

KOOTENAY LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK (MIDGE CREEK SITE)

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

February 2003

Approved by:


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Date: February 20/03


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Date: Mar. 31/03

KOOTENAY LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK (Midge Creek Site)

Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of the Midge Creek site of Kootenay Lake Provincial Park is to maintain marine backcountry destination and local day use outdoor recreational opportunities oriented to British Columbia's second largest inland lake.

Kootenay Lake stretches for over 100 km in length and is nestled between the Purcell Mountains and the Selkirk Mountains. This scenic lake has a variety of interesting natural and cultural shoreline features that complement an outstanding sport fishery.

Kootenay Lake Provincial Park is comprised of five sites, which are widely dispersed, mainly small areas along the Kootenay Lake shoreline. The Midge Creek site is one of two sites within Kootenay Lake Provincial Park that is exclusively marine accessible. This site is renowned for the large sandy delta and beach, although the site also has significant upland forests. Like nearby Drewry Point Provincial Park, the site is reminiscent of a coastal marine environment and is one of the main destinations for kayakers and canoeists touring the lake.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to conserve natural shoreline and riparian attributes along both Midge Creek and Kootenay Lake. Suitable spawning habitat along the lower reaches of Midge Creek aid in restoring severely depressed stocks of kokanee in the south arm of Kootenay Lake. In addition, the park is bordered by and complements the Midge Creek Wildlife Management Area, a 15,163 hectare protected area which provides critical lower elevation wildlife habitat for a variety of species at risk, including grizzly bear and mountain caribou.

Known Management Issues	Response
Invasive non-native plant species (e.g. knapweed) threaten native species and wildlife habitat.	Inventory species. Develop and implement control strategies.
CPR right-of-way bisects the park, in turn, fragmenting wildlife habitat and is a source of spreading non-native plant species.	Monitor wildlife movements/mortality and encourage CPR to control weed populations along right of way.

Zoning

The entire park is zoned Natural Environment (223 ha).

Conservation

- Representation
-ecosection Southern Columbia Mountains (SCM). Collectively, Kootenay Lake (all sites) contribute negligibly (0.6%) to the total protected areas system representation of the SCM ecosection.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Kootenay Lake (all sites) is a minor contributor (6.1%) to total protected areas representation of ICHdw in the SCM ecosection. Kootenay Lake (all sites) contributes minimally (0.4%) to total PA representation of ICHmw2 in the SCM ecosection.
- Special Feature None identified.
- Rare/Endangered Values No studies completed, however, adjacency to Midge Creek WMA increases likelihood of grizzly bear (b) and mountain caribou (r) within the park.
- Scientific/Research Opportunities None identified.

Recreation

- Representation
-backcountry Primitive lake setting. One of many lake accessible provincial park sites in the Kootenay Region (alternates - Campbell Bay, Coffee Creek, Pilot Bay)
- destination Kayaking/canoeing. The park is utilized by kayakers/canoeists on the Kootenay Lake circuit. Some motor and sail boat use, but limited shelter from strong winds.
- travel corridor Not applicable.
- local recreation Regional day use. Camping area can accommodate up to 10 parties, 1 mooring buoy, natural sandy beach. Kootenay lake is known internationally for its trout fishery.
- Special Opportunities None identified.
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities None identified.

Cultural Heritage

- Representation Not yet assessed.
- Special Feature Unknown First Nations values, but suspected. No studies completed.

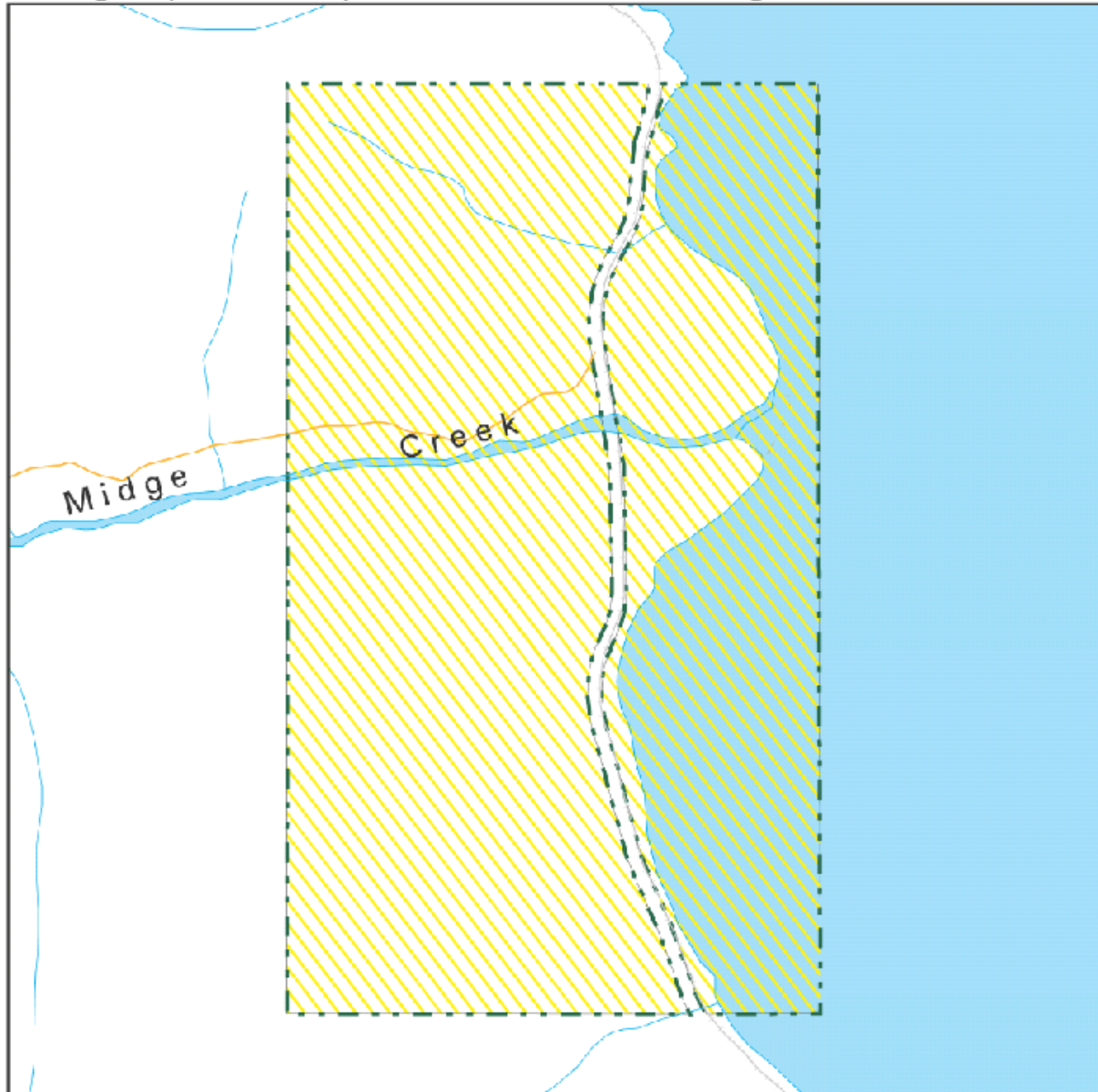
Other Management Considerations

- Other Designations None identified.
- Relationship to other PAs 1 of 5 sites forming Kootenay Lake Park. 1 of 8 park sites providing access to lakeside recreational opportunities on Kootenay Lake. Drewry Point is the closest, located 4 km north. The site borders Midge Creek WMA.
- Co-operative Management Arrangements None identified.
- Partnerships None identified.
- Vulnerability None identified.
- Relationship to other Strategies Kootenay Lake Fertilization and Monitoring (Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program).

Area: 223 hectares

Date of establishment: December 4, 1987

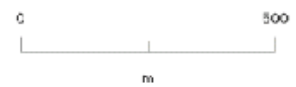
Zoning Map - Kootenay Lake Provincial Park - Midge Creek Site



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



 Natural Environment
 Protected Area Boundary



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