



Roche Lake Park

Management Plan

May 2013



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BC Parks

This document replaces the Roche Lake Park
Management Direction Statement (June 1999).

Roche Lake Park Management Plan

Approved by:



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May 28, 2013

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Acknowledgements

The Roche Lake Park Management Plan was developed by BC Parks, and Bernadette Manuel and Lynne Jorgesen of the Upper Nicola Band. Under contract to BC Parks, Frances Vyse of Mariposa Trails Consulting prepared the initial draft management plan.

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	3
1.5	Adjacent Land and Water Use	4
1.6	Planning Process.....	4
2.0	Values and Roles of the Park.....	5
2.1	Significance in the Provincial Protected Areas System	5
2.2	Biological Diversity and Natural Environment.....	5
2.3	Recreation.....	6
2.4	Cultural Heritage.....	7
2.5	Other Park Attributes	7
3.0	Management Direction.....	9
3.1	Vision	9
3.2	Management Objectives and Strategies	9
3.3	Zoning	13
4.0	References	16
	Appendix 1: Recreation Survey, 2006: Summary.....	17
	Appendix 2: Appropriate Uses Tables.....	19
	Figure 1: Regional and Provincial Context Map.....	2
	Figure 2: Zoning and Park Map.....	15

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to guide the management of Roche Lake Park. The direction set out in this management plan is applied by protected area managers to make decisions regarding the ongoing management and operations within Roche Lake Park, including appropriate uses and recreation management.

This management plan:

- defines the role and significance of the area in the protected areas system;
- identifies the significant features or values of the park;
- outlines a management vision and objectives for the park;
- outlines current and predicted future threats and opportunities; and
- provides a framework for future operational decision making.

1.2 Planning Area

Roche Lake Park (2,041 hectares) is situated on the Thompson Plateau, 36 kilometres south of Kamloops and 70 kilometres north of Merritt (Figure 1). The park protects a series of world-class trout fishing lakes with rustic camping facilities in a forested plateau setting. Forests in the park are a mix of old-growth Douglas-fir, mixed species stands and younger regenerating forests. A large component of the park's Lodgepole Pine is impacted by mountain pine beetle. Old forestry access roads provide year-round access to fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing and motorised recreation opportunities in a semi-remote setting. Livestock graze throughout the park on a rotational basis.

Roche Lake Park is in the traditional territory of both the Upper Nicola Band of the Okanagan (Siylix) Nation and the Kamloops Indian Band of the Shuswap (Secwepemc) Nation.

Roche Lake Park is situated in the Thompson–Nicola Regional District.

1.3 Legislative Framework

Roche Lake Park was originally established as a protected area under the *Environment and Land Use Act* by Order in Council 585/1996 on April 30, 1996. It was subsequently established as a Class A park on July 28, 1997 and is presently named and described in Schedule D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

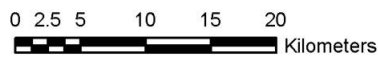
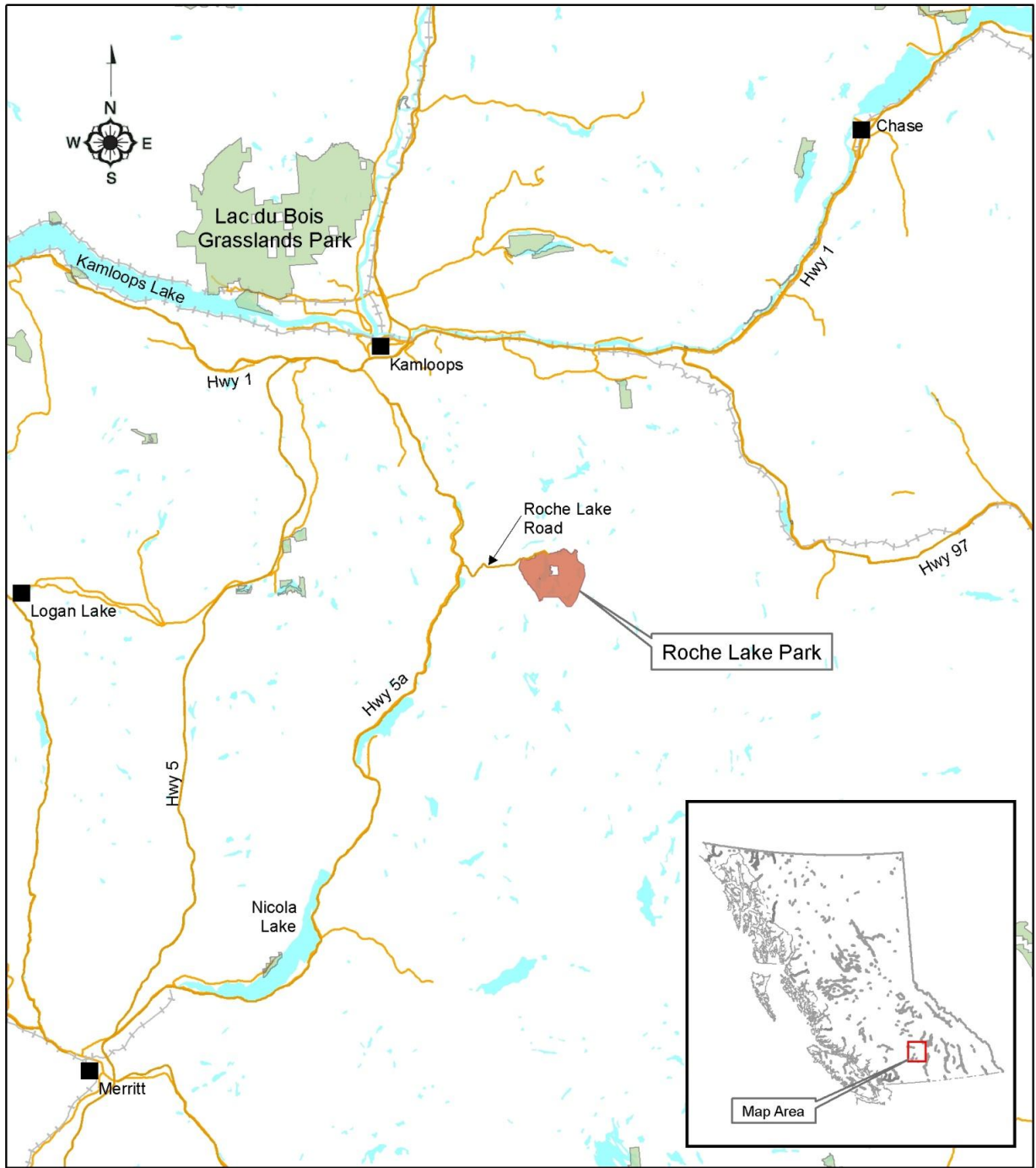


Figure 1: Regional and Provincial Context Roche Lake Park

1.4 Management Commitments

Management Direction from Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan

The Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan (KLRMP) (Kamloops Land and Resource Management Planning Team 1995) recommended the establishment of Roche Lake Park. This management plan is consistent with the KLRMP, a higher level plan.

The KLRMP identified a range of Resource Management Zones (RMZs) and developed goals and objectives to guide activities in each of the zones. Section 2.3 of the KLRMP provides specific and general management guidelines for Protection RMZs including existing and recommended protected areas:

- Logging, mining and energy exploration are prohibited in all Protection RMZs.
- Protect viable, representative examples of British Columbia's natural diversity and recreational opportunities and to protect special, natural, cultural heritage and recreational features.
- Respect existing uses where these meet the objectives of Protection RMZs.
- Maintain a level of access appropriate to the objectives of the RMZ.
- Assess and evaluate new proposals for use.

The KLRMP also provides specific management guidelines for the identified protected areas. Specific management strategies that pertain to Roche Lake Park include:

- The management plan for the RMZ will address visitor management in the most intensively used area (in the vicinity of the campground and resorts). The plan will consider the potential impact of visitor management on the Roche Lake RMZ on adjacent recreation areas.
- Local level planning will assess an appropriate level of access for the RMZ.
- Evaluate the impact of heightened use on the fishery.

The KLRMP also includes a policy for Domestic Grazing in Protection Management Zones. Guidelines in the policy that apply to Roche Lake Park include:

- Increases in animal unit months¹ will generally not be permitted².
- A local level planning process may recommend that a reduction or removal of a grazing tenure is required to meet the objectives of the zones, and will review Range Use Plans for these zones.
- Benchmark sites of ungrazed areas will be established in most Protection RMZs that are grazed and will be managed in accordance with the strict preservation category.
- The Ministry of Forests³ is responsible for the management and administration of range resources in Protection RMZs. The Forest Practices Code⁴ will be used as a base for range

¹ An animal unit month is the amount of forage required to support one cow-calf pair, or equivalent, for one month.

² Increases in animal unit months in parks listed in Schedule D to the *Park Act* (including Roche Lake Park) are not permitted.

³ Now the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

⁴ This Act has been replaced by the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.

management. Range Use Plans determined and approved by a local level planning group may establish management practices that exceed the Code. Flexibility remains for a local group to allow domestic livestock grazing in Protection RMZs as a vegetation management tool or a fire (fuel) management tool to achieve RMZ objectives.

Private Land Tenures and Operations

There are four parcels of private land within the park, including two small parcels with cabins on the west side of Roche Lake, Roche Lake Resort and a ranch property south of the resort (Figure 2). Roche Lake Resort is situated on the east side of Roche Lake, adjacent to the Roche North campground. The resort includes the main lodge, 24 time-share chalets and a 7-unit campground that can be very busy on weekends. The resort promotes a fishing experience for novices and experts on Roche Lake in a “magnificent wilderness setting.” Roche Lake Park, and especially the fishing and the attractive lake setting, is a major asset in marketing the resort. Resort guests use park roads to access the outer lakes, and for walking and mountain biking.

1.5 Adjacent Land Use

Crown lands surrounding the park were classified as “General” resource management zones in the Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan. The primary uses of these lands are timber harvesting and range.

1.6 Planning Process

A Background Report for Roche Lake Park (Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection 2006) provided much of the background information for this management plan. Also, a limited recreation survey, summarized in Appendix 1, obtained user perspectives on existing and desired camping facilities and access conditions. The responses to the survey provided an overview of the key values, areas and seasons of use, concerns of users, and responses to potential management strategies that could affect users’ future enjoyment. The results largely confirmed information identified in the Background Report, but was more specific.

The Upper Nicola Band engaged with BC Parks in a collaborative approach to develop this management plan. A jointly developed Terms of Reference guided the management planning process. Frances Vyse of Mariposa Trails Consulting prepared early drafts of the management plan with input from BC Parks and Upper Nicola Band representatives. Following completion of the first draft management plan, agency, stakeholder and other First Nations review of this management plan was undertaken and revisions made as necessary. The draft management plan was also posted on the BC Parks’ website for a 30 day public review.

2.0 Values and Roles of the Park

2.1 Significance in the Provincial Protected Areas System

The primary outstanding value of Roche Lake Park is the diversity of productive lakes which make the park provincially significant for recreational Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) fishing. The park plays an important role in providing sport fishing, recreation, camping and tourism opportunities in the Kamloops and Merritt areas, attracting people from the Lower Mainland of British Columbia and beyond. The diversity of camping experiences, with both frontcountry and remote sites, adds to the setting. A number of nearby parks contribute to this recreation opportunity, including Tunkwa, Bonaparte, Lac Le Jeune and Paul Lake parks. All of these parks have special value, but Roche Lake Park, with its variety of lakes and renowned diversity of fishing experiences, epitomizes the quality and nature of trout fishing opportunities found in the Kamloops region.

Roche Lake Park protects 1,708 hectares of mid-elevation forests and 332 hectares of unique lakes and wetlands, along with their associated plant and wildlife communities on the Southern Thompson Plateau. The park contributes to the protection of the under-represented Thompson Dry Cool Interior Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic variant and also protects various species at risk, as described below.

2.2 Biological Diversity and Natural Environment

Roche Lake Park protects small portions of the Southern Thompson Uplands Ecoregion and 1,708 hectares of the Thompson Dry Cool Interior Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone variant. This variant is underrepresented within the provincial protected area system with only 3.5% protected provincially, and Roche Lake Park contributes 8.6% to this total.

The complex of twelve large and small lakes, many with adjoining wetlands, is unusual in this area. Lakes range in size from Roche Lake, at 132 hectares, to Rose and Bog lakes, at four hectares each. Past fisheries enhancement programs and stocking of the lakes in the park with hatchery-raised fish have eliminated all native fish species. Maintenance of fish populations is dependent on annual stocking programs.

Patches of old-growth Douglas-fir occur, the largest being a stand of approximately 40 hectares north of Bulman Lake, and a number of stands totalling approximately 114 hectares south and west of Ernest Lake.

Species at risk have been noted in the park. Six red- or blue-listed plant species have been recorded by the British Columbia Conservation Data Centre as potentially occurring in Roche Lake Park. Wikeem (2000) reported finding a thick stand of rivergrass (*Scolochloa festucacea*), a red- listed species, in a small stream. At least half of the 25 red- or blue-listed

species in the Kamloops Forest District list are potentially present in the park, with the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea Herodias*) reported, and the Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*) and American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) suspected to occur. Two rare butterflies are also possible in the park area.

The dry forest habitats of the park support small populations of a variety of small mammals. Moose (*Alces americanus*) and Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) are common, while American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) are occasionally seen.

The many lakes and wetlands support breeding waterfowl, including Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*), Canada Goose (*Branta Canadensis*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*), American Wigeon (*Anas Americana*), Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), American Coot (*Fulica Americana*), Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) and Sora (*Porzana Carolina*). Many passerine species are found in the wetland edge, tall shrub and upland habitats. Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) nest on a hydro transmission line tower, and Snipe (*Gallinago delicate*), Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) and Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) have been reported in open grassy areas.

Garter Snakes (*Thamnophis sirtalis*), Western Toads (*Anaxyrus boreas*) and Pacific Chorus Frogs (*Pseudacris regilla*) are often seen (or heard), while Long-toed Salamanders (*Ambystoma macrodactylum*) may be found in the small ponds, wetlands and surrounding forests.

2.3 Recreation

Roche Lake Park, with its highly productive and varied lakes, offers a quality trout fishing experience only a few kilometres from Kamloops, a large urban centre. Catch limits and regulations ensure that this fishing experience is maintained.

The park is very popular with local anglers from Kamloops who use the park more on a daily basis rather than for overnight use. The proximity to a large urban centre provides residents and visitors with the opportunity to have a near-wilderness experience close to home.

It is estimated there are 29,665 angler days annually in the park, with Roche Lake receiving the highest use of any small lake in British Columbia. The annual contribution to the local economy, valued at \$85/day per person, is estimated to be just over \$2.5 million.

Roche Lake, with two rustic campgrounds, and Horseshoe Lake, with one similar campground, attract the majority of visitors from spring through fall. The main reason for visiting the park is to fish. Roche Lake is a popular destination for group camping, primarily aimed at fishing, and can get quite crowded, especially on long weekends..

The forested plateau backdrop to Roche Lake and all the smaller lakes in Roche Lake Park enhance the fishing experience in the park. The complex landscape provides a variety of lake settings, cliffs and rock outcrops and limited opportunities for vehicle access away from Roche Lake. The more remote lakes are reached by long, difficult, badly rutted and potholed 4-wheel drive roads. Road conditions discourage most visitors but make for a very peaceful fishing experience, as well as generally larger (but fewer) fish for those willing to make the journey. These lakes have a semi-wilderness feel and are rarely crowded. Campsites at the remote lakes are small and casually set on forested foreshores. There are no facilities at most of the lakes, and visitors need to be self-sufficient.

Access to the north end of Roche Lake Park is by the Roche Lake Road and to other areas of the park by forest service roads in the west, south and northeast. Access within the park is by unmaintained public roads, and those beyond Roche Lake are in very poor and deteriorating condition. These roads provide opportunities for mountain biking, hiking and some ATV use in summer and fall, hunting in the fall and cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in winter through an open forested landscape. The complex landscape of the park provides some opportunities for off-road hiking and nature appreciation. However, these activities have not been developed, and are secondary in nature.

Roche Lake Resort opened on a private land in-holding as a rustic lodge in 1966 and has developed into a time-share resort with a lodge, 24 time-share chalets, a seven unit campground and boat launch.

2.4 Cultural Heritage

Roche Lake Park is situated in the traditional territory of both the Upper Nicola Band and the Kamloops Indian Band. The Upper Nicola Band uses the area to hunt Mule Deer and Moose and have identified the area around Mount Bulman as being of particular interest. Individual band members carry out sustenance fishing on park lakes.

The park area has been used for cattle grazing since the 1880s, with remnants of old line cabins still found. Pioneer rancher Joe Bulman of Willow Ranch is remembered in the naming of Bulman Lake and Bulman Mountain. The names of some of the many lakes in the park reflect other pioneers in the area: John Frisken, rancher in the Stump Lake area, and John Frank, whose brand was registered in 1891.

2.5 Other Park Attributes

A number of tenures pre-date park establishment, including grazing, trapping, guide outfitting and water licences.

The quality of fish in Roche Lake was improved by the cooperation of Roche Lake Resort and the Kamloops Fish and Game Club in the early 1990s with the building of a spawning channel near the resort, allowing spawn-bound trout to spawn. This channel operates only during the spawning period, with no recruitment resulting from the spawning.

Two ranches have provincial grazing licences to graze cattle in Roche Lake Park and the surrounding area, with the park being an integral part of their operations. The park wholly or partially contains five pastures (i.e., John Frank, Frisken, Horseshoe, Ernest, Roche Lake) that are used to graze varying numbers of cattle from early summer to fall. The ranching industry has a long history in the plateau forest of the park.

BC Hydro has a 140 metre wide cleared right-of-way through the park for their twinned 500KV transmission line, with the need for periodic access at any time along the line, for maintenance and control of tree growth.

The provincial government manages water allocation through ten water licences in Roche Lake Park. Two licences date back to 1878, six back to 1915 and two, for Roche Lake Resort, to 1984. A number of water control structures retain water on Roche, John Frank, Horseshoe, Ernest and Bog lakes. This shows the historic and ongoing importance of water uses by the ranching industry and the provincial sport fishery.

Ducks Unlimited Canada manages conservation water rights for the Crown on Horseshoe Lake and John Frank Lake and controls water levels in the lakes, primarily to increase waterfowl production. These conservation licences co-exist with ranch storage licences that include dams on the outlets of a number of lakes. Ducks Unlimited Canada has created nesting islands on Horseshoe Lake and John Frank Lake, and has also created level ditching and mounds on John Frank Lake that increase the breeding and rearing potential for waterfowl and other wetland related species.

A fishing guide uses the park for about 50% of his business, with between 5 and 10% of his clients being visitors at Roche Lake Resort.

All existing *Land Act* tenures, special use permits, trapping licences and other legal tenures and rights in existence at the time of establishment of Roche Lake Park in 1996, with the exception of grazing, have been authorized through park use permits. Grazing is administered by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Vision

Roche Lake Park continues to provide provincially significant recreational sport fishing opportunities to residents and visitors in nearby Kamloops and the surrounding area. The open, less structured camping experience remains a favourite for families, groups and individuals. While recreation is of primary importance, the historic and continuing role played by the ranching industry in the park continues to be recognized.

Ecosystems within the park, especially the lakes and wetlands, continue their important contribution to wildlife habitat protection and sport fish production. Natural processes continue to shape terrestrial ecosystems as they rebound from the previous mountain pine beetle attacks and areas harvested before the park was established are gradually blending in to the natural landscape.

Other agencies play a significant and collaborative role in park management. These partnerships help ensure the sport fishery, livestock grazing and water use are sustainably managed. The rights of the private landowners and the resort are respected in management decisions.

3.2 Management Objectives and Strategies

Ecosystem Protection

Knowledge of the natural system is key to understanding ecosystem structure and function and the requirements of wildlife. Limited knowledge of natural heritage values within the park limits proper management strategies. Also, visitors that are not aware of park values may be causing inadvertent impacts.

Forest conditions have recently changed, with the past and continuing Mountain Pine Beetle infestation resulting in forest health issues and concerns associated with visitor safety and fuel loading (i.e., increased fire risk).

Various alien (non-native) species are known to be present within the park, resulting in threats to native species and ecosystems.

Objective	Management Strategies
To increase knowledge of ecosystems and ecosystem components.	Undertake inventory and mapping of ecosystems, including old-growth Douglas-fir, wetlands and dry forest types, together with associated wildlife and species at risk to enable adequate protection of natural heritage values.
	Establish ongoing monitoring of key ecosystems and species at risk.
	Anticipate and manage for ecosystem changes due to climatic trends in order to maintain required habitats for changing species assemblages, partnering with university programs where possible.
To understand and monitor forest health and safety issues associated	Work with the relevant provincial government agencies to manage mountain pine beetle infestation. Generally, the infestation will be left as a natural process to run its course but there may be a need for localized fuel or infested tree

with the effects of Mountain Pine Beetle.	removal.
To prevent the expansion of alien species.	Discourage the introduction and spread of non-native plant species through co-operation with BC Hydro, ranchers, relevant government agencies and education of park visitors.
	Manage stocking of fish similar to past practices (aimed at providing quality, varied angling experiences), working with the appropriate agency to identify the type of fish to stock, but with a broader regard for ecological values to prevent impacts on other aquatic species.
To maintain the health and productivity of lakes and associated wetlands.	Monitor lake water levels and determine influences on vegetation and fish.
	Work with appropriate agencies and partners to ensure water levels meet wetland conservation and fisheries management needs.
	Existing wetland management by Ducks Unlimited Canada will continue in consultation with BC Parks.
To identify boundaries and values to park users.	Put park boundary signs at key locations to establish park identity.
	Manage recreation activities to ensure wildlife and their habitat are protected.
	Monitor recreation activities and limit activities, if necessary, in those areas where red- or blue-listed species have been recorded.

Ranching

Cattle graze relatively freely throughout the park, with the potential for negative impacts on the natural environment as they access wetlands or other sensitive sites. With extensive grazing, the natural condition of the forest ecosystem may slowly change, with the loss of a baseline target condition for which to manage towards. Recreational users may not appreciate cattle within camping areas or popular lake access sites. Downstream irrigation that contributes to fluctuating lake water levels, especially in dry summers, can negatively affect fish survival and wetland function.

Objective	Management Strategies
To evaluate and minimize grazing impacts on natural heritage values and conflicts with park visitors.	Ensure compliance with the KLRMP regarding cattle grazing and the establishment of ungrazed benchmark areas.
	Work towards the implementation of an ungrazed benchmark site(s) that will include all or portions of the ungrazed area identified in Figure 2 in cooperation with the rancher and appropriate government agencies. This will include the identification of a representative ungrazed area that will have an objective to retain all the attributes of a natural area, although there may be occasional evidence or presence of cattle.
	Allow grazing of cattle to continue in designated areas within the park, but restrict cattle access from camping, day use, and riparian areas and other ecologically sensitive sites.
	Work with the relevant provincial government agencies and ranchers to seek ways to minimize cattle access to wetlands.
	Consider a fence between John Frank and Frisken lakes to keep cattle away from large wetland at the south end of John Frank Lake and the proposed ungrazed benchmark area.

Access

Poor road conditions are causing physical damage to adjacent vegetation and stream water quality as users attempt to drive around rutted sections, creating an ever widening area of damage. Also, when roads deteriorate too much, it affects recreational access to popular backcountry lakes.

Objective	Management Strategies
To minimize the road footprint and any negative effects on ecosystems adjacent to all open, remote roads.	Monitor all remote access roads to determine access management needs, and impacts on adjacent vegetation and stream water quality.
	Work with other agencies to address their access needs through the park (e.g., BC Hydro).
	Consider relocation of road segments where environmental concerns (e.g., wetland damage, erosion, road braiding) are evident (e.g., investigate alternative access options from the BC Hydro right-of-way to Frisken Lake).
	Restrict vehicle access in inappropriate places where ecological impacts are likely (e.g., over dam, through wetlands).
	Close and accelerate rehabilitation of unneeded roads. The roads on the east side of the park will remain open as trails for the use of the rancher in managing cattle movements within the range tenure.
	Allow continued access to private lands within the park as long as owners require.
	Manage the road network within the park to maintain a variety of remote and frontcountry visitor experiences, while ensuring road conditions do not pose unacceptable risks to user safety and the environment (i.e., improve roads to remote lakes only to the extent that drivers stay on one track and are not compelled to cause braiding).

Recreation

Roche Lake Park is relatively small, but there is a public desire for a diversity of fishing experiences and recreational settings. The road conditions create the present situation of diversity, concentrating people at more accessible Roche Lake, and creating a more backcountry feel a relatively short distance away for visitors who wish to tackle the more challenging road conditions or take the time to walk. This situation is valued by many visitors.

Visitors value the casual feel of campsites and other facilities within the park, yet there is a need to ensure the availability of a quality park experience. Issues of dust, blocking of access to campsites, moving fire pits and random vehicle access to sites needs to be addressed.

The park, despite its relatively small size, provides a range of potential recreation opportunities of which many visitors are unaware. Awareness of recreational opportunities in the park could be improved and visitors could be better informed about the potential impact of recreational activities on park values.

Objectives	Management Strategies	
<p>To provide for a diverse range of fishing experiences, settings and fishing success.</p>	Stocking of fish will continue in order to maintain a quality fishery.	
	Continue to provide diverse and high-quality fishing experiences at all lakes within the park.	
	Support guided angling opportunities to take advantage of the variety of lakes in the park.	
	Work with Roche Lake Resort to assist in angling management on Roche Lake and on levels and types of use within the park.	
	Work with other provincial agencies to manage for a level of use by anglers in lakes within Roche Lake Park that balances the angling experience and resulting size and number of fish caught, e.g., more remote lakes tend to provide fewer but larger fish; more accessible lakes tend to provide more but smaller fish.	
<p>To ensure an acceptable park experience for visitors while maintaining the casual feel and minimal facility development at existing campsites..</p>	<p>At the Roche Lake North campground:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address access and safety concerns to improve traffic circulation and control dust. • Assess the need for improved road and water access. • Consider the impact of large group activities, including resulting fishing pressure. • Consider the need for additional amenities such as tables, toilets and running water. 	
	Improve day-use facilities at Roche Lake West campground in keeping with use levels (e.g., add gravel to the boat launch area for better low water access, add a boat dock to improve day use access).	
	Improve conditions within the three campgrounds (e.g., road condition and campsite access, dust and mud, need for level campsites).	
	Attempt to disperse recreation more widely, and throughout the season, with sensitivity to campsite carrying capacity.	
	Provide ATV access for campground users on primitive roads within the park.	
	Identify and follow up on interest by local groups (i.e., fish and game organizations, the resort) in assisting in park stewardship and providing improved facilities and access.	
	<p>To diversify opportunities for a variety of quality, low-impact recreational experiences.</p>	Identify non-angling activities, such as multi-purpose trails of various lengths, to allow healthy enjoyment of the park environment.
		Inventory and assess opportunities for nature appreciation and knowledge of park values and provide where appropriate. Possibilities include: viewing of wildlife or wetlands; interpretation of the fish and fishery at Roche Lake Park, including insects and water quality; self interpretation sites; and experiencing features of interest.
Allow passive recreational activities, such as off-trail experiences to wetlands and wildlife viewing; monitor to assess their impact on the natural environment.		
<p>To ensure visitors are aware of the type of recreation opportunities and permitted uses in the park to enhance visitor use, enjoyment and safety.</p>	<p>Develop a comprehensive and coordinated park orientation/information package that includes the use of the BC Parks website, brochures and park signs. Information should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform visitors about the unstructured nature of the camping experience; • direct visitors to recreation opportunities suitable to their interests and abilities; • remind visitors to respect park conservation values and identify known issues (e.g., motorised use can impact ecosystems and must be restricted to 	

	designated routes and seasons, how to prevent damage to campsites); and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify safety considerations associated with different types of recreational use (e.g., remote roads are in poor condition and their use carries a risk of being stranded without access to help, managing garbage and pets to minimize conflicts with bears, respect for gates, fences and dams, et.c)
	Consider putting park maps and safety information at major road junctions and trailheads to establish park identity and for visitor safety.
	Work with agencies, ranchers and tourism groups to manage water use and grazing with regard to other park users and values, and integrate acceptable uses within and adjacent to the park (e.g., ATV access).

Cultural Heritage

Local First Nations have a long history of traditional use within the park. There is a need to better recognize and inform park visitors about this important cultural heritage as well as continue to provide opportunities for First Nations to continue traditional use within the park.

There is a long history of cattle grazing and water storage for downstream irrigation within the park. High level management direction supports the continuation of these activities. There is an opportunity to educate visitors on these activities.

Objective	Management Strategies
To honour the traditional use of the park area by First Nations.	Support continued First Nations’ traditional hunting, gathering and ceremonial uses within the park.
	Collaborate with First Nations to better understand and identify traditional uses in the park.
	Consult with First Nations on management decisions.
	Involve First Nations in the development of interpretation materials about cultural heritage values in the park.
To recognise the long history of water use and cattle grazing in the park.	Consider creating interpretation materials on the history of water management, grazing and fisheries development, in collaboration with First Nations, local ranchers and appropriate government agencies.

3.3 Zoning

This management plan uses zoning to assist in the planning and management of the park. The park is divided into two zones (Figure 2).

Intensive Recreation Zone

The objective for this zone is to provide a variety of basic, readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities. In Roche Lake Park, this zone applies to camping and concentrated day use activities (e.g., boat drop off, loading, etc.) located at three specific locations on Roche and Horseshoe lakes. The total size of the three sites in this zone is 28 hectares, or 1% of the park.

Management direction highlights in this zone include:

- Designating camping areas and day use areas with appropriate facilities.
- Improving boat access in appropriate locations where required.
- Improving road access within camping and day use areas.
- Providing interpretation facilities.

Nature Recreation Zone

The objective for this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide remote recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. The size of this zone is 2,013 hectares, or 99% of the park.

Management direction highlights in this zone include:

- Stocking of lakes to maintain a quality fishery.
- Restricting vehicle and mountain bike access to existing roads and trails.
- Encouraging hiking and cross-country skiing on existing roads and trails.
- Retaining roads in a primitive state to allow anglers access and preserve the wilderness feel of remote lakes.
- Maintaining areas for habitat management and protection, such as wetlands and habitat for species at risk.
- Cattle grazing will continue with regard to ecosystem sensitivity.
- Establishing an ungrazed benchmark area containing one of the smaller lakes, associated riparian areas and forest within which the conservation of natural resources takes precedence.
- Monitoring the impact of recreational activities on the natural environment.
- Inventorying ecosystem elements to provide for better knowledge and management.

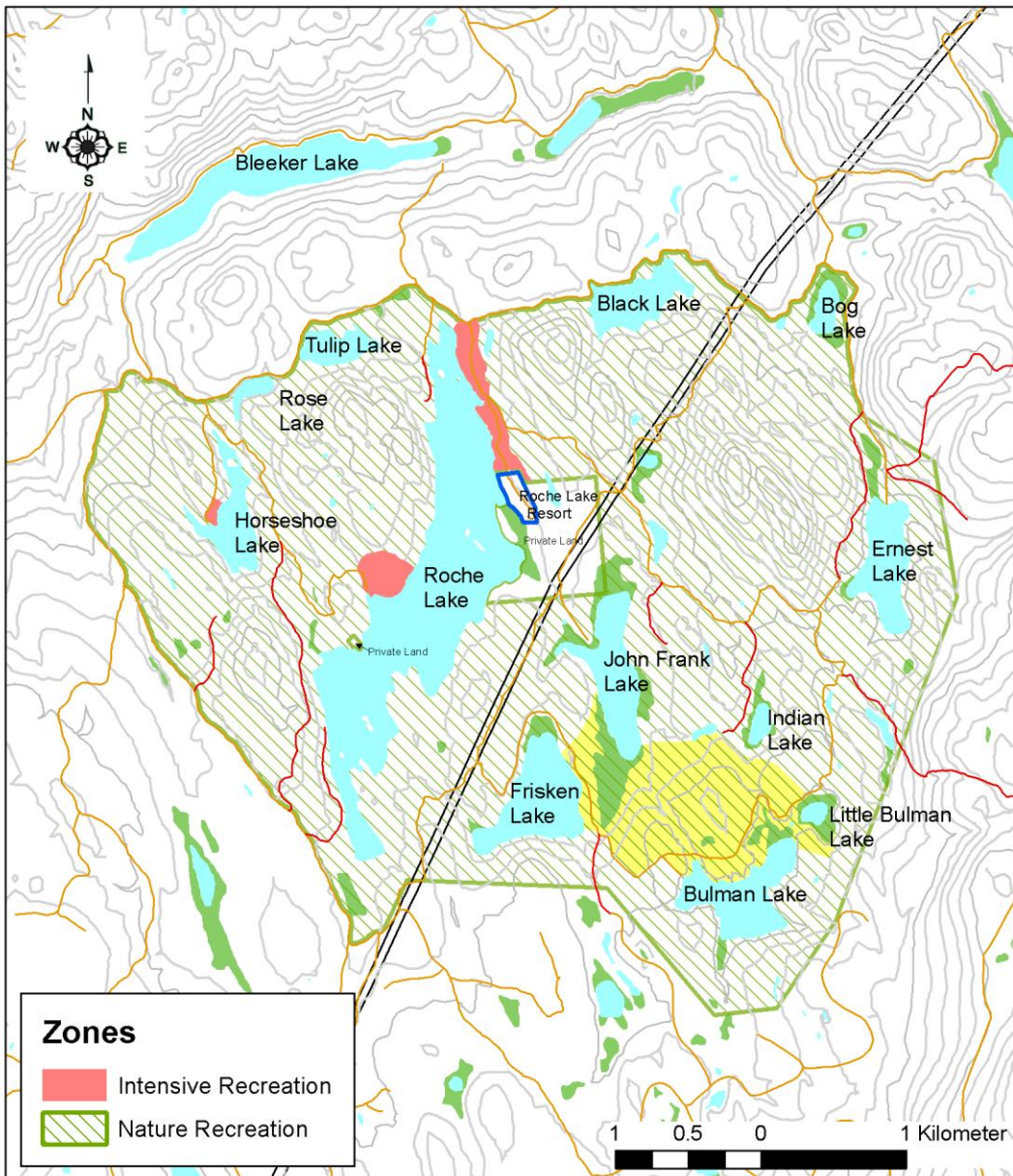


Figure 2: Zoning and Park Map Roche Lake Park

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Appendix 1: Recreation Survey, 2006: Summary

2006 Roche Lake Park Recreation Survey

As part of the development of the Roche Lake Park Management Plan, a 2006 Recreation Survey was undertaken to obtain user perspectives on existing and desired camping facilities, and access conditions. Interviews were conducted on the 2006 Thanksgiving weekend. This included visitors at Horseshoe Lake, Roche Lake West and Roche Lake North campsites; the Park Facility Officer; the Roche Lake Resort owner; 24 cabin owners at Roche Lake Resort and two campers at the remote Bulman Lake.

As a result of the initial survey in the park, two changes were made to the survey questions to reduce repetition. Copies were sent by e-mail to members of Kamloops Naturalist Club, Kamloops Fish and Game Club, and Kamloops Flyfishers. The survey was also available at a Kamloops Naturalist Club meeting and in both newsletters of the two fishing clubs. It was also e-mailed to two flyfishing clubs in the Lower Mainland to obtain an out-of-area perspective; no response was received from either of those clubs.

The questionnaire gave the authors an overall view of the values, areas of use, seasons of use, concerns of users, and responses to potential management strategies that could affect users' future enjoyment. Forty two responses were received representing at least 60 park visitors: 32 were local, 26 were from the coast and five were mailed in from cabin owners of unknown origin. Twelve completed surveys from visitors at the park represented 32 people.

Details of survey responses are presented in a separate report and excel file. More detailed summaries of responses to two important issues are presented below.

Access Management

Question 9 specifically addressed access management and gave six alternatives for dealing with road conditions. Questions 8, 10 and 11 also elicited some responses about roads and access.

Many of the comments related to road access concerns that were previously noted in the Background Report. In general, survey respondents want only minimal improvements to address specific issues in particular areas. Only two respondents want all roads improved while eight want them left as they are.

Those who wanted to keep the *status quo* used phrases such as "Keep 'horrible' routes", "Rough roads keep out people" and "Difficult access (4x4) is a good thing". The areas with problems that were noted most often were:

Frisken Lake: (9) state of access road - 6, state of culvert – 3. Black Lake: (5) state of access road.

The state of the access road to Ernest Lake was mentioned four times with two suggestions for walk-in access only; the state of the access road to Bulman Lake and John Frank Lake were each mentioned three times.

The resort owner mentioned that he has 4 or 5 parties each year come to the resort to use the phone to call for a tow truck to tow their vehicle out of the park.

Outdoor Recreation Management

The survey confirmed the popularity of Roche Lake as the premier destination in the park. 60 out of 63 respondents said they use Roche Lake; the next most-often mentioned lakes were Bog and Black lakes with 25 and John Frank with 21 responses. It also confirmed that a large proportion of visitors are from the coast: 26 respondents out of a total of 63. Fishing was the most popular activity, with walking, camping and wildlife viewing next.

Some respondents commented that they want the park to be maintained “as is”, with comments including “not like Tunkwa”. Some respondents mentioned that there have been no improvements since fees were introduced, with overcrowding, lack of water and outhouses. A need for supervision was mentioned by 12 respondents, with 8 of them in reference to ATVs, dirt bikes and quads.

There were also many suggestions for specific improvements at the managed campsites, in particular at Roche Lake North where the ground is sloping and there are few identified campsites. The need for running water is a recurring theme for those who are not self-contained; outhouses were mentioned a few times, for both the managed campsites and the outer lakes. Boat launch improvements were mentioned, as well as, the need for day use launching space.

Eight responses were received from visitors who use the park for hiking, bird-watching and cross-country skiing. Their comments included suggestions for hiking trails, walk-in access to some lakes, and a lakeside trail around Roche Lake.

Appendix 2: Appropriate Uses Table

The following table lists existing and potential future uses in the park. This is not an exhaustive list of uses that may be considered in this park.

The table summarizes the uses which the management planning process has confirmed are not appropriate in the park. The table also gives a general indication of the management direction for other uses. The table must be reviewed in conjunction with the other sections of the management plan, including the role descriptions, vision, objectives and strategies.

Appropriate Use Table for Roche Lake Park

Activity/Facility	Appropriate in Intensive Recreation Zone	Appropriate in Nature Recreation Zone	Comments
Activity			
Aircraft Access	Y	Y	
Boating (power)	Y	Y	
Boating (non-power)	Y	Y	
Camping (remote)	N/A	Y	
Camping – auto accessible	Y	Y	
Fishing	Y	Y	
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	Y	Y	
Grazing (domestic livestock)	Y ¹	Y ¹	
Guide Outfitting	Y	Y	
Horse Use/ Pack Animals (not exotic)	Y	Y	
Hunting	N	Y	
Off-road Access (non-mechanical - dog sleds, horse sleds)	Y	Y	
Off-road Access (mechanical activities)	Y	Y	Allowed on primitive roads only in nature recreation zone.
Off-road Access (motorised - not snowmobiles)	Y	Y	On designated roads and trails only.
Off-road Access (snowmobiling)	Y	Y	Allowed on primitive roads only
Pack Animals (exotic)	N	N	
Skiing (downhill and cross-country track based)	N	N	
Cross Country Skiing (other)	Y	Y	
Trapping	Y ¹	Y ¹	

Activity/Facility	Appropriate in Intensive Recreation Zone	Appropriate in Nature Recreation Zone)	Comments
Facility			
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	Y	N	
Backcountry Huts and Shelters	N/A	N	
Boat Launches	Y	Y	
Campgrounds and Picnic Areas (vehicle access and serviced)	Y	N	
Campgrounds (other)	N/A	Y	Primitive sites on remote lakes in nature recreation zone.
Interpretation and Information Buildings	Y	N	
Roads and Parking Lots	Y	Y	Primitive roads to provide access to remote lakes only.
Ski Hills and Snowplay Areas	N	N	
Lodges and Other Serviced Accommodation	N	N	Lodge on private land in-holding
Trails (hiking, cross-country skiing)	Y	Y	
Utility Corridors (power/transmission lines and other rights-of-way)	Y ¹	Y ¹	
Water Control Structures	N	N	

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 or 31 of the Park Act	Indicates that the use is not normally appropriate in a protected area but was either occurring pursuant to an encumbrance or Crown authorization at the time the protected area was designated, or was authorized by BC Parks prior to July 13, 1995, and is allowed to continue.
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).