

ELK VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

February 2003

Approved by:


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Date: Mar - 31/03

ELK VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary role** of Elk Valley Provincial Park is to provide a scenic day use area along a major tourist route to and from the province of Alberta. Highway 3, from the resort community of Fernie to the Alberta border, is a heavily travelled corridor in both summer and winter seasons. The park provides easy walking access to sites along the Elk River, which has acquired world class status for catch and release dry fly fishing.

The park creates a unique opportunity to enjoy natural features of the Elk Valley and riparian habitat of the Elk River by supplying a picnic area within close proximity to the highway. In addition, there are commanding views of the Rocky Mountains, particularly to the north of the park.

The park is not identified by any formal provincial park signage. It is signed by the Ministry of Transportation as the Olson Rest Area.

Secondary Role

The **secondary role** is to preserve remaining stands of old growth cottonwood and retain a considerable tract of natural river front. Black cottonwoods on this site provide critical wildlife habitat for secondary cavity nesters, added riparian cover and browse for ungulates (deer, elk, moose) and other mammals (black bear).

Known Management Issues	Response
Identified for potential campsite development.	Monitor park visitation and recreation use to determine the need for an additional campsite in the Elk Valley corridor. Ensure any proposed campsite development recognizes sensitive areas, including the natural river front and old-growth cottonwood stands
Noxious weed infestation (knapweed and Canada thistle).	Monitoring and treatment continues.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation (approximately 8 ha or 10% of the park)

Objective: To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural Environment (approximately 70 ha or 90% of the park)

Objectives: To protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

- Representation
- ecosection Minor contributor to the under represented Border Ranges (BRR) Ecosection (4.2%). Elk Valley Park contributes only 0.35% of the overall protected area representation of this ecosection. Primary contributors to the BRR ecosection are Elk Lakes (73.4%) and Height of the Rockies (24.8%).
 - biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Contributes minimally to the poorly represented ICHmk1 (4.21%). Elk Valley Park contributes only 0.59% of the overall protected area representation of this ecosystem unit.
- Special Feature Old growth stands of black cottonwood are essential habitat for cavity nesters.
- Rare and Endangered Values None identified.
- Scientific/Research Opportunities None identified.

Recreation

- Representation
- backcountry Not applicable.
 - destination Not applicable.
 - travel corridor Hwy 3. Heavy tourist influx from Alberta.
 - local recreation Day use (parking available for 15 cars), picnicking, fishing. The Elk River is well known for catch and release dry fly fishing.
- Special Opportunities None identified.

Education/ Interpretation Opportunities None identified.

Cultural Heritage

Representation Not yet assessed.

Special Feature None identified.

Other Management Considerations

Other designations None identified.

Relationship to other PAs 1 of 2 front country parks designated as highway rest stops on Hwy 3 between Fernie and the Alberta border.

Cooperative Management Agreement Agreement in principle with Ministry of Transportation to maintain rest stop portion of the park.

Partnerships None identified.

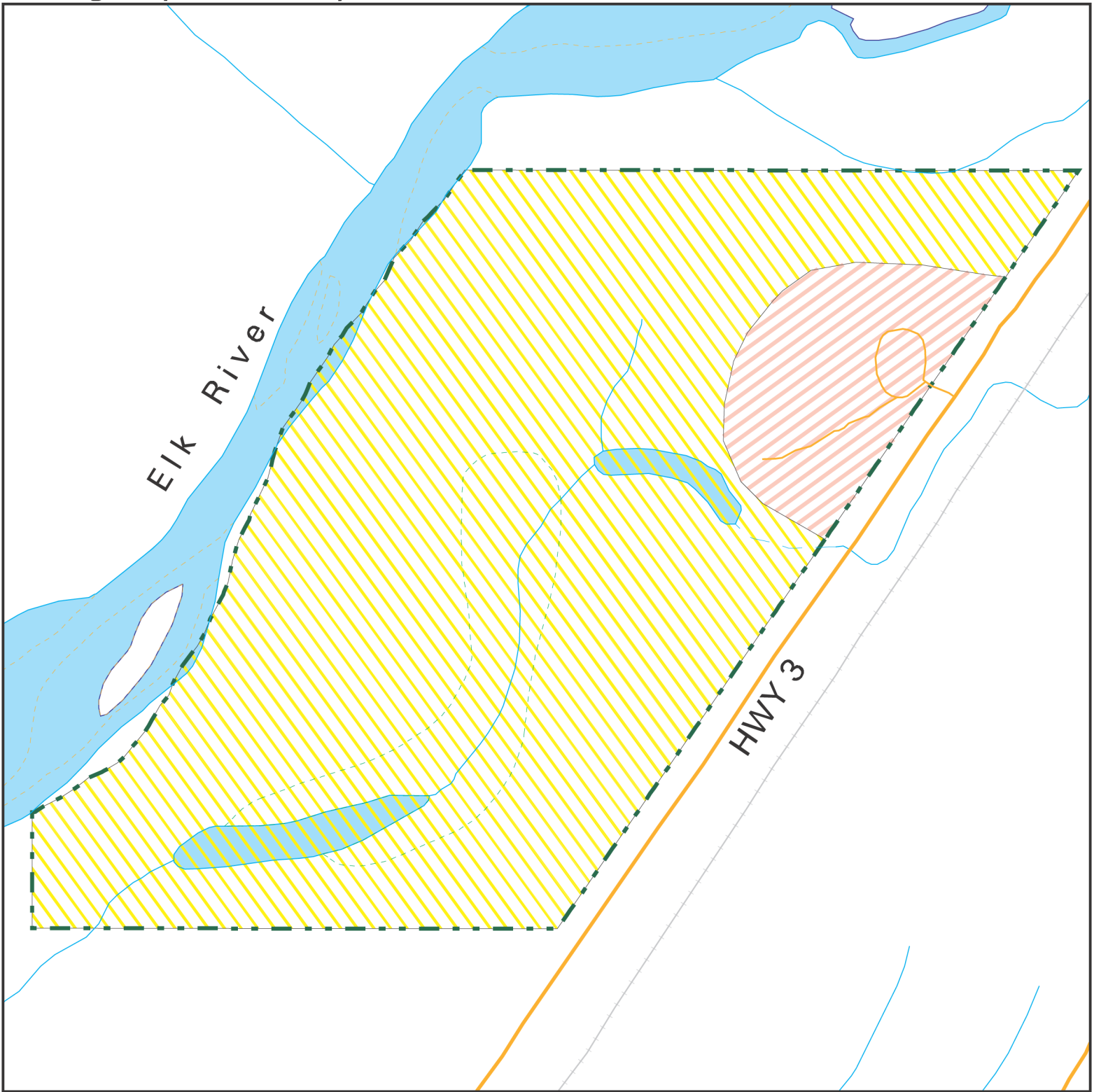
Vulnerability Noxious weeds (Canada thistle, and knapweed). Area is subject to flooding in exceptional years.

Relationship to other Strategies None identified.

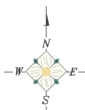
Area: 78 hectares




Date of Establishment: November 7, 1960

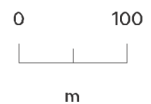
Zoning Map - Elk Valley Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Protected Area Boundary



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