

**PURPOSE
STATEMENT
AND ZONING PLAN**

February 2007

for Darke Lake
Provincial Park



Ministry of Environment,
Environmental Stewardship
Division



Darke Lake
Provincial Park

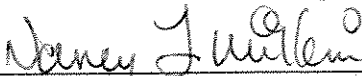
Purpose Statement and
Zoning Plan

Approved by:



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Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Feb 15, 2007



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 8, 2007



Darke Lake Provincial Park

Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Background Summary

Darke Lake, formerly known as Fish Lake, is located in the Meadow Valley area, approximately 25 km from Summerland. The park is located at the end of the Darke Lake Road. A very rough fire-access road from Peachland to Munro Lake passes through the corner of the park.

Darke Lake Park is a popular destination for local residents, providing opportunities for camping, hiking, picnicking, open water and ice fishing, boating, hunting and snowmobiling.

The campground, located at the south end of the lake, is a former fishing camp. The user-maintained site has 2 pit toilets and 7 campsites. A very dilapidated former fish camp cabin remains.

Darke Lake supports both stocked rainbow trout and eastern brook trout. A waterfall cascades into the lake. Flammulated owls (blue-listed), barred owls and downy woodpeckers have been sited here, and there are records of tiger salamanders nearby.

The District of Summerland has a dam and water rights on Darke Lake (reservoir) which is a contributing source of water for the community.

The park is part of a cattle grazing tenure under park use permit and a guide outfitter area under park use permit.

Primary Role

The park protects a representative portion of the Thompson Plateau landscape including old growth Douglas fir forest. It supports the blue-listed flammulated owl.

Secondary Role

The park provides recreational opportunities for camping, open water and ice fishing, hunting, boating/canoeing, swimming, horseback riding and snowmobiling.

Tertiary Role

There is evidence of an archaeological site near the campsite.

Protected Area Values and Significance Summary Matrix

Conservation:

Representation

Ecosection

- North Okanagan Basin (NOB)- contributes 10.08% to the protected areas system representation of this moderately represented ecosection (5.02% protected).

Western Okanagan Upland (WOU)- contributes only .01% to the protected areas system representation of this ecosection, only 2.56% of which is protected in the province.

Biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

- IDFd1 – small (1.3%) contribution to the protected areas system representation of this subzone/variant. This subzone/variant is poorly represented (3.4%) in the protected areas system.

IDFd2 - moderate contribution (10.5%) to the protected areas system representation of this subzone/variant. This subzone/variant is poorly represented (2.9%) in the protected areas system.

IDFx1- 2.8% contribution to the protected areas system representation of this subzone/variant. This subzone/variant is moderately represented (6.8%) in the protected areas system.

Special Features

- Old growth Douglas fir forest

Rare/Endangered Values

Flammulated owls (blue-listed).

Scientific/Research Opportunities

Recreation:

Representation

Backcountry

Destination

Travel corridor

Local recreation

Darke Lake Park provides opportunities for local residents to hunt, open water and ice fish and camp.

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

Cultural Heritage:

Representation

Special Feature

An archaeological site has been identified near the campsite.

Other Management Considerations:

Other Designations

Relationship to Other Protected Areas

Near Eneas Lakes Provincial Park.

Collaborative Management Agreements
Partnerships

The Summerland Sportsmen's Association helps to discourage tree cutting in the park and has done a number of maintenance projects. The association has potential to be more active stewards of this park.

Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

Area

1,470 hectares

Date of establishment

June 6, 1943

Management Issues

Known Management Issues	Response
Fuel build-up particularly around the campground.	Assess and undertake fuel modification as required.
Cattle are sometimes present in the campground area and the area at the north end of the lake.	Work with the rancher to implement appropriate remedial measures including the update of the range use plan and the park use permit.
The 2 km single-lane portion of Darke Lake Road in the park is in poor condition.	Retain single lane access with pull-offs. Assess the road condition and rehabilitate sections requiring attention.
The park is becoming an ATV and dirt bike destination.	Work with the ATV clubs to formalize designated access routes through the park to ATV areas beyond the park. Encourage these organizations to take on a stewardship role in the park.

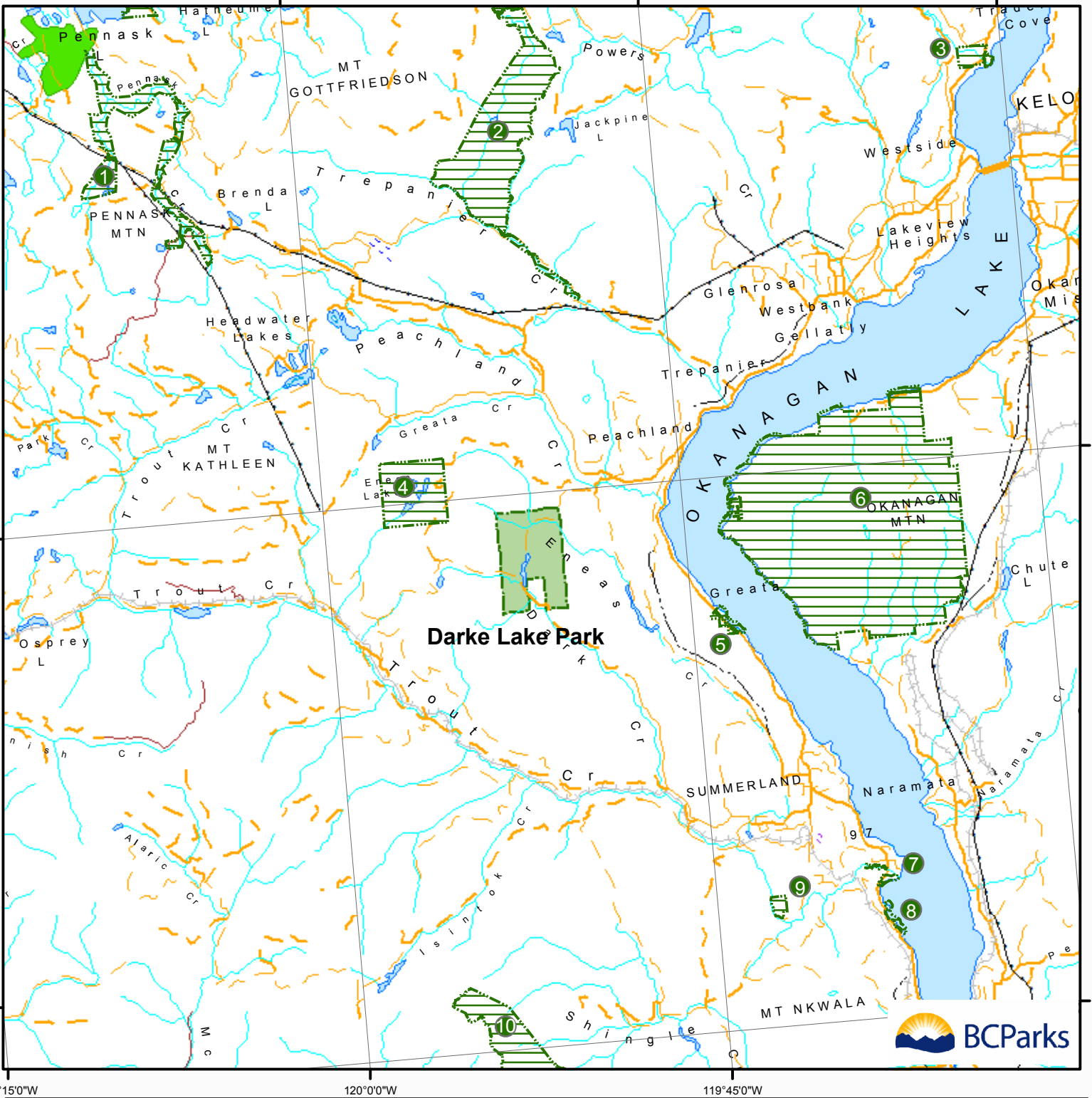
Zoning


Intensive Recreation zone encompasses the campground area and public roads. The objective of this zone is to provide for a variety of readily-accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Nature Recreation zone applies to the remainder of the park. The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.





Figure 1: Regional Context

Darke Lake Park





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	Darke Lake Park
	Other Protected Areas
	Highway
	Road

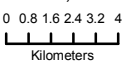
Other Provincial Protected Areas

1 Pennask Creek Park	9 Trout Creek Ecological Reserve
2 Trepanier Park	10 Brent Mountain Protected Area
3 Bear Creek Park	
4 Eneas Lakes Park	
5 Okanagan Lake Park	
6 Okanagan Mountain Park	
7 Sun-Oka Beach Park	
8 Kickinnee Park	

Projection: UTM Zone 11
Datum: NAD83

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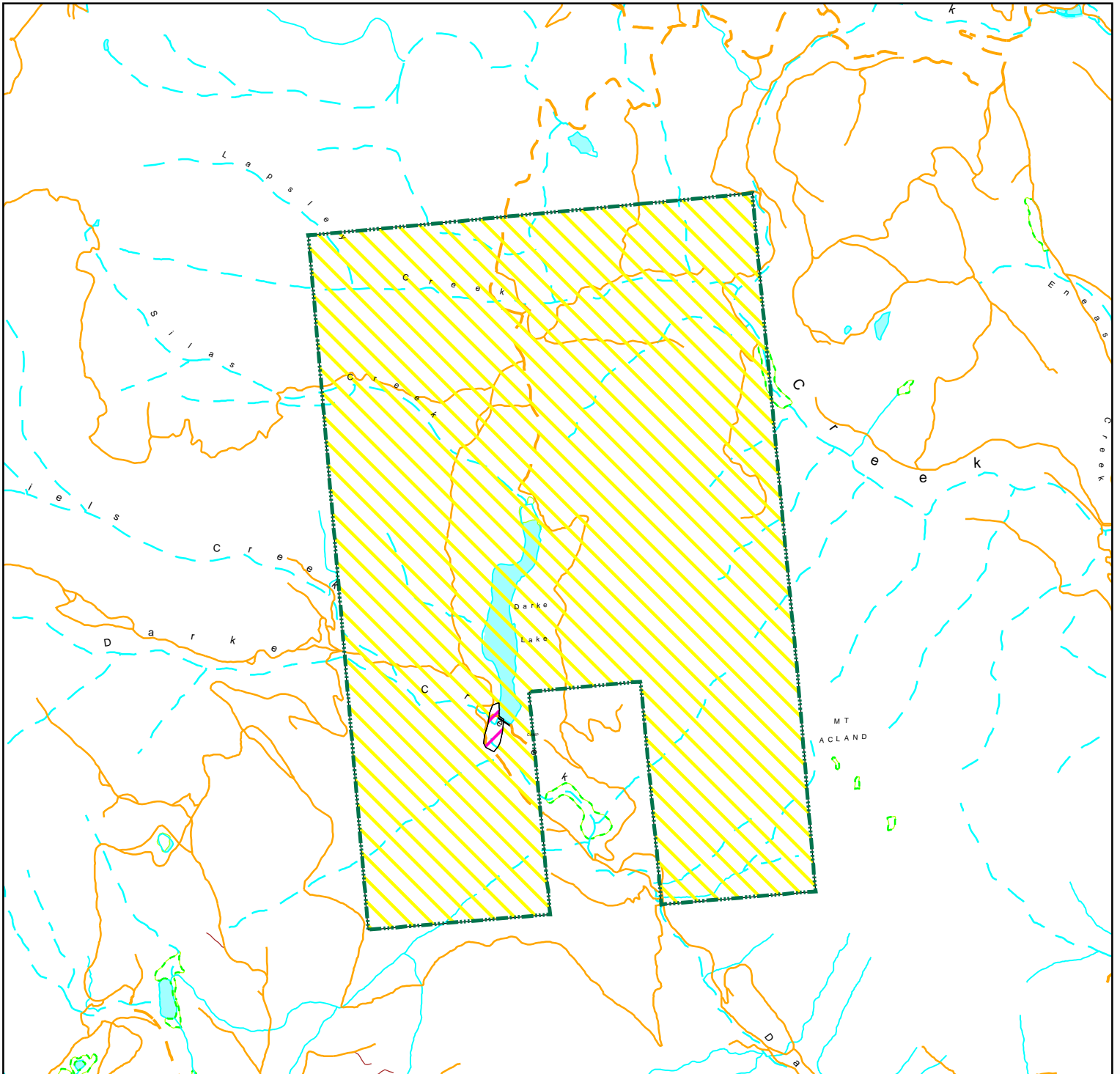
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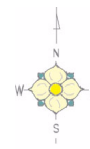
Kilometers

Zoning Map

Darke Lake Park

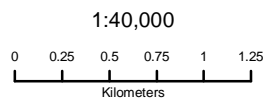


-  Intensive Recreation
-  Nature Recreation



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