



Fred Antoine Park

Management Plan

April 2017



BC Parks

Fred Antoine Park Management Plan

Approved by:



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Management Vision

This vision statement describes the future state and management that is desired for Fred Antoine Park. The park vision provides long-term direction for park managers while aiding them in making decisions regarding current issues.

Fred Antoine Park remains a rugged wilderness area. The secluded setting is home to a diversity of wildlife. The park is largely undisturbed by human intrusion. Those who visit are fully self-reliant and find a challenging backcountry adventure.

Table of Contents

Management Vision	i
Table of Contents	iii
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Management Plan Purpose.....	1
1.2 Planning Area	1
1.3 Legislative Framework	1
1.4 Management Commitments/Agreements	4
1.5 Land Uses, Tenures and Interests.....	4
1.6 Management Planning Process	4
1.7 Relationship with First Nations.....	5
2.0 Values and Roles of the Park	5
3.0 Management Direction	7
3.1 Management Objectives and Strategies.....	7
3.2 Zoning Plan.....	8
4.0 Plan Implementation	10
4.1 Implementation Plan	10
4.2 High Priority Strategies	10
4.3 Plan Assessment	10
Appendix 1: Appropriate Use Table	11
Figure 1: Context Map for Fred Antoine Park.....	2
Figure 2: Map of Fred Antoine Park.....	3

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to guide the management of Fred Antoine Park. This management plan:

- articulates the key features and values of Fred Antoine Park;
- identifies appropriate types and levels of management activities;
- determines appropriate levels of use and development;
- establishes a long-term vision and management objectives for the park; and
- responds to current and predicted threats and opportunities by defining a set of management strategies to achieve the management vision and objectives.

1.2 Planning Area

Fred Antoine Park is 8,230 hectares in size and situated on the Bridge River Road (Highway 40) approximately 25 kilometres northwest of the Town of Lillooet (Figure 1). The park contains almost the entire watersheds of Fred Creek and Antoine Creek (Figure 2).

The surrounding area consists of dry forests on rugged, steep terrain. Forestry activity occurs around most of the park. The park is bounded on the southwest by private land along the Yalakom River. A private land inholding is located in the southwestern portion of the park (Figure 2).

1.3 Legislative Framework

This park was recommended through the Lillooet Land and Resource Management (LRMP) Plan in 2004 and formally established as a Class A park by the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Amendment Act, 2010* on June 3, 2010. The park is presently named and described in Schedule D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

Class A parks are Crown lands dedicated to the preservation of their natural environments for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public. Development in Class A parks is limited to that which is necessary to maintain the park's recreational values. Some activities that existed at the time a park was established (i.e., grazing, hay cutting) may be allowed to continue in certain Class A parks¹ but commercial resource

¹ Applies only to Class A parks listed in Schedule D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

extraction or development activities are not permitted (e.g., logging, mining or hydroelectric development).

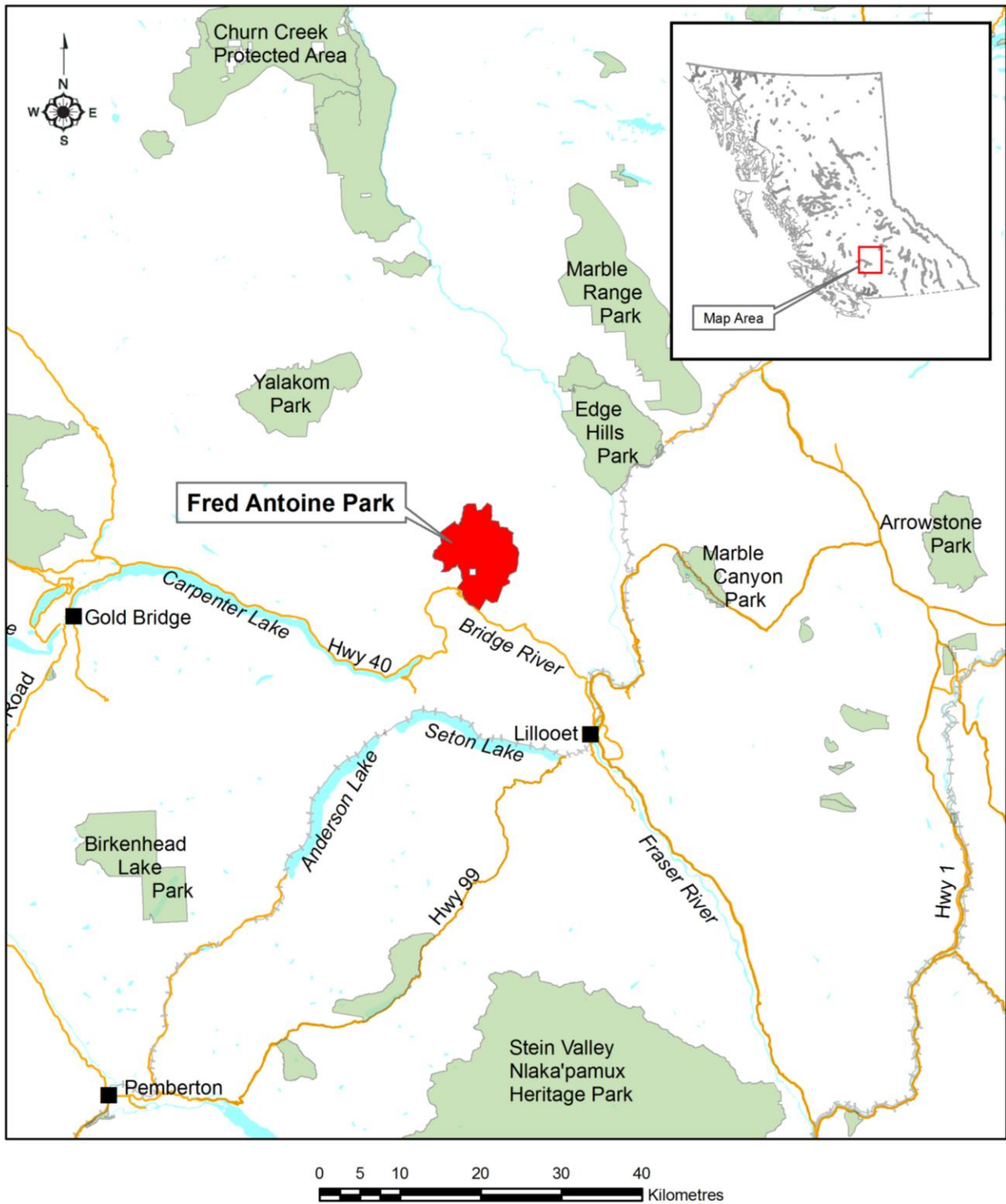


Figure 1: Context Map for Fred Antoine Park

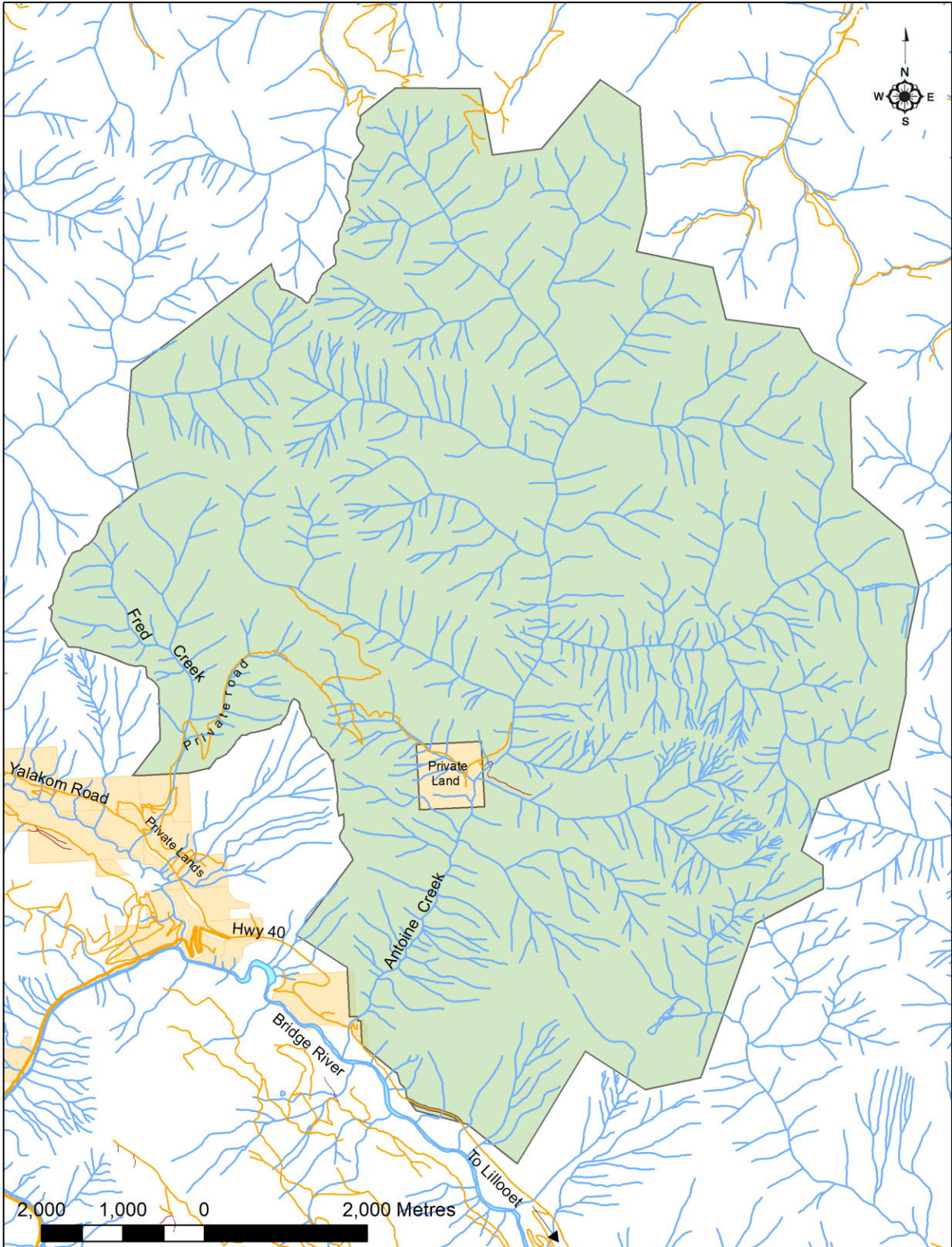


Figure 2: Map of Fred Antoine Park

1.4 Management Commitments/Agreements

The Lillooet LRMP stated that Fred Antoine Park would have an emphasis on maintaining the natural environment and wilderness setting, with the following guidance provided during development of the LRMP:

- Emphasis on maintaining the under-represented patches of climax IDFdk1.
- Management of wildlife, including Grizzly Bear, California Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer and Fisher, will be coordinated with provincial fish and wildlife staff.
- Access management planning should be coordinated with plans for Yalakom, French and Watson Bar Landscape Units, recognizing the need to protect the quality of domestic water supply and privacy of local residents.
- Recreation activities will include hiking, backpacking, nature studies and appreciation, and wildlife viewing as well as appropriate commercial tourism activities such as eco-tourism and outdoor education.
- Management planning will include thorough and meaningful consultation with local community residents and First Nations communities.

1.5 Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Some tenures predate park establishment and include:

- Portions of two traplines and one guide outfitter territory that are authorized under the *Wildlife Act*. These uses must also be authorized by park use permit under the *Park Act*;
- A range tenure for the grazing of horses by the guide outfitter authorized under the *Range Act*; and,
- Water licences, including five for irrigation purposes and three for domestic use, authorized under the *Water Sustainability Act*. These uses must also be authorized by park use permit under the *Park Act*.

1.6 Management Planning Process

BC Parks has consulted with the Yalakom River community, government agencies, public interest groups, stakeholders and the general public in the development of this management plan. Summaries of input from various groups were posted to the BC Parks website as they became available. BC Parks obtained information on values, uses, present and future desired activities, the desired experiences, public and commercial recreational uses, issues and items needing management attention.

1.7 Relationship with First Nations

Fred Antoine Park is situated within the traditional territory of the St'at'imc Nation, Secwepemc Nation and Tsilhqot'in National Government. BC Parks seeks an ongoing relationship with First Nations to find common interests and direction for the future management of Fred Antoine Park.

2.0 Values and Roles of the Park

Fred Antoine Park is a rugged area with minimal human intrusion. It is a regionally important hub where wildlife can find refuge. It is representative of a small stream in a dry interior setting.

Fred Antoine Park includes a complete and undisturbed watershed (Antoine Creek) and the upper elevations of Fred Creek. The highly branched Antoine Creek results in a rugged landscape dominated by a series of steep ridges.

The park represents a unique range of very dry forest types in rugged, steep terrain with delicate riparian areas. It protects areas of old-growth forest, with associated structural characteristics, in four biogeoclimatic zones: Ponderosa Pine (PP), Interior Douglas-fir (IDF), Montane Spruce (MS) and Englemann Spruce-Subalpine Fir (ESSF). These ecosystems range from subalpine parkland to river valley. The Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification variants are listed in the following table:

BGC Variant	Total in BC (ha)	Total Protected (ha)	% Protected	Area in Fred Antoine (ha)	% of protected that is in Fred Antoine
ESSFxc 3	48,012	11,695	24.4	2,116	18.1
ESSFxcw	19,987	8,815	44.1	164	1.9
IDFdk 1	512,040	20,319	4.0	2,777	13.7
IDFxc	53,099	6,246	11.8	1,297	20.8
MSxk 3	104,482	17,993	17.2	1,670	9.3
PPxh 2	122,177	4,286	3.5	206	4.8

Of note is the IDFdk1, which is under-represented in the provincial protected areas system, with only 4% being protected, 13.7% of which is in Fred Antoine Park. Similarly, 4.8% of the area of PPxh2 that is found in protected areas is found in the park. The park also contains a significant percentage (20.8%) of the dry interior ecosystem, the IDFxc, that is within protected areas. Fred Antoine Park also provides additional representation of the ESSFxc3, which is well represented in the protected areas system of British Columbia.

Fred Antoine Park is located in the Southern Chilcotin Ranges Ecoregion. The park provides minimal protection of this ecoregion: of the 88,785 hectares that is within protected areas, 4.4% of this is in the park.

Whitebark pine, designated as Endangered under the federal *Species at Risk Act* and blue-listed provincially, is found in the park.

Wildlife found here includes known occurrences of the following blue-listed species²: Fisher, California Bighorn Sheep, Rubber Boa, Peregrine Falcon and Grizzly Bear. Fred Antoine Park comprises a small portion of the South Chilcotin Ranges Grizzly Bear Population Unit where Grizzly Bears are classified as threatened. Recovery of this population is a provincial objective. Mountain Goat, Mule Deer, Grey Wolf, Cougar, and Harlequin Duck are also found here. The park provides migration corridors for Mountain Goats and critical winter and spring range for Mule Deer.

Culturally, there are numerous signs and artefacts of traditional aboriginal use and residence. A fossil site is also found in the park.

Recreational use is low, constrained by the rugged topography. Some hiking, horse riding and wildlife viewing takes place.

² Species of special concern due to sensitivity to human activities or natural events.

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Management Objectives and Strategies

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
<p>Wide-ranging wildlife species are seasonally dependent upon management within and outside the park.</p> <p>Mule Deer populations are believed to have declined; Mountain Goat and California Bighorn Sheep are not plentiful.</p>	<p>Management Objective: Maintain healthy wildlife populations for all species presently utilizing park habitats.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with adjacent land managers to ensure habitat connectivity for all wide-ranging species and to minimize impacts within the park. • Work with fish and wildlife managers to manage Grizzly Bear and maintain the park as a secure area where bears remain wary of humans. • Work with adjacent land managers to keep road access away from park boundaries. • Work with adjacent land managers to consider habitat restoration to increase forage for wildlife, including the use of prescribed fire. This will be dependent upon an evaluation of habitat requirements and distribution of habitat types and features within and adjacent to the park.
<p>Whitebark pine requires active management.</p>	<p>Management Objective: Maintain the ecosystem values of whitebark pine stands.</p> <p>Management Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in recovery planning for whitebark pine and implement appropriate recovery actions. Implement appropriate restoration actions, such as prescribed fire or opportunities to re-establish whitebark pine where it has been impacted.
<p>Invasive plants could easily be introduced to the park and then spread to the surrounding areas.</p>	<p>Management Objective: Prevent the establishment of new invasive species and control existing species from spreading to new areas.</p> <p>Management Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the park for invasive plants and implement appropriate preventative and treatment options as needed.

<p>There is a desire to provide for recreational activities while maintaining a wilderness experience, although there is presently no trail system.</p>	<p>Management Objective: Provide recreational opportunities compatible with a pristine environment and a wilderness experience.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow-low impact backcountry recreation opportunities, including low levels of hiking, backpacking, backcountry camping, hunting and horse use. Designate campsites if ecological or wildlife impacts become evident. Acceptable commercial tourism opportunities include guide outfitting and low-impact ecotourism. • Do not allow motorized or mechanical access. • Consider provision of trails in the future only if impacts to the steep terrain, wildlife and travel through private land can be avoided or fully mitigated. Reassess the suitability of introducing mountain biking in the future if these impacts can be satisfactorily addressed. • Recommend prohibition of aircraft landings and takeoffs.
<p>Private land owners on the west side of the park and the one private inholding are subject to the public crossing their land to access the park; they also wish to continue water licenses for irrigation and domestic purposes.</p>	<p>Management Objective: Discourage crossing of private land to access the park.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid active promotion of the park in order to minimize any impact on wildlife and to lower the potential for impacts on private lands. • Show private land on park maps to increase public awareness. • Indicate access routes that avoid the private land on all park information. • Consider acquisition of the private land inholding for addition to the park should it become available.
	<p>Management Objective: Recognize pre-existing rights for landowners.</p> <p>Management Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow pre-existing water rights and access in effect prior to park establishment. This includes access to make repairs or improvements to existing water diversion structures, but with no additional long-term impact on the park.

3.2 Zoning Plan

In general terms, a zoning plan divides a park into logical management units within which certain activities/uses are permitted and a particular set of management objectives apply. Zoning is often used to physically separate incompatible activities or uses within the park and provides visitors and managers with a quick visual representation and appreciation of how a particular park is managed. Zones are

designed to reflect the physical environment, existing patterns of use and the desired level of management and development in a given management unit.

Fred Antoine Park is zoned in its entirety as Wilderness Recreation. The objective of this zone is to protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment.

4.0 Plan Implementation

4.1 Implementation Plan

Specific projects will be evaluated for priority in relation to the overall protected areas system. BC Parks will continue to approach First Nations in an effort to collaborate on park management. Where needed, BC Parks will seek project-specific funding and partners to implement management strategies.

4.2 High Priority Strategies

The following strategies have been identified as high priorities for implementation:

1. Work with adjacent land managers to ensure habitat connectivity for all wide-ranging species and to minimize impacts within the park.
2. Work with adjacent land managers to keep road access away from park boundaries.

4.3 Plan Assessment

In order to ensure that the management direction for Fred Antoine Park remains relevant and effective, BC Parks staff will ensure that the management plan is assessed by BC Parks staff on a regular basis (i.e., at least every 5 years). Minor administrative updates may be identified and completed at any time (e.g., correct spelling errors, update protected area details where needed), and will be documented according to BC Parks guidelines.

If an internal assessment reveals that the management plan requires updating or substantial new management direction is needed, a formal review by BC Parks may be initiated to determine whether the management plan requires an amendment or if a new management plan is required.

The management plan amendment process or development of a new management plan includes an opportunity for public input.

Appendix 1: Appropriate Use Table

The following table summarizes existing and potential future uses in Fred Antoine Park that are and are not appropriate in each zone. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all uses that may be considered in this protected area in the future.

Please note that many appropriate uses are geographically restricted (i.e., only allowed in certain areas of Fred Antoine Park) or are only appropriate at certain times of the year. Please ensure that you are well informed of any use restrictions as indicated in the table. It is a good idea to review relevant sections of the management plan where indicated in the table.

Appropriate Use Table Legend		
N	Not an appropriate use	The use is not appropriate in the indicated zone. If the use currently exists but the management planning process has determined that the use is no longer appropriate in all or part of the park, the management plan will include strategies for ending the activity (e.g., phasing out, closing).
Y	May be an appropriate use	Some level or extent of this use may be appropriate in the zone(s) indicated. If the activity/use already exists, the management plan provides guidance on the appropriate level of use and may address specific restrictions or planned enhancements (e.g., capacity, designated areas for a particular activity, party size, time of year, etc.). For new or expanded uses, this symbol indicates that the use <u>may be considered</u> for further evaluation and approval. The appropriateness of some activities may not be confirmed until a further assessment (e.g., BC Parks Impacts Assessment Process) or evaluation process (e.g., park use permit adjudication) is completed.
Y1	Appropriate use as per section 30 of the <i>Park Act</i>	Indicates that the use is not normally appropriate in a park but was occurring pursuant to an encumbrance or Crown authorization at the time the park was established.

Activity/Facility	Wilderness Recreation Zone	Comments
Recreational Activities/Uses		
Aircraft Landing/Takeoff	N	Recommend placing in Schedule A of the <i>Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulation</i> .
Camping (designated sites)	Y	
Camping (wilderness style-undesignated sites)	Y	
Fish Stocking	N	
Fishing	Y	
Hang Gliding and Para Gliding Launching	N	
Hiking	Y	
Hunting	Y	
Land-based Mechanized Activity (e.g., mountain biking)	N	Future potential, see pg. 8.
Land-based Motorized Activity (e.g., 4x4, motorcycles, ATV-not including snowmobiles, snowcats or aircraft landings)	N	
Horse and Pack Animal Use	Y	Horse only
Skiing (downhill and cross-country track based)	N	
Skiing (backcountry)	Y	
Snowmobiling	N	
Snowcat Use	N	
Recreation Facilities/Infrastructure		
Cabins, Huts and Shelters (as defined in the Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy)	N	
Lodges (as defined in the Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy)	N	
Campgrounds (vehicle accessed))	N	
Picnic Areas (vehicle accessed)	N	
Designated Camping Sites (not vehicle accessed)	Y	
Parking Lots	N	
Roads	N	
Ski Facilities (vehicle accessed and serviced)	N	
Trails	Y	Hiking, horse and cross-country skiing only
Visitor Information Buildings	N	
Other Activities/Infrastructure		
Commercial Filming	Y	
Grazing	N	
Trapping	Y	
Water Diversion Structures	Y1	Existing licensed structures only