

S I L V E R L A K E
P R O V I N C I A L P A R K

M A S T E R P L A N

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Parks





Province of
British Columbia


SOUTH COAST REGION

Ministry of
Parks

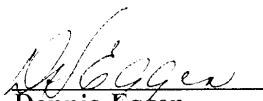
MEMORANDUM

Mr. George Trachuk
Regional Director
South Coast Region

This five year review of the 1985 Master Plan for Silver Lake Provincial Park is submitted for your consideration and approval. The review has resulted in no substantive changes to either the role of the park or the management of the park's resources.

for 
Mel H. Turner
Manager, Planning
and Conservation Services

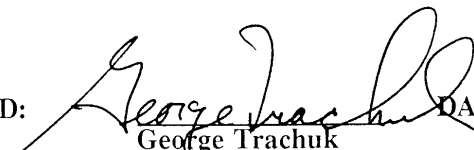
RECOMMENDED:


Dennis Eggen
District Manager
Fraser Valley

DATE:

Dec. 7, 1990

APPROVED:


George Trachuk
Regional Director

DATE:

March 20/91

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SILVER LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

MASTER PLAN

1.0 PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Silver Lake Provincial Park was established in 1964. Its purpose is to provide recreational opportunities such as picnicking, fishing and viewing to travellers en-route to the Skagit Valley Recreation Area and to residents of the area while assisting in the conservation and enhancement of endemic fish species.

There are two main issues to be considered in this plan: the type and level of future development and a boundary addition.

Based on the purpose of this plan and the issues to be addressed, this master plan establishes a set of management guidelines and direction statements. Specifically, the plan recommends:

1. inclusion of Silver Lake into the park boundary;
2. development improvements to provincial standards.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Plan Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to initiate and guide the development and management of day and overnight recreational facilities of Silver Lake Provincial Park.

2.2 Background Summary

Silver Lake Provincial Park is located approximately ten (10) kilometres south of Hope. Encompassing 77 hectares, the park consists of a narrow strip of land encircling Silver Lake. The main natural feature of the park is its lake access. Recreation opportunities such as fishing and viewing can be obtained on and along the lake.



Looking south across Silver Lake from main parking area.

3.0 ROLE OF THE PARK

3.1 Regional and Provincial Context

Silver Lake Provincial Park is situated in the middle of the Silverhope Creek drainage (Figure 1), a minor tributary of the Fraser River.

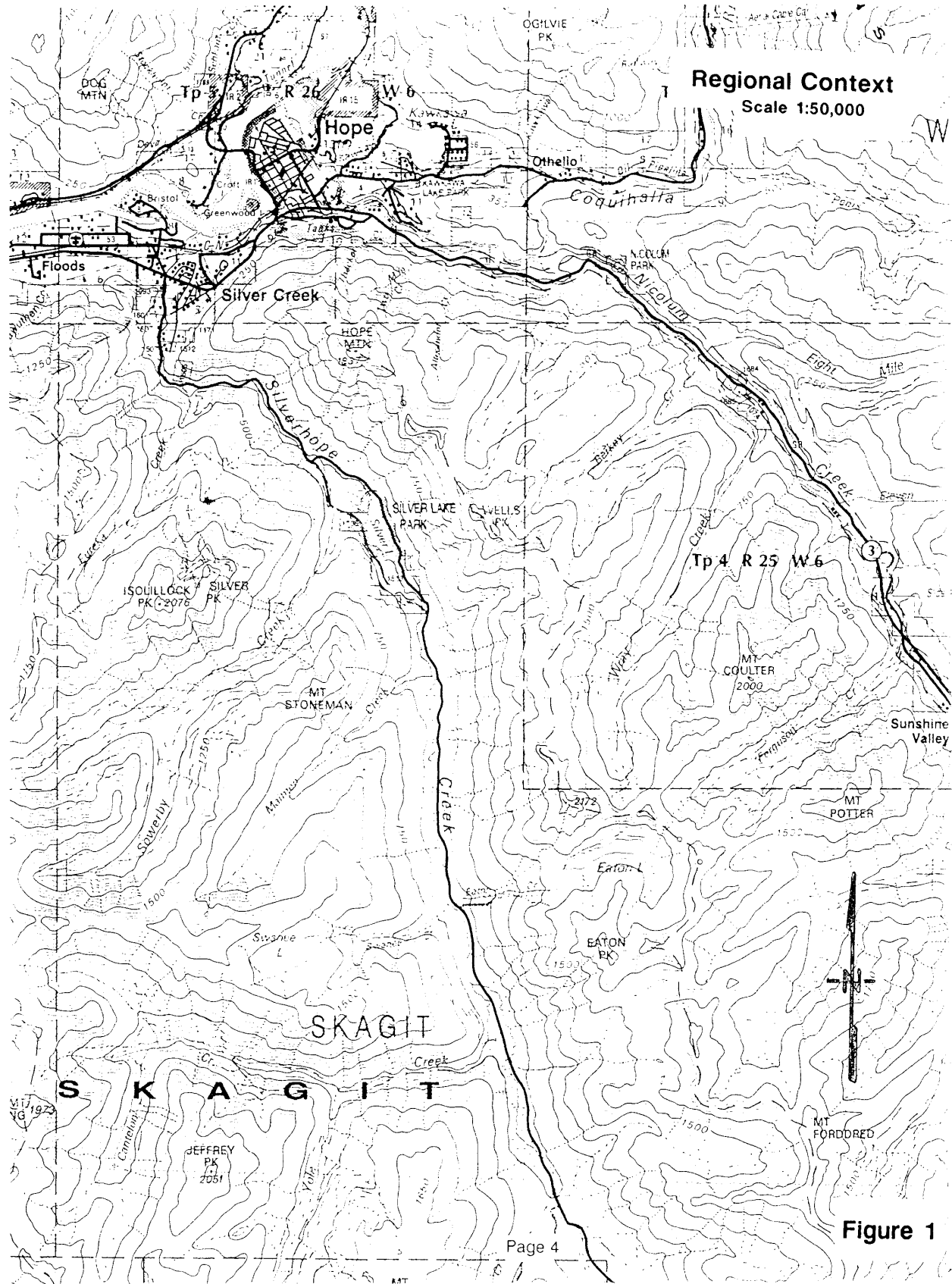
The community of Hope has traditionally used this region to serve their recreational needs for fishing, picnicking, camping and hunting. There are a number of provincial parks and recreation areas throughout this region, including Skagit Valley Recreation Area, situated at the terminus of the Silverhope Valley road.

3.2 Conservation Role

One of the conservation objectives of the Ministry of Parks is to have a park system that contains representative examples of British Columbia's natural landscapes. Although Silver Lake Provincial park is small in size, the park has a conservation role to play in contributing to the conservation of indigenous fish that are living components of the Skagit-Lower Mainland Mountain Regional Landscape. Its contribution lies in the preservation and enhancement of Steelhead, a species endemic to the area. The spawning areas of the lake are of significance in conserving this living component of the natural landscape. Consequently, the conservation role of Silver Lake Provincial Park is to assist in the preservation and enhancement of fish species endemic to Silverhope Creek.

3.3 Recreation Role

One of the objectives of the Ministry of Parks is to provide destination park opportunities. Within this context, the recreation role of Silver Lake Provincial Park is to provide destination opportunities for fishing, picnicking and camping in a lake environment.



4.0 ZONING

To assist in park planning and management, a zoning procedure is used to divide each park or recreation area into logical land and water units based on uniform and consistent management objectives. Zones are intended to reflect future land use, levels of management development required and the level of human activity that is to be accommodated. If the nature of the zone needs to be more specific, then it is broken down into sub zones which give more detail in respect to area, objectives and management guidelines.

Silver Lake Provincial Park has three zones: Natural Environment Zone; Special Feature Zone and Intensive Recreation Zone (Figure 2).

1. **Natural Environment Zone**

The prime objective of the zone is to provide for a variety of recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. At present, use levels are not high and the park site is left primarily in its natural state. Consequently, most of the park, 71 hectares, is zoned as natural environment.

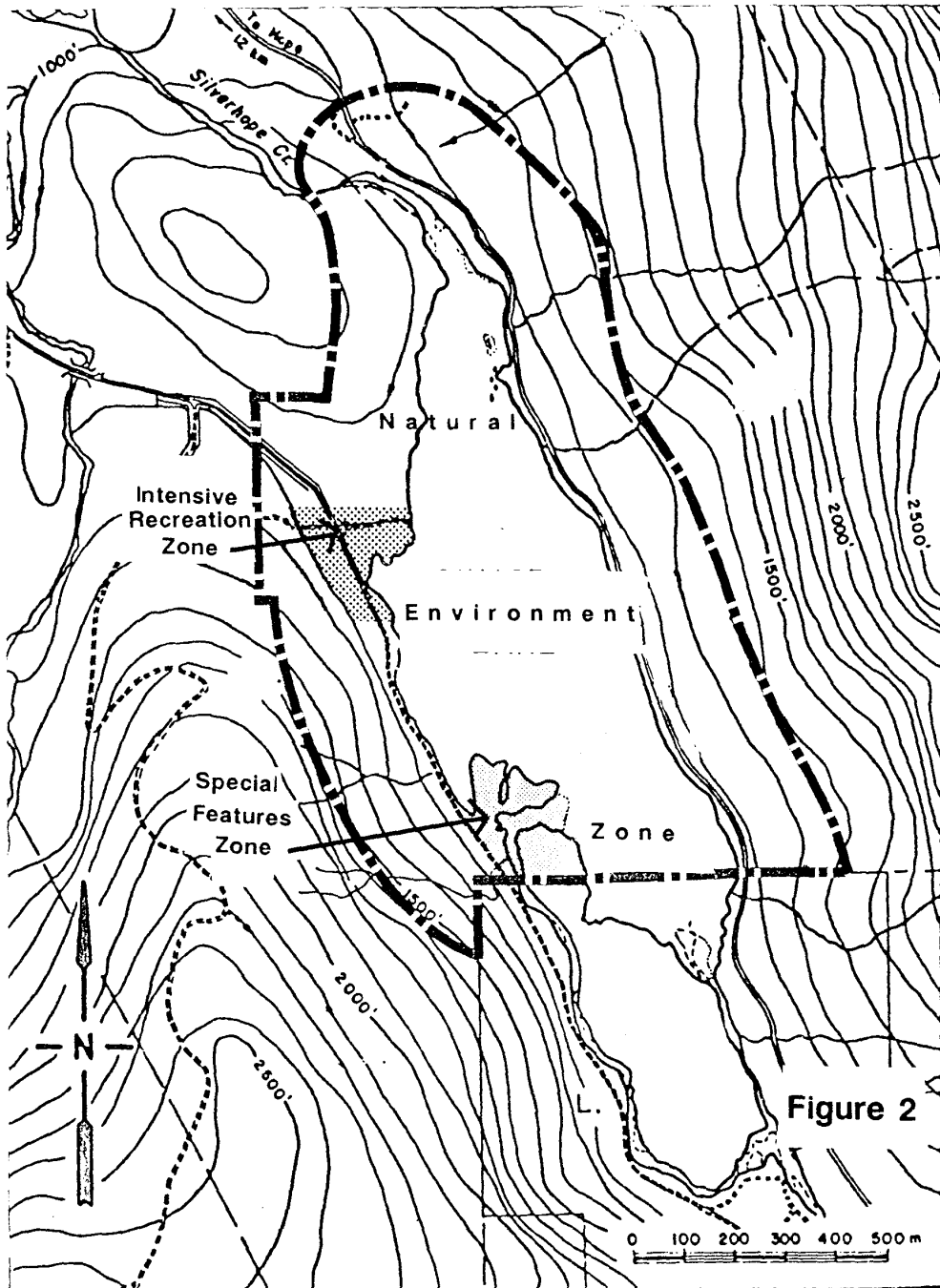
2. **Special Feature Zone**

This zone classification is designated for areas of the park which include natural or cultural resources which should be preserved and presented to the public. The spawning area at the south end of the lake is included in this 3.2 hectare zone.

3. **Intensive Recreation Zone**

The purpose of the Intensive Recreation Zone is to provide for concentrations of high use visitor services facilities. This would include the proposed development area of about 2.8 hectares.

Zoning



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA - MINISTRY OF LANDS, PARKS AND HOUSING - PARKS BRANCH - VICTORIA, B.C.					
DATE	REVISED BY	CHECKED BY	REVISION		
JULY 80	H.M.	G.C.	UPDATE		
			SILVER LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK		
FILE No.	2-7-8-72	DRAWN BY:	B. Som	DATE	Oct/79
HTS No.	92 M/S	CHECKED BY:	D. CARTER	DATE	JULY, 80
				DWG No.	7-5-72
				KEY	

5.0 NATURAL AND HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

5.1 Introduction

The overall management of resources will be based on the *Park Act*, park regulations and ministry policies and the role of Silver Lake Provincial Park in the system of provincial parks and recreation areas.

The resource management objective is to ensure that Ministry of Park's goals are met by:

- protecting the natural resources of the park;
- providing only minimum levels of development opportunities to the existing levels of recreational use;
- monitoring use impacts and resource conditions so that appropriate actions may be taken;
- establishing resource guidelines that will protect the park's recreation and conservation resources.

5.2 Objectives/Actions

5.2.1 Land Management/Boundaries

While Silver Lake is the main feature of the park, it is not included within the park boundary.

OBJECTIVE: Expand the land base to increase recreation opportunities and natural features.

ACTION: Apply to the Ministry of Crown Lands for the addition of Silver Lake into the boundaries of the provincial park.

5.2.2 Mineral Claims

There are no mineral claims within the boundaries of Silver Lake Provincial Park.

5.2.3 Vegetation Management

With the combination of immature and mature shrubs and tree species that comprise the vegetation in the park, it seems improbable that any significant management actions would be required.

OBJECTIVE: To maintain the park's plant communities as a natural dynamic ecosystem and to minimize the impact from recreational uses.

ACTION: Encourage natural regeneration of vegetation in heavy use areas.

5.2.4 Fish Management

The spawning area of Silver Lake is a vulnerable resource and requires high standards of protection.

OBJECTIVE: To conserve and protect the spawning area.

ACTION: Monitor natural damage and potential hazards to spawning areas;

Provide interpretive signing or displays to guide public in understanding the importance of enhancement areas.

5.2.5 Wildlife Management

As the wildlife resources are limited, management issues lie more with the protection of wildlife habitat rather than the management of wildlife.

OBJECTIVES: To maintain, preserve and protect existing wildlife habitat areas of the park.

ACTION: Limit development to areas already disturbed or used by visitors.

6.0 VISITOR MANAGEMENT

6.1 Introduction

Silver Lake Provincial Park is primarily a destination point for residents of the area providing destination recreation opportunities such as fishing, camping and picnicking.

The visitor services concept is to provide facilities for these opportunities which recognizes the traditional informal use by local residents.

6.2 Visitor Opportunities

There are three visitor services opportunities at Silver lake Provincial Park; fishing, camping and picnicking. The objective for each is as follows:

FISHING OBJECTIVE: To provide open water and lakeshore fishing opportunities.

ACTION: See Fish Management.

CAMPING OBJECTIVE: To provide destination camping opportunities in association with lake fishing.

ACTION: Upgrade existing campsites.

PICNICKING OBJECTIVE: To provide lake-oriented picnicking opportunities.

ACTION: Develop a small day-use area complete with picnic tables.

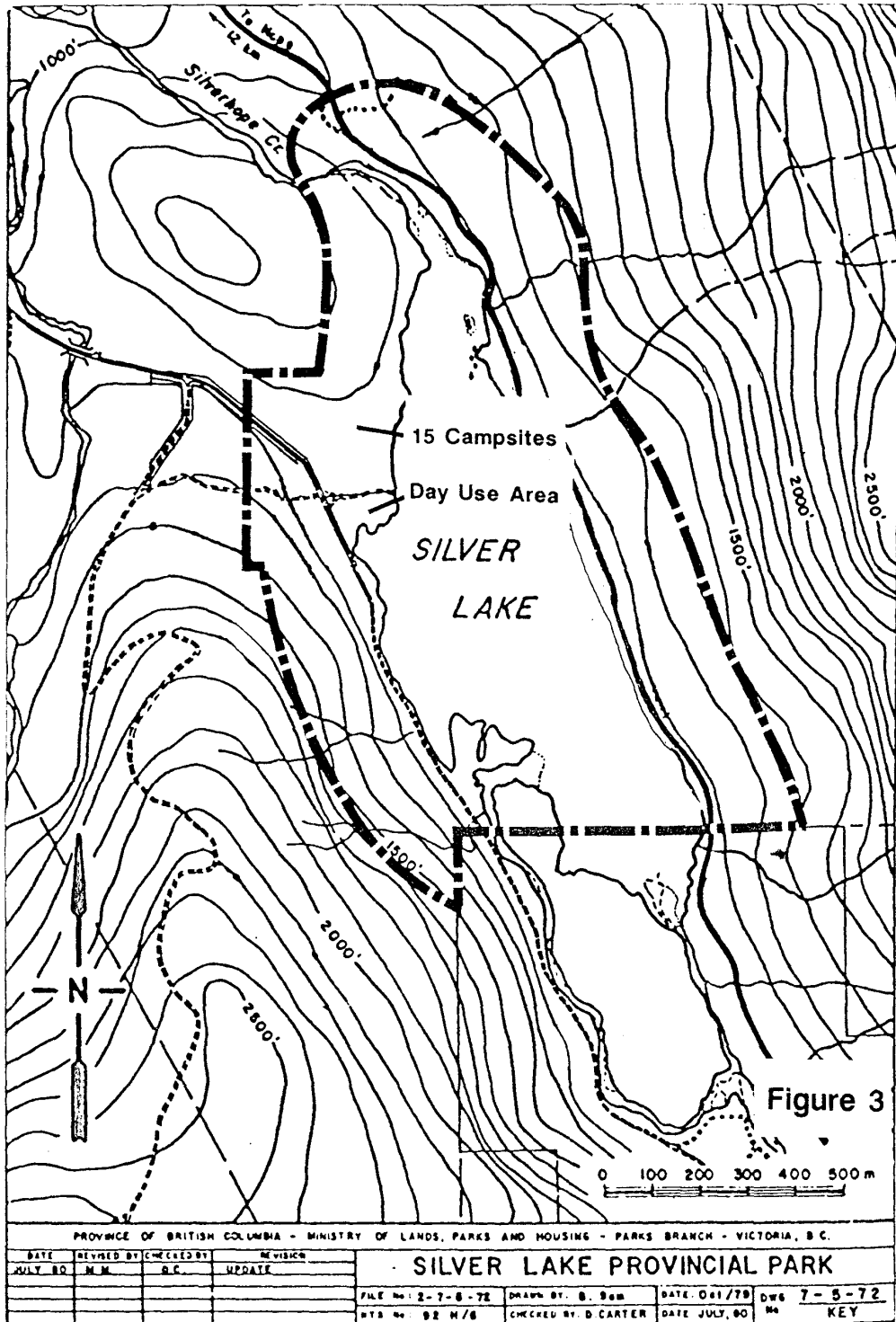
Recreation use will be monitored and these objectives will be reviewed regularly.

6.3 Management Services

i) Headquarters and Service Yard

This park is managed out of the park office at Manning Provincial Park and, in view of the small size of the park, service facilities within the park would not be required.

Proposed Development



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA - MINISTRY OF LANDS, PARKS AND HOUSING - PARKS BRANCH - VICTORIA, B.C.

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JULY 80	M.M.	B.C.	UPDATE

SILVER LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK			
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ii) Site and Facility Design

All facilities will meet the standards of the Ministry of Park. Emphasis will be placed on consideration of safety, visual values and efficient operation, while at the same time, providing aesthetic, durable and cost-effective products.

6.4 Marketing and Information Program

The marketing strategy for this park will be directed towards the user group which has the best potential for increasing park visitation and tourism. This user group has been identified as residents of the immediate area. Secondary target groups such as travellers moving to and from the Skagit Valley Recreation Area, along Silverhope Road, also have good potential for introducing new visitors to the park.

Marketing efforts will promote the natural and recreational features of the park and the surrounding valley emphasizing activities such as fishing, picnicking and viewing. The information presently available is in the form of park brochures and maps that are widely distributed throughout the province, as well as the tourist information centres in Manning Provincial Park and Hope. Other methods of information dissemination would be road signs and maps with information appropriate to the location.

The understanding and awareness of park values can be successfully achieved through the information program.

7.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

1. The proposed list of development is the highest priority and should be implemented as soon as possible to prevent any health hazards, adverse environmental impact and to avoid public dissatisfaction.
 - Develop a 15 unit campsite.
 - Develop a day use/picnic area.
 - Provide interpretive signage.
2. The Silver Lake Addition can be implemented as regional priorities dictate in view of the lack of any conflicting land uses.
3. Marketing of this park will be done when the improvements have been completed.

APPENDIX I

BACKGROUND REPORT

APPENDIX I

BACKGROUND REPORT

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APPENDIX I

BACKGROUND REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Silver Lake is a small Class A, Category 6, Provincial Park located approximately ten (10) kilometres south of Hope, on the Silverhope Valley Road. It is 77 hectares in size. The main attractions of the park are Silver Lake, the fishing opportunities and viewing of the scenery. It is used primarily by local fishermen who tend to stay for the weekend. At present its use levels are relatively high in comparison to the small size of useable area.

2.0 NATURAL AND HERITAGE RESOURCES

2.1 Natural Resources

2.1.1 Physiography

Silver Lake Provincial Park is situated at the north end of the Skagit Valley, near the southern terminus of the Coquihalla Valley. Natural characteristics of this landscape include rounded peaks, and no permanent snowfields. The dominance of Coastal Western Hemlock on the site is characteristic of the Lower Mainland-Skagit Mountain Regional Landscape. The park is situated in a steep valley, with Silver Lake occupying most of the valley. The valley slopes rise in elevation quickly, giving way to bare rock in most places.

2.1.2 Soils

The valley was subject to glacio-fluvial activity, and the recent lacustrine activity has resulted in a variety of soil types, ranging from swampy at the south end of the park to dry silty at the north end. Rocks range in size from pebbles to cobbles with a scattering of boulders at the north end of the park.

2.1.3 Vegetation

The predominant tree species found on the park site are characteristic of the Coastal Western Hemlock Biogeoclimatic Zone. These species include: Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*); Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*); Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*).

The understorey is dominated by Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum pubescens*), Licorice Fern (*Polypody, spp*), Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), Deer Fern (*Struthiopteris spicant*), Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) and mosses.

At the southern end of the park, Devil's Club (*Oplopanax horridus*), Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton kamtschatcense*), and Meadow Horsetail (*Equisetium pratense*) are common, while at the northern end, Trailing Rubus (*Rubus pedatus*) and Prickly Rose (*Rosa asicularis*) can be found.

2.1.4 Climate

The climate in the area is noted for its unexpected dryness at the valley floor. The moist winds moving from the southwest strike the Picket Range of 2500 - 3000 m peaks, and Mt. Baker to the west, and drop most of their moisture. This rainshadow effect is more typical to the east slopes of the Cascades. The average annual precipitation is 789 mm. Higher up the mountain slopes the precipitation is much greater. Most of the precipitation falls as snow from October to May, varying from .3 m to 1.5 m but averaging about .6 m. Snow on the ground remains until late April on the valley floor and until July at the high reaches. Average mean monthly temperatures vary from 3.9⁰C in January to 19.4⁰C in July. This compares to 0.5⁰C and 18.6⁰C (January to July) for Hope and 7.8⁰C and 17.4⁰C for Princeton. Summer highs can reach to 37.8⁰C.

2.1.5 Fish and Wildlife

a) Fish

In 1978, the Fish and Wildlife Branch began a Salmonoid Enhancement Program for Silverhope Creek in the National Second Century Fund Conservation Area south of the lake. Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) have since returned to spawn, and because the access to the stream is good, the potential for viewing is high. Other fish available to the angler are Dolly Varden (*Salmo confluentus*) and Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*).

b) Wildlife

Due to the small area of the park, the wildlife is limited in diversity and quantity of species. The park food and habitat limitations, primarily serves the needs of small resident mammals such as squirrels, chipmunks and raccoons. Transient mammals have been recorded however, including black-tail deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and black bear (*Ursus americanus*). In the spring and fall, the valley is part of a migration route for many bird species.

2.1.6 Visual/Outdoor Recreation Features

Silver Lake, although not included in the park, is the primary recreation feature, covering over 35 hectares. The lake is protected from wind and has a few deadheads. There are several small sandy beaches, stabilized by reed grass, which provides sunbathing, swimming and boat launching opportunities.

A small waterfall at the outlet of the lake is easily accessible by foot and an old logging road provides access to all parts of the western half of the park. A small knoll at the north end of the park provides a view over the lake. Mount Hope is visible from most points in the park.

2.2 Heritage Resources

While native fishing did occur in the area, no heritage resources are known to be associated with this park.

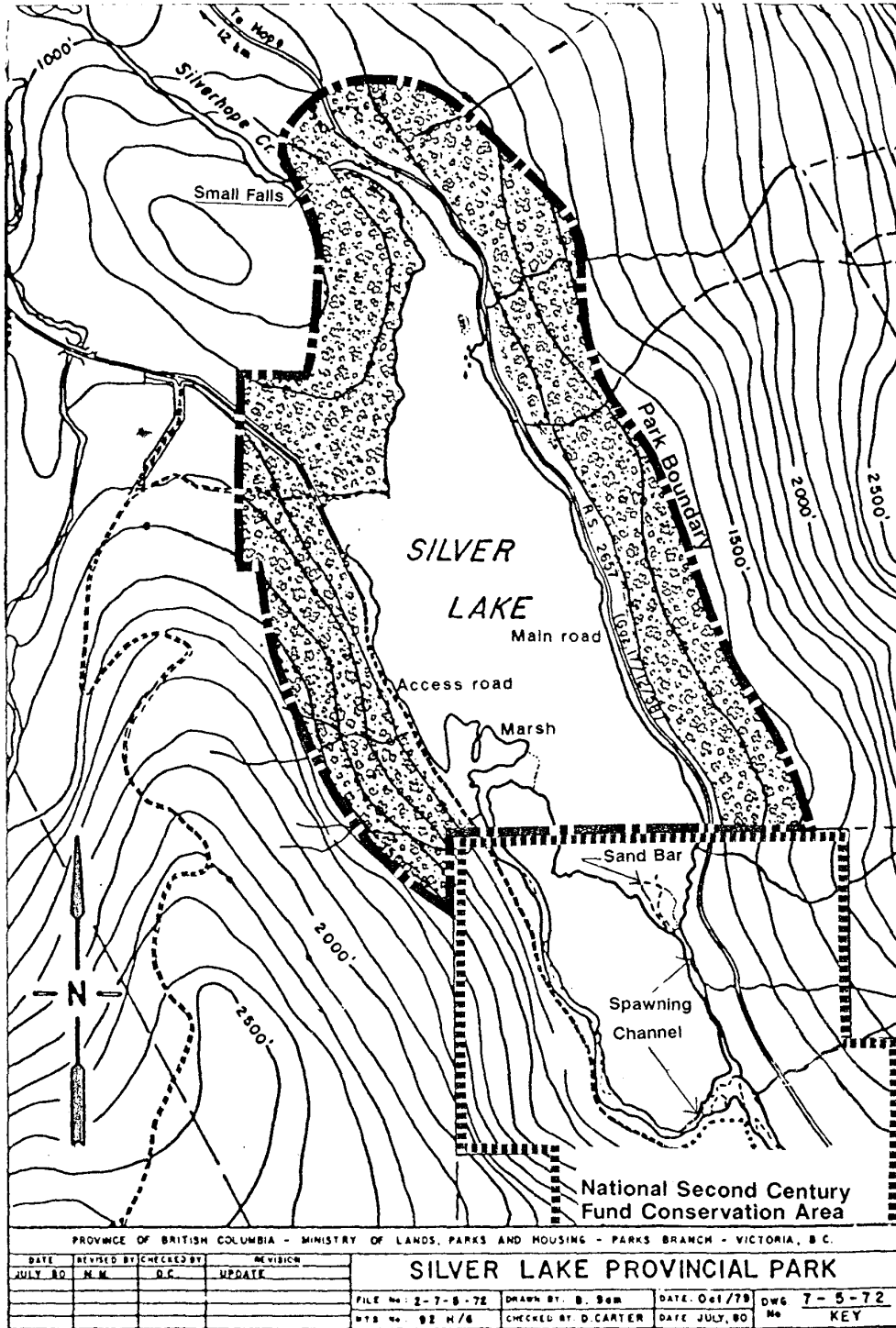
2.3 Resource Analysis

The natural resources of Silver Lake Provincial Park serve the Ministry of Parks goals of conservation and recreation by assisting in the conservation and enhancement of endemic fish species and by providing roadside recreational activities. The park's easy access from the Town of Hope, its scenic location and the quality of its fishing are the main attractions of the site.

Some natural resources contribute to serving the recreation goal in specific ways. The present vegetation provides a natural setting for picnicking, camping and seclusion. An abundance of vine and broadleaf maples provide habitat for birds and also serve as a fall attraction.

Existing Features

Figure 3



3.0 TENURES, OCCUPANCY RIGHTS AND JURISDICTIONS

Lease Permits:	None
Fee Simple Inholdings:	None
Forest Tenures:	None
Water Rights:	None
Right-of-Ways:	Department of Highways road R/ W #2657
Mining Claims:	None
Trespasses:	None
Statutory Jurisdictions:	None Special Regulations:
Fishing Regulations	Seasonal and dependant upon conditions
Boating Regulations	10 hp motor limit

4.0 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The main recreational opportunities are fishing, picnicking and camping. Existing facilities are very primitive, consisting of a gravel parking area and several cleared areas used for camping.



Cleared tent site openings adjacent to access road.

5.0 MARKET ANALYSIS

5.1 Existing Use

Park attendance is recorded through camper car count sheets. Although the figures are very general, they do give a rough indication that some 2,000 party nights occur annually. Surprisingly, despite the lack of developed facilities and public information, the use is higher than that recorded at Nicolum River, a developed provincial campground on Highway #3.

5.2 Demand

There is very little evidence of demand for recreational opportunities at Silver Lake. However, given the popularity of the park by fishermen over the last ten (10) years, it is anticipated that the demand will continue to come from the fishing public.

5.3 Supply

There are a total of 1294 campsites within about a one hour radius of the park. Of these, 528 are within four provincial parks. There are a total of 1590 day-use parking sites within seven local provincial parks. All of these provincial parks offer fishing opportunities as well as picnicking opportunities. Three of these, including Silver Lake Provincial Park, offer swimming opportunities. The following matrix summarizes the supply of public and private recreational opportunities in the vicinity.

6.0 KEY ISSUES

6.1 Types and Levels of Development

Although the park is well used despite the lack of developed facilities, development improvements would enhance existing opportunities and encourage a wider range of different visitors. The following are the main options.

Option I - Maintain Status Quo

To maintain the present situation could result in significant impact on park vegetation in view of the high levels of use and lack of facilities. In addition, park use could potentially pose sanitary and health problems.

Option II - Develop More Use Opportunities and Services

At present, there is no great demand for more recreational opportunities or services; however, visitors have begun to express concerns about the apparent state of neglect that they feel the park is in.

6.2 Boundary Additions

Silver Lake is the most significant recreation feature of the park but it is not included in the park boundary.

OPTION I - MAINTAIN STATUS QUO

Given that the land around the lake is protected under the *PARK ACT* or private nature preserve and that there have been no issues or concerns raised about the lake since it was designated, maintaining the status quo would appear to have little consequence.

OPTION II - INCLUDE SILVER LAKE INTO THE PARK BOUNDARY

This option ensures management control and protection over the main park feature. While there may be little or no benefit in the foreseeable future to include this feature in the park, in the long term, if recreation use increases as anticipated, the authority to control visitors using the lake may be required. As there presently are no hindrances to adding the lake to the park, it would be prudent to implement this proposal as soon as possible.

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