

Skeena District

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

July 2000

for Tyhee Lake
Provincial Park



Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division



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MEMORANDUM

HIGHWAY 16 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS - BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward

This binder contains 11 management direction statements developed by BC Parks. These protected areas are all long established, some parks existing since the early 1950s. The 11 management direction statements provide strategic direction for these protected areas. Protected areas' roles, strategies and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, implemented through operations plans, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

- ☐ Diana Lake Park
- ☐ Driftwood Canyon Park
- ☐ Ethel F. Wilson Park
- ☐ Kleanza Creek Park
- ☐ Lakelse Lake Park
- ☐ Pendleton Bay Park
- ☐ Prudhomme Lake Park
- ☐ Red Bluff Park
- ☐ Ross Lake Park
- ☐ Seeley Lake Park
- ☒ Tyhee Lake Park

Approved by:

Hugh Markides
District Manager
Skeena District

Date: 6 July 2000

Denis O'Gorman
Assistant Deputy Minister
Parks Division

Date: 2000-07-17



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Introduction

Purpose of Management Direction Statements

Management Direction Statements provide strategic management direction for all protected areas that do not have a full management plan. MDS do not negate the need for future, more detailed management plans. Management Direction Statements also describe protected area values, management issues and concerns; management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies; and, directional statements from other planning processes.

Setting and Context

Tyhee Lake Park covers 33 ha on the south shore of Tyhee Lake, near Telkwa and 16 km SE of Smithers (area population ~12,000; Figure 1), in the Bulkley River Valley. Telkwa High Road reaches the park entrance 1-km from Highway 16. The park lies within the asserted traditional territory of the Wet'suwet'en people.

The park, established in 1956, protects lakeshore aspen forest and waterfowl habitat and provides recreation and camping opportunities for local residents and Highway 16 travellers. The large day-use area is the major swimming, boating and picnic spot for local residents. The many camping facilities attract both en-route tourists and regional residents. The campground is the only full-facility park for 200 km in either direction along Highway 16. Nearby Babine Mountains Park offers wilderness recreation activities; Driftwood Canyon Park, northeast of Smithers, contains important fossil beds; Burnt Cabin Bog Ecological Reserve protects bog ecosystems; and, Call Lake Park protects a small lake and rare meadows ecosystems.

Protected Area Attributes

Conservation

- remnant Bulkley Basin Ecosection; SBSdk (dry cool sub-boreal spruce subzone; 50-year-old, fire-initiated seral site)
- waterfowl habitat; loon nesting sites
- one of two lakes in BC home to “giant” pygmy white fish (currently red-listed)
- winter habitat for wildlife, including black bear, moose and deer

Recreation and Tourism

- full-facility campground on travel corridor
- regionally significant lake and lakeshore recreation opportunities (swimming, picnicking, boating, fishing, jet-skiing, walking, triathlon, waterfowl viewing, nature appreciation)
- winter recreation opportunities (cross-country skiing, skating, dog-sled racing)

Cultural Heritage

- cultural features not identified to BC Parks

Significance in the Protected Areas System

- protects remnant SBSdk ecosystem (underrepresented biogeoclimatic subzone), in Bulkley Basin Ecosection (high priority, underrepresented ecosection)
- provides easily accessible lake and lakeshore recreation for regional residents and travelling visitors
- provides accommodation for travellers along Highway 16 corridor and visitors to the local area

Figure 1 – Context Map

Figure 2 – Park Map

Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

Highway 16 passes within 1 km of the park, providing easy access via the Telkwa High Road. A paved road leads to the day-use area (with 605 parking stalls) and to 55 campsites. A further 4 campsites are walk-in.

Existing Tenures

- none

Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities

- 35 picnic tables in day-use area, 605 parking stalls
- 55 pad and spur campsites and 4 walk-in campsites
- 20 unit group campsite
- shelter, flush and pit toilets, showers, sani-station
- concrete boat ramp and loading dock
- playground
- amphitheatre
- 213 m of developed beach
- 2.5 km interpretative trail; marsh viewing platform; trail system connects to local community
- service centre, including building serviced by BC Hydro

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- Tyhee Lake (with residentially-occupied lakeshore) forms the northern boundary
- private land surrounds the rest of the park

First Nations Interests

- asserted traditional territory of the Wet'suwet'en
- aboriginal rights will be honoured and protected subject to conservation and safety concerns
- Wet'suwet'en staff have indicated the plan is acceptable to the Wet'suwet'en Chiefs following a review of the draft plan and a meeting with BC Parks staff.

Other Agency Interests

- BC Environment stocks Tyhee Lake with rainbow trout
- Regional District of Bulkley Nechako has an interest in regional tourism

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- recreational users: swimmers, picnickers, anglers, boaters (motorised and non-motorised), water-skiers, cross-country skiers
- local residents: Telkwa and Smithers communities and school programs
- Tyhee Lake Protection Society
- lakeshore residents (particularly park neighbour
- naturalists

Role of Tyhee Lake Park

Tyhee Lake Park serves primarily a recreation and interpretative role. The full-facility campground and variety of easily accessible, family-oriented lake and lakeshore recreation opportunities attract local residents, visitors to the Smithers area and Highway 16 travelers. The park is the major picnic, swimming and boating spot for local residents. Summer interpretative programs offer popular educational activities for all ages.

Tyhee Lake Park lies within the Bulkley Basin Ecosection. This ecosection is under-represented within the protected areas system. The park protects lakeshore breeding habitat and a small remnant (less than 33 ha) of young seral dry cool sub-boreal spruce forest (SBSdk). This conservation role is limited, however, by the extensive development for outdoor recreation activities.

Management Commitments and Issues

Direction from Previous Planning

Tyhee Lake Park has been managed as a Class A Park since 1956. Annual Management Plans provide year-to-year direction.

Management Issues

The following management issues require attention:

Theme	Issue
Public safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• human-bear conflict exacerbated by nearby garbage• ageing aspen create potential hazard• conflict between motorised and non-motorised water use creates potential hazard• non-compliance with Motor Vehicle Act poses hazard• conflict between bicycles and pedestrians creates potential hazard
Protecting ecological values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• inventory of flora and fauna is incomplete• nutrient addition from outside sources impacts the lake's ecology, and may endanger the giant pygmy whitefish• garbage (and food) in, and adjacent to, park endangers bears• angling impact on fish populations is unknown• off-trail use damages vegetation• BC Environment is concerned that motorised water traffic leaving from launch within park disturbs waterfowl• noxious weeds introduced by boats impact lake ecosystem• unrestrained domestic animals disturb and displace wildlife

Theme	Issue
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> residential development adjacent to park impacts park ecosystem and stand stability
Protecting recreational values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> aquatic vegetation discourages swimmers swimmer's itch discourages swimmers beavers damage vegetation
	Issue
Protecting cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> high use may impact unknown cultural values
Community issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> smoke from campfires may reduce air quality for nearby residents fertiliser and sewage impacts water quality Telkwa trail extension joins Aldermere Trail within the park
Unauthorised activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vandalism destroys facilities

Management Strategy

The following table describes management strategies to deal with outstanding issues raised. In addition, figure 1 contains a list of acceptable land and resource uses for this park.

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure Tyhee Lake Park is safe for public use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop park-specific Bear-People Conflict Prevention Plan, including education program for park users and local community Follow Hazard Tree Guidelines Maintain well-defined swimming and boating areas Enforce posted speed limits Monitor user-group interactions and educate users; enforce as necessary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect the park's natural values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate significance of flora and fauna; prepare Ecological Information Summary Work with BC Environment to determine the status of the giant pygmy white fish; develop and post interpretative signage educating visitors about giant pygmy white fish Minimise nutrient contribution to lake during operational and maintenance activities See above for bear conservation Quantify park-based angling activity if requested by BC Environment Maintain clearly-posted, well-defined trails; increase awareness through interpretative programs Develop educational program documenting importance of area to waterfowl; discuss concerns and options with BC Environment Maintain education program about introducing weeds to the lake Enforce control of domestic animals Monitor development adjacent to park

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider developing Conservation Stewardship program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect the park's recreational values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain outside shower and signage explaining swimmer's itch and offering preventative measures Monitor aquatic vegetation growth; consider control options as necessary; consider volunteer removal efforts; develop and post interpretative signs discussing aquatic vegetation ecology and management Monitor beaver damage and success of chicken-wire control Maintain sandy beach Develop enforcement and compliance program to decrease vandalism; consider developing Park Watch program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect the park's cultural heritage values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate and collate existing information on cultural heritage values; prepare Cultural Features Information Summary; prepare Cultural Features Management Plan in consultation with Wet'suwet'en for identified features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain facilities appropriate to full-facility park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain full facilities at current level Consider improving disabled access
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide information to the public about the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain relevant interpretative programs Maintain in-park handout; include information about safety around bears, marsh habitat and water quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attract higher use and increase length of stay in campground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain good relationship with community; participate in community-led discussions of air and water quality; work with community on trail linkage Continue to respond to user-satisfaction issues promptly Maintain in-park handout; attract corporate sponsorship; include map of Telkwa trail system Continue Park Host and other volunteer programs Consider other advertising options Consider offering mid-week events Promote park in other community events

Consultation and Future Planning

Good relationships with local communities will be crucial in maintaining the park's good reputation and attracting repeat visitors. In the short-term, BC Parks will finalise discussion about trail linkages with the community of Telkwa; over the longer-term, BC Parks will participate in community discussions as necessary to deal with concerns and issues relating to protecting the area's conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values. BC Parks will continue to build a relationship with the Wet'suwet'en First Nation.

The priority for preparing a management plan for Tyhee Lake Park is ranked as moderate to high.

Preliminary Zoning

Due to its small size and high use, the entire park, and surrounding buffer area, is zoned as Intensive Recreation (Map 3 - Zoning Map).

Figure 3 - Zoning Map

Appendix - Activity/Use Matrix for Tyhee Lake Park

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptable Uses
Aboriginal Rights	Y
Hunting	N
Fishing	Y
Trapping	N
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational gold panning/rock hounding	N
Utility corridors	N
Communication sites	N
Horse use/pack animals	N
Guide outfitting (hunting)	N
Guide outfitting (fishing)	N
Guide outfitting (nature tours)	Y
Guide outfitting (river rafting)	N
Cat-assisted skiing	N
Ski hills	N
Commercial recreation (facility-based)	N
Commercial recreation (non-facility-based)	M
Backcountry huts	N
Water control structures	N
Fish stocking and enhancement	N1
Road access	Y
Off-road access (snowmobiling)	N2
Off-road access (motorised)	N
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	M
Motorised water access	Y
Aircraft access	N
Fire management (suppression)	Y
Fire management (prescribed fire management)	N
Fire management (prevention)	Y
Forest insect/disease control	M
Noxious weed control	M
Exotic insect/disease control	M
Scientific research (specimen collection)	M
Scientific research (manipulative activities)	M

Y = allowed subject to conditions identified in the management direction statement or management plan

M = may be permitted if compatible with protected area objectives

N = not allowed

N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

N2 = present and allowed to continue, but not normally allowed