

SIKANNI CHIEF FALLS PROTECTED AREA

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

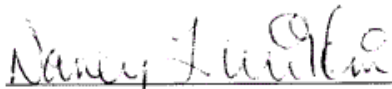
February 2004

Approved by:



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Date: Oct 28 / 03



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Date: February 16 / 04

**SIKANNI CHIEF FALLS PROTECTED AREA
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan**

Sikanni Chief Falls Protected Area is located approximately 200 kilo metres northwest of Fort St. John. The falls are approximately 15 kilometres west of the Alaska Highway and may be accessed by gravel road. The site was established as a protected area under the *Environment and Land Use Act* in 2001 to allow for directional drilling for petroleum and natural gas and for the continuation of a sand and gravel pit as directed by the Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Sikanni Chief Falls Protected Area is to protect the natural, historic and scenic values of the falls and surrounding area. Sikanni Chief Falls Protected Area is representative of the Muskwa Plateau Ecoregion and the Boreal White and Black Spruce moist warm, Fort Nelson variant (BWBSmw2).

An important historic site, this protected area and the surrounding region have been the focus of paleontological excavations for dinosaur fossils. The protected area also supports a year round mountain goat population, with important mineral licks nearby. The Sikanni Chief Falls are considered by regional staff to have significant value as a naturally occurring waterfall. There has also been a historic First Nations presence in the area, however, details are currently unknown.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role of the protected area is to maintain the wilderness setting and traditional wilderness recreation and tourism opportunities. A 1.5 kilo metre trail from the parking lot (trailhead) leads to a viewpoint adjacent to the falls. The falls and its associated historical and wildlife values are of special interest to paleontologists and other naturalists. The trail is well marked and is a hiking trail only. The protected area provides opportunities for study, viewing and appreciation of the natural and cultural values of the protected area.

Sikanni Chief Falls Protected Area is considered a small area, nevertheless it provides a wonderful opportunity for fishing, mountain goat viewing, hiking, hunting, photography and appreciation of the falls.

Known Management Issues	Response
Wildlife/human interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain records of wildlife occurrences and wildlife-human interactions, ensure appropriate waste management and disposal within the protected area (e.g. bear safe waste containers)
Human safety – around the falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain appropriate signage
Gravel pit presence in protected area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reclamation of the site once abandoned

Zoning

The entire protected area (605 hectares) is zoned Special Feature.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection

Contributes minimally to the representation of the Muskwa Plateau Ecosection. This ecosection is under-represented (3.41%) in the protected areas system. Sikanni Chief Falls Protected Area contributes only 0.92% of the overall protected area representation of this ecosection.

- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Contributes minimally to the representation of BWBSmw2 which is under-represented in the protected areas system (2.18%). Sikanni Chief Falls Protected Area contributes only 0.54% of the protected areas system representation of this biogeoclimatic variant.

Special Feature

X Sikanni Chief Falls is a significant natural waterfall, and contributes to the protection of a small but important goat population.

Rare/Endangered Values

Scientific/Research Opportunities

X Paleontology and geology of area; historical significance

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

X Old Forest Service site; river fishing, hiking, photography, viewing Sikanni Chief Falls

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

First Nations; cultural value is unknown

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Gravel extraction still occurs under permit.

Partnerships

Possibly the Royal Tyrrell Museum

Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

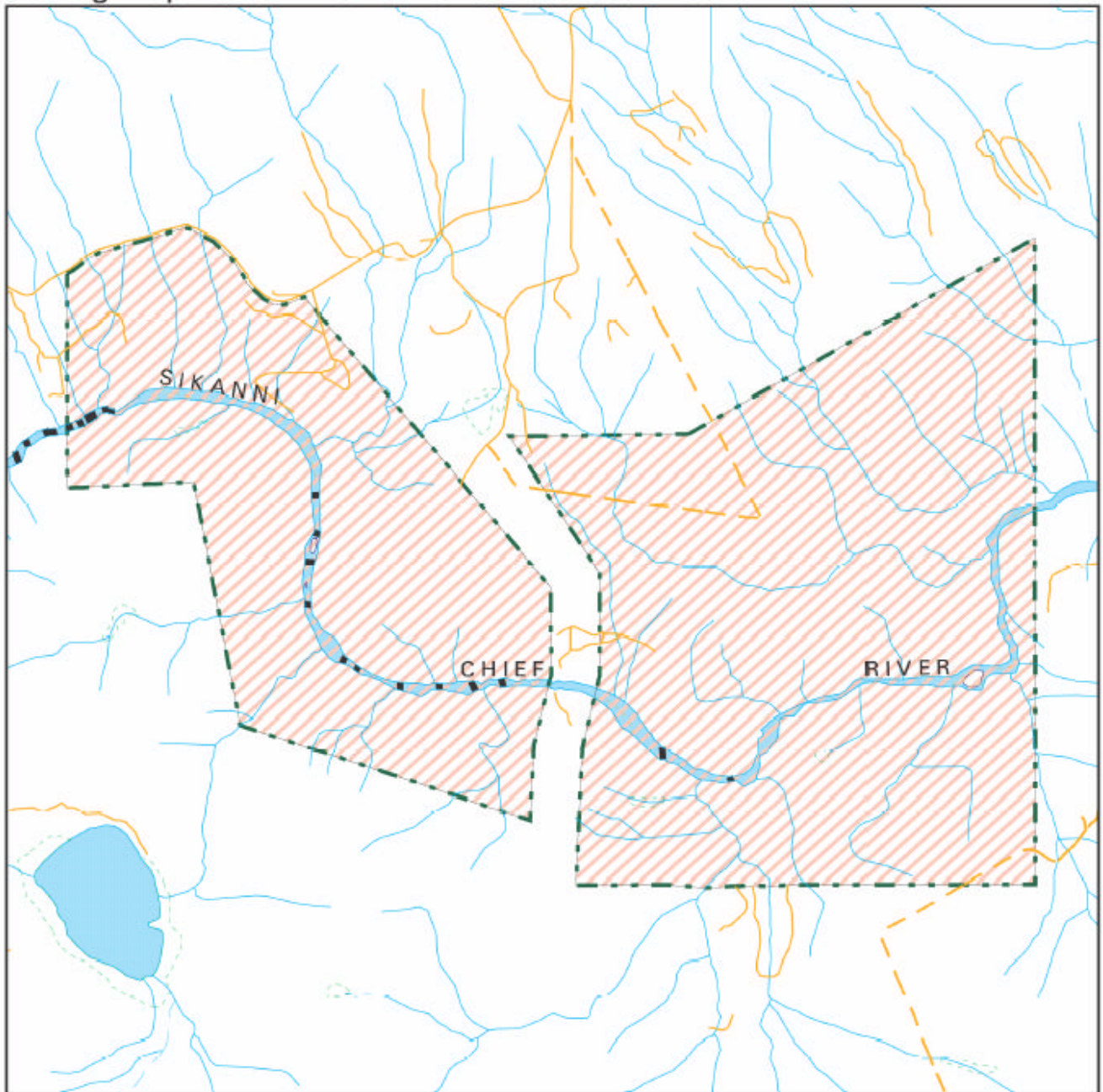
X Established in 2001 as a result of the Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).

Date of establishment:

January 25, 2001



Area: 605 hectares

Zoning Map - Sikanni Chief Falls Protected Area



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



 Intensive Recreation
 Protected Area Boundary



Produced in Apr 2003 for
Ministry of Water, Land and Air
Protection by MSR, Decision
Support Services

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