

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

February 2001

**for Walhachin Oxbows
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**
Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division



Ministry of
Environment,
Lands and Parks

BC Parks
Headquarters
2nd Floor, 800 Johnson
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Phone: (250) 387-5002
Fax: (250) 387-5757

APPROVALS

KAMLOOPS GOAL 2 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS - GOAL 2 BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward


This binder contains 32 management direction statements developed under the direction of the Kamloops Land and Resource Plan Implementation Table and BC Parks. The government designated these protected areas in May, 1996. The 32 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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams Lake Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiuihill Creek Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams Lake Marine Park - Poplar Point | <input type="checkbox"/> Lac Le Jeune Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams Lake Park – Spillman Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> Monte Creek Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banana Island Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Mount. Savona Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedard Aspen Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Mud Creek Delta Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue River Black Spruce Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Islands Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue River Pine Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbows East Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caligata Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbow Jensen Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Castle Rock Hoodoos Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbow Manteau Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chu Chua Cottonwood Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Painted Bluffs Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Canyon Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Pritchard Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Canyon Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Pyramid Creek Falls Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Floodplain Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Tsintsunko Lakes Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Epsom Park. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wallachin Oxbows Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finn Creek Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Wire Cache Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenstone Mountain Park. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harbour - Dudgeon Park. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harry Lake Aspen Park. | |

Approved by:

Monty Downs
Monty Downs
District Manager
Thompson River District

Date: 99/11/30


or Denis O'Gorman
Denis O'Gorman
Assistant Deputy Minister
Parks Division

2001.04.06

Date: 99/12/29

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Walhachin Oxbows Park Management Direction Statement

Introduction

Purpose of the MDS

Management direction statements (MDS) 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. While strategies may be identified in the MDS, the completion of all these strategies is subject to funding and funding procedures. In addition, all development associated with these strategies within the protected area is subject to the BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy. This management direction statement is intended to provide direction and guidelines for managing Walhachin Oxbows Park for the foreseeable future.

Setting and Context

- The 36-hectare Walhachin Oxbows Park protects an oxbow feature on the Thompson River west of Savona. It is situated 45 kilometres west of Kamloops, and is accessed by boat from the west end of Kamloops Lake.
- This protected area was recommended through the Kamloops LRMP process and formally established on April 30th, 1996 as a provincial park through Order-in-Council under the *Environment and Land Use Act*.

Protected Area Attributes

Conservation

- Remnant oxbow feature on the Thompson River
- Formed of gravels and sandy stream terrace deposits immediately west of the huge Deadman delta deposits that filled the Thompson valley during deglaciation
- Ponderosa pine, riparian habitats and cottonwoods on north side and point of peninsula
- Upper benchlands have bluebunch wheatgrass
- Oxbow slough waterfowl habitat
- Thompson River has internationally significant salmon runs.

Recreation and Tourism

- Protected greenspace for aesthetics and river recreation
- Stopover site for boaters; fishing, nature appreciation
- Recreation activities include canoe and boat access day use, fishing and nature study.

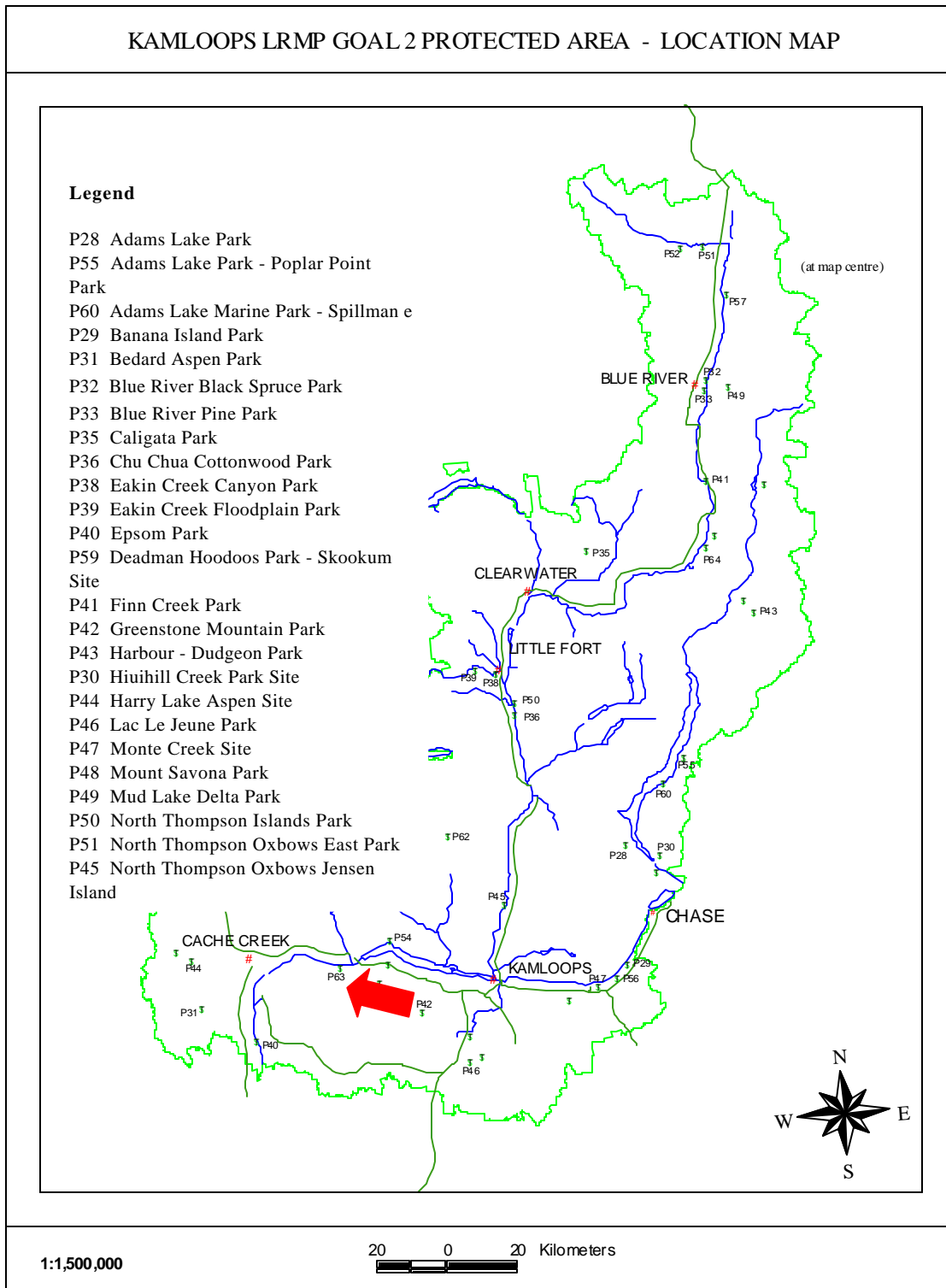
Cultural Heritage

- Unknown

Significance in the Protected Areas System

- A small representative of the Thompson River valley lowlands to add to that represented in Juniper Beach Park. Contributes unusual floodplain island and associated habitats.

Figure 1 - Location Map



Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

The park lies west of Kamloops, approximately 30 km east of the town of Cache Creek. The park is located just downstream from the mouth of the Deadman River and is accessible only by boat.

Existing Tenures

Park designation under the *Park Amendment Act* ensures that all existing liens, charges and encumbrances other than those applying to commercial logging, mining or energy exploration and development will continue to be authorized through issuance of park use permits. This policy recognizes all existing *Land Act* tenures, water rights, trapping licences and other legal tenures and rights. Park designation provides for continuance of existing grazing under administration of the *Range Act*.

- All private lands are excluded.

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- Canadian National Railway right of way through the park
- Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way through rock cuts on the southern boundary of the park
- Surrounding grasslands used for grazing cattle
- Indian Reserve No. 2457.

First Nations Interests

- The interests of local First Nations are unknown
- Adjacent river island and lands on north side of the Thompson River are in Deadman Indian Reserve (Skeetchestn Band).

Other Agency Interests

The park will be managed in close co-ordination with various resource agencies, particularly BC Environment and federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

- Fisheries managed by BC Environment
- Salmonid species managed by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- Canadian National Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway both have rights-of-way in or adjacent to the park.
- Potential day use stop for river rafting companies and fishing guides.

Role of the Park

Walhachin Oxbows Park is one of three provincial parks (Steelhead and Juniper parks) on the Thompson River between Kamloops Lake and Ashcroft. Walhachin Oxbows Park serves the important roles of protecting riparian and upland habitats and providing recreation opportunities on this section of the Thompson River.

Management Commitments and Issues

Integration with Other Land Use Planning Processes

This management statement, future management plans, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for Walhachin Oxbows Park.

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Longer Term Issues and Concerns

Specific issues that will be considered in the longer term can be highlighted under the following topics:

Conservation

- Inventory of conservation values.
- Vegetation management - insect and disease control; fire management.
- Wildlife and fisheries management.

Recreation and Tourism

- Access management.
- Recreation use - appropriate activities, levels of development, types of facilities, carrying capacities.

Culture

- Inventory and protection of archaeological sites and recognition of any identified traditional native uses in consultation with local First Nations.

Short Term Issues and Concerns

There are no apparent short-term issues in the park.

Management Direction

Management Objectives and Strategies

The Table of Acceptable Activities, Uses and Facilities outlines guidelines for managing uses, activities and facilities in the park. These guidelines reflect the intent of the LRMP and, in general principle, follow the policies as set out for use and management of provincial park Natural Environment zones.

In addition to accepting the basic principles of maintaining existing tenures and rights, the following objectives will direct the short and long-term management of the area:

- To maintain the natural qualities and conditions of the park
⇒ Conservation of natural and cultural values will receive primary emphasis.
- To maintain the visual, recreational and tourism values
- To maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats
- To discourage the introduction of non-native plant species
- To provide for continued recreation use with opportunities for day use, boating, fishing, nature appreciation.

Consultation and Future Planning

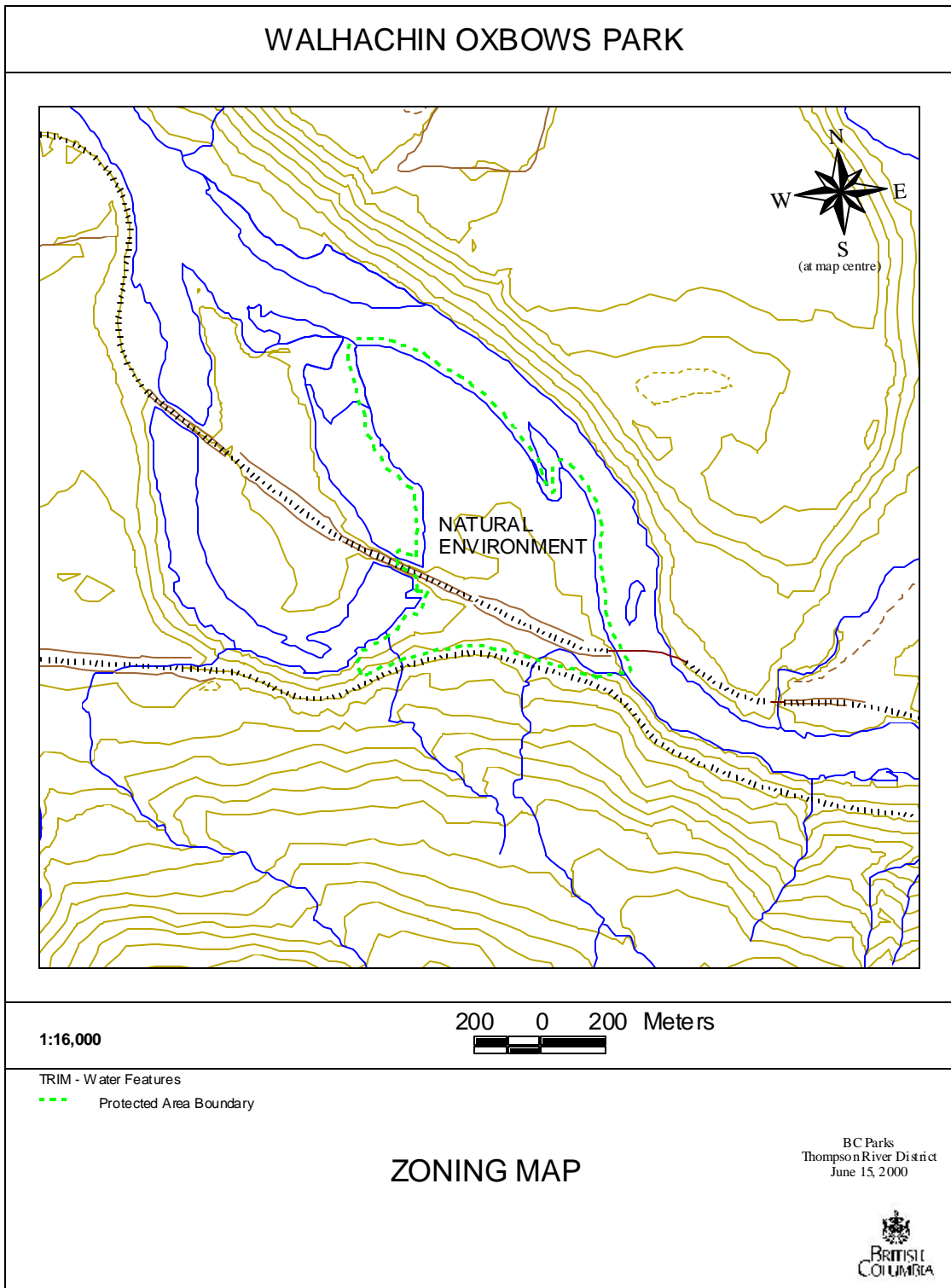
Planning and management of the park will conform to the intent and directions as set forth in the Provincial Protected Areas Strategy. BC Parks is accountable for planning, administration and management of the park through application of the laws, policies and regulations granted under the *Park Act*. BC Parks will coordinate with other agencies, the LRMP table, various public planning groups and First Nations in developing management plans for all of the new parks arising from the Kamloops LRMP.

This Management Direction Statement has been reviewed and approved in principle by the Kamloops LRMP implementation team.

Zoning Plan

This zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page is preliminary and reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for the Walhachin Oxbows Park. The zoning plan may be changed in a future management planning process. The tentative zoning applies a Natural Environment Zone to the entire park. The objective is to maintain the park in a natural condition while allowing some recreational use.

Figure 2 - Zoning Map



**Appendix I - Table of Acceptable Activities, Uses
and Facilities for WalhachinOxbows Park**

Activity/Use Facility	Natural Environment
Hunting	Y
Fishing	Y
Trapping	N2
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational Gold Panning/Rock Hounding	N
Utility Corridors	N
Communication Sites	N
Horse Use/Pack Animals	N/A
Guide Outfitting (hunting)	Y ²
Guide Outfitting (fishing)	Y ²
Guide Outfitting (nature tours)	Y ²
Guide Outfitting (river rafting)	Y ²
Cat-Assisted Skiing	N/A
Ski-Hills	N/A
Heli-skiing	N/A
Heli-hiking	N
Tourist Infrastructure - Resorts	N/A
Backcountry Huts / Lodges / Cabins / Guest Ranches	N/A
Water Control Structures	N/A
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N1
Road Access	Y ¹
Off-road Access (snowmobiling)	N/A
Off-road Access (motorized)	N
Off-road Access (mechanical activities)	N
Motorized Water Access	Y
Aircraft Access	N
Fire Management (Prescribed) Wildlife Management Prevention & Preparedness Prescribed Fire Management	N1
Fire Management (suppression)	Y
Forest Insect / Disease Control	N1
Noxious Weed Control	Y
Exotic Insect / Disease Control	Y
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	N1
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	N1

Y= allowed, subject to conditions identified in the interim management statement or management plan
 N= not allowed
 N1= allowed for expressed management purposes only
 N2= not normally allowed, but if present at time of PA establishment, will normally be allowed to continue

¹ Road access plan for this area designates open and closed roads
² By permit only
³ On designated trails only
⁴ On designated lakes only