

Marble Canyon Park Background Information Sheet

Area: 2,544 hectares

Representation: Includes ecosystem characteristics of the Pavilion Ranges (PAR) Ecosection that are presently under-represented in established protected areas.

Values: It protects the natural scenic and recreational values of Marble Canyon and Pavilion Lake, highly significant First Nation cultural values and important provincial recreation opportunities from rock climbing and hiking to fishing and camping. As well, the park protects internationally significant coral-like stromatolite formations in the lake and globally significant fossil occurrences. Very high recreation values and highly significant First Nations cultural values. Marble Canyon contributes key biological and physical attributes to the protected area system:

- Spectacular limestone rock faces, canyon and coloured lakes in a setting of provincial significance.
- Long elevation sequence through dry forests of Pavilion Range Ecosection.
- Limestone-derived soils should contain some rare vascular plants, mosses and lichens.
- Microbialite formations of international significance in Pavilion Lake.
- Globally significant fossil occurrence (fusilinids) for research and education.
- Rock climbing, ice climbing, fishing, camping, hiking, boating and swimming.
- Gold rush and later transportation routes.
- Many archaeological sites, pictographs, traditional aboriginal trail.

Management Intent: Marble Canyon was enlarged from the previous 550 hectares (335 upland, 215 for Pavilion Lake). Separate management plans are available for the original land area and Pavilion Lake. A new management plan that includes the entirety of the park should be consistent with these earlier management plans. Protection of the stromatolite formations is a priority. The following points should be taken into consideration during planning:

- Management of the area for appropriate recreation and tourism uses, including backcountry recreation, nature studies, hiking, fishing, rock and ice climbing.
- Intensive recreation uses and interpretation facilities should be focussed around the original Marble Canyon Park area; potential acquisition of private land could provide opportunity to develop a park presence/facilities on Pavilion Lake.
- Recognize appropriate commercial tourism opportunities such as guiding and outfitting, mountain guiding and other forms of ecotourism.
- Allow non-destructive scientific research and studies.
- Management planning will be completed with full collaboration and partnership with First Nations communities.
- Engage local community residents in park planning and stewardship.

- Provide educational opportunities on park values and appreciation to park visitors.

Land Status: Class A provincial park. Marble Canyon Park is situated on Highway 99, the Sea-to-Sky Highway, approximately 40 kilometres northeast of Lillooet and 40 kilometres northwest of Cache Creek. There is potential for a further addition to the east side of the park. Adjacent land includes a First Nation reservation and private land parcels along Pavilion Lake.

Concerns:

- Allow for right-of-way improvements for Highway 99 and access for private landowners.
- Protection of water quality and stromatolite formations, ensuring protection is developed in coordination with the scientific/diving interests and local residents. A water licence diverts water from a tributary of Pavilion Lake. Specific concerns on contaminants from highway, impacts of boat wakes, septic systems, boat anchors and downriggers and ice fishing activities.
- Recreational impacts on ecosystems, wildlife and First Nations cultural and archaeological values.
- Prevention of invasive species, such as milfoil and zebra mussels.
- Safety (highway pullouts and rock climbing).