

**Kootenay District**

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION  
STATEMENT  
May, 1999**

**for Kianuko  
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH  
COLUMBIA**

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

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### **Purpose of Management Direction Statements**

Management Direction Statements provide strategic management direction for all protected areas which 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

# KIANUKO PROVINCIAL PARK

## MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

### 1. Introduction

#### A. Setting and Context (Figure 1)

Kianuko Provincial Park encompasses 11,638 ha and is located in the southern Purcell Mountains, east of Kootenay Lake and north of Creston. It includes the entire Kianuko Creek drainage above Skelly Creek, and a small segment of the headwaters of Sanca Creek. This park features a combination of rugged peaks, steep valleys, gentle rolling terrain, avalanche paths, small alpine lakes and plateaus.

Given its conservation and recreation values, this area had been proposed for protection by the Creston Watershed Committee in 1983, the Creston Public Advisory Committee and the Kianuko Coalition in Parks and Wilderness for the 90s. This area is considered important to improve the representation within the Southern Columbia Mountains Ecoregion. The Commission on Resources and Environment supported this proposal. Upon recommendation by the West Kootenay - Boundary Land Use Plan, this area received Class A provincial park status on July 12, 1995 under Schedule D of the *Park Amendment Act, 1995*.

### II. Protected Areas Attributes (Figure 2)

#### A. Conservation

- replicates other higher-elevation representation in the Southern Columbia Mountains Ecoregion (SCM) by including a full range of alpine and sub-alpine forest species, primarily Wet Mild Engelmann Spruce - Subalpine Fir Subzone (ESSFwm) (a provincially significant Subzone) and Columbia - Shuswap Moist Warm Interior Cedar - Hemlock Subzone (ICHmw2), a poorly represented lower elevation variant
- protects rich riparian community through a number of small alpine lakes and meadows
- provides high-value habitats for deer, elk, moose, caribou and grizzly bear
- is an important fisheries tributary to the Goat River

#### B. Recreation

- moderate recreation values associated with summer and fall backcountry hiking, fishing, hunting and mountaineering
- contains rounded alpine/subalpine summits with cirques, small lakes, tarns and gentle forested mountains
- moderate ability to address public demand; high opportunity for public appreciation

#### C. Cultural Heritage

- identified by Ktunaxa Nation as a significant area of traditional use and spiritual value
- no information on heritage objects or remains

Figure 1 - Regional Context Map

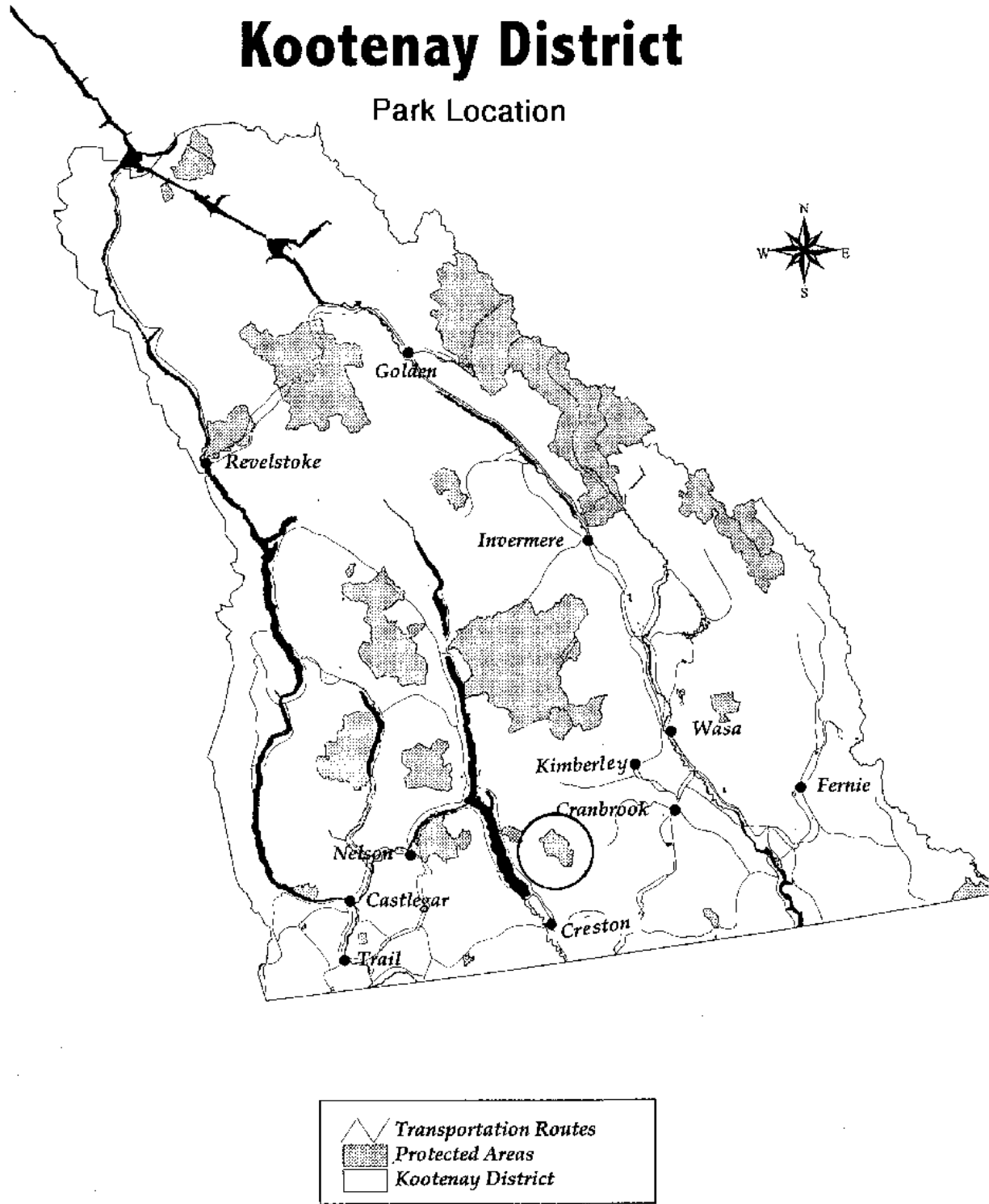
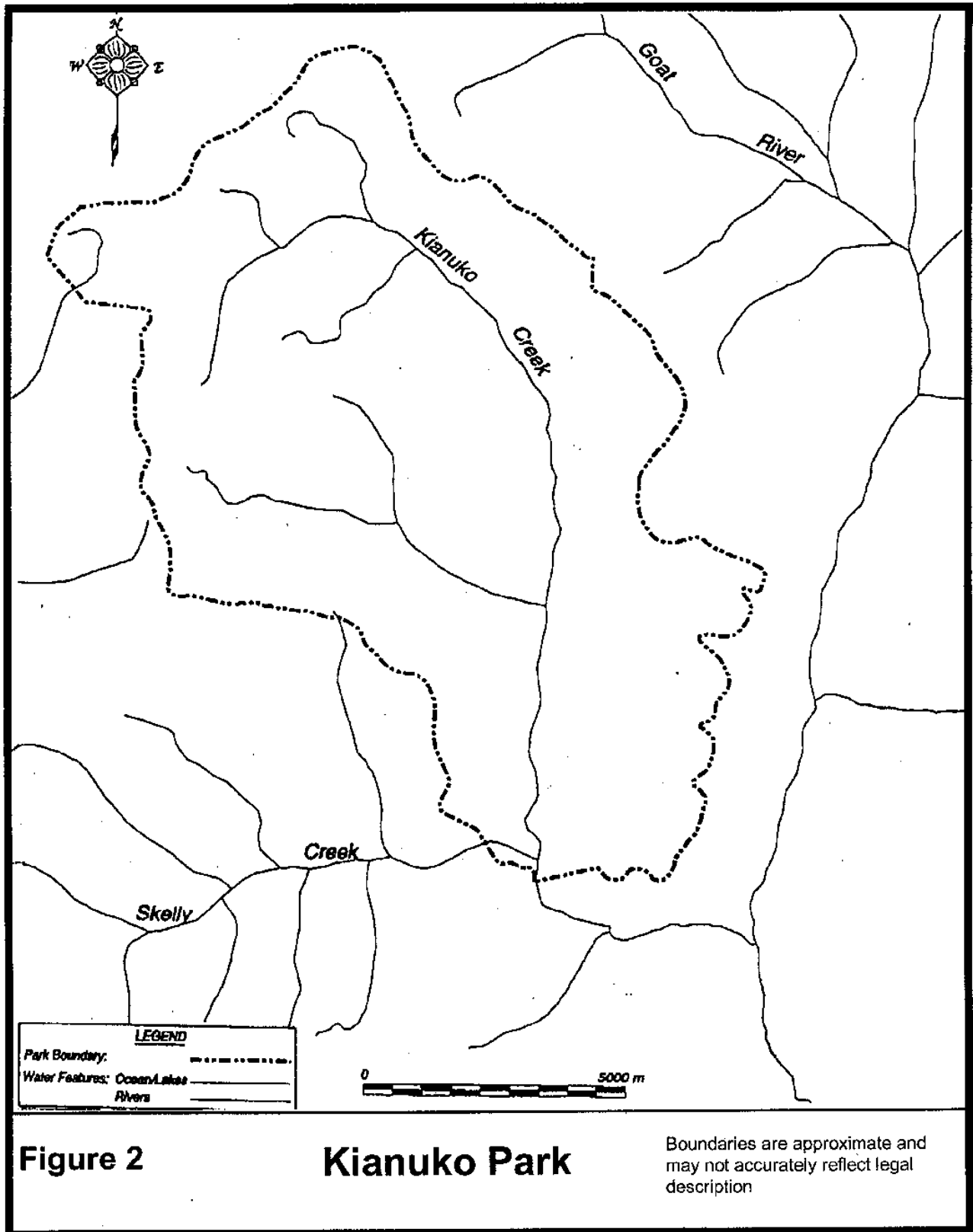


Figure 1

NTS

Figure 2 - Park Reference Map



#### **D. Significance in Protected Areas System**

- high conservation values - adds high elevation representation, (1.6% of the SCM) undisturbed watershed with high riparian values; protection of caribou, moose and grizzly bear habitat and old-growth forests (spruce, subalpine fir)
- moderate two-season recreation values
- moderate cultural values - important Ktunaxa traditional spiritual area

### **III. Land Use, Tenures and Interests**

#### **A. Access**

- Forest Service Road from the St. Mary River valley west of Kimberley some 30 km up Meachen Creek to the Sanca-Meachen trailhead and then by trail to the Kianuko headwaters
- from Highway 3A north of Creston, then, via the Sanca Creek Forest Service Road some 15 km to the Sanca trailhead
- from Highway 3 east of Creston up the Goat River Forest Service Road some 25 km to the Kianuko Creek Road and trailhead

#### **B. Existing Tenures**

- traplines                      License No. RT118928                      Territory No. 0406T002  
   License No. RT119093                      Territory No. 0406T005  
   License No. RT118952                      Territory No. 0406T007
- guide-outfitter              License No. G0106838                      Territory No. 0406G001

#### **C. Existing Land Use, Activities and Facilities**

- trails in upper 8 km of the drainage and for 3 km across its headwaters to Sanca and Meachen creeks, providing easy access to subalpine ridges
- informal campsites
- one guide outfitter cabin
- caribou research in progress

#### **D. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use**

- active logging to all park boundaries

#### **E. First Nation Interests**

- the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council have included Kianuko Provincial Park within their asserted traditional territory
- while direct consultation with tribal council representatives on this management direction statement was requested, limitations of time and resources have prevented First Nations from participating
- this management direction statement provides a foundation upon which continued relationships between BC Parks and the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council are based

#### **F. Other Agency Interests**

- BC Environment (BCE) - biodiversity objectives; health of wildlife populations; administration of traplines and guide outfitting tenures; caribou research
- Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture (STC) - opportunities for viable commercial tourism

- Ministry of Forests (MOF) - adjacent recreational activities; adjacency issues such as access, visual quality, connectivity

#### **G. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests**

- hikers
- mountaineers
- trappers
- guide outfitters
- hunters
- anglers
- environmental groups concerned about protected area management
- snowmobilers

### **IV. Management Commitments and Issues**

#### **A. Management Direction from Previous Planning**

- existing grazing, guide-outfitting and trapping will continue under Park Use Permits
- objectives and strategies of the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy (KBLUP - IS) Chpt 4
- natural occurrences such as fires and forest diseases will be managed as in other parks through consultation and joint action by BC Parks and Ministry of Forests districts

#### **B. Management Issues**

- off-road motorized access and snowmobiling
- lack of information on natural and cultural values in the new park
- coordinated management over access trails with Ministry of Forests
- revegetation of previously harvested sites

### **V. Management Strategy**

While key strategies or actions are identified, the completion of all these strategies is subject to funding and funding procedures. As such, strategies are ranked according to priority and completed as funding permits. As well, all development within provincial parks is subject to the BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy.

#### **A. Priority Management Objectives and Actions**

##### **Objectives**

- maintain the 1.6% ecosystem representation of the Southern Columbia Mountains Ecosection
- ensure protection of old-growth forest communities
- protect mountain caribou and grizzly bear habitat
- maintain backcountry recreation values
- honor commitments in (KBLUP - IS)
- plan and manage the park to protect cultural heritage values
- develop relationship with First Nations to enhance understanding and management of park value
- restore biodiversity to the harvested sites in the Skelly Creek drainage



## **Actions**

- compile natural and cultural values information to gain a better understanding of the park
- work with BCE and MOF to address natural occurrences of fire, insect and forest diseases
- work with BCE and MOF to revegetate the logged blocks in Skelly Creek to a natural condition and deactivate logging roads
- work with agencies to ensure connectivity of wildlife habitat to the park
- work with BCE to manage for habitat needs of wildlife species
- work with BCE to inventory and protect indigenous fish populations
- prohibit recreational snowmobile use in the park to enhance mountain caribou winter habitat
- work with MOF to address vehicle access to the park and trail connections to Sanca and Lockhart creeks
- work with local First Nations to identify traditional use of the park and determine management needs
- issue permits to existing trappers and guide outfitters

## **B. Consultation and Future Planning**

A management plan based on extensive public, First Nations and agency input that will define longer term acceptable uses, use levels and zoning would be the next step in planning and consultation. This is currently a moderate priority for the Kootenay District

## **C. Zoning Plan**

There is insufficient knowledge and understanding about this area to apply the BC Park Zoning Policy. The zoning policy defines in general terms the management direction for a given area of a park, including the type of uses and overall level of use and facilities in relationship to varying degrees of acceptable impacts on park values.

**Appendix A**  
**Summary Table of Land and Resource Uses**

The following table provides a summary of commitments made through land use processes with regard to acceptable uses, activities, and facilities within this protected area.

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptable Uses
Hunting	Y
Fishing	Y
Trapping	N <sup>2</sup>
Grazing (horses with guide permit)	Y
Rec. Gold Panning/Rock Hounding	N
Utility Corridors	N
Communication Sites	N
Horse Use/Packing	Y
Guide Outfitting-Hunting:	Y
- Fishing	M
- Nature Tour	M
- River Raft	N
- Mountain Bike	M
Cat-Assisted Skiing	N
Ski Hills	N
Heli Skiing	N
Heli Hiking	N
Camping (Wilderness)	Y
Camping (Serviced)	N
Tourist Resorts	N
Back Country Huts/Guest Ranch	N <sup>2</sup>
Water Control Structure	N
Fish Stock/Enhance	M
Road Access	M
Off Road Snowmobile	M
Off Road Motorized	N
Off Road Mechanical	M
Motorized Water Access	N
Aircraft Access (fixed wing)	N
Fire Management:	
- Prevention	Y
- Prescribed Fire	M
- Suppression	Y
Forest Insect/Disease Control	M
Noxious Weed Control	M
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	M
Scientific Research (Specimens)	M
Scientific Research (Manipulations)	M

Y = allowed subject to the conditions in the management direction statements or management plan

M = may be permitted if compatible with protected area objectives

N = not allowed

N<sup>1</sup> = allowed for expressed management purposes only

N<sup>2</sup> = present and allowed to continue but not normally allowed