

ED BIRD – ESTELLA PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN Omineca Region 2005

Approved by:



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Date: Nov. 4th 2005



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Date: Oct. 31st 2005

Ed Bird – Estella Lakes Provincial Park Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Ed Bird – Estella Lakes Provincial Park is situated at the most northern tip of Williston Lake, 3 km from Tsay Kay Dene and 67 km south of Ft. Ware. The closest town is Mackenzie to the south. The park is accessible via a very rough road from the Finlay Forest Service Road to the south end of Ed Bird Lake. A forest recreation site was formerly in the area now encompassed by the park.

The park contains low elevation pine-lichen for Northern Caribou (an overlap area between the Chase and Findlay Caribou Herds). The southern portion of the Chase caribou herd's range is within the Southern Mountain National Ecological Area of BC. The entire herd has been designated by COSEWIC as threatened. The Northern Caribou Recovery Implementation Group for North-Central BC will be developing a portion of the Recovery Plan for Northern Caribou. It is expected to have management objectives and strategies for caribou recovery that will include the areas of high value winter habitat found within the park.

Primary Role

The primary role of this provincial park is to protect several small attractive lakes that are of unique coloration due to marl deposition. Ed Bird – Estella Lakes are special natural features of the Northern Omineca Mountains. A further primary role is to protect and manage the high value caribou habitat found within the park.

Secondary Role

The secondary role is to protect a unique recreational setting and provide opportunities for local recreation including canoe or car top boating, fishing, and camping. The park offers primitive camping with no facilities.

Known Management Issues	Response
Unauthorized park developments	Close liaison and involvement with the village of Tsay Kay is required
Lack of park management presence	Develop a partnership and Memorandum of Understanding with the village of Tsay Kay Dene to observe, report and monitor activities within Ed Bird-Estella Lakes.
Monitoring of rainbow trout population	Assess current state of fishery and undertake regular stocking assessments to ensure recreational objective are met without loss of natural values. Review continuation of stocking in Management Direction Statement.

Chase caribou herd	Incorporate Caribou Recovery Plan recommendations as they become known.
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Zoning

All of Ed Bird – Estella Lakes is currently zoned as Natue Recreation (to provide protection for the scenic resources in a largely undisturbed natural environment) due to the high degree of snowmobile use. Should additional information become available on winter caribou use, the currently zoning will be reviewed.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Small contribution towards representation of the Northern Omineca Mountains (NOM) providing 4.65% of provincial representation; 10.06% of this ecosection is protected provincially.

Minor contributions towards protection of:

- BWBSdk 1: .91% of provincial representation; 21.95% protected provincially
- ESSFmv 4: .14% of provincial representation; 8.31% protected provincially

Special Feature

X Colorful, irregularly shaped marl lakes (approx 476 hectares)

Rare/Endangered Values

Chase caribou herd

Scientific/Research Opportunities

X Marl lakes

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

Recreation opportunities in a scenic, unusual lake setting, popular with Tsay Kay Dene residents

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation

Qualities of a marl lake

Opportunities

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation Traditional First Nations use

Special Feature unknown

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs Complements Finlay – Russell and Chase Park and Protected Areas in protecting special features of the Northern Omineca Mountains Ecosection.

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

Vulnerability

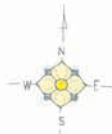
Relationship to Other Strategies X Established through the Mackenzie LRMP, approved in February, 2001



Area: 5589 hectares

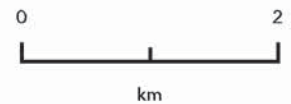
Date of establishment: Ed Bird – Estella Provincial Park was identified for Protected Area Status through the Mackenzie LRMP in February 2001 and was established as a Provincial Park on April 11, 2001.



Projection: UTM Zone 10
Datum: NAD83



-  Nature Recreation
-  Protected Area Boundary



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