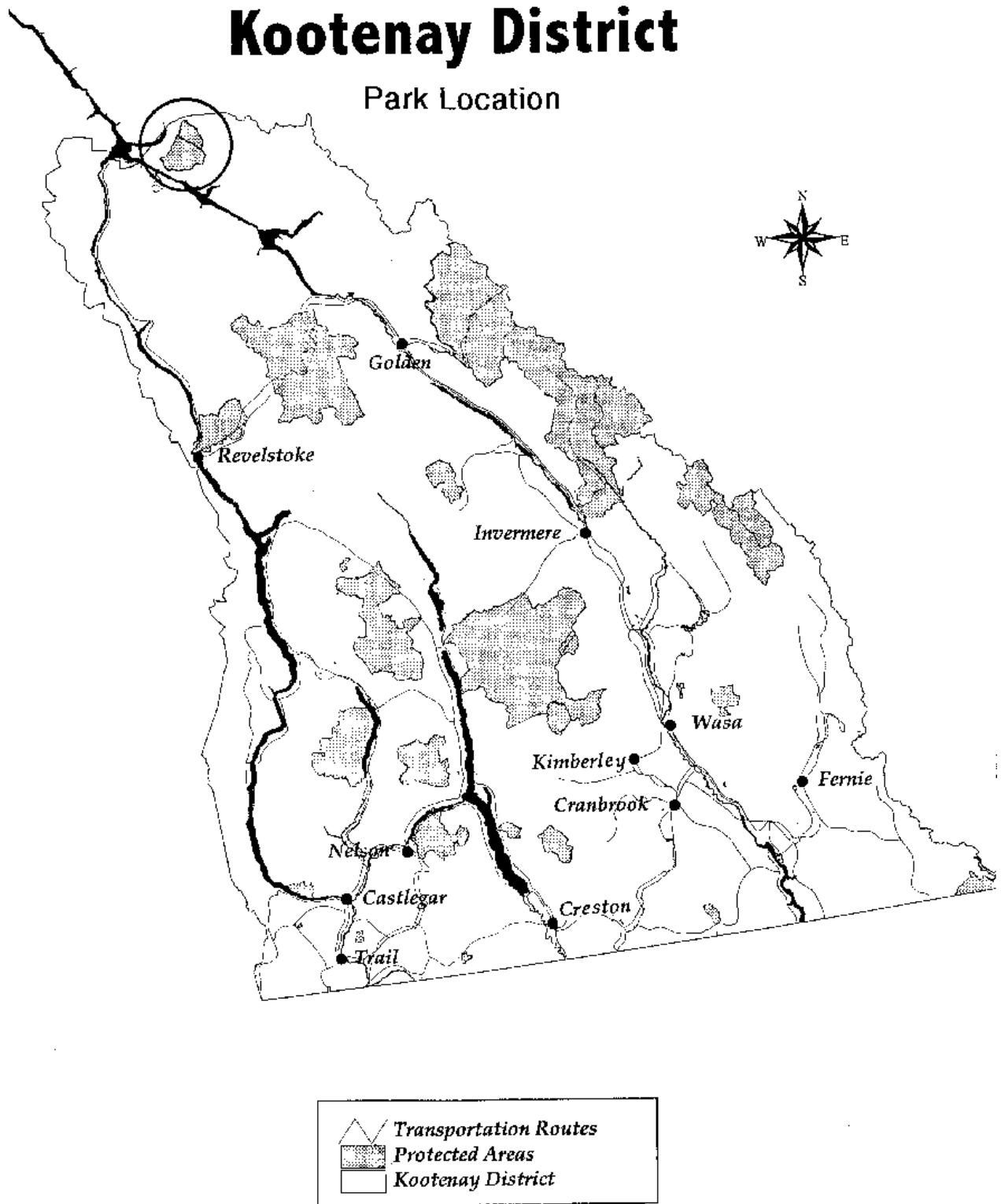
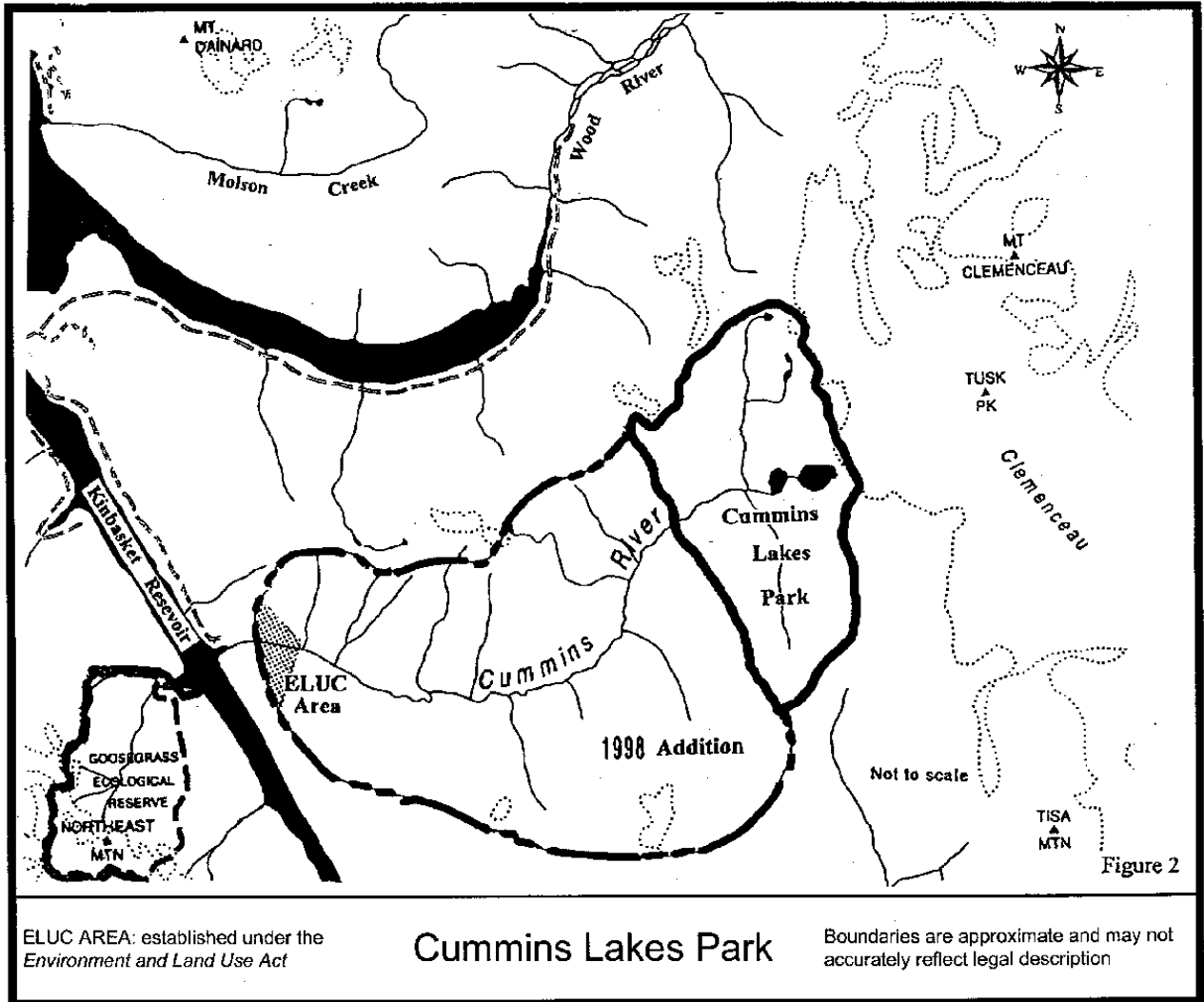


Figure 1

NTS

Figure 2 - Park Reference Map



C. Cultural Heritage

- none identified

D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- high recreation values - nationally significant mountaineering and ski touring adjacent to the park; high scenic values
- high conservation values - representation of seriously under-represented mid-elevation forests

III. Land Use, Tenures and Interests

A. Access

- helicopter access to Grassi Hut (at easterly boundary)
- very limited foot access (ski touring) across Clemenceau Icefield from Jasper National Park
- forest roads from Wood River to Jeffrey Creek, but no trails into the park
- boat access is hazardous as Kinbasket Reservoir subject to high winds and forest debris

B. Existing Tenures

- trapping: License No. RT118917 Territory No. 0440T002

C. Existing Land Use, Activities and Facilities

- Alpine Club of Canada climbing hut (Lawrence Grassi Hut) located just inside the park

D. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- Lower Cummins River potentially will have an industrial road
- application for Heli-skiing in the surrounding mountains

E. First Nation Interests

- Ktunaxa/Kinbasket and Shuswap tribal councils have included Cummins Lakes Park within their asserted traditional territory
- while direct consultation with tribal council representatives on this management direction statement was requested limitations of time and resources have prevented First Nations from directly participating in the planning process
- this management direction statement provides a foundation upon which continued relationships between BC Parks and First Nation tribal councils are based

F. Other Agency Interests

- BC Environment (BCE) - wildlife populations; biodiversity objectives; connectivity
- limited opportunities for viable commercial backcountry tourism
- Ministry of Forests (MOF) - biodiversity objectives; adjacency issues such as access, visual quality, connectivity

G. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- Alpine Club of Canada and other climbers
- environmental groups (i.e., East Kootenay Environmental Society) concerned about protected area management

IV. Management Commitments and Issues

A. Management Direction from Previous Planning

- existing tenure for trapping will continue under Park Use Permit
- natural occurrences such as fires, insects and forest diseases will be managed as in other parks through consultation and joint action by BC Parks and Ministry of Forests
- review objectives and management strategies of the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy (KBLUP - IS) Chpt 4 and Appendix 4.

B. Management Issues

- demand for commercial backcountry recreation opportunities
- forest harvesting adjacent to park boundaries
- level and type of recreation opportunities that should be provided
- lack of specific information on natural and cultural values
- potential road development across Cummins River

V. Management Strategy

While key strategies or actions are identified, the completion of all these strategies is subject to funding and funding procedures. As such, strategies are ranked according to priority and completed as funding permits. As well, all development within provincial parks is subject to the BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy.

A. Priority Management Objectives and Actions

Objectives

- protect natural and visual quality and integrity of the key recreation features
- maintain ecosystem representation of Central Park Range Ecosection
- ensure protection of grizzly bear, caribou and mountain goat and their habitats
- protect important riparian areas
- maintain backcountry /wilderness recreation values
- honor commitments in Kootenay and Boundary Land Use Plan
- develop relationship with First Nations to enhance understanding and management of park values

Actions

- work with BCE in the inventory and management of wildlife species and their habitat requirement inside and outside the park
- work with other agencies to ensure connectivity of wildlife habitat outside the park
- maintain existing recreation opportunities and commercial uses until baseline information is gathered
- work with adjacent agencies and forest licensees to address access and visual concerns, particularly from Wood River Road and Athabasca Trail
- work with local First Nations to identify any traditional uses in the park and determine management needs

- issue Park Use Permit for pre-existing trapping tenure

B. Consultation and Future Planning

The KBLUP-IS indicated that there is a low priority for developing a management plan for this park. Consequently further public consultation is not anticipated until the management plan is initiated. However ongoing consultation to implement the above actions will be made with the various groups and agencies.

C. Zoning Plan

There is insufficient knowledge and understanding about this area to apply the BC Park Zoning Policy. The zoning policy defines in general terms the management direction for a given area of a park, including the type of uses and overall level of use and facilities in relationship to varying degrees of acceptable impacts on park values.

Appendix A

Summary Table of Land and Resource Use Commitments

This Table provides a summary of commitments made through land use processes with regard to acceptable uses, activities and facilities within this protected area.

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptable Uses
Hunting	Y
Trapping	N2
Fishing	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Utility Corridors	N
Communications Sites	N
Horse Use/Pack Animals	N
Guide Outfitting (hunting)	N
Guide Outfitting (fishing)	N
Guide Outfitting (nature tours)	N
Guide Outfitting (river rafting)	N
Cat-Assisted Skiing	N
Heli-Skiing	N
Heli-Hiking	N
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	N
Backcountry Huts	Y
Water Control Structures	N
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N
Road Access	N
Off-Road Access (snowmobiling)	N
Off-Road Access (motorized)	N
Off-Road Access (mechanical)	N
Motorized Water Access	N
Aircraft Access (fixed wing)	N
Aircraft Access (helicopters)	N2
Fire Management (suppression)	M
Fire Management (prevention)	M
Fire Management (prescribed)	M
Forest Insect/Disease Control	M
Noxious Weed Control	Y
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	M
Scientific Research (collection)	M
Scientific Research (manipulation)	M

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

M = may be permitted if compatible with protected area objectives.

N = not allowed

N1 = allowed for expressed mgmt. purposes only.

N2 = present and allowed to continue but not normally allowed .