



Kettle River Recreation Area Management Plan

November 2020



BC Parks

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This management plan will replace the 2003 Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan for Kettle River Recreation Area.

Kettle River Recreation Area Management Plan

Approved by:



March 10, 2021

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March 10, 2021

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Vision Statement

This **Vision Statement** describes the future state and management regime that is desired for Kettle River Recreation Area over the next 25 to 50 years. The vision provides long-term direction for park managers, while aiding them in making decisions regarding current issues. It is based on prevailing environmental and socio-economic attitudes concerning protected areas. It is, however, dynamic and conceptual and therefore allows for change due to evolving ideas regarding conservation, recreation and evolving ecosystems due to climate changes.

Nestled along the shores of one of the province's most scenic, yet endangered river systems, Kettle River Recreation Area remains a destination for camping and day use pursuits. Although the recreation area draws thousands of visitors a year, the extremely rare ecosystems that form the backdrop to this unique protected area have been preserved by ensuring that future infrastructure considers the carrying capacity of the site and focuses improvements and upgrades to currently developed areas.

There has been concerted effort put towards re-designation of the recreation area as a Class A park, providing enhanced protection under the *Park Act*. The strategic location of the recreation area, along the Spirit of 2010 Trail corridor, continues to complement visitation and appreciation of this highly popular tourism destination area.

Along with the broader landscape, the recreation area remains culturally and spiritually significant to First Nations. Through the process of reconciliation and collaboration, BC Parks and Indigenous communities have ensured that archaeological and traditional use sites within the recreation area have benefited from close monitoring and protection. In addition, enhanced education and interpretation activities that celebrate First Nations cultural heritage and values have greatly enhanced the visitor experience.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this document is to guide the management of the Kettle River Recreation Area. This management plan:

- articulates the key features and values of the recreation area;
- identifies the types and levels of management activities;
- determines the appropriate levels of use and development;
- 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

Kettle River Recreation Area (179 hectares) is located in the Kootenay Boundary Regional District approximately five kilometres north of the community of Rock Creek, along Highway 33. Main access to the site is either by Highway 33 or via (non-motorized access) the former Kettle Valley railway corridor (now referred to as the Spirit of 2010 Trail¹) which traverses through the recreation area (but is not contained within the recreation area's legal boundaries). Nearby parks and protected areas include Johnstone Creek (10 kilometres to the west), Conkle Lake (11 kilometres to the northwest) and Boundary Creek (32 kilometres to the east). See Figure 1 for context.

The recreation area's landscape is predominantly open forest and grasslands and, owing to its floodplain origins, has several large terraces. The riverbank portion of the recreation area contains a dense mixture of deciduous trees and old growth evergreens. A large wildfire burned significant portions of the recreation area in 2015, removing considerable tree cover on the western side of the river as well as completely burning the former park operator residence and service facility. The recreation area contains many vegetation communities and wildlife species that are considered 'at risk' both provincially and federally.²

1.3 Legislative Framework

Kettle River Recreation Area was originally established in 1972 by Order in Council (OIC) 2613/1972 under the authority of the *Park Act*. In 1974, 18.6 hectares were added to the recreation area through OIC 2248/1974. In 1978, 38.8 hectares were added to the recreation area by OIC 2028/1978. Another 0.12 hectares were added to Kettle River Recreation Area in 1985 by OIC 1254/1985. The current area of Kettle River Recreation Area is 179 hectares. A recreation area is Crown land designated under the *Park*

¹ Spirit of 2010 Trail is a series of historic rail lines that pass through many communities across southern BC from the Fraser Canyon and Brookmere to Slocan Lake. The trail is comprised of the Kettle Valley Rail Trail, Columbia and Western Rail Trail and Slocan Rail Trail. The rail line opened in 1915 and was abandoned in portions beginning in 1961, with the final segment falling into disuse in 1989. The rail track was removed within the Kettle River section (Rock Creek to Kelowna) in 1979/80.

² Confirmation of species at risk within the recreation area (individual species or ecological communities) is supported by provincial and BC Parks' datasets.

Act whose management and development is constrained by the Act. A subset of the land area of Kettle River Recreation Area contains valid mineral tenure and until such time as the mineral tenure is extinguished/acquired the recreation area designation will remain.

1.4 Land Use Planning Direction and Recommendations

The West Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan (1995) Goal 2 process recommended that the entire recreation area be re-designated as Class A park, placing emphasis on acquiring the mineral claim that encumbers the site. The Goal 2 expansion would also include capturing those portions of the Kettle River that are below the high-water mark, either to middle thread or full breadth of the river depending on location.

Goal 2 sites were identified during the land use planning process as smaller park candidate sites containing special natural/recreational features. Goal 2 recommendations require Government endorsement prior to being implemented.

1.5 Relationship with First Nations

The provincial protected areas system contains cultural and natural values that are significant to First Nations. Some protected areas are important as sources of natural medicines and foods, or as sacred sites. The Kettle River Valley figured prominently as a hunting, trade and settlement area for First Nations in both the pre-contact and the historical eras.

The land established as Kettle River Recreation Area is located within territories traditionally used by the Secwepemc Nation, four bands of the Okanagan Nation Alliance (Okanagan, Lower Similkameen, Penticton, Osoyoos) and the Upper Nicola Indian Band.

The management plan encourages the expansion of relationships between BC Parks and these First Nations in a number of areas to ensure that management of the recreation area considers and integrates their uses and values. The management plan will not limit any current or future treaty negotiations.

1.6 Relationship with Communities

The nearby community of Rock Creek and outlying rural property owners utilize the recreation area in all seasons. Visitation to the recreation area provides a significant economic benefit to the local economy (supporting local businesses by means of food/beverage, fuel, tourism attractions). Cycling use of the Spirit of 2010 Trail (a regional corridor) also enhances visitor use and appreciation.



Plate 1: A mine shaft opening which has been permanently closed by BC Parks



Plate 2: The 2015 post-fire remains of the park operator residence and maintenance facility

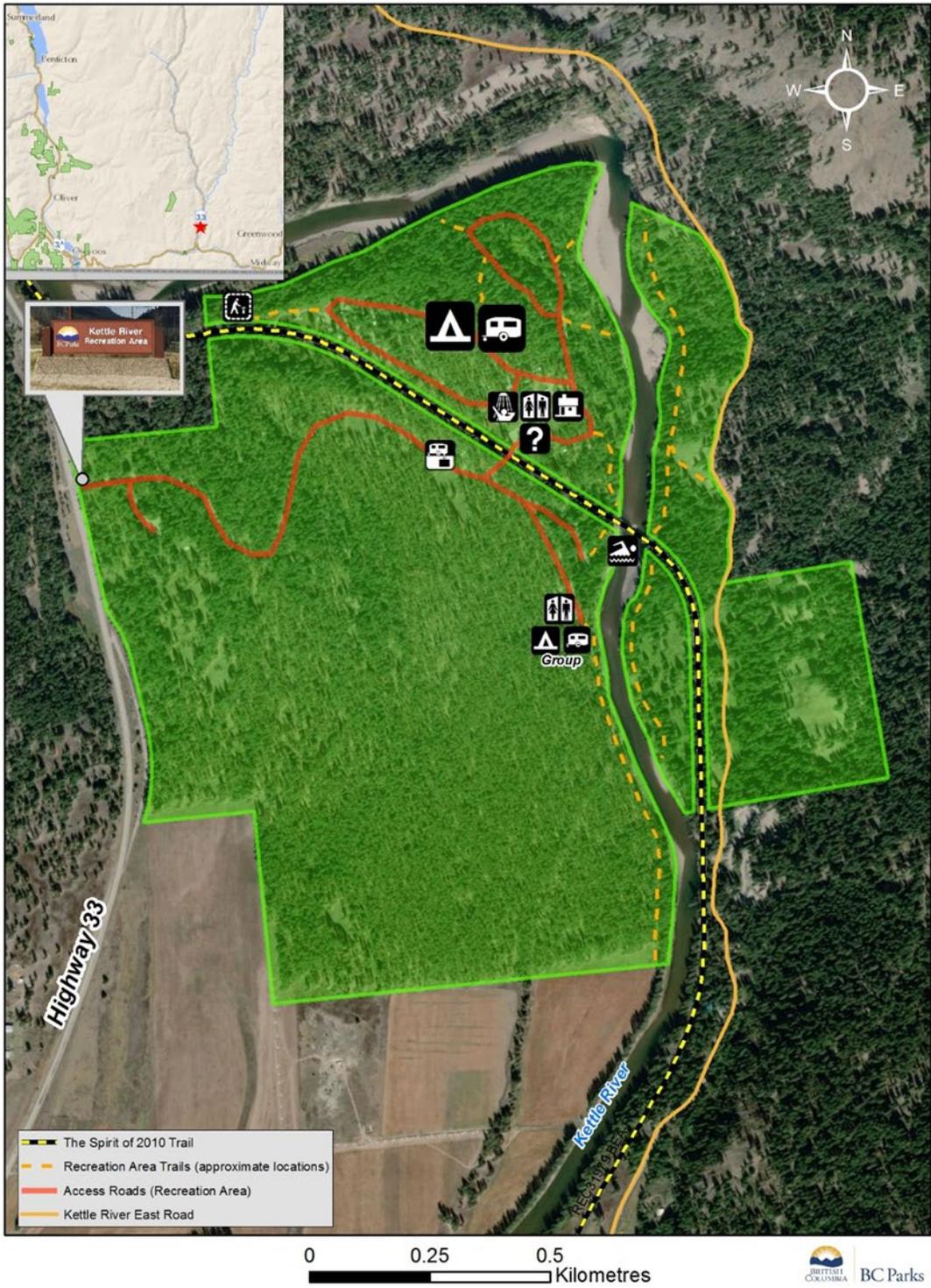


Figure 1: Context map of Kettle River Recreation Area

1.7 Historical Land Use

Prior to its recreation area designation, the land area was used as an unofficial camping area and records indicate that long-term campers (squatters) used the area. Several old cabins were situated on the east side of the river, likely associated with former mining camps, which provided additional shelter for campers/squatters. There are several prominent entrance portals and mine shafts located within the recreation area that date back to the early 1900s when silver ore was being mined.

1.8 Adjacent Land Use

The recreation area is bounded to the north, west (with the exception of Highway 33) and south by private land, whereas the areas to the east of the recreation area are provincial Crown land. The former Kettle Valley rail corridor (including the iconic wood decked iron trestle which spans the Kettle River) is excepted from the boundary description of the recreation area and is maintained as a hiking and cycling route (Spirit of 2010 Trail) by the Trails to the Boundary Society under a partnership agreement with Recreation Sites and Trails BC. The Kettle River East Road (a public road) is excluded from the recreation area.

A portion of a larger private parcel, DL 617S (located adjacent to the northwest boundary of the recreation area), is a popular swimming and angling area (see Figure 2). There are several active mineral tenures along the periphery of the recreation area. A private parcel located immediately to the south of the recreation area was in trespass (fencing and land clearing) for several years but the encroachment was resolved in partnership with the adjacent landowner and restoration efforts have been initiated.

1.9 Existing Permits and Authorizations

There are currently three active resource use permits* within the recreation area as described in Table 1 below.

Permit Holder	Permit Type	Scope
Quality Recreation Ltd.	Park Operator Agreement	Recreation Area facility maintenance, fee collection, security, etc.
Fortis BC	Land Use Occupancy	Distribution power within the recreation area (facilities, group campsite).
Telus Communications Inc.	Land Use Occupancy	Phone lines for facility operator and public phone.

*Within recreation areas, a resource use permit is the type of authorization used to permit land uses and commercial activities.

Table 1: Current resource use permits in Kettle River Recreation Area

1.10 Encumbrances and Interests

Eight range tenures overlap with the recreation area: RAN076136, RAN077911, RAN076575, RAN074269, RAN074275, RAN074292, RAN075143, and RAN076029; however, range use is not permitted within the recreation area. A No Registration Reserve (#1001584) covers the entire recreation area and precludes the issuance of new mineral and placer claims. One subsurface Crown granted mineral claim (the Emeline Mineral Claim- DL 1081S) exists within the recreation area.

A road use permit (Forest File ID# R10185) and a public road (Kettle River East Road) travel through portions of the DL 1081S of the recreation area (see Figure 2).

A guide outfitter territory (800222) and two trap line territories TR0812T008 (west side of the Kettle River) and TR0814T014 (east side of the river) overlap with the recreation area. There are no active resource use permits for guide outfitting or trapping within the recreation area.

1.11 Climate Change

The climate in the Kootenay-Boundary has already changed significantly over the past century and is expected to continue to change. Longer, hotter summers with reduced precipitation has made conditions suitable for increased wildfire risk, whereas water shortages and low flows in the Kettle River in mid to late summer have become the norm.

By the 2050s (noting a temperature warming in the region by an additional 1.1 to 3.2 degrees Celsius) it is projected that there will be substantial decreases in spring snowfall, an increase in frost-free days, and more intense precipitation extremes. Flora and fauna species are likely to migrate in response to the warming and the changes to the recreation areas' wildlife and plant composition (potentially more weedy species) are likely.



Plate 3: View of the Kettle River looking south from Highway 33 with the Spirit of 2010 Trail in the foreground

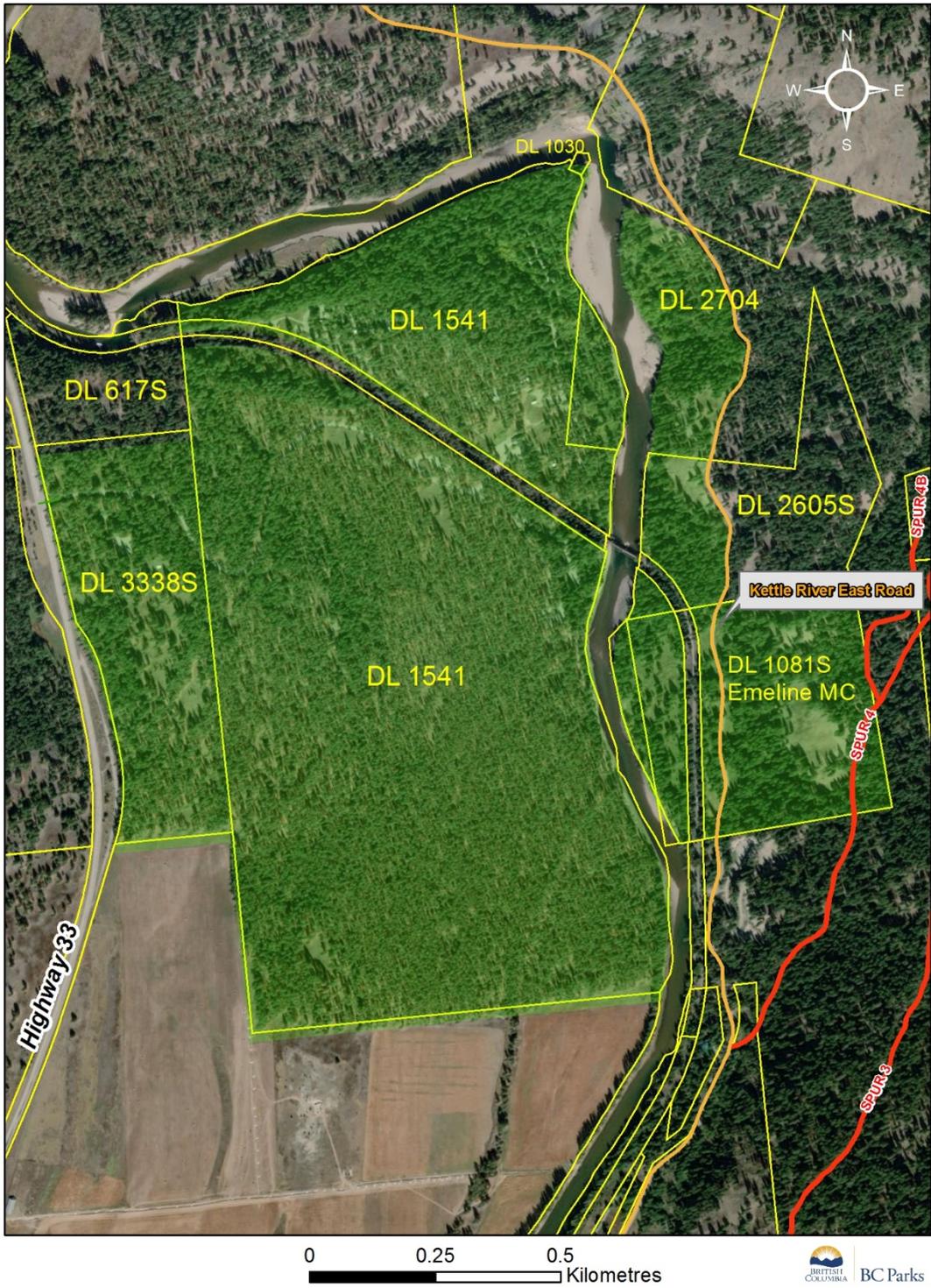


Figure 2: Legal lot context for Kettle River Recreation Area

1.12 Management Planning Process

This management plan will replace the 2003 Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan for Kettle River Recreation Area. The management plan has undergone public, stakeholder, and First Nations review.

The management plan draws information and background from the following planning documents:

- Kettle River Objectives (Planning), 1974.
- Interpretation Assessment of Kettle River Recreation Area, July 1975.
- Impact Assessment: Kettle River Recreation Area. Strix Environmental Consulting. December 1998.
- Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan for Kettle River Recreation Area, 2003.
- Kettle River Recreation Area Visitor Satisfaction Survey- Results/Technical Report, 2013/2019.



Plate 4: The 2015 wildfire event, although impactful to the recreation area, has provided a valuable opportunity to study ecosystem recovery, as well as an important educational and awareness tool for the visiting public



Plate 5: The grassland and open forest ecological communities of the recreation area are considered extremely rare and have all but disappeared from the Kettle River Valley due to land conversion and development



Plate 6: The iconic steel railway trestle, built in the 1930s replacing a former wooden truss structure, links the east and west sides of the recreation area and Crown land beyond

2.0 Values and Roles of the Protected Area

2.1 Significance in the Protected Areas System

One of the primary roles of Kettle River Recreation Area is the protection of an open forest and grassland ecosystem that has become increasingly rare in the province. Of particular importance is the remnant characteristics of the glacio-fluvial terrace landscape that is retained within the recreation area, most of which has succumbed to agricultural and residential development elsewhere within the Kettle River Valley. Despite its small size, the recreation area contains representative examples of intact open forest grassland plant communities (a rarity in this general landscape area because of the absence of cattle grazing) and retains habitat that supports a diversity of fauna, many of which are considered at risk in British Columbia.

Being centrally located between the Cascade Range and the Rocky Mountains, both of which support large predators and their prey populations, the Okanagan and Kettle Valley subregion poses a potential bottleneck to climate driven range shifts of shrub steppe species. As such, the recreation area plays an important role in maintaining and restoring the region's permeability to wildlife movement and connectivity.

The recreation area is also a highly popular destination campground for regional tourists. Owing to the popularity of the Spirit of 2010 Trail and the Kettle River, the recreation area is frequently visited in the summer months by campers, cyclists, hikers, anglers and river floating enthusiasts. Its moderate elevation (630 metres ASL) and proximity to the Kettle River offers a respite from hotter peak-season temperatures associated with the nearby Okanagan valley.

2.2 Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Values

Ecosystem Representation/Ecological Communities

Kettle River Recreation Area is located within the IDFxh4 Interior Douglas-fir (Very Dry Hot) Biogeoclimatic (BGC) Zone of the Southern Okanagan Ecoregion. Province-wide, protected areas within this specific ecoregion and biogeoclimatic zone total approximately 412 hectares, with Kettle River Recreation Area accounting for just over 43% of the land area of that representation. Moreover, only 1.4% of the BGC zone is protected in the province, with a mere seven protected areas in the entire provincial system containing the IDFxh4 zone. In terms of under-represented subzone/variants, the recreation area contributes a significant percentage (42.1%) of the IDFxh4 protected province-wide.

The recreation area is located within the Natural Disturbance Type 4 (NDT4) category. The NDT4 ecosystem is categorized by frequent, stand replacing fires that would occur naturally in the absence of human fire suppression. In 2015, a sizeable, quickly spreading wildfire, covering approximately 4,415 hectares of Crown and private land, swept up the Kettle River Valley from an ignition source near Rock Creek. Two-thirds of the recreation area was impacted by the wildfire, with a significant loss of tree and vegetation cover, along with facility infrastructure. Post-wildfire vegetation plots were established within the recreation area to monitor long-term recovery of the ecosystem.

Ponderosa pine forested ecosystems on glacio-fluvial terraces along the Kettle River are quite rare, as agriculture and homestead ranches/residential development dominate the equivalent landscape

areas throughout the Kettle River Valley. Site series designations (specific classification of the IDFxh4) within the recreation area are 02, 04 and possibly 05. Ecological community classification has not been completed for these site series in the IDFxh4; however, equivalent ecosystems in adjacent BGC zones are provincially red and blue listed (e.g., ponderosa pine/ bluebunch wheatgrass - Idaho fescue). There are also intact riparian portions (which contain red listed plant communities) of the recreation area that contain impressive stands of cottonwoods and other riverbank vegetation that collectively comprise characteristics of several ecological communities considered at risk in the province (e.g., ponderosa pine - black cottonwood/poison ivy, and ponderosa pine - trembling aspen/prairie rose).



Plate 7: Impressive stands of old growth cottonwood line the riverbank portion of the recreation area

Wildlife

The recreation area is well positioned within the river valley to provide habitat for a range of species. Mule Deer, White Tail Deer, Elk, Black Bear, Cougar, Bobcat, Coyote, Lynx, and Beaver have been observed as well as an assortment of small wildlife such as Red Squirrel, Columbian Ground Squirrel, Least Weasel and Yellow-Pine Chipmunk. The site boasts a wide array of bird species (e.g., Common Raven, White-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Great Horned Owl, Brown Creeper, Black-backed Woodpecker) and supports habitat for the Lewis's Woodpecker, Flammulated Owl and the Western Screech Owl, all of which are blue-listed in the province. Of particular note, since the 2015 wildfire event within the recreation area, there has been increased observances of specific bird species- particularly woodpeckers. Several bat species are known to frequent the recreation area (e.g., Fringed Myotis (blue listed), Little Brown Myotis (endangered), Long-eared Myotis, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat (blue listed) and Yuma Myotis), and the former mine shafts on the east side of the river provide suitable roosting habitat.

Amphibian species that could be found in the recreation area include the Tiger Salamander, Great Basin Spadefoot, Columbia Spotted Frog, and Western Toad. Reptiles include Gopher Snake,

Northern Alligator Lizard, Racer, Rubber Boa, Western Painted Turtle, Western Rattlesnake and Western Skink.

The Kettle River Watershed supports several wild fish stocks including Rainbow Trout, Whitefish, Eastern Brook Trout, Northern (Mountain) Sucker, and several fish species at risk including Speckled Dace, Chiselmouth, and Shorthead Sculpin. Historical records also indicate the river system supported Westslope Cutthroat Trout.

Invasive Plants

As a result of human use or grazing by cattle (which occurred within the recreation area before establishment), there is an assortment of invasive weedy species of grass and introduced plant species.

Knapweed species (Diffuse, Spotted), Canada Thistle, Bull Thistle, Common Hound's Tongue, St. John's Wort, and Great Mullein can be found dispersed through the recreation area. Cheatgrass is also found within the site and competes with native grass species.

The 2015 wildfire in the recreation area also created soil conditions that made the area increasingly susceptible to invasive weed species, such as Dalmatian Toadflax.

2.3 Indigenous Cultural Values

Within the recreation area, there are four registered archaeological sites associated with historic and pre-historic Indigenous use, and it is suspected that the recreation area's landscape contains many more archaeological values that remain undiscovered- this is largely owing to the undisturbed and intact grassland/forest terrace. The recreation area is still utilized for traditional use activities and cultural practices by First Nations.

2.4 Recreational Values

A significant feature of the recreation area is its proximity to the Spirit of 2010 Trail. This converted railway corridor provides a recreational linkage through the Kettle River Valley over which thousands of cyclists and hikers visit on an annual basis. The recreation area's location offers a convenient base for many of these trail users. Swimming and floating the Kettle River is also a popular activity, as is angling and nature appreciation. Hunting is not permitted within the recreation area. Horse use and mountain biking in the recreation area is minimal and is kept to existing designated trails.



Plate 8: The former Kettle Valley rail line now serves as an important non-motorized use corridor (Spirit of 2010 Trail) through the recreation area

2.5 Facilities

The recreation area contains 114 vehicle accessible campsites (12 of which are considered double sites), and there are also two large group campsites (with power hook-ups) and a day use area along the river portion of the recreation area. The recreation area features a playground and bike 'pump track' for children, as well as individual flush toilets, a large toilet/shower building and a service compound/yard, office/shop and residence serving as a seasonal headquarters for the park operator. A designated dog use beach area is located on the east side of the river, just north of the trestle.

On the west side of the recreation area, there are several trails that emanate from the main campground and group campsites that access the Kettle River. One trail in the northwest portion of the recreation area has a nature interpretation focus. Trails on the east side of the recreation area provide access points to the river, whereas one trail provides access to the Kettle River East Road.



Plate 9: The large playground and pump track area within Kettle River Recreation Area



Plate 10: The toilet/shower building and main campground entrance at Kettle River Recreation Area

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Management Objectives and Strategies

Management Objective	Management Strategies
<p>To protect, restore and enhance biodiversity and ecological values.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Confine new development, and enhancement or upgrading of facilities to areas within the Nature Recreation zones and Intensive Recreation zones. ● Encourage and promote continued research, inventory and monitoring of the unique grassland and open forest ecosystem contained within the recreation area. Place emphasis on species inventories for the recreation area with a specific focus on those considered ‘at risk’ and those most susceptible to the effects of climate change. ● Develop a ‘restoration strategy’ for the recreation area which focusses on areas of former trespass/encroachment and areas where park facilities were located (e.g., pre-2015 location of the park operator’s seasonal housing/offices). ● Monitor the recreation area for invasive plants and implement appropriate preventative and treatment options (biological, chemical or mechanical) as needed. ● Continue to monitor forest regeneration and ecosystem function (post-2015 wildfire event). ● Pursue the acquisition of the remaining mineral claim (Emeline MC) within the recreation area. Upon acquisition, pursue a process to re-designate the entire recreation area as Class A park. ● Upon support and approval of re-designation as Class A park, ensure river portions (middle thread or complete coverage) are captured under BC Parks’ jurisdiction. ● Investigate opportunities to expand the recreation area’s land base through private land acquisition on a willing buyer- willing seller basis (e.g., eastern portion of DL 617S). Apply zoning to new acquisition areas that are reflective of their respective ecosystem values and attributes. ● Continue to monitor boundary integrity of the recreation area and deploy measures to address incidental trespass or encroachment. Restore or rehabilitate areas of past encroachment that resulted in ecological impact. ● Explore opportunities to utilize prescribed fire to enhance resilience of the forest/grassland ecosystem and to avoid extreme wildfire events. ● Exclude resource roads under Crown permit (i.e. Spur 4) from the recreation area’s boundaries.
<p>To provide for a range of recreational activities and opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to promote the recreation area as a destination campground and to focus upgrading/enhancement within (or within proximity) to the current developed footprint. ● Liaise closely with partnership groups and government agencies that are affiliated with the Spirit of 2010 Trail. ● Ensure former mining infrastructure (e.g., adits/shafts) within the recreation area do not pose a risk to public health and safety.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially improve campground road access configuration (entrance and egress) to reduce congestion and increase safety of campground users.
<p>To protect Indigenous cultural heritage values and to promote collaborative engagement with First Nations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with First Nations to research and document Indigenous cultural heritage values. • Explore opportunities to research and implement traditional use management and techniques. • Where appropriate, develop interpretation that emphasizes the importance of the area to First Nations, while respecting the sensitivity of cultural values. Encourage First Nations to contribute their knowledge and experience to interpretive signage/information at identified locations (e.g., kiosks/trail heads). • As part of BC Parks’ staff oversight of the operations and maintenance, ensure park operator staff, permittees, contractors and volunteer staff are fully aware of, and educated about, provisions/responsibilities of the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i> and ‘chance find’ (archeological deposits being exposed during unplanned ground disturbance) procedures as it applies to the moderate and high archaeological/cultural value areas of the recreation area.

3.2 Zoning Plan

This management plan uses zoning to assist in the planning and management of Kettle River Recreation Area. In general terms, zoning divides an area into logical units to apply consistent management objectives for the conservation of protected area values. Zones reflect the intended land use, existing patterns of use, degree of human use desired, and level of management and development allowed in the zone. Zoning provides visitors and managers with a quick visual representation and appreciation of how a particular protected area is managed.

Kettle River Recreation Area is separated into three management zones: Nature Recreation, Intensive Recreation, and Special Natural Feature (see Figure 3). The zoning allocation is summarized as follows:

- Special Natural Feature Zone = 142 hectares
- Nature Recreation Zone = 11 hectares
- Intensive Recreation Zone = 26 hectares

Total Recreation Area Size = 179 hectares

This zoning is intended to concentrate and focus recreation use and access in appropriate areas which can support public use without having detrimental impacts on the protected area’s sensitive ecosystems. Appropriate uses/activities for each management zone within the recreation area are included in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 summarizes general attributes of each zone relevant to the recreation area.

Special Natural Feature Zone (SNF)

Description

This zone covers 142 hectares or 79% of the recreation area and applies specifically to those portions of the recreation area that contain intact grassland open forest and riparian ecological communities.

Objective and Management Intent

The Special Natural Feature Zone contains environmentally valuable resources as well as important habitat for a variety of wildlife considered at risk.

Nature Recreation Zone (NR)

Description

The Nature Recreation Zone covers 11 hectares or 6% of the recreation area and is located within portions of the recreation area where there are visitor activities associated with day-use (e.g., access to river frontage), activities emanating from the main campground, and access to the Spirit of 2010 Trail.

Objective and Management Intent

The objective of the Nature Recreation Zone is to protect scenic values and to provide for appropriate, low impact, recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Although the day use areas and the campground buffer are categorized as NR zone, in the future (through the management planning amendment process) there may be a requirement to enhance zoning protection of certain areas of the recreation area (e.g., Special Natural Feature zoning may replace Nature Recreation zoning in select areas if deemed necessary to provide enhanced protection of biodiversity/ecological values).

Intensive Recreation Zone (IR)

Description

The Intensive Recreation Zone covers 26 hectares or 14% of the recreation area, capturing the footprint of motor vehicle access to the recreation area, along with the main campground (and associated infrastructure), group campground, as well as service areas that are linked with the operations of the recreation area. The IR zone also has a provision for a new access/egress to the campground should updated road layout and configuration be pursued in the future.

Objective and Management Intent

The areas identified as Intensive Recreation Zone provide for high visitor use and associated activities within a small concentrated area.

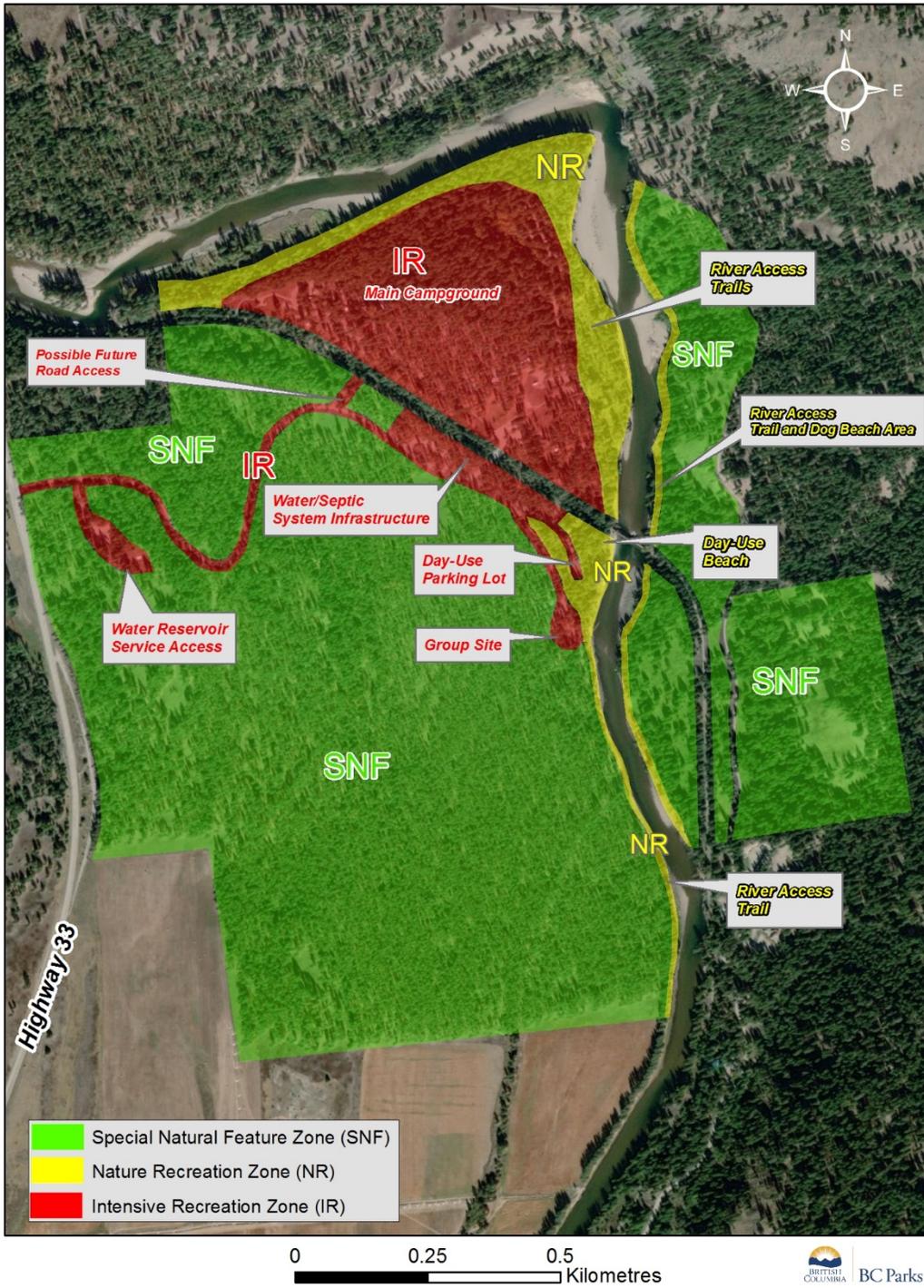


Figure 3: Zoning map of Kettle River Recreation Area

4.0 Plan Implementation and Future Validity/Review

4.1 Implementation Plan

BC Parks will seek project-specific funding and partners to implement many of the strategies embodied within this management plan and some strategies will be considered a higher priority than others (based on several factors such as minimizing impacts to ecosystem values). Moreover, specific projects will be evaluated for their priority in relation to the overall protected areas system. Many of the initiatives contemplated are not funded as part of core BC Parks activities so seeking funds with outside partners will be a key aspect of the management plan implementation.

4.2 Plan Validity Assessment and Review

In order to ensure the management of Kettle River Recreation Area remains relevant, BC Parks staff will complete an internal assessment of this management plan every five years at which time minor administrative updates may be identified and completed (e.g., update protected area details or maps where needed, etc.).

If the internal assessment reveals that management direction is no longer adequate, a formal review by BC Parks, First Nations and stakeholders will be completed to determine whether a plan amendment or a new plan is required. A formal plan review and amendment process would include an opportunity for public input, local and regional government comment, and consultation with First Nations.

5.0 Appendix 1: Appropriate Use Table

The following table lists existing and potential future uses in the Kettle River Recreation Area. This is not an exhaustive list of uses that may be considered in this protected area.

The table is provided to summarize the uses which the management planning process has confirmed to either be appropriate or not appropriate in the recreation area. The table also gives a general indication of the management direction for other uses. The table must be reviewed in conjunction with the other sections of the management plan, including the role descriptions, vision, objectives and strategies.

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 recreation area, the management plan will include strategies for ending the activity (e.g., phasing out, closing).
Y	May be an appropriate use	<p>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.).</p> <p>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.</p>

	Special Natural Feature Zone	Nature Recreation Zones	Intensive Recreation Zones	Comments
Activities/Uses				
Camping – designated sites	N	N	Y	
Commercial recreation (facility-based)	N	N	Y	Resource use permit required
Commercial recreation (non-facility based)	N	Y	Y	Resource use permit required
Filming (commercial)	N	Y	Y	Resource use permit required
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N	N	N	
Hiking	Y	Y	Y	Hiking limited to established trails only (in all zones)
Horse use/pack animals (not exotic)	N	Y	Y	Horse use within the SNF zone only allowed on established trails/routes
Hunting	N	N	N	
Land-based mechanized activity (e.g., mountain biking).	N	Y	Y	Mechanized activities limited to existing signed trails within the NR and IR zones
Land-based motorized activity	N	N	Y	Access roads only
Trapping	N	N	N	

	Special Natural Feature Zone	Nature Recreation Zones	Intensive Recreation Zones	Comments
Facilities/Infrastructure				
Activities/Uses				
Administrative buildings and compounds	N	N	Y	
Campgrounds	N	N	Y	
Communication sites	N	N	N	
Interpretation and Information Buildings	N	Y	Y	Interpretation kiosks only
Roads and parking lots	N	N	Y	As identified in the IR zones
Rights-of-way, gazetted roads, resource roads.	Y	Y	Y	Existing rights-of-way only, as authorized under resource use permit. Kettle River East Road and resource roads under Crown permit to be excepted from the recreation area. No new roads except for recreation area management purposes

6.0 Appendix 2: General Zoning Descriptions

	Special Natural Feature Zone	Intensive Recreation Zone	Nature Recreation Zone
Objective	To protect and present significant natural values, features or processes because of their special character, fragility or natural value.	To provide for a variety of readily-accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.	To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.
Use Level	Generally low.	Relatively high density and long duration types of use.	Relatively low use but higher levels associated with nodes of activity or access.
Means of Access	Various; may require special access permit.	All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see "Impacts" below).	Motorized (powerboat, snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle), non-motorized (bicycle) and non-mechanized (canoe, horse, foot). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pick-up points will be permitted.
Location	Determined by location of special natural value(s); may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones.	Contiguous with all-weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas.	Removed from all-weather roads but easily accessible on a day-use basis. Accessible by motorized means such as boat or airplane.
Zone Size	Small, usually less than 2,000 hectares.	Small, usually less than 2,000 hectares.	Can range from small to large.
Boundary Definition	Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of the special natural values (adequate to afford protection).	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas.	Boundaries should consider limits of activity and facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features.
Recreation Opportunities	Sightseeing and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.	Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, powerboating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, bicycling, nature and cultural appreciation, fishing, snow play, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and specialized activities.	Walk-in and boat-in camping, power boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heli-skiing, heli-hiking and specialized activities.
Facilities	Interpretative facilities only; natural values are to be protected.	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic or play areas, trail accommodation or interpretative buildings, boat launches, administrative buildings, service compounds, disposal sites, parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk-in and boat-in campsites, shelters, accommodation buildings, facilities for motorized access (e.g., docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.)
Impacts on Natural Environment	None; natural values to be maintained unimpaired.	Includes natural value features and phenomena in a primarily natural state, but where human presence may occur with the presence of recreation facilities and people using the zone. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas.	Area where human presence on the land is not normally visible. Facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.
Management Guidelines	High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining natural values and, where appropriate, a high quality recreational and interpretative experience. Active or passive management, depending on size, location and nature of the natural value. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts.	Oriented to maintaining a high-quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and for control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while being unobtrusive to visitors.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and high quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to protect or maintain the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation modes. Designation of transportation routes may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g., horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).