

Skeena District

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

July 2000

for Seeley Lake
Provincial Park



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division



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Environment,
Lands and Parks

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MEMORANDUM

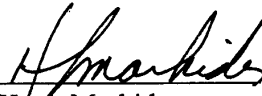
HIGHWAY 16 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS - BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

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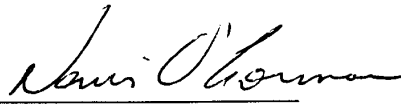
This binder contains 11 management direction statements developed by BC Parks. These protected areas are all long established, some parks existing since the early 1950s. The 11 management direction statements provide strategic direction for these protected areas. Protected areas' roles, strategies and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, implemented through operations plans, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

- Diana Lake Park
- Driftwood Canyon Park
- Ethel F. Wilson Park
- Kleanza Creek Park
- Lakelse Lake Park
- Pendleton Bay Park
- Prudhomme Lake Park
- Red Bluff Park
- Ross Lake Park
- Seeley Lake Park
- Tyhee Lake Park

Approved by:


Hugh Markides
District Manager
Skeena District

Date: 6 July 2000


Denis O'Gorman
Assistant Deputy Minister
Parks Division

Date: 2000.07.17



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Introduction

Purpose of Management Direction Statements

Management Direction Statements provide strategic management direction for all protected areas that do not have a full management plan. MDS do not negate the need for future, more detailed management plans. Management Direction Statements also describe protected area values, management issues and concerns; management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies; and, directional statements from other planning processes.

Setting and Context

Seeley Lake Park covers 24 ha on the north shore of Seeley Lake, 10 km west of the Hazelton communities (area population ~7,000; Figure 1). Highway 16 bisects the park. The park lies within the asserted traditional territory of the Gitxsan First Nation.

The park, established in 1956, protects lakeshore forest and marsh habitat and provides recreation and camping opportunities for local residents and Highway 16 travelers. Hazelton residents use the park for swimming and picnicking. Due to the small size of the park and to the proximity of the highway, most campers are en-route travelers. The nearest BC Parks campgrounds are about 100km in either direction along Highway 16 (Kleanza Creek to the west; Tyhee Lake to the east). Nearby Ross Lake Park provides day-use recreation opportunities, including hiking, a beach and non-motorised boating.

Protected Area Attributes

Conservation

- remnant Nass Ranges Ecosection; ICHmc2 (moist, cold interior cedar-hemlock subzone, Hazelton variant)
- marsh habitat—ideal nesting site for waterfowl and other birds; breeding habitat for loons and American bitterns (blue-listed)
- native cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden and bull trout (blue-listed) populations

Recreation and Tourism

- en-route camping on travel corridor
- lake and lakeshore recreation opportunities (swimming, picnicking, canoeing, fishing, waterfowl viewing)

Cultural Heritage

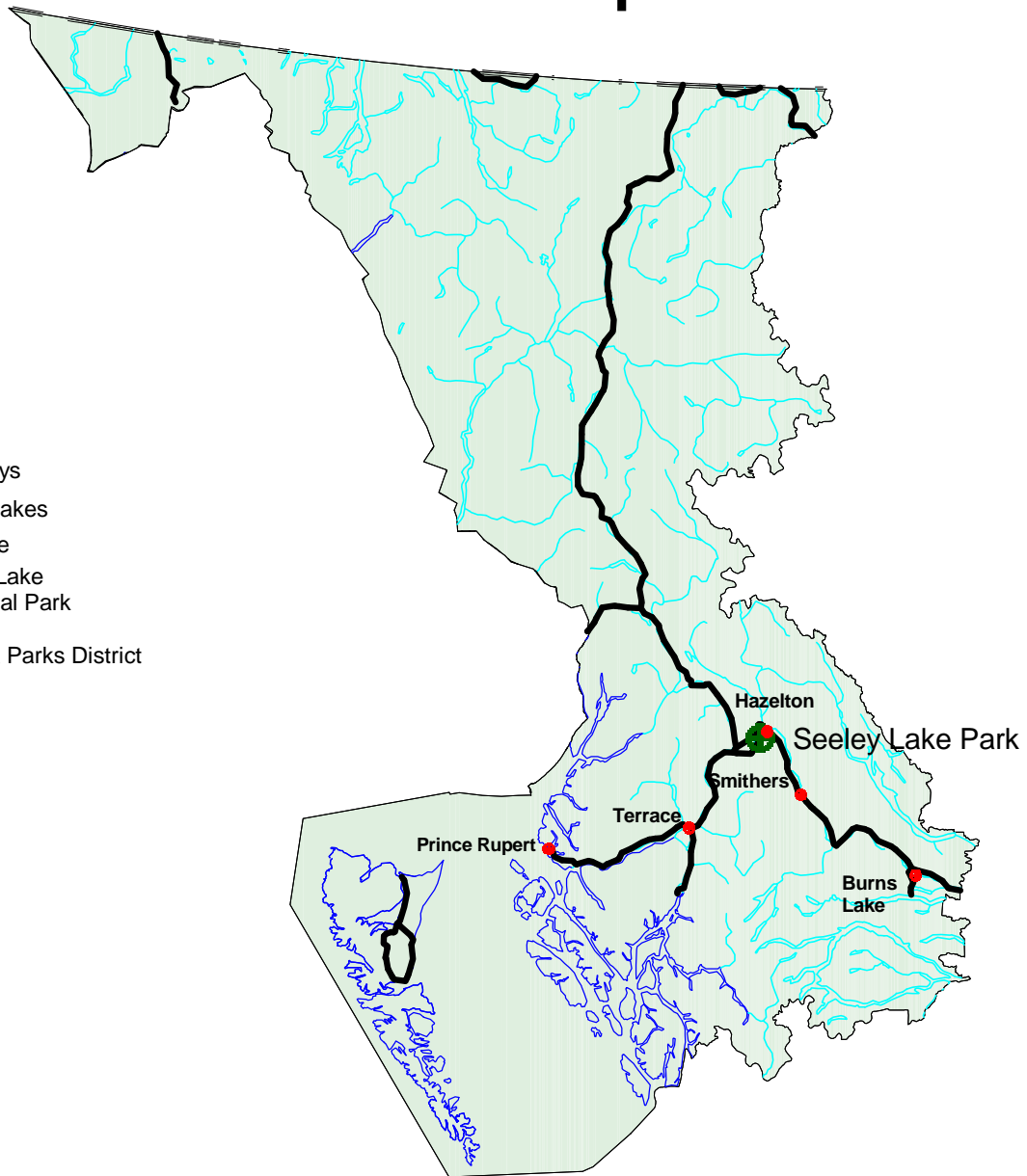
- The Gitxsan First Nation knows about a number of cultural heritage features. The Gitxsan have expressed concern about sharing these features with BC Parks in the absence of a co-management agreement.

Significance in the Protected Areas System

- protects remnant valley-bottom lake ecosystem in Nass Ranges Ecosection (high priority, underrepresented ecosection)
- provides easily accessible lake and lakeshore recreation for regional residents and travelling visitors
- provides accommodation for travelers along Highway 16 corridor

Figure 1 – Context Map

Seeley Lake Provincial Park Locator Map



Legend

- Highways
- Rivers/Lakes
- Coastline
- Seeley Lake Provincial Park
- Skeena Parks District

0 100 200 300 Kilometers

Scale 1:6,000,000

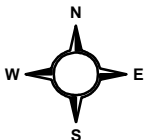


Figure 2 – Park Map



Seeley Lake Provincial Park

To Hazelton
8 km.

LEGEND

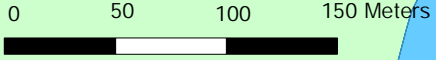
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Trail
- Marsh
- Information
- Parking
- Picnic Site
- Campsites
- Viewing Platform

To Terrace
132 km.

16

Seeley Lake

Beach Area



Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

Highway 16 passes directly through the park. The campground and day-use area lies to the south of the highway.

Existing Tenures

- BC Hydro right-of-way

Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities

- 4 picnic tables in day-use area, 20 parking stalls
- 20 pad and spur campsites
- pit toilets, water pump
- marsh viewing platform

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- four ha of private land lies south of Seeley Lake (lot 1, plan 3807 within DL 1382)
- private land lies to the west (DL 1380, Blk B; DL 1381 NE quarter) and east (DL 1379, SE quarter)
- crown land lies to the north (DL 1379, top half of SW quarter) and south (DL 1382, excepting lot 1, plan 3907)
- a UREP reserve (use and recreational enjoyment of the public) lies to the south of, but not adjacent to, the park (within DL 1382)

First Nations Interests

- asserted traditional territory of the Gitksan First Nation - Gitksan Chiefs include Nikateen and Spookw
- the Nikateen House has taken the position that co-management and adequate funding to support co-management is required prior to discussing particular issues within the park.

Other Agency Interests

- BC Environment has an interest in the fishery

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- recreational users: swimmers, picnickers, anglers, boaters
- local residents: Hazelton communities
- naturalists
- Skeena Trails Society (planning to upgrade and build trails in the Hazelton area)
- K'San campground
- adjacent private land owners

Role of Seeley Lake Park

Seeley Lake Park serves moderately important conservation and recreation roles. Although the park is small (24 ha), it protects important waterfowl breeding habitat in its lake and marshes. The park does not, however, protect surrounding forested ecosystems, and the conservation value is limited by the proximity of a major highway.

Seeley Lake Park provides easily accessible day-use lake and lakeshore recreation for regional residents and travelling visitors. Because of its location next to the highway, the park does not attract destination visitors, but is well used by Highway 16 travelers. The lake and marsh ecosystems also provide interpretive opportunities.

Management Commitments and Issues

Direction from Previous Planning

Seeley Lake Park has been managed as a Class A Park since 1956. Annual Management Plans provide year-to-year direction.

Management Issues

The following management issues require attention:

Theme	Issue
Protecting ecological values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• inventory of flora and fauna is incomplete• motorised water traffic poses significant risk to marsh ecosystem (wave action impacts habitat; waterfowl may be displaced)• status of fish populations is unknown (particularly important given accessibility and small size of lake); BC Environment is concerned about cutthroat trout recruitment• water level can fluctuate due to beavers
Protecting recreational values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lake is too small to designate defined swimming and boating areas
Protecting cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• significance of cultural features is unknown
First Nations Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gitksan desire for co-management and involvement in park operations
Park operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• currently no toilet facilities accessible to disabled travelers in well-used park on Highway corridor• facilities deteriorating

Management Strategy

The following table describes management strategies to deal with outstanding issues raised. In addition, figure 1 contains a list of acceptable land and resource uses for this park.

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure Seeley Lake Park is safe for public use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow Hazard Tree Guidelines Monitor electric-motor-only boat restriction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect the park's natural values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate significance of flora and fauna; prepare Ecology Information Summary Monitor electric-motor-only boating restriction and enforce if required Develop and post interpretative signage documenting importance of area to waterfowl Quantify park-based angling activity if requested by BC Environment Discuss concerns about trout recruitment, and possible management options, with BC Environment Encourage compliance with angling regulations; maintain a posting of BC sport angling regulations at the park information board, particularly daily and possession limits for char and trout Consider developing Conservation Stewardship program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect the park's 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 Gitxsan interest and desire)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve First Nations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with the Gitxsan under the Gitxsan –British Columbia reconciliation agreement Finalize BC Parks consultation appendix as part of the reconciliation agreement Follow ministry guidelines on consultation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop and maintain standard facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain facilities to BC Parks standards; complete Facility Management Strategy covering repair and replacement of deteriorating facilities; detail maintenance in Annual Management Plans Consider improving disabled access
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce Ross/Seeley deficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider strategies for Ross and Seeley Lake Parks together; review recommendations given in Highway 16 Overview Analysis Maintain good relationship with community about needs for campsites

Consultation and Future Planning

Good relationships with local communities are crucial in maintaining the park's good reputation and attracting repeat visitors. BC Parks has committed to being involved in the reconciliation agreement between the Gitxsan First Nation and the British Columbia Government and will continue to the extent resources allow. BC Parks will discuss plans to add or remove campsites with the Hazelton communities and Gitxsan people.

The priority for preparing a management plan for Seeley Lake Park is ranked as low.

Preliminary Zoning

The parcel to the south of Highway 16, including the campground and day-use area, is zoned as Intensive Recreation. The undeveloped parcel to the north of Highway 16 is zoned as Natural Environment (Figure 3 - Zoning Map).

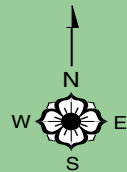
Figure 3 – Zoning



Seeley Lake Provincial Park

To Hazelton
8 km.

- LEGEND**
- Major Road
 - Minor Road
 - Trail
 - Intensive Recreation Zone
 - Natural Environment Zone
 - Marsh
 - Campsites
 - Parking
 - Information
 - Picnic Site
 - Marsh Viewing Platform

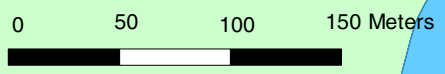


To Terrace
132 km.

16

Seeley Lake

Beach Area



Appendix - Activity/Use Matrix for Seeley Lake Park

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptable Uses
Aboriginal Rights	Y
Hunting	N
Fishing	Y
Trapping	N
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational gold panning/rock hounding	N
Utility corridors	N2
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	N1
Fish stocking and enhancement	N1
Road access	Y
Off-road access (snowmobiling)	N
Off-road access (motorised)	N
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	N
Motorised water access (<i>electric only</i>)	Y
Aircraft access	N
Fire management (suppression)	Y
Fire management (prescribed fire management)	N
Fire management (prevention)	Y
Forest insect/disease control	M
Noxious weed control	M
Exotic insect/disease control	M
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