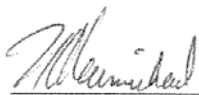


# KINGFISHER CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK AND ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

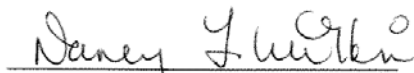
February 2006

Approved by:



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Drew Carmichael  
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Date: Feb. 14, 2006



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Nancy Wilkin  
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Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 26, 2006

## **KINGFISHER CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK AND ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan**

### **Introduction**

Kingfisher Creek Ecological Reserve and the adjacent Kingfisher Creek Provincial Park are located approximately 14.5 kilometres southeast of Sicamous on a remote northerly ridge of the Hunters Range. The boundaries of the ecological reserve and park form a contiguous area straddling the height-of-land to the south of the Eagle River Valley. There is no direct road access to either the ecological reserve or the park, however logging roads approach to within 3.5 kilometres of the north boundary of the park. Snowmobile trails lead from the logging road into the southern portion of the park. These trails also provide summer time hiking access into the park. Hiking and snowmobile access to the area can be gained from the south via a 2.5 kilometre connecting ridge walk from Mt. Mara fire lookout.

The 1495 hectare ecological reserve covers the headwaters of Kingfisher Creek, taking in the upper section of the main creek and two of its tributaries. Mountainous terrain extends north from the sharply defined ridge on the southwest boundary to include upper basins, ridges and the steep slopes of the Kingfisher Creek drainage. Kingfisher Creek flows south out of the reserve to eventually join the Shuswap River.

The 440 hectare park comprises the north facing mountain slopes and basins abutting the north side of the ecological reserve. The park includes two small lake basins that form the headwaters of north flowing creeks. The Eagle Valley Snowmobile Association has a cabin within the park on one of the small lakes. The cabin is under park use permit.

### **Primary Role**

#### **Kingfisher Creek Ecological Reserve**

The primary role of Kingfisher Creek Ecological Reserve is to protect subalpine environments that represent conditions and habitats occurring in the transition from dry to wet interior climates. Subalpine parklands are a main feature of interest in the reserve. Characterized by open forest and meadows, this habitat type occurs at the uppermost boundary of the engelmann spruce – subalpine fir zone, extending from about 1700 metres to the upper ridge tops. There is very little alpine tundra, but the meadowlands become increasingly more open toward the ridge crests with scattered windblown clumps of stunted trees ( krummholz) forming at the upper fringe of tree growth. Lower slopes of the reserve are dominated by typical engelmann spruce – subalpine fir forests and a finger of Interior Cedar Hemlock forest extends into the reserve along Kingfisher Creek, below the 1370 metre elevation.

The ecological reserve remains in pristine condition, largely due to its isolated location and the surrounding rugged terrain. The reserve is periodically patrolled by a volunteer warden and by park staff.

Forest harvesting roads are approaching the reserve, especially from the north, and have facilitated the development of snowmobile trails to within close proximity of the reserve. The creation of the adjacent park will allow for management of snowmobiling under the *Park Act*.

### **Kingfisher Creek Provincial Park**

The primary role of Kingfisher Creek Park is to protect subalpine ecosystems that connect through to Kingfisher Creek Ecological Reserve.

The park combines with adjacent Kingfisher Creek Ecological Reserve to provide a larger and more diversified representation of subalpine habitats. The park’s predominantly northern exposure results in colder and moister conditions than those found on the south facing slopes and basins of the ecological reserve. The park also adds small lake basins and creek habitats to the protected area land base.

The park allows for control and management of access and activities along the north side of Kingfisher Creek Ecological Reserve. Of primary concern is the potential for snowmobile and all terrain vehicle (ATV) entry into the ecological reserve and ATV access into the park.

### **Secondary Role**

The secondary role of Kingfisher Creek Park is to provide for continued recreation access and use of lakes and subalpine environments. The park was established through recommendation of the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) with specific direction that snowmobilers be permitted to continue to use pre-existing trails and a winter cabin in the area. The area may also have some appeal for backcountry hiking.

Recreational use will be carefully managed to prevent environmental impacts. Habitats and soils are extremely sensitive to disturbance, leading to concern over the potential for unauthorized ATV use of the area.

<b>Known Management Issues</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p>Protecting Ecological Values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plant communities are very fragile.</li>   <li>2. Lack of knowledge of rare and endangered species or communities.</li>   <li>3. Outside land and resource use activities may lead to access encroachment.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain strict restrictions on public access into the ecological reserve</li> <li>• Work closely with ecological reserve volunteers to ensure periodic patrols.</li> <li>• Monitor plant communities</li>   <li>• Seek opportunities to increase knowledge of natural values and apply precautionary principles in management decisions to account for high uncertainty.</li>   <li>• Maintain ongoing liason with Ministry</li> </ul>

<p>There is potential for unauthorized ATV and snowmobile access.</p>	<p>of Forests and Range and forest companies to ensure due consideration of access concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act immediately to investigate changes and eliminate impacts if changes detected</li> <li>• Primary objective for the ecological reserve is to discourage public access.</li> <li>• Primary objective for the park is to prevent road access, but to allow for controlled trail access.</li> <li>• Access management strategies may include gating of roads and road deactivation.</li> <li>• Work with local snowmobile organization to seek understanding and cooperation of users.</li> <li>• Ensure that trails in the park are kept well away from the ecological reserve boundaries.</li> <li>• Mark and sign ecological reserve boundaries.</li> </ul>
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**Zoning**

The whole of the Park is zoned as Nature Recreation in recognition of pre-existing snowmobile use.

**Protected Area Values and Significance Summary Matrix**

**Conservation**

Representation

Ecosection

Shuswap Highlands Ecosection – The ecosection is well represented (16.7%) in the protected area system. Contribution to the province-wide protected area representation of this ecosystem by the Ecological Reserve is 0.6% and 0.19% by the Park.

Biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Both the Ecological Reserve and Park contribute minor amounts to the representation of AT unp and ESSFwc2, both of which are well represented in the protected areas system. The Ecological Reserve also adds in a minor way (.55%) to

Special Features

the well represented ICH vk1 subzone/variant. Small alpine lakes. Possibility of rare aquatic species including cutthroat and bull trout; dragonflies may also be present.

Rare/Endangered Values

High potential for rare plants and animals. Inventories required. Within the central Monashee grizzly population unit.

Scientific/Research Opportunities

Provides representation of subalpine plant communities that occur in a transition between dry and wet interior climates.

### **Recreation**

Representation

Backcountry

The park is a minor regional attraction for hiking and snowmobiling.

Destination

Travel corridor

Local recreation

Some hunting use.

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

### **Cultural Heritage**

Representation

Special Feature

### **Other Management Considerations**

Other Designations

Relationship to Other Protected Areas

The Mount Griffin Ecological Reserve and Park are also located in the Hunters Range, but in the more easterly and wetter region.

Collaborative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

Park was recommended through the Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP, with provision that pre-existing snowmobile use would be permitted to continue.

**Area**

Ecological Reserve - 1495 ha

Park - 440 ha

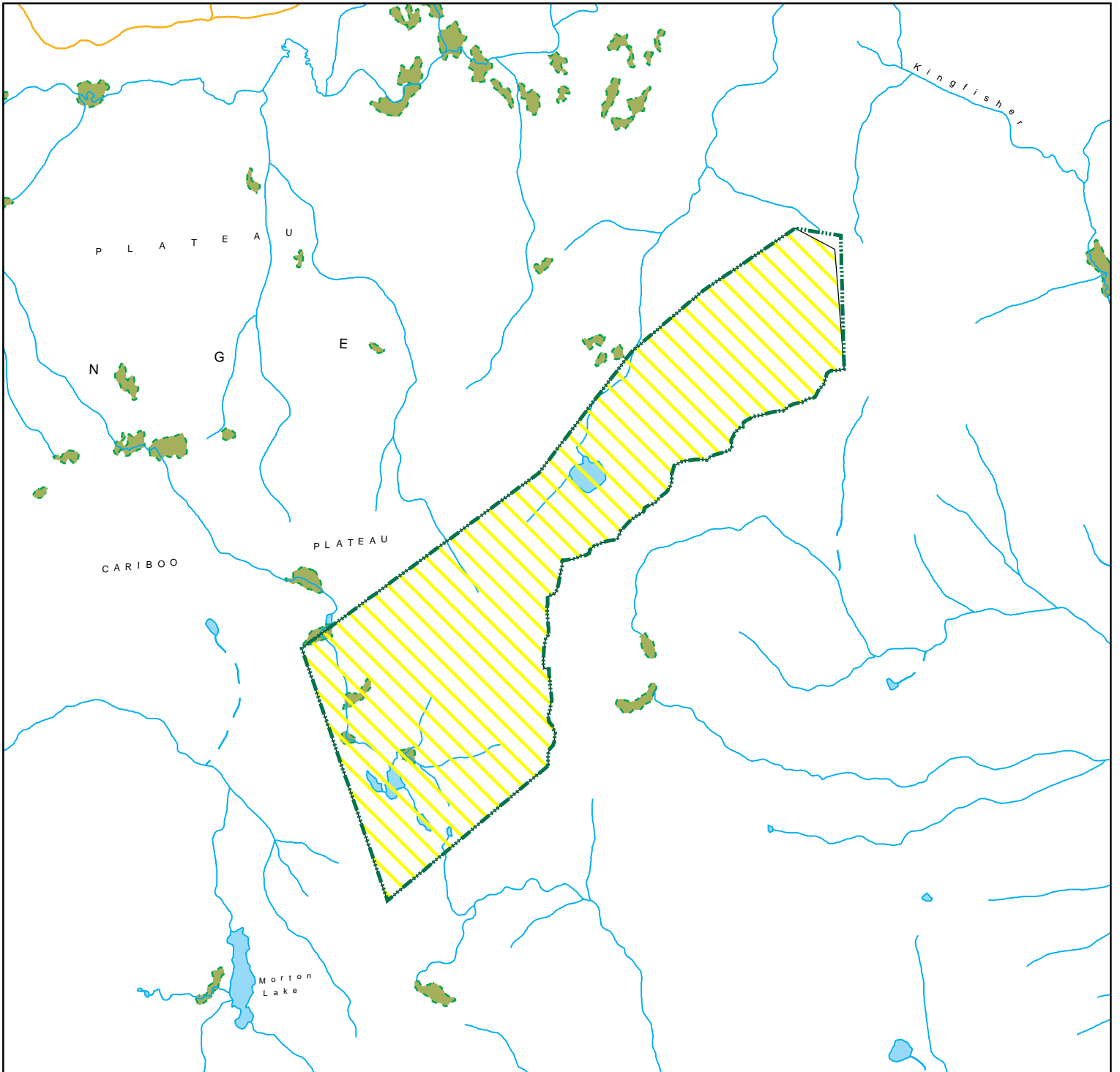
**Date of establishment**

Ecological Reserve – June 7, 1973

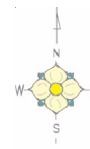
Park - April 18, 2001

# Zoning Map

# Kingfisher Creek Provincial Park



 Nature Recreation



Produced in Nov 2005 for  
Ministry of Environment  
by Ministry of Agriculture and Lands  
Integrated Land Management Bureau

1:35,000  
0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5  
Kilometers

Projection: UTM Zone 11  
Datum: NAD83

This is a visual representation  
only and should not be used for  
legal purposes