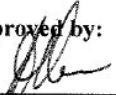


HAY RIVER PROTECTED AREA

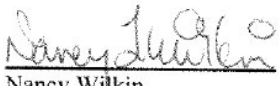
PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN Peace Region 2006

Approved by:



Andy Ackerman,
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division
Peace Region

Date: July 13 2006

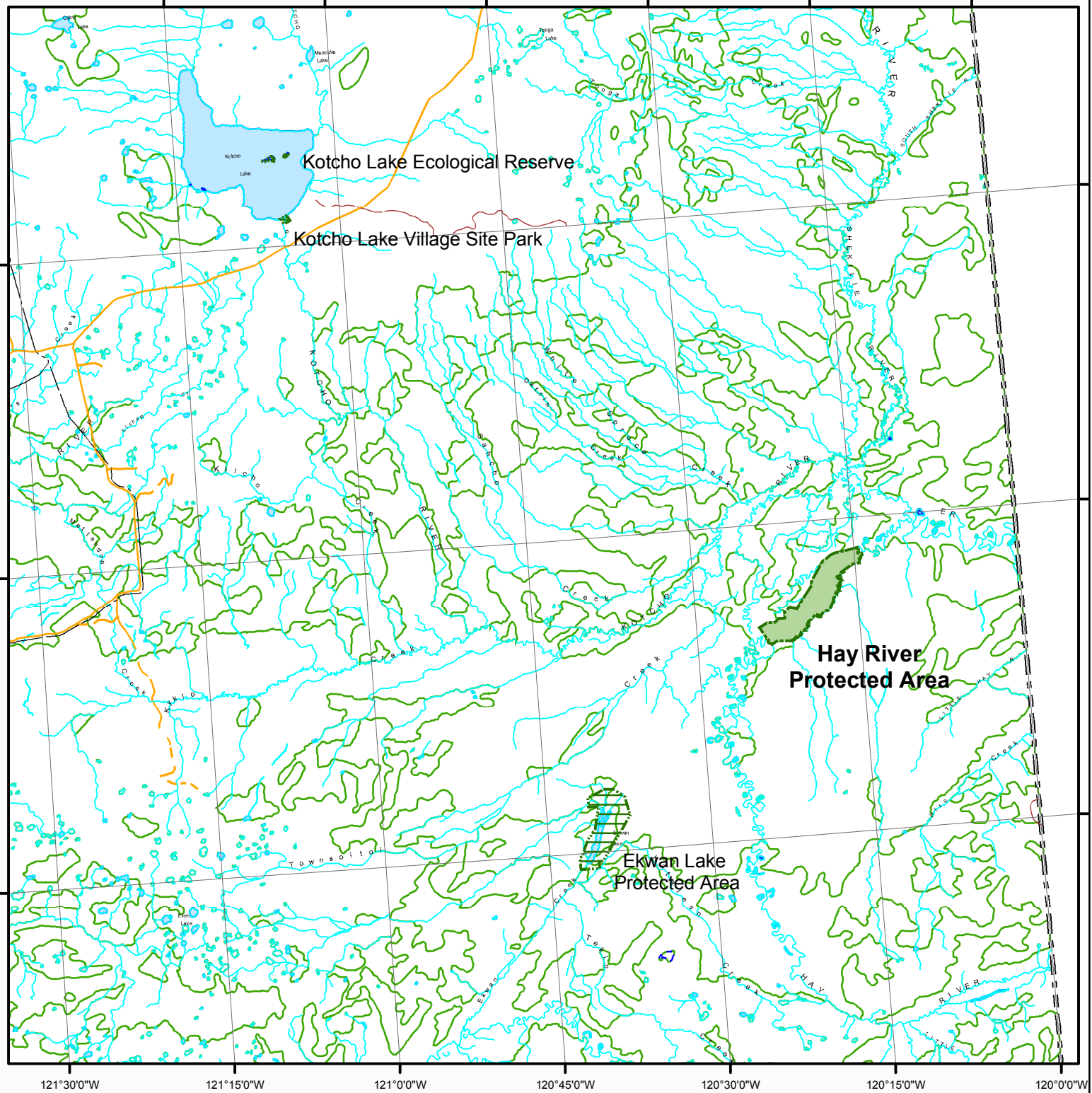


Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Sept. 15 2006





Figure 1: Regional Context

Hay River Protected Area



Projection: UTM Zone 10
Datum: NAD83

Produced in June 2006 for
Ministry of Environment
by Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Integrated Land Management Bureau

-  Subject Area
-  Other Protected Areas
-  Highway
-  Road

1:475,000
0 1 2 3 4 5
Kilometers



This is a visual representation
only and should not be used for
legal purposes

HAY RIVER PROTECTED AREA Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Hay River Protected Area is to protect a series of river oxbows within a representative example of the Fort Nelson Lowland ecosection. The area is characterized by very flat low-lying muskeg terrain with extensive wetlands, slow moving streams and numerous small lakes within the Boreal White and Black Spruce biogeoclimatic zone. Wildlife species common to wetlands and river corridors are found in this protected area, including moose, deer, caribou, wolf, black bear, coyote, beaver and river otter. The Hay River contains northern pike, walleye, inconnu, grayling and whitefish.

Hay River Protected Area is located approximately 140 km East of Fort Nelson and approximately 15 km from the Alberta border.

Known Management Issues	Response
The protected area has been identified as suitable for directional drilling to occur.	Work with Oil and Gas Commission and any oil and gas tenure holders to ensure that directional drilling does not disturb the surface within the Protected Area, result in inappropriate access, or otherwise impinge on protected area values.
Designation as a Class A Provincial Park: amendments to the <i>Park Act</i> in 2003 have enabled directional drilling to occur under Class A Provincial Parks, provided there is no surface disturbance or surface access into the park. Therefore, there is no longer any impediment to designating the area as a Class A Park.	Following consultation with local government, re-designate the area as a Class A Provincial Park if appropriate.
Possible improvement of an existing winter road near the park boundary to an all weather road in the future may increase access to the protected area	If the road is upgraded to all weather status, monitor for increased use of the protected area.
Oil and gas activity occurs on lands adjacent to the park	Work with the Oil and Gas Commission to ensure that resource development does not adversely impact protected area values
Lack of management presence	Increase staff presence in the protected area as resources permit.

Zoning

Hay River Protected Area is zoned entirely Nature Recreation. The objective of this zone is to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Representation
- ecosection

Conservation

Hay River Protected Area protects 2324 hectares of the Fort Nelson Lowland Ecosection. This ecosection is underrepresented in the protected areas system (just 0.47% protected). Hay River Protected Area makes a significant contribution to the representation of this ecosection, accounting for 20% of the protected areas system total.

biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Hay River Protected Area makes a minor contribution to the protection of the BWBSmw2 (Boreal White and Black Spruce mild wet) subzone. The protected area is one of 25 parks and protected areas containing this subzone, of which only 2.2 % is protected province-wide. Hay River Protected Area contributes 1.5% of total protected area representation of this subzone.

Special Feature

Rare/Endangered Values

Scientific/Research Opportunities

Historic range of wood bison. A few small herds exist south of Hay River but do not cross into the Hay River watershed at this time.

Recreation

Representation

Backcountry

Destination

Travel corridor

Local recreation

None known at this time.

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

Wildlife viewing

Cultural Heritage

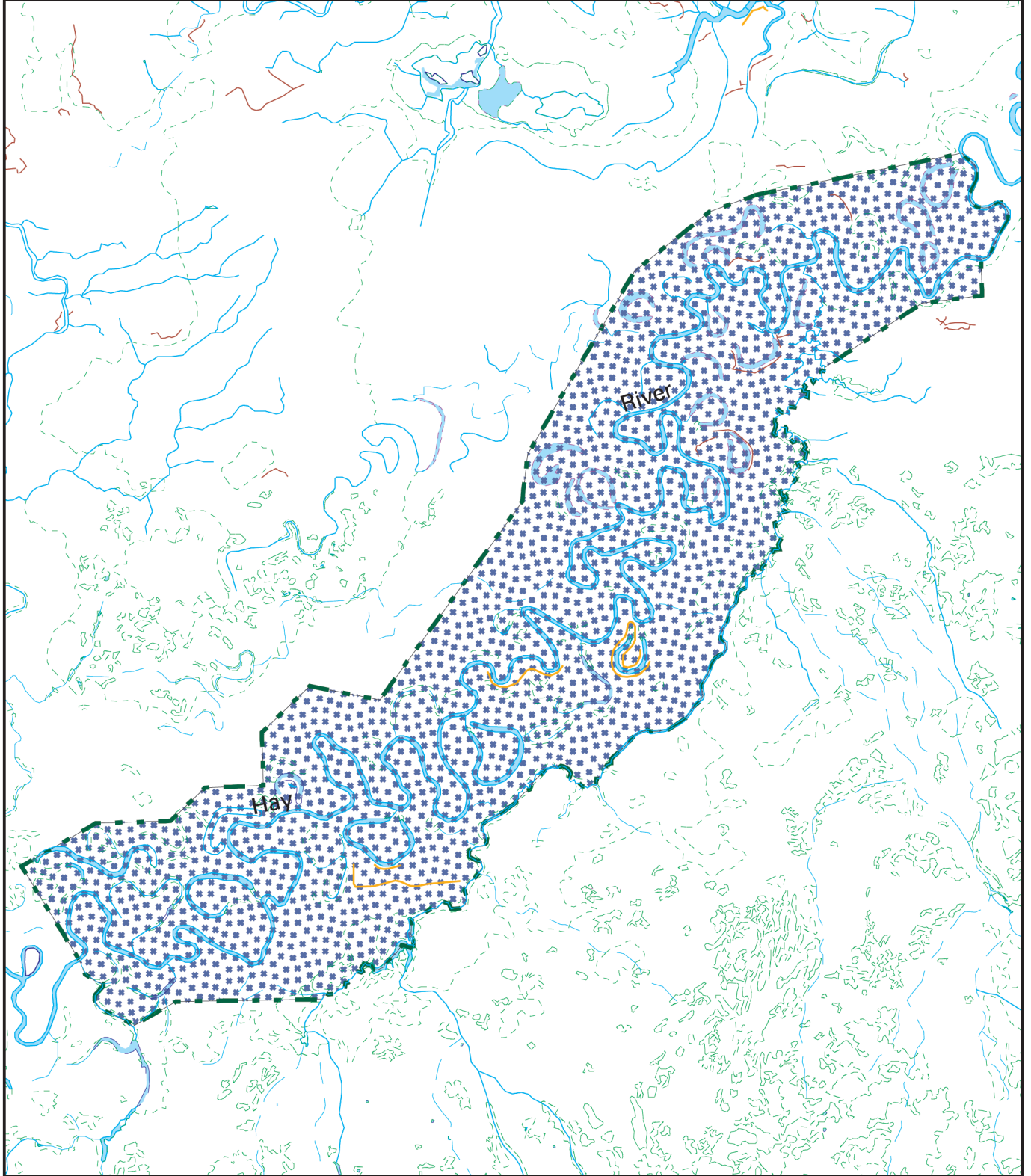
- Representation Unknown. This Protected Area lies within the area traditionally used by the First Nations of Treaty 8.
- Special Feature

Other Management Considerations

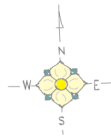
- Other Designations
- Relationship to other PAs
- Collaborative Management Arrangements This protected area will, upon signature of the Agreement, be subject to the Memorandum of Agreement respecting the management of provincial parks between the Government of BC and the Treaty 8 First Nations.
- Partnerships
- Vulnerability
- Relationship to other Strategies The Protected Area was identified as a Goal 2 (special feature) area under the Fort Nelson Land and Resource Management Plan. The plan identified the protected area as suitable for directional drilling for oil and gas.

Area: 2324 hectares

Date of establishment: March 30, 2001



Projection: UTM Zone 10
Datum: NAD83



Special Feature

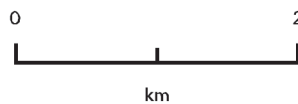


Protected Area Boundary



BCParks

Produced in Jun 2005 for
Ministry of Water, Land and
Air Protection by MSRM, Business
Solutions Branch



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