

Skeena Region

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

September 2004



**for Pure Lake
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

**Ministry of Water, Land
and Air Protection
Environmental
Stewardship Division**

Pure Lake Approvals Page


Forward

On November 5, 1981, Pure Lake Park was established as a Class A park by Order In Council #2283/81 under the authority of the *Park Act*. Legislated status was provided on June 29, 2000, when the park was named and described in Schedule C of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

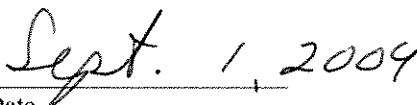
This management direction statement for Pure Lake Park provides management direction until the Environmental Stewardship Division revises the plan or prepares a more detailed management plan. Ongoing consultation between the Environmental Stewardship Division and First Nations may require changes to this management direction statement.

Implementation of strategies identified in the management direction statement (MDS) will be dependent on available funding and Environmental Stewardship Division priorities.

Approvals:



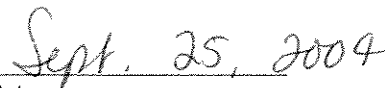
Regional Manager
Skeena Region
Environmental Stewardship Division



Date



Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division



Date

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Pure Lake Provincial Park

Management Direction Statement

Introduction

Purpose of the Management Direction Statement

Management direction statements (MDS) provide strategic management direction for protected areas that do not have an approved management plan. Management direction statements also describe protected area values, management issues and concerns; a management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies; and, direction statements from other planning processes. While the MDS identifies strategies, the completion of strategies is dependent on funding and funding procedures. All development associated with these strategies is subject to the Park and Protected Areas Branch's Impact Assessment Policy.

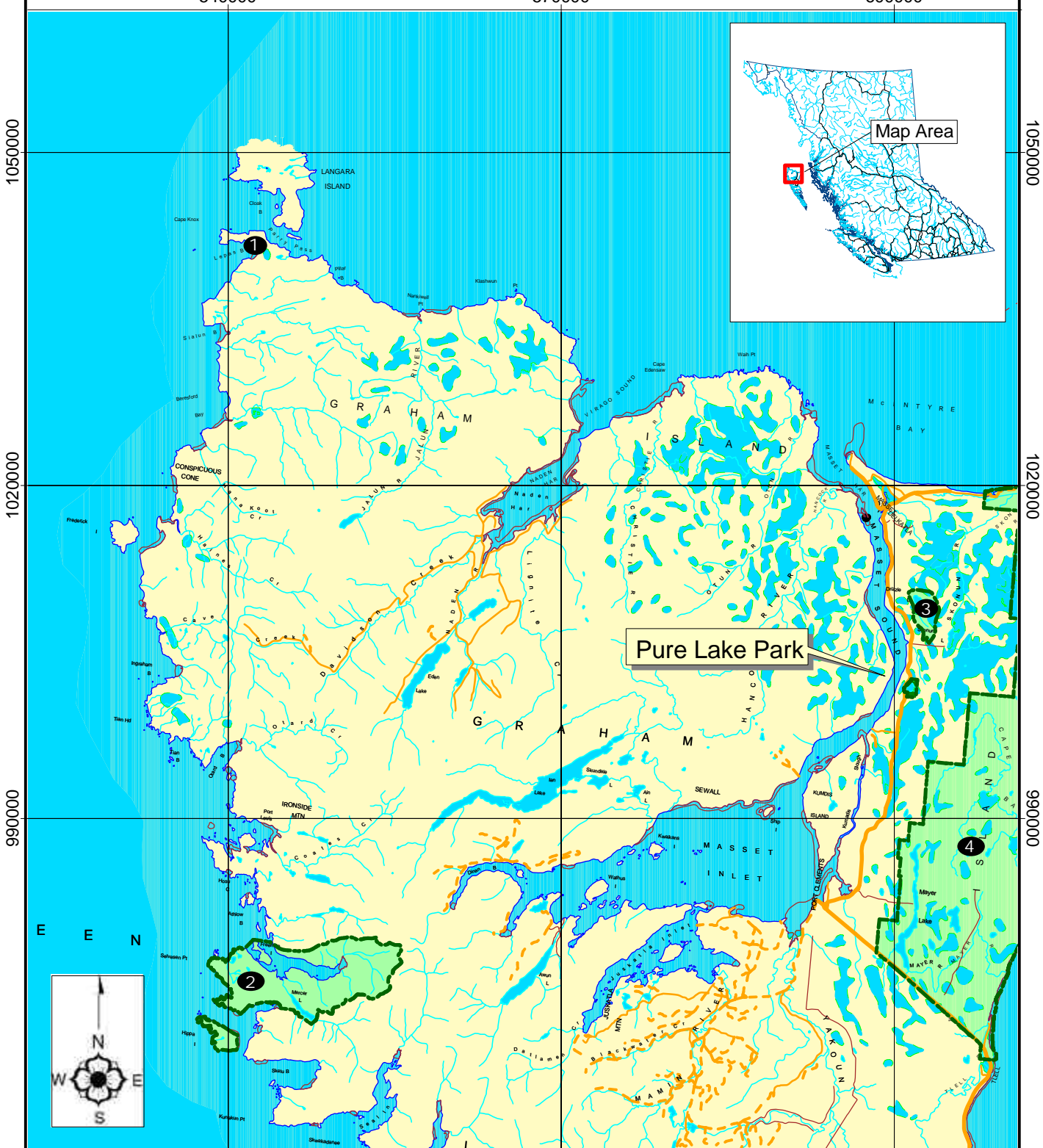
Context

Pure Lake Park is located 19 kilometres south of Masset on Graham Island of the Queen Charlotte Islands. The 130 hectare park was established on November 5, 1981, to provide recreation opportunities to local residents and to protect representative ecosystems in the Queen Charlotte Lowland Ecosection. Pure Lake Park provides residents from Masset, Port Clements, Tlell, and Queen Charlotte City a freshwater lake to swim and fish in, as well as a picnic and beach area. Freshwater lakes that are easily accessible are not common on the Queen Charlotte Islands, hence the high recreational value of Pure Lake Park.

This park represents a portion of the Queen Charlotte Lowland Ecosection. In conjunction with Naikoon Provincial Park, Rose Spit Ecological Reserve, Tow Hill Ecological Reserve, and Drizzle Lake Ecological Reserve, 21.34% of this ecosection is protected.

Figure 1: Regional Context

Pure Lake Park
600000



1050000
1020000
990000

1050000
1020000
990000

540000 570000 600000

Scale 1:500000 3 0 3 6 9 12 Kilometers

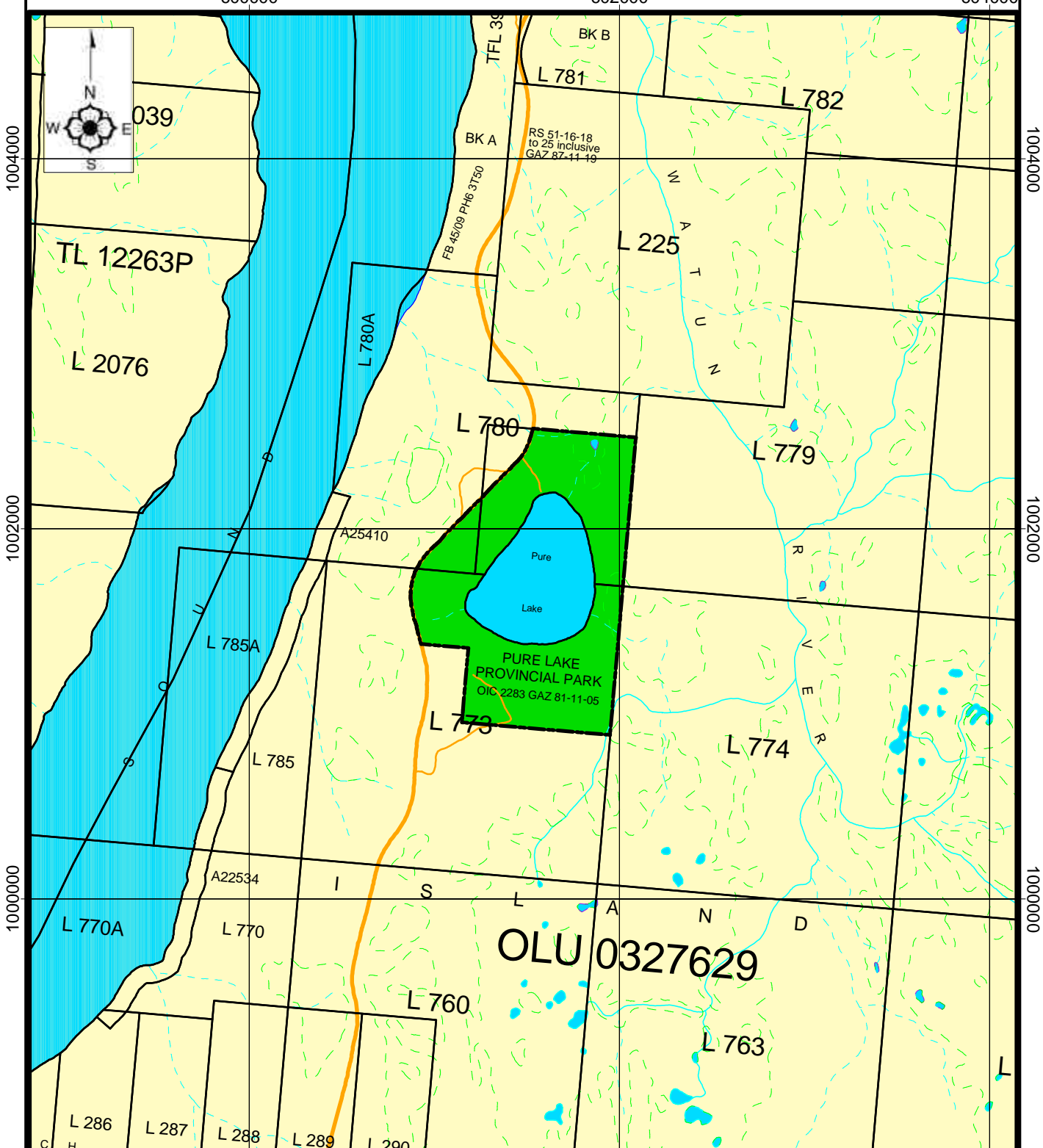


- MDS Study Area
- Lakes, Ocean
- Rivers
- 1** Lepas Bay Ecological Reserve
- 2** Vladimir J. Krajina Ecological Reserve
- 3** Drizzle Lake Ecological Reserve
- 4** Naikoon Park



Figure 2: Tenures and Land Use

Pure Lake Park



Scale 1:30000

200 0 200 Meters

	Water		Pure Lk Park Boundary		Protected Areas
	Roads		Cadastral Data/Tenures		
	Rail		EMPR Mines and Showings		

BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC Parks

Skeena District

Protected Area Attributes

Conservation

- Situated in the well represented Queen Charlotte Lowland Ecosection. 21.34% of this ecosection is protected. Pure Lake's contribution is minimal (0.21% of the overall protected areas system representation of the ecosection).
- Situated in the well represented Coastal Western Hemlock, Submontane Wet Hypermaritime (CWHwh1). 18.66% of this variant is protected. Pure Lake Park's contribution is minimal (0.1% of the overall protected areas system representation of this variant).

Flora

- There are no registered occurrences of provincially red- or blue-listed plant species or plant communities in Pure Lake Park, however, inventory data are lacking.
 - Eight (8) rare plant communities are associated with the CWHwh1 biogeoclimatic zone and one or more of these may occur in the park.

Scientific Name	Common Name	BEC	Provincial List	Provincial Rank
<i>Picea sitchensis</i> / <i>Maianthemum dilatatum</i> Wet Hypermaritime 1	Sitka spruce / false lily-of-the-valley Wet Hypermaritime 1	CWHwh1/07	Red	S2
<i>Picea sitchensis</i> / <i>Trisetum canescens</i>	Sitka spruce / Trisetum	CWHwh1/08	Red	S2
<i>Picea sitchensis</i> / <i>Calamagrostis nutkaensis</i>	Sitka spruce / reedgrass	CWHwh1/15	Blue	S3
<i>Picea sitchensis</i> / <i>Carex obnupta</i>	Sitka spruce / slough sedge	CWHwh1/17	Blue	S3
<i>Picea sitchensis</i> / <i>Kindbergia oregana</i>	Sitka spruce / Kindbergia	CWHwh1/14	Blue	S3
<i>Picea sitchensis</i> / <i>Malus fusca</i>	Sitka spruce / Pacific crabapple	CWHwh1/18	Blue	S3
<i>Thuja plicata</i> - <i>Picea sitchensis</i> / <i>Conocephalum conicum</i>	Western redcedar - Sitka spruce / Conocephalum	CWHwh1/06	Blue	S3
<i>Thuja plicata</i> - <i>Picea sitchensis</i> / <i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Western redcedar - Sitka spruce / sword fern	CWHwh1/03	Blue	S2S3
<i>Thuja plicata</i> / <i>Picea sitchensis</i> - <i>Lysichitum americanum</i>	Western redcedar/Sitka spruce - skunk cabbage	CWHwh1/12	Blue	S3
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i> - <i>Picea sitchensis</i> / <i>Rhytidiadelphus loreus</i>	Western hemlock - Sitka spruce / lanky moss	CWHwh1/01	Blue	S3

Fauna

- The forested ecosystems, riparian areas, and freshwater habitats in the park provide valuable wildlife habitat for waterfowl, bears, and raptors.
 - There is year-round use by a diverse mix of aquatic birds.
- There are no registered occurrences of provincially red- or blue-listed wildlife species in Pure Lake Park. However, eight (8) species that are on the provincial Red and Blue lists are associated with habitats found in the park.
 - Wildlife inventories are required to confirm the presence of the following listed species.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	BC Status
<i>Myotis keenii</i>	Keen's Long-eared Myotis	G2G3	RED
<i>Mustela erminea haidarum</i>	Ermine, <i>haidarum</i> subspecies	G5T2	RED
<i>Aegolius acadicus brooksi</i>	Northern Saw-whet Owl, <i>brooksi</i> subspecies	G5T3	BLUE
<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>	Great Blue Heron, <i>fannini</i> subspecies	G5T4	BLUE
<i>Cyanocitta stelleri carlottae</i>	Steller's Jay, <i>carlottae</i> subspecies	G5T3	BLUE
<i>Falco peregrinus pealei</i>	Peregrine Falcon, <i>pealei</i> subspecies	G4T3	BLUE
<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Sandhill Crane	G5	BLUE
<i>Picoides villosus picoideus</i>	Hairy Woodpecker, <i>picoideus</i> subspecies	G5T3	BLUE

Recreation and Tourism

The recreational focus of this park is a small freshwater lake and a short 1 kilometre foot trail to the lake.

- The park offers fresh water swimming.
- The area is easily accessible to local residents.
- The park provides excellent bird-viewing opportunities.
- The park offers scenic views.

Cultural Heritage

- The Haida First Nation has identified the Queen Charlotte Islands, which includes Pure Lake Park, as part of their traditional territory.
- Haida history and traditional uses are apparently known by Haida researchers. An interest has been expressed to work together to determine what if any information should be presented, or research programs developed with Environmental Stewardship Division.

Significance in the Protected Areas System

- Pure Lake Park provides easily accessible and regionally significant recreation opportunities for local residents, including freshwater swimming, hiking and wildlife and nature viewing.
- The park also protects significant freshwater lake and forested ecosystems and may contain as many as two (2) provincially red-listed and eight (8) blue-listed plant communities within the Coastal Western Hemlock zone of the Queen Charlotte Lowland Ecoregion.
- Pure Lake Park may also provide habitat for up to eight (8) provincially red- and blue-listed wildlife species.
- The park helps in achieving the Parks and Protected Area Branch's recreation goal of providing local recreation opportunities.

Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

Access to the park's recreational features is from a pull-out on Highway 16. From the pull-out/parking area there is a maintained 1 kilometre hiking trail which leads to the picnic and beach area at Pure Lake.

Existing Tenures

- No existing tenures are identified as part of the provincial tenuring system.

Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities

- Highway 16 is near the eastern boundary of Pure Lake Park.
- There are minimal park facilities within Pure Lake Park:
 - Four (4) picnic tables;
 - One (1) garbage corral at the lake;
 - Two (2) pit toilets, and;
 - A garbage container and traffic counter at the Highway 16 pullout.

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- Ministry of Forests' Small Business Forestry program operates directly south of Pure Lake Park at Watun Creek

First Nations Interests

- The Haida have identified the Queen Charlotte Islands, which Pure Lake Park lies within, as their traditional territory. The Haida have advised that:
 - Haida culture represents evidence of Haida activity over millennium and into the present modern age.
- The Council of the Haida Nation has expressed an interest in cooperative management of all protected areas within their traditional territory and have advised that:
 - That proposed planning and development activities should carry Haida protective clauses and monitoring of activities that include the Council of the Haida Nation.
 - The Haida would like to see all research methods designed and approved by the Council of the Haida Nation.
 - Archaeological content should be controlled by the Council of the Haida Nation.
 - Researchers selection should be controlled by Council of the Haida Nation.
 - All researchers should sign the Council of the Haida Nation's Archaeology paper that recognises the Council of the Haida Nation's ownership.
- The Haida would like to see "Haida Occupancy and Resource Use" noted as an existing tenure.

Other Agency Interests

- Land and Water BC administers adjacent land development.
- The Ministry of Transportation is interested in the adjacent highway and maintenance of the pull-out.
- The Ministry of Forests is interested in park values and activities to incorporate into planning for nearby forestry development in Watun Creek and elsewhere.

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- Recreational users: hikers, swimmers, picnickers
- Local residents: Masset, Old Masset, Tlell, Port Clements, Queen Charlotte City, Skidegate
- Northern BC Tourism Association

Role of Pure Lake Provincial Park

The primary role of Pure Lake Park is to provide recreational opportunities for the local residents of Masset, Old Masset, Port Clements, Tlell, Skidegate and Queen Charlotte City, including a maintained foot trail, picnic and beach area, and a freshwater lake.

Pure Lake Provincial Park protects an entire freshwater lake ecosystem and its processes and protects a small portion of the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone within the Queen Charlotte Lowland Ecosection. The park may contain provincially red- and blue-listed plant communities and may provide habitat for as many as eight (8) red- and blue-listed wildlife species.

Management Commitments and Issues

Management Direction from Previous Planning

Previous planning has been restricted to the preparation of an annual management plan detailing current year activities.

Management Issues

Theme	Issue
Protecting ecological values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unknown effect of recreational access on vegetation and wildlife (visitors collect firewood as it is not provided). • Park vegetation is susceptible to natural and human-induced fire (presently no fire rings are provided, yet visitors build fires) • The inventory of natural features is incomplete. • Introduced species may threaten native species present.
Protecting recreational values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a high occurrence of vandalism to existing facilities. • There is a limited park presence. • No washroom facilities are provided at the beach and picnic area. • There are no signs at the trailhead informing visitors of the trail length. • There is no formal parking area.
Protecting cultural features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural features have not been identified to Environmental Stewardship Division. • The Council of the Haida Nation would like control of archaeological and cultural materials and would like to ensure their protection.
First Nation Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council of the Haida Nation would like to co-manage protected areas within their identified traditional territory. • The Haida claim historic use of the area and would like the history of their use in the park protected.

Management Strategy

Priority Management Objectives and Strategies

Objective	Strategy
Protect ecological values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a management approach that will conserve biodiversity and allow natural processes to predominate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor the park for introduced species (e.g. beavers, deer, weeds) annually. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop and conduct control strategies for introduced species as necessary. ▪ Conduct an inventory to identify sensitive habitats and red- and blue-listed wildlife and plant communities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop special management plans for rare, threatened and endangered plants, plant communities, and wildlife species as required. ▪ Liaise with Ministry of Forests to ensure harvesting practices on neighbouring forest land does not impact forested habitats within the park (minimize blowdown). ▪ Liaise with Land and Water BC to ensure developments on the adjacent district lots do not impact the natural hydrology of Pure Lake or on the park’s vegetation. • Establish a working relationship with the Council of the Haida Nation and local government to protect and maintain the conservation values of the park. • Minimize visitor impacts on the lake ecology and forested ecosystems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify park boundaries. ▪ Increase park presence to lower vandalism occurrence. ▪ Provide fire-rings for visitor use.
Protect recreational values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance park presence (e.g. increased number of visits by staff or contractors). • Install recreational signs as required (e.g. trail distance signs). • Maintain the trail and existing facilities. • Develop a formal parking area. • Establish a working relationship with the Council of the Haida Nation and local government to raise awareness and promotion of the recreation values within the park.
Ensure park is safe for public use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the trail and the beach/picnic area. • Identify and mitigate potential safety hazards. • Conduct conservation and recreation risk assessments as necessary.

Objective	Strategy
Protect cultural heritage values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and collate existing information on cultural heritage values. • Prepare Cultural Features Information Summary (based on Haida interests and desires). • Prepare a Cultural Features Information Summary (based on Haida interests and desires). • Work with the Council of the Haida Nation to identify cultural heritage sites and traditional use in area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with the Council of the Haida Nation to develop a methodology or plan to deal with archaeological and cultural materials.
Involve First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the treaty process or other mechanisms in place investigate options for a more formal relationship with the Haida. Relationships should facilitate increased First Nation involvement in the stewardship and protection of the park. • Work with the Council of the Haida Nation to develop cultural resource information for the public and define protective measures for their culture. • Honour established aboriginal rights subject to conservation and safety concerns.

Consultation and Future Planning

Environmental Stewardship Division will work with the Haida First Nation to design and implement research programs that properly identify and locate heritage and cultural values while ensuring their protection. An increased relationship and awareness of the park and its values with local government is also an important next step. The division will also work with other agencies to ensure that the values within the park are considered in adjacent future development and forestry harvesting activities. Internally, the Parks and Protected Areas Section will continue to work with the Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section, Conservation Officer Service and Ecosystems Section to ensure effective park management within Pure Lake Park.

Zoning

The access trail and beach/picnic area are zoned Intensive Recreation. The remainder of the upland areas of the park is zoned Natural Environment. The lake is zoned Special Feature.

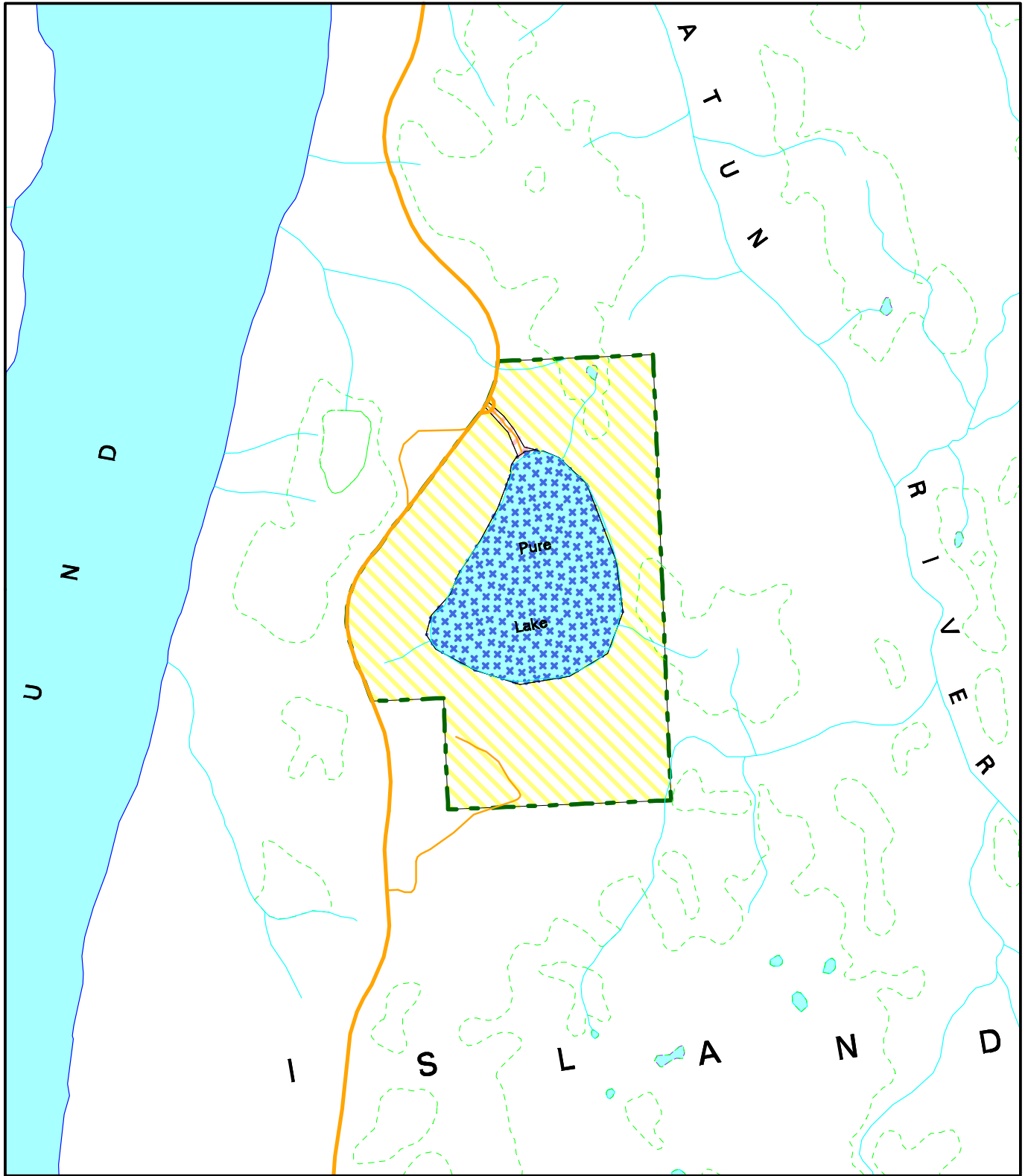
Figure 3. Table of acceptable uses, activities and facilities in Pure Lake Provincial Park.

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptability
Aboriginal Traditional Uses and Activities	Y
Hunting	Y
Fishing	Y
Trapping	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational Gold Panning/Rock Hounding	N
Utility corridors	N
Communication Sites	N
Horse Use/ Pack Animals	N
Guide Outfitting (hunting)	N
Guide Outfitting (fishing)	N
Guide Outfitting (nature tours)	Y
Guide Outfitting (river rafting)	N
Cat-Assisted Skiing	N
Ski Hills	N
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	N
Commercial Recreation (non-facility based)	M
Backcountry Huts	N
Water Control Structures	N
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N
Road Access	N
Off-road Access (snowmobiling)	N
Off-road Access (motorised)	N
Off-road Access (mechanical activities)	N
Motorised Water Access	N
Aircraft Access	Y
Fire Management (suppression)	Y
Fire Management (prescribed fire management)	M
Fire Management (prevention)	M
Forest Insect/Disease Control	N1
Noxious Weed Control	N1
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	N1
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	M
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	M

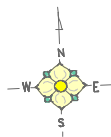
Y= allowed subject to conditions identified in the management direction statement or management plan
M= may be permitted if compatible with protected area objectives





N= not allowed
N1= allowed for expressed management purposes only
N2= present and allowed to continue but not normally allowed

Figure 3: Zoning



Projection: UTM Zone 8
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Special Feature
-  Protected Area Boundary

