

Kootenay District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

May, 1999

**for Gilnockie
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

**Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division**

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Purpose of Management Direction Statements

Management Direction Statements provide strategic management direction for all protected areas which do not have a full management plan. MDS do not negate the need for future, more detailed management plans. Management Direction Statements also describe protected area values management issues and concerns; management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies; and, directional statements from other planning processes

GILNOCKIE PROVINCIAL PARK

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context (Figure 1)

The 2,842 ha Gilnockie Provincial Park is located in southeast British Columbia about 35 km due south of Cranbrook between the Creston Valley and the Kootenay River Valley just 5 km north of the International Border. It includes the upper portion of the mainstream drainage of Gilnockie Creek.

This area was identified as a high priority to improve inadequate representation in the McGillivray Range (MCR) Ecosection. It was supported by the Commission on Resources and Environment process (CORE) and recommended in the East Kootenay Land Use Plan. The original proposal was reduced in size to focus on significant older age class western larch and Douglas-fir stands, rare in the East Kootenay. As a result of the limited size and watershed incompleteness, representativeness has not been maximized. The area received Class A provincial park status on July 12, 1995 under the *Park Amendment Act, 1995*.

II. Protected Area Attributes (Figure 2)

A. Conservation

- contains Warm Moist Interior Cedar - Hemlock (ICHmw) Subzone and Wet Mild Engelmann Spruce - Subalpine Fir (ESSFwm) Subzone otherwise unrepresented in the MCR Ecosection also underrepresented Moist Cool Interior Cedar - Hemlock (ICHmk) Subzone
- includes exceptional regionally significant Western Larch and Douglas-fir stands (for their age and size)
- protects open subalpine grassland dominated by beargrass
- offers excellent habitat for elk and white-tailed deer
- supports mule deer, moose, grizzly bear
- protects red listed threatened Northern Leopard Frog and Columbia Red-tailed Chipmunk
- contributes to wildlife connectivity to the US

B. Recreation

- low recreation values
- offers some opportunities for hunting, wilderness backpacking and cutthroat trout fishing

C. Cultural Heritage

- no information available

Figure 1 - Regional Context Map

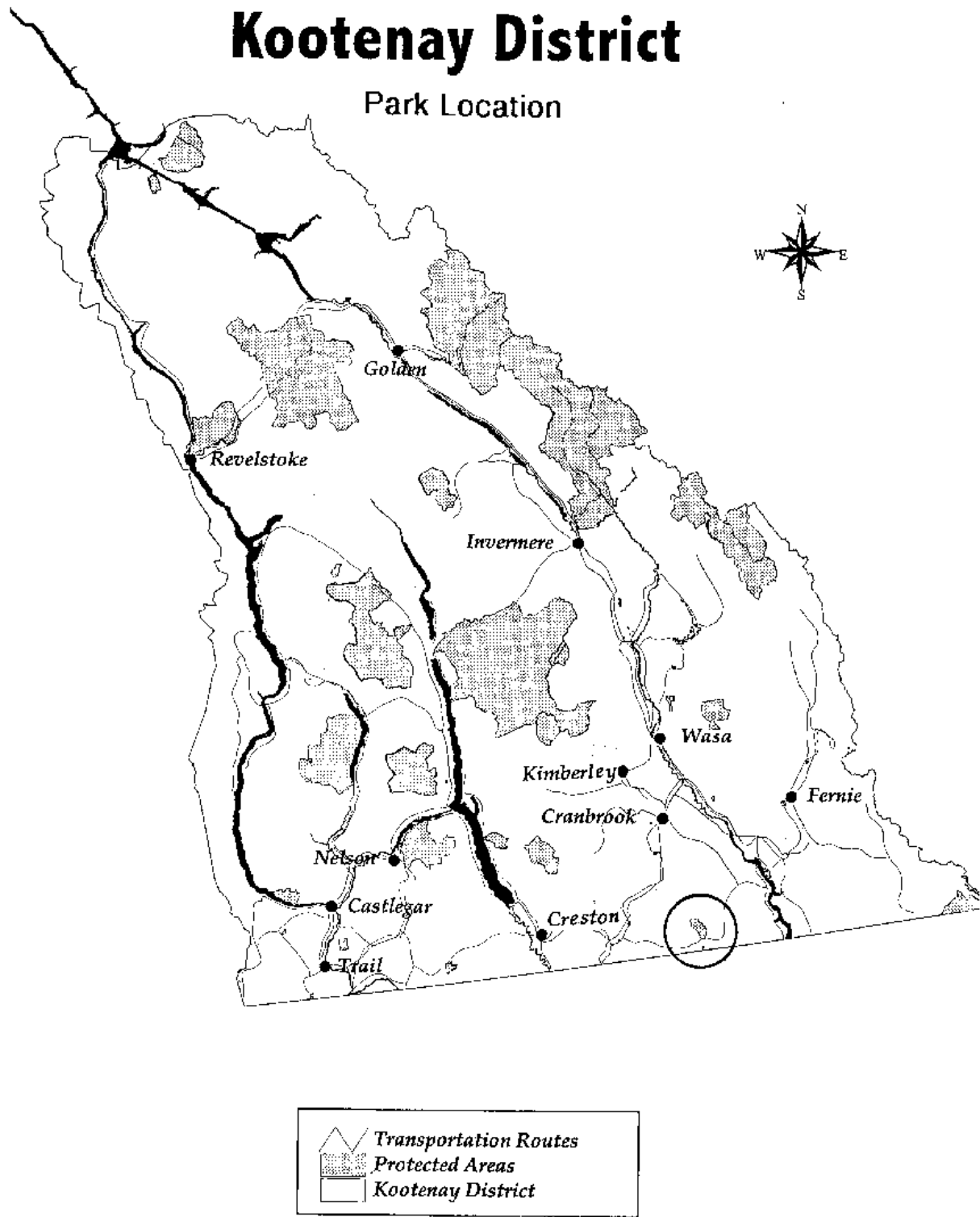
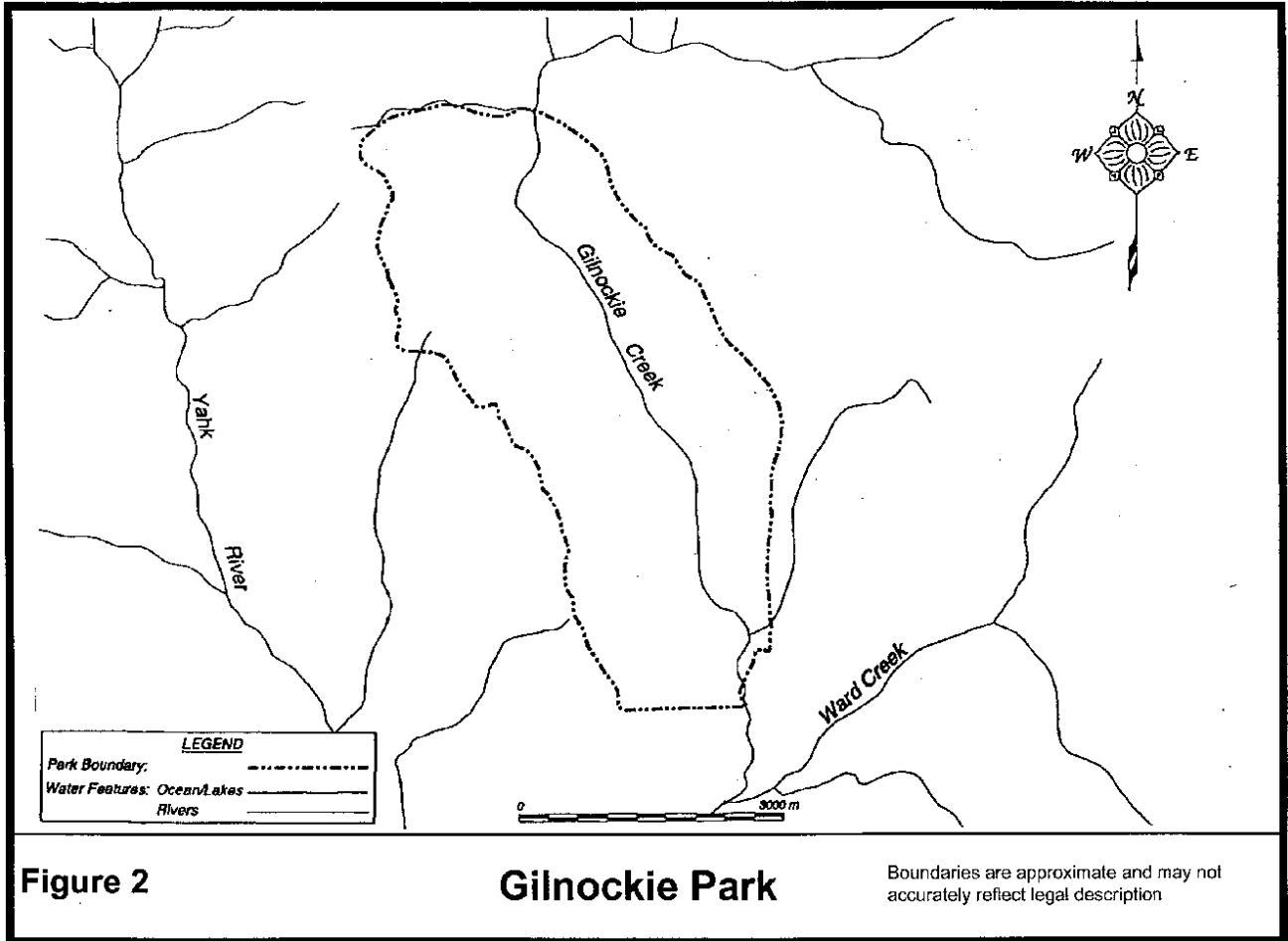


Figure 1

NTS

Figure 2 - Park Reference Map



D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- high conservation values - provides 6% of ESSFwm, 15% of ICHmw and 25% of ICHmk representation of the MCR; contains very high biodiversity; protects old-growth western larch and Douglas-fir; protects rare and endangered species
- low recreation values

III. Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

A. Access

- seasonal logging roads from Highway 3 at Moyie Lake via Teepee Creek, Yahk River and Ward Creek
- access from Lake Kookanusa and Kikomun Creek Park via Plumbob Creek, Gold Creek and Caven Creek or via Gold Creek, Bloom Creek and Cherry Creek
- unmaintained road access in the Park from Gilnockie Creek and two Forestry roads to the height of land from the western boundary

B. Existing Tenures

- guiding License No. G0106940 Territory No. 0403G001
- trapping License No. RT118958 Territory No. 0403T004

C. Existing Land Use, Activities, and Facilities

- no developed facilities in the park

D. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- timber harvesting surrounding the park

E. First Nations Interests

- Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council have included Gilnockie Park within their asserted traditional territory
- while direct consultation with tribal council representatives on this management direction statement was requested limitations of time and resources have prevented First Nations from directly participating in the planning process
- this management direction statement provides a foundation upon which continued relationships between BC Parks and First Nation tribal councils are based

F. Other Agency Interests

- BC Environment (BCE) - wildlife populations; biodiversity objectives, connectivity; administration of guide outfitting, trapping tenures; vegetation management
- Ministry of Forests (MOF) - adjacent/overlapping recreational activities; adjacency issues such as access, retention of visual quality, connectivity; vegetation management

G. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- guide outfitter
- trapper
- hunters and anglers
- environmental groups concerned about protected area management

IV. Management Commitments and Issues

A. Management Direction from Previous Planning

- existing tenures for guide outfitting and trapping will continue under Park Use Permits (existing grazing will continue under the *Range Act*)
- natural occurrences such as fires, insects and forest diseases will be managed as in other parks through consultation and joint action by BC Parks and Ministry of Forests at the District level
- objectives and strategies of the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy (KBLUP-IS) Chapt 4

B. Management Issues

- restoration of previously harvested areas within new park boundaries
- sustaining the Northern Leopard Frog population (endangered species)
- little specific information on the natural/cultural or recreational values exists for this new park
- role of fire in park and implications for fire dependent ecosystems
- protection of related special features outside of park boundaries

V. Management Strategy

While key strategies or actions are identified, the completion of all these strategies is subject to funding and funding procedures. As such, strategies are ranked according to priority and completed as funding permits. As well, all development within provincial parks is subject to the BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy.

A. Priority Management Objectives and Actions

Objectives

- protect rare, endangered and threatened species and undertake measures to ensure their survival
- protect special features of old-growth Western Larch and Douglas-fir stands
- ensure protection of ungulate habitat
- protect important high elevation grassland areas
- maintain backcountry recreation values
- honor commitments in the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan - Implementation Strategy
- develop relationship with First Nations to enhance understanding and management of park values
- restore biodiversity to previously harvested area

Actions

- work with BCE and MOF in developing a fire management plan appropriate for fire maintained ecosystem
- collect information on resource and cultural values to gain a better understanding of the park over time
- work with BCE and MOF to revegetate harvested sites in the park to a natural condition and to protect, conserve or restore critical red and blue listed species habitat in areas outside the park through the *Forest Practices Code Act*
- work with BCE to identify actual population numbers and locations for Northern Leopard Frog in the park
- work with MOF to manage access to protect backcountry values and experience (consider road deactivation to limit access)
- work with local First Nations to identify traditional use in area and determine management needs
- issue permits to existing trappers and guide outfitters

B. Consultation and Future Planning

The Kootenay and Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy indicates this area is a low priority for the development of a management plan. Consequently further public consultation is not proposed until such time as the management plan process is initiated. Consultation with other groups and agencies will take place as the above actions are implemented.

C. Zoning Plan

There is insufficient knowledge and understanding about this extension area to apply the BC Park Zoning Policy. The zoning policy defines in general terms the management direction for a given area of a park, including the type of uses and overall level of use and facilities in relationship to varying degrees of acceptable impacts on park values.

Appendix A

Summary Table of Land and Resource Use Commitments

The following table provides a summary of commitments made through land use processes with regard to acceptable uses, activities and facilities within this protected area.

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptable Uses
Hunting	Y
Trapping	N2
Fishing	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N2
Utility Corridors	N
Communications Sites	N
Horse Use/Pack Animals	N
Guide Outfitting (hunting)	Y
Guide Outfitting (fishing)	N
Guide Outfitting (nature tours)	M
Guide Outfitting (river rafting)	N
Cat-Assisted Skiing	N
Heli-Skiing	N
Heli-Hiking	N
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	N
Backcountry Huts	N
Water Control Structures	N
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N
Road Access	N
Off-Road Access (snowmobiling)	N
Off-Road Access (motorized)	N
Off-Road Access (mechanical)	M
Motorized Water Access	N
Aircraft Access (fixed wing)	N
Aircraft Access (helicopters)	N1
Fire Management (suppression)	M
Fire Management (prevention)	M
Fire Management (prescribed)	M
Forest Insect/Disease Control	M
Noxious Weed Control	M
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	M
Scientific Research (collection)	M
Scientific Research (manipulation)	M

Y = allowed subject to conditions identified in the management direction statement or management plan.

M = may be permitted if compatible with protected area objectives.

N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

N2 = present and allowed to continue but not normally allowed

N = not allowed