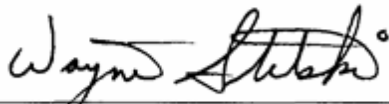


MOUNT FERNIE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

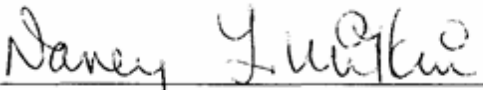
February 2003

Approved by:



Wayne Stetski
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: 13-02-03



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: 25-02-03

MOUNT FERNIE PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Mount Fernie Park is to protect remnant old growth cottonwood and riparian ecosystems of the Border Ranges Ecosection.

The Border Ranges Ecosection is under-represented in the protected areas system. Of the six protected areas in the ecosection, only two (Elk Lakes and Height of the Rockies) are large enough to capture significant representation of the ecosection. Although Mount Fernie Park is small and minimally contributes to ecosection representation, it has the highest representation for one subzone/variant (ICH mk1) within the Border Ranges Ecosection. The Elk Valley has historically witnessed heavy resource extraction (i.e. mining, forestry) and stands of old growth are rare, especially in valley bottoms. The park also contains a main tributary spawning area of the Elk River, a world class fishery.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role of the park is to maintain tourism travel route and holiday destination recreational opportunities oriented to a forested mountain setting. Mount Fernie is the first BC Parks' campground on Hwy 3 driving west from the Alberta border. It has long been used for overnight use by highway travelers, but with the growing popularity of the Fernie Alpine Resort, and the increased awareness of the world class fishing opportunities on the nearby Elk River, the holiday destination role of the park continues to grow. One other park in the corridor, Kikomun Creek, is a popular destination for recreational users which provides additional facilities and diverse opportunities.

Tertiary Role

The **tertiary role** of the park is to maintain day use opportunities for the local community. Mount Fernie is part of a major local trail system which encompasses Fernie and the Fernie Alpine Resort. The park also provides picnicking opportunities.

Known Management Issues	Response
Conflict with bears and trail users especially mountain bikers. Risks to both bears and users from conflict.	No data exist for bear habitat and use in the park. Basic overview impact assessment required and update Bear Emergency plan. Educational signage required.
Old growth cottonwood values and abundance unknown.	Assess values and create a strategic plan. Determine remaining habitat availability and identify future risks because of development/expansion of park facilities.

Known Management Issues	Response
Boundaries of park not identified on the ground.	Boundary signs to be erected.
Unknown species at risk information for park.	Given the park's unique ecological setting, an overview should be done to identify the probability and presence of endangered species.
Conflict with mountain bikers and hikers.	Review, monitor and evaluate the potential for injury. Prepare recommendations and initiate management objectives.
Status and use of road through the park by public and Island Lake Lodge.	Determine legal status of road and develop strategy for future use.
Proposal to double the size of Fernie Alpine Resorts by acquiring land in the park. Options being considered include purchase and land exchange.	MSRM are representing the interests of the BC Government. They are negotiating a process of assessment and public review.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation (approximately 24 ha or 9% of the park)

Objective: To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural Environment (approximately 214 ha or 83% of the park)

Objectives: To protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Special Feature (approximately 21 ha or 8% of the park)

Objectives: To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BRR (Border Ranges) This ecosection is under-represented (4.2 %) in the PA system. Mount Fernie Park is a minor contributor, providing 1% of the province-wide PA representation. Significant contributors include Elk Lakes (73%) and Height of the Rockies (25%).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contributes minimally (2%) to the representation of the under-represented ICH mk1 subzone/variant in the PA system but provides (75%) of the representation of this subzone/variant in the ecosection.
Special Feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cottonwood old growth stand.
Rare/Endangered Values	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grizzly bear (b) and bull trout (b).
Scientific/Research Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	None identified.

Recreation

Representation backcountry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.
destination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Frontcountry camping (40 sites), mountain biking and hiking (77 trails in the Fernie area). The nearby Elk River has acquired world class status for catch and release dry fly fishing.
travel corridor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rest stop, picnicking (parking for 42 cars).
local recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mountain biking, picnicking hiking and nature appreciation.
Special Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	None identified.
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	None identified.

Cultural Heritage

Representation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ktunaxa/Kinbasket- identified as an area of hunting and gathering. No research conducted.
Special Feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	None identified.

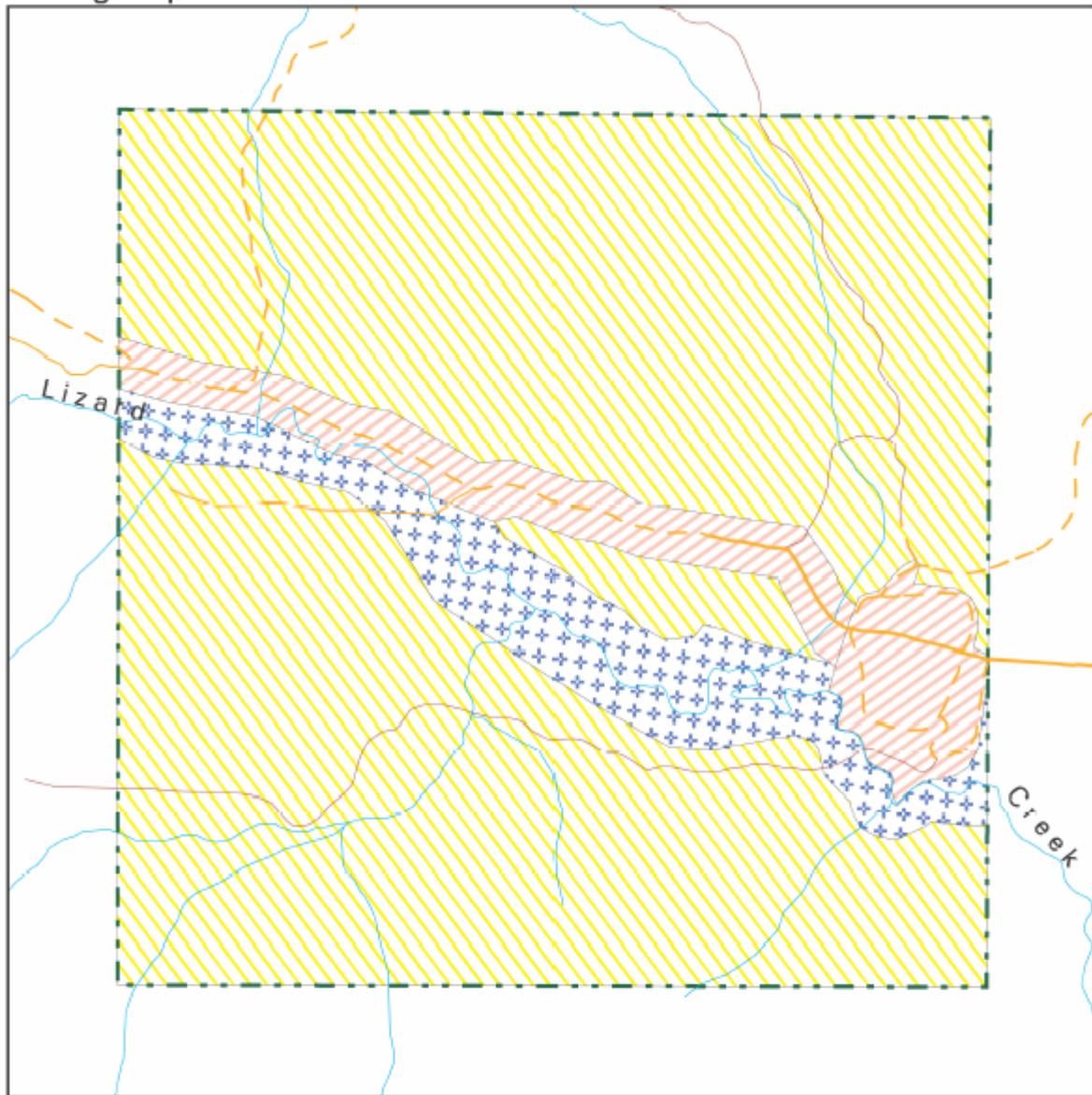
Other Management Considerations

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Other Designations | <input type="checkbox"/> | None identified. |
| Relationship to other PAs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1 of 5 PAs east of the Kootenay River to Alberta border that offer day use opportunities. |
| Co-operative Management Arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Partnerships | <input type="checkbox"/> | None identified. |
| Vulnerability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Old growth cottonwood at risk. |
| Relationship to other Strategies | <input type="checkbox"/> | None identified. |

Area: 259 hectares

Date of establishment: May 4, 1959

Zoning Map - Mount Fernie Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Special Feature
-  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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