

**Skeena Region**

# **MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT**

**November 2003**



**for Uncha Mountain Red Hills  
Provincial Park, Francois Lake  
Provincial Park and Francois Lake  
Protected Area**



Ministry of Water, Land and  
Air Protection  
Environmental Stewardship  
Division

# Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park, Francois Lake Provincial Park and Francois Lake Protected Area

## Approvals Page

### Forward

This management direction statement for Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park, Francois Lake Provincial Park and Francois Lake Protected Area provides management direction until Environmental Stewardship Division revises the plan or prepares a more detailed management plan. Ongoing consultation between Environmental Stewardship Division and First Nations may require changes to this management direction statement. Aboriginal traditional activities and uses are honoured and respected within the provincial parks and protected area.

Implementation of strategies identified in the management direction statement (MDS) will be dependent on available funding and Environmental Stewardship Division priorities.

### Approvals

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Manager  
Skeena Region  
Environmental Stewardship Division

  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Stewardship Division

**The Vanderhoof Land and Resource Management Plan and the Lakes District Land and Resource Management Plan provided direction for this management direction statement.**

# Table of Contents

Page

## Introduction

Purpose of the Management Direction Statement .....	1
Context .....	1

## Provincial Park and Protected Area Attributes

Conservation .....	2
Recreation and Tourism.....	5
Commercial Business Opportunities.....	5
Cultural Heritage.....	5
Significance in the Protected Areas System .....	7

## Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access .....	7
Existing Tenures, Alienations and Encumbrances.....	8
Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities .....	9
Adjacent Patterns of Land Use.....	10
First Nations Interests .....	11
Other Agency Interests.....	12
Private and Public Stakeholder Interests.....	12

## Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park, Francois Lake Provincial Park and Francois Lake Protected Area Role Statement .....

13

## Management Commitments and Issues

Management Direction from Previous Planning.....	14
Management Issues.....	15

## Management Direction

Priority Management Objectives and Strategies .....	16
Consultation and Future Planning.....	19
Zoning Plan.....	19

## Figures

Figure 1. Regional Context Map.....	4
Figure 2. Tenures and Land Use Map.....	6
Figure 3. Francois Lake Park and Francois Lake Protected Area Zoning Map.....	21
Figure 4. Uncha Mountain Red Hills Park Zoning Map.....	22

## Appendices

Appendix 1. Table of Acceptable Activities, Uses, and Facilities.....	23
---	----

# **Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park and Francois Lake Provincial Park and Francois Lake Protected Area Management Direction Statement**

## **Introduction**

### **Purpose of the Management Direction Statement**

Management direction statements (MDS) provide strategic management direction for protected areas that do not have an approved management plan. Management direction statements describe protected area values, management issues and concerns, a management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies, and direction from other planning processes. While the MDS identifies strategies, the completion of all these strategies is dependent on funding and funding procedures. All development associated with these strategies is subject to the BC Parks and Protected Areas Impact Assessment Process.

### **Context**

The provincial government designated Francois Lake Provincial Park by the *Park Amendment Act, 1999* and Francois Lake Protected Area by Order in Council 993/2000 under the *Environment and Land Use Act* in July 2000. The provincial government established Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park by Order in Council 63/2001 in January 2001. Both parks' are presently named and describing the parks in Schedule C of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* in April 2001. The parks and protected area form a 47 kilometre corridor along the south shore and east end of François Lake. Environmental Stewardship Division will manage these protected areas as a single unit. Together, they protect representative ecosystems as well as special features, including rare species and remnant ecosystems. Designation followed the recommendations of the Vanderhoof Land and Resources Management Plan "LRMP" (Francois Lake Park and Francois Lake Protected Area) and the Lakes District LRMP (Uncha Mountain Red Hills Park).

The Order in Council establishing Francois Lake Protected Area provided specific direction as to its future disposition and management. The order read as follow:

*"Subject to the completion of a process acceptable to the Minister to assess impacts of and to determine mitigation requirements for building a road through the protected area, the Minister must approve on terms and conditions acceptable to the minister the construction, use and maintenance of a road through the protected area for the purpose of providing access to private lands and leases of Crown land beyond the protected area.*

*The road is to be authorized by park use permit*

*Upon completion of road development, Francois Lake Protected Area may be cancelled and the land not subject to the road right-of-way may be added to Francois Lake Park."*

Uncha Mountain Red Hills and Francois Lake provincial parks lie along the east end of 120-kilometre-long François Lake. The nearest larger communities include Burns Lake (area population about 4,000) about 30 kilometres north and Fraser Lake (population about 1300 people) about 10 kilometres to the east.

Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park lies along the north shore of François Lake about nine kilometres east of the unincorporated community of François Lake and continues again across the lake, about five kilometres east of unincorporated Southbank. François Lake Provincial Park runs east from the Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park boundary to the end of François Lake. The parks cover 17,080 hectares within the Lakes and Vanderhoof Forest districts. The provincial government established the 29 hectare François Lake Protected Area within François Lake Provincial Park to allow the development of road access to private land on the shore of François Lake. Recently a philanthropist donated a small parcel of land (80 hectares) to the east of Red Hills to the province for addition to Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park.

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Peoples, the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council (representing Burns Lake Band, Nadleh Whut'en Band, Stelat'en First Nation, Wet'suwet'en First Nation), Nee Tahi Buhn Band, and Skin Tyee Band consider the provincial parks and protected area part of their asserted traditional territory.

The provincial parks contain a variety of representative and special forested, scrub-steppe and grassland ecosystems rising steeply from the shores of François Lake. Coniferous forest covers the north-facing slopes along François Lake and Uncha Mountain. A mosaic of meadows, deciduous and coniferous forest clothes the south-facing Red Hills. The François Lake locale contains a wealth of First Nations and pioneer settlement cultural heritage values and features. Outdoor recreation and nature appreciation opportunities focus on the valley bottom lake, but also occur in the upland environment on both sides of the lake. François Lake Provincial Park provides rustic camping facilities for a limited number of visitors. Red Hills (on the north side of François Lake) and Uncha Mountain (on the south side) both have trails that receive moderate use.

To the south of François Lake, Little Andrews Bay Marine Provincial Park offers limited campground accommodation (10 campsites) west of Wistaria on the Nechako Reservoir (Ootsa Lake portion). Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, British Columbia's largest provincial park, offers a variety of backcountry outdoor recreation opportunities south of the Nechako Reservoir. The small donated parcel of land on the north shore of François Lake to the east of Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park offers the potential for future outdoor recreation facilities.

## **Provincial Park and Protected Area Attributes**

### **Conservation**

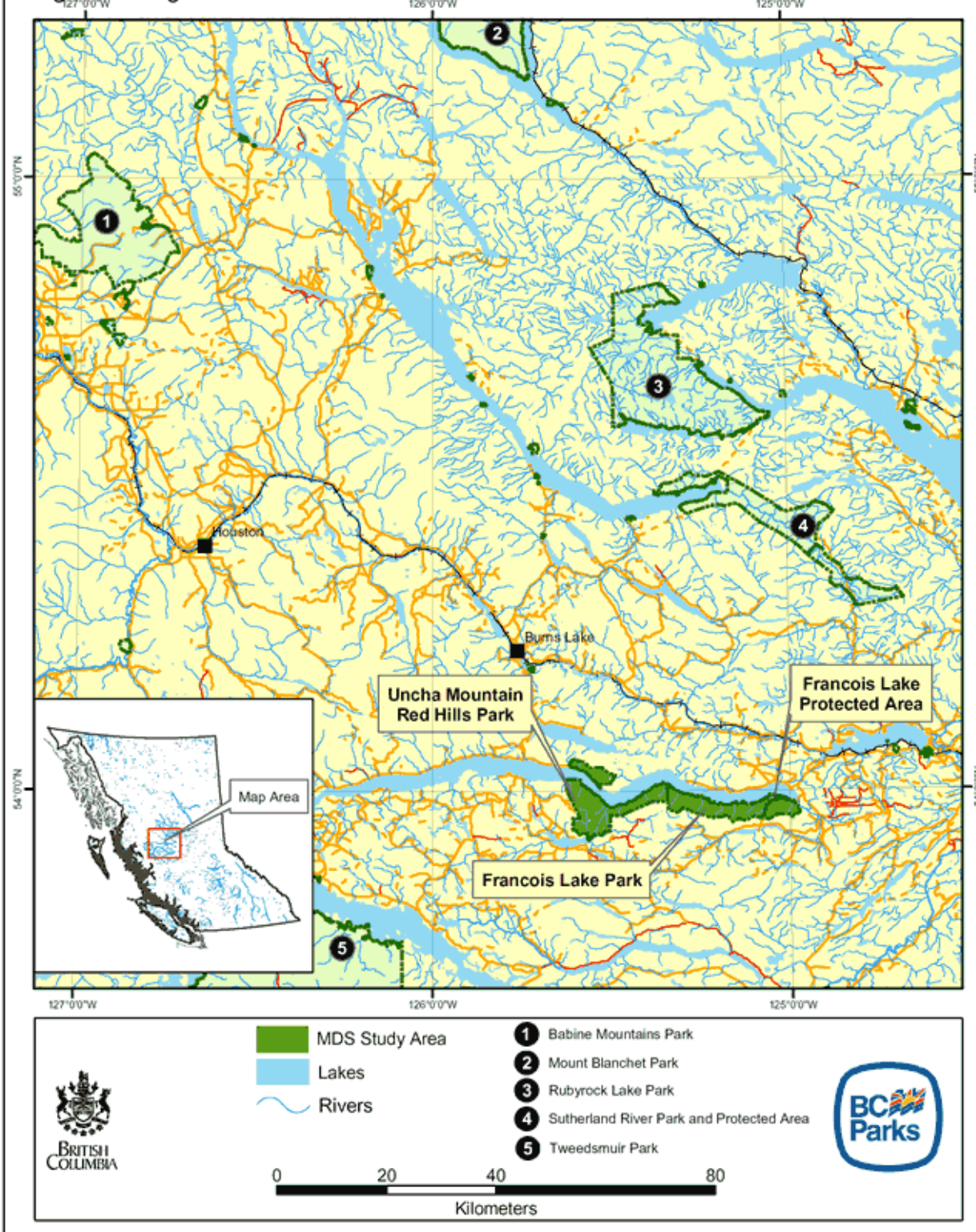
Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park and François Lake Provincial Park and François Lake Protected Area in combination protect extremely significant conservation values as described below:

- Protect the largest representative landscape within the fragmented Bulkley Basin Ecoregion (only 3% of this ecoregion is protected in 17 different parks and protected areas). The parks and protected area account for 42% of the overall protected areas system representation of this ecoregion. Entiako Provincial Park and Protected Area contributes 32%.

- Conserve SBSdk (Sub-boreal Spruce, dry cool subzone); 5% of this subzone is protected in British Columbia and SBSmc2 (Sub-boreal Spruce, moist cold subzone, - Babine variant); 13% of this variant is protected in the province. The parks and protected area contribute 18% to the overall protected area representation of SBSdk but contribute minimally (2%) to the overall protected area representation of SBSmc2.

Figure 1: Regional Context

Uncha Mountain Red Hills Park /  
Francois Lake Park and Protected Area





- Red Hills conserves rare grassland and scrub-steppe ecosystems, including saskatoon-slender wheatgrass (SBSdk/81, SBSmc2/81; red-listed) on steep south-facing slopes, minor occurrences of Pacific bluegrass-slender wheatgrass (SBSdk/82, SBSmc2/82; red-listed) on south-facing slopes, mesic aster-meadow rue-peavine-fireweed meadows (SBSdk, SBSmc2; recommended for red-list), and timber oatgrass-Stipa-northern bedstraw (SBSdk; recommended for red-list).
- Both parks contain rare forest ecosystems, including some of the most extensive and best-developed Douglas-fir ecosystems (SBSdk/04, blue-listed) in the Skeena Region (including Douglas-fir-juniper and Douglas-fir-birch-spruce variants), cottonwood-dogwood-prickly rose (SBSdk/08; red-listed) on floodplains, and lodgepole pine-common juniper-ricegrass (SBSdk/02) on dry rocky areas.
- The lower slopes of Uncha Mountain conserve remnant productive low-elevation old-growth forest that exists because of an unusual microclimate.
- Both parks retain connectivity between riparian and upland ecosystems along François Lake (Uncha Mountain Red Hills and François Lake provincial parks together, create a 47 kilometre corridor along the south shore).
- Both parks conserve important deer and moose winter range (particularly south-facing slopes, deciduous forests and Douglas-fir forests).
- Uncha Creek in Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park protects the most productive trout stream leading into François Lake, with excellent cover and rearing areas.
- Both parks protect a diversity of small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish because of the variety of ecosystems within both parks and the protected area.

## **Recreation and Tourism**

Uncha Mountain Red Hills and François Lake provincial parks offer medium to high outdoor recreation opportunities:

- Provide a dramatic viewscape for outdoor recreation participants and residents of François Lake;
- Offer a semi-remote wilderness setting that is accessible to communities and provides front and backcountry outdoor recreation opportunities, including hiking, camping, boating, angling, horseback riding, hunting and wildlife viewing;
- Situated within 30 kilometres of Highway 16, a major travel corridor in north central British Columbia.

## **Commercial Business Opportunities**

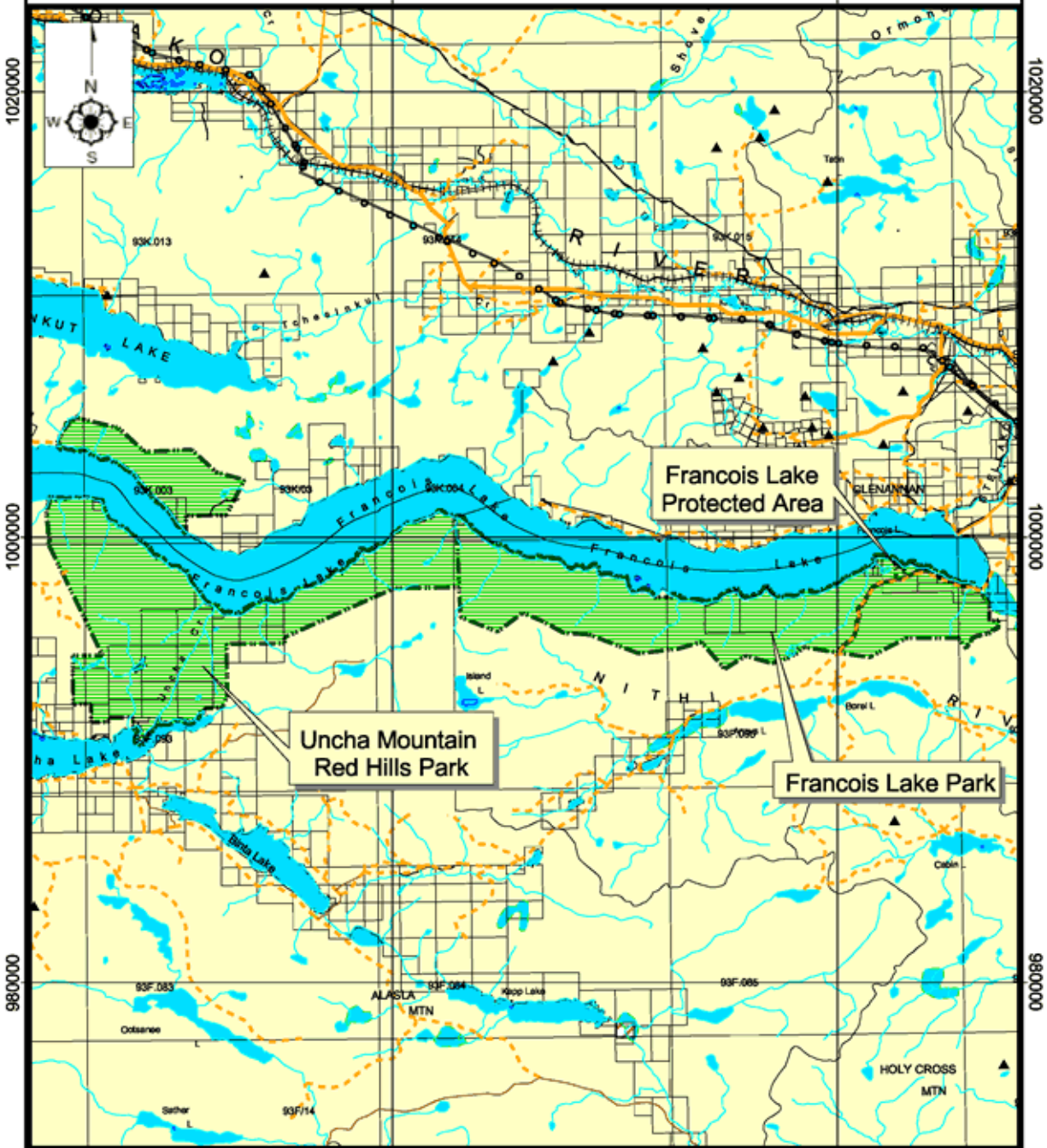
- Provides moderate commercial business opportunities for guided hunting and fishing activities. (See Appendix 1 for activities allowed in the parks and protected area).
- Provides moderate commercial business opportunities for guided interpretation tours focused on the natural ecosystems (e.g., the rare grasslands and scrub-steppe ecosystems in Red Hills), cultural heritage features, scenery, wildlife viewing and the large lake environment associated with these parks and the protected area.

## **Cultural Heritage**

- First Nations have used the parks and protected area in the past and continue to use them for traditional hunting, fishing and gathering activities.

Figure 2: Tenures and Land Use

Uncha Mountain Red Hills Park /  
Francois Lake Park and Protected Area



Scale 1:250000      1040000      1 0 1 2 Kilometers      1060000



- Roads
- - - - Rail
- - - - Uncha Mountain Red Hills / Francois Lk Boundaries
- Cadastral Data/Tenures
- ▲ EMPR Mines and Showings
- ▨ Indian Reserves
- ▨ Protected Areas



- Red Hills was used in the past as a source of dye by the Burns Lake Band.
- Protects several Carrier legend sites on the south shore of François Lake and the surrounding hills.
- Protects a major First Nations village site within François Lake Park.
- Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park conserves a First Nations fish camp that operated in the mid-1800s on the south shore of François Lake, at the mouth of Uncha Creek; another fish camp operated on Uncha Lake at the head of Uncha Creek.
- Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park contains a First Nations heritage trail linking Uncha and François lakes, and then travelling east along the lakeshore to Black Point (in François Lake Provincial Park). First Nations used this trail to reach fish camps and as a pack trail. The trail and is still used today.
- Protects many culturally modified trees located on Uncha Mountain.
- Contains possible archaeological sites (cache pits) near Uncha Creek. People have found arrowheads on the shores of Uncha Lake.
- Preserves trails that may have been part of grease trail networks linking coastal and interior First Nations people. The trail through Red Hills extended to Fraser Lake and then joined a series of trails heading north and west.
- Contains the possible location of a pony express station at the west end of Red Hills..

### **Significance in the Protected Areas System**

- Ranks Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park thirteenth (13) out of 84 parks for conservation values in the Skeena Region Conservation Risk Assessment's primarily because of its rare grassland and forest ecosystems. Threats are from increasing recreational use, fire suppression, and livestock grazing.
- Protects representative ecosystems within the fragmented Bulkley Basin Ecoregion.
- Includes nearly a fifth of the protected areas system's representation of SBSdk subzone in British Columbia.
- Protects regionally significant productive, low-elevation, old-growth forest and Douglas-fir forest at the northern extent of their range.
- Conserves rare grassland, scrub-steppe and forested ecosystems.
- Protects regionally significant wildlife habitat and riparian ecosystems.
- Cultural heritage features ranked as highly diverse and moderately rare according the Skeena Region Conservation Risk Assessments.
- Contains legend sites, culturally modified trees and other cultural heritage sites.
- Provides both frontcountry and backcountry outdoor recreation opportunities close to communities.
- Provides a natural viewscape.

### **Land Uses, Tenures and Interests**

#### **Access**

Visitors reach Red Hills by following Highway 35 south from Burns Lake to the community of François Lake, turning east on to François Lake East Road and driving about nine kilometres to the end of the road. The Tercer-Peace Forest Service Road reaches the western boundary of the park, leaving Highway 16 about six kilometres from the eastern end of Burns Lake.

Alternatively, Seven-mile Forest Service Road branches east off Highway 35 about one kilometre north of Tchesinkut Lake, joins Tercer Lake Forest Service Road, and then Tercer Peace Forest Service Road.

Travelers reach Uncha Mountain by taking the ferry from the community of François Lake to Southbank, turning east onto the Uncha Lake Road, and then driving the Uncha Mountain Forest Service Road, a four-wheel drive road which is not maintained year round, to the western side of the park. The Binta-Blackpoint Forest Service Road, closed to public in spring and fall, provides access to the eastern boundary of Uncha Mountain. This road branches north-east from the main road travelling past Uncha Lake.

Francois Lake Provincial Park and Francois Lake Protected Area is accessible by vehicle along a series of small, gravelled roads heading south from Highway 16 at Endako and travelling around the eastern end of François Lake for about 20 kilometres. The route starts at the Endako Mine Road, leaving Highway 16 just east of Endako, turns left on to Glenannan Road after five kilometres, right onto François Lake Road after about four kilometres, right onto Nithi Road after five kilometres and right onto Dahlgren Road after two kilometres. A rustic boat launch, after about three kilometres marks the park's eastern boundary. The Holy Cross-Binta Forest Service Road travels through the park for about eight kilometres, leaving through the eastern boundary.

Visitors also reach the park and protected area from Fraser Lake by turning off onto François Lake Road, one kilometre east of Fraser Lake on Highway 16 then turning onto Nithi Road at Kilometre 7 on François Lake Road. This is the main access route for people traveling from Prince George and Vanderhoof.

People can reach the parks and protected area by boat from François Lake. Public boat ramps, but no docks, exist at the ferry landings in the communities of François Lake and Southbank. A rough boat ramp sits at the east end of Francois Lake Provincial Park.

### **Existing Tenures, Alienations and Encumbrances**

- Three guide-outfitter territories cover parts of Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park (i.e., 604G004, 604G005 and 605G001); one of these (604G004) also uses Francois Lake Provincial Park.
  - Environmental Stewardship Division issued park use permit SK0110331 to one guide-outfitter operation that uses both provincial parks. That park use permit terminated in 2002.
- Four trappers operate within Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park (604T009, 604T010, 604T015, 604T023); one has two registered cabins in Uncha Mountain; five trappers operate in Francois Lake Park (604T004, 604T006, 604T009, 604T010, 604T053).
  - Environmental Stewardship Division issued park use permits SK0210417 and SK0210373 to two trapline operations within Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park. These park use permits terminate in 2012.
  - Environmental Stewardship Division issued park use permits SK0210374, SK0210417 and SK0310426 to three trapline operations in Francois Lake Provincial Park. The first two park use permits end in 2012 while the third terminates in 2013.

- Grazing permit RAN072146 covers Red Hills; no current grazing permits cover Uncha Mountain.
- Environmental Stewardship Division issued park use permit SK0011360 to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) for the use of a repeater station on Uncha Mountain. The park use permit ends in 2011. The RCMP drive to the communications site using the Uncha Lake Forest Service Road, branch 04.
- Environmental Stewardship Division issued park use permit SK0210420 to the Ministry of Forests for the purpose of mountain pine beetle control in Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park. The park use permit ends in 2003.
- Environmental Stewardship Division issued park use permit SK0210422 to the Ministry of Forests for a weather station in Francois Lake Provincial Park. This park use permit ends in 2007.
- A silviculture reserve on Uncha Mountain, covering several district lots, has been used by the Ministry of Forests for research purposes.
- Both provincial parks exclude private lots along the shore of François Lake. People gain access to District Lot 2876 only by water. Property owners reach blocks within District Lot 2644 and District Lot 1676 by trail. The provincial government established the Francois Lake Protected Area with a portion of District Lot 1676 to allow for possible road access to private lots outside the park.
- Francois Lake Provincial Park contains several recreational cabins on crown-leased land that are managed by park use permits.

### **Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities**

- Two previous Ministry of Forests' recreation sites exist within Francois Lake Provincial Park.
  - Sawmill Point, near the Nithi River confluence at the extreme east end of François Lake is accessible by road (Holy Cross – Binta Forest Service Road). The recreation site consists of parking space for eight to twelve vehicles, two pit toilets, two picnic tables, one fire ring, one garbage can and a gravel boat ramp. Regional residents and visitors' camp, boat and fish.
  - Black Point, about two kilometres west of Sawmill Point, is reached by water or by a two kilometre long trail through open, mixed Douglas-fir forest and along the beach. Users maintain the recreation site that comprises two picnic tables and information signs. Regional residents use the recreation site for family recreation, primarily picnicking. The recreation site includes an old cabin situated at the trail's end.
- Most outdoor recreation use in both provincial parks focuses on François Lake and its shoreline. People participate in angling, boating, and camping outdoor recreation activities at the lake. In the upland, people engage in hiking and horseback riding activities.
  - A well-used hiking trail (originally a First Nations heritage trail, later a pack trail) runs along the north shore of François Lake through Red Hills. During summer weekends park rangers will find one to five vehicles parked at the trail head. The trail also experiences up to two horseback riding trips each year.
  - The north face of Uncha Mountain contains a rough hiking trail.

- Horseback riders use several trails, leading from private land to the west of Uncha Mountain, to reach Uncha Creek to the east. A moderately well-used trail starts on private land, continues along an old tie-hacking trail (1940s) past the north tip of a Y-shaped lake (DL 1007) on to Uncha Creek, reaching François Lake after six hours of riding. Use levels consist of about 10 to 20 riders annually in groups of four to eight. Commercial horseback riding operators have used this trail. Most riders are local residents and their guests. One park neighbour holds summer camps for children and takes the children on trips along the trail network.
- Several old Forest Service spur roads exist within the provincial parks.
- Several recreational cabins are under lease adjacent to Francois Lake Provincial Park.
- Cattle graze in Red Hills between June and September. The cattle use the trail along the north shore of François Lake and travel through meadows to the height of land. Ranchers use ATVs to find and move cattle. Ranchers re-seed trampled areas with non-native seed.
- In general, little snowmobile use occurs because of the steep terrain. Snowmobile operators, however, heavily use a Forest Service road and extensions into Uncha Mountain.

### **Adjacent Patterns of Land Use**

- Francois Lake Provincial Park and Francois Lake Protected Area's boundary meets François Lake to the north, Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park to the west and the Nechako West Resource Management Zone (resource development emphasis) of the Vanderhoof Forest District elsewhere.
  - LRMP direction within the Nechako West Resource Management Zone is to ensure visual integrity from François Lake and to guarantee wind firm boundaries next to the park.
  - A few private lots border Francois Lake Provincial Park and Francois Lake Protected Area on the lake's shore.
- The Uncha Mountain portion of Unchan Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park is bordered by François Lake to the north, Francois Lake Provincial Park (within the Vanderhoof Forest District) to the east and by several resource management zones within the Lakes Forest District elsewhere.
  - Most of the southern boundary and part of the western boundary adjoins a General Resource Management Zone, including several areas of Intensive Timber Management; the Unta – Binta – Knapp Lakes Recreation Corridor heads south from the protected area; Special Management zones for moose lie along the west boundary, one adjacent to François Lake, the other overlapping a Settlement-Agriculture Zone.
  - A concentration of private lots, including large cattle holdings, exists along the west and southern boundaries of Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park.
  - Cheslatta IR#1 and Skins Lake IR#16B lie to the west of Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park.
- The boundary of the Red Hills portion of Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park meets François Lake to the south and is entirely within the Lakes Forest District.
  - Tchesinkut Lake East Recreation Area borders the northeast part of the park; a General Resource Management Zone, including Intensive Timber Areas borders the north, and a Special Management Zone for deer and an Agriculture-Settlement Zone border the east.
  - Private lots border the park along the shore of François Lake to the west and east.

- A non-status road leads to the park. Park neighbours built the road over Crown land under permit to provide access to private land.
- The east end of François Lake contains many permanent residences and summer cabins and several tourist/recreation lodges.
- François Lake is extremely popular for outdoor recreation activities, e.g. boating and angling for lake trout and rainbow trout.

## **First Nations Interests**

- The Office of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Peoples, (Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park) and Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council consider the parks and protected area included in their land claims. Various bands have also expressed an interest in particular parks and many are associated with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Peoples or Carrier Sekani Tribal Council for land claims while others are interested in making claims as an individual band. The bands include Burns Lake Band (Red Hills), Wet'suwet'en First Nation (Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park), Nee Tahi Buhn (Uncha Mountain), Skin Tyee (Uncha Mountain), Stelat'en (Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park and Francois Lake Park), and Nadleh Whut'en (Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park and Francois Lake Provincial Park).
- First Nations use the two provincial parks, the protected area and surrounding countryside for subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering.
- The southern shore of François Lake is associated with high archaeological values. First Nations elders and Hereditary Chiefs have noted high spiritual values in Red Hills.
- Several First Nations do not accept the Ministry guidelines on consultation.
- The Burns Lake Band is interested in completing an archaeological study in Red Hills, preventing cows from damaging the cultural heritage, spiritual and ecological values (e.g., damaging wildlife habitat, introducing weeds, passing disease to moose) providing information from elders, and protecting wildlife habitat (particularly grasslands). The Burns Lake Band provided input into the preparation of this management direction statement.
- Nee Tahi Buhn has interest in Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park in maintaining gillnet fishing operations, protecting burial sites, completing an archaeological study, gaining employment opportunities, protecting wetlands as important wildlife habitat and investigating the possibility of enhancing Uncha Creek (decades ago, salmon lived in Uncha Lake; now Uncha Creek is often dry). Nee Tahi Buhn First Nation provided input into the preparation of this management direction statement.
- Nadleh Whut'en has interest in both provincial parks with respect to claiming title, implementing their consultation policy, gaining employment opportunities and completing an archaeological study. The Nadleh Whut'en First Nation presented their interests, but did not want to be involved in official consultation until they had established a relationship with Skeena Region Environmental Stewardship Division staff.
- Office of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Peoples has interests based on their Hereditary system of management and an interest in park planning and management. Environmental Stewardship Division and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Peoples have been working together.
- Wet'suwet'en First Nation chose not to meet with Environmental Stewardship Division, but stated an interest in true consultation and employment opportunities.

- Stelat'en First Nation chose not to meet with Environmental Stewardship Division representatives, but stated an interest in employment and a concern about jeopardising treaty and title, requesting consultation via the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council.
- Skin Tyee did not attend an arranged meeting with Environmental Stewardship Division representatives.

### **Other Agency Interests**

- Ministry of Forests (Lakes District and Vanderhoof District) has an interest in preventing the spread of mountain pine beetles.
- Ministry of Forests has an interest in co-operation concerning forest harvesting adjacent to the parks and protected area as well as forest service roads through Francois Lake Provincial Park and Francois Lake Protected Area.
- Ministry of Forests has an interest in continuing to conduct research activities, as required within the Uncha Mountain silviculture reserve.
- Ecologists with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and Ministry of Forests have an interest in protecting rare ecosystems, including grasslands, riparian areas and Douglas-fir forests, and rare organisms associated with these ecosystems.
- Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Skeena Region Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section, has an interest in maintaining deer and moose habitat.
- Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, British Columbia Conservation Data Centre (CDC) has an interest in the species at risk in the parks and protected area.
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans has an interest in maintaining sockeye salmon rearing and migrating habitat along the shallow shoreline waters of François Lake.

### **Private and Public Stakeholder Interests**

- Tenure holders: guide-outfitters, trapline holders (Burns Lake Trappers Association), grazing tenure holders have an interest in the parks and protected area because they require the application of the *Park Act* and *Park and Recreation Area Regulation* governing the operation of such businesses.
- Local community members (i.e., Burns Lake, Fraser Lake, François Lake, Glenannan, Southbank, Grassy Plains, Wisteria, Takysie, Cheslatta and Ootsa) have an interest in the parks and the protected area because of the outdoor recreation opportunities and the contribution to the well-being of the local economy.
- Community groups (i.e., Glenannan Community Association, Northside Lakes Protection Society, Colleymount Recreation Commission, Southside Economic Development Group, Tweedsmuir Recreation Commission and Tchesinkut Watershed Society) have a similar interest in the parks and protected area as the local community members.
- Park neighbours and leaseholders (i.e., residents, summer visitors and the trail riding business at the west boundary of Uncha Mountain) have an interest in the parks and protected area because of the potential road development to their properties and the effects of outdoor recreation use and potential conflicts between users.
- Recreation groups (e.g., Saddle Club, Power Squadron) have an interest in the parks and protected areas because they want their specific activities to continue.
- Tourist resorts at the east end of François Lake have an interest in the economic benefits the parks and protected area will bring to the region and their businesses.



- Naturalists and ecologists are interested in the conservation of natural and cultural heritage values protected by park and protected area status.

## **Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park, Francois Lake Provincial Park and Francois Lake Protected Area Role Statement**

Uncha Mountain Red Hills and Francois Lake provincial parks' primary role is to conserve a variety of representative sub-boreal spruce ecosystems within the Bulkley Basin Eco-section. The parks are particularly valuable for their protection of: 1) special forested and non-forested ecosystems, including remnant high productivity, low elevation, old-growth forest; 2) some of the most extensive and best developed Douglas-fir ecosystems in the Skeena Region (the parks share this important role with Sutherland River Provincial Park and Sutherland River Protected Area) at the northern extent of their range; and 3) a variety of scrub-steppe and grassland ecosystems on south-facing slopes. South-facing slopes and deciduous forests are important ungulate winter range, and riparian ecosystems, along François Lake shoreline and along creeks, are important to a diversity of organisms.

The parks and protected area also contribute substantially to the protection of extremely significant cultural heritage features and values ranging from First Nation legend sites to traditional hunting and gathering grounds.

An extremely significant secondary role of Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park and Francois Lake Provincial Park is to provide to the public a variety of high quality outdoor recreation opportunities and activities. The provincial parks afford the park visitor access to François Lake's excellent motorboating, canoeing, angling and wildlife viewing activities. In addition, the parks offer a wide variety of frontcountry and backcountry outdoor recreation opportunities, including hiking, camping, picnicking, photography, nature appreciation, wildlife study, horseback riding, winter recreation pursuits (snowshoeing, cross-country skiing) and cultural heritage feature appreciation.

An important, often overlooked, role these parks and the protected area perform is their presentation of scientific research and community education opportunities. These protected areas provide local government agencies, First Nations, community groups, educational institutions and individual scientists and researchers with excellent places to study rare ecosystems, special cultural heritage features, forest and non-forested succession processes and aquatic ecosystems in undisturbed natural conditions to those heavily changed by human activity.

Francois Lake Protected Area performs a special role of providing a corridor for the construction of access to private property outside Francois Lake Provincial Park. That role means some damage to natural values will occur. Outside the proposed road corridor, however, lands in the protected area will perform a similar role as that found in the surrounding Francois Lake Provincial Park.

## Management Commitments and Issues

### Direction from Previous Planning

In 1997, the Vanderhoof LRMP recommended François Lake for protection to avoid the progression of development and maintain the scenic nature of the area for local residents and visitors. In 2000, the Lakes District LRMP recommended Red Hills Uncha Mountain for protection to provide ecosection representation, special habitats protection and recreation and scenic areas conservation. The Lakes District LRMP included three Goal 2 special feature areas of interest within the larger park to protect remnant ecosystems and rare species. The Vanderhoof LRMP provides explicit objectives and strategies for Francois Lake Provincial Park, including the following (see Appendix A of the LRMP for full text):

- *Endorse foreshore ... classification ... for delineation of fisheries sensitive zones.*
- *Research, inventory and designate heritage values.*
- *Identify and develop a limited number of areas to be more easily accessible to the elderly and the young; develop trail systems of varying difficulty.*
- *Consider soil erosion potential in plans for insect control or fire control.*
- *Control noxious weeds using manual methods and refer herbicide use to the public.*
- *Prevent spread of beetle populations within—and outside—the protected area.*
- *Control wildfire.*
- *Manage timber harvesting in adjacent portions of the Nechako West RMZ to maintain the viability of this protected area.*
- *Rehabilitate areas affected by ... disturbances to manage for scenic and environmental values.*
- *Maintain existing guiding, hunting and trapping opportunities.*

The Lakes District LRMP provides one specific management direction for Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park, and gives general direction for all protected areas (important portions excerpted below, see Appendix B of the LRMP for full text).

- *Existing tenures within new parks ... will be permitted to continue, in accordance with the existing management conditions attached to those tenures. In the future, the management conditions attached to those tenures may be amended to comply with the requirements of BC Parks policy and park management plans.*
- *Existing range tenures within Uncha Mountain – Red Hill protected area will continue to be administered and managed in accordance with the Range Act, as per the transitional provisions for new parks in the Park Amendment Act, 1997.*
- *Where existing grazing tenures occur, sensitive plant communities ... will be maintained in conjunction with MoF through application of range management guidelines.*
- *Vegetation management will be undertaken ... where previously open forests and grasslands have become ingrown as a result of fire suppression ... Fire will be the primary means of restoring grasslands.*

## Management Issues

Environmental Stewardship Division identified the following management issues:

Theme	Issue
Protecting ecological values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In both parks, inventory of natural features, particularly rare and vulnerable plant communities and associated organisms is incomplete.</li> <li>• In Red Hills, rare grassland and scrub-steppe ecosystems are vulnerable to colonisation by non-native weeds, encroachment by aspen, and disturbance by grazing and motorised use; non-native weeds are already present along some trails.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Motorised use (in association with established tenures) might disturb soil and introduce non-native weeds.</li> <li>➢ Increased use by horses might introduce non-native weeds.</li> <li>➢ Cattle grazing can introduce non-native weeds, compact soil and change species composition; effects of current levels of grazing are unknown; Environmental Stewardship Division personnel have noted some impacts; and ranchers currently reseed trampled areas with non-native seed.</li> <li>➢ Aspen encroachment due to fire control is shrinking these ecosystems.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In Red Hills, maintenance of grassland – scrub communities in their natural state conflicts with fire control, grazing and high levels of recreational use.</li> <li>• Rare Douglas-fir ecosystems in both parks may be at risk because fire control may lead to ingrowth of spruce, fir and lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir health problems and poor Douglas-fir regeneration.</li> <li>• High recreational use could damage wetland environments south of Uncha Mountain.</li> <li>• Foreshore construction related to any public facility development would interfere with juvenile salmon migration.</li> <li>• Activities on steep, unstable slopes may lead to sediment entering François Lake.</li> <li>• Mountain pine beetle population is high in Francois Lake Park.</li> <li>• Motorised use could damage sensitive ecosystems, particularly meadows and wetlands; current levels of motorised use are low because of difficult access and steep terrain (most use is in Francois Lake Park).</li> </ul>
Protecting outdoor recreation opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflicts between land owners and horseback riders may arise because most trail access is through private land to reach Uncha Mountain.</li> <li>• Access to Red Hills is along a non-status road built by park neighbours.</li> </ul>
Protecting cultural heritage values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verification of many anecdotal reports about the presence of culturally modified trees, cache pits, arrowheads, legend sites and other archaeological sites is lacking because inventory of cultural values is incomplete.</li> </ul>
First Nations' values and interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various First Nations' claims to the provincial parks and protected area overlap each other; several different First Nations claim traditional territory within the parks and protected area and people from different nations use and value the area differently.</li> <li>• First Nations would like full consultation, though different First Nations define consultation differently.</li> </ul>

Theme	Issue
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spiritual, cultural heritage and ecological values within Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park may be damaged by grazing domestic cattle. (An issue raised by the Burns Lake Band.)</li> <li>• Moose may be infected by disease passed to them by grazing domestic cattle in Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park. (An issue raised by the Burns Lake Band.)</li> <li>• Nee Tahi Buhn is interested in investigating the possibility of rehabilitating and enhancing Uncha Creek because decades ago, salmon lived in Uncha Lake. Uncha Creek is often dry now.</li> </ul>
Potential park addition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park could be expanded because a private philanthropist donated 80 hectares of land east of Red Hills to the Province.</li> </ul>
Relationship with neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflict between conservation and recreation objectives may occur because of LRMP direction for continuation of all activities associated with existing tenures, including ATV use connected with grazing and trapping.</li> <li>• Potential exists for mountain pine beetle populations within the parks and protected area to spread to adjacent forest lands. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Note – the same potential exists for mountain pine beetle infestations to invade the provincial parks and protected area from adjacent forest lands.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Damage from fire within the parks and protected area could spread to adjacent forests lands. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Note – the parks and protected areas are also at risk for damage caused by fire from outside their boundaries.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Damage to the natural and cultural heritage values may occur because private residents with lots next to Francois Lake Protected Area may develop road access to their properties.</li> </ul>

## Management Direction

The vision for Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park, Francois Lake Provincial Park and Francois Lake Protected Area includes protection of rare and sensitive ecosystems while allowing appropriate opportunities for frontcountry and backcountry outdoor recreation use of François Lake, lakeshore and hill slopes, and allowing the continuation of cattle grazing. The following table describes priority management objectives and strategies to deal with identified management issues. In addition, Appendix 1 contains a table listing acceptable activities, uses and facilities for these parks and the protected area.

## Priority Management Objectives and Strategies

Objective	Strategies
To expand Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement process to add the donated parcel of land to Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park.</li> </ul>
To protect the natural values within Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park and Francois Lake Provincial Park and Protected Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete an inventory of fauna and flora within the parks and protected area with priority given to rare and/or sensitive grassland, scrub-steppe and forested ecosystems.</li> <li>• Develop a vegetation management plan for both parks based on the data collected in the inventory of flora with the goal of maintaining rare and/or sensitive grassland, scrub-steppe and forested ecosystems and rare species. The vegetation management plan should consider the following:</li> </ul>

Objective	Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Inventory and map rare and/or sensitive ecosystems; describe ecosystem status and potential threats: aspen and shrub encroachment onto grasslands because of fire control; decreased regeneration of Douglas-fir because of fire control; soil compaction and erosion caused by recreation, grazing, motorised use associated with grazing, and other activities; invasion by non-native weeds caused by recreation and activities associated with grazing; changes in plant community composition because of grazing and recreation.</li> <li>➤ Work with appropriate government agencies, First Nations and Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection ecologists to inventory threats, including roads, trails, facilities, grazing effort, motorised use (in association with established tenures) and outdoor recreation levels, and to estimate natural disturbance levels.</li> <li>➤ Design appropriate monitoring, management and restoration activities, including prescribed fire in association with girdling, hinging and other techniques; consider recommendations from the report to the Terrestrial Ecosystem Restoration Program, entitled "Restoration of native grasslands in the Prince Rupert Forest Region".</li> <li>➤ Work with the Ministry of Forests and grazing licensees to minimise the impacts of grazing; monitor grazing activities and impacts and initiate mitigation and rehabilitation strategies; manage appropriately (see objective below).</li> <li>• Prepare a fire management plan that considers prescribed burns as well as fire control to maintain grassland ecosystems; consult with local communities and First Nations before implementing any prescribed burns.</li> <li>• Work with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Skeena Region Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section to inventory fish, moose and deer, as required.</li> <li>• Work with horseback riders to determine appropriate areas for horse use (ecological impacts of riding are likely lower in Uncha Mountain than in Red Hills); provide information on low impact horse riding practices to visitors; monitor horse use and ecological damage; manage appropriately.</li> <li>• Prohibit motorised use (summer or winter) of parks except limited use as required for permitted activities (i.e., in association with trapping and grazing); authorise snowmobile and limited ATV use associated with trapping under park use permit; require letter of permission for motorised activities associated with grazing, stating the number and location of motorised trips; monitor the impact of motorised use and any increase in use by non-permitted riders; manage appropriately.</li> <li>• Prohibit construction of new trails for motorised activities.</li> </ul>
<p>To protect sensitive ecosystems in the Red Hills portion of Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park while allowing domestic cattle grazing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow grazing as specified by the Lakes District LRMP.</li> <li>• Allow the continuation of activities associated with grazing tenures as specified by the Lakes District LRMP.</li> <li>• Work with the Ministry of Forests, grazing licensees and local community groups to minimise the effects of grazing and activities associated with grazing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide maps of rare and/or sensitive ecosystems.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Objective	Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write letters stating 1) the intent to honour the LRMP consensus, 2) specific concerns (e.g., damage to mapped ecosystems, increased recreational, ATV use), 3) what will be monitored, and 4) if ecosystems are degraded, Environmental Stewardship Division will re-evaluate activities associated with the tenure;</li> <li>• Discuss possible actions to minimise the impacts of activities associated with grazing (e.g., salt block placement, gating to prevent recreational ATV use, reseeding disturbed sites with native seed mix).</li> <li>• If activities associated with grazing cause unacceptable degradation of rare and/or sensitive ecosystems, give priority to ecosystem protection.</li> </ul>
To protect the parks' and protected area's outdoor recreation opportunities and features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to maintain facilities at Sawmill Point and Black Point in Francois Lake Provincial Park.</li> <li>• Complete an inventory of trails and old roads; work with Burns Lake Gateway Program trails committee.</li> <li>• Investigate the need to maintain selected trails within the parks; consult with local residents and develop agreements with local residents for maintenance, as necessary.</li> <li>• Allow continued use of designated trails (i.e., Red Hills Trail, Uncha Creek Trail) by horseback riders; investigate potential public safety issues, access routes and the ecological impacts of riding and design use guidelines where necessary; do not advertise the parks for horseback riding.</li> <li>• Investigate the status of the Red Hills access road.</li> <li>• Discuss outdoor recreation issues with local residents, as required.</li> <li>• Do not initiate the development of recreational facilities within the parks.</li> <li>• On a small donated parcel of land east of Red Hills, consider the development of recreational facilities in the context of Uncha Mountain Red Hills and Francois Lake parks; do not develop any facilities without public consultation and apply BC Parks and Protected Areas Impact Assessment Process to any proposed facility development.</li> </ul>
To protect the parks and protected area's cultural heritage values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate and collate existing information on cultural heritage values.</li> </ul>
To respect and protect First Nation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise that several First Nations have overlapping claims and that different nations have different interests in the parks.</li> <li>• Implement the Ministry guidelines on consultation and where possible, consider specific First Nation consulting protocols.</li> <li>• Encourage cabins, necessary to support aboriginal traditional uses and activities such as trapping, be constructed outside of the parks. If a cabin is necessary within the parks, apply BC Parks and Protected Areas Impact Assessment Process in consultation with the appropriate First Nation, interested stakeholders and members of the public.</li> <li>• Work with the Ministry of Forests and grazing licensees to monitor potential impacts of cattle grazing on stated values.</li> <li>• Encourage archaeological and traditional use studies involving elders and other knowledgeable First Nations representatives; work with First Nations to write funding proposals.</li> <li>• Inform appropriate First Nations representatives if Environmental Stewardship Division becomes aware of cultural heritage sites.</li> </ul>

Objective	Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with First Nations to provide information on identified interests and economic development and employment opportunities.</li> </ul>
To bring existing commercial business tenures under valid permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact trapline owners to place their trapping operations affecting the parks and protected area under valid park use permits.</li> <li>• Contact guide-outfitter operators using the parks and protected area to place their operations under valid park use permits.</li> </ul>
To maintain positive relationships with park neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-operate with the Ministry of Forests to monitor and manage mountain pine beetle populations; work with the Ministry of Forests to develop specific mountain pine beetle management plans for the provincial parks and the protected area; consider possible actions for different population levels.</li> <li>• Develop a fire management plan in conjunction with the Ministry of Forests.</li> <li>• Talk with private lot holders next to Francois Lake Protected Area about road development; if the road is completed, pursue upgrading the designation of the protected area to Class A park.</li> <li>• Consider implementing Park Watch and/or Conservation Stewardship programs for both provincial parks and the protected area to encourage involvement of local community members.</li> </ul>
To provide information to park visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an interpretative strategy to alert public to rare and/or sensitive ecosystems and to encourage low-impact recreation.</li> <li>• Provide accurate and current information about Uncha Mountain Red Hills River Provincial Park and Francois Lake Provincial Park and Protected Area on the official Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection web site.</li> </ul>

## Consultation and Future Planning

Environmental Stewardship Division will consult with appropriate First Nations, stakeholders and community groups as issues arise. A particular challenge will be maintaining sensitive grassland, scrub-steppe and Douglas-fir ecosystems while allowing domestic cattle grazing, outdoor recreation use and preventing wildfire. A vegetation management plan and fire management plan, to be developed over the next five years, will provide guidance in maintaining these ecosystems. Environmental Stewardship Division ranks Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park, Francois Lake Provincial Park and Francois Lake Protected Area as moderate for the preparation of a management plan with full public consultation.

## Zoning Plan

Four of Environmental Stewardship Division management planning zones apply to Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park and Francois Lake Provincial Park and Francois Lake Protected Area as described below. The current interim zoning map will be amended to include the Intensive Recreation, Natural Environment and Special Feature zones following air photo analysis and field verification.

### Intensive Recreation Zone

**Objective:** To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

**Description:** This zone covers 200 hectares and includes the former Sawmill forest recreation site with its campground facilities and roads in Francois Lake Provincial Park. The Intensive Recreation Zone also includes a 100 metre zone on either side of the entire length of Holy Cross Binta Forest Service Road right-of-way within François Lake Provincial Park. Should private

land owners construct a road through Francois Lake Protected Area, this zone would apply to the road corridor under Environmental Stewardship Division management.

**Management Guidelines:** Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor.

### **Natural Environment Zone**

**Objective:** To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

**Description:** This zone covers about 2000 hectares and applies to the former Black Point forest recreation site. In addition, the zone contains all provincial park land 250 metres back from the natural boundary of François Lake and Uncha Lake. Further, this zone expands at the east end of François Lake to include all provincial park and protected area lands 500 metres from the natural boundary of François Lake starting one kilometre west of the west boundary of Francois Lake Protected Area and extending east to the end of the lake.

**Rationale:** This zone provides a buffer between François and Uncha lakes and the Wilderness Recreation Zone. Both lakes experience motorboating and other intensive outdoor recreation activities and their shorelines have private and leasehold properties next to the provincial parks.

**Management Guidelines:** Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and a high quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation modes. Designation of transportation may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g., horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails.)

### **Special Feature Zone**

**Objective:** To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.

**Description:** This zone covers all rare and/or sensitive plant communities (especially grasslands) within Uncha Mountain Red Hills Provincial Park and Francois Lake Provincial Park and covers about 2500 hectares.

**Management Guidelines:** High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high quality recreational and interpretative experience. Active or passive management depending on size, location, and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts.

### **Wilderness Recreation Zone**

**Objective:** To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites.

**Zone Description:** This zone covers the vast majority of the parks and applies to all the lands outside the other three management planning zones.

**Management Guidelines:** Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.



Figure 3: Zoning

Francois Lake Park and Protected Area



Projection: UTM Zone 10  
Datum: NAD83



-  Natural Environment
-  Wilderness Recreation
-  Protected Area Boundary

Addition of Intensive Recreation Zone  
upon air photo analysis and field  
verification



Produced in Feb 2003 for Ministry  
of Water, Land and Air Protection

This is a visual representation  
only and should not be used for  
legal purposes.



Figure 4: Zoning

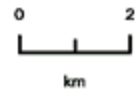
Uncha Mountain Red Hills Park



Projection: UTM Zone 10  
Datum: NAD83



 Wilderness Recreation  
 Protected Area Boundary



Addition of Special Feature Zone  
upon air photo analysis and field  
verification

Produced in Jan 2003 for Ministry  
of Water, Land and Air Protection

This is a visual representation  
only and should not be used for  
legal purposes.

**Table of Acceptable Activities, Uses and Facilities**

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptability		
	Uncha Mountain Red Hills PP	Francois Lake PP	Francois Lake PA
Aboriginal traditional activities and uses	Y	Y	Y
Hunting	Y	Y	Y
Fishing	Y	Y	Y
Trapping	Y	Y	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock) by permit only	N2 (Red Hills)	N	N
Recreational gold panning/rock hounding	N	N	N
Utility corridors	N	N	N
Communication sites	N2	N	N
Horse use by permit only	Y (see Strategies)	Y	Y
Pack animals	N	N	N
Guide outfitting (hunting)	Y	Y	N
Guide outfitting (fishing)	Y	Y	Y
Guide outfitting (nature tours)	Y	Y	Y
Guide outfitting (river rafting)	N	N	N
Cat-assisted skiing	N	N	N
Ski hills	N	N	N
Commercial recreation (facility-based)	N	N	N
Commercial recreation (non-facility-based)	Y	Y	Y
Backcountry huts	M	M	M
Water control structures	N	N	N
Fish stocking and enhancement	N	N	N
Road access ( <i>Holy Cross – Binta FSR</i> )	N2	N	Y
Off-road access (snowmobiling) by permit only	N2 (associated with tenures)	N2 (associated with tenures)	N2 (associated with tenures)
Off-road access (motorised) by permit only	N2 (limited ATV use associated with tenures)	N2 (limited ATV use associated with tenures)	N2 (limited ATV use associated with tenures)
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	N	N	N
Motorised water access	Y	Y	Y
Aircraft access	Y	Y	Y
Fire management (suppression)	Y (subject to fire management plan)	Y (subject to fire management plan)	Y (subject to fire management plan)
Fire management (prescribed fire management)	Y (subject to Fire Management Plan)	Y (subject to Fire Management Plan)	N
Fire management (prevention)	Y	Y	Y
Forest insect/disease control	N1	N1	N1
Noxious weed control	Y	Y	Y
Exotic insect/disease control	N1	N1	N1
Scientific research (specimen collection)	M	M	M
Scientific research (manipulative activities)	M	M	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