

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

June, 1999

**for Elephant Hill
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 type="checkbox"/> Cornwall Hills Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Roche Lake Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dunn Peak Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Taweel Park |
| <input checked="" 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

Date:

98/04/30

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Division

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

ELEPHANT HILL PARK

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context

The 995 hectare Elephant Hill Park, situated 5 kilometres southeast of Cache Creek, includes two prominent grassland hills. Access is by the Trans Canada Highway and Highway 97C towards Ashcroft. 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 in Schedule E under the *Park Amendment Act, 1997*.

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

II. Protected Area Values

A. Conservation

- climax grasslands in an ungrazed and a rotation grazing system
- south-facing slopes give some of the driest conditions in the province
- dry grassland wildlife species; rattlesnakes

B. Recreation

- opportunities for walking, wildlife viewing

C. Cultural Heritage

- unknown

D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- the small protected area provides an area of ungrazed, and areas of lightly grazed grasslands in some of the driest conditions of the province

III. Other Land Uses and Interests

A. Existing Tenures

- designation under the *Park Amendment Act, 1997* 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 land act tenures, water rights, 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

- private land with ranching activities all around the park
- Elephant Hill bounded by Ashcroft Indian band on the south; abuts the community of Ashcroft in the southeast

C. First Nations Interests

- unknown, but should be considerable

D. Other Agency Interests

- The park will be managed in close co-ordination with various resource agencies, particularly BC Environment and Ministry of Forests.
- Ministry of Forests manages grazing in the park
- BC Environment fish ladder on Bonaparte River
- powerline and pipeline through Elephant Hill section
- installations on top of Elephant Hill

E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- unknown

IV. Park Role Statement

The primary role of Elephant Hill Park is to protect the unique grassland habitats of this site.

Containing some of the driest grassland conditions in the province, this park has special features significance and along with Arrowstone, Juniper Beach, Steelhead, Painted Bluffs, and Lac du Bois parks contributes to the representation of grassland habitats found in the province and specifically of the Thompson Basin Ecosection. The park has significance as a benchmark for research, monitoring and comparing ungrazed and grazed grasslands.

Recreation will not be emphasized and no provisions will be made for public access and use of the site

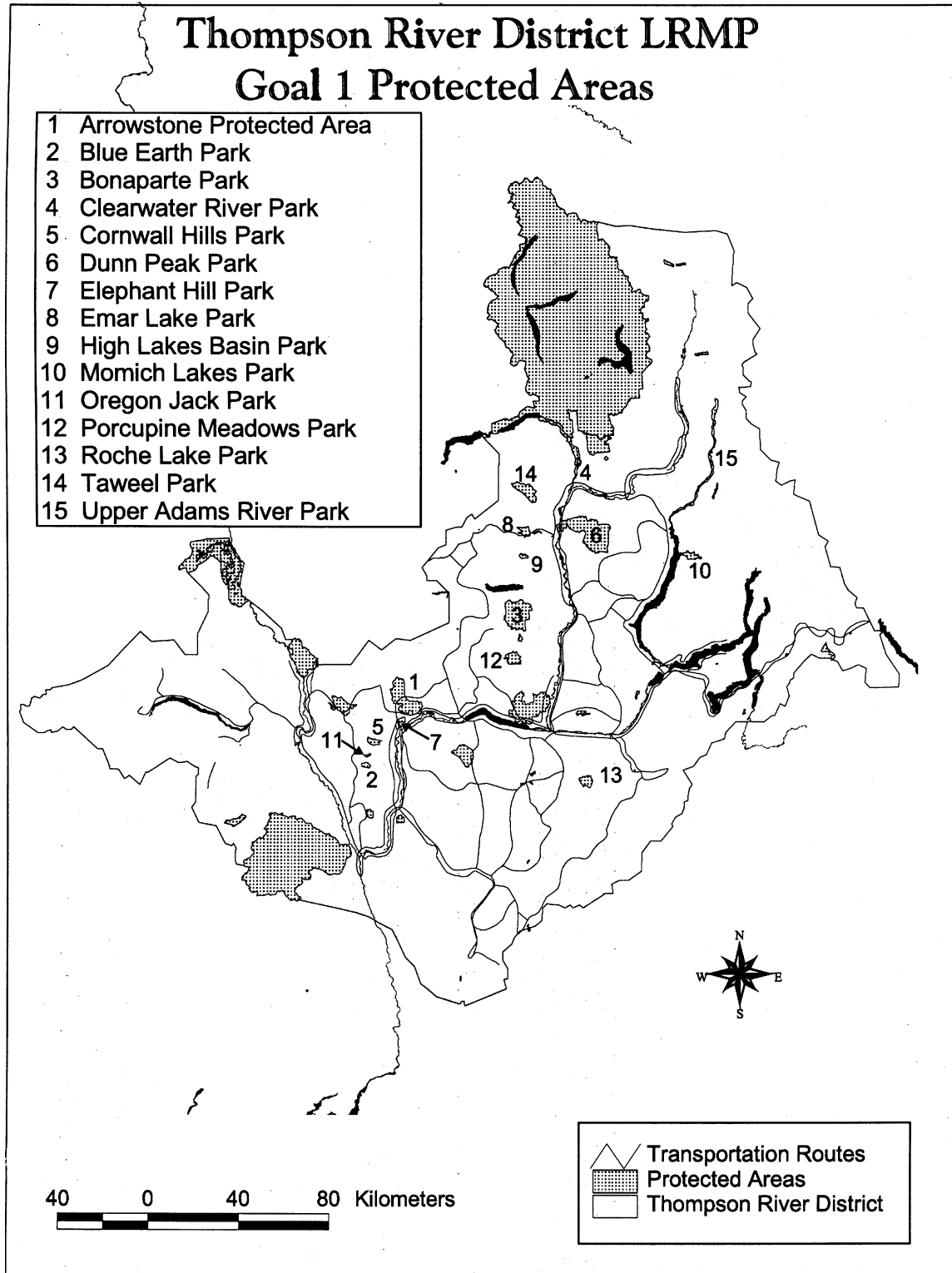
V. Management Issues and Concerns

A. Integration With Other Land Use Planning Processes

This Management Direction Statement, future management plans, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for the Elephant Hill Protected Area.

The park will be planned and managed in co-ordination with other agencies' planning processes.

Figure 1 – Regional Context Map



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 Elephant Hill 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

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

Strict Preservation

- covers all of Elephant Hill to reflect the intent to maintain the relatively undisturbed grassland conditions; existing rights and uses of the access road and communication site on top of the hill will continue but the remainder of the hill will be closed to all vehicle use.

Natural Environment

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

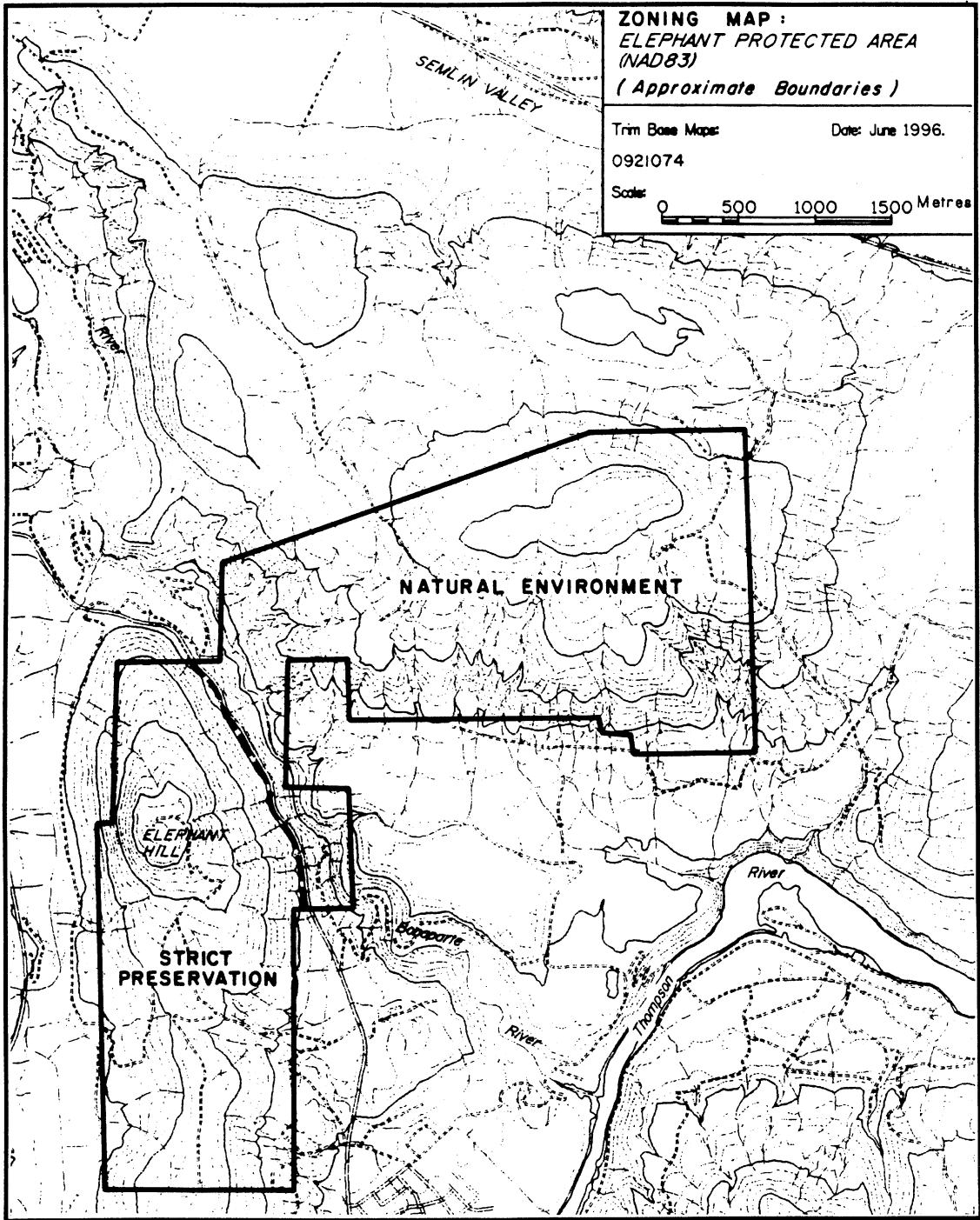
D. Management Strategies and Objectives

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
- to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species

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.

Figure 2- Zoning Plan



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; the existing knapweed control program will continue
- wildlife management

Recreation

- access management to protect the grasslands - through co-ordination with local level planning
- recreation use will not be encouraged in the park, although people will be able to hike and visit the area for nature study and other non-destructive activities

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 following provides further elaboration on some uses:

Motorized Use

- no motorized use will be permitted in the strict preservation zone other than on the existing road to the communications facilities site on top of Elephant Hill

Recreation Use

- recreation use will not be promoted; periodic ranger patrols will undertaken to monitor use of the grasslands

Appendix A - Activity/Use Matrix for Elephant Hill Park

| Activity/Use/Activity | Strict Preservation Zone | Natural Environment Zone |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hunting | N | Y |
| Fishing | N/A | N/A |
| Trapping | N | Y |
| Grazing (domestic livestock) | N | Y |
| Recreational gold panning/ rock hounding | N/A | N/A |
| Utility corridors | N2 | N2 |
| Communication sites | N2 | N2 |
| Horse use/ pack animals | N | N |
| Guide outfitting (hunting) | N | 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/A | N/A |
| Tourist infrastructure - resorts | N | N |
| Backcountry huts/lodges/ cabins | N | N |
| Water control structures | N/A | N2 |
| Fish stocking and enhancement | N/A | N2 |
| Road access | N2 | Y1 |
| Off-road access (snowmobiles) | N/A | N/A |
| Off-road access (motorized) | N | Y2 |
| Off-road access (mechanical activities) | N | Y ³ |
| Motorized water access | N/A | N/A |
| Aircraft access | N/A | N/A |
| Fire management Wildlife management Prevention & preparedness Prescribed fire management | N1 | N1 |
| Fire management (suppression) | N1 | Y |
| Forest insect/disease control | N1 | Y |
| Noxious weed control | N1 | Y |
| Exotic insect/disease control | N1 | 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