

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

June, 1999

**for Emar Lakes
Provincial Park**



Ministry of Environm
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division



Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

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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.

- Arrowstone Protected Area
- Blue Earth Lake Park
- Bonaparte Park
- Clearwater River Corridor
- Cornwall Hills Park
- Dunn Peak Park
- Elephant Hill Park
- Emar Lakes Park
- High Lakes Basin Park.
- Momich Lakes Park
- Oregon Jack Park
- Porcupine Meadows.Park
- Roche Lake Park
- Taweel Park
- Upper Adams Park

Approved by:

District Manager
Thompson River District
BC Parks Division

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Division

Date: 98/04/30

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

EMAR LAKES PARK

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context

The 1,575-hectare Emar Lakes Park is situated adjacent to Highway 24, 20 kilometres west of Little Fort. It has important regional recreational values. Access is west from Little Fort along Highway 24. 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*. Subsequently, the park was designated under Schedule E of the *Park Amendment Act, 1997*.

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

II. Protected Area Values

A. Conservation

- small chain of large and small lakes, potholes and wetlands in a forested setting in the upper Emar Creek watershed
- a small representative of the Sub-boreal Spruce subzone with large stands of lodgepole pine with mixed spruce/pine stands, some with old growth characteristics
- habitat for moose, Black Tern, Common Loon, Ruffed Grouse, Great Horned Owl

B. Recreation and Tourism

- regionally significant easy circular canoe route with short portages on brushed-out trails
- fishing, camping, nature study
- public campsite
- recreation trails provide portage routes between the lakes

C. Cultural Heritage

- Hudson's Bay Company Brigade Trail identified near Jim and Richard Lakes

D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- regionally significant chain of canoeing and fishing lakes in the Sub-boreal Spruce zone, which is little represented in protected areas
- Emar Lakes Park is considered regionally significant for its combination of conservation and recreation values

III. Other Land Uses and Interests

A. Existing Tenures

- all private lands are excluded
- 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.
- designation under the *Park Amendment Act, 1997* provides for continuance of existing grazing under administration and management of the *Range Act*

B. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- logging roads and cutblocks around the perimeter
- summer grazing
- Highway 24 runs along the northern boundary
- Long Island (Janice) Lake Resort and other nearby fishing resorts use the park

C. First Nations Interests

- little is known of historic use

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 use in one small area of the park

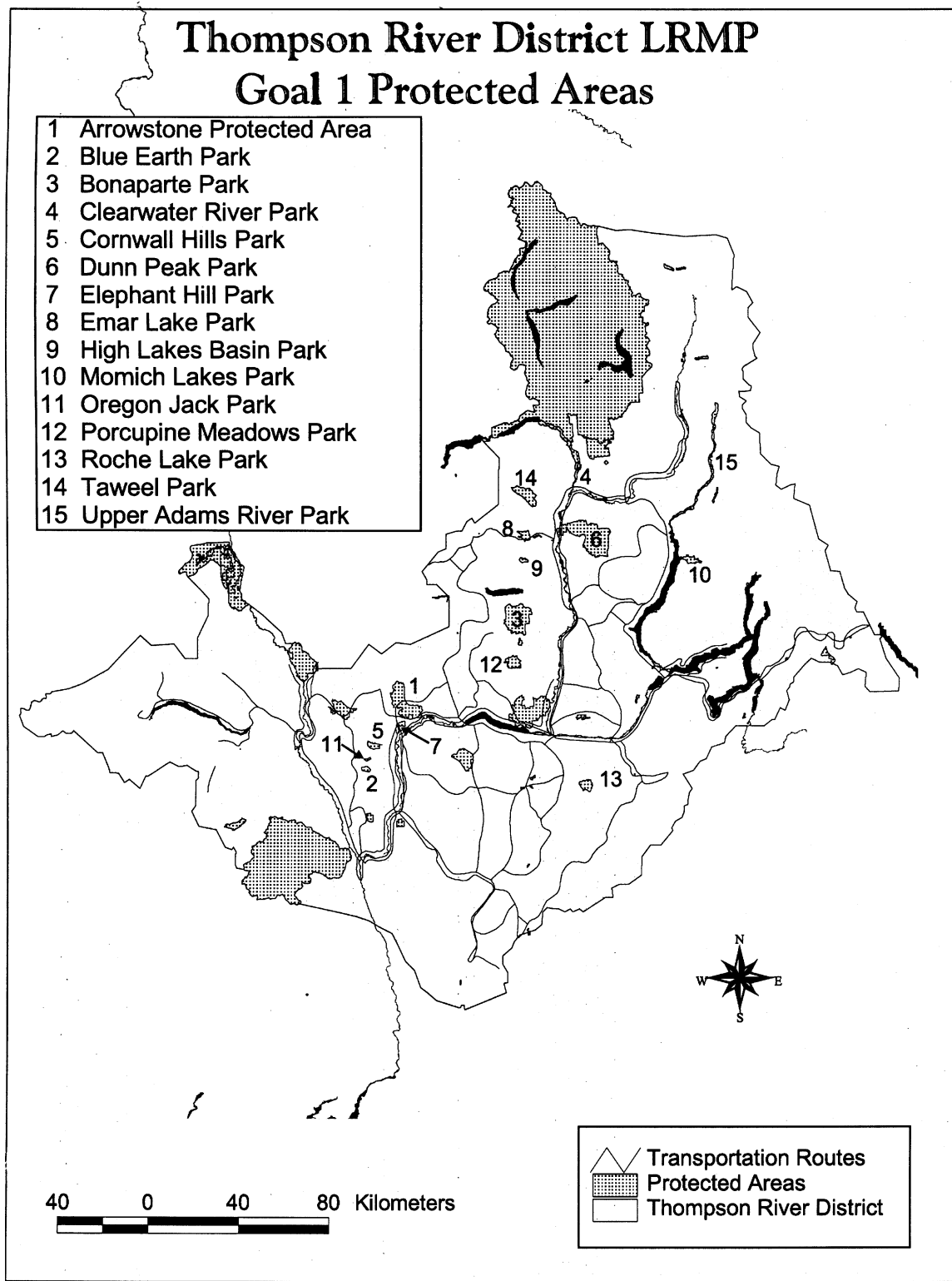
E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- access control has been identified as a concern for this area and will be addressed in the management planning process

IV. Park Role Statement

Emar Lakes Park protects a representative interior upland plateau setting of lakes and forests. Emar Lakes Park contributes special features within a system of six parks including Porcupine Meadows in the south and extending north through Tsintsunko, Bonaparte, High Lakes Basin, Emar Lakes and Taweel parks, which in combination capture the biological diversity of the Northern Thompson Uplands Ecoregion, a major landscape component of the Kamloops Forest Region. Emar Lakes Park provides regionally significant recreation and tourism opportunities and offers an especially attractive circular canoe route through a series of lakes interconnected by easy portages.

Figure 1 – Regional Context Map



V. Management Issues and Concerns

A. Integration With Other Land Use Planning Processes

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

Also the park will be planned and managed in co-ordination with the Nehalliston Local Resource Use planning process of the Ministry of Forests to ensure compatibility and complementary support for objectives of the protected area and surrounding forest land base.

The Kamloops LRMP identified boundaries for the park extending into the Cariboo Forest Region. The addition of this area to the park will be addressed through the Goal 2 process of the Cariboo Land Use Planning process.

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 Emar Lakes Park as high priority for management planning. A background document will be prepared for the park in the next few years as the first stage of management planning, depending on available funding. The management planning process, which will be undertaken after the background document is completed, will likely require 6 to 8 months to complete. The plan will be developed through involvement of other agencies, First Nations interests, stakeholders and public interest groups.

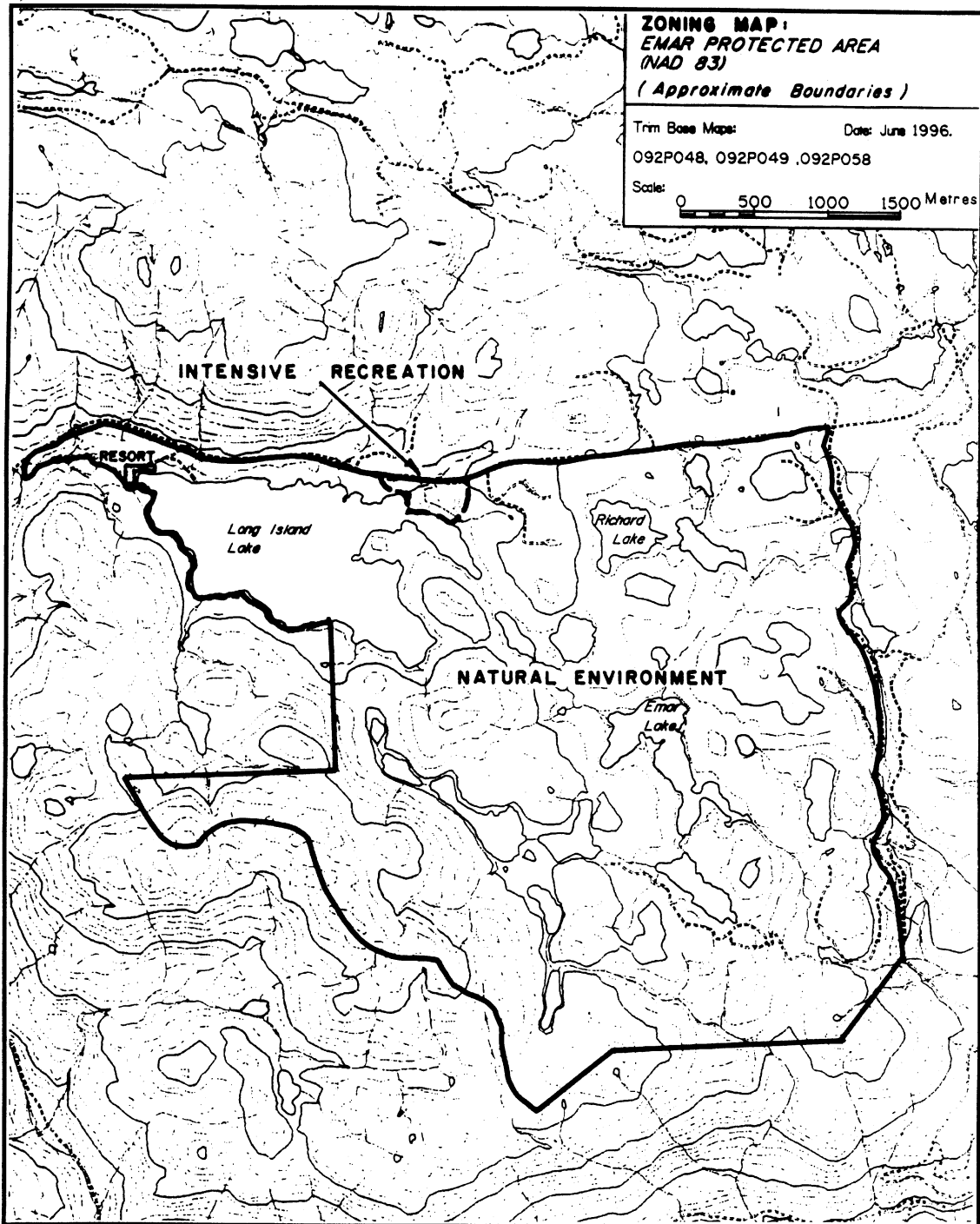
C. Zoning

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

Natural Environment

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

Figure 2 - Zoning Plan



Intensive Recreation

- covers existing campsites at the northeast and northwest corners of Long Island (Janice) Lake, but future management plan may identify other intensive use sites; the objective is to focus camping and concentrated day use activities (boat drop offs, loading, etc.) to specific locations.

D. Management Strategies and Objectives

In addition to accepting the basic principles of maintaining existing tenures and rights, 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, recreational and tourism values;
- to maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats;
- to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species; and,
- to provide for continued recreation use with opportunities for quality fishing, canoeing, camping, nature viewing, hunting, nature viewing and other dispersed recreation activities.

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.

E. Longer Term Issues and Concerns

The longer term issues will be identified in detail through the background document. As a result of the LRMP and the LRUP processes 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; fire management; grazing management.
- fisheries and wildlife management.
- negotiations and compensation for cancellation of for existing claims in the park.

Recreation and Tourism

- access management - through co-ordination with local level planning.
- recreation use - appropriate activities, insuring compatibility between user groups.
- managing for general public use while retaining quality wilderness experience for resort operations.

Culture

- inventory and protection of archaeological sites and recognition of any identified traditional First Nations uses.
- Hudson's Bay Trail: Forest Service has initiated status, clearance, and designation as a recreational trail with options kept open to consider for Heritage Trail designation; trail will be incorporated as an historic feature in the park.

F. Short Term Issues and Concerns

Appendix A outlines guidelines for managing uses, activities and facilities in strict preservation, natural environment and intensive use zones. The following provides further elaboration on some uses:

Access

- existing road access to Long Island (Janice) Lake will be respected.
- existing access closures will be respected.

Resort Uses

- park boundaries exclude private and leased lands; however adjacent and nearby fishing resorts use lakes in the park as part of their operations; these uses are considered legitimate but will be reviewed later through a management planning process.

Motorized Use

- motorized boating will be permitted on Long Island (Janice) Lake; all other lakes are considered too small for use of motors.
- ATV's will not be permitted.

Recreation Use

- the present nature of use and types of activities will not change, however, the congested use of the boat access and campground site at Long Island (Janice) Lake will probably require some short term management attention to alleviate problems.
- trails and canoe route campsites will require periodic maintenance.
- more intensive levels of management may be applied; i.e. security, to provide better services to the public.

Appendix A - Activity/Use Matrix for Emar Lakes Park

Activity/Use/Activity	Natural Environment Zone	Intensive Recreation Zone
Hunting	Y	N
Fishing	Y	Y
Trapping	Y	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N2	N2
Recreational gold panning/ rock hounding	N	N
Utility corridors	N	N
Communication sites	N	N1
Horse use/ pack animals	Y ³	Y ³
Guide outfitting (hunting)	Y ²	Y ²
Guide outfitting (fishing)	Y ²	Y ²
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	N
Tourist infrastructure - resorts	N	N2
Backcountry huts/lodges/ cabins	N	N2
Water control structures	N2	N2
Fish stocking and enhancement	Y	Y
Road access	Y ¹	Y ¹
Off-road access (snowmobiles)	Y ³	Y ³
Off-road access (motorized)	Y ³	Y ³
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	Y ³	Y ³
Motorized water access	Y ⁴	Y ⁴
Aircraft access	Y ⁴	Y ⁴
Fire management Wildlife management Prevention & preparedness Prescribed fire management	N1	N1
Fire management (suppression)	Y	Y
Forest insect/disease control	Y	Y
Noxious weed control	Y	Y
Exotic insect/disease control	Y	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