

Skeena District

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

July, 2000

for Diana Lake
Provincial Park



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division



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MEMORANDUM


HIGHWAY 16 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS - BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward


This binder contains 11 management direction statements developed by BC Parks. These protected areas are all long established, some parks existing since the early 1950s. The 11 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.

- Diana Lake Park
- Driftwood Canyon Park
- Ethel F. Wilson Park
- Kleanza Creek Park
- Lakelse Lake Park
- Pendleton Bay Park
- Prudhomme Lake Park
- Red Bluff Park
- Ross Lake Park
- Seeley Lake Park
- Tyhee Lake Park

Approved by:


Hugh Markides
District Manager
Skeena District

Date: 6 July 2000


Denis O'Gorman
Assistant Deputy Minister
Parks Division

Date: 2000-07-17



Table of Contents

Diana Lake Park	
Approvals Page	i
Forward	i
Introduction.....	1
Setting and Context.....	1
Protected Area Attributes	1
Conservation	1
Recreation and Tourism.....	1
Cultural Heritage	1
Significance in the Protected Areas System.....	2
Land Uses, Tenures and Interests	5
Access	5
Existing Tenures.....	5
Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities.....	5
Adjacent Patterns of Land Use.....	5
First Nations Interests	5
Other Agency Interests	5
Private and Public Stakeholder Interests.....	5
Role of Diana Lake Park	6
Management Commitments and Issues	6
Direction from Previous Planning.....	6
Management Issues.....	6
Management Strategy.....	7
Consultation and Future Planning.....	9
Preliminary Zoning	9
Appendix - Activity/Use Matrix.....	11
Figures:	
Figure 1 - Context Map.....	3
Figure 2 - Park Map.....	4
Figure 3 - Zoning.....	10

Introduction

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.

Setting and Context

Diana Lake Park covers 233 ha running from the north shore of Diana Lake, along the Diana Creek valley, meeting Highway 16, 16 km east of Prince Rupert (area population ~19,000; Figure 1). The park lies within asserted traditional territory of the Allied Tsimshian Tribes.

The park, established in 1980, provides lake, lakeshore and forest recreation opportunities for local residents and travelers along the Highway 16 corridor. Diana Lake is the primary freshwater recreation site, popular for swimming and picnicking, for regional residents. MacDonald Trail, starting in the park and maintained by the Ministry of Forests, runs through blanket bog communities and up to MacDonald peak. Gamble Creek Ecological Reserve protects a bog community. Nearby Prudhomme Lake Provincial Park offers camping opportunities.

Protected Area Attributes

Conservation

- remnant Hecate Lowland Ecoregion; CWHvh2 (very wet hypermaritime coastal western hemlock subzone, central variant)
- internationally significant blanket bog communities (Representative of Ecoregion; rare globally)
- habitat for wildlife, including deer and wolf
- Diana Creek provides spawning habitat for salmonids

Recreation and Tourism

- lake, lakeshore and forest recreation opportunities (picnicking, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing) - only opportunity for freshwater swimming near Prince Rupert; includes one of several trails in a trail network
- research project in park bogs and adjacent forest (ecology, hydrology, soils, regeneration/productivity, peat stratigraphy/palynology); international interest.

Cultural Heritage

An inventory of cultural heritage features has not been completed; however the following values

have a likelihood of being present:

- culturally modified trees
- evidence of sites used for fishing and trapping

Significance in the Protected Areas System

- protects blanket bog communities representative of the Hecate Lowland Ecosection.
- provides access to lake, lakeshore and forest recreation for regional residents and travelling visitors

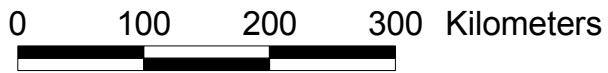
Figure 1 – Context Map

Diana Lake Provincial Park Locator Map



Legend

-  Highways
-  Rivers/Lakes
-  Coastline
-  Diana Lake Provincial Park
-  Skeena Parks District



Scale 1:6,000,000

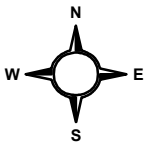
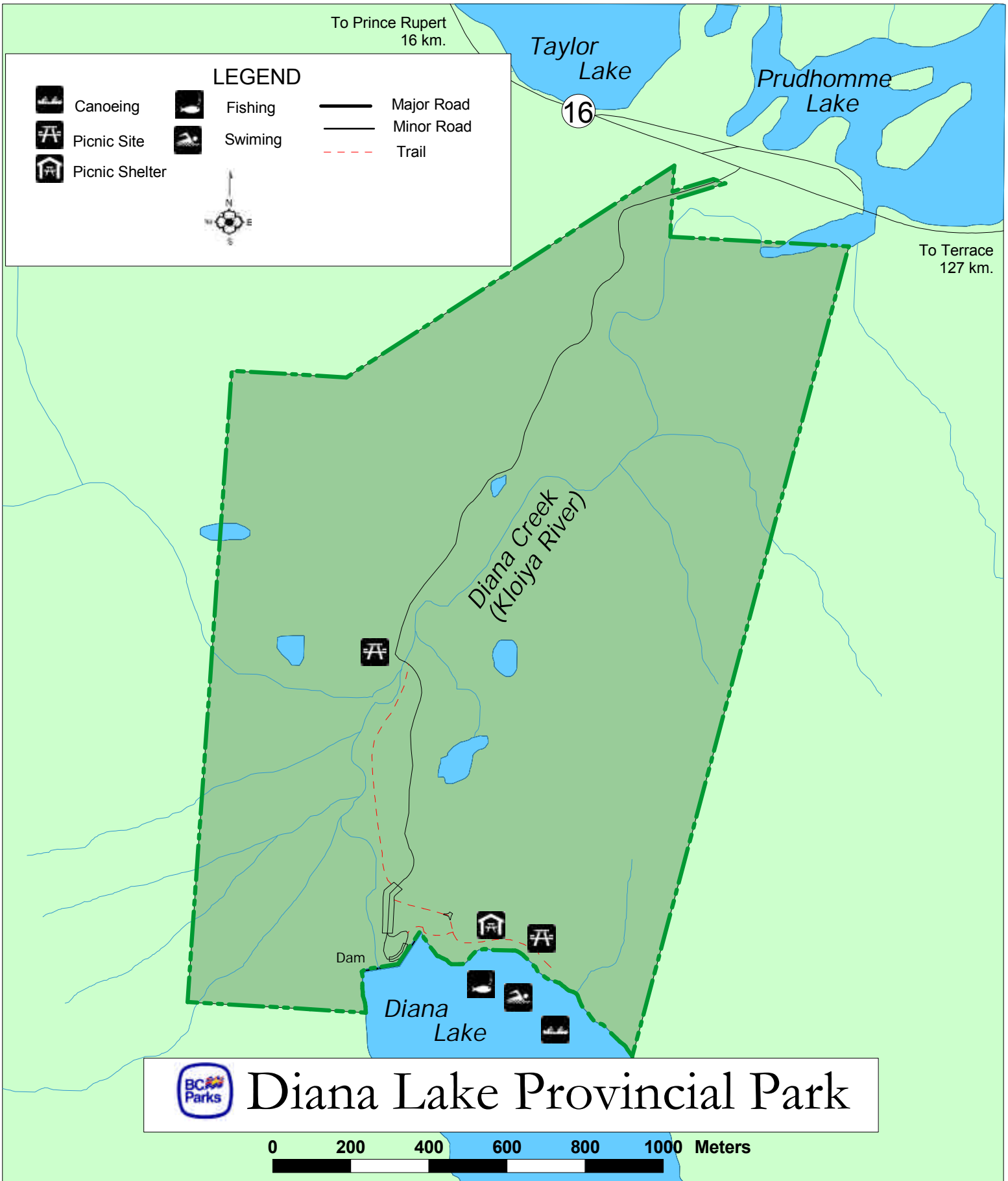


Figure 2 – Park Map



To Prince Rupert
16 km.









Taylor
Lake

Prudhomme
Lake

16

To Terrace
127 km.

LEGEND

-  Canoeing
-  Fishing
-  Major Road
-  Picnic Site
-  Swimming
-  Minor Road
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Trail



Diana Creek
(Kloiya River)



Dam

Diana
Lake



Diana Lake Provincial Park

0 200 400 600 800 1000 Meters

Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

Highway 16 borders the northern tip of the park. Diana Lake lies 2 km to the south along a gravel road.

Existing Tenures

- water rights—the park includes the Diana Lake dam
- gravel reserve (Ministry of Transportation and Highways)
- guide-outfitter

Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities

- 47 picnic tables; 191 parking stalls
- pit toilets, water pump
- shelter

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- crown land, within the municipality of Port Edward, and not subject to timber harvest, surrounds the park

First Nations Interests

- part of the asserted traditional territory of the Allied Tsimshian Tribes
- general concern on the management of the fishery resource and spawning grounds
- interested in a First Nations history panel that describes some of the areas Tsimshian history
- interested in the protection of any cultural heritage sites identified
- would like to investigate the feasibility of establishing a First Nations Rediscovery Camp within the various parks in the asserted territory of the Allied Tsimshian Tribes
- would like to consider the potential of being the Park Facility Operator
- interested in commercial cultural tours

Other Agency Interests

- BC Environment and Department of Fisheries and Oceans have an interest in the fishery on Diana Lake and Diana Creek
- Ministry of Forests is performing baseline research on forest and bog ecology within the park (FRBC funded); Ministry of Forests has an interest in forest recreation issues on nearby crown land and maintains MacDonald Trail within the park
- Regional District of Skeena-Queen Charlotte Islands has an interest in regional tourism

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- recreational users: picnickers, swimmers, hikers, anglers, boaters
- local residents: Prince Rupert and Port Edward communities

- Port Edward Community Forest Committee is planning to develop trails throughout the area, some linking with trails within the park
- Skeena Cellulose holds a park use permit for road access to their dam; they clear log debris from the park and dam annually

Role of Diana Lake Park

Diana Lake Park serves a moderately important conservation role within the British Columbia protected areas system. The park protects a small area (over 200 ha) of forested and non-forested very wet hypermaritime coastal western hemlock (CWHvh2) ecosystems within the Hecate Lowland Ecosession. A key aspect of this conservation role is the protection of blanket bog communities representative of the northwest coast of British Columbia, but rare globally. These bogs form the focus of several research projects.

Diana Lake Park also serves a regionally significant recreation role. With its lake, grassy lakeshore, creek and forest trails, the park provides opportunities for fishing, swimming, picnicking, boating, hiking and wildlife viewing along a major travel corridor and near to a large community. Diana Lake is the most popular freshwater swimming location for Prince Rupert residents.

Management Commitments and Issues

Direction from Previous Planning

Diana Lake Park has been managed as a Class A Park since 1980. Annual Management Plans provide year-to-year direction.

Management Issues

The following management issues require attention:

Theme	Issue
Public safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stumps and debris endanger swimmers • poor trail condition (Diana Creek Trail) creates potential hazard
Protecting ecological values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inventory of flora and fauna is incomplete • status of fish populations is unknown • promotion of salmon viewing in Diana Creek may impact the fish
Protecting recreational values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • floating log debris reduces values • lack of maintenance on MacDonald trail reduces values • poor condition of access road deters visitors
Protecting cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significance of cultural features has not been identified

Theme	Issue
First Nations Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of cultural heritage sites (see Strategy for “cultural heritage values”) • Protection of fishery (see Strategy for “Natural Values”) • First Nations History Panel • Rediscovery Camp • Interest in economic opportunities including Park Facility Operator and Cultural Tours
Park operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high deficiency • local interest in providing camping facilities
Unauthorised activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vandalism destroys facilities • Christmas tree harvesting removes trees

Management Strategy

The following tables describe management strategies to deal with outstanding issues raised. In addition, figure 1 contains a list of acceptable land and resource uses for this park.

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure Diana Lake Park is safe for public use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain signs warning of stumps and debris; if opportunity arises, try removing stumps • Maintain trail to standards—particularly Diana Creek Trail to the falls • Reduce promotion of Diana Creek Falls—discuss with travel organisations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect the park’s natural values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate significance of flora and fauna; prepare Ecology Information Summary • Quantify park-based angling effort and harvest on Diana Lake if requested by BC Environment or DFO • If fish viewing becomes significant, maintain access and facilities to minimise visitor impact on fish behaviour and habitat • Minimise sediment and nutrient addition to the lake and Diana Creek during construction and maintenance activities • Encourage compliance with angling regulations; maintain posting of sport angling regulations in the park, particularly the bait ban for Diana Creek and closure of Diana Creek to angling above the Highway 16 bridge from August 1 to October 31 • Monitor impacts of recreation on sensitive blanket bog communities. Consider limiting recreation if damage occurs. • Consider developing Conservation Stewardship program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect the park’s recreational values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain clear beaches • Maintain agreement with Skeena Cellulose for removal of log debris; do not leave bucked logs in Diana Park • Maintain dam inspections by permittee • Work with Ministry of Forests to determine strategies

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
	<p>for MacDonald Trail; explore options for joint management and involvement of local community groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise vandalism; maintain regulatory signs, work with community; consider developing Park Watch program • Opportunity to provide interpretative information on vegetation history and soil (peat) development over the past 10,000 years based on Ministry of Forest research project in the park; discuss extension activities with Ministry of Forests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect the park's cultural heritage values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and collate existing information on cultural heritage values; prepare Cultural Features Information Summary • Minimise vandalism (see above)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations Values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In conjunction with the Allied Tsimshian Tribes prepare a First Nations History Panel when funding permits. • Entertain applications for rediscovery camps within Highway Parks in asserted Allied Tsimshian Tribe territory. First priority should be to identify and utilize sites outside of parks and then consider parks subject to MDS and park development objectives. • when the park facility operator position is up for bids advertise the contract in the local paper and endeavour to provide a copy of the bid package to the Allied Tsimshian Tribal Council • provide information on cultural heritage tours in the area when updating the local attractions section of the park information board. Entertain applications for cultural tours within the park subject to the MDS objectives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop and maintain standard facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain facilities to BC Parks standards • Maintain access road to standards; continue discussion with Port Edward community about grading
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce deficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider strategies for Diana and Prudhomme Lake Parks together; review recommendations given in Highway 16 Overview Analysis • Consider reducing facilities; review need for lower picnic site; remove fire rings • Consider low maintenance facilities • Explore options to develop campsites in co-operation with local communities; if Prudhomme occupancy keeps increasing, initiate community process to discuss adding campsites • Maintain good relationship with communities about campsite management

Consultation and Future Planning

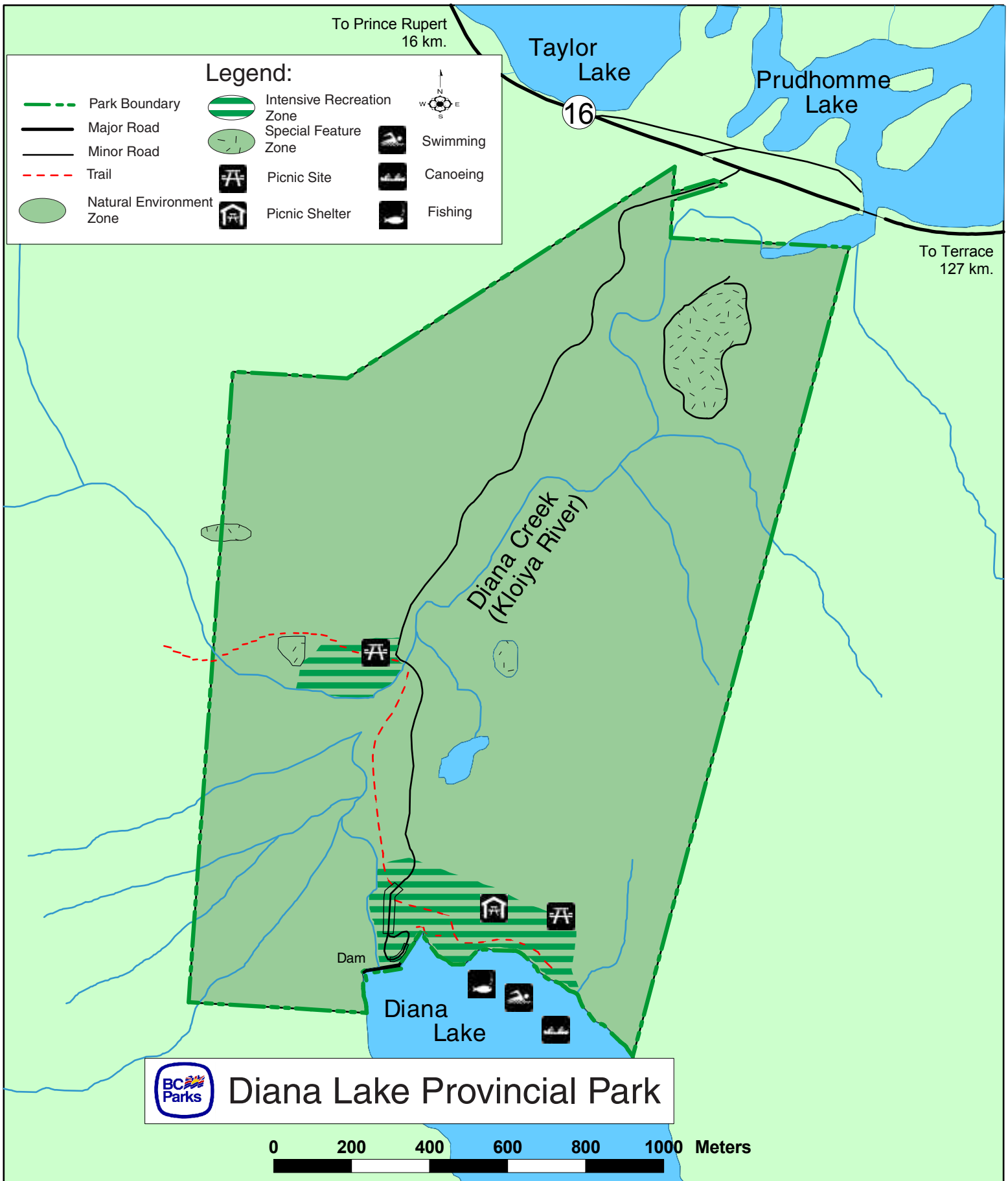
Good relationships with local communities are crucial in maintaining the park's reputation and minimising vandalism. BC Parks will continue to build a relationship with the Allied Tsimshian Tribes and will discuss issues at Diana Lake Park during scheduled Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary meetings and as necessary to deal with specific issues. BC Parks will continue to consult with Port Edward about facility management and development at Prudhomme and Diana Lakes. BC Parks will continue to discuss trail linkages with the District of Port Edward and the Ministry of Forests. BC Parks will maintain their relationship with the mill.

The priority for preparing a management plan for Diane Lake Park is ranked as low.

Preliminary Zoning

The developed picnic area is zoned Intensive Recreation. The blanket bog communities are zoned as a Special Feature to emphasize their ecological importance and sensitivity to disturbance. The rest of the park is zoned as Natural Environment.

Figure 3 - Zoning



To Prince Rupert
16 km.














Taylor
Lake

Prudhomme
Lake

16

To Terrace
127 km.

Legend:

-  Park Boundary
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Trail
-  Natural Environment Zone
-  Intensive Recreation Zone
-  Special Feature Zone
-  Picnic Site
-  Picnic Shelter
-  N
W E S
-  Swimming
-  Canoeing
-  Fishing

Diana Creek
(Kloiya River)

Dam

Diana
Lake



Diana Lake Provincial Park

0 200 400 600 800 1000 Meters

Appendix - Activity/Use Matrix for Diana Lake Park

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptable Uses
Aboriginal Rights	Y
Hunting	N
Fishing	Y
Trapping	N
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational gold panning/rock hounding	N
Utility corridors	N
Communication sites	N
Horse use/pack animals	N
Guide outfitting (hunting)	N
Guide outfitting (fishing)	N
Guide outfitting (nature tours)	Y
Guide outfitting (river rafting)	N
Cat-assisted skiing	N
Ski hills	N
Commercial recreation (facility-based)	N
Commercial recreation (non-facility-based)	M
Backcountry huts	N
Water control structures	Y
Fish stocking and enhancement	N1
Road access	Y
Off-road access (snowmobiling)	N
Off-road access (motorised)	N
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	N
Motorised water access	Y
Aircraft access	N
Fire management (suppression)	Y
Fire management (prescribed fire management)	N
Fire management (prevention)	Y
Forest insect/disease control	M
Noxious weed control	M
Exotic insect/disease control	M
Scientific research (specimen collection)	M
Scientific research (manipulative activities)	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 generally allowed

N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

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