

APRIL 1983

GWILLIM LAKE MASTER PLAN



Province of
British Columbia

Ministry of Lands,
Parks and Housing

PARKS AND OUTDOOR
RECREATION DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

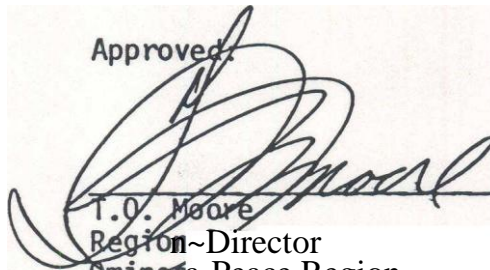
To: C. Velay
Assistant Deputy Minister (Acting)
Victoria

Date: May 3, 1983

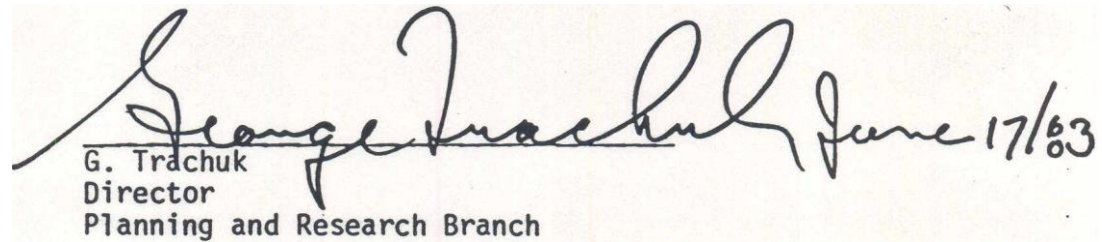
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We are pleased to present for your approval the final Master Plan for
Gwillim Lake Provincial Park.

Approved



T.O. Moore
Region Director
Omineca-Peace Region



G. Trachuk
Director
Planning and Research Branch



For Acting Executive Director

Omineca Peace Region
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division
Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing

GWILLIM LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK
Master Plan
April 1983

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>PART 1</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1.1 Purpose and Summary	3
1.2 Regional and Provincial Context	5
1.3 Resources	7
1.4 Resource Assessment	16
1.5 Current Situation	18
1.6 Market Analysis	21
1.7 Planning Issues	24

PART 2

2.1 Park Purpose	27
2.2 Park Objectives	27
2.3 Zoning	29
2.4 Management Policies	31
2.5 Development Plan	37
2.6 Marketing Information	42

<u>REFERENCES</u>	43
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List of Figures and Tables

Figure 1	Provincial Context	1
2	Regional Context	3
3	Natural Regions	6
4	Terrain Units	8
5	Forest Zones	11
6	Archaeological sites	45
7	Regional Recreation Facilities	20
8	Site Evaluation	26
9	Zoning	30
10	Development Scheme	36
Table 1	Climate Data	9
2	Wildlife Population	13
3	Regional Park Use	22
4	Planning Constraints	25

APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Legal Status	44
2	Natural Regions	45
3	Biogeoclimatic Zones	47
4	Park Facilities	48
5	Park Zoning System	49
6	S.D. #59 Outdoor Education Centre	50

FIGURE 1

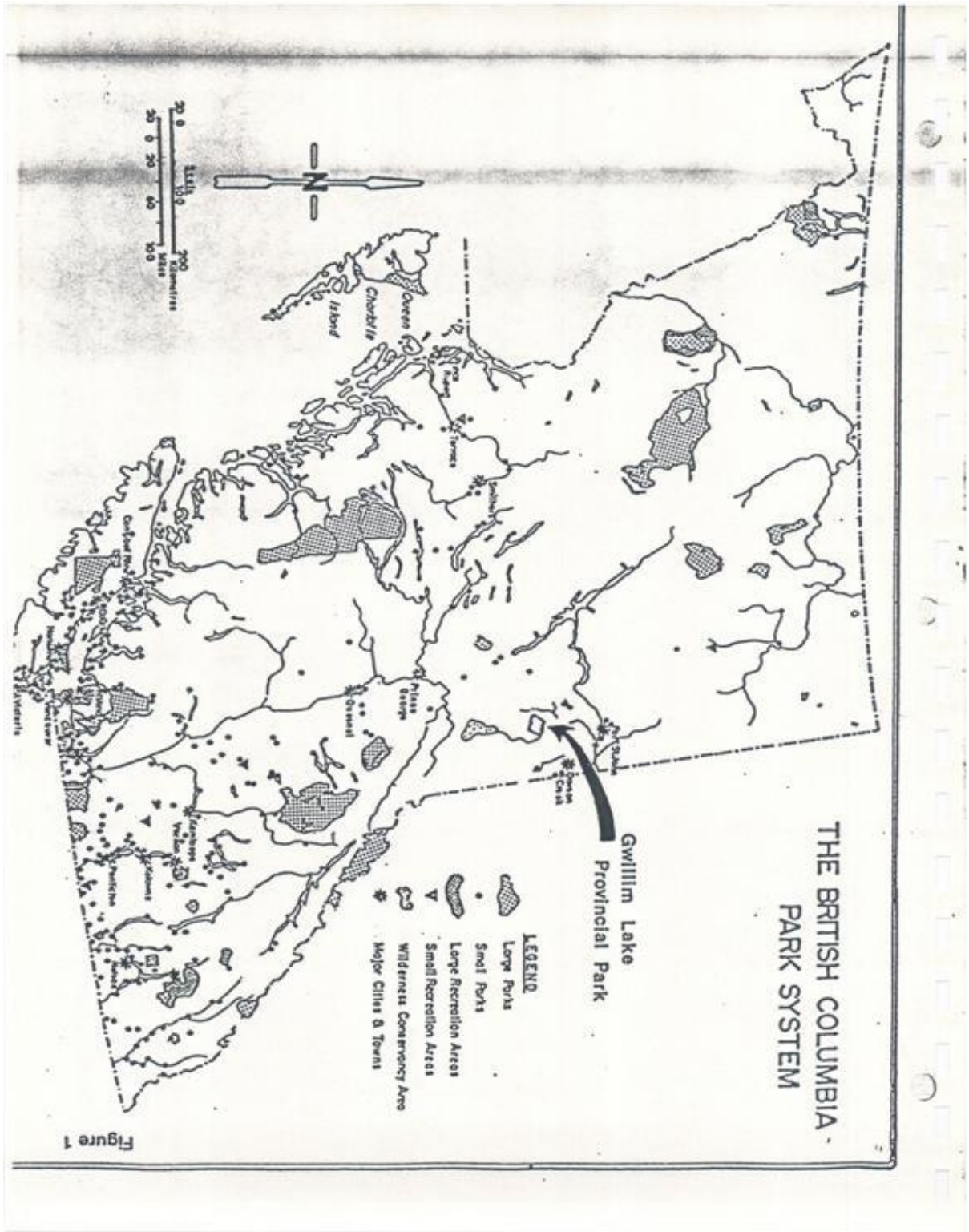
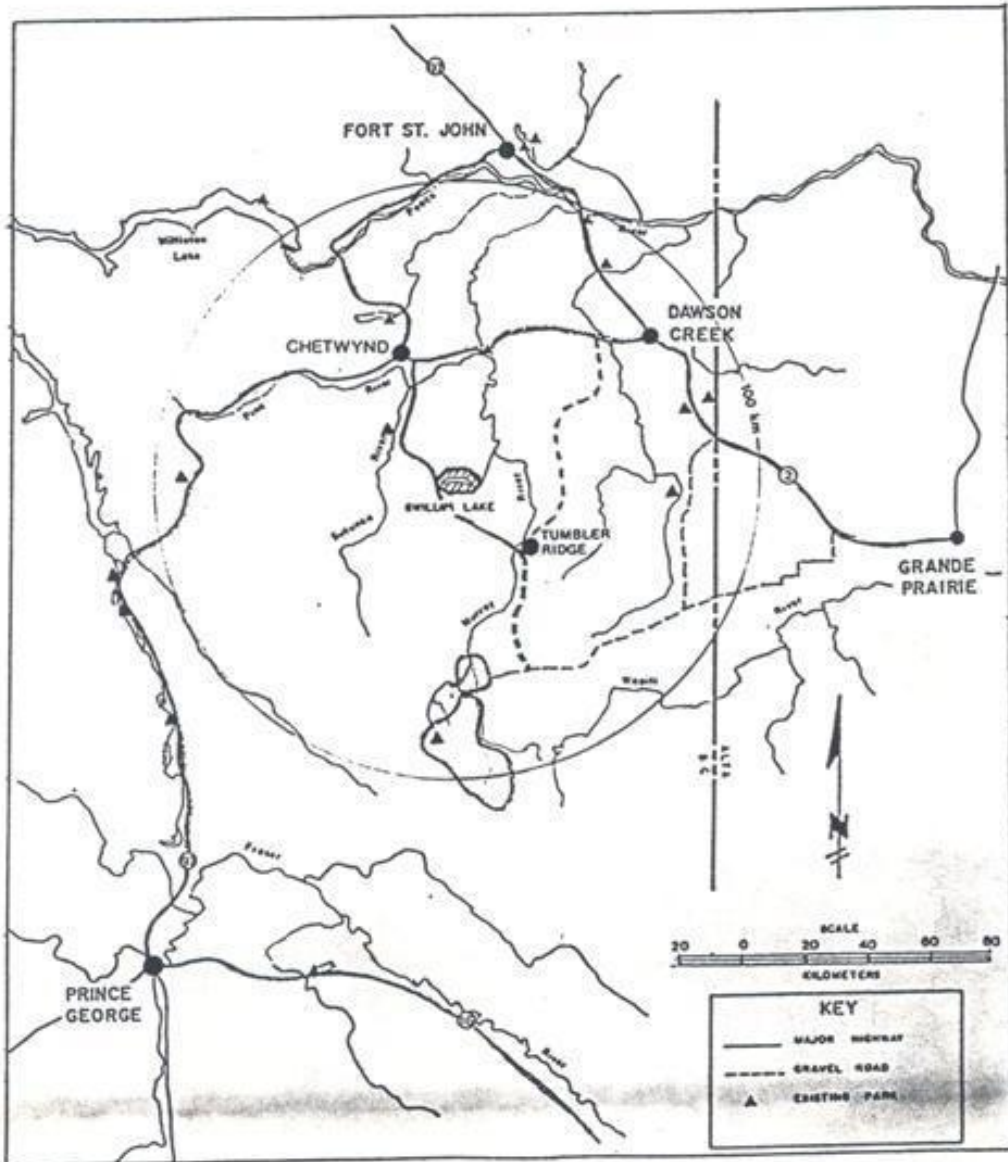


Figure 1

FIGURE 2

Figure 2

- REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE -



PART 1

1.1 Purpose and Summary

1.1.1 Plan Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a comprehensive plan that will guide the management and development of Gwillim Lake Park in order to achieve Recreation, Tourism and Conservation goals of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division. A degree of flexibility will be maintained in order to incorporate new information as well as feedback from management decisions and actions within the Park.

The Master Plan will be reviewed and revised if necessary in five years time. This will ensure that the Plan continues to reflect the intent of Gwillim Lake Provincial Park.

1.1.2 Plan Summary

Gwillim Lake Park (9187 ha) is located 56 kilometres south of Chetwynd in the Rocky Mountain Foothills which fringe the southwest portion of the Peace Liard District (Figure 2). The west end of the Park is bisected by a new highway which will serve Tumbler Ridge and the northeast coal projects. An increased regional population and better access to the Park will result from these developments.

Gwillim Lake provides excellent boating and outdoor recreation opportunities in an attractive natural setting. Shore areas are suited to camping, picnicking, fishing, hiking and viewing. In addition, natural features within the park provide good opportunities for environmental education and interpretation.

Preservation of the natural landscape and the provision of public outdoor recreation facilities comprise the central management objectives for the Park. Gwillim Lake, of prime recreational value to the surrounding region, will become a destination-oriented facility for tourists and residents of Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd, Fort St. John and Dawson Creek.

Facilities will be constructed for boat launching, auto-camping, picnicking, hiking and boat-accessed camping. A small beach will be improved to accommodate family bathing.

The majority of Gwillim Lake Park will be zoned as Natural Environment, containing hiking trails and boat-in recreation sites. Formal park developments will be centred in the west end of the basin in the Development Zone.

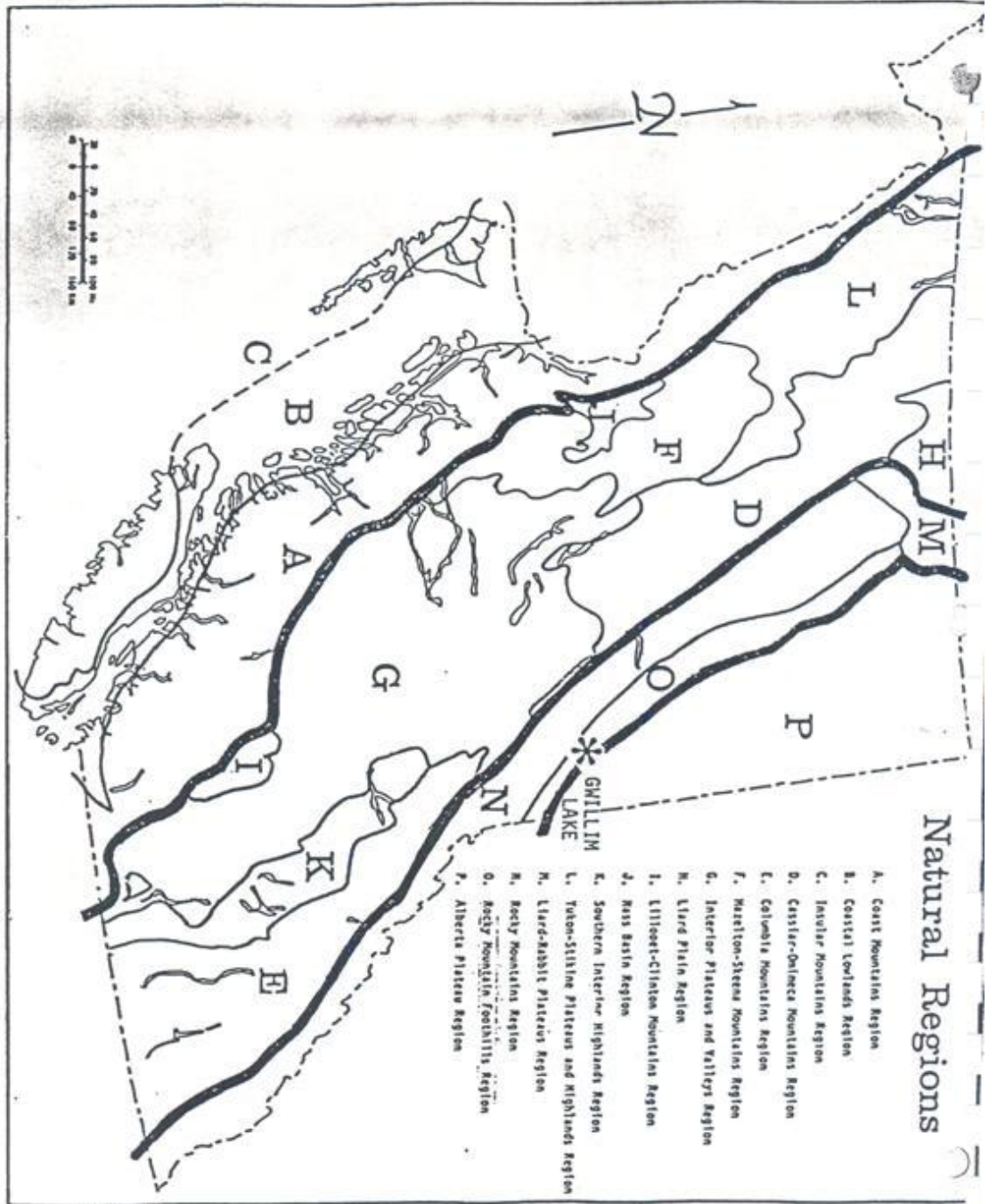
2 REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Gwillim Lake is the only large Provincial Park which provides representation of the Rocky Mountain Foothills physiographic region, albeit only partial representation (Youds-1981). The Park area and terrain features are not sufficiently extensive to include northwest - southeast trending physiographic patterns that characterize a true Foothills landscape. The park is unique however in that a large body of water is wholly contained within the Park reserve. Given the magnitude of environmental disturbance in the surrounding area - northeast coal, oil and gas exploration, logging and hydro-electric development - the parks "viewshed" boundary provides exclusive management over the natural resources of Gwillim Lake.

The lake is an important regional recreation resource. Water bodies, particularly large lakes, are infrequent in this part of the Province. Charlie Lake (Fort St. John) and Moberly Lake (Chetwynd) are comparable to Gwillim in size, but have been developed to include private recreational lots. Swan Lake (Dawson Creek) and One Island Lake are also privately developed. Redfern and Trimble Lakes (northern Foothills), although in a natural state, are not readily accessible.

It is the goal of the Division to conserve representative natural environments and provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the Provinces residents and tourists. Gwillim Lake Park will achieve each of these goals to a large extent, through the development of recreation facilities and maintenance of the basin landscape in a natural state.

Figure 3



1.3 RESOURCES

1.3.1 Physiography

Gwillim Lake occupies an east-west valley that cuts through the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountain Foothills. To north and south of the lake are long ridges which parallel the northwest - southwest tram of the main Rocky Mountain ranges. The west end of the basin is formed by rounded, undulating hills, their underlying shales having eroded to a greater degree than the limestone and quartzite planes of the more northerly Foothills landscape.

The lake elevation is 762 metres, valley sides rise steeply to an average height of 1500 metres. Slopes are generally unstable - soils are silty and there are occasional rock outcrops which expose the horizontal bedding of the ridges. The level ridgetops reflect this characteristic.

The lake is 10 kilometres long and averages about one kilometre in width. There are 25 kilometres of shoreline surrounding Gwillim Lake. Two distinct basins, separated by the delta of Trapper Creek have been formed in a trough created during the last period of glaciation.

A maximum depth of 48 metres has been recorded in the lake. At the eastern outlet, the waters shallow considerably.

Gwillim Lake is part of the Arctic watershed, draining via the Murray and Peace Rivers. Three main creeks supply the lake - Gwillim, Meikle and Trapper. All three are depositing gravel fans, particularly Trapper Creek, and all are subject to seasonal flooding and erosion. Figure 4 illustrates the terrain units within the Park.

Figure 4

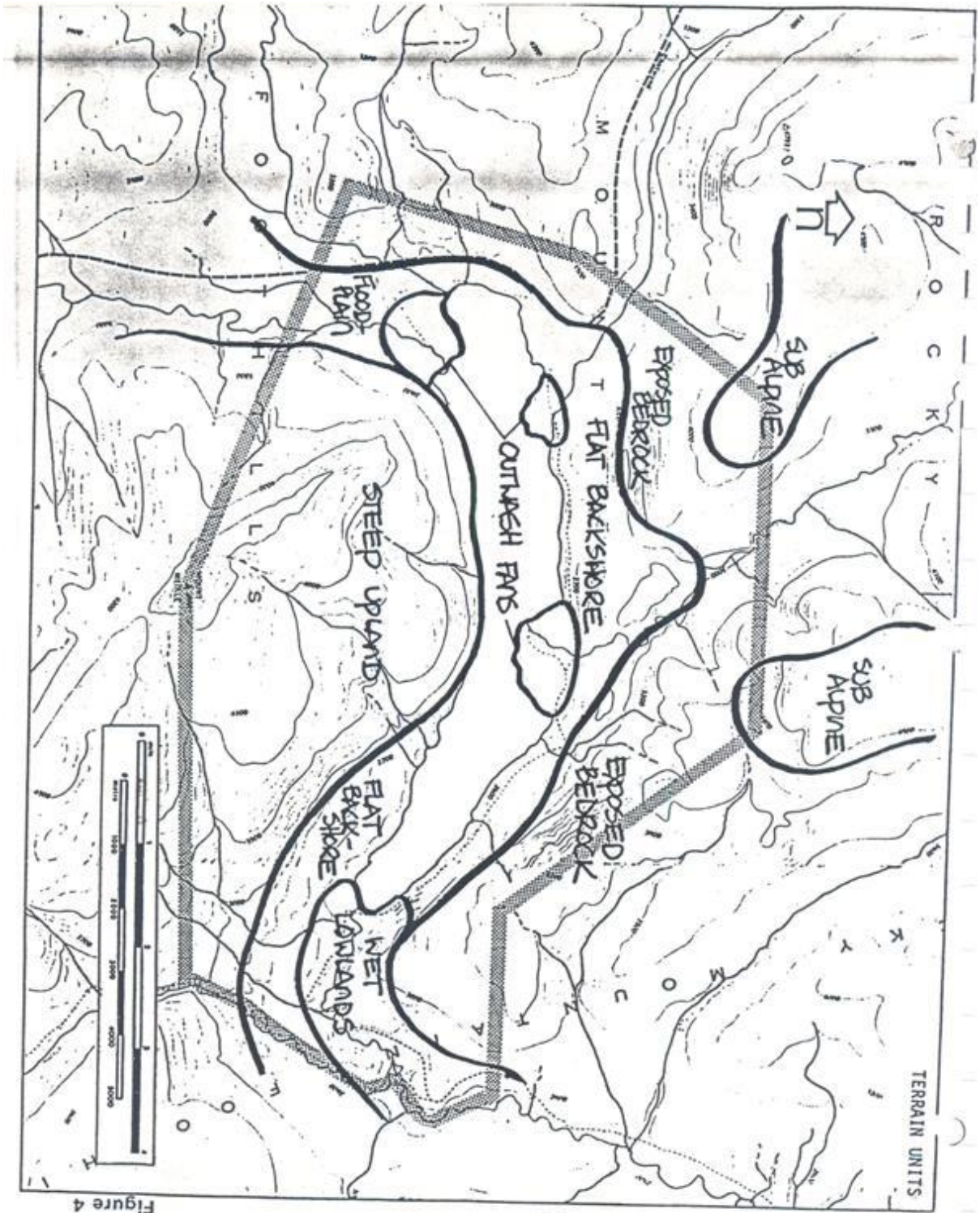


Figure 4

1.3.2 Climate

Situated on the eastern flanks of the Rocky Mountains, the Park lies in the rain shadow of the Continental Divide. However, climate patterns recorded at Gwillim Lake do not exhibit typical rain shadow characteristics. Air masses rising over the mountains to the west, maintain relatively high moisture levels throughout the area and consequently high precipitation has been recorded. Table 1 illustrates the comparison of seasonal climate variation between stations at Dawson Creek and Gwillim Lake.

Table 1

Climatic Data Comparison														
Section		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Year
Gwillim Lake	Day Time High (°C)	-10	-5	-1	8	15	19	21	20	15	10	-1	-7	7
	Night Time Low	-20	-15	-11	-4	1	4	6	5	2	-2	-11	-17	-5
	Mean Daily Temp.	-15	-10	-6	2	8	11.5	13.5	12.5	8.5	4	-6	-12	1
	Precipitation	37	35	30	19	41	80	70	60	50	33	31	41	527
	Expected as Snow	99	99	95	60	12	0	0	0	0	55	85	99	50%
Dawson Creek	Day Time High	-12	-6	-1	8	16	20	22	21	16	10	-1	-8	7
	Night Time Low	-24	-19	-13	-4	2	7	8	7	4	-1	-11	-19	-5
	Mean Daily Temp.	-18	-13	-7	2	9	13	15	14	10	4	-6	-14	1
	Precipitation	32	31	27	14	42	57	48	37	40	35	32	27	425
	Expected as Snow	93	96	89	64	12.5	0	0	0	3	43	78	98	48%

The Gwillim basin is continually buffeted by westerly winds which can create white-capped waves over portions of the lake and chilly conditions for boating and shore activities.

Snow depths have been poorly recorded in the Gwillim lake vicinity but are presumed to average between one and three metres.¹

¹Resource Analysis Branch. Preliminary Environmental Report on Northeast, Coal, 1977.

1.3.3 Water Resources

The waters of Gwillim Lake have been sampled and analysed as being well suited for water recreation. The deep blue, clean water is certainly one of the more aesthetic attributes of the Gwillim basin. Compared to other lakes in the Peace River district, water quality at Gwillim Lake is far superior.² Parks located on Charlie Lake, Moberly Lake and Swan Lake do not have the attraction of equally high water quality as does Gwillim Lake Park. Much of this is due to the freshwater sources of the lake; Trapper Creek, Meikle Creek and Gwillim River all have their source in relatively unspoiled basins.

During the spring freshet, flooding often occurs along the lakeshore and particularly at the mouths of inflowing creeks. At this time, increased turbidity can impair the scenic quality of the water; however, as the season progresses clarity soon returns.

1.3.4 Vegetation

The foothills of the Rocky Mountains are generally classified within the Boreal White and Black Spruce biogeoclimatic zone.³ Higher elevations, such as those found immediately to the north of the Park, support species of the sub-boreal White/Englemann Spruce and sub-alpine fir zone. (Figure 5)

Within these two broad classes however, micro-habitats exist for the maintenance of diverse coniferous and deciduous species. Lodgepole pine, aspen, birch and cottonwood stands are characteristic of lower elevations with southern exposure. The heavy deciduous composition creates a colourful autumn display. On colder, north-facing slopes lodgepole pine and black spruce dominate with little or no deciduous cover. Low, wet localities throughout the Park are vegetated by willow, alder and associate species.

² Ministry of Environment field tests - May 1976

Ministry of Environment interpretations - December 1982

³ Youds - Natural Regions and landscapes for the BC Parks System, 1981
R.A.B. - Preliminary Environmental Report on Northeast Coal, 1977

Figure 5

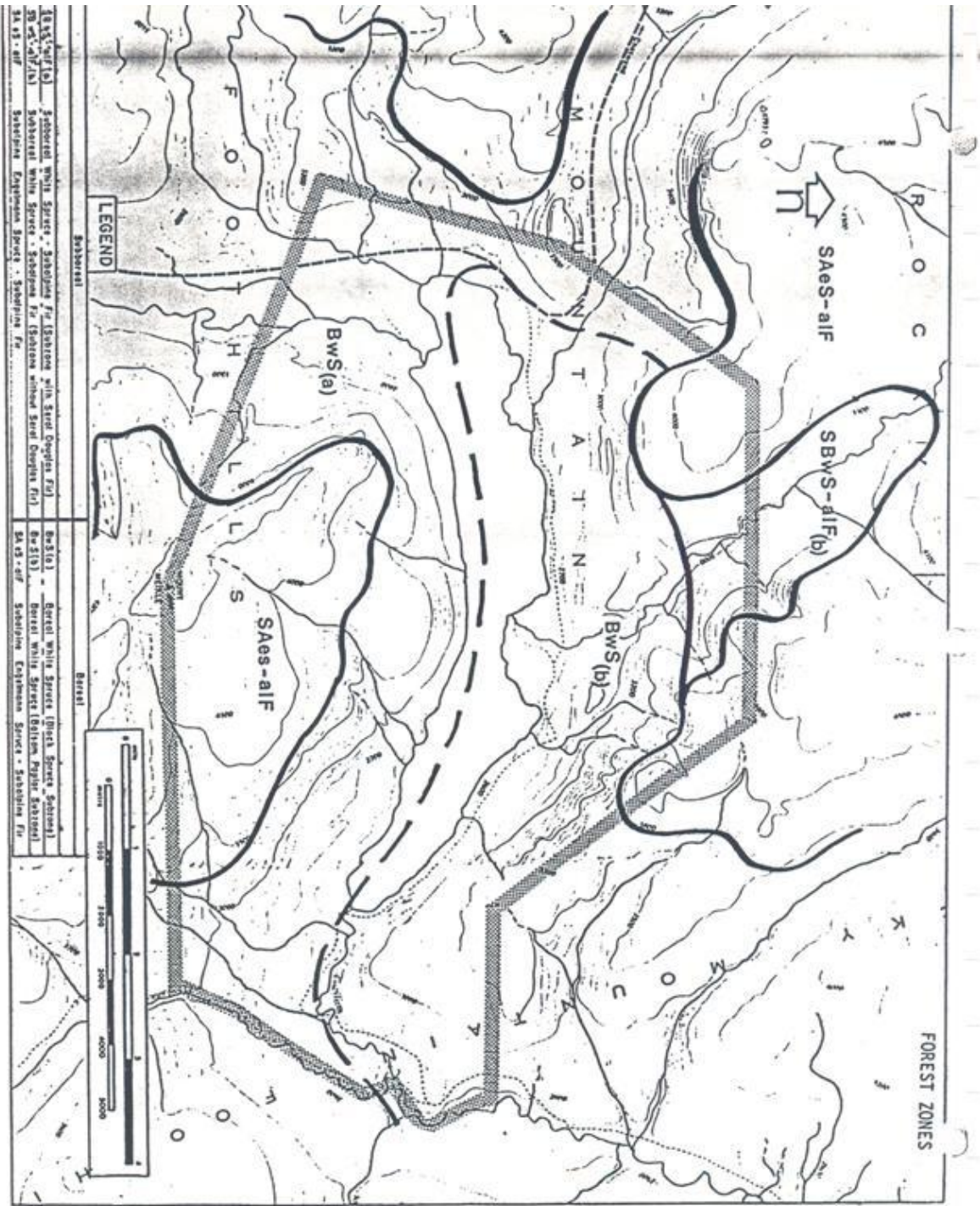


Figure 5

1.3.5 Wildlife

The area surrounding Gwillim Lake hosts a variety of wildlife typical to north-eastern British Columbia. Large ungulates such as moose and deer may be viewed within the Park. Several species of small furbearers also exist in and around Gwillim Lake. (See Table 2)

Although lacking the nutrient level to sustain large populations of sportfish, the lake does nonetheless contain a large variety which are well suited to recreation. The gravel beds of inflowing creeks provide spawning grounds for trout, whitefish and grayling.

Generally, the summer season provides greater opportunity for viewing wildlife within the Park. Important winter range does exist on the south facing slopes near the east end of the lake. The associated flats are extensive enough to provide good winter browsing conditions for moose and other ungulates. (Table 2)

1.3.6 Cultural Resources

Much of the region in and around Gwillim Lake has been comprehensively examined for archaeological significance. Six localities of known or anticipated importance have been identified within the Park. Of interest was the discovery of several basalt and chert* flakes around the western end of the lake, including the fan of Gwillim Creek. (Figure 6). These flakes indicate that historic Indian bands, Sikanni and Cree, had seasonal hunting camps along the shores of the lake. Further archaeological research may be undertaken to determine the extent and relative importance of these sites

* A flint like form of quartz

TABLE 2

Wildlife Populations in Gwillim Lake Park			
Type	Species	Comments	Occurrence
Sport Fish	Lake Char (Trout)	Fall Gravel Spawner	Common
	Dolly Varden Char (Trout)	Fall Gravel Spawner	Common
	Mountain Whitefish	Fall Creek Spawner	Common
	Artic Grayling	Spring Cold stream Spawner	Common
	Northern Pike	Spring Lakeshore Weed Spawner	Common
	Burbot	Fall Creek Spawner	Common
Land Mammals	Moose	Mod. To High Habitat Capability	Summer Common
	Mule Deer	Rarely Recorded	Scattered
	Elk	Rarely Recorded	Rare
	Caribou	Rarely Recorded	Rare
	Mountain Goat	Reported on Elephant Ridge	Rare
	Wolf	Near. E. End Winter Range	Scattered
	Black Bear	Sub-Boreal/Alpine Zones	Common
	Grizzly Bear	Alpine Area N. of Park	Rare
	Beaver	Beaver Lodges on N. Shore	Common
	Other Furbearers	Coyote, Fisher, Fox, Lynx, Marten, Squirrel, Muskrat	
Birds	Waterfowl	Some Range at East End	Rare
	Grouse	Ruffed and Spruce	Common
	Canada Jay	Timbered Areas	Common
	Songbirds	A Variety of Species Exist	Common
	Raptors	Bald Eagles Nest Here	Scattered
Information Source: Ministry of Environment Assessment - 1980			

1.3.7 Visual Resources

The slopes surrounding Gwillim Lake present a natural feature of high scenic distinction (Scenic distinction is defined as an indication of the level of scenic quality, assessed using a combination of comparative elements seen in a landscape)⁴. Essentially un-manipulated by human activity, the forest stands of the park provide a natural vegetative cover and scenic vista to the observer. The panorama of the lake and valley gap provided from the highway is very distinctive relative to the visual terrain encountered elsewhere between Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge.

From within the Park there are several points which offer comparable views of the surrounding landscape. A natural open ridge meadow above the northwest shore of the lake provides a notable view of the entire west end of Gwillim Lake and beyond to Bull Moose Mountain. Similar views are available from several locations along the lakeshore, particularly the fans at Gwillim and Trapper Creek.

The entire basin of Gwillim Lake is visible from the water surface itself.

⁴ R.A.B. - Preliminary Environmental Report on Northeast Coal
Ministry of Environment, 1977

1.4 RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

The popularity of Gwillim Lake Park will be based on the retention of its attractive physical features in combination with the provision of good opportunities for outdoor recreation. The land and water interface of the Gwillim Basin is a pleasing break from the uniformity of surrounding landscapes.

Development potential of the outwash fans at Gwillim and Trapper Creeks is good, although constrained by summer storms and seasonal flooding from the spring freshet. Studies undertaken by Ministry of Environment Water Resources Branch have identified potential flood hazard zones for consideration during park development. Flood line mapping of the Trapper and Gwillim outwash fans clearly illustrates which areas are most susceptible to repeated flooding. The deciduous vegetation and park like setting of the fans are particularly attractive for campground and day-use activities. Southern exposures and natural gravel beaches compliment this potential.

Along the south shoreline, the physiographic character of the basin's steep, densely forested slopes and abrupt drop-off negates the feasibility of recreation development except in the vicinity of the Meikle Creek delta. Here too, the seasonal flooding potential is critical to formal development.

The fisheries resource of Gwillim Lake, of significant importance to Park users, is highly sensitive to improper management. The lakes oligotrophic character means that limited regeneration capabilities for fish populations exist, which may not sustain heavy recreational fishing pressures.

Throughout the northern Foothills region, climate patterns can effectively limit summer activities. Above average precipitation levels, combined with a shortened season and cool temperatures can severely constrain opportunities for outdoor recreation. At Gwillim Lake, bathing activities are restricted by uncomfortable water temperatures and a chilly eastward breeze. Sheltered inlets on the lee side of creek fans and at the eastern end of the lake provide good protection from the prevailing wind.

Winter conditions, although severe, do offer some opportunity for outdoor recreation. Dependable snow cover and the open under story of south-facing slopes allows unhampered movement through the sheltered forests of the Park on skis, snowshoes or by snowmobile.* The lake is well suited to ice fishing, however the sensitivity of fish populations must be borne in mind.

*Although regulated, snowmobile use is not presently controlled in the Park.

1.5 CURRENT SITUATION (also see Appendix 1)

Recreation potential at Gwillim Lake has been recognized since the early 1960's when U.R.E.P. reserves were placed on the eastern outlet of the lake and over the deltas of Gwillim and Trapper Creeks. In 1971, perceiving the northeast region's resource base and development potential, Gwillim Lake Recreation Area was established within the 22,700 acre viewshed of the lake*. At that time, designation as a Class A park was precluded by an active Petroleum and Natural Gas Permit.

The Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division installed basic facilities at the extreme west end of the lake in 1981 (Appendix 3). Approval was granted to School District 59 (Peace River South) in 1978 for the establishment of an Outdoor Education Centre on the Meikle Creek delta. This centre continues to represent the most active park use to date (appendix 4). A Use Permit was also granted for a resource exploration road at the extreme west end of the Park, maintained presently by Getty Oil Company.

In 1981, as a result of P.N.G. permit expirations, the 9,187 hectares of the basin were designated as Class "A" Gwillim Lake Provincial Park.

Currently under construction is the Chetwynd-Tumbler Ridge provincial highway, bisecting the western end of the Park. Park Use Permits have been issued to the Ministry of Highways for this project.

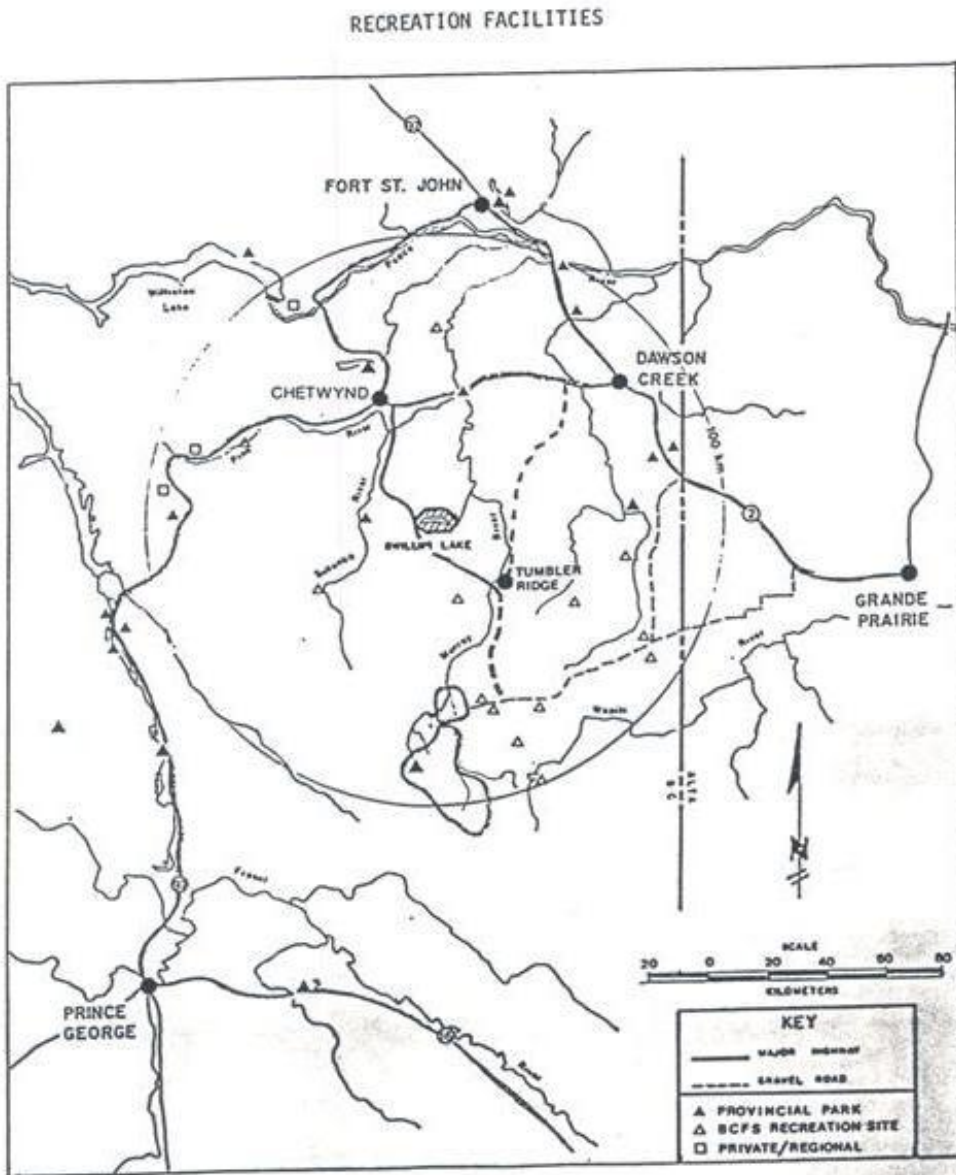
To date there have been no further modification made within the Park. It remains within the registered territory of three trappers and one guide-outfitter, although only, one trapper operates in the Park. Seismic lines, cut during the time of petroleum resource exploration, are still driveable by four-wheel drive. No mineral claims exist in the Park.

An overgrown shoreline trail exists on the south side of the lake. Two unsalvageable cabins are located at the west end.

*A viewshed defines the area visible from a given point, usually limited by topographic features such as height of land or ridgetop.

Figure 7
RECREATION FACILITIES

Figure 7



1.6 MARKET ANALYSIS

In its present state of development, Gwillim Lake Provincial Park receives limited use from regional residents. Hunters and fishermen make seasonal use of the westerly lake access and Park facilities provided, however, no figures are currently available. Although a former resource road along the Sukunka and Gwillim Rivers provided Chetwynd residents with dependable dry-weather access to the lake, during the 1982 and 1983 seasons this route is closed until major transportation route construction is completed. As a result, present recreational use at the Park is (temporarily) negligible.

Prior to the commencement of northeast resource projects, the Peace River District did not generate a significant level of recreational demand. Few public or private recreation developments exist within the south Peace River area (Figure 7).

There are ten provincial parks within a 100 kilometre radius of Gwillim Lake Park. Overnight utilization of selected parks is recorded in Table 3.

Many factors contribute to the variability of figures shown in the above Table. Unfortunately, monthly summaries do not reflect crowded weekend use or daily weather patterns. In particular, the reduced figures of the 1981 and 1982 seasons can be attributed to poor weather conditions. The 1979 records indicate higher recorded occupancies and, when compared to climate data for the same period, a correlation becomes obvious.

Forest Service recreation sites at various small bodies cater primarily to the fishing/hunting recreationist and to date, documentation of their use has been minimal.

TABLE 3

Summer Occupancy Rates of Selected Parks In The Vicinity of Gwillim Lake – 1979 – 1980						
Park	Campground Capacity (Parties)	Year	Month	Campground Occupancy (Parties)	% Capacity	
Charlie Lake Provincial Park	58 Parties	1979	June	1149	66	
			July	1759	99	
			August	1560	88	
		1980	June	1207	69	
			July	1669	94	
			August	1359	76	
	1981	June	1096	63		
		July	1604	89		
		August	1332	74		
	1982	June	981	56		
		July	1309	72		
		August	721	40		
Moberly Lake Provincial Park		59 Parties	1979	June	904	51
				July	1745	95
				August	1504	82
	1980	June	874	49		
		July	1526	83		
		August	1332	73		
109 Parties	1981	June	889	27		
		July	2075	61		
		August	1714	51		
	1982	June	906	28		
July		1965	58			
August		680	20			

Gwillim Lake maintains the attraction of an undisturbed setting with very good opportunities for recreational activity. The Park will certainly become the main source of lake-oriented recreation for the South Peace district. The 1981 census data for the immediate market area was recorded as 48,484 (vicinity of Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, Hudson's Hope and Fort St. John). The Regional District of Peace Liard projects the population to increase to approximately 55,000 for the same area by the end of 1986.⁵

Follow completion of the Chetwynd-Tumbler Ridge Highway and the new town itself, residents of the two communities will be able to drive to the Park within one half hour. Considering the quality of highway under construction, no access constraints will limit Park visitation. It can therefore be assumed that the potential for full facility utilization is high.

In combination with Gwillim Lake Park, the establishment and future development of Monkman Provincial Park at Kinuseo Falls will further enhance the recreational opportunities available to South Peace region residents and tourists. Monkman is a provincially significant Park which will become widely recognized for its uniquely scenic and varied landscape.

The result of new developments (N.E. Coal, Monkman Park) increased regional populations (Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge) and improved access will be an expanded market which can be expected to make abundant use of proposed facilities at Gwillim Lake Park.

⁵ Regional Population Forecasts - R.D.P.L. - 1978
Regional District correspondence

1.7 PLANNING ISSUES

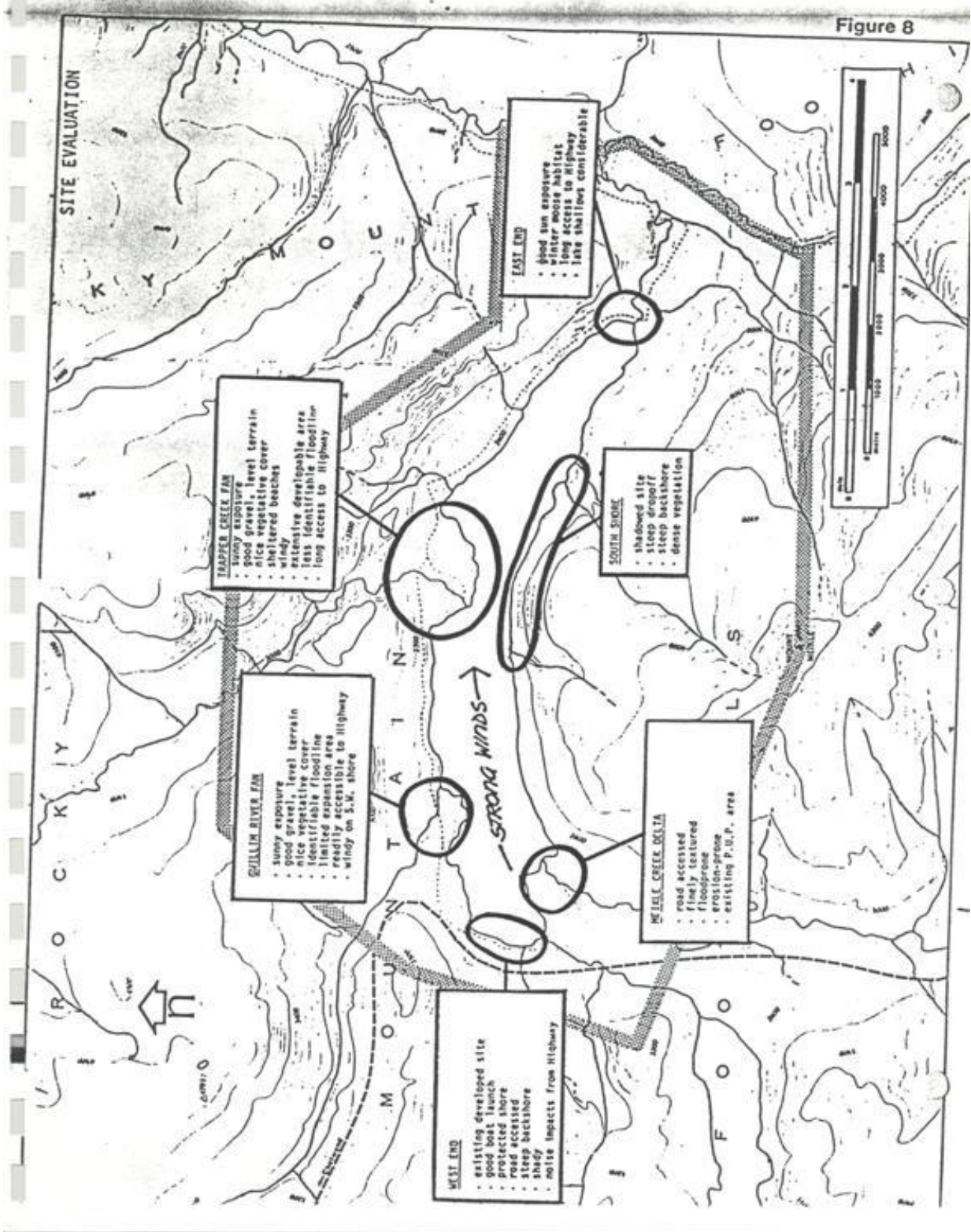
In Table 4 are listed the identified constraints and issues that this plan must accommodate. These constraints relate to various aspects of natural and cultural concerns which may have an impact on future management decisions.

Figure 8 illustrates the evaluation of various sites for facility development.

Table 4

Planning Issues and Constraints				
Issue	Particulars	Impact	Comments	Options
Land Tenure	1) Trapline along north shore of Gwillim Lake (P.U.P 1192)	-could conflict with proposed developments and/or winter recreational use of the Park.	-trapline may or may not conflict with the	1) relocates trapline 2) Cancel P.U.P. 3) avoid trapline in plans
	2) Outdoor Education Centre on Melkie Creek (P.U.P. 18)	-limits alternate locations for park development. - promotes park to regional students and families	-the centre enhances Park objectives for conservation education -poses some conflict to park management	1) allow unrestricted expansion 2) cancel P.U.P. 3) restrict P.U.P. area from expansion
	3) Highway right of way through west end of park (P.U.P 1142)	-provides high-quality, all weather access to the Park -introduces a negative noise impact to the park -conflicting park use	-retention of the R.O.W. in the park may lead to future permit problems and unnecessary administrative responsibility	1) Renew P.U.P. and subzone ROW as travel corridor 2) remove highway and right-of-way from the park
	4) Resource Road of Getty Oil (P.U.P. 1142)	-no physical impact on developable Park area - non-essential for park operation -provides good views of the lake -conflicts with park objectives for visual landscape retention	-the existence of the Resource Road does not seriously impair park plans but should be carefully monitored	1) Continue issuing the P.U.P. until company relinquishes rights 2) Cancel P.U.P. and enforce rehabilitation
	5) Licensed Guide/Outfitter 6) Legal Hunting	-one guide's registered territory extends into Gwillim Lake Park -hunting is temporarily restricted within Gwillim Lake Park and the entire N.E. Coal Block.	-hunting within the parks conflicts with non-consumptive recreation objectives	1) remove Park from registered territory 2) maintain status-quo 3) Design to meet flood hazard
Natural Features	1) Terrain must be well suited for campground and day-use facilities	- steep southern slopes limit selection of suitable development sites to flat, lakeside locations	-best to limit site selection to northern slopes because of aspect and vegetative cover	1) Flat, gravel-based creek deltas appear favourable
	2) Creeks within the Parks are subject to seasonal high water -creeks maintain irregular channels at their mouths	-deltas are often inundated by floodwaters -flooding could destroy P.O.R.D. facilities	-Gwillim Creek fan has been determined as the most stable delta	1) Identify floodlines 2) Select most stable site 3) Design to meet flood hazard
	3) Gwillim Lake is classified as oligotrophic, therefore not capable of providing sufficient nutrient levels for fish	-recreational fishing pressures could severely reduce the resource -shoreline development could damage spawning areas	- co-ordinated efforts between P.O.R.D. and the Fish and Wildlife Branch may help to the offset perceived problems	1) Identify appropriate mitigation methods 2) Maintain quality of spawning areas
	4) 20% of the Gwillim Lake watershed is important winter ungulate range. The shallow east end of the lake is prime number and winter moose habitat as well as summer waterfowl habitat.	-developments on the east end of the lake will impact negatively on moose populations and curtail waterfowl activities.	- negotiation of water crafts is difficult in the shallows of east Gwillim Lake	1) Avoid formal campsite development at East Gwillim Lake 2) Enforce snowmobiling restrictions and prevent harassment of wintering ungulates
	5) Prevailing, gusty, eastward winds are usually present in the Park	-cool breezes can be expected on the land at most times -dangerous boating conditions arise quickly on the lake -severe windfall hazards exist along exposed shorelines on the north side of the lake.	- it does not seem feasible to restrict use of the lake - blow down is of major concern for public safety	1) provide beach and picnic facilities on the leeward side of creek deltas 2) avoid areas of infirm trees susceptible to wind throw 3) restrict small craft use on Gwillim Lake 4) provide warning to small craft about water conditions

Figure 8



PART 2

2.1 PARK PURPOSE

Gwillim Lake Park will be managed to preserve its natural scenic landscape and will be developed to provide camping, day use and other outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and tourists of the Peace River area.

2.2 PARK OBJECTIVES

2.2.1 Conservation

“To preserve a scenic, natural landscape partially representative of the Rocky Mountain Foothills, for its aesthetic attraction and for providing conservation information and education.”

Park facility development will be concentrated in lakeshore areas at the western end of Gwillim Lake. Except for trail development, a majority of the Park will remain in a natural state. The outdoor education centre at Meikle Creek provides conservation education to regional students and should remain for this purpose.

Interpretive features within the Park include glacial and geological history, stream ecology, micro-climatic conditions and forest succession.

2.2.2 Outdoor Recreation

“To provide camping, boating, day use and other outdoor recreation opportunities for the expanded population of the Peace River District.

The lake's large size, excellent quality and attractive setting make it very appealing for boating and fishing. The south-facing, level creek fans are ideal for family camping and sunbathing.

Beaches of fine gravel provide opportunities for wading and swimming. A concrete ramp would improve water access for boaters. Aspen forests and small meadows along the north shore are ideal for hiking trails and viewpoints. The use of trapping trails can disperse recreational hikers along the length of the lake while a new trail could lead to the alpine zones of Elephant Ridge and Mt. Roberts which extend northward from the Park boundary. A trail at the east end of the park, from the lake outlet to the Murray River, would provide an opportunity to fish the lower Gwillim River.

Since much recreational activity at the Park will centre around the lake itself, the provision of water-accessed informal campsites during “future phases” of park development could enhance the boating experience.

2.2.3 Tourism

“To enhance the tourism infrastructure of the Peace River area, particularly the perceived tourist circuit of Chetwynd - Tumbler Ridge - Dawson Creek, through the provision of quality park facilities.”

The development of Tumbler Ridge and related resource activities, including greatly improved access from Highways 2 and 97, will open up a new area of the province to tourists. The provision of high quality facilities in a natural setting will make Gwillim Park an important tourist attractor. Outdoor facilities provided at the Park will compliment private developments in municipal areas. The Park will help, to diversify the regional economy by encouraging tourists to stay in the vicinity longer and providing information about other regional parks and attractions.

2.2 ZONING

Figure 9 illustrates the zoning scheme for Gwillim Lake Park.

A vehicle campsite, day use area and boat launch are proposed in the Development Zone located at the west end of the lake basin. In the vicinity of Gwillim Creek, high quality facility development will establish the park as a major supplier of outdoor recreation and tourist opportunities. The extension of this zone around the western basin indicates the direction for feasible expansion as well as recognizing the existence of current, non-conflicting resource and educational developments.

Within the remainder of the Park, the Natural Environment Zone, only intermediate levels of recreational opportunity will be provided. Management will be oriented toward the maintenance of a natural environment. Seismic lines will be left to revegetate naturally and only limited trail construction and development will be allowed. The containment of sensitive winter habitat and marshlands into this zone furthers the conservation objective established for the Park.

Figure 9



2.4 MANAGEMENT POLICIES

2.4.1 Resource Management

a) Land Management

Objective: “To manage the land for optimum recreation and conservation benefits.”

- Recreation facilities will be located at the western end of -Gwillim Lake; with no expansion to other areas within the Park.

- Conservation of the viewshed will be maintained by Park zoning. Impacts in the development zone will be kept to a minimum.

- Soils in the area are weak and prone to slumping. Appropriate measures will be implemented to avoid severe side-cutting of roads and trails.

- Upon completion of the highway, Ministry of Transportation and Highways legal surveys will be used to delete the right-of-way from park boundaries. Portions of the former Forest Road, then abandoned, will be rehabilitated by the Highway Construction Branch.

- P.O.R.D. will approach the Heritage Conservation Branch prior to site development so that they may assess the significance of identified, cultural resources and provide interpretive direction which may be used to further the objectives of the Park.

- Seismic roads existing within Park boundaries will be blocked to vehicular traffic.

- Dilapidated buildings within the Park boundaries deemed to be a public hazard will be removed.

b) Water Management

Objective: To manage water resources within the Park so as to maintain their highest quality.

- The water quality of Gwillim Lake must be protected from adverse upstream effects, as the sources of the feeding streams lie outside Park boundaries. Quality will be monitored on a regular basis and compared to baseline data collected prior to formal park development.

- Liaison will be maintained with other agencies to ensure that quality standards are met for recreation and wildlife.

- P.O.R.D. will ensure that sewage disposal systems within the Park do not contaminate water courses.

- All Park facilities, with the exception of a boat ramp, will be constructed above the recognized high water mark.

- The District Manager will ensure that all standards for water quality are being maintained by Park permittees.

c) Vegetation Management

Objective: To sustain a natural vegetative cover for recreation and conservation benefits.

- Throughout the Park, wild forest fires will be suppressed as soon as possible following detection.

- The severity of forest insect attack will be monitored and, if necessary, an effective control programme initiated after careful examination of feasible alternatives.

- Adequate vegetation buffers will be maintained to minimize windthrow hazard within the development zone.

- Hazard trees will be removed in accordance with park policy.

d) Wildlife Management

Objective: To manage Park wildlife for maximum recreation and conservation benefits while minimizing user conflicts.

- The fisheries resource of Gwillim Lake will be enhanced through a co-ordinated effort between the Fish and Wildlife Branch and the P.O.R.D.

- Within park boundaries, inflowing streams will be managed and protected exclusively for fish reproduction.

- Fishing regulation enforcement will be monitored and maintained in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Branch.

- Habitat sensitivity for wildlife at the east end of the Lake' will be further assessed. Access to this area may be restricted if necessary to protect the resource.

- Facilities in the development zone will emphasize bear-proof design and standard. Problem bears will be eliminated.

- The trapline which exists under Permit will be reviewed prior to renewal in order to determine its affects on recreational use of the Park.

- Access to the remote to the remote portions of the park will be blocked (Seismic lines).

- The Division will monitor hunting in the Park and if determined to conflict with non-consumptive recreational use will negotiate a closure with the Fish and Wildlife Branch.

- The park will be removed from the guide-outfitter's territory in accordance with Division policy.

e) Visual Management

Objective: To manage and maintain the visual landscape of the Gwillim Lake basin in a natural state.

- No developments in the Natural Environment Zone will be allowed to impair the quality of the existing landscape.

- A comprehensive fire management plan for the Park will be formulated in co-operation with the M.O.F. and recognizing the visual quality objective. Fire suppression will stress hand and water methods which minimize mechanical disruption of the landscape.

- Areas will be provided at appropriate locations for tourists and recreationists to view panoramas available from the Park.

2.4.2 Visitor Management

1) Recreation Facilities

Objective: To provide Park visitors with high quality facilities allowing camping, day-use and lakeshore activity.

- An access road will be constructed to link to the proposed development area with the Chetwynd-Tumbler Ridge Highway. This road will follow a scenic approach to the main park facilities.

- An auto-oriented campground will be developed to accommodate overnight users and will contain essential support and sanitation facilities.

- Gwillim Creek will be studied as a source for water supply to the campground

- A boat ramp will be constructed

- A location will be designated for organized group camping and away from the main campground. Existing park developments at the west end of Gwillim Lake are appropriate for this use.
- A beach will be developed with backshore areas for picnicking and sunbathing.
- Shoreline trails will be developed.
- A major viewing area with appropriate services will be constructed along the access road and will provide unrestricted viewing of the Gwillim Lake Basin.

2) Information and Interpretation

Objective: To interpret the Parks natural features to visitors and provide information about other parks and attractions within the Peace River District.

- An interim interpretive plan for Gwillim Park will be prepared which relates to the natural features and processes within the south Foothills area.
- Information relating to other Parks and regional attractions will be provided.

3) Special Uses

- Appropriate warning information will be provided to boaters regarding water conditions.

Objective: To permit special uses which do not diminish the recreational experience of park visitors or conflict with park objectives.

- The Peace River South School District will maintain an outdoor education centre on the Meikle Creek delta under Park Use Permit. Expansion of the permit area will not be allowed. In the event of severe flooding, consideration will be given before re-establishment of the centre is permitted near its present site.

Figure 10

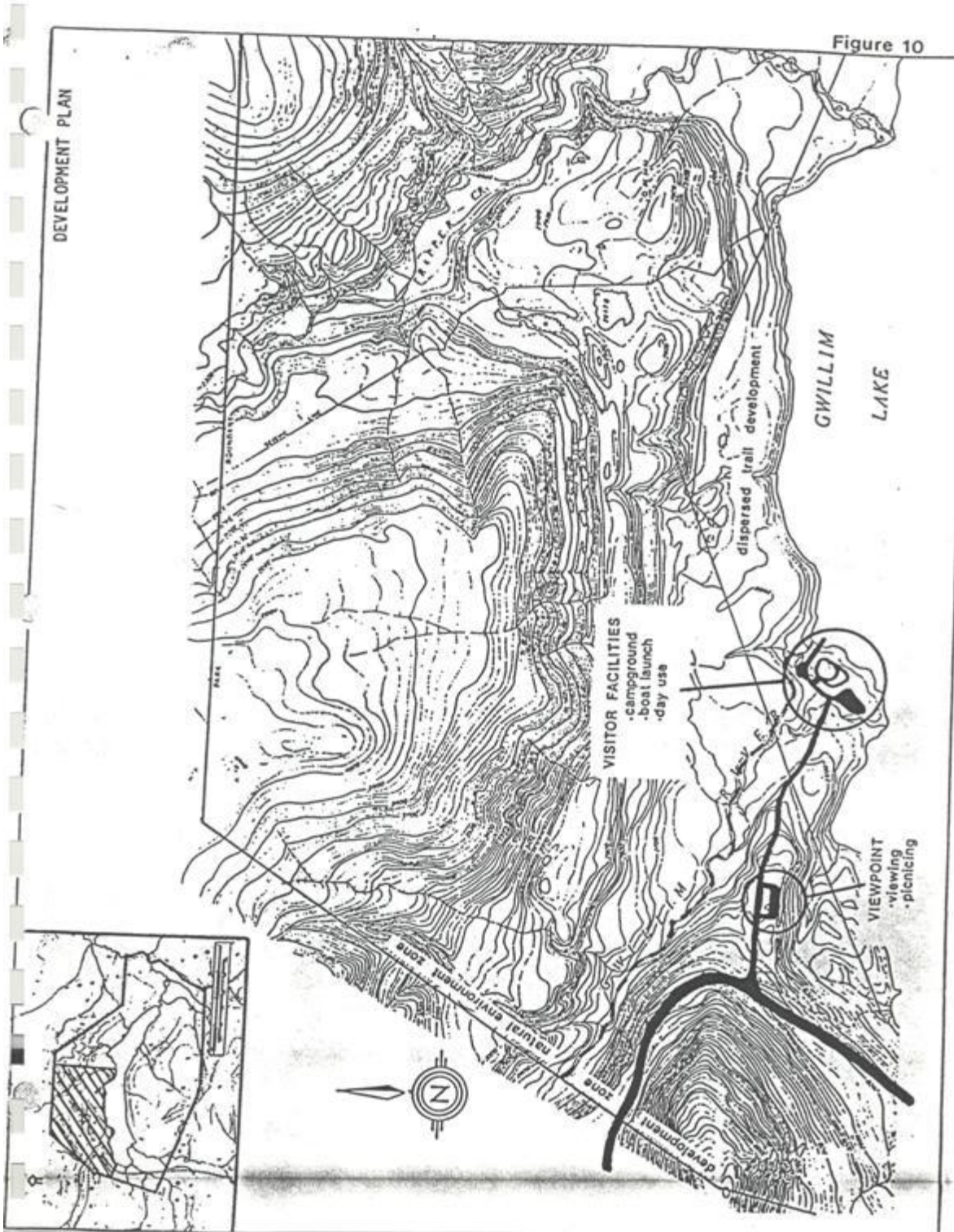


Figure 10

Gwillim Lake Park is expected to become a primary destination park for the residents of the Peace River District. Facilities will be developed to provide:

- 15000 camping opportunities per season
- 7000 boating party opportunities per season
- dispersed lake shore hiking and viewing

Immediate use of Park facilities will not reflect the level of proposed development. Until the community of Tumbler Ridge is fully populated and all highway construction is completed, the Park is not expected to receive full utilization.

Therefore, two distinct phases of development are proposed. Site design work has been completed by Victoria staff.

Phase 1

1) Access

An access road will be constructed joining the Park development area to the highway.

- Two lane, gravel surface of moderate grade
- Bridge across Gwillim River
- Appropriate park directional signs to be installed by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways.

2) Viewpoint

A major tourist viewpoint will be constructed adjacent to the Park access road where a natural meadow slope allows unrestricted viewing of the lake basin and south to Bullmoose Mountain.

- Parking facilities will accommodate thirty (30) regular and oversize vehicles.
- Pit toilets, picnic tables and an interpretive display will be incorporated into the design.

3) Campground

Phase 1 campground design will recognize eventual site expansion and include:

- 30 campsites each with Type 1 furniture
- 2 centralized garbage and firewood corrals
- 4 sealed vault pit toilets
- 2 water wells and handpumps

4) Boat Launch

Because of prevailing westerly winds, the boat launch ramp will be constructed on the lee side of Gwillim fan. This will provide relatively calm conditions for moorage.

- Built-up boat ramp of gravel and concrete
- Parking for 20 vehicles and trailers also to be used for day use parking during Phase 1.

5) Service Yard

The supply of maintenance facilities will be required in the first phase of development.

- A fenced, locked service yard with appropriately sized building for storage of service supplies and equipment.

PHASE 2

1) Access

- Paving of the road will be undertaken

2) Campground

A second loop of 24 campsites will be developed similar to and adjoining those of Phase 1.

- An additional centralized firewood/garbage corral

- 2 additional sealed vault toilets

- Trail access to the shoreline and day use area.

3) Day Use

The expanded populations of Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd will increase demand for day use facilities at Gwillim Lake within five years.

- Parking for approximately 50 vehicles will be provided immediately west of the campground

- 2 sealed vault pit toilets will be located above the highwater mark of Gwillim Creek

- Approximately 50 type II tables scattered randomly in cleared, grassed lakeshore areas will be provided.

- Natural windbreaks from westerly winds will be retained.

- A lakeshore trail will be constructed to join the boat launch, day use and group camping areas.

4) Service Residence

If required for the future, a site adjacent to the services yard will be identified for staff accommodation.

5) Hiking Trails and Boat Accessed Campsites

Once use patterns establish Gwillim Park as a popular destination point, certain trail routes may be developed.

- Trail routes will be identified and developed to Elephant Ridge and Mt. Roberts north of the Park.

- A lakeshore trail will be developed along the north shore, and to the lower reaches of Gwillim River.

Several locations along the north shore of Gwillim Lake are particularly well suited for boat-access camping.

- District staff will monitor lake use on a causal basis to determine the most popular boat-camping destinations. If future demand and use indicate a need for basic, informal facilities, such may be developed at the discretion of the District Manager.

6) Winter Use

No provision for winter facilities is included in this Plan. The main park gate will be locked following the first accumulative snowfall of the season. It is expected however, that local residents may use the Park during winter months, gaining access to the lake via the extreme west end of the lake. Snowmobiling will form a major portion of this use. Although restricted by Park Act Regulation, if approached by an organized snowmobile club, the Division will assess the merits of permitting such use in Gwillim Lake Park. Fish and wildlife recommendations will receive full consideration in this matter as sensitive moose habitat could be seriously affected.

Future demands for winter recreation facilities will be monitored and addressed within subsequent master Plans. Trails along the north shore and along Elephant Ridge may provide good opportunities for ski touring; however, the majority of regional residents are not likely attracted to this form of winter recreation.

2.6 MARKETING INFORMATION

Gwillim Lake Park will provide day use and overnight camping opportunities for the expanding market area associated with Northeast Coal developments. Appropriate measures will be taken to ensure that potential visitors are made aware of the outdoor recreation opportunities available within the park.

- The Park and facilities will be included on the Provincial Parks of British Columbia map produced in Victoria for free public distribution.

- The Park will be illustrated on the B.C. roads map.

- Other parks of the Peace River District will include Gwillim Lake Park on their standard information panels.

- Adequate signing along Highway 97 and the Chetwynd-Tumbler Ridge Highway can be expected to encourage Park visitation.

- Park information located at the Gwillim Lake viewpoints can be expected to entice potential visitors.

- An Omineca-Peace Regional Parks park brochure will be produced for distribution which will include Gwillim Lake Park.

- Appropriate municipal offices will be made aware of Park information in order to inform newcomers of Gwillim Lake facilities.

- 1) Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing, P.O.R.D., Victoria
Natural Regions and Regional Landscapes for the B.C. Park System, 1982
- 2) Ministry of Environment, Resource Analysis Branch
Outdoor Recreation Resources of the N.E. Coal Study Area, 1977
Outdoor Recreation Features Inventory, 1976
Visual Resources Report, 1976-1977
Preliminary Environmental Report on N.E. Coal, 1977
- 3) Ministry of Environment, Fish and Wildlife Branch
Reports 00 Gwillim Lake fisheries and wildlife - internal document, 1980
- 4) Regional District of Peace Liard
Official Plan and Population Forecasts - 1978
Correspondence, 1982
- 5) P.O.R.D. Omineca-Peace Region
Files and Preliminary Reports - Gwillim Lake Provincial Park

Appendix 1 Legal Status

Class A Provincial Park - established 1981
9187 hectares

Encumbrances:

PUP 1197 -School District 59 (Dawson Creek) Meikle Creek Delta
Outdoor Education Centre

PUP 1192 -Andrew Young - trapper

PUP 1162 -Getty Oil Canada
Access Road in western end of Park

PUP 1163 -Ministry of Transportation and Highways
Chetwynd-Tumbler Ridge Highway

Unpermitted -Waiter Schilling
trapping territory southwest of lake

Unpermitted -Robert Rosenau
Trapping territory southwest of lake

Unpermitted -W.E. Warren
Licensed guide territory covers the Park area

- no mineral claims within the Park

- no Division intention for park expansion at present

I. Environmental Characteristics

1. Location, Dimensions and Climate

- a north-westerly trending belt in the north-eastern portion of B.C.
- situated between the Hart and Muskwa Ranges the Rocky Mountains and the Alberta Plateau
- the Foothills are parallel to the Rocky Mountains and, outside of B.C., extend much further south than their southerly limit (approx. 54°N. lat.) in this province.
- the Northern Foothills Region is roughly 720 km long and varies between 20 and 75 km wide.
- Climate Dfc and ET (after Koppen)
 1. UFC: -most significant
 - micro thermal sub alpine with moderate snow cover over (mostly) frozen ground; severe winter; annual total ppt. 41-183cm.
 2. E.T.: - annual total precip. Variable, 70-280 cm; short vegetative Season; moderate snow cover over frozen ground; severe Winter.

2. Physiographic Characteristics

- a series of distinct, north-south ridges and peaks.
- peaks and ridges are serrate and unforested (alpine).
- transition belt between the Rocky Mountains and the Alberta Plateau.
- entirely underlain by sedimentary rocks of Mesozoic Age (63-230 million years)
- rocks are folded about northerly and north-westerly trending axes and are cut by south-westerly dipping thrust faults.
- there is a notable lack of uniformity east-west across the foothill belt
- bedrock differences
- degree of folding and faulting diminishes eastward.
- highest peaks and ridges occur where resistant quartzite or silty limestone are prominent.
- lower peaks and valleys are eroded in the softer interbedded shales.
- ridges and peaks average 2,000 to 2,300 metres a.s.l.
- moderate relief overall; some spectacular relief similar to Rocky Mountains
- the foothills adjacent to the Hart Ranges (south of the Peace River) display lower average summits (than northern portion), are less distinctly organized into parallel ridges and the peaks are more often rounded than serrate.
- the Foothills display landforms only slightly modified by glaciation.

3. Hydrologic Characteristics

- structurally-controlled trellis drainage pattern.
- very few lakes but those that do occur average 10-20 sq. km and tend to be elongated east-west
- largest lake is Gwillim Lake
- many of the lakes and streams are at least partially charged by glacial meltwater.
- some permanent glacial ice.
- year-round snow patches on the higher summits (above 200 metres)
- major rivers tend to flow eastward cross the Foothills belt, while tributaries tend to occupy the structurally controlled north-south valleys.

4. Biotic Characteristics

- structurally-controlled trellis drainage pattern.
- very few lakes but those that do occur average 10-20 sq. km and tend to be elongated east-west
- largest lake is Gwillim Lake
- many of the lakes and streams are at least partially charged by glacial meltwater.
- some permanent glacial ice.
- year-round snow patches on the higher summits (above 200 metres)
- major rivers tend to flow eastward cross the Foothills belt, while Tributaries tend to occupy the structurally controlled north-south valleys.

II. Regional Landscapes

In British Columbia the Rocky Mountain Foothills only occur north of 54°N Latitude. South of this latitude, the foothills are entirely within Alberta. Therefore, there is considered to be only one foothills landscape in B.C.

Northern Foothills

- consist of numerous parallel ridges aligned northwesterly.
- most ridges are discontinuous, being perhaps only 10-50 km long.
- the foothills consist largely of sedimentary rocks of Cretaceous age (younger than the Rockies)
- varying degrees of ruggedness: southward, the ridges and summits are frequently rounded and wooded: north of the Peace River, the ridges display serrate profiles and the extensive exposures of stratified bedrock typical of the rocky mountains.
- broad valleys.
- trellis drainage pattern.
- biogeoclimatic zonation:
 - Alpine Tundra (small percentage)
 - Spruce-Willow-Birch (most dominant)
 - Boreal W. + B. Spruce (valley bottoms)
- Current Representation (1982):
 - Gwillim Lake R.A., partial
- Priority for additional representation: moderate.

APPENDIX 3
 BIOGEOCLIMATIC ZONES OF B.C.
 SOURCE: Ecological Reserves of British Columbia

APPENDIX 3
 BIOGEOCLIMATIC
 ZONES OF B.C.

BIOGEOCLIMATIC ZONES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BIOGEOCLIMATIC FORMATION Name and Symbol	Climate after Hoggan	BIOGEOCLIMATIC REGION Name and Symbol	Climate after Hoggan	BIOGEOCLIMATIC ZONE		BIOGEOCLIMATIC SUBZONE			
				Name and Symbol	Climate (Characterization after Hoggan)	Symbol	Major cause		
I. Alpine (A)	I	1. Alpine (A)	I	(1) Alpine Tundra	II alpine tundra annual total precipitation variable, 70-200 cm [18-18°]	IIa (Maritime)	more moist and longer duration of snow, very short vegetation season, water readily available		
				IIb (Continental)	lighter snow and shorter duration of snow, longer vegetation season, water shortage may take place				
II. Mesothermal (Intermediate) Forest (MFP)	II	2. Pacific (Mak) Subalpine Forest (MSP)	IIa	(1) Maritime Mak	mesothermal subalpine with heavy snow cover near collapsed ground, winter not severe, annual total ppt: 130-150 cm [10-10°]; number of months above 10°C: 1-6	IIIa	lower elevations of the zone, shorter duration of snow, longer vegetation season, viable forest stands		
				IIIb	higher elevations of the zone, longer duration of snow, shorter vegetation season, forest perennials				
		3. Canadian Temperate Subalpine Forest (CCSP)	IIb	(1) Engelman Temperate Subalpine Forest (ESPF)	IIIc	mesothermal subalpine with moderate snow cover near [mostly] frozen ground; winter not severe, annual total ppt: 110-120 cm [10-22°], longest summer "dorm" less than 20 hours long, summer nights un- der starless overcast frequently with frost, which is alleviated by conifers; number of months above 10°C: 1-3	IIIcM	10-15°m # Lower elevations	
						IIIcS	15-22°m # Upper elevations		
				(2) Spruce - fir (SFF)	IIIe	mesothermal subalpine with moderate snow cover near frozen ground and in high latitudes much of N.E. in British (over 50°N) with permaf- rost; winter not severe, annual total ppt: 100-120 cm [10-10°]; summer "dorm" long (up to several weeks); summer nights with twilight (or more slightly dimmed twilight) at midnight, usually without frost under starless, white, overcast conditions; number of months above 10°C: 1	IIIeM IIIeS	lower elevations 12°-10°-10°m upper elevations	
						IIIeM IIIeS	lower elevations upper elevations		
		4. Canadian Temperate Forest (CTF)	IIc	(1) Mixed Forest (MFF)	IIIc	mesothermal continental forest with moderate or light snow cover near deeply frozen ground; winter not severe, number of months below 0°C: 3-5, growth of trees poor; annual total ppt: 15-120 cm [10-10°]	IIIcM IIIcS	note: Great quantities of glacial outwash sediments along Peace, Nelson and other rivers create a com- plex mosaic effect; strip locally termed as "Peace River Basin - white spruce Parkland"	
						(2) Sub-forest (SUF)	mesothermal continental sub- forest with heavy snow cover; winter severe; number of months below 0°C: 4-12; growth of trees fair; annual total ppt: 60- 80 cm [10-10°]	IIIcM IIIcS	temperature variations only; N, W, S, E, S and North W and S
		III. Mesothermal (Intermediate) Forest (MFP)	III	5. Canadian Temperate Forest (CTF)	IIIa	(1) Cordillera Forest (CF)	Cordillera mesothermal continen- tal subforest in humid climate with winter snow and summer fairly moist; annual total ppt: 10-50 cm [10-10°]	IIIaM IIIaS	51°-50°-50°m (mountain) with climate fluctuations 53°-54°-55°m (mountain) with climate white spruce
						(2) Interior Forest (IF)	mesothermal continental sub- forest, winter cool, summer warm; annual total ppt: 10-120 cm [10-10°]	IIIaM IIIaS	annual total ppt: 10-120 cm [10-10°] 10-120 cm [10-10°]
(3) Coastal Forest (CF)	mesothermal continental meso- thermal subforest in humid, aber- ent cool, summer moist; annual total ppt: 10-50 cm [10-10°]					IIIaM IIIaS	annual total ppt: 10-120 cm [10-10°] 10-120 cm [10-10°]		
6. Canadian Temperate Forest (CTF)	IIIb			(1) Peace River (PR)	IIIc	continental cold subforest in mesothermal continental sub- forest with summer warm; annual total ppt: 10-30 cm [10, 4-15°]	IIIcM IIIcS	annual total ppt: 10-25 cm [10-10°] 10-25 cm [10-10°]	
						(2) Coastal Forest (CF)	mesothermal continental meso- thermal subforest in humid, aber- ent cool, summer moist; annual total ppt: 10-50 cm [10-10°]	IIIcM IIIcS	annual total ppt: 10-25 cm [10-10°] 10-25 cm [10-10°]
IV. Mesothermal (Intermediate) Forest (MFP)	IV	7. Pacific Coastal Mesothermal Forest (PCMF)	IVa	(1) Coastal Forest (CF)	IVa (see the notes [1]) Mesothermal marine subforest in humid with very summer; annual total ppt: 10-120 cm [10-10°]	IVaM IVaS	annual total ppt: 10-120 cm [10-10°] 10-120 cm [10-10°]		
				(2) Coastal Forest (CF)	IVa (see the notes [2]) Mesothermal marine subforest in humid with very summer; annual total ppt: 110-120-130- 140 cm [10-10°]	IVaM IVaS	annual total ppt: 110-120 cm [10-10°] 110-120 cm [10-10°]		

SOURCE: Ecological Reserves of British Columbia

APPENDIX 4

Existing Park facilities located at the west end of Gwillim Lake:

1 - Graded boat launch

5 - Dug pit toilets

4 - Undeveloped campsites with Type 11 picnic table

6 - Type 11 picnic tables

3 - Garbage barrels

ZONE	OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To provide for a variety of facility-oriented recreational opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -oriented toward maintaining high quality recreation and interpretive experience. -Intensive management may be required to ensure that high quality recreation and interpretive opportunities are maintained. -special design consideration generally required. -Intensity of developments and standard of facilities are variable and will relate to the objectives for the Park. -private motorized vehicles may be restricted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Intensive recreational facilities such as auto campgrounds, cabins, lodges, picnic areas, beach and swimming areas, nature houses, information buildings, downhill ski facilities, walk-in campgrounds. -ancillary facilities such as parking, sanitation, picnic tables, restaurants, may be included in this zone.
Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To provide for intermediate levels of outdoor recreational opportunities/use in a natural setting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -management will be oriented toward maintenance or restoration of the natural environment. -visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreational experience or to limit impact on the area. -designation of transportation modes may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails) -private motorized vehicles may be permitted. -Intensity of management and development will be consistent with moderate levels of recreational use. -visitor support facilities will be limited, and directed toward providing for public safety and minimizing user impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Development and use are consistent with the maintenance of natural conditions. Activities consistent with this zone would be: hiking, camping, canoeing, kayaking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, nature observation, horse back riding, picnicking, swimming, fishing, interpretation programs. -minimal facilities such as trails, shelters, hikers' campsites, portages, horse corrals, observation blinds, may be developed to complement these activities, but the emphasis of the development will be toward public safety rather than the encouragement of more intensive levels of use. -visitor facilities will be of a primitive nature.
Wilderness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To protect and preserve landscapes and resource processes. -To provide for low levels of recreational use in an environment where natural processes occur with a minimum of human interference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -oriented toward the protection and preservation of the area's atmosphere, environment or ecology, while optimizing recreational opportunities associated with the "wilderness experience". -unstructured visitor mobility. -visitor support facilities will not be provided, except where absolutely necessary to provide for public safety or minimizing user impact. -transportation limited to foot access, and non-motorized boats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -only minimal primitive facilities would be developed consistent with low intensity uses. Activities consistent with this zone include: camping, hiking, mountaineering, canoeing, kayaking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, fishing, nature observation. In some areas, hunting may be considered an appropriate use. In some cases, it will be necessary to allow the limited use of aircraft, motorboats, snowmobiles, etc. as important means of access for management or to permit reasonable public access into extremely remote areas. Sub-zoning and use permits can be applied to control these exceptions.

The South Peace School District (#59) maintains the following facilities at Gwillim Lake under P.U.P. 1197 (formerly R.U.P. 18)

Outdoor Education Center

- 5 – 16' x 20' cabins
- 1 – 16' x 26' workshed – powerhouse
- 1 – 34' x 48' classroom
- 1 – 14' x 18' sauna
- 2 – pit toilet bldgs.
- 1 – group fire pit

2 miles of gravel road with Meikle Creek crossing

Present Facility Use

- approximately 1300 students per annum
 - Grades 4-12; majority are grades 6-7
- Boy Scouts use the facilities occasionally

Sources P. O'Reilly

S.D. 59

Dawson Creek, B.C.