

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

June, 1999

**for Momich Lakes
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division



Ministry of
Environment,
Lands and Parks

BC Parks
Headquarters
2nd Floor, 800 Johnson
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Phone: (250) 387-5002
Fax: (250) 387-5757

APPROVALS

KAMLOOPS GOAL 1 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward

This binder contains 15 management direction statements developed under the direction of the Kamloops Land and Resource Plan Implementation Table and BC Parks. The government designated these protected areas in May, 1996. The 15 management direction statements provide strategic direction for these protected areas until management plans can be developed with full public involvement. Protected areas' roles, strategies and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, implemented through operations plans, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arrowstone Protected Area | <input type="checkbox"/> High Lakes Basin Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Earth Lake Park | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Momich Lakes Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon Jack Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clearwater River Corridor | <input type="checkbox"/> Porcupine Meadows.Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cornwall Hills Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Roche Lake Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dunn Peak Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Taweel Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elephant Hill Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Adams Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emar Lakes Park | |

Approved by:

District Manager
Thompson River District
BC Parks Division

Date: 98/04/30

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Division

Date: 99 10 25

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Purpose of Management Direction Statements

Management Direction Statements provide strategic management direction for all protected areas that 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

MOMICH LAKES PARK

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context

The 1,643-hectare Momich Lakes Park, situated east of the northern end of Adams Lake, contains important recreation values associated with three lakes and wetlands. Access is from Highway 5 south of Barriere or from the Trans Canada Highway at Squilax, then 95 kilometres by logging roads along the west side and north end of Adams Lake or by forest roads from Skwaam Bay (80 kilometres) and from Vavenby (60 kilometres).

Momich Lakes Park was established by Order-in-Council under the *Park Act* on April 30th, 1996. Subsequently, the park was designated under Schedule E of the *Park Amendment Act*, 1997.

This Management Direction Statement is intended to provide direction and guidelines for managing Momich Lakes Park until a more comprehensive management plan is developed for the area.

II. Protected Area Values

A. Conservation

- a chain of valley-bottom lakes in a steep-sided valley with associated river riparian and wetlands in the Interior Cedar Hemlock zone
- the most northerly occurrence of western larch in the province
- a high diversity of species; sockeye salmon, wild trout and other fish species
- the rain-shadow valley is an important winter corridor for ungulates and winter range for moose
- mountain goat winter range habitat

B. Recreation

- large white sandy beach at the east end of Momich Lake
- extensive beach on Adams Lake
- canoeing from Momich to Little Momich along a meandering stream through large wetlands
- views of eagles and wetland associated species such as beaver, muskrat, osprey
- fishing
- Momich Lake is warm enough for swimming with a warmer back pool at the east end created by a sandy delta at low water levels
- southwest end of Momich Lake is part of a back country road from Vavenby to Malakwa

- three recreation sites - campground (24 sites) and boat launch on Adams Lake; 2 campsites on main Momich Lake

C. Cultural Heritage

- past First Nations use includes presence of culturally-altered trees; evidence of pit houses and other traditional uses of area
- abandoned logging camp behind the beach

D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- only opportunity to protect a low elevation small lake system in the Shuswap Highlands Ecosection
- Momich Lakes Park is rated as regionally significant for its recreation values

III. Other Land Uses and Interests

A. Existing Tenures

- all private lands are excluded
- designation under the *Park Amendment Act, 1997* ensures that all existing liens, charges, and encumbrances other than those applying to commercial logging, mining or energy exploration and development will continue to be authorized through issuance of park use permits. This policy recognizes all existing land act tenures, water rights, trapping licences and other legal tenures and rights.

B. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- logging roads and cutblocks surround and are visible from the park

C. First Nations Interests

- Indian Reserve at the east end of the park
- pre-historic route from Adams Lake to Seymour Arm of Shuswap Lake

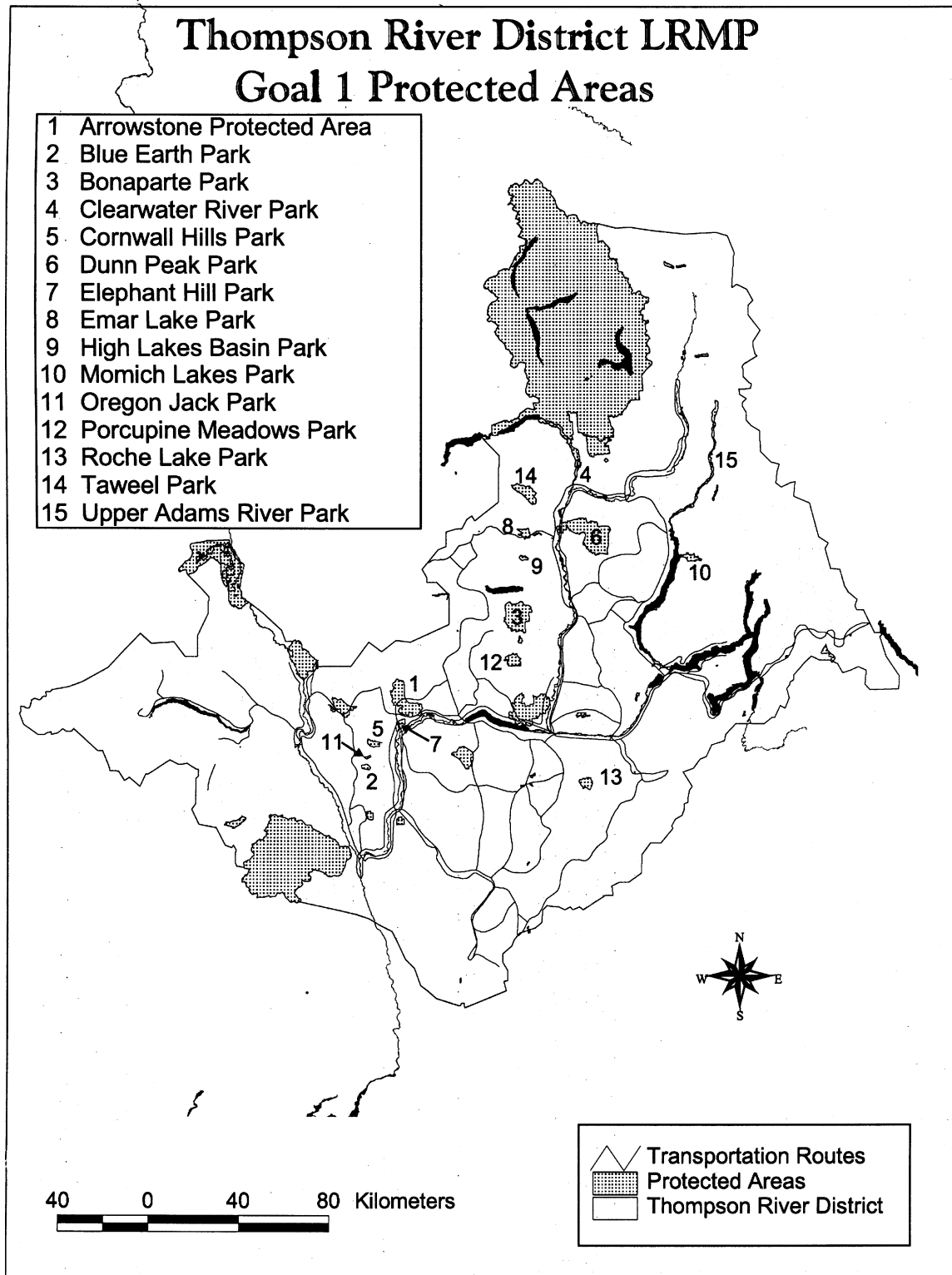
D. Other Agency Interests

- The park will be managed in close co-ordination with various resource agencies, particularly BC Environment and Ministry of Forests.
- logging access road through the park
- important access through Momich and Cayenne valleys to the east for possible future mineral exploration
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans - salmon enhancement work

E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- private lot at the mouth of Momich River on Adams Lake

Figure 1 – Regional Context Map



IV. Park Role Statement

Momich Lake Park is of special conservation significance for its representation of low elevation lakes in the Shuswap Highlands Ecosection. This park protects habitat for a diversity of fish species and winter range for moose, deer and goat. The park has a significant regional recreational role in providing for destination camping, canoeing, boating and fishing on Adams Lake and on the Momich Lakes.

V. Management Issues and Concerns

A. Integration With Other Land Use Planning Processes

This Management Statement, future Management Statements, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for the Momich Lakes protected area.

The park will be planned and managed in co-ordination with Ministry of Forests and other agencies' planning processes.

B. Consultation and Future Planning

Planning and management of the park will conform to the intent and directions as set forth in the Provincial Protected Areas Strategy. BC Parks is accountable for planning, administration and management of the park through application of the laws, policies and regulations granted under the *Park Act*. BC Parks will coordinate with other agencies, the LRMP table, various public planning groups and First Nations in developing management plans for all of the new parks arising from the Kamloops LRMP.

This Management Direction Statement has been reviewed and approved in principle by the Kamloops LRMP implementation team.

The LRMP table considers Momich Lakes Park as low priority for management planning. This Management Direction Statement will provide direction and guidelines for managing the area for the next five years or so until a management plan is developed. Any future management plan will be developed through involvement of other agencies, stakeholders, First Nations interests and public interest groups.

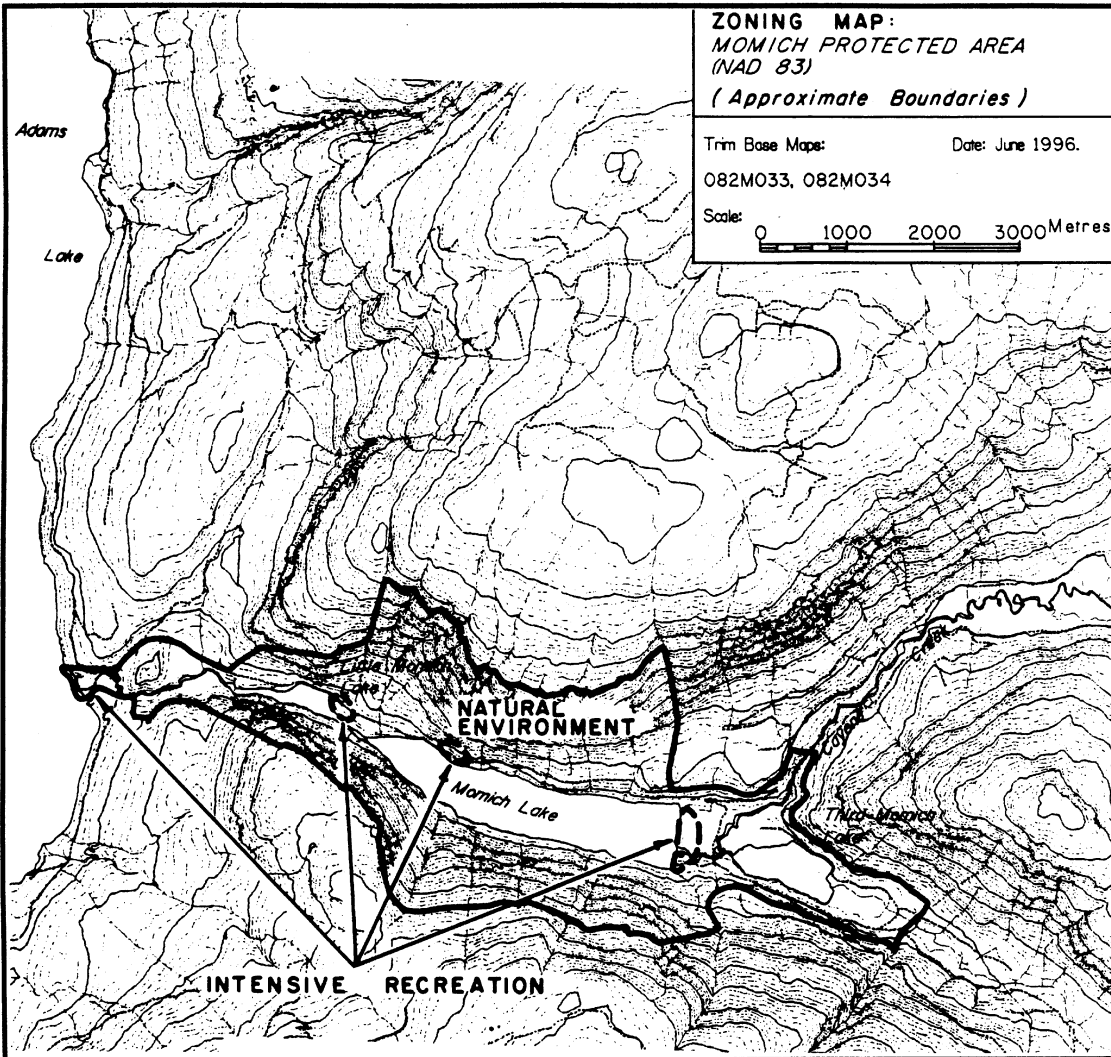
C. Zoning

This zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page is preliminary and reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for Momich Lakes Park. The zoning plan may be changed in a future management planning process. Tentative zones include:

Natural Environment

- Includes the major portion of the park; the objective is to maintain the area in a natural condition.

Figure 1 - Zoning Map



Intensive Recreation

- covers existing access and campsites on Adams Lake and at Momich Lake; future management plan may identify other intensive use sites; the objective is to focus camping and concentrated day use activities (boat drop offs, loading, etc.) to specific locations.

D. Management Strategies and Objectives

The following objectives will direct the short and long term management of the area:

- to maintain the natural qualities and conditions of the park;
- to maintain the visual, recreational and tourism values;
- to maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats;
- to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species; and,
- to provide for continued recreation use with opportunities for beach water play, boating, fishing, canoeing, camping, hunting, nature viewing and other dispersed recreation activities.

The more detailed management planning process will define how these strategies and objectives will be implemented. As well, there will undoubtedly be other strategies and objectives added to the list through the management planning process.

E. Longer Term Issues and Concerns

As a result of the LRMP process there are a number of apparent longer term issues that will be addressed in the management planning process that can be highlighted under the following broad topics:

Conservation

- vegetation management - insect and disease control and fire management
- fisheries and wildlife management

Recreation and Tourism

- access management - through co-ordination with local level planning
- recreation use - appropriate activities, insuring compatibility between user groups
- facility sites - review and determine whether existing sites are appropriate and needed.

Culture

- inventory and protection of archaeological sites and recognition of any identified traditional native uses

F. Short Term Issues and Concerns

Appendix A outlines guidelines for managing uses, activities and facilities in the park. The types and nature of recreation uses of the park will not change, however, more intensive levels of management may be applied; i.e. security and safety, to provide better services to the public.

Appendix A - Activity/ Use Matrix for Momich Lakes Park

Activity/Use/Activity	Natural Environment Zone	Intensive Recreation Zone
Hunting	Y	N
Fishing	Y	Y
Trapping	Y	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N ²	N ²
Recreational gold panning/ rock hounding	N	N
Utility corridors	N	N
Communication sites	N	N1
Horse use/ pack animals	Y ³	Y ³
Guide outfitting (hunting)	Y ²	Y ²
Guide outfitting (fishing)	Y ²	Y ²
Guide outfitting (nature tours)	Y ²	Y ²
Guide outfitting (river rafting)	N/A	N/A
Cat-assisted skiing	N/A	N/A
Ski-hills	N/A	N/A
Heli-skiing	N/A	N/A
Heli-hiking	N	N
Tourist infrastructure - resorts	N	N
Backcountry huts/lodges/ cabins	N	N/A
Water control structures	N1	N1
Fish stocking and enhancement	Y	Y
Road access	Y ¹	Y ¹
Off-road access (snowmobiles)	Y ³	Y ³
Off-road access (motorized)	N	N
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	Y ³	Y ³
Motorized water access	Y ⁴	Y ⁴
Aircraft access	Y	Y
Fire management Wildlife management Prevention & preparedness Prescribed fire management	N1	N1
Fire management (suppression)	Y	Y
Forest insect/disease control	Y	Y
Noxious weed control	Y	Y
Exotic insect/disease control	Y	Y
Scientific research (specimen collection)	N1	N1
Scientific research (manipulation activities)	N1	N1

Y = allowed, subject to conditions identified in the management direction statement or management plan

N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

¹ = road access plan for this area designates open and closed roads

³ = on designated trails only

N = not allowed

N2 = not normally allowed, but if present at time of PA establishment, will normally be allowed to continue

² = by permit only

⁴ = on designated lakes only

