

SKOOKUMCHUCK NARROWS PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

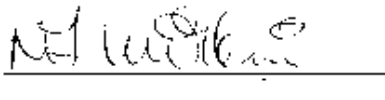
December 2002

Approved by:



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Date: Jan 24/03



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Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Feb. 12/03

SKOOKUMCHUCK NARROWS PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary role** of Skookumchuck Narrows Park is to protect and provide a provincially significant viewing opportunity of a large tidal rapid. The rapid occurs as tidal effects move large volumes of water in and out of Sechelt Inlets through the constriction of Skookumchuck Narrows. The park provides trail access from the Sunshine Coast highway to several viewing areas and protects and presents the scenic qualities of the rapids and surrounding area.

Secondary Role

The **secondary roles** of the park are to protect upland natural values and cultural resources and to provide hiking and other recreational opportunities.

The park protects a small coastal lake and surrounding upland forest. The park also protects an area typical of upland First Nation use by the Sechelt First Nation, including two archaeological sites. The park provides an opportunity in cooperation with the Sechelt Nation for a presentation of these uses and values.

The park protects an upland hiking trail and provides opportunities for hiking, fishing and whitewater kayak access. The kayak access provides an opportunity to paddle the tidal rapids.

Known Management Issues	Response
Parking and trail head access. The parking area and initial portion of the access trail is located outside of the park. Although access is secured through right of way agreements, there are issues with adjacent land owners and with a below standard entrance to the park.	As resources allow, Environmental Stewardship will work with Ministry of Transportation and adjacent landowners to resolve issues and to provide a more appropriate entrance to the park.
Impacts on foreshore resources from kayak and viewing uses. Impacts are occurring where whitewater kayakers or the viewing public walk near or on the intertidal area (e.g. damage to marine wildlife and vegetation from compaction).	As resources allow, Environmental Stewardship will work with kayakers to identify solutions which will minimize or avoid impacts. Information will be provided to viewing public to encourage avoidance of impacts.
Disturbance of First Nation sites	At this time, sites appear to be located far enough from use areas to avoid disturbance. Sites will be monitored

	and no development will occur which would encourage disturbance of sites. If disturbance occurs, appropriate actions will be taken.
The foreshore portion of Skookumchuck Narrows is not part of the park resulting in a lack of protection of marine resources.	Environmental Stewardship will review and if appropriate add foreshore area to park.

Zoning

Natural Environment - This zone (80% of the park) will protect an upland forest and lake area and will provide opportunities for hiking and fishing.

Special Feature – This zone (20% of the park) will protect an outstanding natural viewing feature and the associated intertidal marine values associated with the tidal rapids at Skookumchuck Narrows.

Conservation

- Representation
- ecosection Southern Pacific Ranges (SPR). Minor contribution to well represented ecosection.
 - biogeoclimatic subzone/variant CWHdm – minor contribution to an underrepresented subzone.
- Special Feature Protection of provincially significant viewing opportunity of tidal rapids.
- Rare/Endangered Values None identified at this time.
- Scientific/Research Opportunities Marine life/tidal bore interactions.

Recreation

- Representation
- backcountry
 - destination
 - travel corridor Viewing, hiking, and fishing.
 - local recreation Viewing, hiking and fishing.
 - Special Opportunities Access for whitewater kayaking in tidal rapids.
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities

Cultural Heritage

- Representation Typical upland use site for Sechelt First Nation; contains two archaeological sites; area continues to be used for limited traditional uses.
- Special Feature

Other Management Considerations

- Other Designations
- Relationship to other PAs One of a series of parks along the Sunshine Coast which link to form a key resource for public recreation and tourism.
- Co-operative Management Arrangements
- Partnerships
- Vulnerability Foreshore areas vulnerable to impacts from foot impacts from viewing and kayaking visitors.
- Relationship to other Strategies Lower Mainland PAS

Area: 123 hectares

Date of establishment: August 25, 1957