

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

June, 1999

**for High Lakes Basin
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

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



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APPROVALS

KAMLOOPS GOAL 1 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward

This binder contains 15 management direction statements developed under the direction of the Kamloops Land and Resource Plan Implementation Table and BC Parks. The government designated these protected areas in May, 1996. The 15 management direction statements provide strategic direction for these protected areas until management plans can be developed with full public involvement. Protected areas' roles, strategies and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, implemented through operations plans, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arrowstone Protected Area | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High Lakes Basin Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Earth Lake Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Momich Lakes Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon Jack Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clearwater River Corridor | <input type="checkbox"/> Porcupine Meadows.Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cornwall Hills Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Roche Lake Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dunn Peak Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Taweel Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elephant Hill Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Adams Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emar Lakes Park | |

Approved by:

District Manager
Thompson River District
BC Parks Division

Date:

98/04/30

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Division

Date:

99 10 25

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Purpose of Management Direction Statements

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

HIGH LAKES BASIN PARK

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context

The 501 hectare High Lakes Basin Park, situated about 16 kilometres west of Little Fort and 2½ kilometres north of Caverhill Lake on the Nehalliston plateau, has important fish conservation values. Access is by foot or horseback from Caverhill Lake area. This protected area was recommended through the Kamloops LRMP process and formally established on April 30th, 1996 as a provincial park through Order-in-Council under the *Environment and Land Use Act*. Subsequently, the park was designated under Schedule E of the *Park Amendment Act, 1997*.

This Management Direction Statement is intended to provide direction and guidelines for managing High Lakes Basin Park until a more comprehensive management plan is developed for the area.

II. Protected Area Values

A. Conservation

- wild stocks of fish in a small group of medium-sized lakes
- small representative ecosystem of Engelmann Spruce-Sub-alpine Fir forest on the Nehalliston plateau

B. Recreation and Tourism

- fishing for wild trout in a choice of walk-in lakes
- opportunities for hiking, horse use and hunting

C. Cultural Heritage

- unknown; on First Nations travel route from Lac des Roches to the North Thompson valley

D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- a small group of lakes with wild fish stocks, unusual in the interior
- High Lakes Basin Park is regionally important for its recreation and conservation values

III. Other Land Uses and Interests

A. Existing Tenures

- park designation under the *Park Amendment Act, 1997* ensures that all existing liens, charges, and encumbrances other than those applying to commercial logging, mining or energy exploration and development will continue to be authorized through

issuance of park use permits. This policy recognizes all existing trapping licences and other legal tenures and rights.

- park designation provides for continuance of existing grazing under administration and management of the *Range Act*

B. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- relatively undisturbed around the perimeter with logging roads and clearcuts about 2 kilometres away on northeast and northwest
- summer grazing

C. First Nations Interests

- unknown

D. Other Agency Interests

The park will be managed in close co-ordination with various resource agencies, particularly BC Environment and Ministry of Forests.

- Ministry of Forests manages grazing use

E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- nearby resort operations bring their clients into the High Lakes Basin for wilderness fishing opportunities

IV. Park Role Statement

High Lakes Park is regionally important for its recreation and conservation values. The subalpine-forested setting of lakes contributes to the representation of the Northern Thompson Uplands Ecoregion. The park provides a small pocket of protected wilderness for walk-in or horseback access fishing opportunities for native rainbow trout.

V. Management Issues and Concerns

A. Integration With Other Land Use Planning Processes

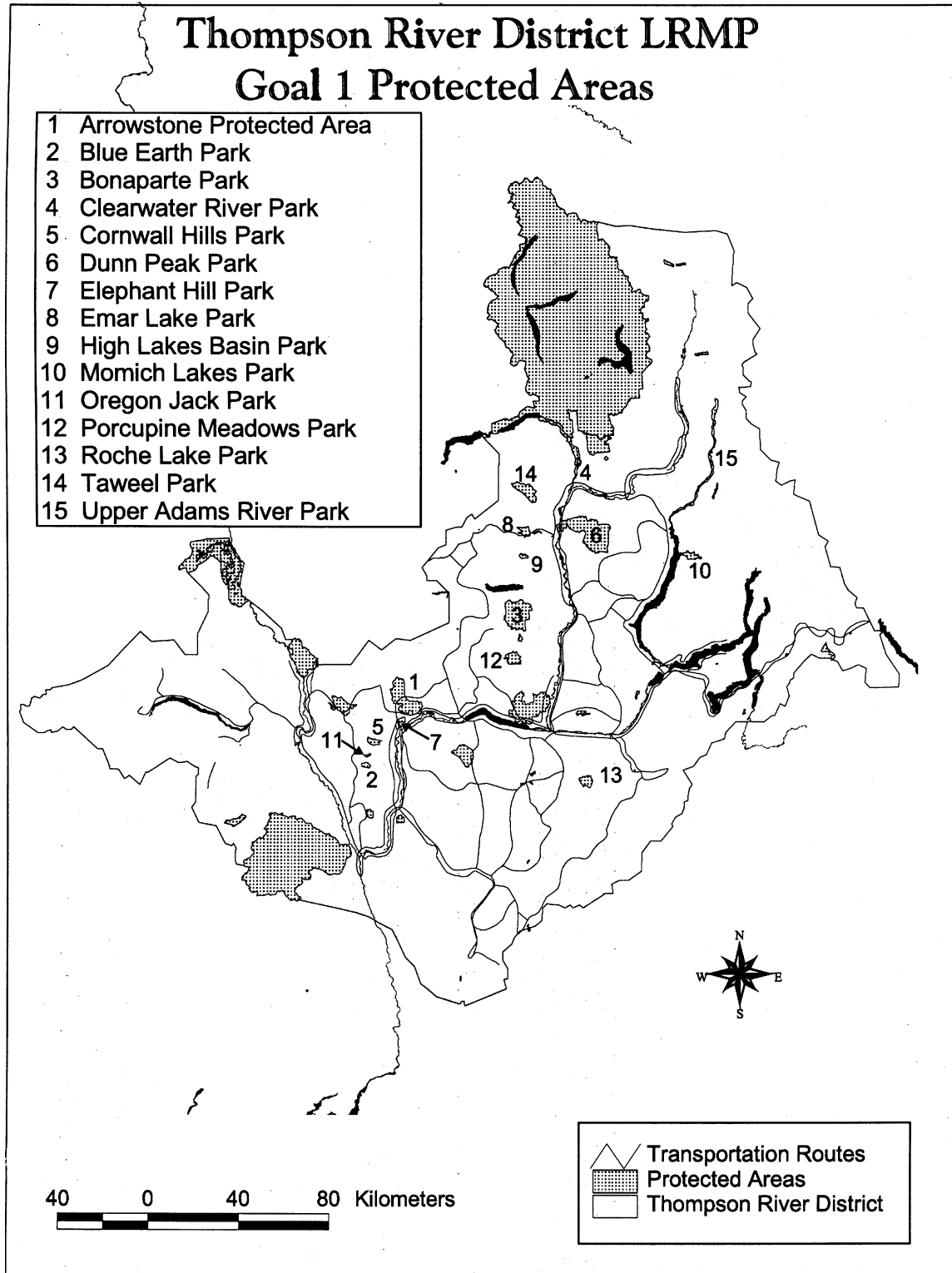
This Management Statement, future Management Statements, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for High Lakes Basin Park.

Also the park will be planned and managed in co-ordination with Ministry of Forests and other agencies' planning processes.

B. Consultation and Future Planning

Planning and management of the park will conform to the intent and directions as set forth in the Provincial Protected Areas Strategy. BC Parks is accountable for planning, administration and management of the park through application of the laws, policies and regulations granted under the *Park Act*. BC Parks will coordinate with other agencies, the LRMP table, various public planning groups and First Nations in developing management plans for all of the new parks arising from the Kamloops LRMP.

Figure 1 – Regional Context Map



This Management Direction Statement has been reviewed and approved in principle by the Kamloops LRMP implementation team.

The LRMP table considers High Lakes Basin Park as low priority for management planning. This Management Direction Statement will provide direction and guidelines for managing the area for the next five years or so until a management plan is developed. Any future management plan will be developed through involvement of other agencies, stakeholders, First Nations interests and public interest groups.

C. Zoning Plan

This zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page is preliminary and reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for the High Lakes Basin protected area. The zoning plan may be changed in a future management planning process. The only zone identified at this time is **Wilderness**, covering the entire park, with the objective to protect and retain the wilderness qualities and character of the protected area.

D. Management Strategies and Objectives

The following objectives will direct the short and long term management of the area:

- to maintain the natural qualities and conditions of the park
- to maintain the visual, recreational and tourism values
- to maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats
- to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species
- to provide for continued recreation use with opportunities for hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, nature viewing and other dispersed recreation activities

The more detailed management planning process will define how these strategies and objectives will be implemented. As well, there will undoubtedly be other strategies and objectives added to the list through the management planning process.

E. Longer Term Issues and Concerns

As a result of the LRMP process there are a number of apparent longer term issues that will be addressed in the management planning process that can be highlighted under the following broad topics:

Conservation

- vegetation management - insect and disease control and fire management
- fisheries and wildlife management

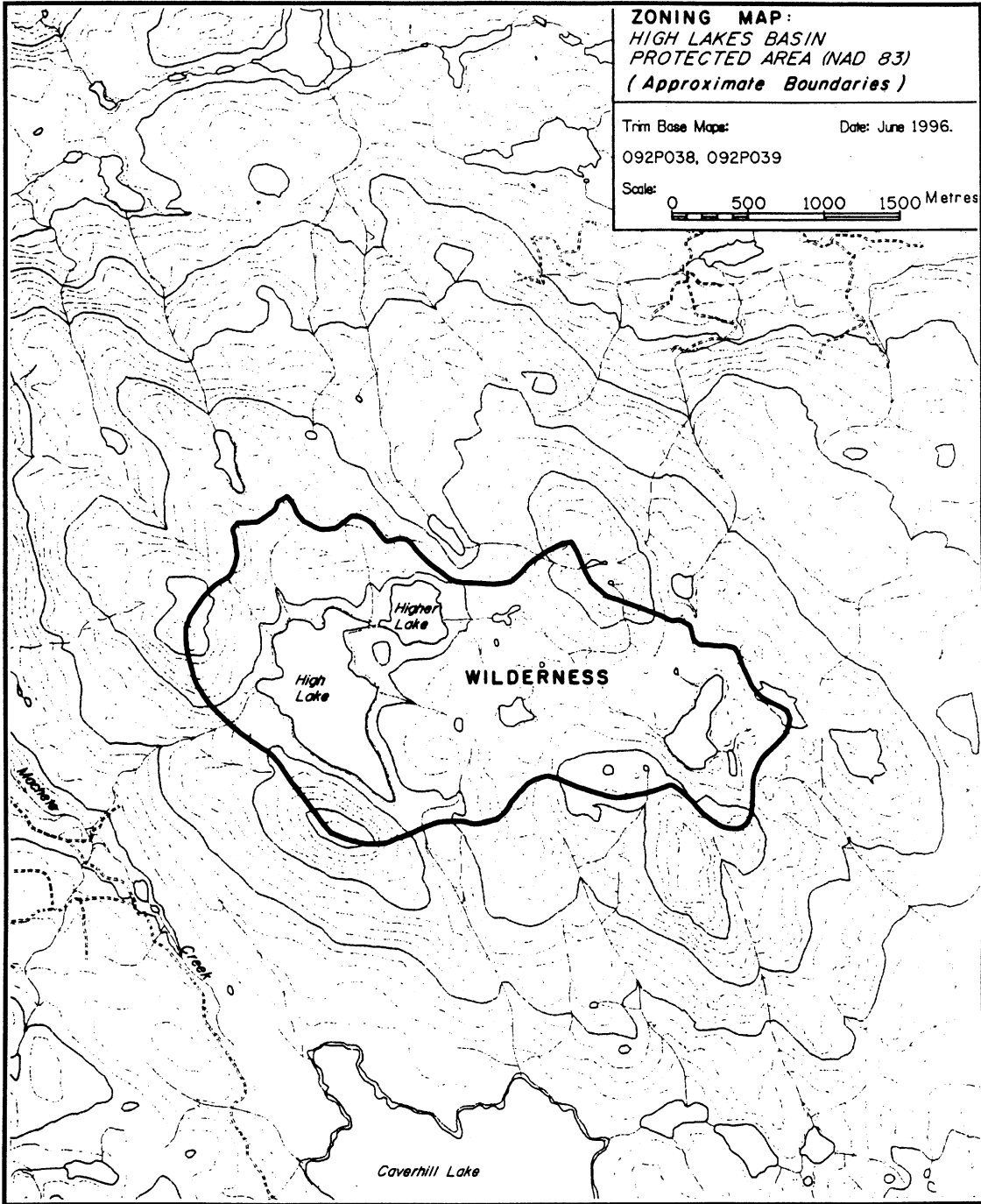
Recreation and Tourism

- access management - through co-ordination with local level planning
- recreation use - appropriate activities, insuring compatibility between user groups

Culture

- inventory and protection of archaeological sites and recognition of any identified traditional First Nations uses

Figure 2 – Zoning Map



F. Short Term Issues and Concerns

Appendix A outlines guidelines for managing uses, activities and facilities in the park. The types and nature of recreation uses of the park will not change, however, more intensive levels of management may be applied; i.e. periodic park ranger patrols.

Appendix A - Activity/Use Matrix for High Lakes Basin Park

Activity/Use/Activity	Wilderness Zone
Hunting	Y
Fishing	Y
Trapping	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N2
Recreational gold panning/ rock hounding	N
Utility corridors	N
Communication sites	N
Horse use/ pack animals	Y ³
Guide outfitting (hunting)	Y ²
Guide outfitting (fishing)	Y ²
Guide outfitting (nature tours)	Y ²
Guide outfitting (river rafting)	N/A
Cat-assisted skiing	N/A
Ski-hills	N/A
Heli-skiing	N/A
Heli-hiking	N
Tourist infrastructure - resorts	N
Backcountry huts/lodges/ cabins	N
Water control structures	N2
Fish stocking and enhancement	Y
Road access	N
Off-road access (snowmobiles)	Y ³
Off-road access (motorized)	N
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	Y ³
Motorized water access	Y ⁴
Aircraft access	Y ⁴
Fire management Wildlife management Prevention & preparedness Prescribed fire management	N1
Fire management (suppression)	Y
Forest insect/disease control	Y
Noxious weed control	Y
Exotic insect/disease control	Y
Scientific research (specimen collection)	N1
Scientific research (manipulation activities)	N1

Y = allowed, subject to conditions identified in the management direction statement or management plan
N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

¹ = road access plan for this area designates open and closed roads

³ = on designated trails only

N = not allowed

N2 = not normally allowed, but if present at time of PA establishment, will normally be allowed to continue

² = by permit only

⁴ = on designated lakes only