



Gwyneth Lake Park

Management Plan

February 2017



BC Parks

Gwyneth Lake Park Management Plan

Approved by:



Jeff Leahy
Regional Director
Thompson Cariboo Region
BC Parks

April 29, 2017
Date



David Ranson
Executive Director
Provincial Services Branch
BC Parks

April 28, 2017
Date

Management Vision

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

Gwyneth Lake Park provides a rustic camping opportunity in a secluded setting. Visitors use the campground as a base for hunting or exploring in the surrounding area by foot, mountain bike, ATV or 4X4. The lake continues to provide opportunities for wildlife viewing while hiking or camping, and year round angling.

The area continues to support healthy wildlife populations, primarily focussed on the productive wetland areas of the lake.

Table of Contents

Management Vision	i
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	3
1.5 Management Planning Process	3
1.6 Relationship with First Nations.....	3
2.0 Values and Roles of the Protected Area	3
3.0 Management Direction	4
3.1 Management Objectives and Strategies.....	4
3.2 Zoning Plan.....	6
4.0 Plan Implementation	8
4.1 Implementation Plan	8
4.2 High Priority Strategies	8
4.3 Plan Assessment	8
Appendix 1: Appropriate Use Table	9

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Context Map for Gwyneth Lake Park.....	2
Figure 2: Zoning Map for Gwyneth Lake Park.....	7

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this document is to guide the management of Gwyneth Lake Park. This management plan:

- articulates the key features and values of Gwyneth Lake Park;
- identifies the types and levels of management activities;
- determines the appropriate levels of use and development;
- clearly establishes the long-term vision and management objectives to be met; and
- responds to current and predicted future threats and opportunities by defining a set of management strategies.

1.2 Planning Area

Gwyneth Lake Park is 132 hectares in size and situated on the Hurley Forest Service Road approximately six kilometres south of the community of Gold Bridge, 70 kilometres west of Lillooet and 60 kilometres north of Pemberton (Figure 1). The park centres on Gwyneth Lake, a small (29 hectares), shallow, marshy lake with a six unit rustic campground. The park provides opportunities for fishing, camping, picnicking and hiking, and as a base for ATV and 4X4 touring in the surrounding area.

The park and surrounding area have been logged and are in a state of vigorous regeneration. Logging is the primary activity taking place on surrounding lands. The network of logging roads and trails is used by ATV and 4X4 users and snowmobilers.

Gold Bridge and Bralorne are the nearest communities to Gwyneth Lake Park.

1.3 Legislative Framework

This park was recommended through the Lillooet Land and Resource Management 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 (e.g., grazing, hay cutting) may be allowed to continue in certain Class A parks¹ but commercial resource extraction or development activities are not permitted (i.e., logging, mining or hydroelectric development).

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

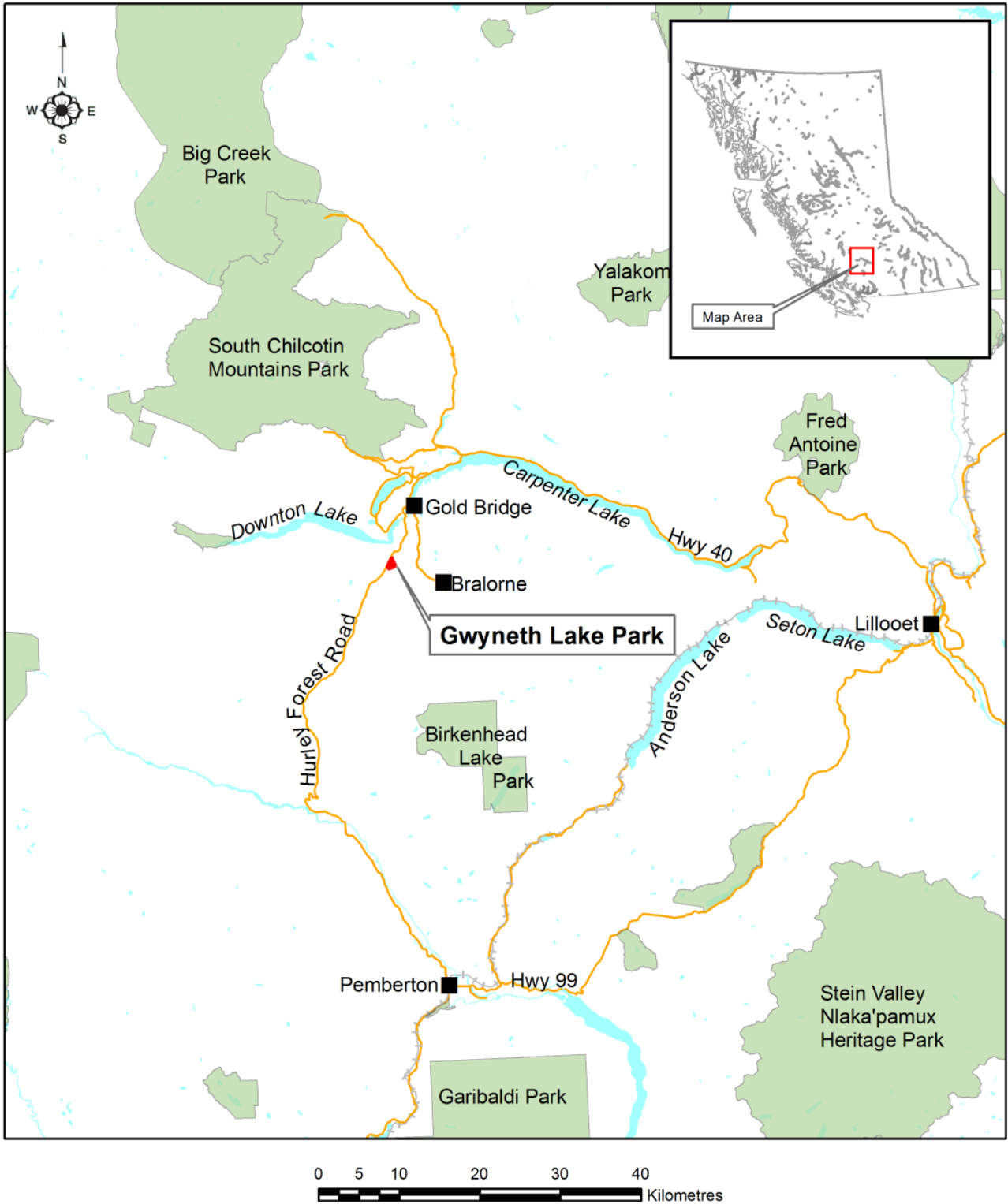


Figure 1: Context Map for Gwyneth Lake Park

1.4 Management Commitments/Agreements

The Lillooet Land and Resource Management Plan identified Gwyneth Lake as a small lake for destination and day use for motorists on the Hurley Forest Service Road and to be used for intensive recreation. The goal for the campground was to retain the present rustic condition.

1.5 Management Planning Process

BC Parks consulted with other government agencies, public interest groups, stakeholders and the general public in the development of this management plan. BC Parks obtained information on values, uses, present and future desired activities, the desired experience, public and commercial recreational use, issues and items needing management attention. Summaries of input from various groups were posted to the BC Parks website as they became available during the development of the draft management plan. Input received during the public review of the first draft was taken into consideration in the development of a revised draft management plan. A final public review was again provided, with input considered in production of this final management plan.

1.6 Relationship with First Nations

Gwyneth Lake Park is situated within the traditional territory of the St'at'imc Nation. BC Parks seeks an ongoing relationship with First Nations to find common interests and direction for the future management of Gwyneth Lake Park.

2.0 Values and Roles of the Protected Area

Gwyneth Lake Park is primarily a recreational stop catering to visitors travelling over the Hurley Forest Service Road from the Vancouver area. It provides a location to camp while participating in other recreational activities in the surrounding area, primarily hiking, hunting, touring roads in the surrounding area or visiting the communities of Gold Bridge or Bralorne. The six site campground is rustic in nature. Old forest access roads and skid trails provide an opportunity to explore the park and area beyond the campground.

Almost all of the park has been previously logged and contains numerous access roads and skid trails. The forest is now a vigorous, early to mid-aged second growth forest consisting largely of lodgepole pine, Englemann spruce and Douglas-fir.

Due to its small size, the park provides minimal representation to the Southern Chilcotin Ranges Ecoregion and the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification MSdc1 variant (Montane Spruce, dry, cold, submesic-mesic).

Gwyneth Lake is a small, marshy, shallow lake with an abundance of aquatic vegetation. Waterfowl are common on the lake, with some breeding occurring due to the

abundance of food in the productive shallow areas of the lake. The lake contains Rainbow Trout and is used by anglers year round.

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Management Objectives and Strategies

The park is considered a key element in the tourism economy of the community of Gold Bridge, giving visitors an opportunity to camp and explore the local area. The campground provides one option in the spectrum of accommodation types close to the local community of Gold Bridge. To encourage more visitors to the area, there is local interest in providing a higher standard of facilities, with possibly more sites becoming available while retaining the rustic, unstructured nature of the campground.

Old skid trails and roads in the park are becoming overgrown, gradually restricting hiking opportunities for campers. There is an opportunity to increase nature appreciation based upon trails, the lakeshore setting and wetland area.

Grizzly Bears are regularly observed in the general area and are considered a viewing attraction, although there is no specific site where regular viewing takes place. The presence of bears brings potential conflict, with the need for campers and day users to be more bear aware and to eliminate bear attractants.

Invasive plants are a concern due to the easy accessibility and use of the park.

Rainbow Trout spawn outside of the park in the outlet stream where there is marginal spawning substrate, making them susceptible to stream changes such as caused by beaver dams and tree falls.

Management Objectives	Management Strategies
Reduce or eliminate potential conflicts with bears.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure a high level of bear awareness and bear management strategies to prevent bears from habituating to human presence. Information (e.g., pamphlets, signs) on bears and other wildlife, and how to behave around them, should be available in the park. Ensure visitors practice proper storage of food and cleaning of fish. Consider provision of bear proof storage lockers.

<p>Provide a rustic campground with flexibility to cater to different visitor types.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve aging campground facilities (updated toilets, tables, fire pits) and site layout with the expectation to maintain a rustic and largely unstructured camping experience where campers are self-sufficient. Provide a site layout that provides a range of selection from more secluded sites for individuals to more open and nearby sites for small groups. • As usage indicates, consider expansion of the campground to a maximum of twenty sites. Expansion will be informed by bear hazard evaluations that will: 1) determine levels of bear use; 2) protect critical bear habitat; and 3) minimize the potential for bear-human interactions. • Provide hiking opportunities that allow visitors to experience park values and explore natural features outside of the campground. • Provide for hand launch car-top type boat access to the lake, restricting boat and motor size to those that can be carried in order to protect wetland wildlife and a quiet fishing experience. A small, rustic dock may be a consideration depending upon future use levels.
<p>Facilitate exploration of the surrounding landscape outside the park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow designated access for ATVs and snowmobiles from the campground to allowable use areas outside the park in order to minimize the potential for disturbance to areas used by wildlife.
<p>Prevent the establishment of new invasive vegetation species and control existing species from spreading to new areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the park for invasive vegetation species and implement appropriate preventative and treatment options where there are significant risks to park values.
<p>Support a continued successful Rainbow Trout fishery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage appropriate agencies to conduct a standard lake fisheries assessment to determine the productivity of the fishery. • Manage the lake and spawning habitat for a productive natural fishery. • Encourage the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations or other interest groups to monitor spawning areas outside the park and restore if necessary.

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.

Gwyneth Lake Park is highly accessible from all sides by Forest Service roads. The park is divided into two zones (Figure 2) that reflect the highest use area around the campground and the remainder of the park that will provide habitat for wildlife but still allow visitors to explore the park.

3.3.1 Intensive Recreation Zone

The objective of this zone is to provide rustic, vehicle-accessed camping opportunities. It comprises approximately 3 hectares, or 2.3% of the park, on the eastern shore of the lake with all of the park's limited recreational facilities and infrastructure located in this zone. Access for ATVs or snowmobiles along a designated trail or on the lake can occur.

3.3.2 Nature Recreation Zone

The objective for this zone is to protect scenic values and maintain the value of the area for wildlife habitat. Access to the lake is provided for year-round fishing. Opportunities are available for visitors to explore and observe the natural features of the park by boat or hiking trails. ATV use along a designated access route through the Nature Recreation Zone from the campground may be considered to access regularly used areas outside of the park. Snowmobiles can use the designated ATV trail or the lake. This zone comprises approximately 129 hectares, or 97.7% of the park.

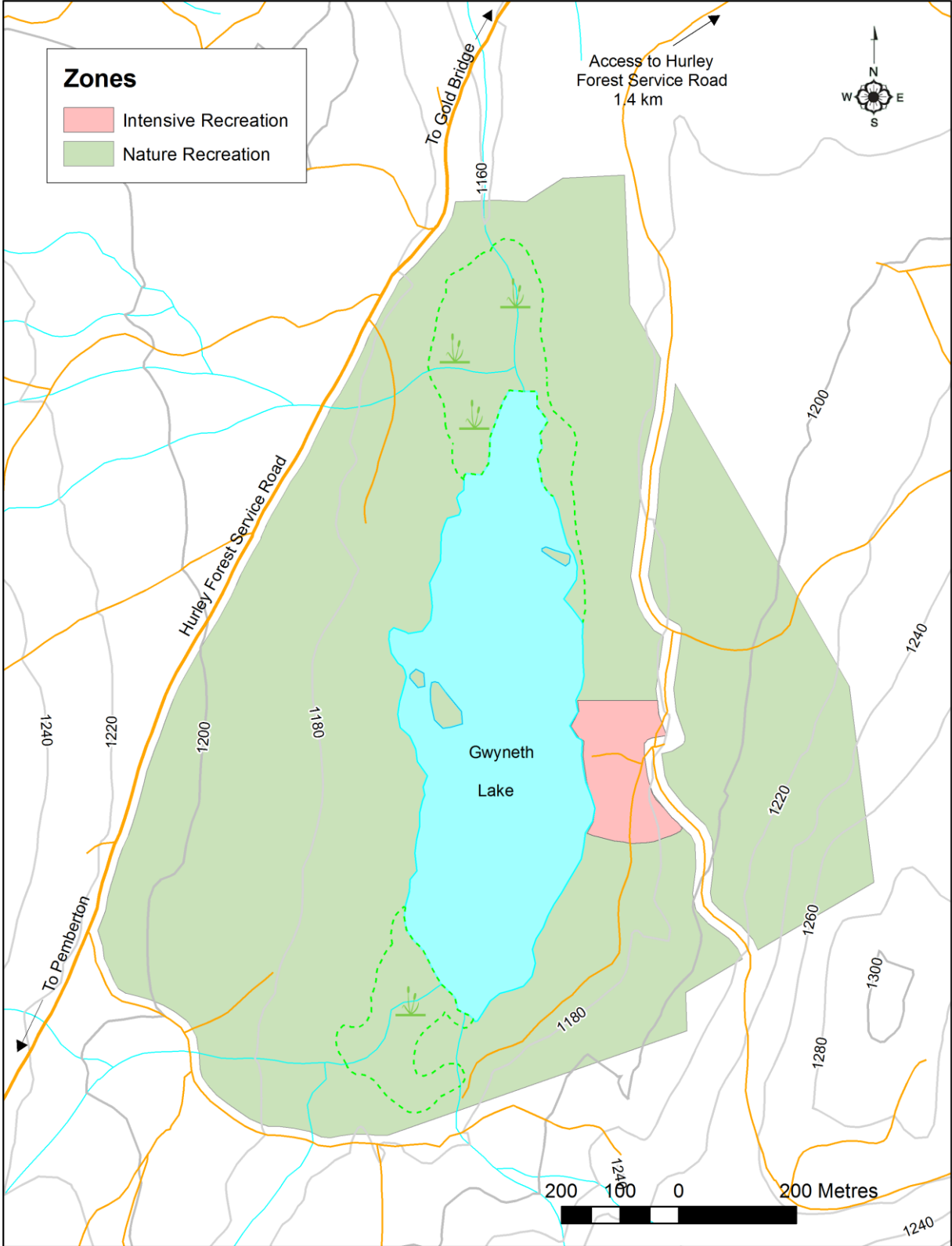


Figure 2: Zoning Map for Gwyneth Lake Park

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:

- Ensure a high level of bear awareness and bear management strategies to prevent bears from habituating to human presence. Information on wildlife and how to behave around them (pamphlets, signs) should be available in the park.
- Improve campground facilities with the expectation to maintain a rustic and largely unstructured camping experience where campers are self-sufficient.

4.3 Plan Assessment

In order to ensure that the management direction for Gwyneth Lake 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 Gwyneth Lake 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 park in the future.

Please note that many appropriate uses are geographically restricted (i.e., only allowed in certain areas of Gwyneth Lake 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.
N/A	Not an applicable use in this zone	Indicates where it is not feasible for the use to take place in this zone (e.g., mooring buoys in a terrestrial zone).

Activity/Facility	Intensive Recreation Zone	Nature Recreation Zone	Comments
Recreational Activities/Uses			
Aircraft Landing/Takeoff	N/A	N/A	Lake too small and shallow.
Boating (human powered and electrical)	Y	Y	
Boating (combustion engine)	Y	Y	Small horsepower only
Camping (designated sites)	Y	N	
Camping (wilderness style-undesignated sites)	N	N	
Fish Stocking	N	N	
Fishing	Y	Y	
Hiking	Y	Y	
Hunting	N	Y	
Land-based Mechanized Activity (e.g., mountain biking)	Y	Y	
Land-based Motorized Activity (e.g., 4x4, motorcycles, ATV-not including snowmobiles, snowcats or aircraft landings)	Y	Y	Designated access route only from campground to areas outside park in Nature Recreation Zone.
Horse and Pack Animal Use	Y	Y	
Skiing (downhill and cross-country track based)	N	N	
Skiing (backcountry)	Y	Y	
Snowmobiling	Y	Y	Designated access route only, or on the lake.
Recreation Facilities/Infrastructure			
Boat Launches	Y	N	Small boat hand launch only.
Boat Wharves and Docks	Y	N	Small dock to facilitate boat access to lake.
Cabins, Huts and Shelters (as defined in the Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy)	N	N	
Lodges (as defined in the Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy)	N	N	
Campgrounds (vehicle accessed)	Y	N	
Picnic Areas (vehicle accessed)	Y	N	
Designated Camping Sites (not vehicle accessed)	N	N	
Mooring Buoys	N	N	
Parking Lots	Y	N	
Roads	Y	N	
Trails	Y	Y	
Visitor Information Buildings	Y	N	
Other Activities/Infrastructure			
Commercial Filming	Y	Y	
Grazing	N	N	
Trapping	N	Y	