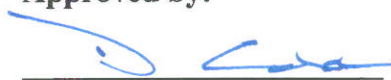


GISCOME PORTAGE TRAIL PROTECTED AREA

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN Omineca Region 2005

Approved by:



Don Cadden,
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division
Omineca Region

Date: Nov. 4th 2005



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Oct. 31 2005

Giscome Portage Trail Protected Area Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

The Giscome Portage Trail Protected Area is located on the Fraser River, 40 kilometres north of Prince George just off Highway 97, within Tree Farm Licence # 30.

The protected area includes 149 hectares, and features a historic trail used at the turn of the century by traders as a route between the Pacific (Fraser River) and Arctic (Summit Lake) watersheds. The Giscome Portage, first used as a trade route by the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, provided a short overland link for north and south water-bound travelers. The trail was named after the first non-native to travel across the portage, John Robert Giscome of Jamaica, who was headed to the gold fields of the north.

In 1905, the lots at the south end of the portage were pre-empted by Al Huble and his partner Ed Seebach, who opened up a small trading business. This business grew to include freighting, guiding boats through the Giscome rapids, and selling goods to the homesteaders in the area, and was a regular stop for paddlewheel steamboats. The Huble Homestead, now a park operated by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, still exists today, and includes the original 1912 dovetail log house, general store, blacksmith shop, barns and other heritage buildings. The Historic Site is operated by the Huble Homestead-Giscome Portage Heritage Society, and in addition to site restoration, offers personal interpretive programs and events, as well as brochures and learning kits.

The Giscome Portage is a designated Heritage Trail, 8.5 kilometres long with a corridor width of 200 metres. The trail has recently been upgraded and used for hiking and cross-country skiing. The Protected Area also includes a picnic area.

Deleted: is

The heritage and recreational value of the Giscome Portage Trail has long been recognized, and protected under a map reserve for the Use, Recreation and Enjoyment of the Public (UREP). The area was recommended for protection by the Prince George Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) in March, 1999.

Primary Role

The primary role of the protected area is to protect the historic Giscome Portage Trail corridor for its heritage values and associated recreation opportunities.

Secondary Role

The secondary role is to provide recreation opportunities associated with an appreciation of the heritage values of this protected area. Facilities include a picnic site and an upgraded 8.5 kilometre trail for hiking and cross-country skiing.

Known Management Issues	Response
Illegal ATV use	Monitor and enforce <i>Park Act</i>
Acceptable activities	The Prince George LRMP has endorsed the following

	<p>activities in the protected area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horse use and pack animals • Commercial guiding • Mountain bikes <p>However if the trail is being impacted by any specific activities, the uses will be re-visited.</p>
Encroachment of private property	Monitor <u>and initiate management action where required.</u>
Forest Health	Monitor and initiate management action where required - providing Mountain Pine Beetle Management and Assessment Process has been completed and is current for the protected area.
Designation	The area is currently established as a protected area under the <i>Environment and Land Use Act</i> . The area will be redesignated as a Class A park in the near future.
Duke Energy pipeline	If Duke Energy proceeds with a new pipeline, an amendment to the Order in Council will be required to allow for this activity to occur. <u>If a new pipeline is constructed, an amendment to the OIC will be required once the project is completed designating the area as a Provincial Park.</u>

Zoning

Giscome Portage Trail Protected Area will be zoned in its entirety (149 hectares) as Natural Environment to protect scenic values and provide backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Contributes minimally to the representation of the Nechako Lowland Ecosection; 4.68% of this ecosection is protected, Giscome Portage Trail Protected Area contributes only 0.21% of the overall protected areas system representation of this ecosection.
Contributes minimally to the representation of SBS mk1; 2.38% of this ecosystem unit is protected; Giscome Portage Trail Protected Area contributes only 0.47% of the overall protected areas system representation of this ecosystem unit.

Special Feature

X The Giscome Portage Trail is a special cultural feature and is designated as Provincial Heritage Trail.

Rare/Endangered Values

Unknown at this time

Scientific/Research Opportunities

X Cultural history

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

X A popular destination for local/regional recreation in conjunction with the historic Huble Homestead

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

X Cultural history including First Nations, transportation, early homesteading

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

X Overland and water transportation routes

Special Feature

X Giscome Portage Trail; nearby historic Huble Homesite

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Adjacent Huble Homestead Regional Park managed by the Regional District of Fraser – Fort George

Relationship to Other PAs

Other parks that provide day use recreation opportunities

for Prince George residents include Eskers, Fort George Canyon, and West Lake provincial parks, as well as several parks managed by the Fraser-Fort George Regional District.

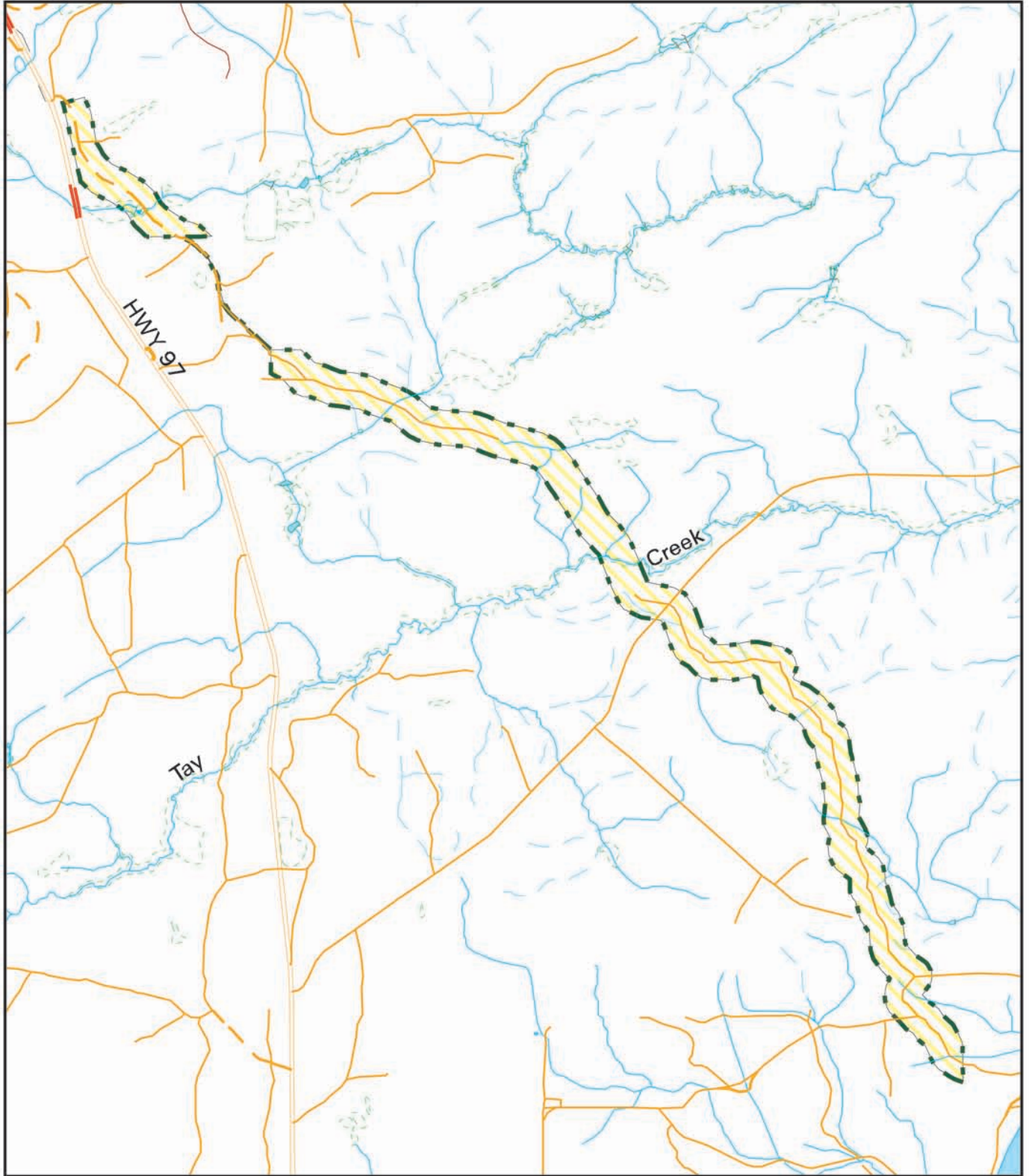
Co-operative Management Arrangements X Letter of Permission with Regional District of Fraser – Fort George (who operates of Huble Homestead) to do trail maintenance.

Partnerships X Partnership with the Huble Homestead-Giscome Portage Heritage Society

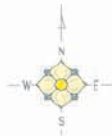
Vulnerability The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 2 risk factors (the shape, and the size of the park) for the park and rated them as of low significance. Three stressors/threats were identified for the park: day use, snowmachines, and skiing. All types were all rated as low significance.



Relationship to Other Strategies Giscome Portage Trail Protected Area was recommended for protection by the Prince George LRMP

Area: 149 hectares
Date of establishment: June 29, 2000.



Projection: UTM Zone 10
Datum: NAD83



 Nature Recreation
 Protected Area Boundary



Produced in May 2005 for
Ministry of Water, Land and
Air Protection by MSRM, Business
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legal purposes.