

OTTER LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

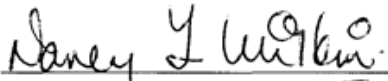
February 2003

Approved by:



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Date: Feb. 10, 2003



Nancy Wilkin
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Date: March 11, 2003

**OTTER LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan**

Otter Lake Provincial Park is a 53 hectare area on Coalmont Road about 32 km northwest of Princeton. The park is composed of two separate areas, the day use area on the south end of Otter Lake in Tulameen and the campground on the west-side of the lake about 5 km north of Tulameen.

The **primary purpose** of the park is to provide a range of destination camping and lake-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities in a natural setting.

The park’s campground is part of a system of camping and fishing destinations in the Merritt-Princeton area catering to tourists from the Lower Mainland and the Southern Interior. The park is readily accessible from the Coquihalla Highway and the Connector. The campground has 45 campsites, trails, a boat launch and an undeveloped beach. Activities include camping, fishing, water-skiing and exploring the Tulameen area’s mining history. The day use area is very significant to locals and the tourism economy of the area. It is the destination summer recreation spot in the Coalmont-Tulameen area for picnicking, swimming, windsurfing and beach opportunities.

The **secondary purpose** of the park is to protect its forest and lake values typical of the southwest part of the Thompson Plateau.

The park is one of the smallest protected areas in the Southern Thompson Upland Ecoregion. It contributes a small portion of the very under-represented IDFdk2 biogeoclimatic subzone/variant. No CDC sites have been recorded. No species at risk are known to be present.

Known Management Issues	Response
The day use area plays an important role for the town but adds little value to the provincial park system. The site is important to the town’s tourist industry. The town’s boat launch is adjacent to the site and nearby is the popular former Kettle Valley Railway right of way used by walkers and bike riders. Turning over management of the site would allow the community to better integrate it with the community’s other recreation attractions.	Investigate the potential to transfer the day use area to a local interest.

Zoning

The area of the park east of the Coalmont Road is zoned Intensive Recreation to provide camping and lake-oriented recreation opportunities (approximately 25 hectares or 49% of the park). The remainder of the park (approximately 26 hectares or 51%) is Natural Environment zone to protect the natural values.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection Southern Thompson Upland – contributes only 0.2% of the overall provincial protected area system representation of this very poorly represented ecosection (only 1.62% protected)
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant IDFDk2 – contributes 2.75% of the overall representation of this extremely under-represented subzone/variant (only 0.49% protected).

Special Feature

Rare/Endangered Values

Scientific/Research Opportunities

RECREATION

Representation

- backcountry
- destination Moderately important camping and fishing destination for Lower Mainland and local residents
- travel corridor
- local recreation Day use area extremely important for swimming, picnicking

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs

Part of a system of parks in the Merritt-Princeton area providing fishing and camping opportunities.

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

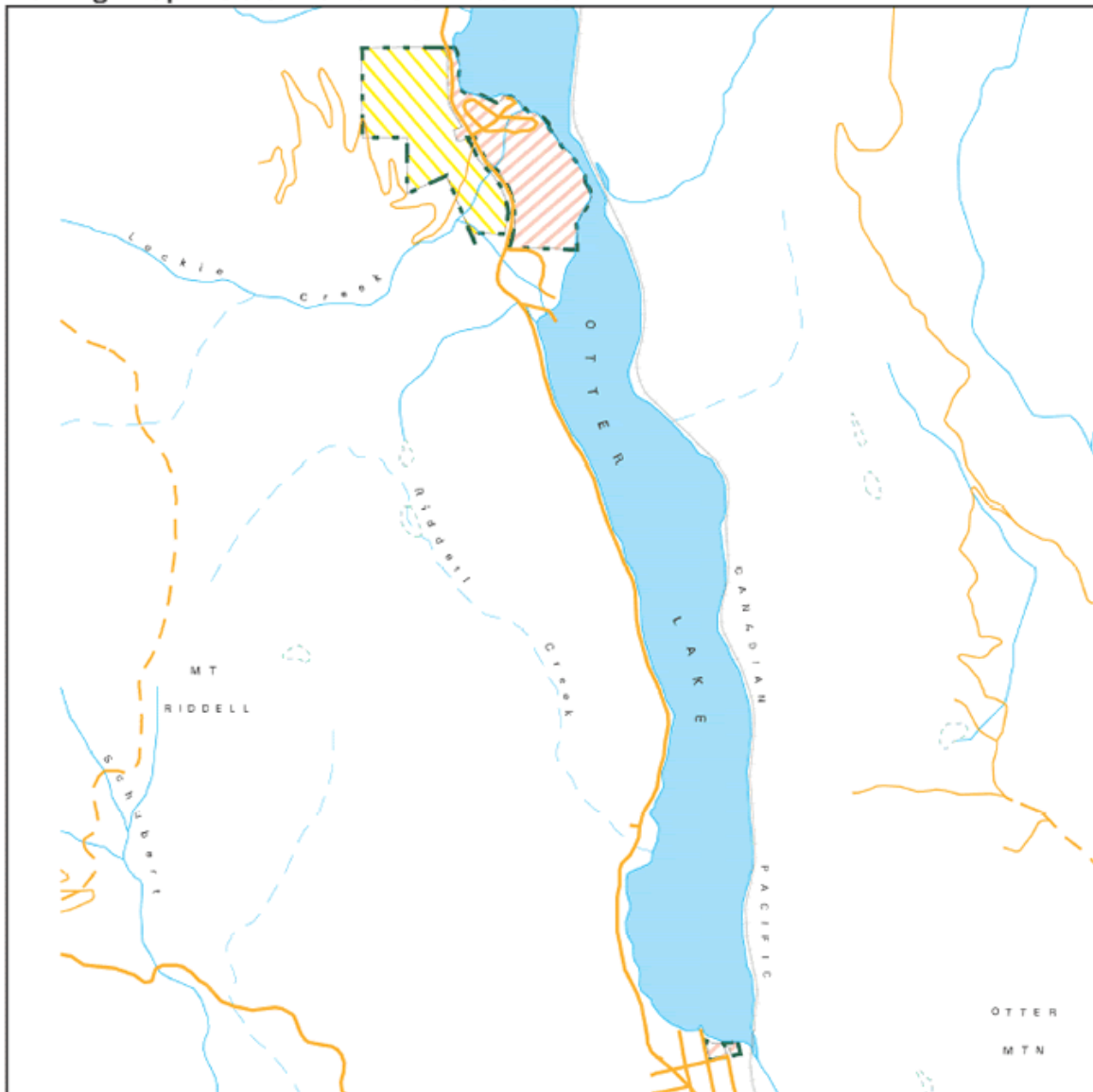
Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

Area: 51 hectares




Date of establishment: February 11, 1963

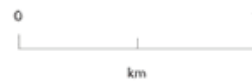
Zoning Map - Otter Lake Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Protected Area Boundary



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