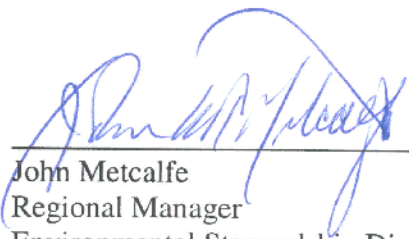


FORT GEORGE CANYON PROVINCIAL PARK

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: Mar. 31/03

**FORT GEORGE CANYON PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan**

This small (160 ha) protected area consists of two parcels on either side of the Fraser River south of Prince George. Public recreation opportunities and trail access is available on the west side of the river and public access from Highway 97 off the Red Rock turnoff on the east side of the river. There is no public parking on the east side.

The Fraser River is designated as a Canadian Heritage River and proclaimed as a BC Heritage River. As the largest river in British Columbia and the most productive salmon fishery in the world, the Fraser River has played a major role in supporting human life along its length. Locally, Fort George Canyon was an important navigational challenge for early explorers. In more recent years, the river was used as a route for transportation of people and resources. Fort George Canyon was one of the few obstacles along the river in north central British Columbia. In the early 1900’s, sternwheelers would have to be winched through this treacherous section of river while passengers would have to portage.

Primary Role

The primary role of the park is to protect the Fort George Canyon, which is rated as a regionally to provincially significant special feature.

Secondary Role

The secondary role of the park is to provide for hiking opportunities along a 4.8 km trail leading to the west side of the Canyon. Only about 1 km of the trail is in the park.

Known Management Issues	Response
Trail Maintenance	Ministry of Forests has traditionally maintained the trail. Given that recreation is presently not a Ministry of Forests’ priority, alternative arrangements for trail maintenance will have to be arranged. Boardwalk replacements will be undertaken for public safety and ecological integrity.
Invasive Species	Threat of Canada thistle in the eastern portion of the park. The thistle was previously kept in check by a grazing lease.
Acceptable Uses	Hunting, commercial guiding (hunting), snowmobiling, mechanized activities and water motorized activities were all deferred to a park planning process for resolution. This will require proceeding to a Management Direction Statement which will allow for LRMP member review. A closure for hunting (public safety), snowmobiling, and mechanized activities will be proposed.
Public Safety	Close park to hunting – after LRMP review.

Zoning

The entirety of Fort George Canyon Park (160 ha) is zoned Natural Environment.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Situated in the extremely poorly represented Quesnel Lowlands Ecosection. Only 0.75% of this ecosection is protected. Fort George Canyon is one of 7 small areas contributing to the representation of this ecosection. The park contributes 4.74% of the overall protected areas system representation of this ecosection. The main contributor is Fraser River park (55.9%). Fort George Canyon is one of only 2 protected areas contributing to the representation of the SBSmh. Only 2.07% of this variant is protected. Fort George Canyon's contribution is minimal nevertheless (only 5%).

Special Feature

X

Fort George Canyon is identified in the Protected Areas Strategy Special Feature document as important (regionally – provincially significant)

Rare/Endangered Values

Unknown

Scientific/Research Opportunities

Need to inventory heritage features

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

X

Popular hiking trail for Prince George residents.

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

X

Cultural heritage appreciation. The Canyon is an important heritage site which created a serious barrier to early development of the region (many sternwheelers sank or became grounded here). Also appreciation of the current and historic importance of salmon to First Nations.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Unknown

Special Feature

X

First Nations fishing site
Paddle wheel winch site (early 1900's)

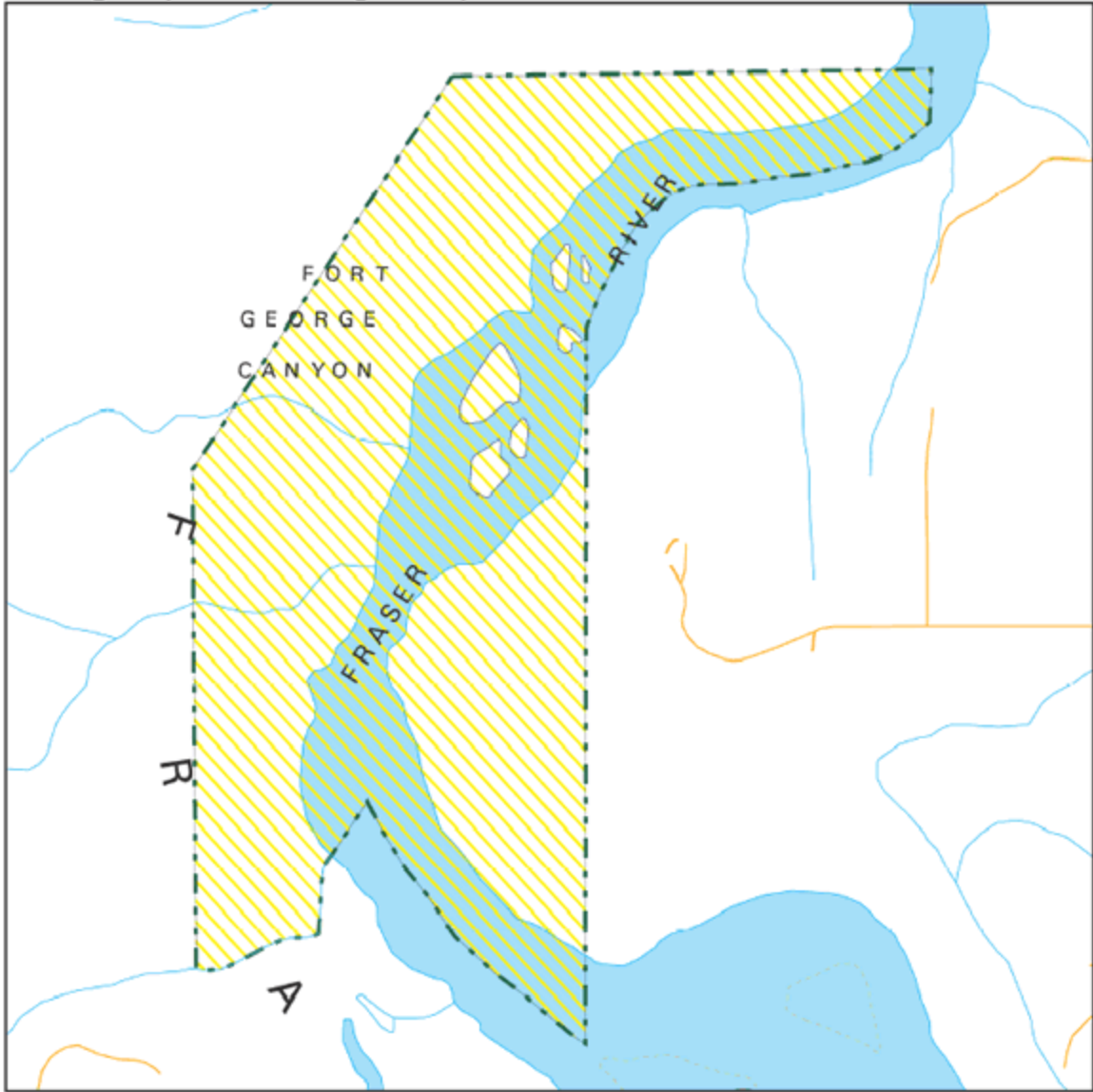
OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations	X	Fraser River is a Canadian Heritage River and is proclaimed as a BC Heritage River.
Relationship to Other PAs		West Lake, Fraser River, Dahl Lake and Three Sisters provide a variety of nearby recreational opportunities. West Twin, Sugarbowl-Grizzly and Fraser River also provide access to the Fraser River.
Co-operative Management Arrangements	X	Fort George Canyon trail has to date been cooperatively managed with Ministry of Forests. Continued maintenance of the trail will need to be resolved.
Partnerships		
Vulnerability		The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 3 risk factors (the shape, the size of the park, and terrestrial ecosystem replication) for the park and rated them as moderately significant. No stressors/threats were identified for the park.
Relationship to Other Strategies	X	Prince George Land and Resource Management Plan.

Area: 160 hectares

Date of establishment: June 29, 2000

Zoning Map - Fort George Canyon Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



 Natural Environment
 Protected Area Boundary



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Ministry of Water, Land and Air
Protection by MSRM, Decision
Support Services

This is a visual representation
only and should not be used for
legal purposes.