

# MARL CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

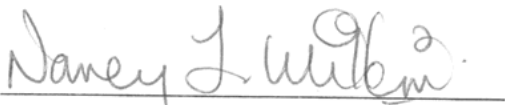
February 2003

Approved by:



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Regional Manager  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: February 20/03



Nancy Wilkin  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 31/03

## MARL CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

### Primary Role

The **primary** role of Marl Creek Provincial Park is to protect remnant old growth forest and ecologically important wetland habitat along the western shores of the Columbia River.

The park is located immediately adjacent to the confluence of Waitabit Creek and the Columbia River and is on one of the last remaining natural stretches of the Columbia River.

The Columbia River Wildlife Management Area is within close vicinity to the park and reinforces the park's role in complementing and buffering this globally significant wetland.

<b>Known Management Issues</b>	<b>Response</b>
Mountain pine beetle infestations. In the late 1970's, 20% of trees were infected.	Parks staff decided at that time to leave situation as is (no logging of trees). No recent pine beetle infestations recorded.
Small area of park identified for a land transfer with Evans Forest Products. Involves exchange for park land currently isolated from existing park by CPR railway for riparian habitat along the Columbia River.	The transfer has been proposed several times in the last ten years, but has not reached final management approval.
Illegal fire wood removal and 4WD access.	Monitoring and enforcement when appropriate.

### Zoning

The entire park is zoned Natural Environment (169 ha).

## Conservation

Representation -ecosection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Big Bend Trench (BBT). This ecosection is very poorly represented (0.91%) in the protected areas system. Marl Creek is 1 of only 3 small protected areas in this ecosection. It contributes 16% of overall protected area representation of the BBT. Other contributors are Goosegrass (37%) and Foster Arm Protected Area (47%).
-biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ICH mw1 and ICH mk1 (almost equally represented). Both of these ecosystem units are under represented in the protected areas system - ICH mw1 (only 2% is protected); ICH mk1 (4.2% is protected). Although Marl Creek is 1 of only 3 protected areas contributing to the representation of the ICH mw1, its contribution is minimal (3%). The main contributors are Cummins Lakes (48%) and Glacier National Park (49%).
Special Feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	None identified.
Rare/ Endangered Values	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No inventory has been conducted. The park's adjacency to the Columbia Wetlands WMA creates a high probability that the following species may/can occur: grizzly bear (b), river otter (y), badger (r), rubber boa (y), painted turtle (b), leopard frog (r).
Scientific/ Research Opportunities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A site suitable for integrated wetland management.

## Recreation

- Representation
- backcountry  Not applicable.
  - destination  Not applicable.
  - travel corridor  Located 24 km north of Golden. Western park boundary is within 200 metres of Highway 1. There are no facilities and the park is not identified as a provincial park (no signage).
  - local recreation  Canoeing and nature viewing. Two Forest Service recreation sites within a 5 km radius (Waitabit Creek and Bluewater Creek).
- Special Opportunities  None identified.
- Education/ Interpretation Opportunities  None identified.

## Cultural Heritage

- Representation  Not yet assessed.
- Special Feature  None identified.

## Other Management Considerations

- Other designations  None identified.
- Relationship to other PAs  The park is within 3 km of the northern most tip of the Columbia Wetlands WMA. Burges and James Gadsden Park is located 12 km south along the Columbia River.
- Co-operative Management Arrangements  None identified.
- Partnerships  None identified.

Vulnerability

The park may be further susceptible to pine beetle infestation.

Illegal firewood cutting and damage by 4WDs.

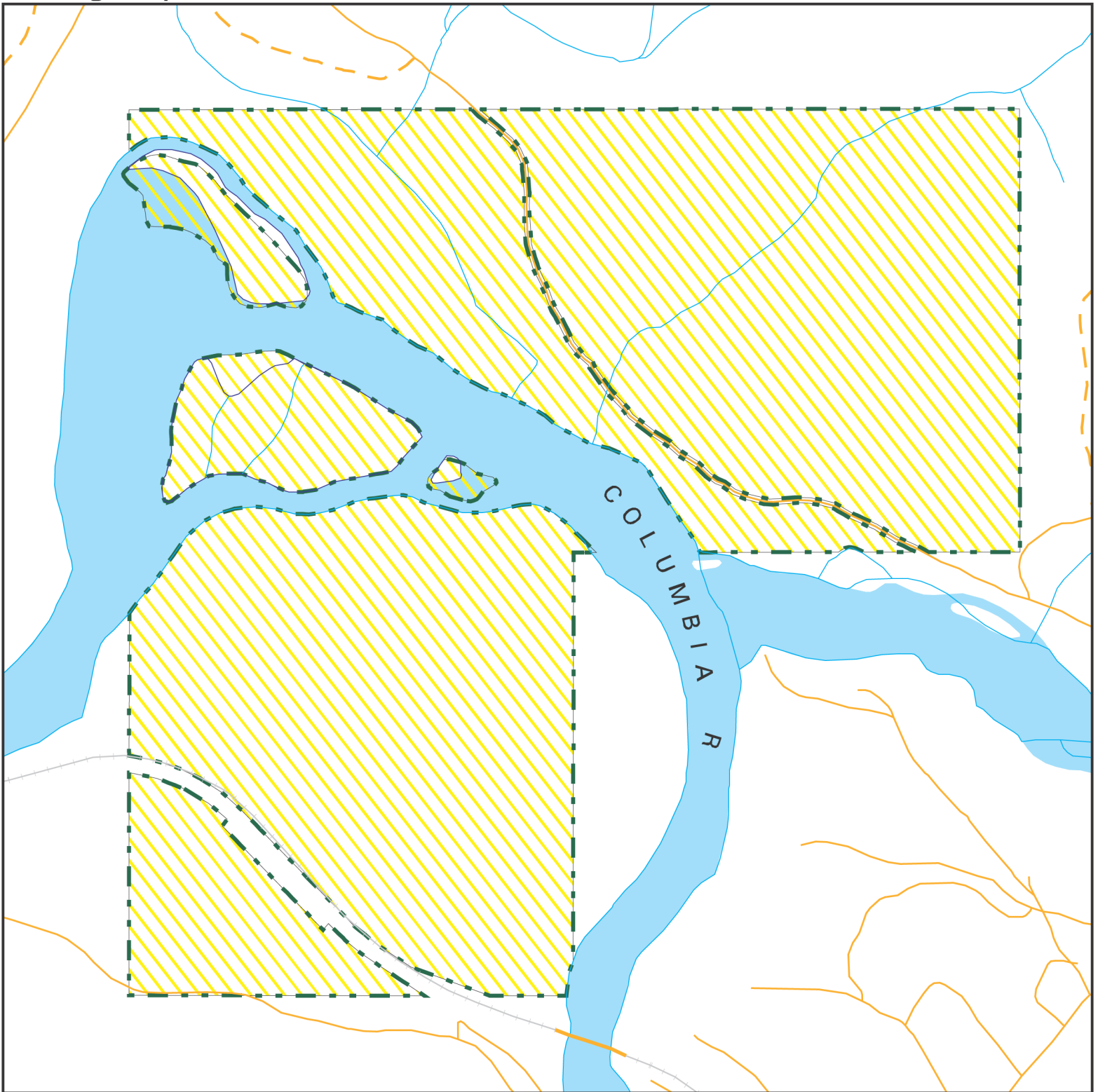
Relationship to other Strategies

None identified.

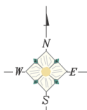
**Area:** 169 hectares


**Date of Establishment:** June 6, 1961.

# Zoning Map - Marl Creek Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas  
Datum: NAD83



 Natural Environment  
 Protected Area Boundary

0 100  
m

Produced in Mar 2003 for  
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Protection by MSRM, Decision  
Support Services

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