SIKANNI OLD GROWTH PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN Peace Region 2006

Approved by:

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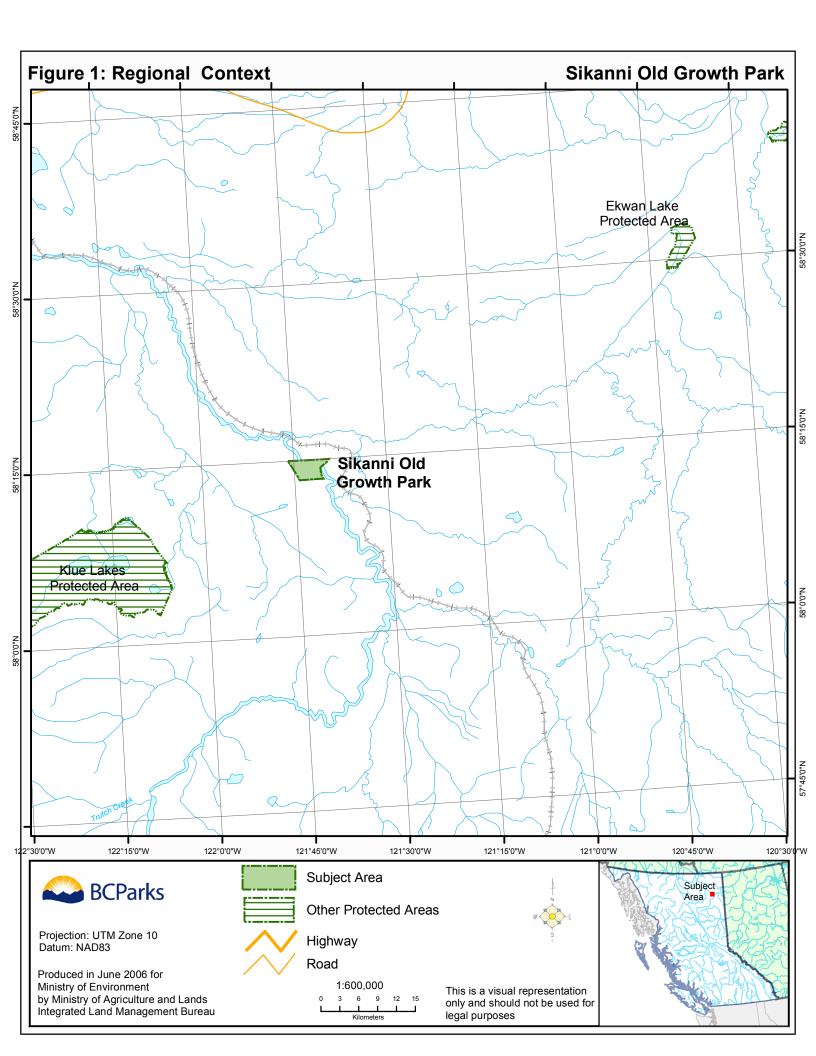
Nancy Wilkin

Assistant Deputy Minister

Environmental Stewardship Division

ate: July 13 2006

Date: Ochhus 2006



SIKANNI OLD GROWTH PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of the Sikanni Old Growth Provincial Park is to protect alluvial old-growth white spruce along the Sikanni Chief River. These large diameter spruce provide high quality wildlife habitat. Backcountry recreation in this area is limited due to difficult access. During the summer months the surrounding area is impassable due to the muskeg. Winter roads are one of the few means available for access to this remote northern park. The park is located about 100 kilometres south of Fort Nelson on the lower reaches of the Sikanni Chief River.

Known Management Issues	Response
Historic forest harvesting in some areas of the park, with second growth now established.	Monitor second growth to determine whether silviculture treatment is necessary to mimic natural regeneration patterns.
Wildfire could damage or eliminate the old growth stands the area was designated to protect	Work with the Ministry of Forests to ensure fire suppression plans in the area take into account the values of the old growth stands in the park.
Forest harvesting and oil and gas development on adjacent lands may impact park values.	Work with the Oil and Gas Commission, the Ministry of Forests and tenure holders to ensure that resource development does not impair park values.

Zoning:

The park is zoned Special Feature with management emphasis on the conservation of the old growth White Spruce for which the area was protected.

Denvergentation	Conserv	ation
Representation - ecosection		Sikanni Chief Old Growth includes 12% of the provincial representation of the Fort Nelson Lowlands ecosection, which is 0.47% protected throughout the province.
biogeoclimatic subzone/variant		The Protected Area includes a special feature within the Boreal White and Black Spruce, moist warm (BWBSmw 2) variant 2.18% of this variant is protected province wide, of which Sikanni Chief Old Growth represents 0.9% of the area.
Special Feature	\boxtimes	Old growth white spruce in an area heavily modified by forestry
Rare/Endangered Values		
Scientific/Research Opportunities		
_	Recrea	tion
Representation Backcountry Destination Travel corridor Local recreation Special Opportunities		
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		
	Cultural H	eritage
Representation		Unknown. This park lies within the area traditionally used by the First Nations of Treaty 8.
Special Feature		
Other Mar	nagement	: Considerations
Other Designations		
Relationship to other PAs		
Collaborative Management		
Arrangements		This park will, once the agreement is signed, be subject to the Memorandum of

	Agreement respecting the management of provincial parks between the Government of BC and the Treaty 8 First Nations.
Partnerships	
Vulnerability	
Relationship to other Strategies	This park was identified as a goal 2 (special feature) park through the Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plan.
Area:	1439 hectares
Date of establishment:	June 29, 1999

