



Pillar Park

Management Plan

January 2014



BC Parks

Pillar Park Management Plan

Approved by:



Jeff Leahy
Regional Director
Thompson Cariboo Region
BC Parks

January 9, 2014

Date



Brian Bawtinheimer
Executive Director
Parks Planning and Management Branch
BC Parks

January 28, 2014

Date

Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Management Plan Purpose.....	1
1.2	Planning Area	1
1.3	Legislative Framework	1
1.4	Management Commitments/Agreements	1
1.5	Management Planning Process	1
2.0	Values and Roles of the Park	5
2.1	Significance in the Protected Areas System	5
2.2	Values.....	5
3.0	Management Direction	6
3.1	Management Objectives and Strategies.....	6
3.2	Zoning Plan.....	6
4.0	Plan Implementation	7
4.1	Implementation Plan	7
4.2	High Priority Strategies	7
4.3	Plan Assessment	7
Appendix 1: Appropriate Use Table		8

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Regional Context Map for Pillar Park.....	2
Figure 2: Location of Pillar Park	3
Figure 3: Pillar Park Map.....	4

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to guide the management of Pillar Park. The management plan:

- articulates the key features and values of the park;
- identifies appropriate types and levels of management activities;
- determines appropriate levels of use and development;
- establishes a long-term vision and management objectives for the park; and
- responds to current and predicted threats and opportunities by defining a set of management strategies to achieve the management vision and objectives.

1.2 Planning Area

The 2.34 hectare Pillar Park is located between the communities of Chase and Falkland on the Falkland-Chase Road in the central interior of British Columbia (Figure 1). The park is situated across the road from Pillar Lake (Figure 2) where there is a recreation site managed by the Ministry Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (Figure 3). The adjacent area is Crown land that is managed for timber production.

1.3 Legislative Framework

Pillar Park was established as a Class A park on May 20, 2004 and is named and described in Schedule D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

Class A parks are Crown lands dedicated to the preservation of their natural environments for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public. Development in Class A parks is limited to that which is necessary to maintain the park's recreational values. Some activities that existed at the time this park was established (i.e., range activities and trapping) are allowed to continue.

1.4 Management Commitments/Agreements

Pillar Park was recommended in the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (OSLRMP). The OSLRMP directed that people should be kept away from the bottom of the rock pillar. The OSLRMP also provided direction that it would be appropriate to consider the development of a trail and platform to view the pillar.

1.5 Management Planning Process

The process to develop this management plan included both First Nations and public involvement. The draft management plan was posted on the BC Parks' website for a 30 day public review. First Nations, stakeholders and other interested parties were notified and comments requested.

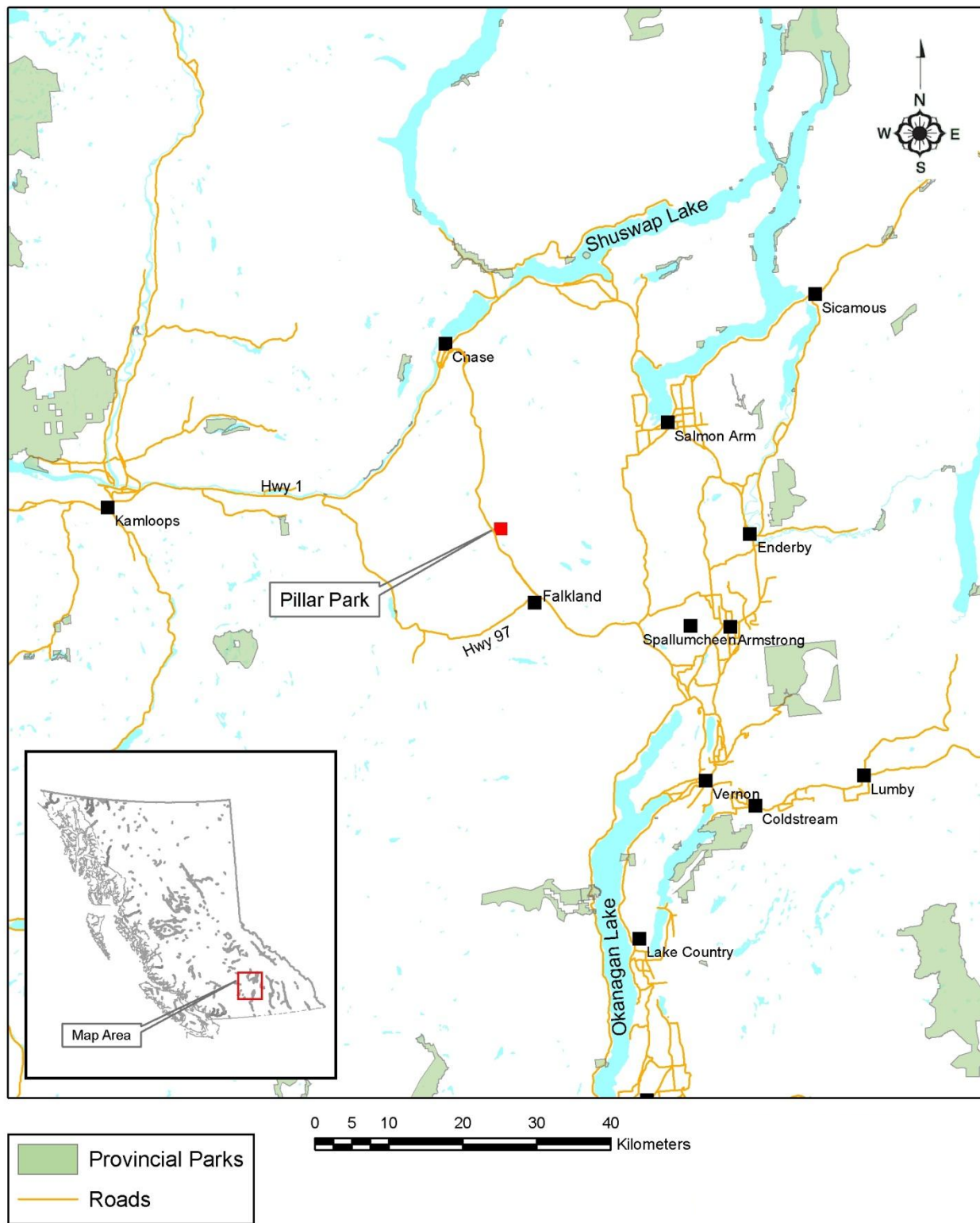


Figure 1: Regional Context Map for Pillar Park

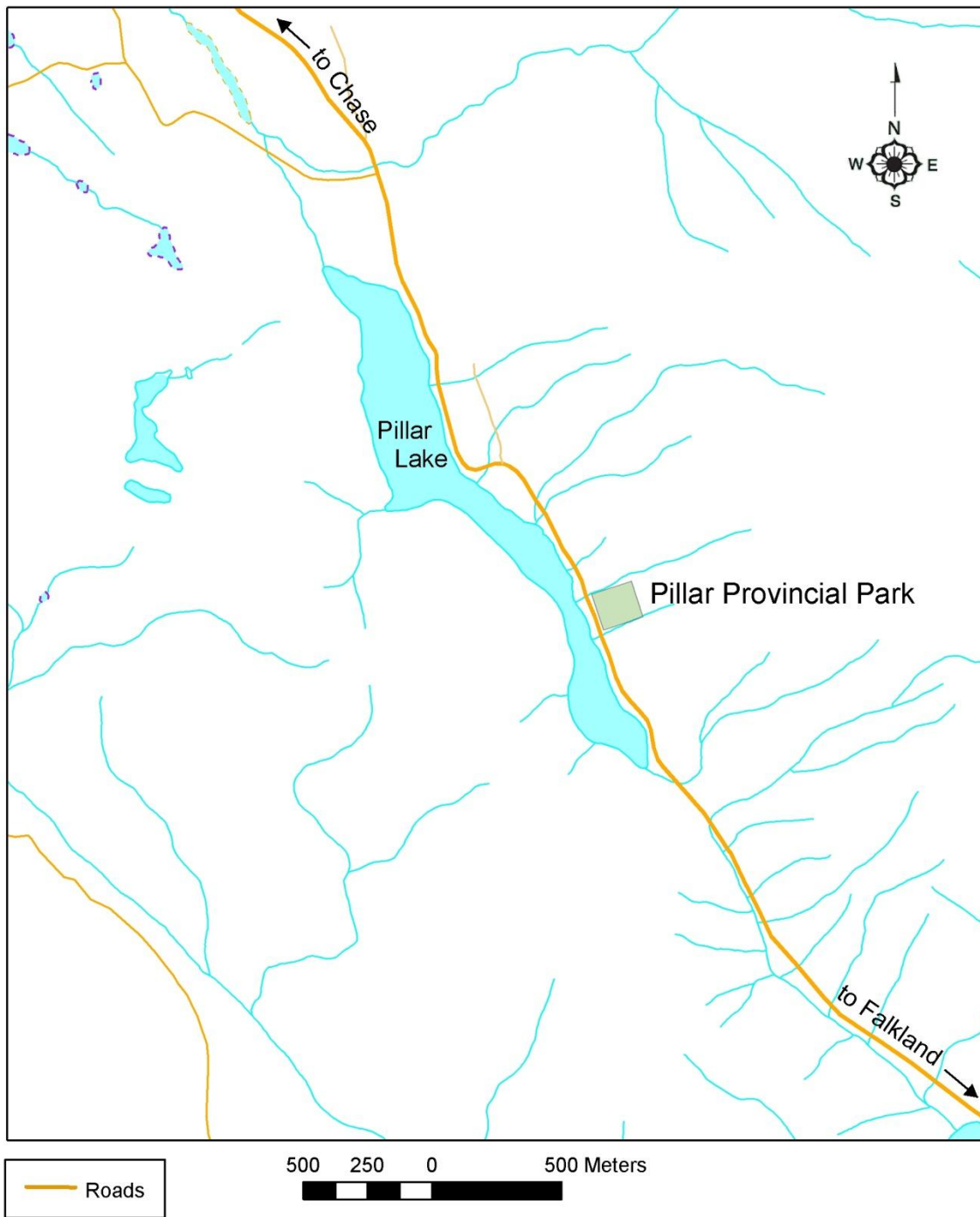


Figure 2: Location of Pillar Park



Figure 3: Pillar Park Map

2.0 Values and Roles of the Park

2.1 Significance in the Protected Areas System

Pillar Park was proposed as a Goal 2 protected area by the OSLRMP, meaning that it protects a special natural, cultural heritage or recreational feature of the province. In this case, the primary role of the park, and the reason for its establishment, is to protect a unique conglomerate stone pillar. The park also provides an opportunity for the public to hike to and view this unique geological feature.

2.2 Values

Pillar Park protects a unique geological feature while offering a recreational opportunity to the public. A trail leads uphill from a recreation site (adjacent to the park and operated by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Resource Operations) on Pillar Lake to the stone pillar, a distance of approximately 250 metres. The trail is used on a day-use basis by visitors to view the stone pillar.

The park setting is a dry, open forest of old Douglas-fir with a minor component of ponderosa pine on a moderate to steep slope.

Pillar Park is situated in the traditional territory of the Splatsin, Neskonlith, Adams Lake, Little Shuswap and Okanagan First Nations.

Range activities, trapping and hunting are appropriate activities in the park but the opportunities are limited by the small size of the park.

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Management Objectives and Strategies

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
Public access to the base of the pillar is leading to damage (i.e., graffiti and carving on the pillar’s surface) and creating a risk of accelerated erosion and eventual loss of the pillar. It is also a concern from a public safety standpoint with an elevated risk of falling stones or the collapse of the pillar.	<p>Management Objective: To protect the pillar from user impacts.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an access management strategy in collaboration with First Nations, which may include restricting access to the base of the pillar. • Monitor rate of pillar erosion and incidences of falling debris.
Erosion is undermining portions of the access trail to the viewpoint. Other unofficial trails leading to the pillar are steep and prone to erosion.	<p>Management Objective: To provide a safe and secure trail to view the stone pillar.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct regular trail assessments on the main trail and maintain or improve the trail to meet park standards and maintain public safety. • Close all unofficial trails and rehabilitate as required.
First Nations have a strong cultural interest in protection of the stone pillar. The park also has significance to local First Nations for traditional use purposes (e.g., ceremonial use).	<p>Management Objective: To honour the traditional use and cultural importance of the park by First Nations.</p> <p>Management Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with First Nations on all aspects of park management. • Conduct a First Nations cultural heritage assessment for the park.

3.2 Zoning Plan

In general terms, a zoning plan divides a protected area into logical management units within which certain activities/uses are permitted and a particular set of management objectives apply. Zoning is often used to physically separate incompatible activities or uses within the protected area and provides visitors and managers with a quick visual representation and appreciation of how a particular protected area is managed. Zones are designed to reflect the physical environment, existing patterns of use and the desired level of management and development in a given management unit.

Pillar Park is zoned as Special Natural Feature.

4.0 Plan Implementation

4.1 Implementation Plan

Specific projects will be evaluated for priority in relation to the overall protected areas system. BC Parks will collaborate with First Nations on all aspects of park management. Where needed, BC Parks will seek project-specific funding and partners to implement management strategies.

4.2 High Priority Strategies

The following strategies have been identified as high priorities for implementation:

- Develop an access management strategy in collaboration with First Nations, which may include restricting access to the base of the pillar.
- Conduct regular trail assessments on the main trail and maintain or improve the trail to meet park standards and maintain public safety.

4.3 Plan Assessment

In order to ensure that the management direction for Pillar Park remains relevant and effective, BC Parks staff will ensure that the management plan is assessed by BC Parks staff on a regular basis (i.e., at least every 5 years). Minor administrative updates may be identified and completed at any time (e.g., correct spelling errors, update protected area details where needed), and will be documented according to BC Parks guidelines.

If an internal assessment reveals that the management plan requires updating or substantial new management direction is needed, a formal review by BC Parks may be initiated to determine whether the plan requires an amendment or if a new plan is required.

The management plan amendment process or development of a new plan includes an opportunity for public input.

Appendix 1: Appropriate Use Table

The following table summarizes existing and potential future uses in Pillar Park that are and are not appropriate in each zone. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all uses that may be considered in this protected area in the future.

Please note that many appropriate uses are geographically restricted (i.e., only allowed in certain areas of Pillar Park) or are only appropriate at certain times of the year. Please ensure that you are well informed of any use restrictions as indicated in the table. It is a good idea to review relevant sections of the management plan where indicated in the table.

Appropriate Use Table Legend		
N	Not an appropriate use	The use is not appropriate in the indicated zone. If the use currently exists but the management planning process has determined that the use is no longer appropriate in all or part of the protected area, the management plan will include strategies for ending the activity (e.g., phasing out, closing).
Y	May be an appropriate use	Some level or extent of this use may be appropriate in the zone(s) indicated. If the activity/use already exists, the management plan provides guidance on the appropriate level of use and may address specific restrictions or planned enhancements (e.g., capacity, designated areas for a particular activity, party size, time of year, etc.). For new or expanded uses, this symbol indicates that the use <u>may be considered</u> for further evaluation and approval. The appropriateness of some activities may not be confirmed until a further assessment (e.g., BC Parks Impacts Assessment Process) or evaluation process (e.g., park use permit adjudication) is completed.
Y1	Appropriate use as per section 30 of the <i>Park Act</i>	Indicates that the use is not normally appropriate in a protected area but was occurring pursuant to an encumbrance or Crown authorization at the time the protected area was established.
N/A	Not an applicable use in this zone	Indicates where it is not feasible for the use to take place in this zone (e.g., mooring buoys in a terrestrial zone).

Activity/Facility	Special Natural Feature Zone	Comments
Activities/Uses		
Camping	N	
Cultural Tourism	Y	Under collaboration with First Nations only
Hiking/Walking	Y	
Horse/Pack Animal Use	N	
Hunting	Y	
Mechanized Off-Road Activity (e.g., biking, mountain boarding)	N	
Motorized Off-Road Activity (e.g., quads, 4x4s, dirt bikes- not including snowmobiles)	N	
Grazing (domestic livestock)	Y1	
Snowmobiling	N	
Trapping	Y	
Facilities/Infrastructure		
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	N	
Lodges, Cabins, Huts and Shelters	N	
Picnic Areas (vehicle accessed and serviced)	N	
Interpretation and Information Buildings	Y	Small kiosk or signs only.
Roads and Parking Lots	N	
Trails	Y	