

Kootenay District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

May, 1999

**for Lockhart Creek
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

**Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division**

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Purpose of Management Direction Statements

Management Direction Statements provide strategic management direction for all protected areas which do not have a full management plan. MDS do not negate the need for future, more detailed management plans. Management Direction Statements also describe protected area values management issues and concerns; management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies; and, directional statements from other planning processes

LOCKHART CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context (Figure 1)

Lockhart Creek Park, 3,750 hectares, is located in southeastern British Columbia on the east side of Kootenay Lake south of Kootenay Bay along Highway 3A. A nearly intact watershed which rises east from the slopes of Kootenay Lake to alpine meadows, this park contains old-growth forests, First Nations cultural values, and a locally important hiking trail.

Recommended in the West Kootenay - Boundary Land Use Plan, this area received Class A provincial park status on July 12, 1995 under the *Park Amendment Act, 1995*.

II. Protected Area Attributes (Figure 2)

A. Conservation

- protects almost the entire watershed in a near natural state
- contains old growth cedar-hemlock communities and representation of the Southern Columbia Mountains (SCM) Ecosection including important Dry Warm Interior Cedar - Hemlock Subzone (ICHdw) and Columbia - Shuswap Moist Warm Interior Cedar - Hemlock Subzone (ICHmw2), otherwise lacking in the system
- provides connectivity from the alpine and other areas to the shore of Kootenay Lake
- includes rainbow trout and bull trout habitat
- has Kokanee salmon spawning grounds in Lockhart Creek
- may protect red and blue listed species

B. Recreation

- provides three-season use for hiking, fishing, and hunting
- is part of scenic viewscape from Kootenay Lake

C. Cultural Heritage

- identified by First Nations as a significant area of traditional use and spiritual value
- First Nation trail system up Lockhart Creek
- historic wagon road for mining and logging

D. Significance in the Protected Area System

- high conservation values - a near complete watershed that protects a good range of species found in the SCM
- moderate recreation values with three-season use
- high cultural values related to traditional and spiritual uses

Figure 1 - Regional Context Map

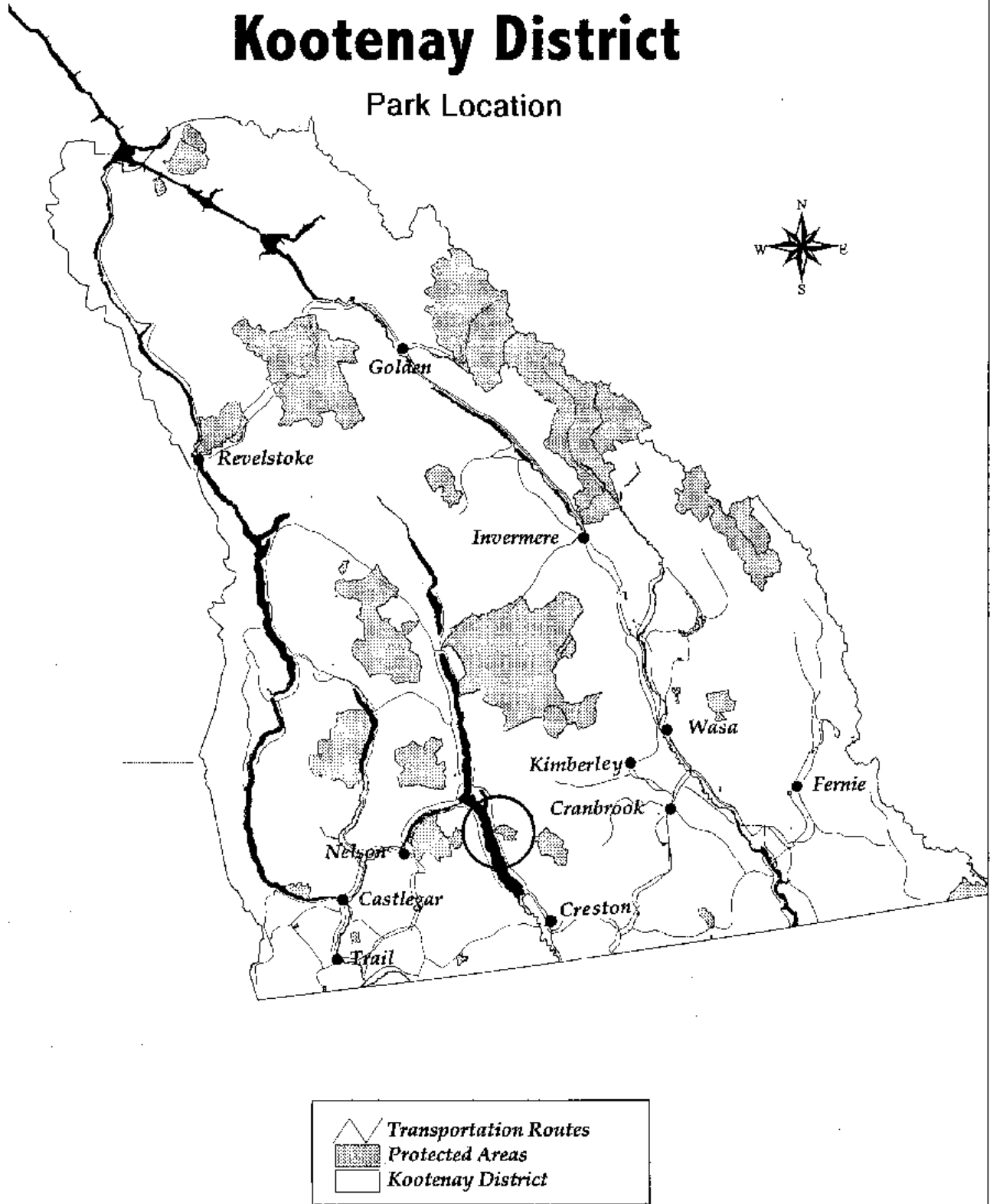
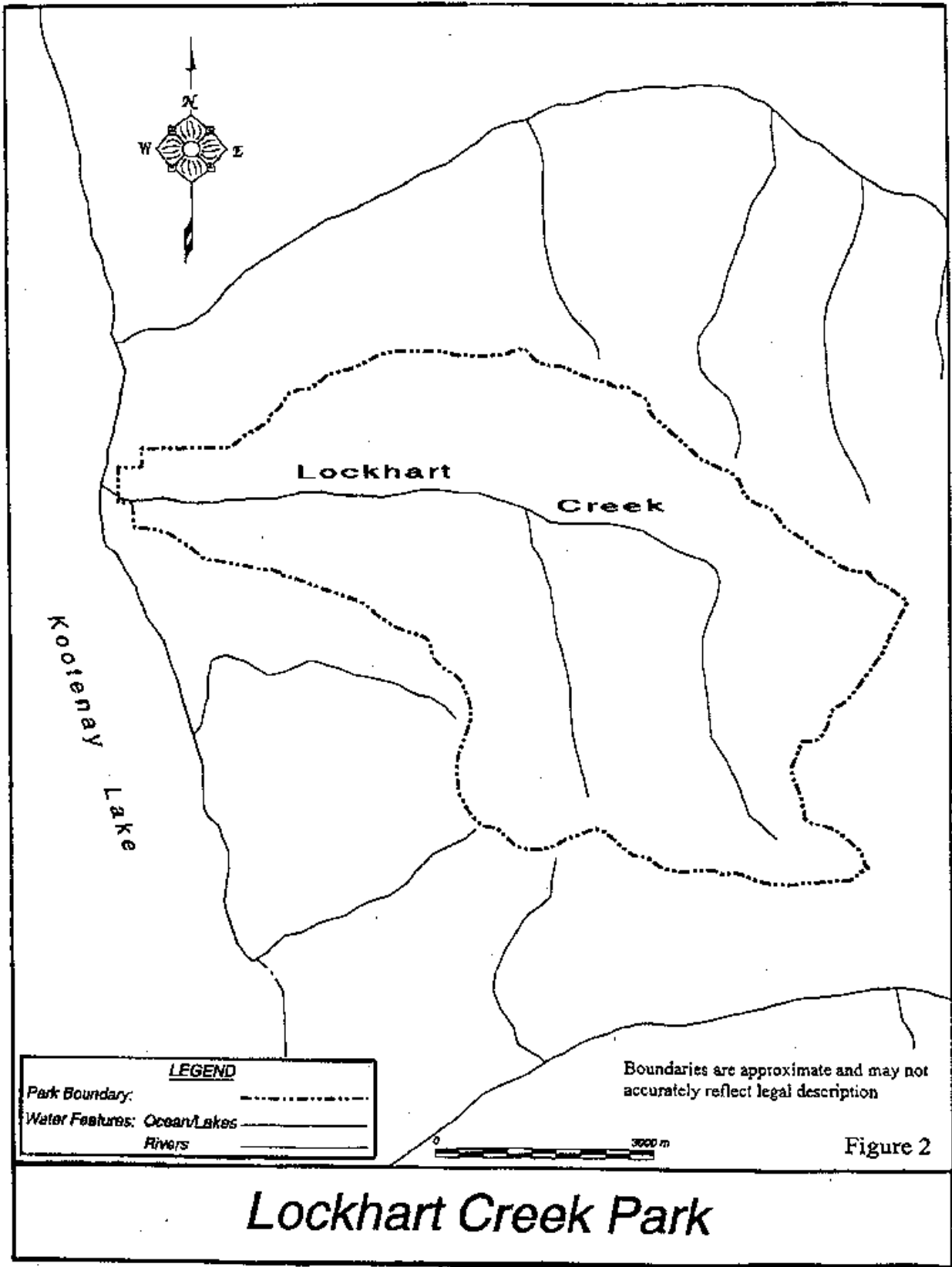


Figure 1

NTS

Figure 2 - Park Reference Map



III. Land Use, Tenures and Interests

A. Access

- on Highway 3A, 23 km south of Kootenay Bay and 40 km north of Creston
- access from Kimberley via the Redding Creek Forestry Road and a trail which leads to the headwaters of Lockhart Creek

B. Existing Tenures

- trapline License No. RT118952 Territory No. 0406T007
- guide outfitting License G 0108097 Territory No. 407G001
- domestic water license CL37145
- six mineral claims

C. Existing Land Uses, Activities and Facilities

- Lockhart Creek Trail to Baker Lake (formerly maintained by the Ministry of Forests and the Lockhart Creek Heritage Committee)

D. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- logging intended on adjacent lands along park boundaries
- residential and commercial land uses on Highway 3A

E. First Nation Interests

- Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council have included Lockhart Creek Park within their asserted traditional territory
- while direct consultation with tribal council representatives on this management direction statement was requested, limitations of time and resources have prevented First Nations from participating
- this management direction statement provides a foundation upon which continued relationships between BC Parks and the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council are based

F. Other Agency Interests

- BC Environment (BCE) - biodiversity objectives; health of wildlife populations; administration of traplines and guide outfitting tenures
- Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture (STC)- opportunities for viable commercial tourism
- Ministry of Forests (MOF) - adjacent recreational activities; grazing; adjacency issues such as access, visual quality, connectivity

G. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- horse users
- hikers
- trappers
- guide outfitters
- hunters
- environmental groups concerned about protected area management
- Lockhart Creek Heritage Committee

IV. Management Commitments and Issues

A. Management Direction from Previous Planning

- existing guide outfitting and trapping tenures will continue under Park Use Permits
- natural occurrences such as fires, and forest diseases will be managed through consultation and joint action by BC Parks and Ministry of Forests districts
- objectives and strategies of the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan Implementation Strategy (KBLUP - IS) Chpt 4

B. Management Issues

- lack of information on the natural and cultural values
- restoration of previous harvested sites
- Lockhart Creek trail trespasses over private land

V. Management Strategy

While key strategies or actions are identified, the completion of all these strategies is subject to funding and funding procedures. As such, strategies are ranked according to priority and completed as funding permits. As well, all development within provincial parks is subject to the BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy.

A. Priority Management Objectives and Actions

Objectives

- maintain ecosystem representation of Southern Columbia Mountains Ecoregion
- ensure protection of old-growth forest communities
- protect rare and endangered species
- protect fishery values
- manage the area to protect cultural heritage values
- honor commitments in Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan
- maintain backcountry recreation opportunities
- develop relationship with First Nations to enhance understanding and management of park values
- restore biodiversity of harvested areas to a natural condition

Actions

- compile natural and cultural values information overtime to gain a better understanding of the park
- work with BCE and MOF to address natural occurrences of fire, insect and forest disease and to develop a fire management plan given the proximity of residential dwellings
- work with BCE and MOF to revegetate harvested sites
- work with MOF and land owners to address access, trail connections and visual concerns including residential development
- work with BCE to assess and coordinate management of the trout and salmon fishery
- work with Ktunaxa Nation to identify traditional use in the park and management needs
- issue permits for existing trappers, guide outfitter and water licensees

B. Consultations and Future Planning

A management plan based on public, First Nations and agency input that will define longer term acceptable uses, uses levels and zoning would be the next planning and consultation step. Currently this is a moderate priority for the Kootenay District.

C. Zoning Plan

There is insufficient knowledge and understanding about this area to apply the BC Park Management Planning Zoning Policy. The zoning policy defines in general terms the management direction for a given area of a park, including the type of uses and overall level of use and facilities in relationship to varying degrees of acceptable impacts on park values.

Appendix A

Summary Table of Land and Resource Use Commitments

The following table provides a summary of commitments made through land use processes with regard to acceptable uses, activities, and facilities within this protected area.

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptable Uses
Hunting	Y
Fishing	Y
Trapping	N ²
Grazing	N
Rec. Gold Panning/Rock Hounding	N
Utility Corridors	N
Communication Sites	N
Horse Use/Packing	M
Guide Outfitting-Hunting:	N ²
- Fishing	M
- Nature Tour	M
- River Raft	N
- Mountain Bike	M
Cat-Assisted Skiing	N
Ski Hills	N
Heli Skiing	N
Heli Hiking	N
Camping (Wilderness)	M
Camping (Serviced)	Y
Tourist Resorts	N
Back Country Huts/Guest Ranch	N
Water Control Structure	N
Fish Stock/Enhance	M
Road Access (Highway 3A)	Y
Off Road Snowmobile	M
Off Road Motorized	N
Off Road Mechanical	M
Motorized Water Access	Y
Aircraft Access (fixed wing)	N
Fire Management:	
- Prevention	Y
- Prescribed Fire	M
- Suppression	Y
Forest Insect/Disease Control	M
Noxious Weed Control	Y
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	M
Scientific Research (Specimens)	M
Scientific Research (Manipulations)	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