

**Myra-Bellevue Park  
and  
Myra-Bellevue Protected Area  
Management Direction Statement**

**September 2005**



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and  
Myra-Bellevue Protected Area**

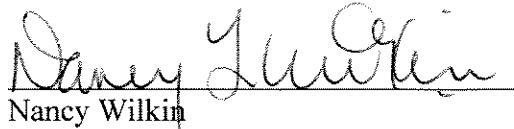
**September 2005**

**Approved**



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# Introduction

## Purpose of the Management Direction Statement

The management direction statement (MDS) provides strategic management direction for Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park and Myra-Bellevue Protected Area. The MDS also describes the values, management issues and concerns and provides a management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies.

Since the Park and Protected Area are managed as one unit, the MDS will use 'Myra-Bellevue' when referring to both entities. Where appropriate, 'Park' or 'Protected Area' will be used when the material is specific to one of these entities.

## Setting and Context

The provincial Protected Areas Strategy provides the framework for identifying areas that would contribute towards ecological, recreational and cultural heritage representation within the province. As part of the many strategic level regional planning initiatives throughout the province, the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (OSLRMP), completed in 2000, recommended a number of new protected areas be established including Myra-Bellevue.

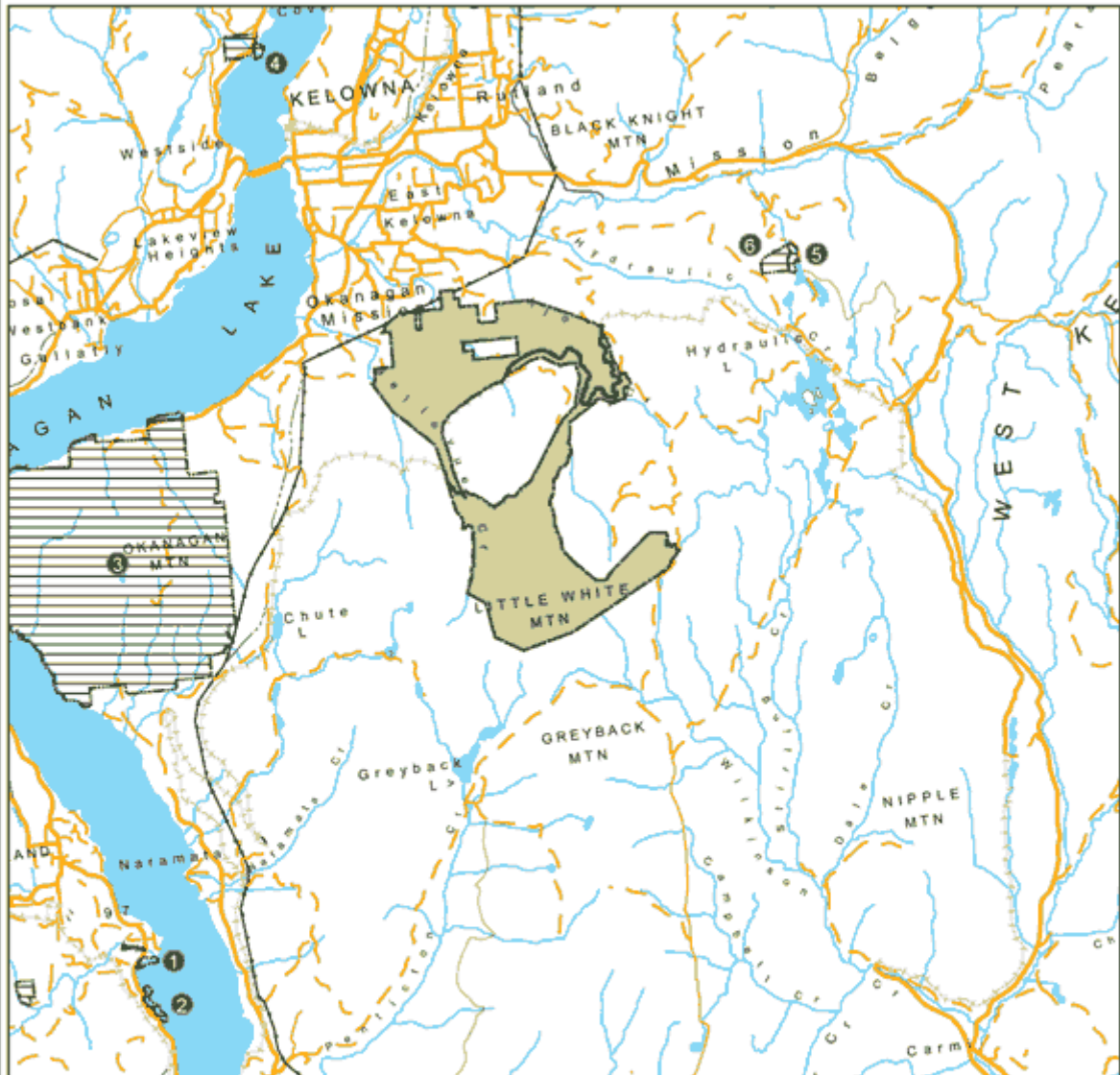
The OSLRMP provides advice on management direction for Myra-Bellevue which has been considered in the development of the MDS. The MDS reflects the Table's advice on restricting off-road motorized use. Interested LRMP Table members, stakeholders, local and provincial government, First Nations and a wide range of interest groups have been consulted during the development of the MDS. All interests had an opportunity to review and comment on the draft MDS and their comments were considered in the preparation of the final document.









Myra-Bellevue was originally established as a 7,948 hectare protected area by Order in Council under the *Environment and Land Use Act* on April 18, 2001. In 2004 all of the protected area except the former Kettle Valley Railway right of way (KVR r/w) became a 7,897 hectare Class A provincial park. The former KVR r/w, 51 hectares in size, will remain a protected area to provide for possible use of the r/w for underground utility purposes. Other than the allowance for the possible utility corridor, the *Park Act* and associated regulations apply to the protected area as if it were a Class A provincial park.

Myra-Bellevue encompasses much of the forested slopes south of the City of Kelowna, a rapidly growing urban area with a population of over 100,000. Myra-Bellevue protects highly significant KVR natural and cultural recreation features, including the most scenic section of the historic KVR r/w. Constructed in the early 1900's and abandoned in 1973, the KVR r/w became a very popular recreational route and is now part of the Trans Canada Trail.

Myra-Bellevue forms part of a community watershed, has significant visual values as the backdrop to the City of Kelowna, and has important inter-relationships with other recreation and tourism opportunities in the surrounding area. The Park and Protected Area complement the recreation opportunities afforded by the nearby Okanagan Mountain Park by providing intensive

**Figure 1: Myra-Bellevue Park and Protected Area Context**



 Produced in Oct 2005 for Ministry of Environment by Ministry of Agriculture and Lands Integrated Land Management Bureau	  Myra-Bellevue Park and Protected Area  Other Protected Areas  Highway  Road	<b>Other Provincial Protected Areas</b> 1 Sun-Oka Beach Park 2 Kikinoos Park 3 Okanagan Mountain Park 4 Bear Creek Park 5 Browne Lake Park 6 Browne Lake Ecological Reserve	 Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD83 This is a visual representation only and should not be used for legal purposes
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trail systems adjoining urban areas, and access to subalpine terrain with outstanding viewing opportunities from Little White Mountain. Connections for recreation use between the two parks are provided by the KVR r/w and the Okanagan Highland Trail.

The “Kelowna South Slopes”, part of which is now Myra-Bellevue, has also experienced a history of recreation use and land use conflicts. Historic trails such as the Crawford Trail have been reclaimed for multi user recreation. Trail networks evolved on the lower slopes that now receive increasingly heavy use for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. The area has also been used for wildlife viewing and hunting, winter and summer motorized recreation, camping and picnicking.

Linear natural features also create excellent trail opportunities. The incised stream corridors of Bellevue and KLO Creek offer notable natural values, and provide recreational connections between Kelowna and the Okanagan Highlands. The Myra (KLO) Canyon is a dramatic feature where rugged terrain has helped retain a wild and natural recreation setting. This is also the most interesting section of the KVR (with 18 trestles and 2 tunnels). Also within the Myra Canyon is Angel Springs and tufa mineral deposits with pools, steps, sink holes and small caves. The Bellevue Canyon offers an excellent viewpoint and opportunities for viewing wildlife.

Little White Mountain with its subalpine meadows, rock escarpment, and Crawford Lake on Little White Mountain attracts trail recreation, nature appreciation, hunting, backcountry camping and snowmobiling. The summit offers spectacular views of the Okanagan Valley and surrounding mountains.

In 2003, the Okanagan Mountain fire swept through parts of Myra-Bellevue, affecting the areas of highest recreational use. Most impacted were the low and mid-elevation portions of the Bellevue Creek/Crawford trails area as well as parts of Myra Canyon. The fire had a heavy impact on the KVR r/w, destroying 12 of the 16 wooden trestles and damaging the decks of the 2 metal trestles. The Bellevue trestle on the western edge of Myra-Bellevue was undamaged. Also not affected were the upper Pooley Creek/Little White Mountain area and parkland west and east of the Little White Mountain Forest Service Road below the KVR r/w.

Following the fire, Myra-Bellevue was closed because of concern for public safety. In 2004, the public was permitted access part way into Myra Canyon at either end of the KVR r/w. Hazard tree removal was completed in early 2005 to allow public access to the more popular trails in the park. The remainder of the KVR r/w will remain closed until the trestle work is completed, expected in 2007.

To allow Trans Canada Trail users to get past the Canyon area during the replacement of the trestles, a bypass trail was built south of the Canyon, connecting the Myra and Little White Mountain Forest Service Roads. The bypass trail passes through the neck of the park in the Pooley Creek area. The bypass provides long-term access for non-motorized and motorized (motorcycles, quads and snowmobiles) recreationists between the Little White Mountain Forest Service Road and the lands east of the park.

Although the fire affected the vegetative cover, Myra-Bellevue’s overall conservation values remain intact since fire is a natural part of Myra-Bellevue’s ecosystem. Much of the area was

not burnt, some areas had only ground-cover burn and others had intensive burns, the latter returning to an early seral stage which in time will return to a climax stage. In cases where the undergrowth layer burned leaving the forest cover intact, the wildlife habitat values may have increased for many species.

Conservation values include representation of an elevational sequence of biogeoclimatic zones from the Okanagan valley slopes to the North Okanagan Highlands. Steep-sided canyons, rock outcrops, small lakes, a diversity of forest types, and sub-alpine meadows provide habitat for a variety of species. Large wildlife includes elk, goat, deer, moose, bear, and cougar. Elk and other ungulate grazing have been improved as a result of the fire. There is also potential for several listed species including provincially red-listed Western Screech Owl, blue-listed Fisher, Grizzly Bear, Lewis's Woodpecker, Great Basin Pocket Mouse and Spotted Bat. In combination with Okanagan Mountain Park and LRMP Resource Management Zones that promote landscape level habitat connections, Myra-Bellevue protects significant wildlife habitat in the Central Okanagan.

## **Park and Protected Area Attributes**

### **Conservation**

- Provincially significant conservation values:
  - large area representative of the North Okanagan Basin and North Okanagan Highland Ecoregions; protects an elevational gradient from the PPxh1, through the IDfxh1, IDfwm1, ICHmk1, MSdm1, to the ESSFdc1. One of few parks that preserve the IDfwm1 and ICHmk1 sequence and mid-elevation pine and spruce on the east side of the valley.
- Small stands of old growth ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, larch, Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir intermixed with stands of varying successional stages occur at lower elevations; stands of old growth spruce and subalpine fir are found in upper elevations. Myra-Bellevue contains some of the most southerly cedar stands in the Okanagan Valley.
- Extensive areas of mid to upper elevations burned during railway construction that were not affected by the 2003 fire support dense stands of 50-70 year old lodgepole pine.
- Myra Canyon contains steep rocky habitat types that are not well represented in existing parks and may contain rare species. Mountain goats may be seen in the Canyon and high biodiversity values exist in the wet/dry forest transition and old growth forest.
- Angel Springs tufa deposits form 10 m high benches in the KLO Creek valley and contains warm springs (20 - 25°C). Surrounding lush, mossy forests include large cedar trees.
- Little White Mountain includes prominent escarpment, old burn and subalpine parkland with lush flower meadows.
- Bellevue Creek is an important source of rainbow trout production in Okanagan Lake. Rainbow trout are found in lower Priest Creek, KLO Creek and Canyon Lakes. Prickly sculpin and rainbow trout are also found below the falls in Bellevue Creek.
- Bellevue Creek Canyon provides opportunities for wildlife viewing and nature study with occasional Mountain Goat in winter, White-throated Swifts, habitat for Flammulated Owl, Lewis' Woodpecker, Spotted Bat, Boreal Owl, Western Screech-owl and Northern Alligator Lizard.

- Elk occasionally use the north aspect meadows of Little White Mountain in summer then disperse in the fall toward Okanagan Mountain Park, Big Meadow Lake and Mt. Randolph near Penticton.
- Protects most of the Bellevue Creek corridor and mid-reaches of KLO Creek and Priest Creek, Crawford Lake and other small lakes on Little White Mountain, and Canyon Lakes.
- Provides representation of the ancient Shuswap group of metamorphics and the Cretaceous Okanagan batholith with small intrusions of Miocene basalts in KLO Creek.

## **Recreation and Tourism**

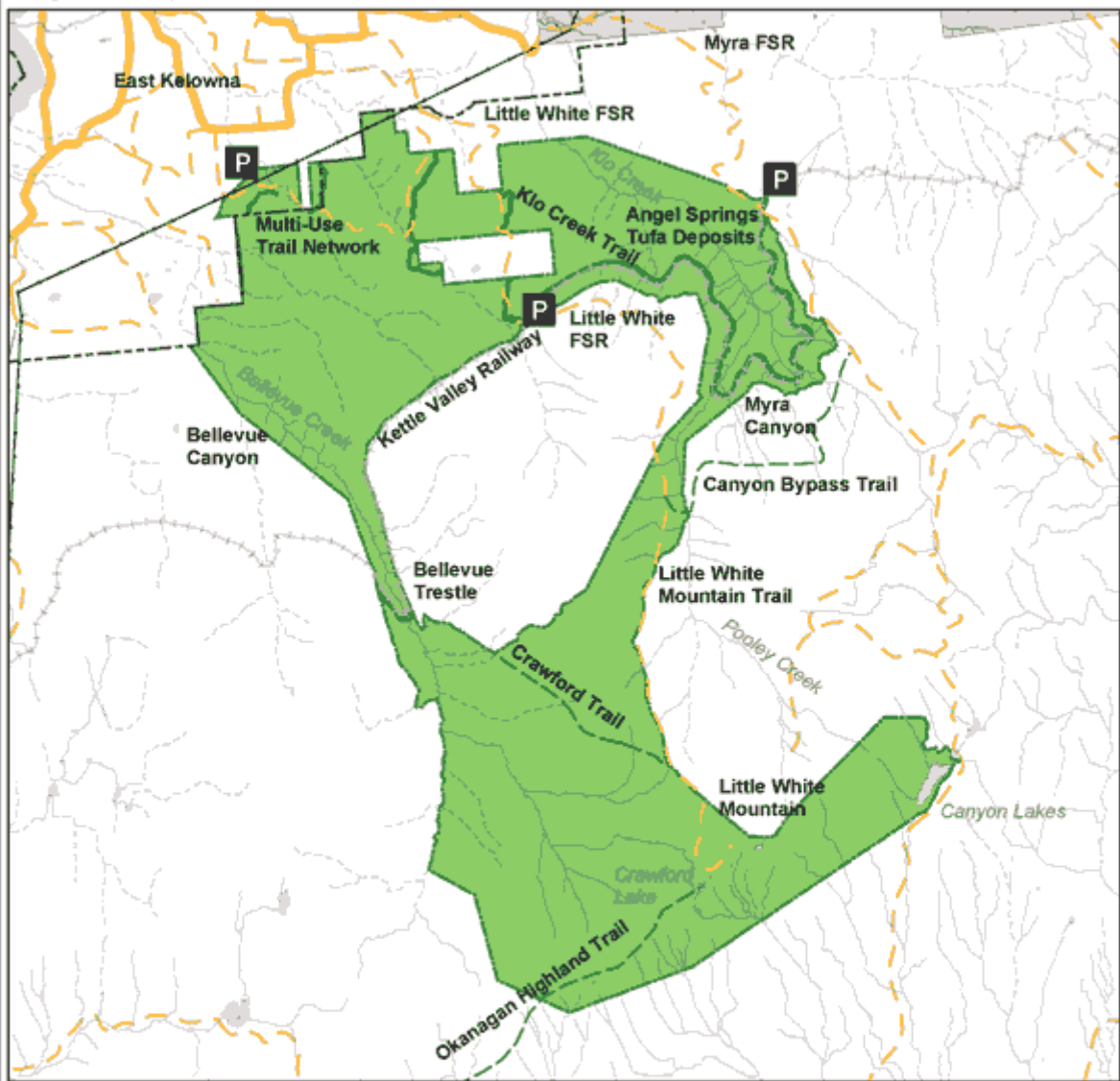
- Provincially significant recreation features are highlighted by the most scenic and heavily used KVR section through the spectacular Myra Canyon. The KVR r/w is now part of the Trans Canada Trail (a shared-use corridor that is part of the 16,000-kilometre recreation trail stretching across Canada). The KVR r/w is an important tourist attraction for the Kelowna area, used by local, regional and international commercial tourism operators.
- Regional to locally significant features include the subalpine summit of Little White Mountain, the Bellevue Canyon, KLO Canyon, Angel Springs, and historic trail routes.
- Near-urban areas provide extensive opportunities for dispersed trail recreation, access to the KVR corridor, and connection with Little White Mountain.
- Recreation opportunities include hiking, mountain biking, running, horseback riding, snowshoeing, backcountry skiing, snowmobiling, backpacking, rock climbing, orienteering, nature study, hunting and fishing, photography and scenic driving. The bypass trail through the neck of park in the Pooley Creek area is also an identified ATV corridor for motorcycle, quad and snowmobile users.
- Little White Mountain is described as one of the most attractive subalpine areas in the Okanagan, and a significant destination for backcountry recreation.
- Many kilometres of trails including KVR, Crawford Trail, KLO Canyon, and Okanagan Highland Trail.
- Myra-Bellevue has important scenic values, forming the backdrop for much of Kelowna.

## **Cultural Heritage**

- Myra-Bellevue is within the traditional territory of the Okanagan First Nations people. A kekuli in NE corner of Myra-Bellevue is relatively intact.
- The Myra Canyon section of the KVR r/w is designated a National Historic Site. One of the most interesting parts of the KVR, the Myra section includes 2 tunnels and 18 trestles, as well as rock ovens and historic railway sidings. The impressive Bellevue Creek trestle is the longest steel trestle in Myra-Bellevue.
- Historic Crawford Trail was constructed at the turn of the century to provide irrigation access to Crawford Lake, and later to pack supplies to a lookout on Little White Mountain
- Remains of historic irrigation flumes and telephone lines
- 1913 trail was the original telephone trail to Little White Mountain



**Figure 2: Myra-Bellevue Park & Protected Area Features**



		Parking	Park Boundary	
		Trails	Water	
		Roads	Kettle Valley Railway RW	

Produced in October 2005 for the Ministry of Environment by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands Integrated Land Management Bureau

Projection: UTM Zone 11  
Datum: NAD83

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0 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 3.75  
Kilometers

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## Significance in the Protected Areas System

- Protects a biogeoclimatic sequence from the lower Okanagan valley slopes to the subalpine on the east side of the Okanagan valley.
- Contributes to the provincial conservation of dry montane spruce ecosystems (MSdm1), and also to the ESSFdc1 and IDFmw1.
- Protects significant canyon features and portions of the prominent mountains on the east side of the Okanagan Valley.

Biogeoclimatic Zone	Province (ha)	Hectares within existing PAs	% within existing PAs	Hectares protected within park	% of PA protected within park	% of provincial occurrence within park
ESSFdc1	166162	13437	8.1	2862	21.3	1.7
ICHmk1	314219	13098	4.2	1294	9.9	0.4
IDFmw1	140104	6286	4.5	1034	16.4	0.7
IDFxb1	241391	17135	7.1	1191	7.0	0.5
MSdm1	249090	1603	0.6	1271	79.3	0.5
PPxb1	110292	9575	8.7	200	2.1	0.2

Source: BC Parks

- Myra Bellevue Protected Area contains the most popular section of the KVR r/w, the most significant trail corridor in the Okanagan Valley. Protection of the Myra portion of the KVR r/w and the Bellevue trestle allows the protected area to make a major contribution towards the Okanagan Valley as a tourist route, and Kelowna as a tourist destination. The KVR r/w supports numerous commercial recreation operations.
- The Park also contains the most extensive and heavily used non-motorized, multi-use trail network in the Okanagan Valley, providing access from the valley bottom to the subalpine of Little White Mountain. The Park's extensive trail opportunities, accessible from within the City of Kelowna, make a major contribution to BC Parks' goals for local recreation. Opportunities are available for all levels of non-motorized trail users, including mobility impaired persons.
- Myra-Bellevue complements recreation opportunities at nearby Okanagan Mountain Park by providing near-urban, non-motorized trail systems for intensive use, and by providing access through moister forest types to the subalpine.
- Non-motorized trail access to Little White Mountain and the Okanagan Highland Trail provides connections to long distance backcountry trail routes.
- The Myra Canyon section of the KVR r/w is a cultural feature of provincial significance, with potential to become nationally and internationally renowned due to tourism and Trans Canada Trail marketing. The engineering significance of the structures and the route, as well as the views, are awe-inspiring.

# Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

## Access

- Several Forest Service Roads (FSRs) provide access to Myra-Bellevue:
  - Greyback FSR to Canyon Lakes
  - Little White Mountain FSR from June Springs Road to the KVR r/w and extending to the park boundary near Pooley Creek. The remainder of the former Little White Mountain FSR within the park is a trail for non-motorized use, except in winter when snowmobiles are permitted.
  - Hydraulic Creek – Myra FSR to the eastern park boundary and the KVR r/w
  - Gillard Creek FSR to the Bellevue trestle area on the western end of the Protected Area
  - Excluded portion of the KVR r/w west of the Little White Mountain FSR provides vehicle access to the Bellevue Creek portion of the Protected Area
- The primary means of non-motorized trail access to and through park and/or protected area are:
  - KVR r/w through Myra Canyon from Myra FSR to Little White Mountain FSR and over Bellevue Creek via the KVR trestle
  - Crawford Trail from Crawford Estates to the Bellevue Creek portion of the Protected Area and from the KVR r/w in the Bellevue Creek area to the Little White Mountain trail near Little White Mountain
  - KLO Creek and Angel Springs Trail from McCulloch Road to KVR r/w at Pooley Creek
  - Okanagan Highland Trail – route from McCulloch Lake to Chute Lake passes through the Park along the ridge of Little White Mountain
  - Former Bellevue FSR off Myra FSR is gated; non-motorized use is permitted
  - Canyon Bypass Trail in the Pooley Creek area
- Extensive ad hoc multi-use trail network exists throughout the Park and Protected Area

## Existing Tenures, Alienations and Encumbrances

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 (PUPs). This policy recognizes all existing *Land Act* tenures, special use permits (SUPs), water rights, trapping licenses and other legal tenures and rights.

The following tenures exist within the Park and Protected Area:

- 2 trapline licenses (0809T022, 0810T035) cover most of Myra-Bellevue, and 2 others (0812T033, 0812T034) use only a minor portion in the upper headwaters of Wilkinson and Affleck Creek watersheds.
- Guide/outfitters – 1 guide/outfitter holds a licence (certificate #800573) over the majority of the park; another guide/outfitter's licence (certificate #800489) covers part of the upper watershed of Wilkinson Creek
- Water licenses:
  - Ministry of Forests and Range: 2 stock watering developments at Collette and Tree Springs
  - South East Kelowna Irrigation District: 5 licences for waterworks, irrigation and storage

- 2 private licenses for domestic water, on Priest and Hachey Creeks
- Grazing tenures:
  - 1 grazing permit covers most of the Park (vacant at present); 4 grazing licenses (RAN074490, RAN071606, RAN071150, RAN072674) have small portions of their much larger tenures in the heights of land around the perimeter of the Park
- Rights of Ways:
  - FortisBC has 2 rights of way for power lines
  - SE Kelowna Irrigation District has a right of way for a waterline
- 2 Notations of Interest for existing road access to 2 private parcels within the Park
- Park Use Permits:
  - Backcountry Horsemen Society: permit to ride in the area between KVR r/w and Priest Creek
  - Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society: annual permit for maintenance on KVR
  - The Orchard City Amateur Radio Club: License of Occupation for a communication site on Little White Mountain
  - 2 education and research permits
  - Commercial recreation: one commercial operator (8 Mile Ranch) has a permit for trail riding into the Canyon Lakes area
- A section of the Upper Penticton Creek watershed experiment is in the Park. This project is coordinated by the hydrologist at the Kamloops Regional office of the Ministry of Forests.
- 10 mineral claims are to be expropriated pursuant to direction from the OSLRMP (378799, 378800, 378801, 378802, 378803, 378804, 378875, 378876, 379179, & 379502)
- A block of five parcels of private land straddling Little White Mountain FSR is excluded from the Park

## **Adjacent Patterns of Land Use**

- The following Resource Management Zones (RMZs) from the Okanagan Shwap Land and Resource Management Plan (OSLRMP) provide direction for lands adjacent to Myra-Bellevue:
  - The Mission Creek Enhanced RMZ which surrounds Myra-Bellevue encourages the coordinated management of all activities to protect the critical water quality values of the watershed.
  - Myra-Bellevue is surrounded by the Recreation RMZ, Intensive Recreation category, which provides for shared, all-season recreational use
  - Dispersed Tourism RMZ along adjacent sections of the KVR r/w
  - The upper portion of the area excluded from Myra-Bellevue between Little White Mountain FSR and Bellevue Creek is within the Visual Quality Objective Zone 1 (“Scenic Area”)
- Portions of four Community Watersheds are within the Park and Protected Area: Hydraulic Creek, KLO Creek, and Pooley Creek (supply for South East Kelowna Irrigation District), and the uppermost portion of Penticton Creek (water supply for Penticton)
- The City of Kelowna has jurisdiction along the northern park boundary. The Kelowna Official Community Plan proposes linear access to Myra-Bellevue from Bellevue Creek, Priest Creek, and KLO Creek (proposed future linkage to Mission Creek Greenway), Residential zoning and Future Urban Reserve around and west of Bellevue Creek and Rural/Agriculture (ALR) along the northern boundary.

- Central Okanagan Regional District (CORD) zoning is RU-1 (rural) on all crown lands including Myra-Bellevue. The Cedar Mountain Regional Park is located west of Myra-Bellevue on the Kelowna South Slopes. CORD also manages the Ministry of Forests recreation site at McCulloch Lake.
- Crown-owned KVR r/w extending east of Myra Canyon toward Hydraulic Lake and west of Bellevue Creek toward Chute Lake, as well as the section between Little White Mountain FSR and Bellevue Creek, is utilized for industrial and public vehicle access and is part of the Trans Canada Trail
- Backcountry tourist/recreation resorts (including Chute Lake, Hydraulic Lake, Idabel Lake) promote and support use of KVR r/w.
- The OSLRMP directs that:
  - The portion of the KVR r/w between Gillard Creek and Myra Canyon is designated as a Category A trail (managed for trail corridor continuity and as a visually sensitive area)
  - The trail from Big Meadow Lake to Corporation Lake to Myra-Bellevue be managed as a Class A trail
  - The Okanagan Highland Trail be managed as a Category B trail (managed without a linear corridor and as a visually sensitive area)
- Forest Licences:
  - Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd: west side of Gillard Creek to Bellevue Creek
  - Weyerhaeuser Co. Ltd.: Upper Pooley Creek; south of Canyon Lakes and Little White Mountain; east of Pooley Creek and KLO Creek to KVR
- Ministry of Forests
  - BC Timber Sales manages the upper area of park exclusion adjacent to the KVR r/w, a small area north of upper Bellevue Creek and south of Little White Mountain
  - Range tenures cover all areas surrounding the park as noted above

## **First Nations Interests**

- Traditional territory of Okanagan First Nations people
- Interests of Bands within the Okanagan Nation are unknown

## **Other Agency Interests**

- Ministry of Forests:
  - manages existing grazing licenses and permits
  - assists in the management of forest health
  - manages wildfire responses, fire prevention activities and assists with prescribed burns
  - manages Forest Service Roads and
  - is responsible for the many cutblocks adjacent to the park that have outstanding Free-to-Grow obligations
- The Integrated Land Management Bureau manages all licences, leases, and other forms of tenures on Crown Land outside Myra-Bellevue that are not under the jurisdiction of other agencies.
- Central Okanagan Regional District wishes to maintain a close cooperative relationship, especially concerning water management, tourism and park development
- City of Kelowna recognizes the importance of Myra-Bellevue to the community in its Official Community Plan for the area

## **Private and Public Stakeholder Interests**

- Owners of adjacent and inholding private properties
- Trapline owners and guide outfitters
- Grazing license and permit holders
- Forest Licensees
- Water license holders
- Friends of South Slopes Society, a coalition of groups and individuals, is interested in the management of the Kelowna South Slopes and their preservation for the purpose of environmentally sensitive recreation.
- The Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society is dedicated to the upgrade and maintenance of the KVR r/w within the Protected Area
- Commercial recreation operators

## **Park and Protected Area Role Statement**

The primary role of Myra-Bellevue is to protect recreation and tourism opportunities associated with the most popular section of the KVR, and the near-urban wildland recreation setting of the Kelowna South Slopes. The area supports an extensive trail network for multiple uses, while also offering more primitive backcountry recreation and connections with regional trail networks.

Myra-Bellevue's secondary role is to protect significant ecosystem elements in the otherwise highly altered landscape of the Okanagan Valley. These include small pockets of old growth forest, a variety of forest types, subalpine meadows and deep canyons. The Park provides ecosystem representation from dry valley to subalpine slopes, contains habitat suitable for rare species in the canyons and contains 79% of provincial protection of MSdm1. The Park contributes important habitat for a variety of wildlife in conjunction with surrounding lands. The importance of the Park to red and blue-listed species is unknown.

The tertiary role of Myra-Bellevue is to protect the known cultural heritage features. A relatively intact kekuli is the only known First Nation feature. A significant portion of the historic KVR r/w, designated as a National Historic Site, is protected, including rock ovens, tunnels, and trestles. Historic irrigation flumes and telephone lines with their accompanying trails and the remains of the former 1914 lookout tower on Little White Mountain all contribute to the cultural values of the area.

Myra-Bellevue enhances quality of life for Central Okanagan residents by providing numerous recreational opportunities as well as contributing clean air and water, and other important ecosystem values.

# Management Commitments and Issues

## Management Direction from Previous Planning

The Okanagan Shuswap LRMP, approved in 2001, recommended establishment of Myra-Bellevue as a park, with logging, mining and hydro-electric development prohibited. The LRMP provided management direction for the interim management of the proposed park which have been incorporated into this MDS.

Other management guidance comes from:

- Ministry of Forests KVR Strategic Plan
- Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management Trans Canada Trail Project – Guiding Principles

## Management Issues

The following management issues require attention:

Theme	Issue
<p><b>Protecting the park’s ecological values</b></p>	<p><u>Lack of Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory of park’s natural features and sensitive areas is inadequate to plan for specific areas of conservation priority</li> </ul> <p><u>Impacts from Recreation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive creation of unplanned trails prior to park establishment has resulted in soil and vegetation impacts, and habitat fragmentation. Development of further unauthorized trails could increase the impact on conservation values.</li> <li>• Sensitive dry forest ecosystems at the lowest elevations of the park are subject to high levels of uncontrolled motorized recreation use and intensive mountain bike use that have created environmental degradation</li> <li>• The loss of forest cover from the fire has made it much easier to traverse fire affected areas resulting in increased mountain bike and ATV use</li> <li>• Motorized recreation access to Little White Mountain has impacted sensitive alpine soils, vegetation, habitat and wildlife populations, including elk</li> </ul> <p><u>Impacts from cattle use:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cattle use could impact ecological values especially in riparian areas. Current impact is unknown.</li> </ul> <p><u>Forest Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is good potential for forest insect infestation, particularly in the areas affected by the forest fire. The results of insect infestation and/or its management in or adjacent to the park could impact park ecological values.</li> <li>• Extent of invasive weed infestation is unknown. The areas where the under-story and canopy have been lost due to the fire are extremely vulnerable to weed infestation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Forest Fire</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The risk of human- or lightning-caused wildfires remains high in the areas not recently burned and is increased in the burned areas for the next 10-15 years. The risk of an intense wildfire will increase as stands mature in the park.</li> <li>• Continued fire suppression will impact park ecological values (e.g., change in forest structure).</li> <li>• Forest soil porosity was affected in areas that experienced extremely hot</li> </ul>

Theme	Issue
	<p>conditions during the 2003 forest fire. This has increased the potential for serious erosion from heavy rainfall until the ground cover is restored</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitation is required to address impacts of fire-fighting activities. The impacts of establishment of fire-guards, the use of fire-retardant, and the use of weed infested hay bales in ditches to control soil erosion need to be mitigated.</li> </ul> <p><u>Adjacent Uses and Ecological Integrity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjacent industrial operations, summer motorized recreational trespass and forest management adjacent to the park could impact park ecosystem values. This is especially a concern because of the large edge to area ratio for this park. The complex park boundaries make it difficult to determine actual boundary locations and can easily result in trespass.</li> </ul>
<b>Protecting the park's recreation values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The large number of existing points of access into Myra-Bellevue from the urban area makes it difficult to manage and regulate recreation use</li> <li>The large number of trails detracts from the park's visual values and makes it difficult to find a destination (such as Angel Springs)</li> <li>Many trails are used by a number of different types of users (e.g. horseriders and bicyclists) creating a potentially hazardous situation</li> <li>The full extent of commercial recreation operations is unknown; only one is operating under Park Use Permit</li> <li>Commercial development along the KVR could impact the recreation experience for some users</li> </ul>
<b>Protecting the park's cultural values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The full extent of pre-contact cultural features is unknown</li> <li>Restoration of historic features such as the KVR stations would enhance appreciation of the park's cultural heritage values</li> <li>Forest growth under the Bellevue Creek trestle and the 2 metal trestles in Myra Canyon creates ladder fuels that could endanger trestles in a forest fire</li> <li>Rock instability along the KVR r/w in Myra Canyon was worsened by the 2003 forest fire; tunnel stability and r/w drainage structures will be an ongoing maintenance problem</li> </ul>
<b>Enhancing the park's recreation/tourism values</b>	<p><u>Trail System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for connections between the Park and urban linear parks and trails enhances regional trail recreation opportunities</li> <li>There is opportunity for additional trail development within the park to create loop route opportunities</li> </ul> <p><u>Commercial Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No commercial accommodation is available near the Myra Canyon area. The nearest are at Hydraulic Lake, at Chute Lake and in Kelowna. If considered, the provision of commercial fixed roof accommodation should not create an exclusive opportunity for its clients and must be located and undertaken in such a way as to not seriously impact existing use and values.</li> <li>Users are unable to obtain on-site basic goods or services, such as snack food, refreshments, or bicycle rentals</li> </ul> <p><u>Park Access Roads</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Little White Mountain and Myra FSRs are often in poor condition which may affect visitation and tourism potential</li> <li>Lack of winter vehicle access to the KVR r/w inhibits winter recreational use</li> </ul> <p><u>Interpretation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of interpretive facilities prevents visitors from fully appreciating the cultural and natural significance of the area, especially along the KVR r/w</li> </ul>
<b>Unauthorized Activities</b>	<p><u>Summer Motorized Recreation Use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer motorized recreation users create a safety hazard for other park users and are impacting wildlife and vegetation values, particularly on Little White Mountain, on the lower slopes closest to the city, and below the trestle at Bellevue</li> </ul>



Theme	Issue
	<p>Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At lowest elevations the park includes routes of traditional summer motorized recreation use to areas outside the park (usually entering the park through private property or FortisBC r/w)</li> </ul> <p><u>Mountain Bike Technical Training Features and Trails</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of mountain bike technical training features and trails may not be safe for public use, and create hazards for other users</li> </ul> <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unauthorized activities including paintball and partying impact park values</li> <li>Firewood cutting along Little White Mountain FSR impacts park values</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Health and Safety</b></p>	<p><u>Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No potable water is available in the protected area</li> </ul> <p><u>Forest Fire Hazard</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A forest fire could threaten public safety in and outside of the park</li> </ul> <p><u>KVR R/W</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation users along the KVR r/w may not be aware of, or take precautions for, vehicle traffic permitted along certain sections, and compromise safety of both users</li> <li>Natural hazards such as rockfall along the KVR r/w could compromise the safety of park users</li> </ul> <p><u>Trail Use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uncontrolled dogs in areas of multiple trail recreation use create safety concerns</li> <li>Unauthorized mountain bike stunt features compromise public safety and park values</li> <li>Lack of information on trails, including trail difficulty, could compromise visitor safety</li> <li>Unprotected sheer drop-offs could pose a safety hazard at Crawford Falls and Devil's Elbow</li> </ul> <p><u>Public Road Park Access</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The combination of industrial use and heavy recreation traffic on poorly maintained KVR access roads could create safety concerns</li> <li>There are public safety concerns along McCulloch Road near KLO Creek, particularly when the quarry is in operation</li> <li>Cattle along McCulloch Road and other park access roads create a potential safety hazard to vehicle use</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other Agency's concerns</b></p>	<p><u>Water Quality</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upper Pooley Creek contributes to the source of Kelowna's drinking water and could be impacted by summer motorized recreation use on LittleWhite Mountain</li> <li>Upper elevations of the Little White Mountain trail (former FSR) are in bad condition and may need water control to prevent further impacts to water quality</li> </ul> <p><u>Park Access from Urban Areas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of trailhead parking at access points along the city/Myra-Bellevue boundary creates traffic concerns</li> </ul> <p><u>Myra Canyon National Historic Site</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The values recognized in, and the management implications of, the federal designation of the Myra Canyon section of the KVR r/w need to be considered in management guidelines for this part of the Protected Area</li> </ul> <p><u>Trans Canada Trail</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management guidelines for the protected area should consider the objectives for and the role of the KVR r/w as part of the Trans Canada Trail</li> </ul>

# Management Strategies

## Priority Management Objectives and Strategies

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
<p><b>Protecting Myra-Bellevue’s ecological values</b></p>	<p><u>Ecological Inventory</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory the park for areas of ecological sensitivity to assist in the management of rare species and rare and fragile ecosystems. Consider a cooperative approach with the Central Okanagan Regional District to tie in with their Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory. Consolidate anecdotal information from available sources including Central Okanagan Naturalists.</li> <li>• Determine the role of Myra-Bellevue habitats within the general area; work with Ministry of Forests, local government and other interests to integrate wildlife management in the park with adjacent lands; complete inventory work as needed</li> </ul> <p><u>Areas/Levels of Recreation Use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formalize Myra-Bellevue access points and staging areas. The three main vehicle access points should be:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewart Road East parking lot</li> <li>• Little White Mountain FSR at the KVR r/w and at its terminus near the bypass trail</li> <li>• Myra-Hydraulic FSR at KVR r/w</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Restrict recreation use in areas of greatest sensitivity (including the KLO, Priest and Bellevue Creek corridors, Angel Springs and upper elevations of the park)</li> <li>• Assess the existing trail system. Develop a long range plan for rehabilitation of the trail system to decommission trails in areas of environmental sensitivity, upgrade the standard of trails as required, and develop new trails in approved areas. Consider using the standards of the International Mountain Bike Association. Monitor use over time to determine need for separation of users. Monitor impacts of recreation use.</li> </ul> <p><u>Motorized Recreation Use – see also Unauthorized Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrict public motorized vehicle use in the park and protected area to public roads and at each end of the Myra Canyon section of the KVR r/w for access to parking areas. Allow motorized (motorcycle, quad and snowmobile only) use of the Canyon Bypass Trail. Snowmobiles will also be permitted in the Little White Mountain area and on the KVR r/w when snow permits.</li> <li>• Maintain motorized vehicle closure through out the remainder of Myra-Bellevue. Take whatever measures necessary to discontinue motorized recreation use in areas where:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) use occurred prior to park or protected area establishment such as the Crawford trails area, the Little White Mountain area (including the Little White Mountain trail, former FSR), the former Bellevue Creek FSR, the Crawford Trail and the Bellevue Creek trestle area</li> <li>ii) use recently increased due to the forest fire such as in Angel Springs</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Rehabilitate damage in areas previously used by motorized recreation users prior to park and protected area establishment, such as the Little White Mountain area</li> </ul> <p><u>Fire Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a fire management plan based on fire history research, fire behavior and rating index, ecological and cultural inventories. Undertake pro-active management as recommended by the plan.</li> </ul> <p><u>Restoration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitate areas affected by the forest fire including fire guards and heavily impacted fire-retardant areas. Seed areas of heat affected soils as needed to</li> </ul>

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
<p><b>Protecting Myra-Bellevue’s ecological values (continued)</b></p>	<p>reduce potential for serious soil erosion. Control invasive weeds to allow early seral growth in heavily used areas such as the Crawford trails.</p> <p><u>Forest Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with Ministry of Forests to survey forest health. Participate in planning for Douglas-fir beetle trap trees outside of the park boundary.</li> <li>• Develop guidelines for tolerance of insect infestation regarding threat to ecological and recreational values in the park. Any forest health management should use unobtrusive ways of dealing with insect infestation including early detection, and fall and burn (trap trees and baiting). A plan should be developed for site-specific aspects of forest health to provide detailed management response for individual areas.</li> </ul> <p><u>Areas Adjacent to the Park and the Protected Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek long-term commitment from Ministry of Forests (MOF) for the maintenance of the drainage structures on the portion of the KVR r/w from the Little White Mountain FSR/KVR r/w junction to the Bellevue trestle area to protect parkland below the r/w and provide safe conditions for Trans Canada Trail (TCT) users; also encourage MOF to maintain the portions of the KVR r/w west and east of Myra- Bellevue for the benefit of the TCT users.</li> <li>• Development of adjacent land should avoid undesirable impacts such as unmanaged access, or compromises to windfirm stands</li> </ul>
<p><b>Protecting Myra-Bellevue’s Recreation values</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory and map existing recreation trails. Develop a long term trail and facility plan as described above. Discourage further development of unplanned trails. Maintain, enhance, rehabilitate and complete the existing trail system.</li> <li>• Work with the Integrated Land Management Bureau, the Regional District of Central Okanagan, the City of Kelowna and others to ensure applications for Crown land in the vicinity of Myra-Bellevue do not have a serious negative impact on the park or protected area conservation, cultural or recreation values</li> <li>• Restrict roofed accommodation to the vicinity of the vehicle-access points to the Myra Canyon section the KVR r/w (see Commercial Recreation Opportunities strategy under Enhancing Myra-Bellevue’s Recreation Values and Management objective). Allow no huts or lodges within the rest of the park.</li> <li>• Work with the Trans Canada Trail Society so that management of KVR r/w is supportive of the Trans Canada Trail designation</li> <li>• Document the remains of the former Ministry of Forests lookout on Little White Mountain; remove the remains of the lookout and rehabilitate the site; establish interpretive signage about the lookout either on- or off-site</li> </ul>
<p><b>Protecting Myra-Bellevue’s cultural values</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake research in cooperation with First Nations to determine the presence of, and appropriate protection for, First Nations cultural features</li> <li>• Work with the federal government to ensure that management of the National Historic Site is consistent with the purpose of this designation</li> <li>• Maintain a close working relationship with the Myra Canyon Restoration Society towards protecting, maintaining and restoring the KVR trestles, rail bed and cultural features</li> <li>• Maintain the KVR r/w, trestles, tunnels and drainage structures in Myra Canyon and Bellevue Creek</li> <li>• Continue rock stabilization (slopes above and tunnels) in the Myra Canyon section of the KVR r/w</li> <li>• Vegetation growth under trestles should be assessed and removed if it creates a fire hazard to trestles</li> <li>• Develop a strategy for vegetation management along the KVR r/w that provides viewsapes and maintains its railway corridor appearance</li> </ul>

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
<p><b>Enhancing Myra-Bellevue’s recreation values and management</b></p>	<p><u>Trail System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional trail opportunities should be investigated as part of overall trail plan</li> <li>• Continue liaison with the City of Kelowna to establish trail access to the park via proposed urban linear parks</li> <li>• Work with the various user groups and establish signage to encourage safe sharing of the trails</li> </ul> <p><u>Camping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the appropriateness of a backcountry campsite in the Little White Mountain area</li> </ul> <p><u>Commercial Recreation Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider providing a small to moderately-sized roofed accommodation in the Intensive Recreation zone in the vicinity of the east end of Myra Canyon, provided the facility does not have serious, negative impacts on public access to and use of the KVR r/w. If developed, drinking water for the public could be provided at the nearby KVR parking area.</li> <li>• Consider a commercial opportunity to provide basic goods and services that is compatible with Myra Canyon’s recreational and cultural heritage roles</li> </ul> <p><u>Park Access Roads</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage provincial agencies, local government and local stakeholders to establish an agreement for upgrading and regular maintenance of the Myra and Little White Mountain FSRs</li> </ul> <p><u>Interpretive Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider partnerships (with commercial recreation operators along KVR r/w, local government, Myra Canyon Restoration Society and the Friends of South Slopes) for provision of interpretive opportunities within Myra-Bellevue</li> </ul> <p><u>Protected Area Management Opportunity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the opportunity for a park facility operator to take over responsibility for the maintenance of the Myra Canyon and Bellevue Creek sections of the KVR r/w and their recreational use with a public fee for parking</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unauthorized Activities</b></p>	<p><u>Summer Motorized Recreation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be no summer motorized use in Myra-Bellevue except on designated public roads and on the Canyon bypass trail (motorcycles, quads and snowmobiles only)</li> <li>• Restrict summer motorized recreation use access by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marking the boundary at strategic locations to prevent trespass</li> <li>• Using media releases and education campaigns (such as brochures distributed to motorbike dealers, adjacent landowners, neighborhood schools, etc.) to protect Myra-Bellevue from this and other unauthorized activities</li> <li>• Blocking routes at strategic locations</li> <li>• Enforcement as possible</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Mountain Bike Technical Training Features and Trails</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain dialogue with the Mountain Biking Club and the Central Okanagan Regional District regarding development of planned mountain bike technical training features in regional parks or elsewhere outside of Myra-Bellevue. Discourage development of such features within the park.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Safety</b></p>	<p><u>Forest Fire</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use signs to inform the public of the dangers of hazard trees and encouraging people to stay on trails</li> <li>• Post educational signs on responsible campfire use; ban party bonfires</li> <li>• Coordinate with Ministry of Forests and Range to post fire ban signs with park access points</li> </ul>

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a fire evacuation plan for park users, particularly in the backcountry</li> <li>• Consider development of a fuel management zone between the park and urban interface in cooperation with the community and the Ministry of Forests and Range</li> </ul> <p><u>KVR R/W</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage along KVR r/w between Myra Canyon and Bellevue trestle, and at the east access points to Myra Canyon should clearly indicate areas where motorized traffic could be encountered</li> <li>• Undertake a regular assessment of hazards from rock falls and fuel build-up under and adjacent to the trestles. Take remedial actions as required.</li> <li>• Undertake a regular assessment of the right of way drainage structures, trestles, and tunnels. Take remedial actions as required.</li> </ul> <p><u>Public Road Access</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage Ministry of Forests and Range and forest licensees to establish and maintain appropriate safety notifications and information when the KVR r/w adjacent to the park and the park access roads will be used for hauling. Myra-Bellevue information should describe the multi-use nature and potential condition of access roads to the KVR r/w.</li> </ul> <p><u>Trail Use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor recreation use and user concerns over time to assess the need for dog control regulation and trail use designations</li> <li>• Mountain bike technical training features should be removed</li> <li>• A map of the approved trail system should be developed</li> </ul>
<b>Communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a plan for information, orientation, and education. Included should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directional signage to Myra-Bellevue</li> <li>• Identification of Myra-Bellevue’s boundaries along main routes of access</li> <li>• Trailhead signs and brochures showing park zoning and regulations, natural and cultural interpretation, directional information, safety precautions for using road access to Myra-Bellevue, trail map, and ethics for trail use</li> <li>• Directional and cautionary signs as required to promote public safety</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Signs and communication should consider the international origin of visitors</li> <li>• Conduct an interpretive assessment of Myra-Bellevue for future development of interpretive opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>Incorporate Other Agency Concerns into Management of Myra-Bellevue</b>	<p><u>Myra-Bellevue access points and staging areas.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the City of Kelowna and the Friends of South Slopes to plan and develop primary access, parking area and trailhead along the northwest park boundary</li> <li>• Work with the City of Kelowna to establish secondary park access through connections with proposed urban linear parks along Bellevue Creek, Priest Creek, and KLO Creek. Ensure that trail development along lower KLO Creek minimizes impact on downstream fisheries values.</li> </ul>

## Consultation and Future Planning

Planning and management of Myra-Bellevue will conform with the intent of the Provincial Protected Areas Strategy. BC Parks is accountable for planning, administration and management of the Park and the Protected Area through the application of the laws and regulations granted under the *Park Act* and applicable policies.

BC Parks will continue to consult with local groups to determine promotion, information and volunteer strategies. In addition, BC Parks will work with Bands of the Okanagan Nation to identify and protect heritage and cultural values and interests. Future planning will not compromise the ecological integrity of natural and cultural values within the site. Integrated planning with other agencies, adjoining landowners and interest groups will ensure Myra-Bellevue's ecological and recreational integrity and promote long-term stewardship of the area. All new developments will be subject to the BC Parks Impact Assessment process.

## Zoning Plan

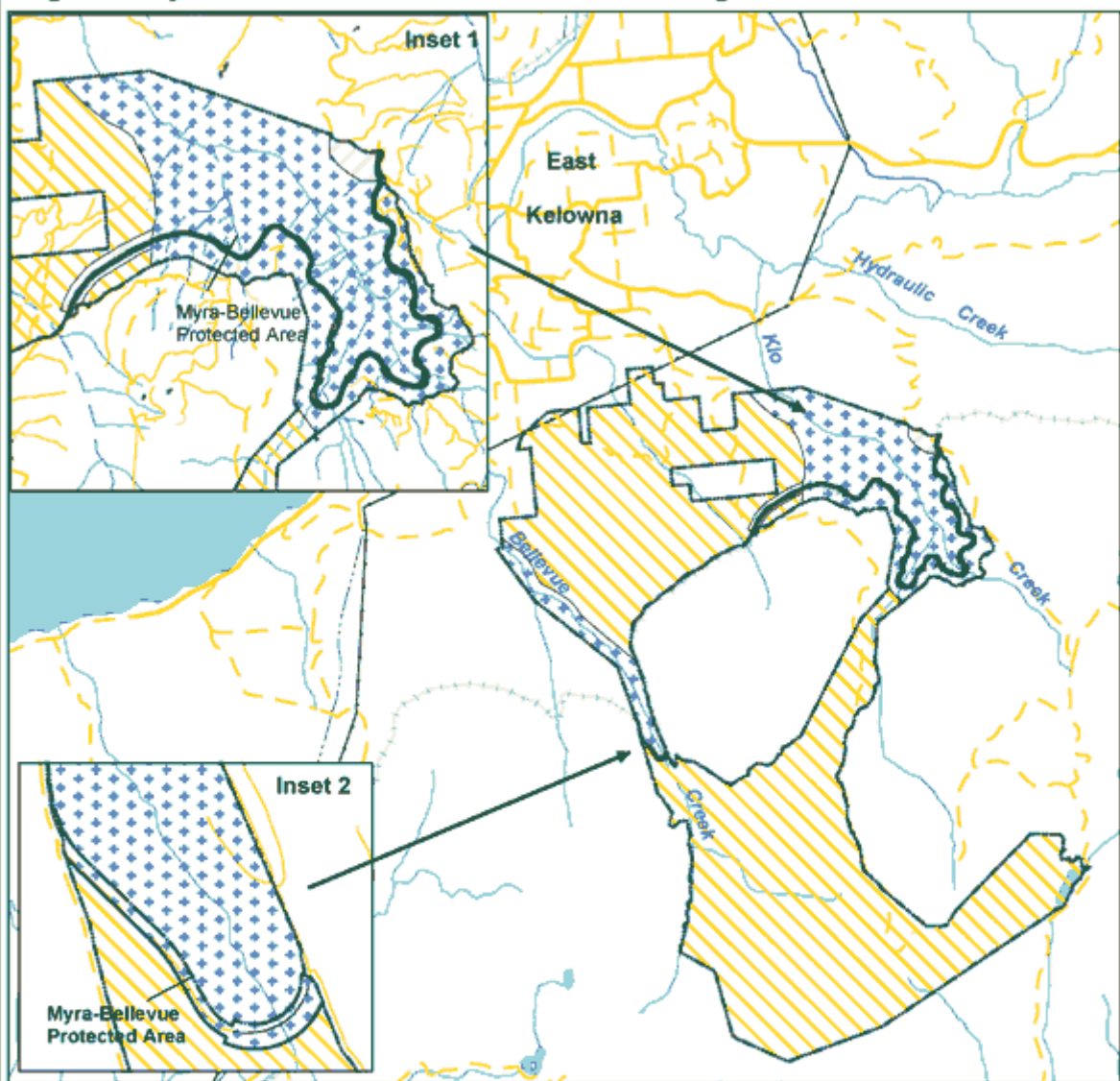
The KLO Creek Canyon, Bellevue Creek corridor and Kettle Valley Railway right of way is zoned as **Special Feature** to protect significant natural and cultural resources, features and processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values. Other areas may be added to this zone as information becomes available.


The remainder of Myra-Bellevue, except major trailheads, is zoned as **Nature Recreation** to protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. Summer motorized access will not be permitted except on the Canyon Bypass trail in the Pooley Creek area (motorcycles and quads only). Snowmobiling will be permitted on the Canyon Bypass Trail, on the KVR r/w and in the Little White Mountain area.

Major trailheads on either side of the Myra Canyon section of the KVR r/w, and at the urban interface in the area of Stewart Road East, are zoned **Intensive Recreation** to provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility oriented outdoor recreation opportunities. The **Intensive Recreation** zone at the Hydraulic-Myra FSR end of the KVR r/w may be considered for a possible small to moderate-sized commercial roofed accommodation opportunity provided the development would not result in unacceptable impacts on public access to the KVR r/w and ecological values of the surrounding area.


Figure #3 provides a zoning plan for Myra-Bellevue. See Appendix I for a list of acceptable uses.




**Figure 3: Myra-Bellevue Park & Protected Area Zoning**






Produced in Nov 2005 for  
Ministry of Environment  
by Ministry of Agriculture and Lands  
Integrated Land Management Bureau




	Intensive Recreation
	Nature Recreation
	Special Feature



Projection: UTM Zone 11  
Datum: NAD83

This is a visual representation  
only and should not be used for  
legal purposes

1:130,000



0 1 2 3 4 5  
kilometers

## Appendix I Summary of Acceptable Activities, Uses and Facilities – Myra-Bellevue Park and Protected Area

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptable Uses
Hunting	Y
Fishing	Y
Trapping	N2
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N2
Utility corridors	N2
Communication Sites	N2
Guide Outfitting (hunting or fishing)	Y
Guided nature tours	Y
Cat-Assisted Skiing	N
Camping - vehicle accessible	N
Camping - backcountry (summer)	M
Camping - backcountry (winter, non-facility based)	Y
Commercial Recreation (roofed facility-based)	Y (in IR zone only)
Commercial Day Use Recreation (non-facility based)	Y
Backcountry Huts	N
Bicycling (on designated trails only)	Y
Horseriding (on designated trails only)	Y
Water Control Structures	M
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N1
Road Access (to KVR r/w and Pooley Creek/bypass trail area only)	Y
Off-road Motorized Access - motorcycle, quad, snowmobile use of Canyon Bypass Trail; snowmobiling in Little White Mountain and KVR r/w areas	Y
Off road Motorized Access – not noted above	N
Aircraft Access (including helicopters)	N
Fire Management (suppression)	Y
Fire Management (prescribed fire management)	M
Fire Management (prevention)	Y
Forest Insect/Disease Control	M
Noxious Weed Control	Y
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	Y
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	M
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	M

Y=allowed subject to conditions identified in the management direction statement; N=not allowed;  
 N1=allowed for expressed management purposes only; M=may be permitted if compatible with management objectives  
 N2=present and allowed to continue but not normally allowed



## Appendix II – BC Parks Management Planning Zoning Framework

Zone Descriptions			
	Intensive Recreation	Nature Recreation	Special Feature
<b>Objective</b>	To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.	To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.	To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.
<b>Use Level</b>	Relatively high density and long duration types of use.	Relatively low use but higher levels in association with nodes of activity or access.	Generally low.
<b>Means of Access</b>	All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see "Impacts" below).	Motorised (powerboats, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles), non-motorised (foot, horse, canoe, bicycles). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pickup points will be permitted.	Various; may require special access permit.
<b>Location</b>	Contiguous with all-weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas.	Removed from all-weather roads but easily accessible on a day-use basis. Accessible by mechanised means such as boat or plane.	Determined by location of special resources; may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones.
<b>Size of Zone</b>	Small - usually less than 2,000 ha.	Can range from small to large.	Small - usually less than 2000 hectares.
<b>Boundary Definition</b>	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas.	Boundaries should consider limits of activity/facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features.	Area adequate to afford protection for biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of cultural resources.
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>	Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, power-boating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, snowplay, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialised activities.	Walk-in/boat-in camping, power-boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, and specialised activities.	Sightseeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.
<b>Facilities</b>	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic/play areas, trail accommodation or interpretative buildings, boat launches, administrative buildings, service compounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, wood lots; parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk-in/boat-in campsites, shelters, accommodation buildings may be permitted; facilities for motorised access - e.g., docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.	Interpretative facilities only - resources are to be protected.
<b>Impacts on Natural Environment</b>	Includes natural resource features and phenomena in a primarily natural state but where human presence may be readily visible both through the existence of recreation facilities and of people using the zone. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas.	Area where human presence on the land is not normally visible, facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	None - resources to be maintained unimpaired.
<b>Management Guidelines</b>	Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and a high quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation modes may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).	High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high quality recreational and interpretative experience. Active or passive management depending on size, location, and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts.
<b>Examples of Zoning</b>	Campground in Rathrevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski area in E. C. Manning Park.	Core area in Cathedral Park; North beach in Naikoon Park.	Botanical Beach tidepools in Juan de Fuca Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mt. Assiniboine Park.

	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
<b>Objective</b>	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where no motorised activities will be allowed.
<b>Use Level</b>	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.
<b>Means of Access</b>	Non-mechanised & non-motorised - except may permit low frequency air access to designated sites; foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).	Non-mechanised & non-motorised (no air access); foot, canoe (horses may be permitted).
<b>Location</b>	Remote - not easily visited on a day-use basis.	Remote - not easily visited on a day-use basis.
<b>Size of Zone</b>	Large - greater than 5,000 hectares.	Large - greater than 5,000 hectares.
<b>Boundary Definition</b>	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Boundaries will encompass areas of visitor interest for specific activities supported by air access.	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features.
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialised activities (e.g., caving, climbing).	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialised activities (e.g., caving, climbing).
<b>Facilities</b>	Minimal facility development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment e.g. trails, primitive campsites, etc. Some basic facilities at access points, e.g., dock, primitive shelter, etc.	None.
<b>Impacts on Natural Environment</b>	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings. Evidence of human presence is confined to specific facility sites. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings.
<b>Management Guidelines</b>	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.
<b>Examples of Zoning</b>	Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park; Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park.	Upper Murray River watershed within Monkman Park; Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy Area.