

FRASER RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN Omineca Region 2005

Approved by:



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Fraser River Provincial Park Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Fraser River Provincial Park is located on the west bank of the Fraser River, approximately 35 km south of Prince George.

This 4,899 ha Protected Areas Strategy Goal 1 park plays an important role in representing natural diversity within the provincial park system. Fraser River Provincial Park contributes to the representation of both the Nazko Upland and Quesnel Lowland ecosections. The Quesnel Lowland Ecosection is under-represented provincially, as only 0.75% of this ecosection is dedicated to protected area status. Although less than one half of the park is within this ecosection, it contributes over one half (56%) of the overall protected area representation of this ecosection.

Fraser River Provincial Park provides good representation of moist hot and dry warm sub-boreal spruce forests, biogeoclimatic subzones that are poorly represented in the protected area system. The park includes mixed forest typical of a transition from large river valley to plateau.

The area provides excellent elk, deer and moose winter range. The high ungulate winter range values can be attributed to the south easterly facing slopes, the lower elevation and milder climate which contributes to a lower snow depth.

Fraser River Provincial Park provides recreation access to the most important river in the province, and is one of the few protected areas along the river. The Fraser River is designated as a Canadian Heritage River and proclaimed as a Provincial Heritage River. The river is an important salmon migration corridor, and supports federally listed (COSEWIC endangered) white sturgeon (provincial red-listed), and a variety of other fish species. The river was an important route for early explorers, and a historic transportation route. The Fraser River supports recreational use for boating and fishing, and the adjacent park area is used for hiking, hunting and wildlife viewing.

There are no facilities provided at this provincial park.

Primary Role

The primary role of Fraser River Provincial Park is to provide representation of the Quesnel Lowlands Ecosection, and moist hot and dry warm sub-boreal spruce forests. Fraser River Provincial Park currently provides the greatest extent of representation in the protected areas system of the Quesnel Lowlands Ecosection and Sub-boreal Spruce moist hot (SBSmh) and Sub-boreal Spruce dry warm, Blackwater variant (SBSdw2) biogeoclimatic zones.

Secondary Role

In the future, a secondary role will be to provide backcountry recreation access to the Fraser River, and opportunities for wildlife and nature-related recreation associated with a large river valley.

Known Management Issues	Response
Forest Health	Monitor mountain pine beetle but provide no treatment due to the large size of the infestation.
Acceptable Uses	The monitoring committee of the Prince George Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) has endorsed mountain biking as being an acceptable activity within the park.

Zoning

Fraser River Provincial Park has been zoned in its entirety (4,899 hectares) as Nature Recreation to protect scenic values and provide backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection

X Situated in the Quesnel Lowlands and Nazko Upland ecosections. Approximately 57% of the park is in the Quesnel Lowlands Ecosection and 43% in the Nazko Upland Ecosection.
Provides significant representation of the Quesnel Lowland Ecosection: only 0.75% of this ecosection is protected provincially. Fraser River Provincial Park is one of seven protected areas contributing to this representation and is the largest contributor, contributing 55.9% of the overall protected area representation of this ecosection

Provides minor representation of the well-represented Nazko Upland Ecosection (10.91% protected): the park contributes only 1.27% of the overall protected area representation of this ecosection

- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

X Significant representation of:
SBSdw2: only 0.77% of this subzone is in the protected areas system. Fraser River is one of only two protected areas contributing to this representation and is the most significant contributor, accounting for 83.9% of the overall protected area representation of this subzone.
SBSmh: 2.07% of this unit is in the protected areas system. Fraser River is one of only two protected areas contributing to this representation and is the most significant contributor, accounting for 95% of the overall protected area representation of this subzone.

Minor representation of:

SBSdw3: 0.27% of area protected provincially; Fraser River park contributes 4.2% of the overall protected areas system representation of this subzone.

Special Feature

X Fraser River – Canadian and Provincial Heritage River Status

Rare/Endangered Values

X Fraser River White sturgeon (COSEWIC endangered and BC red-listed) and listed in the BC Parks species at risk database

Scientific/Research Opportunities

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry X Backcountry access to the Fraser River; hiking, wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation X Easily accessible from Prince George

Special Opportunities

- Education/Interpretation Opportunities** X Natural ecosystems associated with sub-boreal spruce forests and a large river/river valley; cultural significance of the Fraser River.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Representation** X Large river as a transportation route

Special Feature Specific cultural features unknown

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

- Relationship to Other PAs** X Fraser River Provincial Park provides the best representation of the Quesnel Lowlands Ecosection. Additional representation is provided by Three Sisters Lakes Provincial Park. In the Prince George area, other smaller parks and protected areas along the Fraser River include Fort George Canyon Park and Giscome Portage Trail Protected Area.

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

Vulnerability The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 4 risk factors (the shape, watershed integrity, terrestrial ecosystem replication, and the size of the park) for the park and rated them as of low significance. Four stressors/threats were identified for the park: fire suppression was rated as moderately significant; while roadways, cottage/cabin, boat/all types were all rated as low significance.

Relationship to Other Strategies Canadian Heritage Rivers System
BC Heritage Rivers System
Recommended for protection by the Prince George

LRMP

Area: 4,899 hectares

Date of establishment: June 29, 2000.



Zoning Map

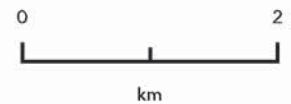
Fraser River Park



Projection: UTM Zone 10
Datum: NAD83



 Nature Recreation
 Protected Area Boundary



Produced in May 2005 for
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