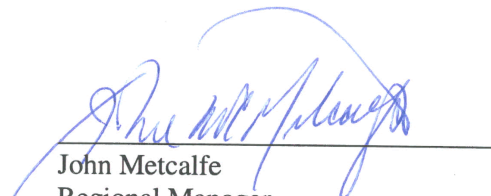


# PURDEN LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

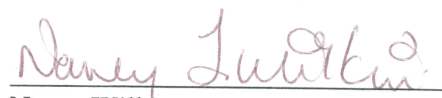
## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Metcalfe  
Regional Manager  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 3/03

  
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Nancy Wilkin  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 31/03

## **PURDEN LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK**

### **Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan**

Purden Lake Park is on the north side of Highway 16, 64 km east of Prince George. The park has an area of 2,521 ha and includes approximately 75% of the shoreline of Purden Lake. The park is dominated by the Cariboo Mountains to the south and the MacGregor Range of the Rockies to the north.

Surveyors searching for a route for the Canadian Pacific Railway traversed the area in 1879 and named the lake for their supervisor, M.H. Purden Bell.

Moose and black bear reside year round, along with beaver, snowshoe hare, porcupine and squirrels. On the lake, loons, western grebe and osprey can be observed.

Several small creeks feed the lake from the north, east and south. Purden Creek, the main outflow from the lake, drains to the west for about 3 km before joining the Bowron River. Purden Creek provides excellent habitat for spawning and rearing rainbow trout.

Visitor facilities are located at the northwest corner of the lake which provides destination and tourist camping/day use opportunities.

#### **Primary Role**

The primary role of this park is the representation of the McGregor Plateau Ecosession. The McGregor Plateau Ecosession extends from the southern end of Williston Lake to just south of Highway 16 east of Prince George. It is bordered on the west by the Crooked River and on the east by the flat valley of the Parsnip River. The area has uniformly undulating ridges and depressions covered by a blanket of glacial till. The McGregor Plateau is heavily timbered by sub-boreal spruce forest. Purden Lake provides 75% of the representation for this ecosession, which is seriously under-represented (only 0.64% protected) in the protected areas system. As such, conservation of this ecosession will be the primary management focus.

#### **Secondary Role**

The park's secondary role is to provide lake-oriented recreation (camping, boating, swimming, fishing) for residents of the Prince George region and for Highway 16 travellers. The park features paved roads to 78 campsites, a large day use area with picnic shelter, a boat launch and several lakeside walking trails.

Purden Lake has an excellent sandy beach and lovely clear water. Swimming is popular and fishing for rainbow trout and burbot can be quite productive. Purden Lake is annually stocked with 10,000 rainbow trout.

<b>Known Management Issues</b>	<b>Response</b>
Forest Health	<p>Mountain Pine Beetle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerial beetle surveys and monitoring of stands will be required on an annual basis. Any mountain pine beetle management activity will be done in accordance with the Prince George beetle strategy recommendations.</li> </ul> <p>Douglas- fir Beetle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey annually and monitor</li> </ul> <p>Spruce Beetle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor blowdowns</li> </ul> <p>Douglas- fir</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Vegetation Management Plan for Purden Lake Park was completed in 2002. Remedial action will be required to maintain the Douglas-fir at the beach area.</li> </ul> <p>Hazard Trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees in public areas (day use/campground) are large and susceptible to high winds</li> <li>• Monitor and implement Hazard Tree Assessment on an annual basis</li> </ul>
Adjacency Issue	<p>The addition to the park in 2001 now encompasses all of the lake shore except the private properties along the south shore of the lake. There are potential trespass issues by the private property owners. Will require monitoring of boundaries, particularly along private property.</p> <p>Will require a forest fire interface management process to be set up with property owners to reduce risk of fire.</p>
Hunting	<p>Potential for user conflicts to occur as part of the park is open to hunting and part closed to hunting. Decision on hunting deferred to Management Planning process.</p>
Visual Quality	<p>Continued input into Purden Mountain cutting plans.</p>
Trout Fishery	<p>Purden Creek is the most important spawning stream for Purden Lake. Ensure the stream is monitored to protect fish habitat.</p>
Wildlife Management	<p>Ensure that human/wildlife interaction is monitored in the campground and day use areas.</p> <p>Determine importance of south facing slope on north side of Purden Lake as a wildlife wintering area/corridor.</p>
Management Planning	<p>Need to resolve acceptable uses which were deferred from the LRMP table.</p>

## **Zoning**

Purden Lake Park includes two different zones:

- Intensive Recreation (provision of a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities) – approximately 4% of the park; and
- Natural Environment (protection of scenic values and provision of backcountry recreation opportunities in largely undisturbed natural environment) – approximately 96% of the park.

## CONSERVATION

### Representation

- ecosection X McGregor Plateau (MCP). Only 0.64% of this ecosection is protected. Purden Lake is one of only 5 protected areas in this very poorly represented ecosection and is the only protected area >1,000 ha in size. Purden Lake provides the best representation of the ecosection, contributing 75.64% of the overall protected area representation of the ecosection.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant X ICHvk2 – 10.43% protected. Purden Lake provides minimal representation of this ecosystem, contributing 1.59% of the overall representation. SBSwk1 – 3.84% protected. Purden Lake provides the second best representation of this ecosystem unit, contributing 8.67% of the overall representation. Bowron Lake contributes 80.54% of the representation of this ecosystem unit.

### Special Feature

- X Potential ungulate winter range; significant trout spawning habitat

### Rare/Endangered Values

Unknown

### Scientific/Research Opportunities

- X Determine importance of south facing slopes for wildlife.  
Assessment of natural rainbow trout recruitment to determine whether lake is dependent on stocking.

## RECREATION

### Representation:

- backcountry X Only provincial park campground on Highway 16 between Mount Robson and Prince George.
- destination X Popular campground and day use area for Prince George residents.
- travel corridor X
- local recreation X

### Special Opportunities

- X Promotional opportunity as a staging area for exploration of Sugarbowl-Grizzly and the Grand Canyon of the Fraser.

### Education/Interpretation Opportunities

- X A transitional area between ecoprovinces and biogeoclimatic zones.

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

**Representation**

Unknown

**Special Feature**

## OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

**Other Designations**

**Relationship to Other PAs** X Purden Lake can provide a staging area for exploring nearby Sugarbowl-Grizzly Den and the Grand Canyon of the Fraser parks. West Twin is located one hour farther east. 72 km to the north of Prince George is Crooked River campground. West Lake and Eskers are also popular day use parks to the east of Prince George. Three other protected areas are also within 75 km.

**Co-operative Management Arrangements**

Interest expressed by the Lheidli T'enneh

**Partnerships**

**Vulnerability**

The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 3 risk factors (shape, size and watershed integrity) for the park and rated them as highly significant. Six stressors/threats were identified for the park: Suburban expansion was rated as highly significant; fire suppression was rated as moderately significant; roadways, cottage/cabin, campground and day use were all rated as low significance.

**Relationship to Other Strategies**

X Purden Lake was doubled in size in 1993 (from 140 ha to 320 ha) as part of the Protected Areas Strategy. The park was then significantly expanded through the Prince George LRMP to increase representation of the McGregor Plateau and to improve the integrity of the park by including the watershed of the lake.

**Area:** 2,521 hectares




**Date of establishment:** Originally established on August 12, 1971. Significant additions were made to the park on June 15, 1993 and June 29, 2000.

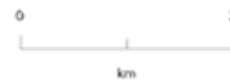
# Zoning Map - Purden Lake Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas  
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Protected Area Boundary



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Support Services

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