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# Joffre Lakes Park

## Visitor Use Management Strategy



BC Parks

## Acknowledgements

The development of this Visitor Use Management Strategy for Joffre Lakes Park has been jointly undertaken by BC Parks, the Lílwat Nation, and N'Quatqua, with support from Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI).

BC Parks staff are grateful to Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua for their support and cooperation in developing this strategy, and for the shared St'át'imc value of *i tmícwsa i ucwalmícwa* (meaning “the people and the land are one”) that has guided this planning process.

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## Message from the Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua

*Pala7míntwal | Ucwalmícwa múta7 ti Tmícwa* (The Land and the People are together as one)

Joffre Lakes Parks lies within the unceded shared territories of the Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua, and is integral to who we are as N'Quatqua and Lílwat7ul (Lílwat People). The establishment of Joffre Lakes Park has served to protect this unique and beautiful place from impacts of industrial activities; however, it also disrupted our traditional use and access to these lands.

Today, Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua are working with BC Parks in good faith to address the current challenges we are all facing with the increasing popularity of Joffre Lakes Park. We are striving to build a new relationship with BC Parks based on mutual respect and the recognition of our Aboriginal title and rights. Through this Strategy, we seek to sustain and revitalize our connection to this important part of our territory and protect our unique interests and values. Our efforts to work together is part of our overall goals to increase management and control over our respective territories.

Kukwstumúlhckalap,



Kúkwpí7 Skalúlmecw Dean Nelson

Political Chief, Lílwat Nation



Chief Micah Thevarg

N'Quatqua

## Message from Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister

BC Parks has been striving to manage the impacts of increasing visitation at Joffre Lakes Park and is committed to improving the management of visitor use in the park. In 2019, BC Parks, alongside the Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua developed the 2019 Visitor Use Management Action Plan, to focus on addressing the pressing safety concerns.

The Visitor Use Management Strategy builds upon the success of actions implemented in 2019, by confirming the commitment to several actions within the 2019 plan, as well as identifying new actions that will be implemented over the long term.

We are committed to achieving our vision for Joffre Lakes Park: to improve the overall visitor experience, address safety concerns, recognize First Nations' interests, and protect the park's natural and cultural values.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Standen', written in a cursive style.

Jim Standen,  
Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Parks

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Recreation and tourism growth in the Sea to Sky region has been accelerating since the improvement of the Sea to Sky Highway for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. The Sea to Sky Highway has over 3 million travellers per year, with most visitors seeking a recreation-related experience. This increase in tourism is reflected in the incredible increase in attendance at many provincial parks in the region, in particular Joffre Lakes Park. In 2019, 196,322 people visited the park; this represents a 222% increase since 2010.

In response to the growing number of visitors, BC Parks partnered with the Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua to develop the Joffre Lakes Park 2019 Visitor Use Management Action Plan, which was released in June 2019. The plan responded to the pressing challenges by defining a set of short-term management strategies to achieve the park vision and goals.

This Visitor Use Management Strategy (VUMS or 'strategy') builds upon the success of the 2019 action plan by confirming commitment to a number of actions, as well as identifying new strategies and actions that will be implemented over the long term.

## 1.2 Strategy Purpose

The purpose of this VUMS is to guide the long-term management of Joffre Lakes Park. This strategy:

- Outlines the park's purpose, applicable legislation, policies, and other management direction;
- Articulates the key features and values of the park;
- Documents the key issues and concerns that exist within the park;
- Assesses and summarizes current park conditions;
- Confirms the desired conditions for the park developed in the Action Plan;
- Defines management strategies and actions to achieve the park desired conditions; and
- Outlines the strategy for monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of management actions in achieving desired conditions.

## 1.3 Visitor Use Management Planning Process

The Joffre Lakes Park Management Plan was written in 1989 by BC Parks; since that time, attendance and park use has increased significantly. In order to better manage growing visitation, BC Parks, Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua developed the 2019 Visitor Use Management Action Plan and this longer-term VUMS. Both the action plan and strategy are comprehensive plans that take into consideration the natural values, cultural values, and recreation opportunities within the park when considering park management actions. In order to guide the planning and decision-making process, the United States Visitor Use Management Framework was applied and adapted to reflect the British Columbian context.

The following desired condition statement, goals, strategies, and actions have been developed and refined through a collaborative process between BC Parks, Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua, with input from stakeholders and the public.

## 1.4 A Collaborative Approach with First Nations

The Province and Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua are working towards a relationship based on mutual respect, recognition and accommodation of Aboriginal title and rights. Both the action plan and strategy were developed in partnership between BC Parks, Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua. Two open houses were held, one in 2019, and a second in 2020, for people from Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua to voice their perspectives on the proposed park vision, strategies, and actions.

In addition to jointly signing the Visitor Use Management Action Plan and this strategy, the three parties also signed a Letter of Understanding that speaks to each parties’ interests in and commitment to managing visitor use at Joffre Lakes Park.

## 1.5 External Engagement

- BC Parks collaborated with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRORD) to develop this strategy.
- Ongoing engagement, as well as a number of face-to-face meetings were held with the Village of Pemberton, the Squamish Lillooet Regional District, Tourism Pemberton, the Pemberton Chamber of Commerce / Pemberton Visitor Centre, Tourism Whistler, the RCMP, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – British Columbia Chapter (CPAWS-BC), the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC), the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC), and Leave No Trace Canada.
- An opportunity to provide written feedback was provided for park use permit holders, as well as recreation and wildlife groups.
- The public was invited to provide input through an online survey on BC Parks’ website during the month of April 2019, as well as during in-park surveys throughout the summer of 2019.
- The draft strategy was released for public comment over a 30-day review period in March/April 2021.

## 1.6 Relationship with Communities

Many residents from the surrounding communities of Mount Currie, D’Arcy, Pemberton, Whistler, Squamish, and Lillooet, as well as outdoor enthusiasts from the Metro Vancouver area share an interest in the management of this park. Recreational activities in and around the park are a tourism driver for the area. Ongoing engagement and outreach with local communities will be required to ensure that residents are aware of management actions undertaken at Joffre Lakes Park. This will include a continued dialogue with other provincial ministries, local governments, and local user groups who have expressed interest in the use and management of the park.

# 2 Park Context

## 2.1 Area Description

Joffre Lakes Park is located approximately 30 kilometres (km) northeast of Pemberton, 62 km northeast of Whistler, and 185 km northeast of Vancouver. This park is 1,460 hectares in size and borders the Nlháxten/Cerise Creek Conservancy. The park is accessed by Highway 99, also known as the Duffey Lake Road. Joffre Lakes Park is located in the shared territories of the Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua and within the traditional territory of the St’át’imc people.



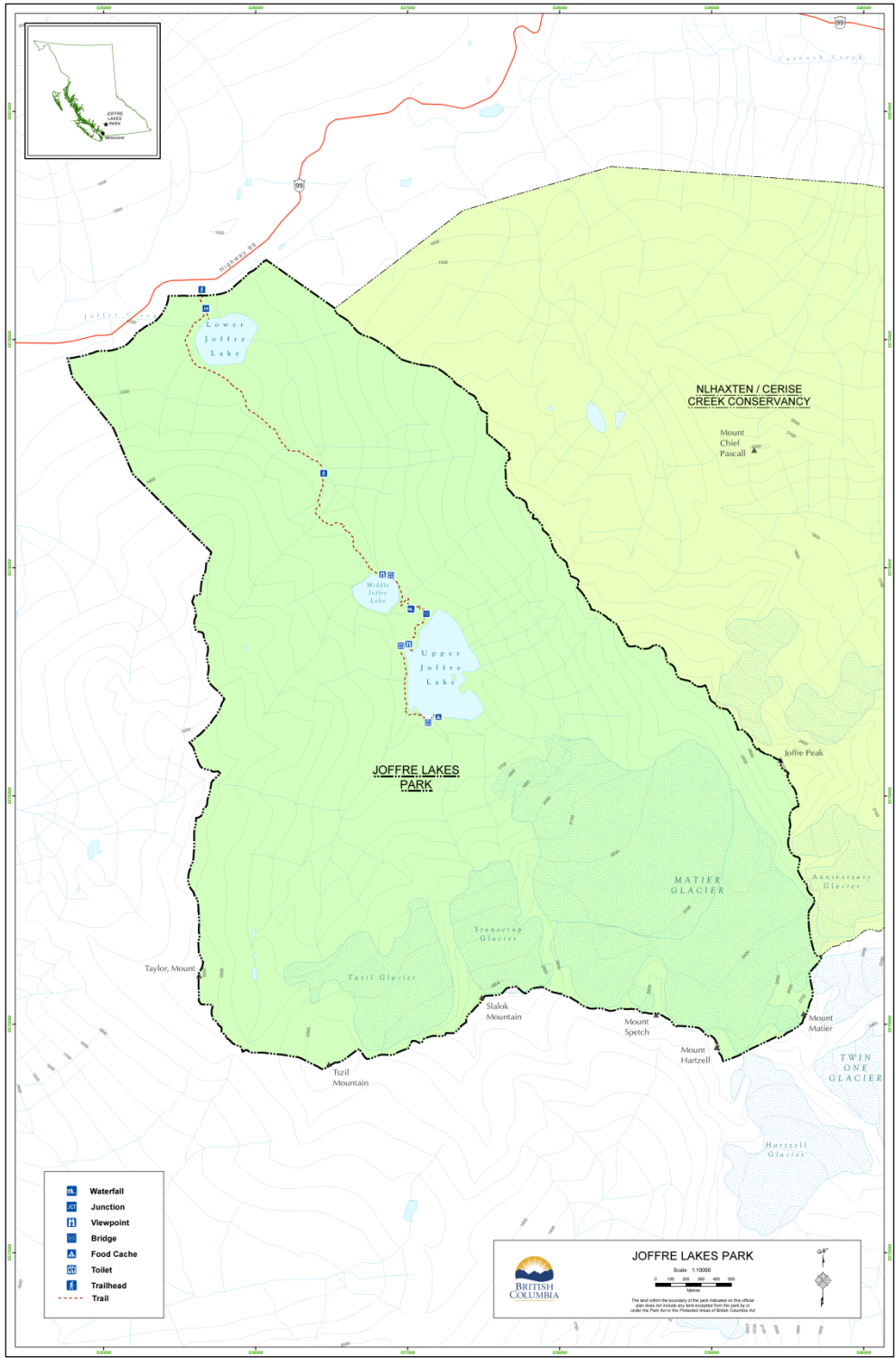


Figure 1: Map of Joffre Lakes Park

## 2.2 Provincial Legislative Framework and First Nations Land Use Plans

This park was established as a recreation area in 1988 and was later designated a Class A park in 1996. Class A parks are 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. Commercial resource extraction or development activities are not permitted in Class A parks (e.g. logging, mining or hydroelectric power development).

The Lílwat Nation Land Use Plan (2006) and the N'Quatqua Land Use Plan (2018) both refer to the Joffre Lakes Park and surrounding areas as a significant part of their respective territories. These Land Use Plans describe Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua interests and uses within the park, including hunting, gathering and spiritual ceremonies.

## 2.3 Park Use

Current visitor use by the public within Joffre Lakes Park varies significantly and falls into two distinct categories that require different management approaches and facilities: non-intensive recreation and intensive recreation.

- Non-Intensive recreation
  - The majority of the park experiences relatively low visitor use resulting in a largely undisturbed natural environment. This type of use is characterized by backcountry recreationalists such as backcountry skiers and mountaineers, and those seeking a spiritual, cultural, or wilderness experience. The majority of these recreationalists use the main hiking trail to access these areas.
- Intensive recreation
  - This recreation type is primarily concentrated in a small area of the park, including the trailhead parking area, the approximately 5 km hiking trail to the three lakes, and associated viewpoints. The majority of the long-term visitor use management strategies and actions focus on these intensive recreation areas.

## 2.4 Traditional Use

Joffre Lakes Park continues to be highly valued by Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua as a place for people to connect with the land and carry out traditional, sustenance, cultural and spiritual practices, as well as food gathering. Hunting, trapping, as well as plant and mushroom harvesting are noted as important activities. Fishing for sockeye, chinook and coho salmon, steelhead trout, dolly varden, sucker, white fish, and other fish occurs in the area by the Lílwat Nation members.

## 2.5 Public Use and Attendance Data

Joffre Lakes is a high-use park that has seen a dramatic increase in park visitation over the last several years. Most visitors arrive on weekends or long weekends (Saturday, Sunday and holiday Mondays). 2019 experienced the highest visitation on record, with 196,322 people visiting the park.

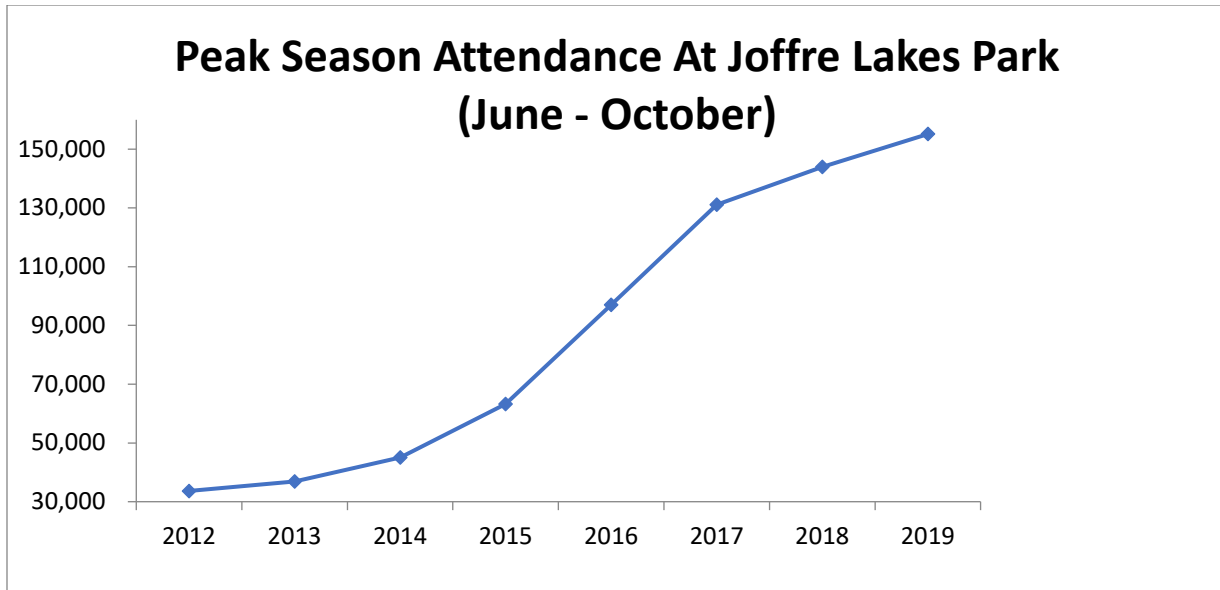


Figure 2: Graph showing attendance at Joffre Lakes Park between 2012 and 2019 (June through October).

## 3 Values and Roles of Joffre Lakes Park

### 3.1 Natural Values

#### 3.1.1 Environmental Significance

Joffre Lakes Park is home to a diversity of vegetation types and ecosystems, including a transition from coastal forest, subalpine forest, and alpine vegetation. The park's lakes, streams, wetlands and riparian habitat contribute to the diversity of ecosystems and habitat found in the park. Most of the forest is old growth with many trees estimated to be greater than 250 years old.

The park is located in the mountainous Joffre Group between the Pacific and Cayoosh ranges. There are three glaciers within the park: Stonecrop, Matier, and T̄szil. A number of mountain peaks are within the park, including Mount Taylor, T̄szil Mountain, Slalok Mountain, Mount Spetch, Mount Hartzell, Mount Matier, and Joffre Peak.

#### 3.1.2 Fish and Wildlife

Joffre Lakes Park provides habitat for many species, including ungulates, small mammals such as yellow-pine chipmunks, pine martens, and many birds. Other wildlife observed in the park include American pika and American beaver. The park provides habitat for grizzly bear and wolverine but use by these species is considered low/transient. The park also provides summer habitat for mountain goats, but use is also considered low/infrequent compared to other areas in the Sea to Sky region. Records exist for rainbow trout in all three lakes but the distribution and population status of this species in the park has not been studied for many years.

#### 3.1.3 Biogeoclimatic Zones

Two ecosections and four biogeoclimatic zones are represented within the park, and within each biogeoclimatic zone, at least two different biogeoclimatic variants are represented (Appendix 1). Within the provincial parks and protected areas system, over 99% of the total representation of Mountain

Hemlock Moist Maritime Montane (MHmm2) biogeoclimatic variant in the Leeward Pacific Ranges ecosection is found within Joffre Lakes Park. The park also provides potential critical habitat for whitebark pine (federally endangered and provincially blue-listed) although the actual area of occurrence of this species in the park is unknown.

### 3.2 First Nations Values, Culture, and History

Joffre Lakes Park and the larger Duffey corridor is known by Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua as the “banquet place”, where minerals and plants can be gathered, berries can be harvested, animals such as mountain goat and deer hunted, mammals can be trapped, and fish can be caught. The Joffre Creek Watershed, called Nsk'enú7 by Lílwat Nation, was used for vision quests and has many legends and stories associated with it. Traditional trade and travel routes used to access the Fraser River Valley from the Duffey corridor can still be found in the park today.

### 3.3 Recreational Values

The park is a well-known destination for summer hiking, and to a lesser extent, backcountry skiing, mountaineering, snowshoeing, fishing, rock-climbing, picnicking, and backcountry camping at the Upper Joffre Lake. Primary access to the park is via an approximately five km trail that begins along the southern side of Highway 99 (Duffey Lake Road) and gains 480 metres of elevation between the trailhead and the upper lake; ending in the sub-alpine with views of the glaciers. The trail passes by three lakes: Lower Joffre Lake, Middle Joffre Lake, and Upper Joffre Lake. Between Middle Joffre Lake and Upper Joffre Lake, visitors often stop to view the waterfall.

## 4 Key Management Issues

During project planning, gaps between desired conditions and current conditions were identified. The management strategies and actions within this strategy are designed to address these key management issues and ensure that the desired conditions are achieved.

### Environment & Wildlife

- Unauthorized new trails and off-trail exploration trample vegetation, cause trail braiding, and disturb riparian habitats.
- Unlawfully feeding wildlife such as grey jays and chipmunks causes wildlife habituation.
- Garbage left behind (e.g., food wrappers, water bottles, and toilet paper) impacts wildlife and the scenic attributes of the park.

### Safety

- Some visitors are not prepared for the rugged nature of the park (e.g. they don't bring enough water and/or wear adequate clothing and footwear), increasing their risk of injury.
- Illegal parking on the side of Highway 99 (Duffey Lake Road) and walking along the highway to gain access to Joffre Lakes Park puts pedestrians, drivers, and BC Parks staff at risk.
- Congestion in the parking lots leads to backlogs on the highway and unsafe conditions for pedestrians, drivers, and BC Parks staff within the lots.
- High visitation levels at the park complicate emergency response procedures in the event of forest fires, landslides, and other natural hazards and emergencies.

### Facilities

- The trails, facilities, and infrastructure do not meet the need required for current levels of visitation.

## Visitor Experience

- The trail and viewpoints are frequently congested, which impacts the recreational experience of some visitors.

## 5 Desired Condition Statement for Joffre Lakes Park

BC Parks, Lílwat Nation, and N’Quatqua collaboratively developed the following desired condition statement to reflect the long-term vision for the park. This desired condition statement recognizes that access and recreational use require management to protect First Nations uses and interests as well as to protect biological diversity and sensitive habitats within the park and to support a sustainable, safe recreational experience for all park users.

Joffre Lakes Park is primarily managed to maintain its natural state with some development for recreational opportunities. The park is managed collaboratively between BC Parks, Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua to protect Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua cultural values, including n’ákmen (meaning “our ways”), and ensure resource protection, public safety, and minimal visitor conflict.

Although recreational use is high when compared to the surrounding areas, only a focused portion of the park is frequented by large numbers of visitors, leaving the majority of the park in an unaltered state with limited human access and use. Visitors come to the park to enjoy the diversity of recreation experiences that are available for users of various abilities, skills, and demographics. The impacts of park visitors are concentrated to well-maintained, safe, and challenging hiking trails, day-use areas, and a campground with infrastructure to match appropriate levels of use.

The park provides an opportunity to access stunning natural scenery with views of largely undeveloped landscapes, including glaciers and turquoise lakes. Wildlife populations continue to thrive, including pikas and beavers. The lakes, streams, and waterfall are clean and free of pollution. Park vegetation, especially within the alpine areas, is vigorous and healthy.

Important cultural resources and sites are protected, and First Nations culture is celebrated. First Nations peoples access the park and cultural sites to engage in cultural practices, food sustenance activities, and to enjoy the park.

Opportunities to learn about the park values, stewardship, and First Nations culture are readily available, and visitor behaviour reflects an appreciation and respect for the cultural heritage, wildlife, the park environment, and other users. Park visitors can easily find information about the park and are strongly encouraged to be well-equipped to have a safe experience in the outdoors.

## 6 Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

**Goal 1: Recognition of First Nations Territories & Increased Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua Stewardship**  
 Joffre Lakes Park holds historic and contemporary significance to Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua. BC Parks, Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua are working together to sustain and revitalize this important connection to Joffre Lakes Park.

Management Objective		Management Strategies
Increase Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua presence in the park	1.1.1	Support opportunities for Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua to provide education and traditional knowledge to visitors.
	1.1.2	Explore opportunities for Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua economic initiatives within the park.
	1.1.3	Support the continuation of the Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua Stewards program.
Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua have the financial support needed to work collaboratively with the Province on park management	1.2.1	Seek funding to support Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua to continue to collaborate and engage in discussions to have Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua interests reflected in decisions related to park management.
	1.2.2	Continue to explore funding options to support Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua involvement within the park and opportunities for collaborative management on initiatives.
	1.2.3	Seek funding to support BC Parks, Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua to work together to monitor cultural and environmental values, such as medicinal plant abundance.
Support Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua traditional use activities	1.3.1	Install vegetation restoration barriers and signage, where and when appropriate, to protect harvesting areas from impacts due to public visitation.
	1.3.2	Educate park visitors on respecting traditional use harvesting and the importance of respectful behavior.
	1.3.3	Support community access for berry picking, food sustenance, and other traditional use activities.
	1.3.4	Encourage Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua to utilize park spaces, and identify and explore ways to address potential barriers to access.

**Goal 2: Celebrate First Nations Culture throughout the Park.**

Joffre Lakes Park is an important place for traditional and cultural use and livelihood for the Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua. BC Parks supports and respects the long-term continuation of Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua social, cultural, and ceremonial practices and will strive to ensure these Aboriginal rights are respected by the public.

Management Objective		Management Strategies
Educate users on Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua culture and history	2.1.1	Incorporate information about local Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua culture, history, and presence into park signage.
	2.1.2	Include Ucwalmícwts language and place names where appropriate.
	2.1.3	Explore opportunities for Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua to share and showcase their culture, history, and art within the park.
	2.1.4	Educate park visitors on the importance of respecting cultural sites and artifacts and continue to inform people that it is illegal to disturb or collect these resources.
Support Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua spiritual and ceremonial activities	2.2.1	Ensure opportunities for Lílwat Nation and N’Quatqua ceremonial activities to take place within the park.
	2.2.2	Educate park users on respectful behavior when ceremonies are occurring.

**Goal 3: Protect Biological Diversity and the Natural Environment**

Joffre Lakes Park protects important and sometimes critical habitats for plants and wildlife. Protecting this habitat helps mitigate and improve adaptation to climate change. The following strategies protect the unique and sensitive habitats and species within the park.

Management Objective		Management Strategies
Mitigate impacts on vegetation and wildlife	3.1.1	Continue to educate visitors and enforce park restrictions on domestic animals, including dogs.
	3.1.2	Increase the number of bear caches at the backcountry campground.
	3.1.3	Rehabilitate visitor-created trails.
Protect environmentally sensitive areas	3.2.1	Install vegetation restoration barriers and signage, where appropriate, to prevent visitors from entering sensitive areas and encourage them to stay in well-defined areas.
	3.2.2	Create viewing platforms at look-out points to reduce the likelihood of visitors dispersing and damaging vegetation.
	3.2.3	Build or re-design infrastructure and trails, as needed, to mitigate or rehabilitate impacts to sensitive areas.
Monitor park conditions	3.3.1	Conduct recreation impact monitoring to gather baseline data and monitor rates of change.
	3.3.2	Explore partnerships to conduct environmental, cultural, and recreation monitoring within the park.
Enhance park conditions	3.4.1	Explore partnerships to conduct environment and recreation projects within the park.

#### Goal 4: Address Illegal Parking and Safety Concerns with Park Access and within the Park

Joffre Lakes Park has limited parking availability. Addressing unsafe and illegal parking on the highway is a priority and will require cooperation and support from our visitors. This goal seeks to ensure visitors have a safe and enjoyable experience on their way to and from the park.

Management Objective		Management Strategies
Minimize illegal parking on Highway 99 (on highway shoulders).	4.1.1	Work with MoTI to assess parking prohibitions on Highway 99 and taking further action where feasible.
	4.1.2	Work with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to enforce parking restrictions for drivers who park in no-parking zones to ensure that parking is limited to the legal, safe available parking spaces.
Improve public safety and emergency response within the park.	4.2.1	Maintain a reliable communication service for park visitors to use during an emergency or in the event their vehicle is towed.
	4.2.2	Maintain the emergency helipad near Second Joffre Lake.
	4.2.3	Follow guidance and recommendations from BC Wildfire Service in relation to wildfire response and prevention.
	4.2.4	Maintain the campsite closures during the winter, due to extreme avalanche risk.
	4.2.5	Provide signage and information about avalanche terrain/risk within the park.
	4.2.6	Continue to enforce the year-round campfire and smoking ban restrictions.
	4.2.7	Create a park emergency response plan (which includes evacuation and closure procedures) in the event of natural disaster, wildfire, or other emergencies.
Offer alternative ways to access the park.	4.3.1	Inform visitors of transportation options and shuttles, if available (e.g., Parkbus).
	4.3.2	Encourage car-pooling.
Increase highway & pedestrian safety	4.4.1	Work with MoTI to review pedestrian movement to and from existing parking areas and to make improvements where feasible.
	4.4.2	Encourage visitors to use the pathway from the secondary parking lot to the main lot entrance, and to cross the highway using the pedestrian crossing.
Improve traffic flow in the parking lots	4.5.1	As needed, improve parking lot layout and delineation of parking spaces.
	4.5.2	Restrict oversized vehicles (longer than 15 feet/4.6 metres) to parking in the secondary parking lot to improve safety and traffic flow.



**Goal 5: Ensure Park Facilities Support Levels of Use**

The significant rise in visitor attendance has outpaced the facilities and available parking currently at the park entrance. BC Parks is committed to sustainable use at the park and ensuring that facilities align with the visitor carrying capacity of the park.

Management Objective		Management Strategies
Maintain trailhead accessibility in winter	5.1.1	Continue to plow snow to maintain some winter season parking.
Maintain and invest in trails and infrastructure	5.2.1	Consider development and/or redesign of facilities and trails to support sustainable recreation, mitigate impacts of visitor use and/or disperse visitor use.

**Goal 6: Effectively Manage Visitation**

The seasonality of park use within Joffre Lakes Park is evolving, with more visitors than ever before choosing to visit during the spring, fall, and winter seasons when the park has reduced service levels. During the peak season, visitation continues to climb, which is stretching facility capacity, reducing parking availability, and congesting viewpoints. Effectively managing day-use visitation is key to ensuring visitors have an excellent experience and that conservation values are protected.

Management Objective		Management Strategies
Disperse visitation to off-peak times.	6.1.1	Use the BC Parks website to inform visitors about the less busy times to visit (e.g. mid-week).
Identify day-use visitor capacities for the park	6.2.1	Establish a visitor capacity for the park. Monitor and assess the visitor capacity over time and adjust as necessary to protect park values including visitor experience.
	6.2.2	Explore allotment of a portion of any approved day-use permits for commercial use.
Manage visitation within park capacity	6.2.1	Examine the implementation of a day-use permit system to manage visitors within park capacity.
	6.2.2	Ensure commercial use in the park is limited to those with valid authorisations, and that they are in compliance with terms.
	6.2.3	Limit the number and size of commercial tour groups in the park.
Limit backcountry camping to existing, available tent pads	6.3.1	Maintain and enforce the camping reservation requirement for the backcountry campground.
Approach park management in a holistic manner	6.4.1	Monitor and assess impacts from management actions undertaken to mitigate unanticipated effects and the dispersal of visitors to other areas.

**Goal 7: Increase Public Appreciation, Knowledge, and Respect for the Park**

Outdoor nature-based recreation and the stewardship of protected areas are mutually dependent, and protection is often supported and enhanced by those who directly experience BC Parks. Fostering appreciation and respect for the park is a shared priority between BC Parks, Lílwat Nation, and N’Quatqua. This goal seeks to identify ways to broadly engage with park visitors and share important messages using a variety of mediums.

Management Objective		Management Strategies
Educate visitors on park values and appropriate behavior	7.1.1	Utilize a variety of mediums to share educational messaging with visitors (i.e. blog posts, social media, films, signage).
	7.1.2	Provide on-site, in-person visitor education.
Share messages about park values with a broader audience	7.2.1	Work with partners to create and share stewardship messaging.
Provide visitors with enhanced trip-planning tools	7.3.1	Direct the public to the park webpage on the BC Parks’ website for timely updates and key information.
	7.3.2	Spread messaging for trip-planning including safety, preparedness, and appropriate behavior in the park.

**Goal 8: Increase our Knowledge of Park Visitors and Recreation Trends**

Information about park visitors and their use patterns is required to help protect park values and ensure the management of one value does not adversely affect another.

Management Objective		Management Strategies
Understand visitor motivations and recreation trends	8.1.1	Continue to monitor visitation through trail counters and campsite records, and commercial use reporting.
	8.1.2	Continue to conduct visitor surveys in the park.
	8.1.3	Collaborate with external partners to collect and share data to assess recreation and visitation trends.

**Goal 9: Manage the Park in a Financially Sustainable Manner.**

As visitor use at Joffre has increased, the resources required to manage the park have also increased. Investing in managing visitation in the park is a high priority because providing high-quality recreational experiences and protecting the park’s important cultural and ecological values are invaluable public benefits.

Management Objective		Management Strategies
Ensure adequate funding to support the implementation of this Visitor Use Management Strategy	9.1.1	Allocate funding to support costs associated with enhanced visitor management, park maintenance, park facilities, and associated staffing at Joffre Lakes Park.

## 7 Compatible Uses

Compatible uses that support the desired conditions for Joffre Lakes Park include:

- The exercise of Aboriginal Rights as protected by s.35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* by Indigenous peoples (i.e. hunting, fishing, gathering)
- Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua cultural and ceremonial activities and opportunities for Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua led tourism activities
- Non-motorized public and commercial recreational use (i.e. hiking, snowshoeing, backcountry skiing, mountaineering, rock-climbing, picnicking, wilderness/backcountry camping, and fishing (per provincial and federal fishing regulations))
- Helicopter landing and takeoff for emergency purposes only
- Development of new facilities/trails to support sustainable recreation, mitigate impacts of visitor use and/or disperse visitor use

The following are incompatible uses in Joffre Lakes Park:

- Commercial logging
- Biking (including electric bikes)
- Mineral exploration and development
- Fixed wing aircraft landing
- Public operation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (aka drones)
- Portable speakers and stereo systems
- Domestic animals, including dogs/dog walking
- Campfires
- Horseback riding
- Hunting (except by those exercising their Aboriginal rights in accordance with s.35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*)
- Motorized Activity (e.g., boats with motors, 4x4, motorcycles, snowmobiles, ATVs, and snowcats)

## 8 Implement, Monitor, Evaluate, and Adjust

### 8.1 Implementation

A collaborative approach between BC Parks, Lílwat Nation, and N'Quatqua will be taken to implement the strategies in this document, subject to available funding and staff resources. This collaborative approach includes any planning for projects at Joffre Lakes Park, such as the Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua Stewards program, that are above and beyond the operational work routinely conducted by BC Parks. Where possible, partnerships will be developed with interagency partners, RCMP, external groups and communities to achieve specific strategies, leverage funding, and complement existing resources.

### 8.2 Strategy Monitoring & Assessment

A collaborative approach between BC Parks, Lílwat Nation and N'Quatqua will be taken to conduct monitoring to ensure that management actions are achieving their desired effect. Indicators that relate to the desired conditions will be identified, and a monitoring plan will be developed to track whether

conditions are trending positively and the desired conditions are being achieved. Monitoring, evaluation, and adjustment will be ongoing. As part of the monitoring program, BC Parks will share progress reports and information on the effectiveness of management actions.

As new information arises, management challenges evolve, and new recreational trends are identified, BC Parks will adapt to meet those challenges. If an assessment determines that the park requires new management direction, or that substantial new challenges have arisen, BC Parks, Lílwat Nation, and N'Quatqua will work collaboratively to create new management direction for the park.

## Appendix 1: BEC Zone

Table 1. Ecosystem representation in Joffre Lakes Park.

<b>Ecosection</b>	<b>Biogeoclimatic (BEC) zone</b>	<b>BEC variant code</b>	<b>BEC variant name</b>
Eastern Pacific Ranges	Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH)	CWH ms 1	Moist Southern
	Mountain Hemlock (MH)	MH mm 2	Moist Maritime Montane
Leeward Pacific Ranges	Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH)	CWH ms 1	Moist Southern
	Engelmann Spruce - Subalpine Fir (ESSF)	ESSF mw 2	Moist Warm Stein
		ESSF mwp	Moist Warm Parkland
		ESSF mww	Moist Warm Woodland
	Interior Mountain-heather Alpine (IMA)	IMA un	Undifferentiated
		IMA unp	Undifferentiated and Parkland
Mountain Hemlock (MH)	MH mm 2	Moist Maritime Montane	