

PURCELL WILDERNESS CONSERVANCY PARK CORRIDOR

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

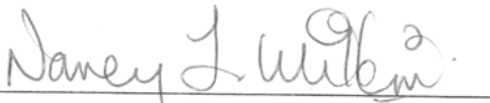
February 2003

Approved by:



Wayne Stetski
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: February 20/03



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 31/03

**PURCELL WILDERNESS CONSERVANCY PARK CORRIDOR
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan**

Primary Role

The **primary** role of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park Corridor is to provide low elevation old growth and riparian habitat along the middle reaches of the Findlay Creek drainage while allowing for the potential development of a future access road. The corridor is designated under the *Environment Land Use Act* (ELUA) and is situated within the expansive Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park (PWCP). It serves as the only access route along Findlay Creek, which historically has been utilized by horse parties and the guide/outfitter community.

The *Environment Land Use Act* designation implements the East Kootenay Land Use decision which protects park values while also allowing for future road access, should it be required. Road access would allow mining development to occur in a reserve area outside of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park (polygon 6-05) .

Known Management Issues	Response
Cut-block proposals in areas immediately adjacent to the Corridor boundary. Improved road access and loss of forest cover may negatively affect biodiversity, ungulate populations, and predator/prey relationships.	Ongoing communication with forest tenure holder (Tembec Inc.) to address road layout, future road closures and cut-block design.
Ecological implications of potential mining/road development to access polygon 6-05.	Maintain liaison with Ministry of Energy and Mines as to the status of mineral exploration/development in the area.
Potential impact on mountain caribou linkage zones/habitat should road corridor proceed.	Mitigation through recommendations set forth in the Mountain Caribou Recovery Strategy.

Zoning

The entire park is zoned Wilderness Recreation (2,025 ha).

Conservation

Representation -ecosection	<input type="checkbox"/>	Situated in the well represented Eastern Purcell Mountains Ecosection (18.86%). The Corridor provides only 1.7% of the overall PA representation of this ecosection. Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park is the major contributor to the representation of the EPM ecosection in the province (81%).
-biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Contributes to both the ESSFdk (1,203ha) and MSdk (822 ha). The ESSFdk is well represented in the protected areas system (22.1%); the MSdk is reasonably well represented in the protected areas system (10.05%). The corridor contributes minimally to both ecosystem units (0.52% and 1.45% respectively), The Corridor is the 4 th largest contributor in the provincial protected areas system of MSdk (1.44 % of the province-wide protected area), compared to Height of the Rockies (1.6%), Whiteswan (3.3%) and Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park (4.3%). The bulk of MSdk representation (90%) is in Kootenay and Yoho national parks
Special Feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	No special features identified.
Rare and Endangered Values	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Corridor represents only a small fraction (1%) of protected area contained within the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park. Listed species in the PWCP include grizzly bear (b), wolverine (b), caribou (r), woolly daisy (b), great blue heron (b), bull trout (b), bald eagle (y), mountain goat (y).
Scientific/ Research Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grizzly Bear DNA Project was undertaken within eastern portions of Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park. (June/July 2002). Joint project involving WLAP, Wilberforce Science

Grant, and East Kootenay
Environmental Society.

Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan in
effect for the entire Purcell Wilderness
Conservancy Park.

Recreation

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Representation | | |
| -backcountry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Provides access to Purcell
Wilderness Conservancy Park. |
| -destination | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not applicable. |
| -travel corridor | <input type="checkbox"/> | Forest Service Road access only. |
| -local recreation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Horseback riding is the primary
use. Hunting in fall and spring is
popular. Minimal pedestrian traffic. |
| Special Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> | No special opportunities exist at
this time. |
| Education/ Interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> | No educational or interpretation
opportunities at this time. |

Cultural Heritage

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Representation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not yet accessed. |
| Special Feature | <input type="checkbox"/> | No special features identified. |

Other Management Considerations

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Other Designations | <input type="checkbox"/> | No other designations at this
time. |
| Relationship to other PAs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Managed collectively with the
Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park. |
| Cooperative Management
Arrangements | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Provisions for road access is
under OIC (<i>Environment and
Land Use Act</i>). |
| Vulnerability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Removal of the protected area status of |

the corridor would sever and isolate eastern portions of Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Park and fragment protected area portions of the Findlay Creek drainage. Loss of old growth habitat and important ungulate range.

Relationship to other Strategies



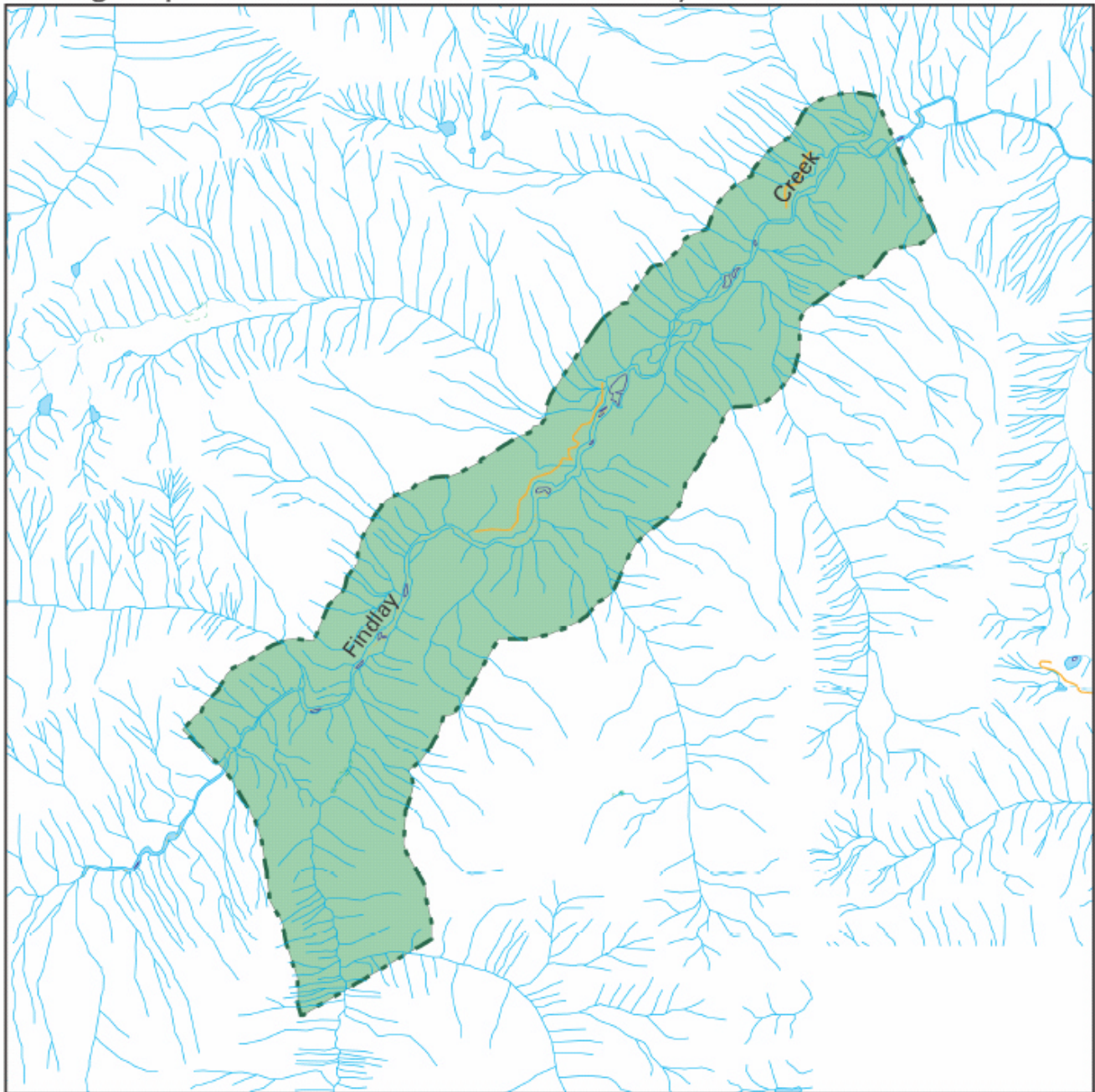
Kootenay Land Use Plan identifies the area south of the corridor as a Special Resource Management Zone with potential for mineral development.

Mountain Caribou Recovery Strategy.

Area: 2,025 hectares



Date of Establishment: February 14, 1996

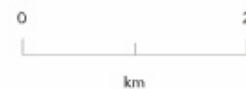
Zoning Map - Purcell Wilderness Conservancy Corridor Protected Area



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



 Wilderness Recreation
 Protected Area Boundary



Produced in Mar 2003 for
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Protection by MSRM, Decision
Support Services

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