

MANAGEMENT PLAN

November, 1996

for Juniper Beach
Provincial Park



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment,
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Department

Juniper Beach
Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by
BC Parks Kamloops Area Pilot Project Team
for Thompson River District
Kamloops, B.C.





Kamloops Area Management Planning Pilot Project Binder Approvals Page

Forward

This binder contains 16 management plans developed under the Kamloops Area Management Planning Pilot Project. This project began in 1994 to develop, implement and evaluate a systems approach to management planning. The project concluded in October, 1996. The management plans contained in this binder provide long-term direction for a group of 10 Class A parks, five ecological reserves and one recreation area. The intention is to review this binder and the plans contained here at regular intervals. Plan vision statements and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Coldwater River Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Lake Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goldpan Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Skihist Eco. Res. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juniper Beach Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Skihist Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lac Le Jeune Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Skwaha Lake Eco. Res. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marble Canyon Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap Lake Eco. Res. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> McConnell Lake Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Steelhead Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> McQueen Creek Eco. Res. | <input type="checkbox"/> Tranquille Eco. Res. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monck Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Walloper Lake |

Approved by:

District Manager
Thompson River District
BC Parks Department

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Department

Juniper Beach Park Management Plan

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Juniper Beach Park Management Plan

Introduction

This management plan defines the role of Juniper Beach Park within the Provincial Park system and the objectives and guidelines for managing the resources and visitor use activities in the park.

The park role, objectives and zoning as stated in this plan cannot be contravened in meaning or intent without consultation with the public and approval of the district manager and Parks Management Committee (PMC). A five year business plan is included as Appendix B to provide direction for implementing the management plan. The actions identified in the business plan will be accomplished as funding and resources allow. The business plan is subject to annual review and adjustments.

Background

Size and Designation: 260 hectare Class A Park designated in June 15, 1989.

Location: 20 kilometres east of Cache Creek on the north shore of the Thompson River off Highway No. 1.

Protected Area Values

Conservation

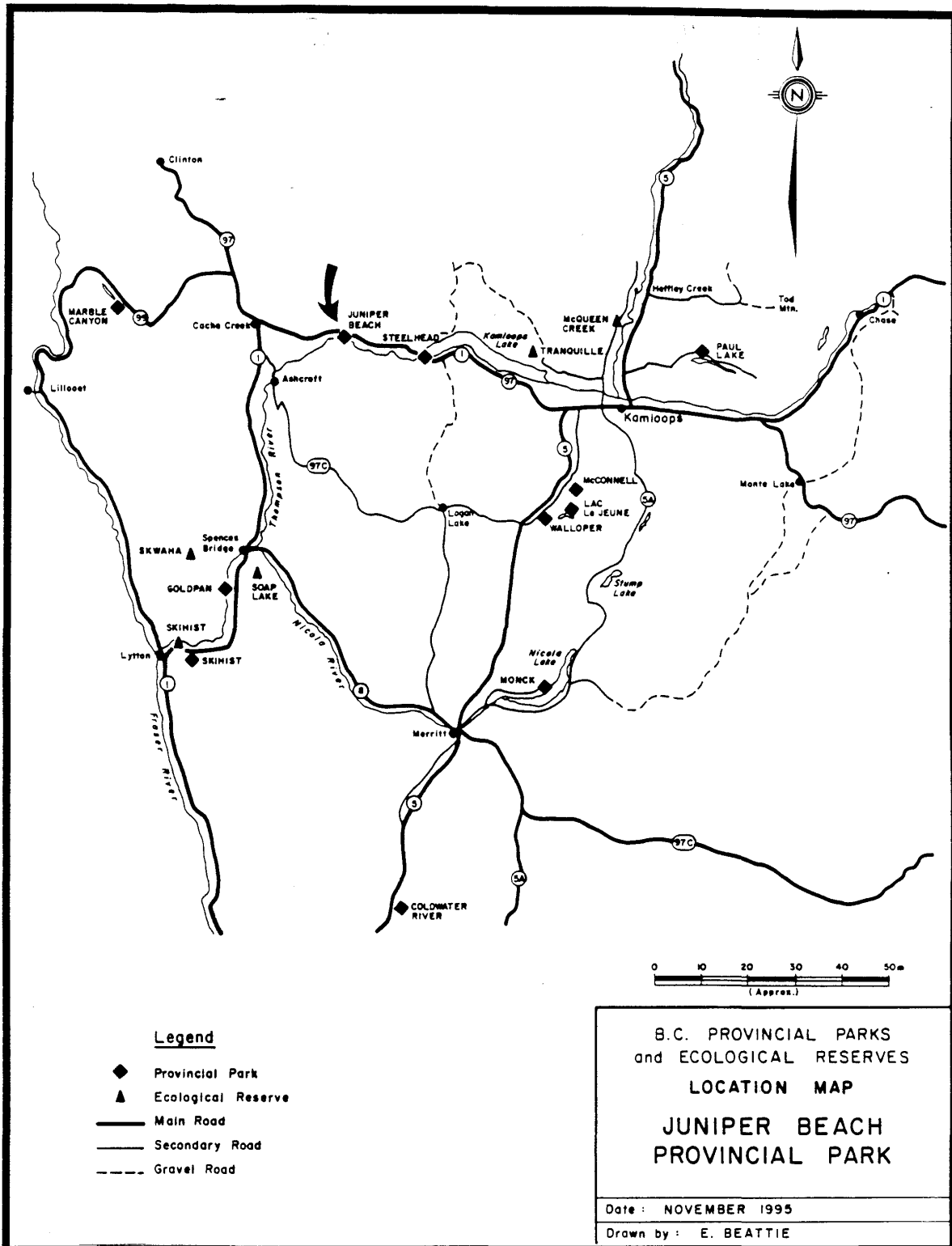
- preserves a small area representative of the Thompson River Valley.
- contains deep post-glacial deposits, till mantle and large scale erosion features.
- vegetation: grassland (special feature - cactus, dryland vegetation and a juniper grove).
- wildlife: grassland dependent species and rattlesnakes in the upland portion of the park.

Cultural

- ranching, First Nations settlement, transportation, farming (Walhachin irrigation flume).

Recreation

- the park provides superb viewing opportunities of the Thompson River Valley.
- setting: river, grasslands and forested mountain backdrop.
- provides access to the Thompson River, one of British Columbia's most significant scenic and recreational rivers.
- opportunities: travel corridor and destination
- activities include: nature study; power boat, canoeing and river rafting access; fishing; swimming; viewing; and, auto-touring.



Other Agency Interests

- Heritage Conservation Branch: heritage and archaeological values in the park.
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans: responsible for the management and conservation of salmon species in the Thompson River next to the park.

Private and Public Sector Interests

- river rafting companies.
- B.C. Steelhead Society.
- Fish and Game Association.

First Nations Interests

- Bonaparte Indian Band considers the park area of high cultural significance for several reasons:
 - possible location for at least three separate former villages sites;
 - burial sites may exist in the park;
 - many house pit (kikuli) sites exist in the park; and,
 - the park area may have provided access to the Thompson River for traditional uses.
- The Bonaparte Indian Band wants protection for archaeological values within the park.

Existing Land Uses and Encumbrances

- Indian Reserve No. 5 which virtually bisects the park.
- Powerline right-of-way in favour of the BC Hydro and Power Authority: Plans A - 8133 and Plan A - 2696. This right-of-way crosses the central and north portions of the park.
- Canadian National Railway right-of-way (Plan B-337) which crosses the extreme south portion of the park and is excluded from the park.
- Trans Canada Highway No. 1/97 (Plan M - 469 and Plan H - 686) which crosses the northeast portion of the park and is excluded from the park.
- Two trespasses exist in the park: 1) one trespass lies immediately north of the Trans Canada Highway across from the park entrance road; and, 2) the other is an agricultural trespass covering about four hectares next to the west boundary of the park.

Role of the Park

Conservation

To conserve representative grassland and riparian river habitat. These grasslands habitats are small and one of only a few examples in the BC Parks system.

Recreation

To provide destination and travel corridor opportunities related to the Thompson River, a provincially significant recreation corridor, and a grassland setting.

Culture

To conserve evidence of First Nations use.

Vision Statement

Beyond the year 2000, BC Parks will continue to maintain Juniper Beach Park as a family oriented camping and river oriented recreation experience. BC Parks, in cooperation with the Lands Branch, will have added Crown lands to the park to enhance management capability and protect grassland and wildlife habitats. The park will play an important education role by complementing the interpretation themes presented at Steelhead Park and Deadman Creek. BC Parks will have also raised the service level of the park to provide the public with improved facilities and amenities which complement the character and environment of this park.

Zoning

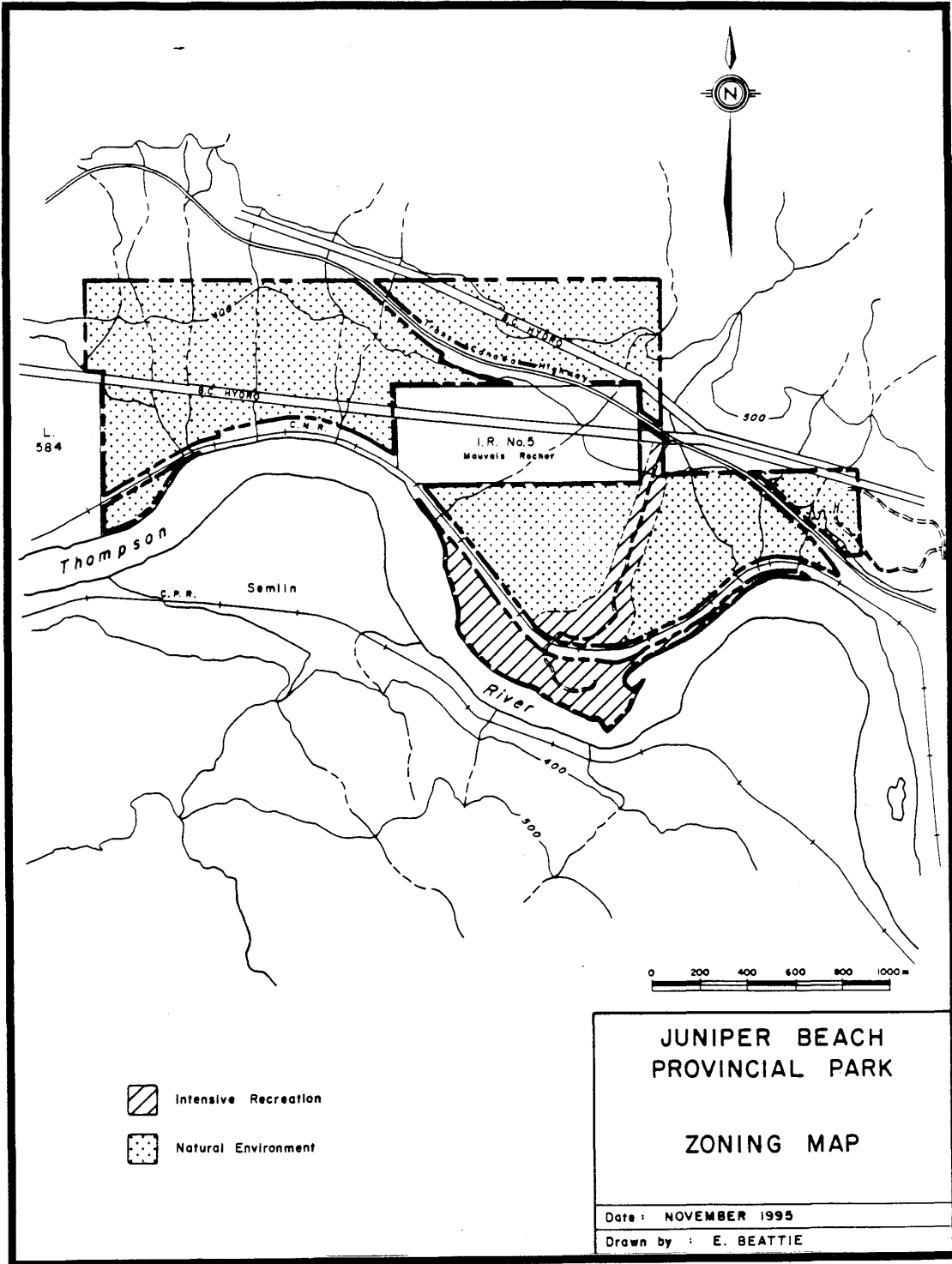
Juniper Beach Park falls into two management planning zones: intensive recreation and natural environment.

Intensive Recreation Zone

- Objective: to provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Zone description: includes the existing campground and main park access road.
- Appropriate land uses and recreation activities: picnicking; hiking; walking; viewing; vehicle access camping; campground and picnicking facility development; interpretation and information facilities; and, trail development in a grassland provincially significant river corridor setting.
- Special zone consideration: care should be taken with any development to ensure the juniper tree groves are protected.

Natural Environment Zone

- Objective: to protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.
- Zone description: includes all of the lands outside the intensive recreation zone.
- Appropriate land uses and recreation activities: hiking; walking; viewing; nature study; trail facility development in a grassland and provincially significant river corridor setting.
- Special zone consideration: both this zone and the intensive recreation zone contain archaeological values. Because of their fragility and vulnerability, careful impact assessment must occur before park development proceeds. These archaeological values are not identified on management plan maps.



Management Concerns and Objectives

Conservation

Land

Concerns : A land issue involves changes to the park's boundary so adjacent Crown lands are added to the park to: simplify park management; protect fish habitat in the Thompson River and riparian bird habitats; and, extend the amount of grassland protected by park status.

Another management concern for BC Parks is the two trespasses within Juniper Beach Park.

Objectives:

- To acquire existing Crown lands next to the park.
- To evaluate solutions to the problem of existing trespasses in the park.
- To develop an understanding with the Bonaparte Band on future lands use activities on Indian Reserve #5.

Vegetation

Concerns : Juniper Beach Park contains an dry grassland environment. This ecosystem is under-represented within the BC provincial parks system. A management concern is conservation of the grassland values which have been identified as a benchmark for an ungrazed grassland ecosystem. Unfortunately, the introduction of weeds into the park resulted in vegetation which is in poor condition. BC Parks faces a significant management challenge on how to reduce the problem of weed infestation. In addition, the presence of the Canadian National Railways track heightens the danger for wildfire in the park.

Objectives:

- To protect the park's dry grassland ecosystem.
- To maintain the park as a benchmark for research.

Wildlife

Concerns : Some river riparian habitats for birds are important. Rattlesnake dens may exist within the park. BC Parks is concerned that these habitats are conserved.

Objectives:

- To protect rattlesnake populations and habitats.
- To protect rare and endangered species dependent on the park's natural environment.

Recreation

Concerns : Juniper Beach Park is somewhat unique in the BC parks system. When government designated the park, BC Parks inherited a private campground with a small shower building, water and electrical hookup facilities. Thus, the park campground service level could be defined as midway between service level 3 and 2. BC Parks should address whether to maintain this service level or move the park to service level 2. Another concern is to decide whether a more formal day-use facility is appropriate within this park.

Objectives:

- To provide camping and day-use recreation opportunities.

- To provide boating access to the river.
- To provide off-highway opportunities to view the scenic Thompson River valley.

Culture

Concerns : The Juniper Beach Park area is reputed to contain significant First Nations heritage values. A concern for BC Parks management is to ensure such values are identified and protected from disturbance. Future development of the park will be predicated on a careful assessment of potential changes to the park environment. The Bonaparte Indian Band and the Heritage Conservation Branch will assist BC Parks in this assessment.

Objectives:

- To protect archaeological resources from disturbance and vandalism.

Education

Concerns : BC Parks management has an opportunity, in the long term, to inform and educate the public about the heritage themes contained in this small park. A management concern is the need to define how this park might complement Steelhead Park in developing this opportunity. In addition, BC Parks will inform and educate people about the protection of wildlife species and their habitats. Equally important people will be advised about safe recreation practices to avoid conflict with rattlesnakes in the park.

Objectives:

- To interpret the Thompson River Valley setting, the grasslands ecosystem and the First Nations and European historic use of the area.
- To develop a district visitor services interpretation plan which defines how Juniper Beach Park might complement similar programs for Steelhead Park.
- To develop information programs and procedures to assure the protection and appreciation of the park's wildlife with emphasis on western rattlesnake and bird species and their habitats.

Appendix A - Service Level Explanation

BC Parks service levels provide a method of defining the facilities, information and services which the public can expect within the BC Provincial Parks system. The service levels do not include any measure of the capacity or use of the area, operating standards, or resource management issues. Instead, they are strictly a list of the key facilities and services that may be provided within a particular campground or day-use area. They also provide an opportunity to explore and understand the relationship between the facilities and services BC Parks offers and the expectations of the users or potential users. This will help in making decisions based on the type and grade of facilities and services that BC Parks plans to provide and their associated costs.

Table 1. Campground Service Levels Attributes

Attribute	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Facilities				
▪ Roads	paved	paved	usually gravel	gravel , dirt or none
▪ Toilets	flush	usually flush	pit	pit or none
▪ Water system	pressure	pressure	pressure or handpump	not usually supplied
▪ Campsites	standard design	standard design	standard design	informal (non-standard)
▪ Tables	Type I	Type I	Type I or II	Type II
▪ Sani-station	available	available	not usually available	not available
▪ Showers	available	not available	not available	not available
Information				
▪ Park entrance sign	portal or plaque	plaque	plaque or Type A	Type A
▪ Campground entrance sign	Type A	Type A	Type A	Type A or none
▪ Visitor centre	usually available	not available	not available	not available
▪ Information structures	information shelter	informat ion shelter	single signs	single sign or no information
Services				
▪ Public telephone	usually available	usually available	not usually available	not available
▪ Garbage collection	minimum daily	minimum daily	minimum weekly	not usually available
▪ Security	up to 24 hour	routine patrols	occasional patrols	no patrols
▪ Visitor programs	available	possibly available	not usually available	not available

Table 2. Day-use Areas Service Level Attributes

Attribute	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Facilities				
▪ Roads	paved	paved	usually gravel	gravel , dirt or none
▪ Toilets	flush	usually flush	pit	pit or none
▪ Water system	pressure	pressure	handpump	not usually supplied
▪ Tables	Type I	Type I	Type II	Type II or none
▪ Change House	available (if suitable for swimming)	available (if suitable for swimming)	not usually available	not available
Information				
▪ Park entrance sign	portal or plaque	plaque	plaque or Type A	Type A
▪ Day-use Areas entrance sign	Type A	Type A	Type A	Type A or none
▪ Visitor centre	usually available	not available	not available	not available
▪ Information Structures	information shelter	information shelter	single signs	single sign or no information
Services				
▪ Public Telephone	usually available	usually available	not usually available	not available
▪ Garbage Collection	minimum daily	minimum daily	minimum weekly	not usually available
▪ Security	up to 24 hour	routine patrols	occasional patrols	no patrols
▪ Visitor Programs	available	possibly available	not usually available	not available

Appendix B - Five Year Business Plan

Juniper Beach Park

Goal: control noxious weeds within the park

Action: in cooperation with the TNRD and Forest Service, develop a noxious weed management control program.

Goal: to identify, protect and maintain the park's natural and cultural values

Action: develop a resource management plan.

Goal: provide a better management unit for park boundaries

Action: add adjacent Crown lands below Highway #1 to the park.