

Skeena Region

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

March 2003



**For Kinaskan Lake
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

**Ministry of Water, Land
& Air Protection
Environmental
Stewardship Division**

Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park Approvals Page

Forward

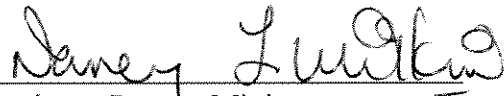
This management direction statement for Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park provides management direction until such time as the plan is revised. Ongoing consultation between Environmental Stewardship Division and First Nations may require changes to this management direction statement. Aboriginal rights are honoured and respected within the park.

Implementation of strategies identified in the MDS will be dependent on available funding and Environmental Stewardship Division priorities.

Approvals:



Regional Manager
Skeena Region
Environmental Stewardship Division



Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

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Table of Contents

Approvals Page

Forward	i
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Introduction

Purpose of the Management Direction Statement	1
Context.....	1

Provincial Park Attributes

Conservation.....	4
Recreation and Tourism.....	4
Commercial Business Opportunities.....	4
Cultural Heritage	4
Significance in the Protected Areas System.....	4

Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access.....	6
Existing Tenures, Alienations and Encumbrances	6
Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities	6
Adjacent Patterns of Land Use.....	6
First Nations Interests	6
Other Agency Interests.....	6
Private and Public Stakeholder Interests	7

Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park Role Statement	7
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Management Commitments and Issues

Management Direction from Previous Planning.....	7
Management Issues.....	8

Management Direction

Priority Management Objectives and Strategies.....	8
Consultation and Future Planning	10
Zoning Plan.....	10

Tables

Table 1 Status of 1988 Master Plan Strategies	2
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Figures

Figure 1 Regional Context Map	3
Figure 2 Tenures and Land Use Map	5
Figure 3 Zoning Plan Map.....	12

Appendices

Appendix 1 Table of Acceptable Activities, Uses and Facilities 13

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Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park

Management Direction Statement

Introduction

Purpose of the Management Direction Statement

Management direction statements (MDS) provide strategic management direction for protected areas that do not have an approved management plan. Management direction statements also describe protected area values, management issues and concerns; a management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies; and direction statements from other planning processes. While strategies may be identified in the MDS, the completion of all these strategies is subject to funding and funding procedures. In addition, all development associated with these strategies within the protected area is subject to the Parks and Protected Areas Branch's Impact Assessment Policy.

Context

The provincial government established Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park as a Class A Provincial Park on December 4, 1987 by Order-in-Council #2329/87 under the authority of the *Park Act*. The park is presently named and described in Schedule C of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*. The park is located on the southern end of Kinaskan Lake beside Highway 37, and contains Natadesleen Lake and part of the Iskut River. Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park covers approximately 1,800 hectares of forest and lake in the Tahltan Highland subdivision of the Stikine Plateau physiographic region between the southern tip of the Klastline Plateau and the Skeena Mountain Ranges. Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park has been identified by the Tahltan First Nation as being part of their traditional territory.

Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park covers most of the southern shore of Kinaskan Lake. In addition, the park includes a section of the Iskut River as it runs south from Kinaskan Lake through Natadesleen Lake and over Cascade Falls at the south end of the park. Kinaskan and Natadesleen lakes are in the upper parts of the Iskut River watershed, and are well known for their excellent rainbow trout fishing. The most spectacular physical feature in the park is Cascade Falls. The waterfall is formed where the Iskut River drains out of Natadesleen Lake and tumbles down a staircase of eroded sedimentary rocks from the Jurassic age. This is the only place in northwestern British Columbia where this type of waterfall is found. Visitors to the park can enjoy boating, fishing and camping. Two short trails in the park also provide the visitor with hiking opportunities. Moreover, Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park provides an alternate, though difficult, starting point for hiking trips into Mount Edziza Park. Park visitors also have the opportunity to see a variety of wildlife including moose, black and grizzly bear (a blue-listed species), wolf, cougar, mink, marten, hare, and squirrel. Visitors may see mountain goats and Stone sheep on the slopes of the high mountains bordering the Iskut River and Kinaskan Lake valley.

Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park is an important part of a series of provincial parks and ecological reserves along Highway 37. Meziadin Lake Provincial Park is located 215 kilometres to the south of Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park while Boya Lake Provincial Park lies 250 kilometres to the north. All three parks offer Highway 37 travellers excellent outdoor recreation destination and day use opportunities. These parks provide lakeside campground facilities along a major travel corridor and

attract local, regional and international visitors. Mount Edziza Provincial Park to the west, Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness and Tatlatui provincial parks to the east, and Stikine River Provincial Park to the north protect vast ecosystems and provide internationally significant backcountry outdoor recreation opportunities. The Grand Canyon of the Stikine River is an internationally significant landscape feature that attracts visitors from around the world. Todayin South Slope Provincial Park to the north protects important Stone sheep habitat and offers wildlife viewing opportunities from Highway 37. Ningunsaw Provincial Park and Ningunsaw River Ecological Reserve to the south protect important grizzly bear and moose habitat. Iskut River Hot Springs Provincial Park, to the south, protects hot springs on the banks of the Iskut River.

The former BC Parks Branch, Northern BC Region, developed a master plan for Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park. The Assistant Deputy Minister, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division, approved the master plan on February 3, 1988. The master plan provided valuable information about the history of the park and the issues facing park administration. The master plan identified several issues and established management policy strategies as outlined in Table 1 below. Table 1 also indicates the status of these strategies at the time of the current management direction statement’s development.

Table 1. 1988 Master Plan Strategies

1988 Issue	1988 Management Strategy	Status of Strategy - 2003
Park visitors may be at risk because of the discharge of firearms during hunting season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of the small size of the park, its location beside the highway and the intention to encourage more use throughout the park, hunting will be no longer permitted. 	Implemented
Visitor use of the park is low because of limited outdoor recreation opportunities and information services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new trail network to be constructed providing access to fishing area and Cascade Falls. 	Partly implemented – trail to Natadesleen Lake constructed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the information system to ensure visitors are aware of the attractions of the park, the improved facilities and the other significant recreation opportunities in proximity to Kinaskan Lake. 	Implemented
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to advertise private recreation concerns will be made available within the park through the provision of an additional park information shelter with an area map. 	Implemented

Figure 1: Regional Context

Kinaskan Lake Park
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20 0 20 Kilometers



- MDS Study Area
- Lakes, Ocean
- Rivers

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Tuya Mountains Park | 8 Ningunsaw R. Park and Ecological Reserve |
| 2 Boya Lake Park | 9 Great Glacier Park |
| 3 Todagin South Slope Park | 10 Choquette Hot Springs Park |
| 4 Pitman River Protected Area | 11 Craig Headwaters Protected Area |
| 5 Chukachida River Protected Area | 12 Lava Forks Park |
| 6 Spatsizi Headwaters Park | 13 Border Lake Park |
| 7 Iskut River Hot Springs Park | 14 Meziadin Junction Park |



Provincial Park Attributes

Conservation

- Lies within the Southern Boreal Plateau Ecosection. This ecosection is well represented (43.42%) in the protected areas system. Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park's contribution to this representation is minimal (0.16% of overall ecosection representation).
- Situated in the BWBSdk1 (Boreal White and Black Spruce dry cool subzone Stikine variant) Biogeoclimatic Zone (1685 hectares). The park provides minimal representation of this very well represented ecosystem (21.95%).
- Protects Cascade Falls, a provincially significant special feature, within northwestern British Columbia.
- Protects the regionally significant monoculture rainbow trout population in Natadesleen Lake.

Recreation

- Provides a rest stop and overnight camping for travelers using the provincially important tourism travel route along Highway 37 to northern British Columbia, Yukon Territory and the State of Alaska.
- Offers regionally significant outdoor recreation opportunities include fishing (rainbow trout), boating (canoeing, kayaking, and motorboating on Kinaskan Lake) and two short hiking trails.
- Provides quiet, "no motors" boating opportunities on Natadesleen Lake and the Iskut River.
- Provides an alternate though difficult starting point for hiking trips into Mount Edziza Provincial Park.

Commercial Business Opportunities

- Provides moderate commercial business opportunities for guided interpretation and education tour groups based on the special features and outdoor recreation opportunities of this park. This business opportunity is best developed as part of a systems approach where several provincial parks, protected areas and Crown land areas along Highway 37 are included in the tour to give clients a broad and interesting program.

Cultural Heritage

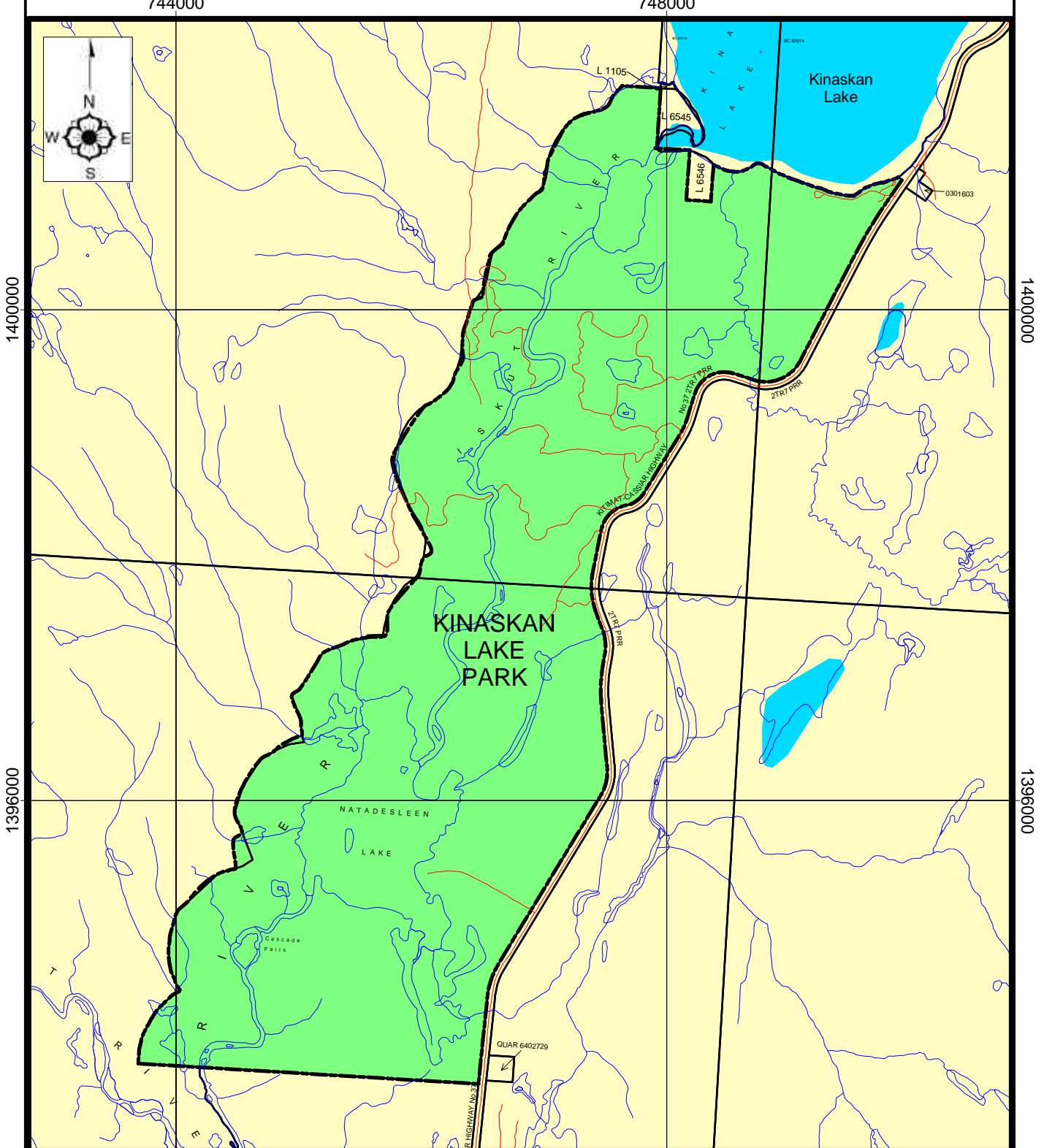
- Contains the historical First Nations Mowdade Lake trail.
- Protects an aboriginal obsidian flaking site situated between two campsites (Albright 1984).
- Cultural heritage values remain largely unknown at this time. Environmental Stewardship Division is seeking Tahltan First Nations' contributions to resolve this lack of knowledge.

Significance in the Protected Areas System

- Protects the regionally significant rainbow trout populations in Natadesleen Lake.
- Protects a provincially significant waterfall in Cascade Falls.
- Provides water and lakeshore recreational opportunities for regional residents and travelers.

Figure 2: Tenures and Land Use

Kinaskan Lake Park











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- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  Minor Roads |  Kinaskan Lk Park Boundary |  Indian Reserve |
|  Major Roads |  Cadastral Data/Tenures |  Protected Areas |
|  Rail |  EMPR Mines and Showings | |



Skeena District

- Provides accommodation along a remote travel corridor.
- Conserves a small segment of the South Boreal Plateau Ecosection.

Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park is located at the southern end of Kinaskan Lake beside Highway 37, 368 kilometres north of Kitwanga and 123 kilometres south of Dease Lake.

Existing Tenures, Alienations and Encumbrances

- Guided canoeing, kayaking and hiking tour permit SK0110330.
- Angling Guide Permits SK9710077 and SK9710078.
- The entire park is closed to hunting.
- Lies within trapline territory 621T020 (337 hectares) and 620T001 (1,463 hectares). These traplines, if operating in the park, are not authorized under a valid park use permit.
- Two private lots (District Lots 6545 and 6546) are located on the northern boundary of the park at the outlet of Kinaskan Lake.

Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities

- Contains a 50-unit campground, a hand water pump, pit toilets, information shelter, 20-unit parking lot, service yard, lake-front trail and a boat launch on Kinaskan Lake.
- A one kilometre long hiking trail from Highway 37, 10 kilometres south of Kinaskan Lake, leads to Natadesleen Lake.

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- Highway 37 forms the park's eastern boundary.
- Forest harvesting activities occur west of the park

First Nations Interests

- Tahltan First Nations have identified Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park as part of their traditional territory.
- Tahltan First Nation has an interest in maintaining their aboriginal traditional uses and activities in the park.

Other Agency Interests

- Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Skeena Region Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section has an interest in the park's wildlife and their habitats - MU 6-23 and fish species, particularly the rainbow trout population.
- Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (British Columbia Conservation Data Centre (CDC)) has an interest in the species at risk in this park.
- Canadian Coast Guard has an interest in the no motorized boating restriction on the Iskut River between Kinaskan Lake and Cascade Falls under the *Navigable Waters Act*.

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- Northern British Columbia Tourism Association is interested in this park because of its value to the touring public using Highway 37 and its contribution to the tourist facilities of northwestern British Columbia.
- Local residents and communities have an interest in the park as a local outdoor recreation area and conservation area.
- Federation of British Columbia Naturalists have an interest in the park because of its conservation role and the protection of flora and fauna and special natural features.
- Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia has an interest in the park as a starting point for guided expeditions west to Mount Edziza Provincial Park.

Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park Role Statement

The primary role for Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park is to provide provincially significant outdoor recreation opportunities for destination, transient and day use recreation activities. Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park, along with Meziadin Lake Provincial Park in the south and Boya Lake Provincial Park in the north, serve as the three major provincial park destinations along Highway 37. Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park provides the public with the most significant destination and day use park opportunities along the central portion of Highway 37. The park fulfils several Environmental Stewardship Division recreation goals, on both a regional and provincial basis, by providing facilities and services for:

- Lakeside destination camping for visitors to the Stikine River and north portion of the Iskut River watershed;
- Beach access and associated picnicking area;
- Boat launch and parking facility to allow access to Kinaskan Lake;
- Hiking trails and nature appreciation;
- Panoramic views up the length of Kinaskan Lake with the Todagin Mountains to the east and the Klastline Plateau to the west; and,
- Potential for interpretation of First Nations and non-aboriginal cultural heritage themes.

Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park serves a significant conservation role by protecting a portion of the Iskut River upper watershed including Natadesleen Lake and the Cascades Falls special feature. The park also protects an important rainbow trout population. In addition, the park may also contain important cultural heritage values though these remain undocumented. The upper Iskut River Valley is the site of First Nation and non-aboriginal cultural heritage values that could form a valuable interpretation and education program in future.

Management Commitments and Issues

Management Direction from Previous Planning

- Lies within the Initial Attack Zone for forest fires as defined by the Cassiar Iskut-Stikine Land and Resource Management Plan.
- Environmental Stewardship Division annual management plans provide year-to-year direction for the park.
- The 1988 Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park Master Plan provided management direction as outlined in Table 1. The present management direction statement builds upon the management policies recommended and implemented in the 1988 master plan.

Management Issues

Theme	Issues
Protecting the park's outdoor recreation values and features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users would like to see additional recreational opportunities in the park in order to enhance their visit.
Ensuring park visitor safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor safety at the steep bank at the end of the Cascade Falls trail may be in jeopardy if the sign at the bank is not maintained.
Protecting the park's natural values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park's flora and fauna are relatively unknown because inventory of these values is incomplete. • The rainbow trout population, especially the vulnerable population in Natadesleen Lake, may need further protection because angling pressure and illegal guiding are raising concerns about the decreasing size of the fish. • Park values may be compromised if development occurs within the private lots at the outlet of Kinaskan Lake, and no public access exists to the river crossing at the outlet of Kinaskan Lake. • Unregulated camping on the island in Natadesleen Lake may have caused unacceptable damage to the island's natural values. • Land use activities, such as forest harvesting, on lands next to the park may pose a risk to the park's natural values from such influences as blowdown and island effect. • Forest values and processes may be disturbed because of illegal firewood collection. • The park's natural values may be compromised by increasing illegal ATV and snowmobile access that is hard to regulate. • The trapline owners, if they are operating in the park, do not have a valid park use permit.
Protecting cultural the park's heritage values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significance of cultural values and archaeological and historic sites is unknown. • Archaeological sites may be subject to disturbance because of the lack of cultural and historical inventories.
Providing information to the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public may not be aware of all opportunities at the park because of the lack of a park brochure and related current information.

Management Direction

The vision for Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park includes sustaining a moderate to high recreational use (day use and overnight camping), visitor appreciation of the Iskut River, Cascade Falls, Natadesleen Lake and Kinaskan and protection of the park's river and lake ecosystems and cultural heritage values.

Priority Management Objectives and Strategies

The following table describes management strategies to deal with the identified issues. In addition, Appendix 1 contains a list of acceptable activities, uses and facilities for this park.

Objective	Strategy
To protect the safety of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park's risk assessment is updated regularly. • Maintain proper signage regarding the Cascade Falls trail and risks to public safety.
To protect First Nations values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss issues through the Protected Areas Committee established pursuant to the Environmental Stewardship Division /Tahltan First Nations Agreement.

Objective	Strategy
To protect the park's cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and collect existing information on cultural heritage values with the Tahltan First Nations and local citizen groups and individuals; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prepare a report based on the collected data. • Consider creating a joint interpretive project on the history of aboriginal and non-aboriginal use in the park and surrounding area.
To protect the park's natural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete an inventory of flora and fauna with priority focused on resident fish populations known to be at risk. • Monitor regularly the rainbow trout population and conduct creel surveys at Natadesleen Lake, Iskut River and Kinaskan Lake to allow informed management decisions regarding this important fish population. • Promote Kinaskan Lake's angling opportunities but do not promote angling on Natadesleen Lake to protect this vulnerable rainbow trout population. • Conduct periodic enforcement patrols and promote angling ethics at both Natadesleen and Kinaskan lakes, including providing educational material on proper catch and release techniques. • Add District Lots 6546 and 6545 to the Environmental Stewardship Division's Property Acquisition List and purchase if funding and the properties are available. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Acquisition of these properties will eliminate incompatible development; establish continuity in lakefront park boundary; and allow public access to the river crossing at the outlet of Kinaskan Lake. • Continue to conduct Backcountry Recreation Impact Monitoring (BRIM) studies on island in Natadesleen Lake, and restrict camping on the island if needed. • Work with the Fish and Wildlife Recreation and Allocation Branch of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and Ministry of Forests (forestry issues) to ensure co-ordination between management agencies and to ensure management activities do not impact the ecological integrity of the park. • Liaise with the local community to eliminate the collection of firewood from the park. • Contact the trapline owners to place this resource use under a valid park use permit if they are operating in the park.

Objective	Strategy
To protect and enhance the park's recreational values and its appeal to park visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the need to improve, reroute and possibly extend the lakeshore trail to increase visitor access and reduce trespass issues. • Determine the practicability of trailhead barriers to prevent ATV and snowmobile use of the trail to Natadesleen Lake. • Enhance Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park's attractiveness to park visitors by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Promoting the park and its recreational opportunities, including angling on Kinaskan Lake, at regional tourism information centres. ➢ Consider upgrading the trail to Cascade Falls from Natadesleen Lake, and the installation of a bridge and/or viewing platform to allow viewing of Cascade Falls. ➢ Investigate the possibility of providing an interpretive trail and/or periodic interpretation programs and/or signage based in the park aimed at highlighting the area's history and culture and the Stikine Country protected areas. ➢ Determine whether a riverside hiking trail from the campground to Natadesleen Lake is desirable, both environmentally and socially, in order to increase recreational activities within the park. ➢ Continue to meet with Stewart/Cassiar Tourism Council.
To provide information to the public regarding the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a brochure for Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park based on current and accurate information. • Update the information about Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park on the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection web site. • Inform the public about the snowmobile and ATV use prohibition in the park from the Kinaskan Lake outlet to and including Natadesleen Lake.

Consultation and Future Planning

The Environmental Stewardship Division will continue to consult with the Tahltan First Nation through the Tahltan – Environmental Stewardship Division Protected Areas Committee and also with local stakeholders and adjacent resource users as necessary. This park is considered of low priority for the development of a management plan with full public involvement.

Zoning Plan

Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park is placed within three management planning zones.

Intensive Recreation Zone

Objective: To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Description: Covers eight hectares and contains the campground and roads.

Management Guidelines: Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor.

Special Feature Zone

Objective: To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.

Description: Applies to 28 hectares and protects Cascade Falls and surrounding spray area.

Management Guidelines: High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high quality recreational and interpretative experience. Active or passive management depending on size, location, and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts.

Natural Environment Zone

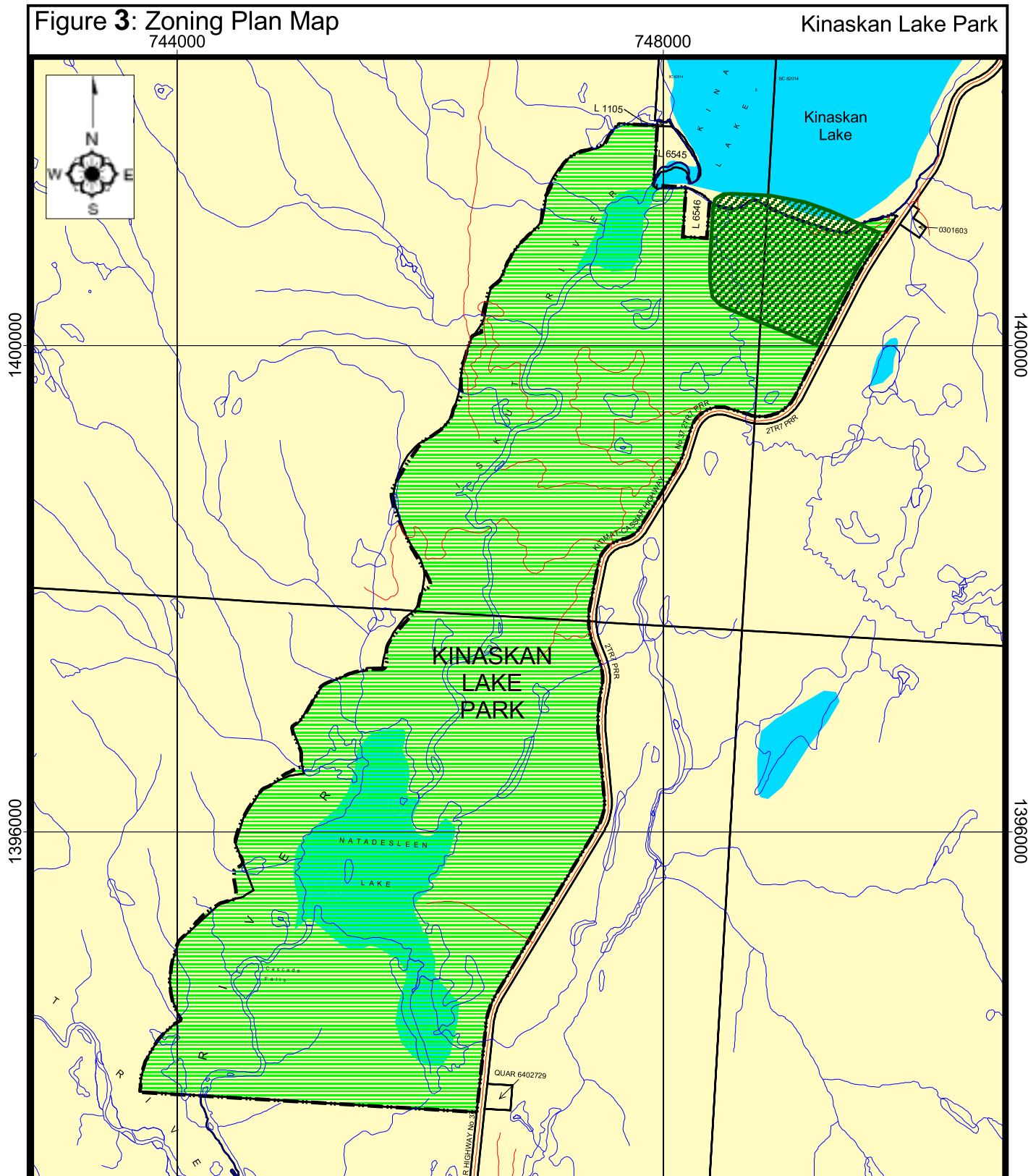
Objective: To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Description: Contains 1,764 hectares of the park outside the other two zones.

Management Guidelines: Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and a high quality recreation experience. Designation of access methods and limits on use may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts or minimize impacts (e.g. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).

Figure 3: Zoning Plan Map

Kinaskan Lake Park



744000

Scale 1:45000

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Minor Roads

Major Roads

Rail

Kinaskan Lk Park Boundary

Cadastral Data/Tenures

EMPR Mines and Showings

Indian Reserve

Natural Environment Zone

Development Zone



Skeena District

**Appendix 1. Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park
Table of Acceptable Uses, Activities and Facilities**

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptability
Aboriginal traditional activities and uses	Y
Hunting	N
Fishing	Y
Trapping	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational Gold Panning/Rock Hounding	N
Utility corridors	N
Communication Sites	N
Horse Use/ Pack Animals	M
Guide Outfitting (hunting)	N
Guide Outfitting (fishing)	Y
Guide Outfitting (nature tours)	Y
Guide Outfitting (river rafting/canoeing)	Y
Cat-Assisted Skiing	N
Ski Hills	N
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	N
Commercial recreation (non-facility based)	Y
Backcountry Huts	N
Water Control Structures	N
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N
Road Access – to campground area	Y
Off-road Access (snowmobiling)	N
Off-road Access (motorized)	N
Off-road Access (mechanical activities)	N1
Motorized Water Access	N
Aircraft Access – restricted adjacent to occupied campsite area due to safety and noise concerns	Y
Fire Management (suppression)	Y
Fire Management (prescribed fire management)	N1
Fire Management (prevention)	N
Forest Insect/Disease Control	N1
Noxious Weed Control	N1
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	M
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	M
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	M

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

M = may be permitted if compatible with protected area objectives

N = not allowed

N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

N2 = present and allowed to continue, but not normally allowed