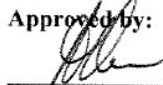


PORTAGE BRULE RAPIDS PROTECTED AREA AND PORTAGE BRULE RAPIDS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE




PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN Peace Region 2006

Approved by:



Andy Ackerman,
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division
Peace Region

Date: July 13 2006

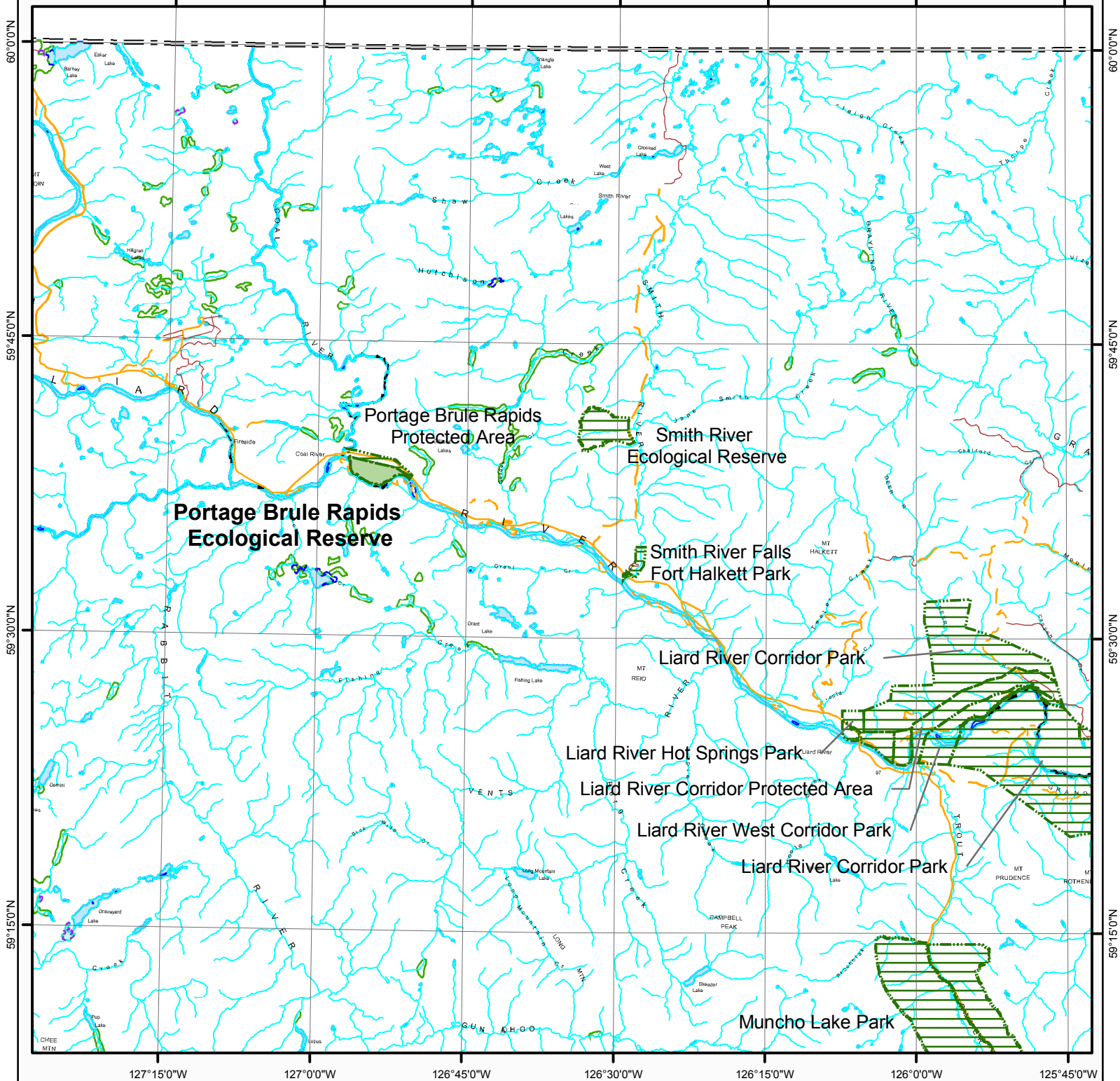


Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Oct. 1 2006





Figure 1: Regional Context

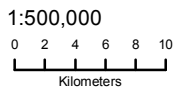
Portage Brule Rapids Ecological Reserve



Projection: UTM Zone 10
Datum: NAD83

Produced in June 2006 for
Ministry of Environment
by Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Integrated Land Management Bureau

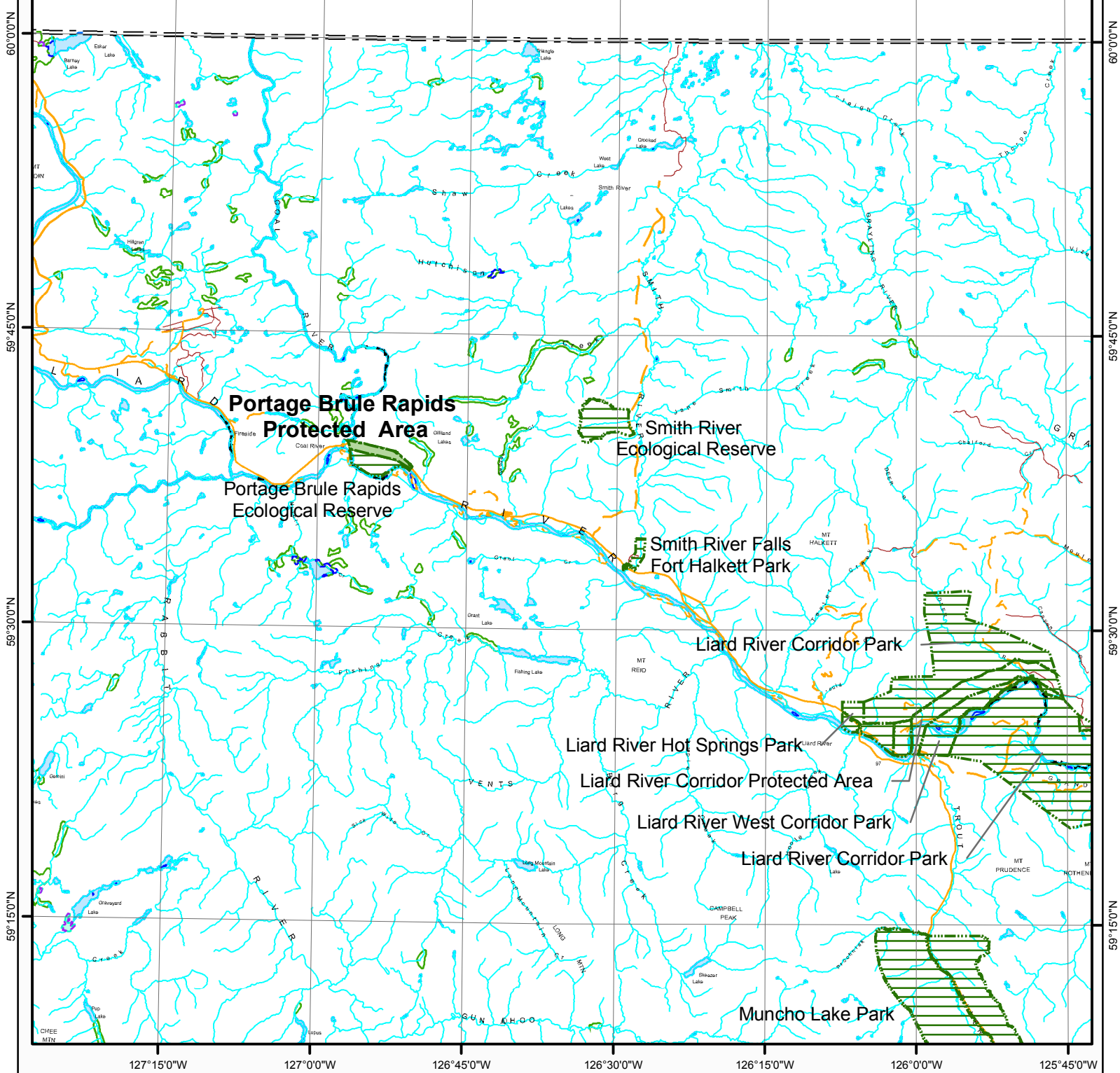
-  Subject Area
-  Other Protected Areas
-  Highway
-  Road







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Figure 1: Regional Context

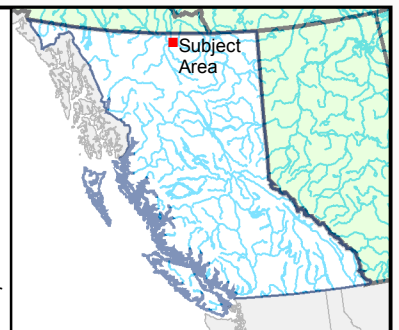
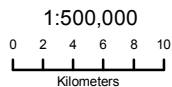
Portage Brule Rapids Protected Area



-  Subject Area
-  Other Protected Areas
-  Highway
-  Road

Projection: UTM Zone 10
Datum: NAD83

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PORTAGE BRULE RAPIDS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE AND PROTECTED AREA Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of the Portage Brule Rapids Ecological Reserve (ER), located downstream of the junction of the Coal and Liard rivers along the Alaska Highway, is to protect unique hot springs with unusual vegetation and a forest community of different ages that has developed on alluvial terraces along the river bank. The hot springs are found on the south bank of the Liard River. The springs, which range in temperature from 32° to 44.4° C, have built up yellowish tufa terraces. There are several small pools with the largest being approximately 1 m deep and 3 m in diameter.

The **primary** role of the Portage Brule Rapids Protected Area is to protect a representative example of the Liard Plain ecosection, and the unique feature of the hot springs while accommodating the possibility of pipeline construction through the area.

The area around the ecological reserve and the protected area were used as staging or stopover areas by trappers paddling the Liard River. The slope above the springs has a portage trail which was in active use during the Hudson's Bay Company explorations of the area in the 1830s. On the flat terrace above the hot springs are the remains of log cabins associated with the portage trail.

Known Management Issues	Response
The tufa formations at the hot springs in the ecological reserve are susceptible to crushing by visitors	Continue to discourage visitation to the site by not providing access off the nearby Alaska Highway and by educating the owner of the nearby lodge about the fragility of the formation.
The protected area is designated as a possible location for a future pipeline right of way	Review any future pipeline application according to applicable legislation and policy

Zoning

The protected area is zoned entirely Nature Recreation. The objective of this zone is to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

- Representation
- ecosection The protected area and ecological reserve protect a portion of the Liard Plain Ecosection. This ecosection is 0.63% protected across the Province. These two areas contribute 14% of that total.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Portage Brule Rapids Protected Area and Ecological Reserve are within the BWBSdk (boreal white and black spruce, dry, cold) variant. Throughout the Province, 4.2% of this variant is in protected areas. The Protected Area and Ecological Reserve contribute approximately 2% of this total.
- Special Feature Tufa formation and hotsprings in the ecological reserve
- Rare/Endangered Values The ecological reserve contains a rare plant: *Sphenopholis intermedia* - Slender Wedgescale Grass
- Scientific/Research Opportunities

Recreation

- Representation
Backcountry
Destination
Travel corridor
Local recreation Occasional use by rafters on the Liard River
Special Opportunities
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities

Cultural Heritage

- Representation Unknown. The protected area and ecological reserve lie within the area traditionally used by the First Nations of Treaty 8 and The Kaska Dena.
- Special Feature Presence of historic fur trade cabins

Other Management Considerations

- Other Designations

Relationship to other PAs

Collaborative Management Arrangements

These protected areas will, once the agreement is signed, be subject to the Memorandum of Agreement respecting the management of provincial parks between the Government of BC and the Treaty 8 First Nations, and is subject to the 1997 Letter of Understanding with the Kaska Dena Council. .

Partnerships

Vulnerability

Relationship to other Strategies

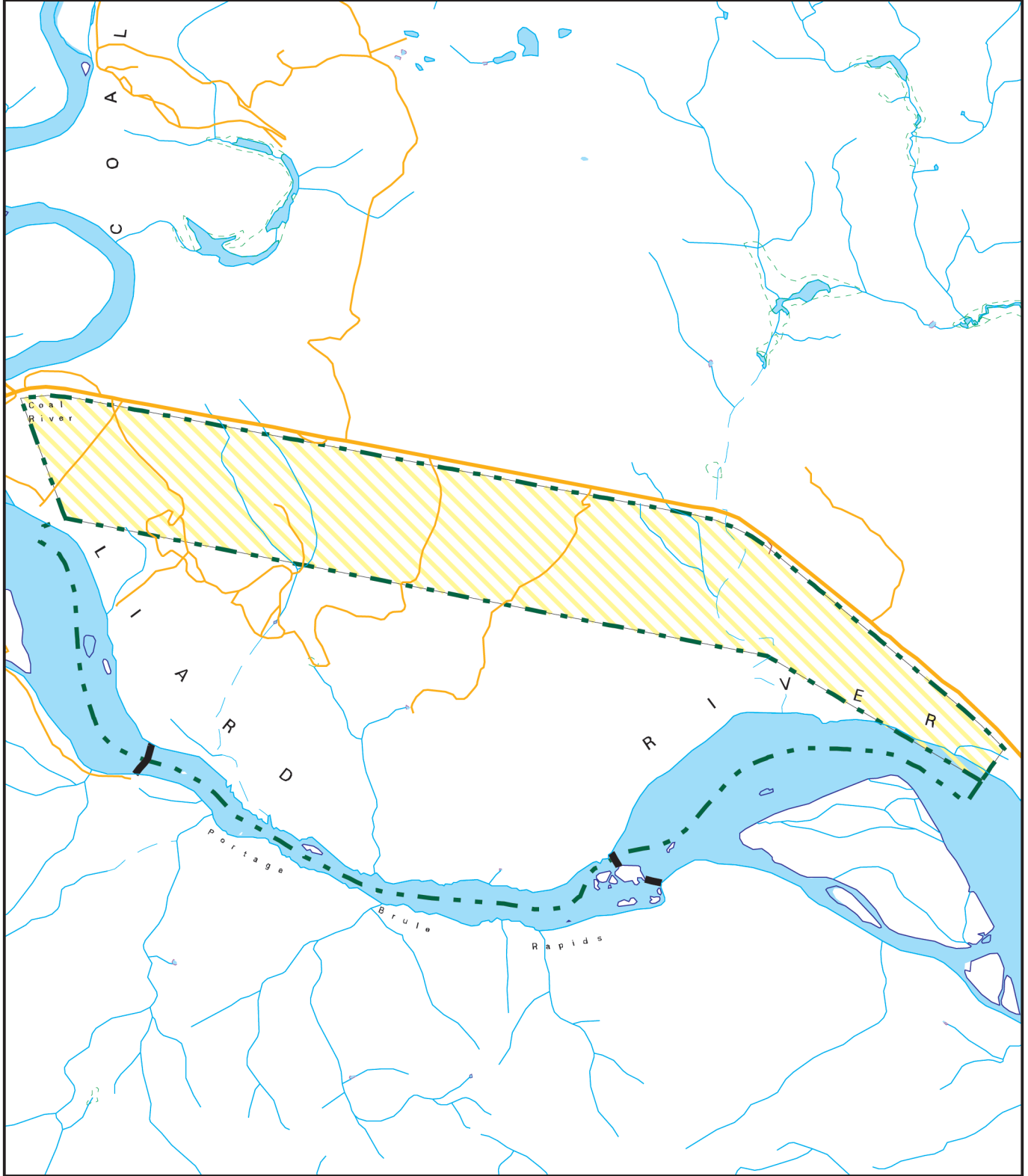
The Fort Nelson Land and Resource Management Plan recommended this area for protection as a Goal 2 (special feature) area.

Area: Protected Area: 427 hectares
Ecological Reserve: 724 hectares

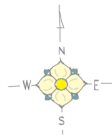
Date of establishment: Protected Area: March 30, 2001
Ecological Reserve: June 29, 2000

Zoning Map

Portage Brule Rapids - A Multi Class



Projection: UTM Zone 9
Datum: NAD83



Nature Recreation

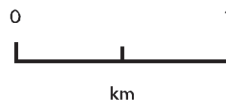


Protected Area Boundary



BCParks

Produced in Jun 2005 for
Ministry of Water, Land and
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