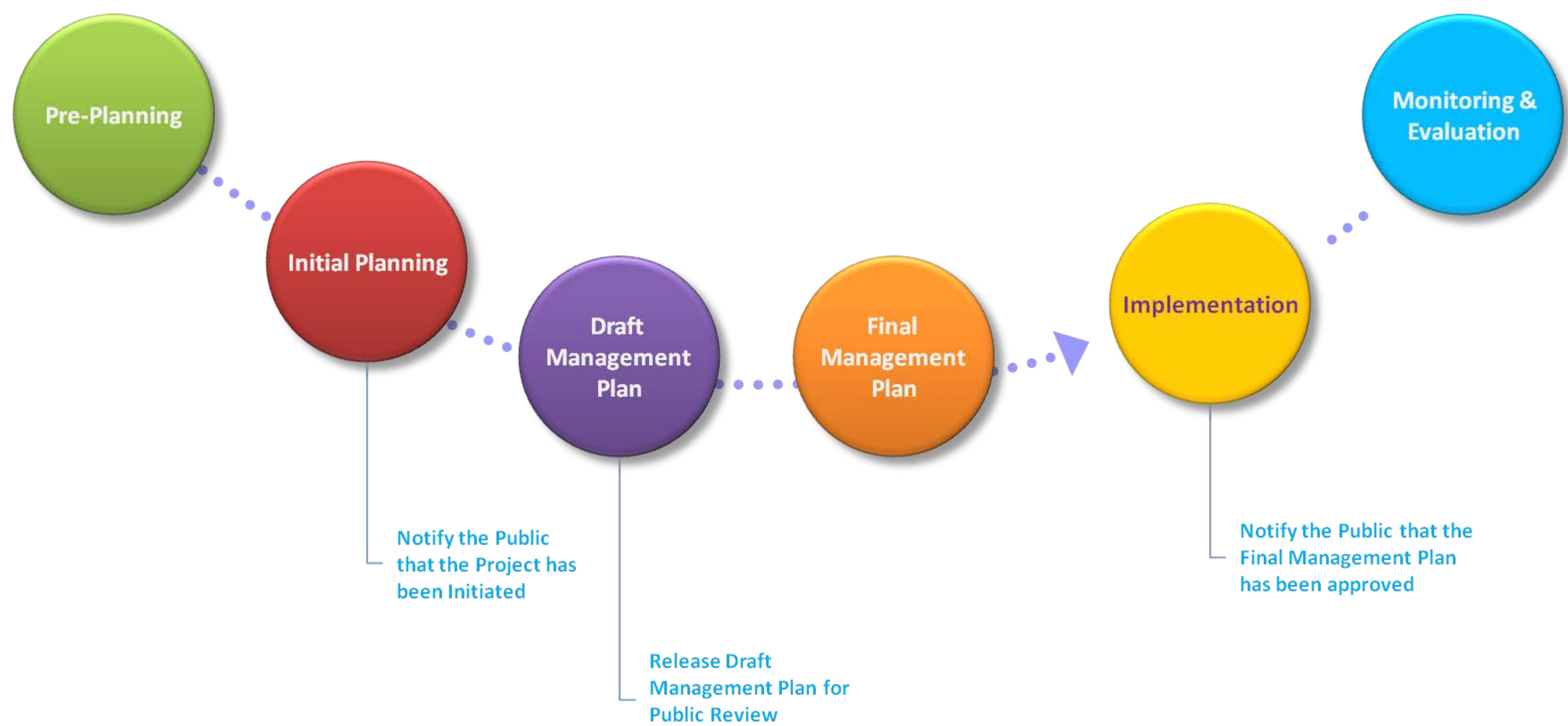


# Steps in the Management Planning Process

Developing a plan for Silver Star Park will follow a multi-stage process.



**The planning process for the park is currently in the *Initial Planning Stage*.**

***Initial Planning:*** This stage involves reviewing existing information about the park's values and potential management issues; determining how complex and in-depth the management planning process needs to be; confirming First Nations', local communities, and public interests in the protected area; and developing a process to address the identified interests and concerns.

Following the Initial Planning Stage, a ***Draft Management Plan*** will be prepared.

***Draft Management Plan:*** During this stage, the planning team will identify the values, vision (the desired future condition) and principles that will guide future management of the protected area. Previously identified interests and issues are discussed, and appropriate management direction is developed in the form of a vision, management objectives and strategies, and a zoning plan. The draft management plan must be prepared using the established BC Parks management plan template. As per the BC Parks policy, there must be an opportunity for public review and comment on the draft plan.

It is anticipated that a ***Final Management Plan*** will be completed and approved by the fall of 2020.



## The Management Planning Process

A management plan is a document prepared to guide a park's management for the future. It sets objectives and strategies for conservation, development, interpretation, and operation of the park. It is prepared by BC Parks (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy).



For the Silver Star Park management planning process, online comment forms will be made available at various steps in the process to seek public comment and feedback and help shape the overall vision and strategies to manage park values. The management plan will also undergo consultative engagement with First Nations. Local and regional governments will also be provided an opportunity to comment on the draft management plan at key stages in the planning process.



As part of the management planning process, the general public, public interest groups, and tenure holders have opportunities to provide input through a variety of means, including mail-outs, and internet-based comment forms/information sharing. Focused meetings with key stakeholder groups will also be scheduled.

There is currently no valid management plan for Silver Star Park. The Silver Star Recreation Area Master Plan (1980), Background Report (1988) and the Silver Star Provincial Park Master Plan (1990) will help inform the new management plan for the park.

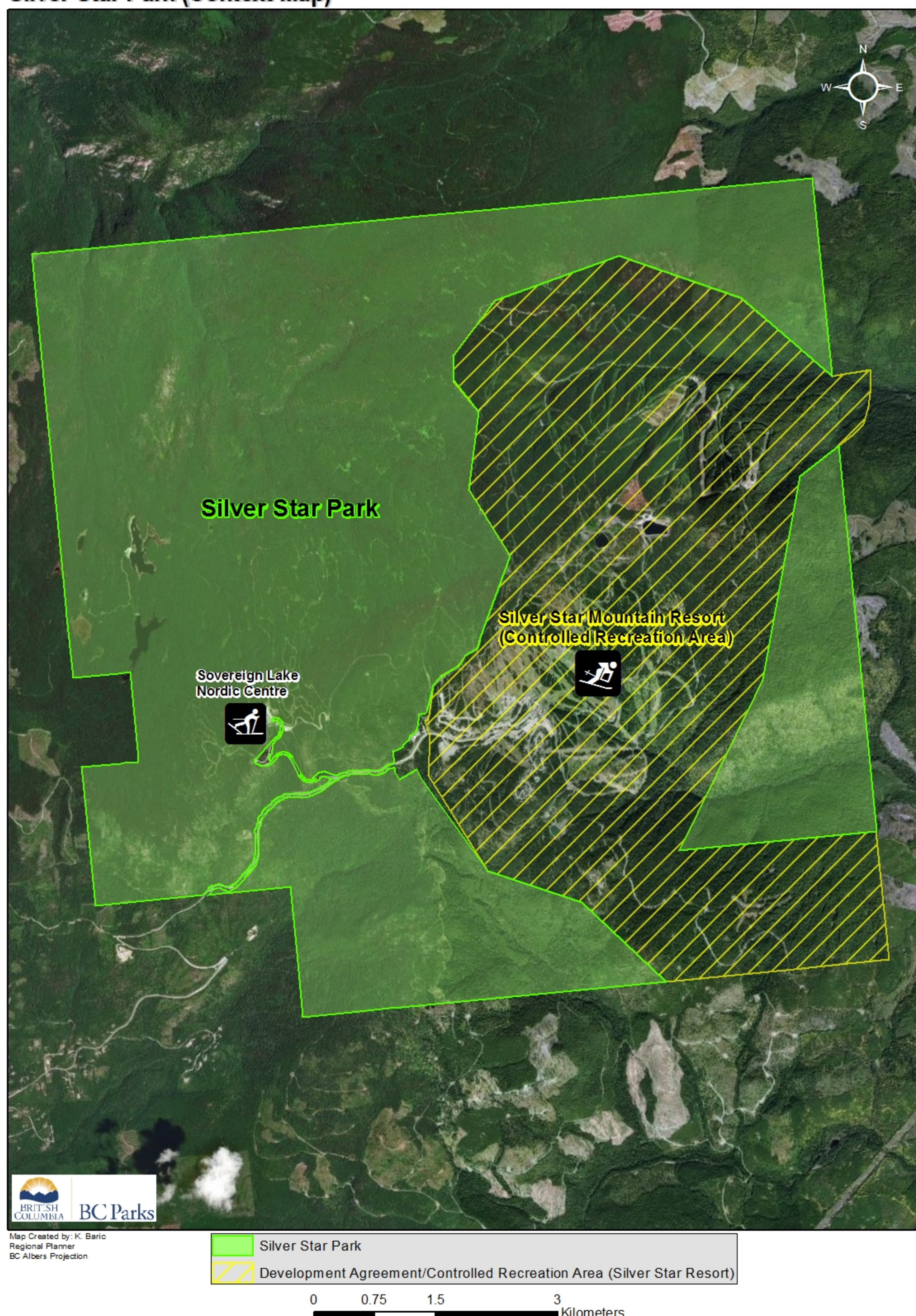


# Landscape Context

Silver Star Park is a 5,573 hectare park situated 22 kilometres to the northeast of Vernon. This rounded mountain and associated plateau is a typical feature of the Shuswap River Highland Ecoregion. The park resides within the Engelmann spruce/subalpine-fir and Interior cedar-hemlock biogeoclimatic zones. Much of the geology found within the park has its origins in past volcanic activity (predominance of lavas and pyroclastic rocks).

The park is uniquely situated on the divide between two major river systems, the Fraser River system via the Shuswap River and the Columbia River system via Okanagan Lake and river. Several significant watercourses are sourced from the immediate geographical area - Fortune, Putnam, Miriam, Vance, BX, and Coldstream creeks.

Silver Star Park (Context Map)



The all-season recreation destination, Silver Star Resort, is situated just outside the boundaries of Silver Star Park. The resort operates on Crown land portions (outside of the park) through provisions of a Controlled Recreation Area (3,263 hectares) under the *Land Act*.

# Establishment Background

Silver Star Park was originally established in 1940, and has undergone several reclassifications and boundary changes since that time. From the mid-1970s to the late 1980s it was classified as a 'recreation area', but regained its Class A park status in 1989. The removal of Silver Star Resort from the park area occurred in 1992.

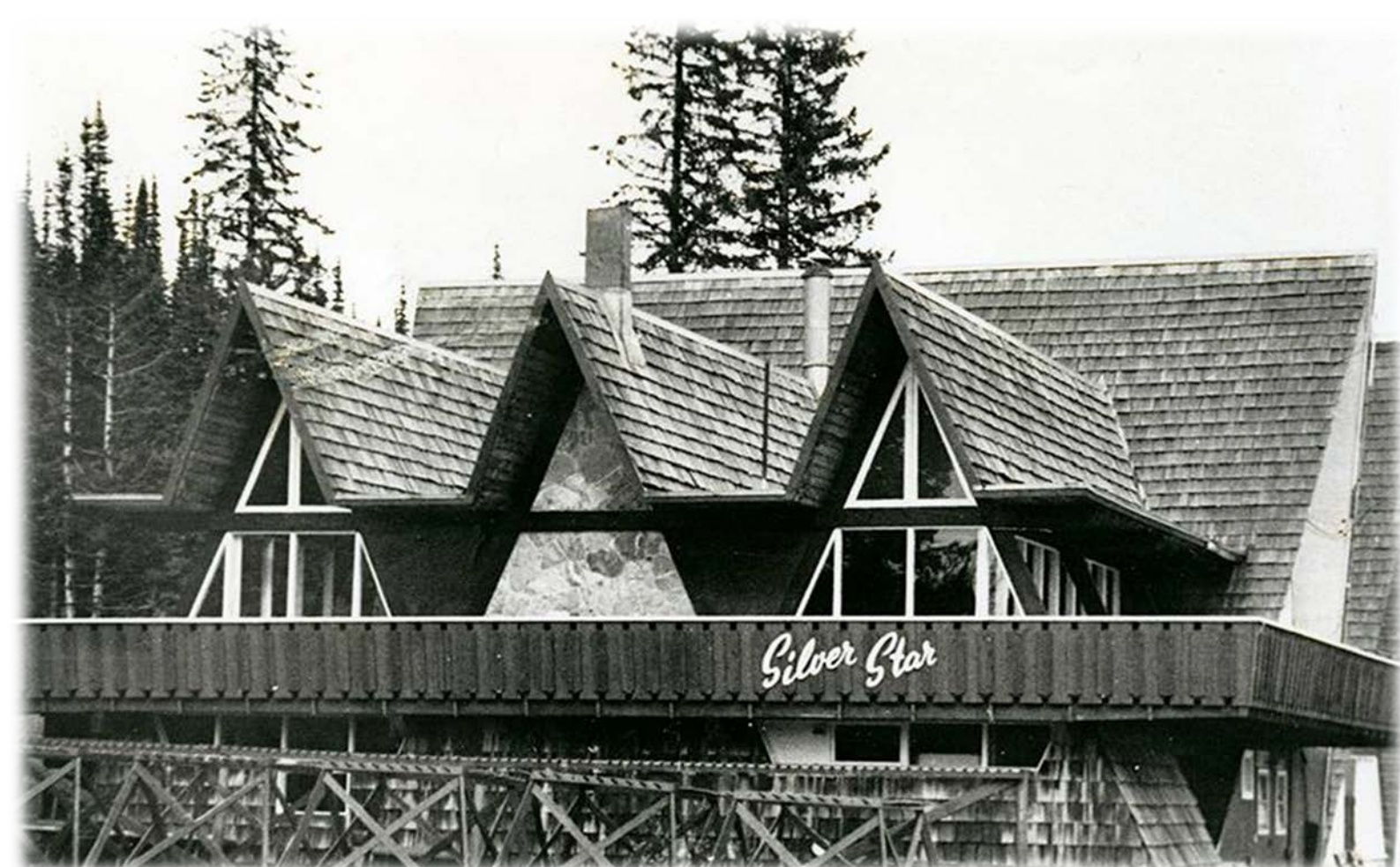


# Landscape History

The land within what is now the park was used by First Nations for thousands of years. Seasonal camping, hunting, fishing and plant gathering were common and today Silver Star Park protects these cultural and traditional use sites. The park falls within the traditional territories of the Okanagan Nation (Syilx) and Secwepemc Nation.

In 1929, a large wildfire swept over the area, in what is now the northern section of the park.

The landscape was also witness to extensive mining exploration in the late 1880s into the early 1900s (the more prominent mineral claims were the Prince of Wales, Aberdeen and Silver Star). In 1952, what was earlier known as Mount Aberdeen was re-named as Silver Star Mountain.



# Recreation Values

Silver Star Park offers year-round recreational activities, but predominant use of the park is in the winter season. The Sovereign Lake Nordic Centre operates, under a park use permit, over 100 kilometres of daily groomed trails, making it the largest continuously groomed network of cross-country ski trails in Canada. The centre also offers a diversity of fee-based, snowshoe trails.



Outside of the purview of the Sovereign Lake Nordic Centre, the park also offers snowshoeing opportunities as well as user-pay snowmobile trails (under park use permit) with the Vernon Snowmobile Association.



Snow free months in the park offer opportunities for hiking and nature appreciation. A portion of the park is open to hunting. In addition, a network of mountain bike trails exist at nearby Silver Star Resort and several trails associated with the resort's network interface with the park.



The North Okanagan Cycling Society operates and maintains several of the multi-use trails within the park under a volunteer agreement.



# Conservation Values

Silver Star Park is located within the Shuswap Highlands, a geographical area predominated by Engelmann spruce, sub-alpine fir, Western cedar and Western hemlock. There are pockets of old-growth forest remaining within the park but, due to the severity of large scale fires during the period of 1925 to 1934 that swept over the landscape, most trees are less than a hundred years old.

The park supports two under-represented biogeoclimatic zones/variants - the ICHmk1 and the ICHmw5 (only 2.6% and 8.35% protected province-wide). Small sub-alpine meadows and wetlands are found within the park along with a diversity of flowers and shrubs. There are two rare plant communities suspected to occur in the park - common juniper / bluebunch wheatgrass (red listed) and hybrid white spruce / black gooseberry / wild sarsaparilla (blue listed).



The park supports habitat for a variety of wildlife including: Grizzly Bear, Black Bear, Wolf, Coyote, Cougar, Bobcat, Lynx, Snowshoe Hare, Elk, Mule Deer, White-tail Deer, Moose, Red Squirrel, Porcupine, Marten, a host of frog species, amphibians such as the Long-Toed Salamander, and reptiles (garter snakes). Numerous bat species have also been confirmed within the park.



Bird species, many of which are considered rare, are also found within the park. More common species include: ducks, hawks, grouse, owls, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, sparrows, finches and larger birds of prey such as the Bald Eagle and Turkey Vulture.



# Management Issues and Opportunities

A key goal of the new management planning process for Silver Star Park is to develop strategies to address known management issues/opportunities.

There are a variety of management issues and opportunities that exist in the park (see below for examples).

## Habitat protection and ecosystem integrity

*Example:*

**Numerous boundary modifications to the park over the past several decades have resulted in park fragmentation, loss of connectivity and impacts to ecosystem integrity.**



## Land Use and Tenures

*Example:*

**The park is situated immediately adjacent to Silver Star Mountain Resort and associated Controlled Recreation Area (CRA). The resort is currently in the final stages of review of an updated master plan and renewal of their Master Development Agreement (MDA) with the Province.**

*Example:*

**There are dam control structures and associated water lines located within the Silver Star Lake complex. These structures serve an essential role in providing domestic water for three community watersheds.**

## Visitor use and recreation capacity/interface

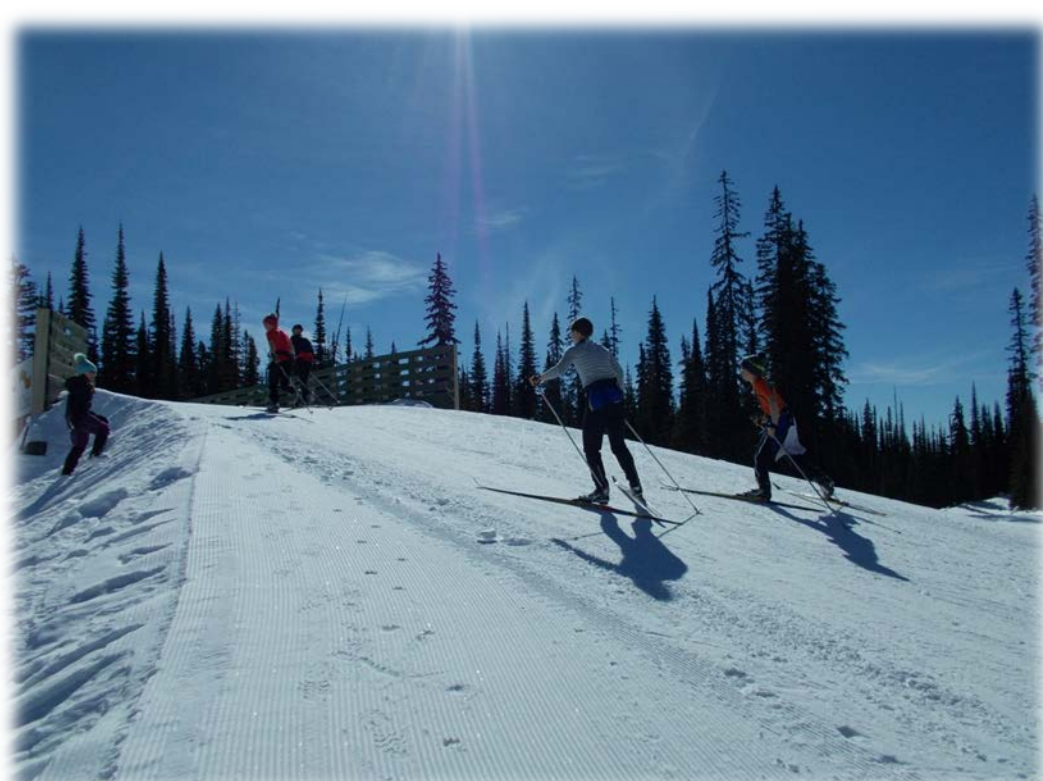
*Example:*

**The park is highly popular in winter with a variety of user groups (nordic skiers, snowmobilers, and snowshoers). Although the nordic centre has a defined operational scope and relative autonomy, other uses (snowmobiles, snowshoeing) require more proactive management and monitoring to minimize conflicts.**

## Park Infrastructure

*Example:*

**Sovereign Lake Nordic Centre (i.e., day-use lodge facility) requires updating/significant renovation to match current and future demands on infrastructure. Vehicle parking segregation for visitors has evolved based on demand but has lacked a long-term strategic approach.**



## First Nations/Indigenous Interests

*Example:*

**Indigenous communities have demonstrated renewed interest in the park and the adjacent CRA and have requested a collaborative approach to management planning/operations within the park.**

## Forest health and wildfire management

*Example:*

**Forest health issues within the park require ongoing monitoring and prescriptions to reduce fuel build-up and address fire interface issues.**