ERG MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

John Metcalfe

Regional Manager

Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 18/03

Nancy Wilkin

Assistant Deputy Minister

Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: May. 31/03

ERG MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

This 1,011-hectare park protects a transition from the valley slopes in the Upper Fraser Trench to the subalpine/alpine at the top of Erg Mountain. Erg Mountain has historically been a hiking destination, and offers an excellent viewpoint of the Upper Fraser Valley and surrounding mountains. Extensive alpine ridge-top hiking outside of the park is accessible from the peak of Erg Mountain.

The park includes an area that was, at one time, recommended for ecological reserve designation to protect old growth forest habitat.

Primary Role

The primary role is to protect a backcountry trail providing challenging and outstanding hiking opportunities leading from the valley bottom to the alpine. The trail boasts a 1,460 m (4,980 feet) elevation gain and offers spectacular views of the Cariboo Range to the west and south, and Mount Sir Alexander in Kakwa Provincial Park to the north. A lovely alpine area can be enjoyed by those wishing to forgo the last 270 m to the summit.

Secondary Role

The secondary role is to protect a representative old growth ecosystem in the Interior Cedar Hemlock zone in the lower elevations of the park.

Known Management Issues	Response
Backcountry management	Boundary marking and signing. Monitor for impact. Implement BRIM if necessary.
Hunting, horse use and pack animals, snowmobiling, mechanized activities (mountain bikes), motorized water activities.	These activities were deferred at the Prince George LRMP to a future park planning process. In the interim, the following use is proposed as acceptable: • Hunting
Public safety	 Investigate possibilities of providing foot bridge passage across Ptarmigan Creek. Provide signing to advise how to travel safely in grizzly country.

Zoning

The entire park (1,011 hectares) is zoned Natural Environment (protection of scenic values and provision of backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment).

CONSERVATION

Representation

ecosection Caribou Mountains (CAM). 37.78% of this ecosection is

> protected; Erg Mountain's contribution is minimal (contributes only 0.19% of the overall representation of

this ecosection).

biogeoclimatic subzone/variant ESSFwk1 – 13.58% protected; Erg Mountain's

> contribution is minimal as it contributes only 0.57% of the overall representation of this unit in the protected areas

svstem

ICHwk3 – 13.83% protected; Erg Mountain is one of only 3 areas contributing to the representation of this ecosystem;

Erg Mountain's contribution is minimal however

(contributes only 2.89% of the overall representation of

this ecosystem)

Special Feature

a representative old growth ecosystem in the Interior Cedar X

Hemlock zone

Rare/Endangered Values

Unknown

Scientific/Research **Opportunities**

X

Study of old growth ecosystems

RECREATION

Representation:

backcountry

X

A steep, challenging trail leading to the alpine. The 7.5 km trail gains almost 1,500 m (5,000 feet) in elevation.

destination

travel corridor

local recreation

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation Not known

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs

X Evanoff, Close-to-the-Edge, Ptarmigan, Slim Creek, Sugarbowl Grizzly and West Twin are all located within close proximity to Erg Mountain.

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

Erg Mountain was established through the Prince George LRMP.

The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 2 risk factors (the shape and the size of the park) for the park and rated them as highly significant. One stressor/threat was identified for the park: new trail which was rated with low significance.

Area: 1,011 ha

Date of establishment: June 29, 2000

