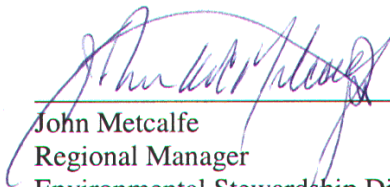


# FOSTER ARM PROTECTED AREA

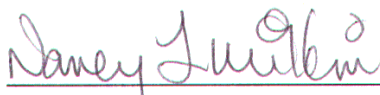
## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

July 2003

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Metcalfe  
Regional Manager  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: July 17, 2003

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Wilkin  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Jan 15/04

## **Foster Arm Protected Area Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan**

Foster Arm Protected Area is situated along the north side of the Foster Creek Inlet on the west side of Kinbasket Lake. The protected area encompasses 1,020 ha, from lakeshore to subalpine in a remote location above the Foster Arm.

Diverse tree species are protected within two ecosections. In the upper elevations, Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir (ESSF) ecosystems of the Northern Kootenay Mountains Ecosection are represented. The lower portion of the protected area represents the Big Bend Trench Ecosection, and two biogeoclimatic subzones of Interior Cedar Hemlock (ICH) thrive within this rich environment. One of these, the Interior Cedar Hemlock moist mild (ICHmm), is considered rare and provincially underrepresented. The protected area is also significant for its superior growing conditions, and for the presence of healthy western white pine throughout the area.

Foster Arm Protected Area offers important habitat for caribou and grizzly, as well as other representative species.

At this time, the only access to this protected area is by boat from Kinbasket Lake. Recreation values are limited to hunting and lakeshore fishing. In the higher elevations above Foster Arm Protected Area, there is potential for commercial backcountry recreation and heli-skiing.

The Foster Arm Protected Area was created on January 25, 2001 through the efforts of the Robson Valley Land and Resource Management Plan and the Protected Areas Strategy. The area was designated a protected area under the *Environment and Land Use Act* to allow for the possible construction of a road through the area to provide access to forest lands and other resources beyond the protected area.

### **Primary Role**

The primary role of the protected area is to provide representation of the moist mild Interior Cedar Hemlock forests and the Big Bend Trench Ecosection, both of which are underrepresented in the protected areas system.

### **Secondary Role**

The secondary role is to protect lakeshore recreation opportunities along Kinbasket Lake, and potential access to backcountry recreation opportunities in adjacent areas.

<b>Known Management Issues</b>	<b>Response</b>
Forest Health	Monitor for white pine blister rust.

## **Zoning**

Foster Arm Protected Area is zoned Natural Environment in its entirety (1,020 ha) to protect scenic values and provide backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

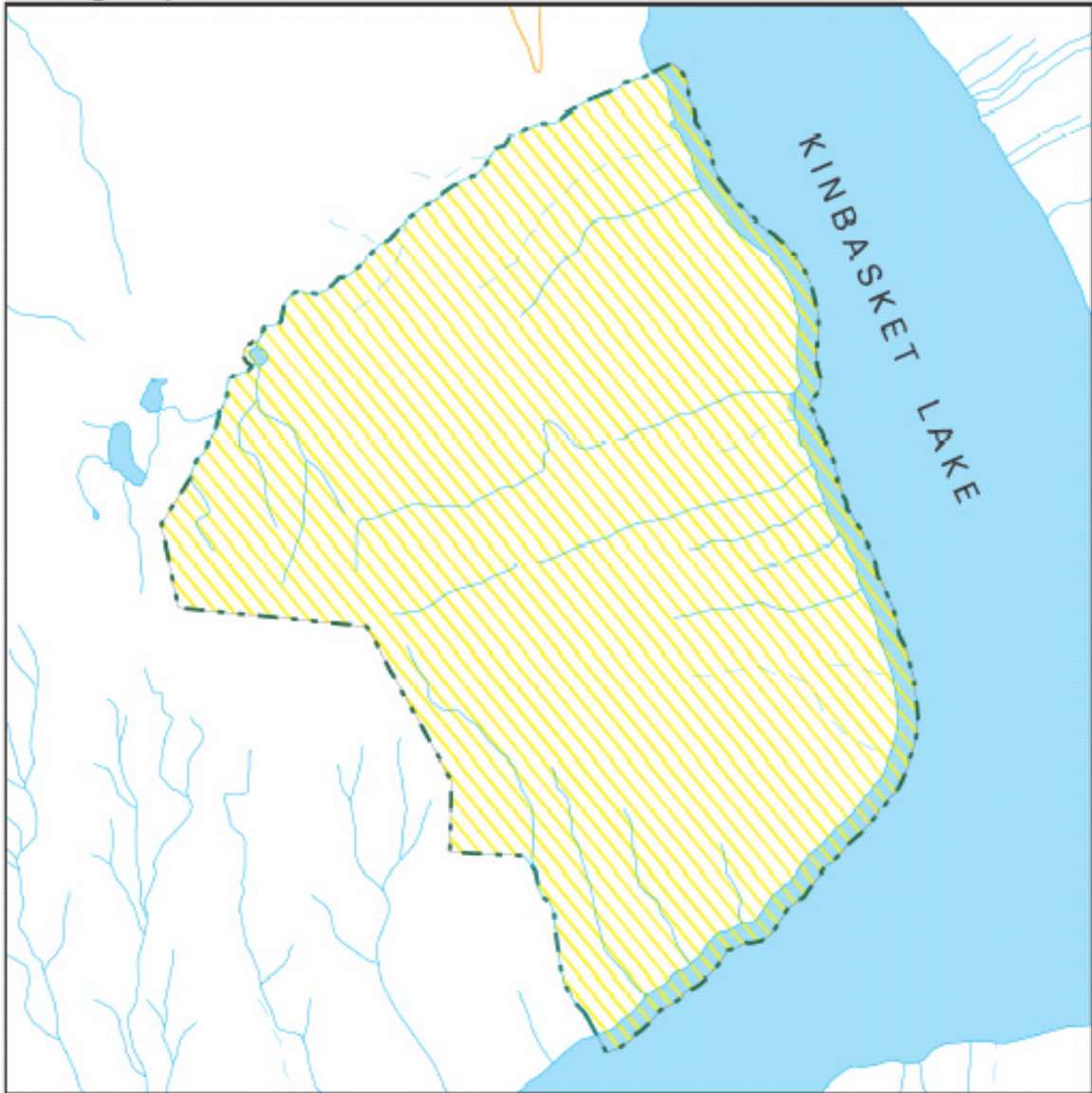
<b>CONSERVATION</b>		
<b>Representation</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ecosection</li> </ul>	X	<p>Foster Arm Protected Area provides significant representation of the Big Bend Trench Ecosection; it is only 1 of 3 areas contributing to the representation of this ecosection; the Big Bend Trench Ecosection is very poorly represented (0.91% ) in the protected areas system; although only protecting about 500 ha in this ecosection, Foster Arm provides the best representation of this ecosection (47.4% of overall protected areas system representation of this ecosection).</p> <p>The park also makes a minor contribution to the representation of the Northern Kootenay Mountains Ecosection; 10.4% of this ecosection is protected and Foster Arm contributes only 0.3% of the overall protected areas system representation of this ecosection.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>biogeoclimatic subzone/variant</li> </ul>	X	<p>Foster Arm Protected Area is 1 of only 5 areas provides representation of the ICHmm; only 3% of this ecosystem is protected; Foster Arm contributes 3.4% of the overall protected areas system representation of this unit.</p> <p>Foster Arm also makes minor contributions to the representation of the ICHwk1 (0.61% of overall protected areas system representation); ESSFwc2 (0.19% of overall protected areas system representation); and AT</p>
<b>Special Feature</b>		unknown
<b>Rare/Endangered Values</b>	X	Grizzly bear - blue listed; caribou – red listed
<b>Scientific/Research Opportunities</b>		
<b>RECREATION</b>		
<b>Representation:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>backcountry</li> </ul>		Potential access from lakeshore to backcountry recreation opportunities at higher elevations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>destination</li> </ul>		Kinbasket Lake offers significant opportunities for boating and fishing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>travel corridor</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>local recreation</li> </ul>		
<b>Special Opportunities</b>		
<b>Education/Interpretation Opportunities</b>		Rich, diverse forest ecosystems of the ICH biogeoclimatic zone

<b>CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>		
<b>Representation</b>		unknown
<b>Special Feature</b>		unknown
<b>OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS</b>		
<b>Other Designations</b>		
<b>Relationship to Other PAs</b>		There are no other protected areas on Kinbasket Lake, although there are recreation sites managed by BC Hydro, and sites previously managed by BC Ministry of Forests.
<b>Co-operative Management Arrangements</b>		
<b>Partnerships</b>		
<b>Vulnerability</b>		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. Two stressors/threats were identified for the park: Fire suppression was rated as highly significant; and roadways/potential was rated as low significance.
<b>Relationship to Other Strategies</b>		Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy; Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan The area was recommended for protection by the Robson Valley LRMP in April 1999.

**Area:** 1,020 hectares

**Date of establishment:** January 25, 2001

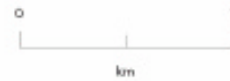
# Zoning Map - Foster Arm Protected Area



Projection: Alberta Equal Areas  
Datum: NAD83



 Natural Environment  
 Protected Area Boundary



Produced in Apr 2003 for  
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.