

KWADACHA PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN Omineca Region 2005

Approved by:



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Date: Nov. 4TH 2005



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Date: Oct 31 2005

Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park and Kwadacha Addition (Kwadacha Recreation Area) Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Located in a remote area of the northern interior of BC, this large park straddles the Rocky Mountain divide, and together with the park addition, protects 130,279 ha of mountainous wilderness.

Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park was established in July 1974, and originally encompassed 167,000 ha. The 1985 Park Master Plan identified a need to reassess park boundaries, as the southwest portion of the park was described as having resource development potential that exceeded contribution towards park values.

In 1987, an area of 44,031 ha was designated as a Recreation Area adjacent to the western boundary of Kwadacha Park. The Mackenzie Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) was assigned responsibility for recommending the future designation of this area. Government approved the LRMP recommendation that 12,790 hectares of the Recreation Area be added to the existing Kwadacha Park and that the remainder be incorporated in the adjacent Special Resource Management Zone (Nuhseha (Fox) RMZ). The addition consists of that part of the former Kwadacha Recreation Area containing Chesterfield Creek and Aramis Lakes, and is contiguous with the west boundary of Kwadacha Wilderness Park.

Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park and the Kwadacha Park Addition are located within the 6.4 million hectare Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, one of North America's last true wilderness areas south of the 60th parallel. This area is considered to have national, international and global significance for its untouched beauty, natural resources and diverse and abundant wildlife. Work and research undertaken within the Muskwa Kechika, which is applicable to Kwadacha Provincial Park will be incorporated into the future Management Direction Statement.

Primary Role

The primary role of the Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park is to contribute towards representation of the Eastern and Western Muskwa Ranges. The primary role of the Kwadacha Park Addition is to improve the likelihood of maintaining the ecological integrity and biodiversity of Kwadacha Wilderness Park by adding low elevation forests on the west flank of the Rocky Mountains.

The Eastern and Western Muskwa Ranges are both well protected within the province with over 40% of the Eastern Muskwa Ranges preserved provincially within 9 protected areas, and over 20% of the Western Muskwa Ranges preserved within 3 protected areas in BC.

Close to half of the Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park and Park Addition are within the Western Muskwa Ranges. The other portion of the park is within the Eastern Muskwa Ranges, the ecosection with the highest, most rugged mountains in the Northern Rocky Mountain Ecoregion. In these ecosections, Spruce – Willow – Birch and Alpine Tundra predominate, and large areas of subalpine and alpine habitat are prevalent. Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park and Kwadacha Recreation Area both provide minor contribution towards representation of moist, cool Spruce – Willow – Birch, and dry cool Boreal White and Black Spruce biogeoclimatic subzones.

The park includes a network of connecting river valleys, the expansive Lloyd George Icefield, and lakes of various sizes and characteristics.

Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park and Kwadacha Recreation Area contain a diversity of habitats that support ample wildlife. The park includes important habitat for moose, mountain goat and grizzly bear, and also provides seasonal or annual range for Stones’s Sheep, caribou, elk and mule deer. Two of the four large lakes support an excellent fishery for rainbow trout, bull trout, and whitefish. The rare pygmy whitefish is known to occur in Quentin Lake and likely occurs in other lakes within the park. A pygmy whitefish inventory was conducted in 2003 by the Peace Williston Fish Wildlife Compensation Program. Over 70 species of birds have been recorded in the park including grebes, teals, hawks, falcons, kestrels, eagles, warblers and Lapland Longspurs.

Secondary Role

The secondary role of Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park and Kwadacha Recreation Area is to provide opportunities for wilderness recreation, primarily fly-in hunting and fishing. This park offers spectacular scenery in a pristine wilderness area.

Tertiary Role

The park also offers opportunity to use and appreciate a cultural travel route. A historic aboriginal pack trail, and the route taken by the Bedaux expedition, traverses through Kwadacha Wilderness Park. This trail, considered of regional historic value, was the most likely intermontane travel route used by aboriginal people during the prehistoric past.

The park also supports traditional First Nations use.

Known Management Issues	Response
Mining and forestry activities in adjacent areas could result in increased access to this	Need to liaise closely with Kwadacha Band and encourage band members to observe, record and report use.

wilderness park.	Work with forestry and mining agencies and industry to address access concerns.
Potential overuse could deplete fisheries resource.	Aircraft access to high use lakes should be monitored and reviewed. Need to liaise closely with Kwadacha Band and encourage band members to observe, record and report use. Inventory fish stocks, assess angler use and review Fish Regulations.
Kaska First Nation are concerned regarding motorized boating on lakes in the park.	Meet with Kaska First Nation to understand their concern
Potential conflicts between commercial and public recreation	Address in Management Direction Statement.
Grizzly / public safety	Provide safety messaging on web and other appropriate media

Zoning

The entire park is zoned Wilderness Recreation (protection of a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and provision of backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites).

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection

Contribution towards representation of Western Muskwa Ranges (MWR) which is 21.43% protected provincially:

- Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park contributes 26.8% of provincial representation

Contribution towards representation of Eastern Muskwa Ranges (EMR) which is 40.13% protected provincially:

- Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park contributes 10.99% of provincial representation

- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Contribution towards representation of SWB mk which is 22.44% protected provincially:

- Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park contributes 7.21% of provincial representation
- Kwadacha Addition contributes approx 1.2% of provincial representation

Contribution towards representation of BWBS dk 1 which is 21.95% protected provincially

- Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park contributes 1.21% of provincial representation
- Kwadacha Addition contributes approx .85% of provincial representation

Special Feature

Lloyd George Glacier

Rare/Endangered Values

Provincial Blue-listed: wolverine, grizzly bear, woodland caribou, fisher and pygmy whitefish

Scientific/Research Opportunities

Wildlife studies

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination

Wilderness recreation in an extremely remote area

- travel corridor
- local recreation

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation	Aboriginal travel route; First Nations traditional use
Special Feature	unknown

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs	Complements other protected areas that represent the Eastern and Western Muskwa Ranges Ecosections, and other adjoining protected areas in the Muskwa Kechika Management Area, including Northern Rocky Mountains, and Dune Za Keyih (Frog-Gataga).
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Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

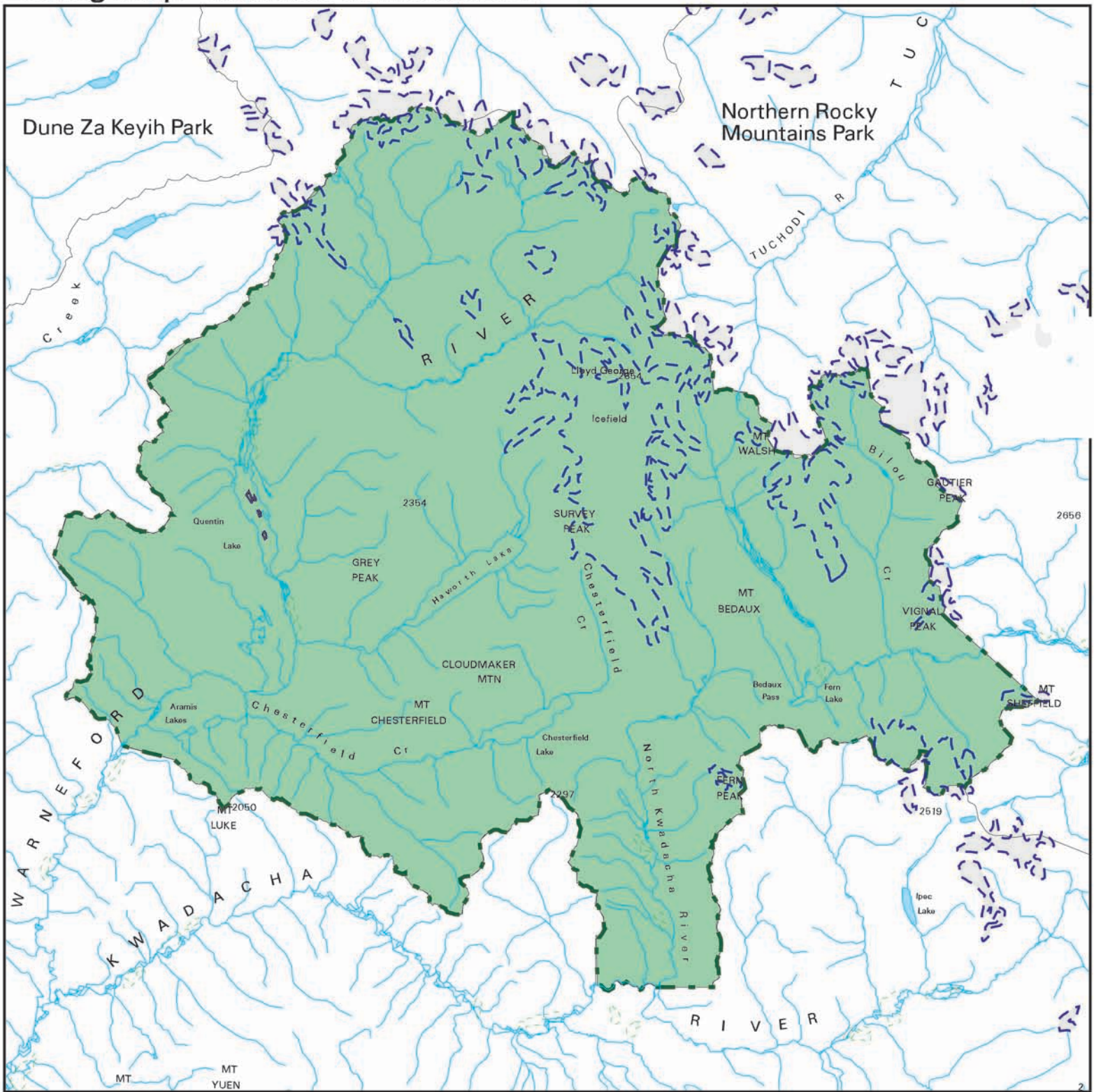
Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies	The Kwadacha Park Addition was recommended by the Mackenzie LRMP, February 2001. Part of the Muskwa Kechika Management Area
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Area: 130,279 ha	Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park:
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Date of establishment:	Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park was established in July 1974. Kwadacha Park Addition was identified for Protected Area Status through the Mackenzie Land and Resource Management Plan in February 2001.
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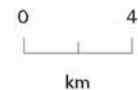
Zoning Map - Kwadacha Wilderness



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



 Wilderness Recreation
 Protected Area Boundary



Produced in Sep 2003 for
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