

KOKANEE CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

July 2003

Approved by:



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Date: July 7, 2003



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Date: July 22, 2003

KOKANEE CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Kokanee Creek Provincial Park is to protect remnant forest, riparian, lake, wetland and creek ecosystems of the Southern Columbia Mountains. There are few places in southeastern British Columbia as small as the park that contain such high levels of natural diversity. In addition to the diversity of ecosystems, the park is exceptional for the variety of plant and animal species that are present.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to maintain a major holiday destination and provide year round regional day use recreational opportunities. Kokanee Creek Provincial Park is one of the most popular camping destinations in the West Kootenay, providing a wide range of opportunities and services close to a major tourist and urban centre. The high diversity of natural attributes, recreational opportunities and nearby tourism opportunities contribute to making it one of the most diverse holiday camping experiences in the southeastern part of the province.

The park has the largest sandy beach in the West Kootenay and some of the most easily accessible old growth forests. As the main provider of year round nature-oriented outdoor opportunities in the region, the park is an important provider of recreation to local communities.

Tertiary Role

The **tertiary** role is to provide opportunities to view, study and appreciate the natural and cultural values of the park. Kokanee Creek Provincial Park has long been the major focus for park interpretation and education for the West Kootenays. The easily accessible and diverse natural values near a major population centre have enabled a wide range of educational opportunities that have fostered an appreciation of all park values.

Known Management Issues	Response
Wetland/grassland areas are becoming in-grown.	The construction of Kootenay River dams resulting in the lack of lake fluctuation and the channelization of the main creek has caused delta in-growth. Strategies, such as the reintroduction of water and the removal of native and non-native plant species in-growth, have been researched and recommendations should be implemented.

Known Management Issues	Response
Provisions of interpretation/education and public information.	Explore alternative funding mechanisms, such as grants, user pay options, partnership arrangements and funding contributory funding, in order to restore programs.
Invasive non-native plant species threaten native species and wildlife habitat.	Inventory species. Develop and implement control strategies.
Kokanee Creek was banked and channeled to prevent flooding and protect facilities.	The creek modifications have contributed to the above issue as well. Develop and implement a strategy to restore (naturalize) the main creek and side channels. This would enhance the creek for fish spawning and restore adjacent stream flows and riparian ecosystems.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation (approximately 47 ha - 18% of the park)

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

Natural Environment (approximately 213 ha - 82% of the park)

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

Conservation

- Representation
-ecosection Southern Columbia Mountains (SCM). In the PA system this ecosection is slightly under represented (6.8%). Kokanee Creek is a small contributor to the protected area representation of SCM (0.52%).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Province wide ICHdw protected area (4.9%). Within the SCM ecosection, Kokanee Creek is a minor contributor to this subzone/variant (4.6%).
- Special Feature Largest beach and sand spit in West Kootenay, high biodiversity for a small site. Black cottonwood ecosystem. Adjacent to a unique yellow pine ecosystem.
- Rare/Endangered Values Macoun's buttercup (b); spurless touch-me-not (b), western grebe (r), American white pelican (r), great blue heron (b), Lewis' woodpecker (b), white sturgeon (b), bull trout (b), mottled sculpin (b). The whole park has not been inventoried.
- Scientific/Research Opportunities None identified.

Recreation

- Representation
-backcountry None identified.
- destination Major destination campground near tourism centre, swimming, fishing, nature appreciation, hiking, and playground.
- travel corridor None identified.
- local recreation Regional day use (parking throughout the PA can accommodate up to 345 cars).
- Special Opportunities None identified.
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities Nature house and interpretation programs.

Cultural Heritage

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Representation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Areas of park served as a major encampment for the Lower Kootenay People. |
| Special Feature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Two known First Nation's archeological sites exist within park.

Remnants of the Yuill/Hamilton estate (circa 1910) exist within park (stone walls and pool foundation). |

Other Management Considerations

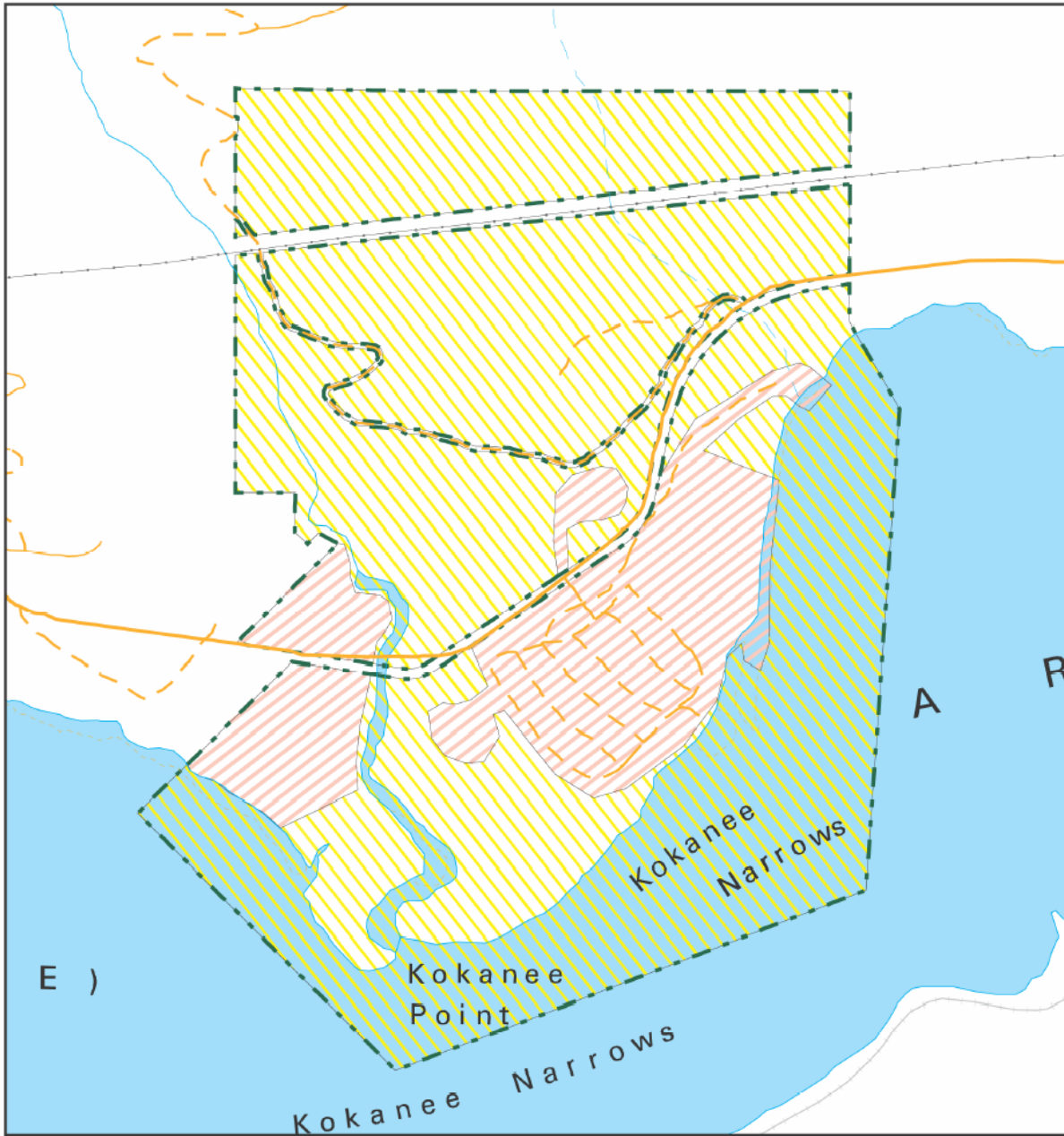
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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Other Designations | <input type="checkbox"/> | None identified. |
| Relationship to other PAs | <input type="checkbox"/> | None identified. |
| Co-operative Management Arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/> | None identified. |
| Partnerships | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The Friends of West Kootenay Parks have managed a portion of the Visitor Centre operations. |
| Vulnerability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The loss of grassland, wetland and riparian habitat via in-growth and visitor over-use is a concern. The introduction of invasive weed species is also a concern.

Pilfering of archeological artifacts and degradation of known traditional use sites. |
| Relationship to other Strategies | <input type="checkbox"/> | None identified. |

Area: 260 hectares




Date of establishment: April 5, 1955

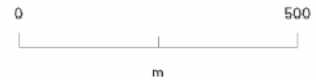
Zoning Map - Kokanee Creek Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Protected Area Boundary



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