


SMITH RIVER – FORT HALKETT PROTECTED AREA



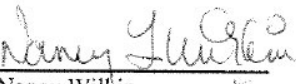
PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN Peace Region 2006

Approved by:



Andy Ackerman,
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division
Peace Region

Date: July 13 2006

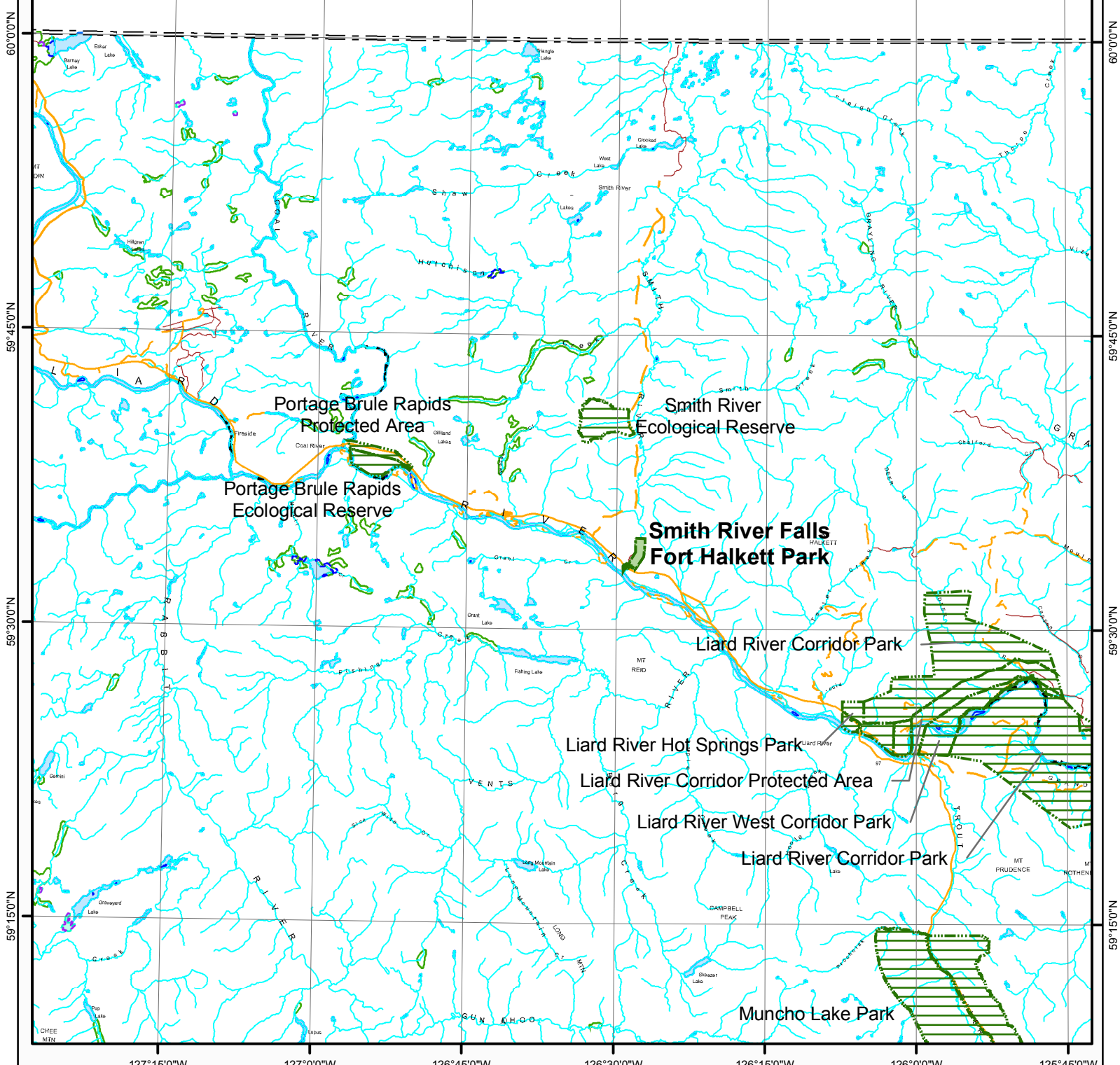


Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: October 8 2006





Figure 1: Regional Context

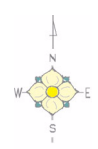
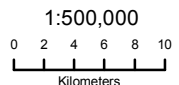
Smith River Falls - Fort Halkett Park



Projection: UTM Zone 10
Datum: NAD83

Produced in June 2006 for
Ministry of Environment
by Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Integrated Land Management Bureau

-  Subject Area
-  Other Protected Areas
-  Highway
-  Road



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SMITH RIVER – FORT HALKETT PROTECTED AREA Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of the Smith River – Fort Halkett Protected Area is to provide day use recreation opportunities associated with Smith River Falls. The 35 m high and 10 m wide falls are a spectacular viewing attraction in the region. Angling opportunities also exist in the river below the falls.

The **secondary** role of the protected area is to protect the site of an old Hudson’s Bay Company trading post established in 1832 for fur trading with the Kaska, Sekani, and Dene-Tha nations. However, though artifacts may be found in the area, no remains of the buildings of the post are visible in the protected area today.

Smith Falls/Fort Halkett Park is located at the confluence of Smith River and Liard River, near Kilometer 820 of the Alaska Highway. The park is divided by the Alaska Highway. The majority of the park’s area is to the north of the highway, which has road access to a viewpoint to observe the Smith River Falls. The smaller southern part of the Park contains the former site of the Hudson’s Bay trading post.

Known Management Issues	Response
Visitor safety: the access road to the protected area is very narrow, and passing is difficult. It is also very rough currently, and required gravel resurfacing/grading.	Widen and improve access road to the protected area and provide pullouts to permit safe passing
Future re-alignment of the Alaska Highway may require an amendment to the protected area boundary	Follow process set out in the Ministry’s Boundary Adjustment Guidelines Policy to review any proposed amendments to the boundaries of the protected area to ensure the falls and the HBC site continue to be protected.
No signage exists identifying the park along the Alaska Highway	Install type A sign and VIP highway signs per park standards once road is improved.

Zoning

The protected area north of the Alaska Highway is zoned Intensive Recreation to accommodate visitor use to view the falls. The area south of the Alaska Highway is zoned Nature Recreation to protect scenic values and provide for nature based recreation in a largely undisturbed environment.

Conservation

Representation
- ecosection

Smith River – Fort Halkett Protected Area protects a portion of the Liard Plain ecosection. Just 0.63% of this ecosection is protected throughout the Province, and the protected area contributes just under 3% of that total. Boya Lake Provincial Park provides the majority (55%) of protected areas system representation of this ecosection.

biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Smith River – Fort Halkett Protected Area provides representation for the BWBSdk 2 (Boreal White and Black Spruce, dry, cool) variant, which is 4.2 % protected in the Province. Smith River – Fort Halkett contributes just 0.4% of that total.

Special Feature

35 m high waterfalls

Rare/Endangered Values

Wood bison along highway frequent the park

Scientific/Research Opportunities

Recreation

Representation

Backcountry
Destination
Travel corridor
Local recreation

Accessible from the Alaska Highway. Opportunities for nature appreciation and angling, some jet boating, and canoeing for day trips down the Liard River to the hotsprings.

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

Cultural Heritage

Representation

Unknown. This protected area lies within the area traditionally used by the First Nations of Treaty 8 and Kaska Dena.

Special Feature

Former site of Hudson’s Bay Company trading post

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations

Relationship to other PAs

Collaborative Management Arrangements

This protected area 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 and is subject to the 1997 Letter of Understanding with the Kaska Dena Council.

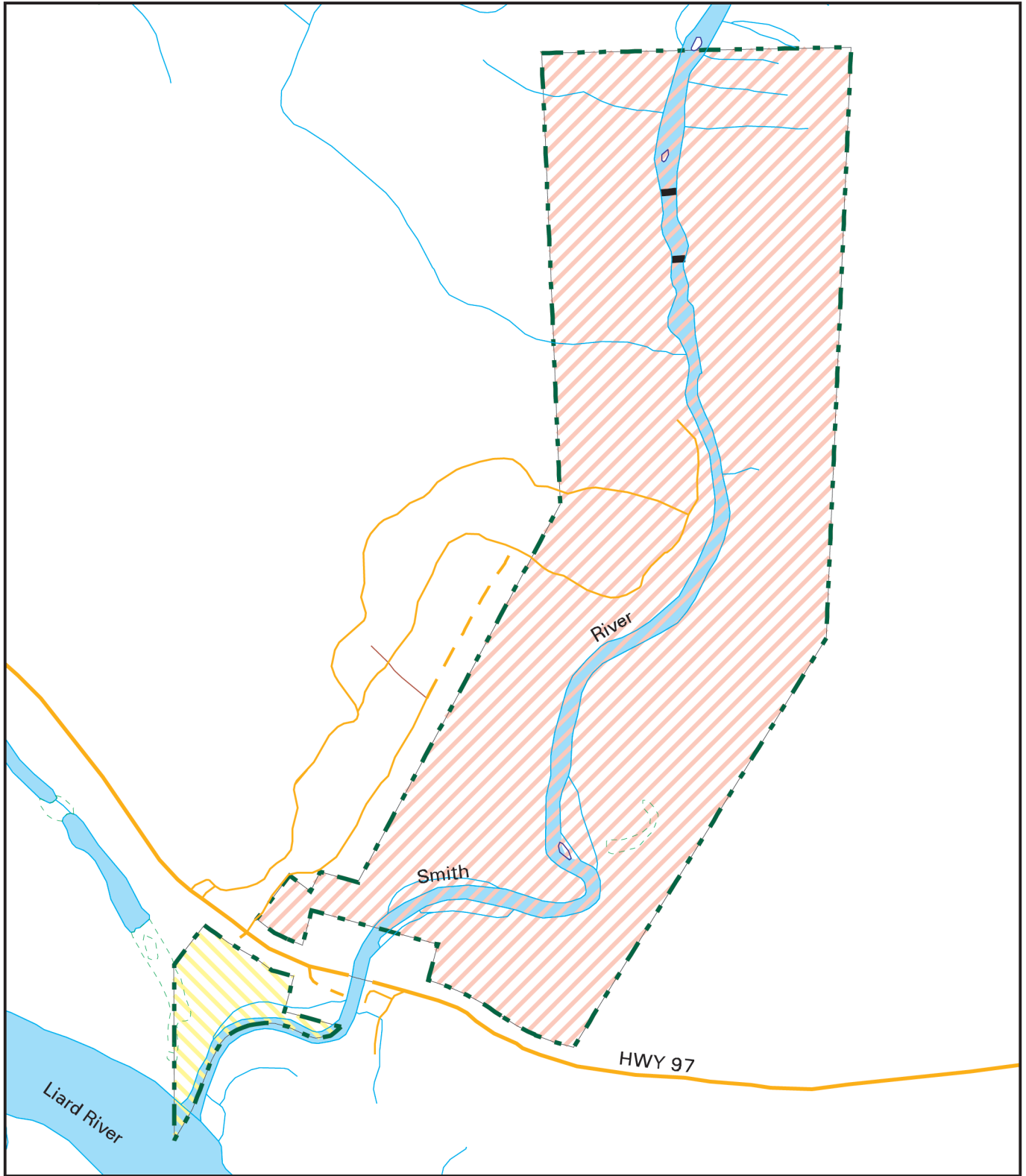
Partnerships

Vulnerability

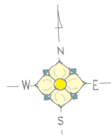
Relationship to other Strategies




Area: 254 hectares

Date of establishment: March 30, 2001



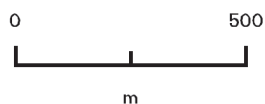
Projection: UTM Zone 9
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Nature Recreation
-  Protected Area Boundary



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Air Protection by MSRM, Business
Solutions Branch



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