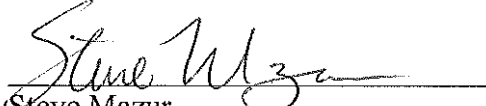


NUNTSI PROVINCIAL PARK

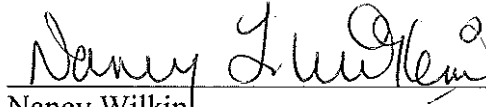
PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

May 2005

Approved by:


Steve Mazur
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: May 20/05


Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: July 10/05

NUNTSI PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Nuntsi was one of 17 new protected areas recommended by the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan. The park is 20,570 hectares in area, situated approximately 60 km southwest of Alexis Creek on the Chilcotin Plateau.

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Nuntsi Provincial Park is to protect representative examples of forests, wetlands and wildlife habitats in the Chilcotin Plateau Ecosection.

The Chilcotin Plateau Ecosection is poorly represented in the protected area system, as only 4.02% is protected. Nuntsi is the second largest park capturing these forested ecosystems and protecting the values of the ecosection.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role of Nuntsi Provincial Park is to provide wilderness recreation opportunities, primarily hunting.

Known Management Issues	Response
Increased forest development adjacent to the park may increase access to the park.	Work with Ministry of Forests and forest licensees to minimize access into park
Interest from conservation groups regarding the nature and genetic make-up of horses in the area and whether they are wild or feral.	Work with conservation groups and support any proposed genetic research.
In 2003 the Chilko Fire burned approximately 90% of the park.	Fire research initiated.
Construction of fire guards within the park, as part of Ministry of Forests fire suppression activities, may affect long term ecological integrity and increase access to the park.	Work with Ministry of Forests to mitigate impacts.
Commercial mushroom picking has occurred within the area of the Chilko Fire.	Currently monitoring activity.

Zoning

The entire park (20,570 ha) is zoned Wilderness Recreation.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection Situated in the under-represented Chilcotin Plateau (4.02%). Nuntsi is the second largest contributor to the representation of this ecosection (33.99% of the overall protected area representation of this ecosection). Big Creek Park is the largest contributor (40.8%). Churn Creek Protected Area is also a significant contributor (10.78%).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Contributes to the representation of the SBPSxc, which is poorly represented in the protected areas system (3.19%). Nuntsi is the most significant contributor to the representation of this variant (54.64%). Big Creek Park is also a significant contributor (25.14%).

Special Feature

Rare/Endangered Values

None noted from inventory work completed to date.

Scientific/Research Opportunities

Currently interest from conservation groups to examine the genetic history of the horses in the area to determine if they are feral or wild.

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry Very low levels of use
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

Vulnerability Mountain pine beetle activity is significant in the area.

Relationship to Other Strategies Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan

Area: 20,570 ha

Date of Establishment: July 12, 1995