

# BC Parks

## Guide to Writing Protected Area Management Plans

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Version 1.0



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BC Parks



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## PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

This guide provides step-by-step instructions on how to complete a management plan for a BC Parks protected area. It is intended for use by BC Parks planning staff as well as management planning partners and project team members.

This guide is a “living document” that will be reviewed and revised as needed to reflect legislative and policy changes, respond to emerging strategic management issues, and improve its usefulness for BC Parks staff and management planning partners.

Given the range in protected areas’ size, location, designation type, values, and management objectives across the province, each management plan should be unique. At the same time, this guide aims to establish consistency in the form and required content of management plans across the province.

Use of the [BC Parks Management Plan template](#) is recommended for all protected area management plans. There is flexibility in terms of the complexity and structure of individual plans, and sections may be added or omitted at the discretion of a project team for a given protected area. When deciding if and how to customize a management plan, project teams should rely on the information in this guide, dialogue with regional or provincial BC Parks planning staff, and input from project partners, particularly where government to government agreements with First Nations exist.

This guide is a companion document to the [BC Parks Protected Area Management Planning Manual](#), which provides detailed guidance to project teams about the management planning process. References to the manual appear throughout this guide.

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Each section of this guide corresponds to a section in the BC Parks Management Plan template. Readers are encouraged to review the template and guide concurrently.

This guide has six main sections. The “**Front Matter**” section discusses all of the required introductory elements that introduce the reader to the body of the management plan: cover page, acknowledgements (optional), table of contents, and plan highlights (optional).

**Section 1** outlines the ‘Introduction’ section of a management plan. A management plan’s introduction provides the geographical, ecological, social and regulatory context for a particular plan and outlines the process by which the plan was developed.

**Section 2** details the ‘Values and Roles’ section of a management plan. The values and roles section provides the reader with information about why the protected area is important in a local, regional and provincial context.

**Section 3** discusses how to develop and effectively present ‘Management Direction’ for the protected area which includes: a management vision and objectives, a description of the management context (i.e., known issues or opportunities), strategies designed to achieve the vision and objectives, and a zoning plan for the protected area.

**Section 4** outlines the ‘Plan Implementation’ section of a management plan, including the identification of high priority management strategies and how to use adaptive management in a protected area setting.

Finally, the “**Back Matter**” section identifies types of additional information that may be needed to help a reader better understand the management plan but that are not appropriate for inclusion in the body of the plan. Back matter may include: references, glossary and (or) appendices.

### **Optional Sections**

Various sections in the management plan template are optional and can be omitted from a management plan at the discretion of the project team based on the designation type or complexity of the management area. For example, a management plan for an ecological reserve will not normally require a “recreation values” section given that ecological reserves are not established for outdoor recreation purposes.

Optional sections are identified in the management plan template and throughout this guide.<sup>1</sup>

### **Template Language**

There are several sections of the management plan for which “template language” has been provided and should generally be used in all management plans. Template language appears in **grey text boxes** throughout the guide.

If template language is not used, the project lead should discuss the rationale for this decision with the provincial management planning coordinator and appropriate regional director.

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<sup>1</sup> Example plans will be included as appendices in Version 2.0 of this guide.

## **Example Language**

Example language from existing and approved management plans has been provided throughout the guide. Example language appears in **green text boxes**.

It may be appropriate to use language that is very similar to the examples provided, but examples should generally not be copied word for word - each management plan should be unique to the protected area it serves.

## INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS

A management plan sets out a high-level framework within which subsequent protected area management, planning and implementation will take place.

The level of detail and length of a management plan will vary depending on the complexity of the protected area's values and management considerations. A management plan may be less than five pages or over fifty pages. A particular section in one management plan may require three pages of explanation while being addressed in one sentence in another plan.

Regardless of its length and complexity, a management plan must fundamentally communicate: why the protected area exists and the values it protects, the protected area's desired future state, and how this future state will be achieved.

When writing a management plan, keep the following considerations in mind.

### **The Audience**

The provincial protected areas system is dedicated to present and future generations of British Columbians. It protects the province's diverse biological, natural and cultural heritage, while offering a spectrum of compatible outdoor recreation, research and heritage appreciation opportunities. Consequently, a management plan should be a document that any member of the public can read and understand how these valued public lands are being managed; it should be written in plain and neutral language that is free of jargon, and the use of acronyms is generally discouraged.

Protected area management plans will also be read and (or) used by a broad range of individuals and organizations including: BC Parks staff, other government agencies, First Nations, park facility operators, non-government organisations, local communities, park use permit holders, adjacent land holders, recreationists and other protected area users. As such, a good management plan will effectively balance the use of scientific or technical information with general readability.

Content should be attractively laid out with an emphasis on the use of explanatory maps and graphics. Technical background and support materials will be published separately from the management plan itself to avoid filling the plan with technical details.

### **The Designation Type**

BC Parks develops management plans for a number of different types of protected areas including: Class A parks and conservancies (designated under the *Park Act* or *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*); ecological reserves (designated under the *Ecological Reserve Act* or *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*); Class B parks and recreation



areas (established by order in council under the *Park Act*); and Protected Areas (established by order in council under the *Environment and Land Use Act*). Each of these protected area designations has a unique purpose; they do not serve the same role in the protected areas system.

Although management planning generally follows the same process regardless of the protected area designation, there will be notable differences in the final management plans for each type of area. For example:

- ❖ Ecological reserves are designated for an ecological purpose (e.g., protecting a representative sample of an endangered ecosystem or a unique example of a botanical, zoological or geological phenomenon) and while they are open to the public in most cases, they are not established for outdoor recreation so there is likely to be very little public recreation information in the management plan. In addition, neither a zoning plan nor an appropriate use table are normally required.
- ❖ Conservancies are set aside for several reasons, but many have been designated to preserve or maintain social, ceremonial and cultural use by First Nations. Consequently, some conservancy management plans may have a strong focus on First Nations' cultural values. Conservancies also provide for a wider range of low impact, compatible economic opportunities than Class A parks, therefore conservancy plans may contain more detail about compatible resource development and use activities.

Project teams should carefully consider the intent of the protected area's designation when structuring the management plan.

## FRONT MATTER

Front matter includes all of the elements that introduce the reader to the body of the management plan: cover page, approval page, acknowledgements (*optional*), plan highlights (*optional*), and the table of contents.

The style and presentation of a management plan have a strong influence on whether it is well received and understood by readers.

### COVER PAGE

Every management plan must have a cover page. The cover page should follow the formatting, fonts and layout as presented in the [template](#).

The management plan cover page must include:

- ✓ **Photograph:** a clear, high resolution photograph that highlights the protected area's key values.
- ✓ **Protected Area Name:** include the legal name unless otherwise explained within the body of the management plan. Refer to the legislation to confirm the legal name.
- ✓ **Logos:** current BC Parks' logo and the logo of any other party that is a signatory to the management plan (e.g., a First Nation or conservation organization). Logos indicating other applicable designations (e.g., UNESCO World Heritage Site) may also be included.
- ✓ **Date:** a draft management plan should include the day, month and year when the most recent changes have been made to the plan. The final management plan should indicate the month and year that the plan was approved and signed off by BC Parks and partner signatories.
- ✓ **Status:** the current stage of the document must be clearly written on the cover page (e.g., "draft for public review", "draft for regional review", "final draft", etc.). A plan that has been submitted to headquarters for final approval should indicate that the document is the "final draft".

The inside front cover must include:

- ✓ Photograph credits for the front cover photo. Photos taken by BC Parks staff should credit BC Parks, while photos taken by other individuals or BC staff outside of work hours, should include the photographer's name.

- ✓ Information on previous management products and amendments. For example: *“This document replaces the Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park Management Direction Statement (1993)” or “This management plan was originally approved January 23, 2010 and amended on March 9, 2013.”*

## **APPROVAL PAGE**

Appropriate formatting, fonts and layout for this page are provided in the [template](#).

The approval page must include:

- ✓ Names and titles of BC Parks staff with signing authority for the plan (the Executive Director of Parks Planning and Management and the appropriate Regional Director).
- ✓ Names and titles of any management planning partners.

The project lead must ensure that the approval page in the final plan posted on the BC Parks website includes all appropriate signatures (either original or electronic).

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (OPTIONAL)**

Including an acknowledgements section is **optional**. It should generally be used when the management plan has been developed collaboratively or with significant effort from external parties.

This section should describe the contributions made by (as applicable): First Nations, BC government staff (including the planning project team and other reviewers), volunteers, contractors, other government and non-government agencies, interested communities, and local advisory committee members.

As with the rest of the management plan, the acknowledgements section should not be written in the first person (i.e., does not use “I”, “us” or “we”).

### **Example language: Acknowledgements**

*“Preparation of this management plan for Kamdis Heritage Site/Conservancy has been jointly undertaken by the Haida Nation and the British Columbia Ministry of Environment (hereafter referred to as the “Parties”). Local and regional interested communities and community members provided valuable input and comment.*

*On behalf of the Council of the Haida Nation, Bill Beldessi provided project management oversight in conjunction with Tom Bell from the Ministry of Environment. Brandin Schultz provided overall planning process coordination with the assistance of management planning team members Lucy Stefanyk, Berry Wijdeven and Ryan van der Marel (represented the Ministry of Environment). Nick Reynolds, Owen Jones and Sonia Rice represented the interests of the Council of the Haida Nation on the management planning team and produced the maps in the management plans. All members of the management planning team contributed to the development of the management plans and assisted in community consultation.”*

### **PLAN HIGHLIGHTS (OPTIONAL)**

Similar to an executive summary, the “Plan Highlights” section offers a succinct and high level snapshot of the key elements of a management plan. Assessing which items are most “significant” is at the discretion of the project team.

Including this section is **optional** and is only appropriate for very complex or lengthy management plans; it tends to be redundant in short, simple plans. This section should be prepared after the rest of the management plan is completed.

If included, all of the following information should appear in this section:

- ✓ The most important values of the protected area (often why the area was originally designated) and their significance within the protected areas system.
- ✓ The key role(s) and vision for the protected area.
- ✓ The most significant management direction and (or) unique, unusual or innovative management objectives or strategies.
- ✓ Any significant recreation opportunities, facility development, or non-recreational resource use/development.
- ✓ A brief discussion of the planning process used to develop the management plan, including mention of the role of project partners.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Appropriate formatting, fonts and layout for the table of contents are provided in the management plan [template](#).

The project lead must ensure that the table of contents is updated prior to submitting the management plan for review and comment. This includes ensuring that any changes to the plan's outline (e.g., deleted sections or additional titles) are reflected in the table of contents, and page numbers are correct.

Any updates to the table of contents should be done automatically in Microsoft Word – don't update page numbers or headings manually! Use MS Word online help for more information.

### **A Note on Headings**

Clear level 1 (e.g., 1.0, 2.0, 3.0...) and level 2 (e.g., 1.1, 1.2, 1.3...) section headings must be used in all management plans as indicated in the template. Level 3 headings (e.g., 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.3.4....) can also be used where needed to highlight important subsections.

Headings in the document have already been linked to the table of contents so be careful not to delete these or change the headings in the template.

# 1 PLAN INTRODUCTION

The “Introduction” section of the management plan provides the geographical, ecological, social and legislative context for a particular plan and outlines the process by which the plan was developed.

## 1.1 MANAGEMENT PLAN PURPOSE

This section of the management plan explains the generic purpose of a protected area management plan using **template language** (see below). All plans should include the template language in this section. In some cases there may be a need to add additional, area-specific information.

### Template Language: Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to guide the management of [insert name of protected area].

This management plan:

- articulates the key features and values of [insert name of protected area];
- identifies appropriate types and levels of management activities;
- determines appropriate levels of use and development;
- establishes a long-term vision and management objectives for the [insert type of protected area]; and
- responds to current and predicted threats and opportunities by defining a set of management strategies to achieve the management vision and objectives.

## 1.2 PLANNING AREA

The protected area for which the management plan is being written may not be familiar to all readers. This section of the management plan is designed to introduce the reader to the key features of the site and to provide an introductory context for the more detailed sections in the rest of the plan.

This section is not intended to describe all of the values and should not duplicate information covered in other sections. More detailed or supporting information should be included in the Values and Roles section or in an appendix.

This section of the management plan should include all of the following:

- ✓ Name of the protected area (if difficult to pronounce, include a phonetic pronunciation in brackets)
- ✓ Total size of the protected area and a breakdown of the upland and foreshore areas (ensure that the information matches what is in current legislation).
- ✓ Location in the region and province (descriptive).
- ✓ Notable geographical features (e.g., watersheds, water bodies, mountain ranges, etc.)
- ✓ Relationship of this protected area to other protected areas in the region.
- ✓ Primary access methods/routes.
- ✓ Distance to major communities.

**Example language: Planning Area**

*“The Upper Rogers kólii7 Conservancy is 3,604 hectares in size and is situated in the headwaters of Rogers Creek watershed, which drains into the Lillooet River approximately 18 kilometres south of Lillooet Lake. The conservancy encompasses pristine alpine lakes and subalpine meadows, montane forest ecosystems, and portions of the Skook Jim and Caltha glaciers.*

*The word “kólii7” (pronounced ko-leh) is Ucwalmicwts for “high green meadow” and reflects the alpine environment of the conservancy. The conservancy borders the western boundaries of Stein Valley Nlaka’pamux Heritage Park and Mehatl Creek Park, and protects a transition zone between the interior and coastal mountain ranges. Garibaldi and Joffre Lakes parks, and K’zuzalt/Twin Two and Nlaxaxten/Cerise Creek conservancies are all within 20 kilometres of Upper Rogers kólii7 Conservancy. The conservancy is within the traditional territory of the In-SHUCK-ch Nation (Figure 2). The conservancy protects an In-SHUCK-ch cultural site and was identified as a significant cultural area within the In-SHUCK-ch Land Stewardship Plan.*

*The conservancy is a well-known destination for hiking and camping, and access is via the In-SHUCK-ch Forest Service Road which travels along the east side of Lillooet Lake.”*

This section will need to be more detailed if certain optional sections of the plan are omitted (i.e., recreation values, cultural values, biodiversity and natural heritage values). In these cases, you should also include a very brief description (as appropriate) of:

- ✓ key recreational features/experiences;

- ✓ key cultural features;
- ✓ key natural/geographic features;
- ✓ relationship to the local community; and (or)
- ✓ adjacent or neighbouring land uses.

### 1.2.1 VISUALS

The use of visuals like maps, pictures and diagrams is encouraged to help a broader range of readers understand the management plan and its context. However, these kinds of visual aids are only effective if they are clearly legible with appropriately sized text (where included).

Maps should be labelled sequentially as “Figures” with the label appearing below the map image. Photos should include a photo credit caption below the image (no credit required for BC Parks’ images) but are not included in the Table of Figures.

#### *MAPPING TIPS*

The planning area section should include both a regional context map and a small-scale map of the protected area. All maps should fit an 8.5” X 11” page. Maps that are unclear or illegible simply create confusion rather than clarity about where the protected area is located and its regional context.

Tips for creating an effective map include:

- ✓ Properly label maps with a font size that is legible when displayed on an 8.5” X 11” page (i.e., map features, titles and legend(s)).
- ✓ On the context map, highlight the protected area using: a different colour of shading, a bold border or outline around the polygon, or a distinct symbol placed on the protected area.
- ✓ Use a map scale that shows at least one distinguishable geographic feature to help orient the reader (e.g., a nearby town or city, a major water body, a major highway intersection, etc.).
- ✓ Include a map scale, north arrow and clear map title.
- ✓ Label any nearby protected areas (but ensure the protected area(s) of focus is clearly distinguishable).
- ✓ Label all towns and major cities discussed in the text of the plan (if possible at the map scale you are using).
- ✓ Show the main roads and access points leading into the protected area.



### 1.3 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Protected areas are established either by an act of the Legislature or by an order in council. This section of the management plan should first provide a brief description of the legislative framework for the protected area and any significant legislative changes, additions or deletions over the years.

Information should include the:

- ✓ designation type,
- ✓ designation date,
- ✓ name of the legal document that established the area (i.e., name of Act or Order in Council),
- ✓ *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* Schedule (if applicable), and
- ✓ legislative history (additions, deletions, changes).

#### Example Language: Legislative Framework

##### Plan #1:

*“Morice Lake Park was established as a Class A park in July 2008 by the Protected Areas of British Columbia (Conservancies and Parks) Amendment Act (2008). The park is named and described in Schedule D of the Protected Areas of British Columbia Act. Its management and development are directed by the Park Act.”*

##### Plan #2:

*“In 1965 a small 16 hectare Class C park was established on the north side of White Lake to allow for public recreational access and use, primarily relating to fishing, boating and camping activities. The park was developed and informally managed by local community volunteers until the mid 1970s when the Class C Park Board relinquished its responsibilities for the site due to increasing use pressures, particularly for destination camping and fishing. In 2001, the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan recommended a 266 hectare addition to the park. On May 17, 2004, the original Class C park was discontinued and a new Class A park was established by the Parks and Protected Areas Statutes Amendment Act, 2004. The park is named and described in Schedule D of the Protected Areas of British Columbia Act. Its management and development are directed by the Park Act.”*

The “Legislative Framework” section should also describe the intent of the designation using the following **template language** specific to the designation type in question.

**Template Language (by Designation Type):**

**For a Class A Park:**

Class A parks are Crown lands dedicated to the preservation of the natural environment for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public. Development in Class A parks is limited to that which is necessary to maintain the park’s recreational values. Some activities that existed at the time a park was established (e.g., grazing, hay cutting) may be allowed to continue in certain Class A parks<sup>1</sup> but commercial resource extraction or development activities are not permitted (e.g., logging, mining or hydroelectric development).

<sup>1</sup> (footnote) Applies to class A parks listed in Schedule D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

**For a Conservancy:**

Conservancies are set aside for the protection and maintenance of: (a) biological diversity and the natural environment, (b) First Nations’ social, ceremonial and cultural uses and (or) (c) recreational values. Conservancies provide for a wider range of low impact economic development opportunities than Class A parks, but commercial logging, mining and hydroelectric power generation (other than local run-of-the-river projects) are prohibited in a conservancy. For some conservancies<sup>1</sup>, the Minister can issue a park use permit for road construction through the conservancy to access natural resources lying beyond the conservancy.

<sup>1</sup> (footnote) Applies to conservancies listed within Schedule F of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

**For a Protected Area:**

In protected areas established under the *Environment and Land Use Act*, usually at least one activity that is not normally allowed in a park is permitted (e.g., a proposed industrial road, pipeline, transmission line, or communication site). Allowable activities are determined when the area is established, and authorization for the activity is provided in the establishing order in council.

**For an Ecological Reserve:**

Ecological reserves are areas protected for ecological purposes including areas that: represent examples of natural ecosystems; protect rare or endangered flora and fauna; are suitable for research and education; contain unique examples of botanical, zoological or geological phenomena; or provide opportunities for recovery after human modification. While most ecological reserves are open to the public, they are not established for outdoor recreation purposes and no extractive activities (e.g., logging, mining or hydroelectric development) are allowed.

## 1.4 ADJACENT LAND AND MARINE USE (*OPTIONAL*)

This section should briefly summarize notable adjacent land and (or) marine uses that may affect the protected area. Outline the current situation but do not discuss future management direction. In less complex management planning processes, this information can be covered off briefly in the ‘Planning Area’ section in which case a separate heading is not required; this section is **optional only if the information is covered elsewhere**.

Notable uses may include one or more of the following:

- ❖ private holdings (including inholdings)
- ❖ forestry, mining or other resource extraction tenures
- ❖ commercial recreation tenures
- ❖ land use planning designations
- ❖ Indian Reserves
- ❖ federally or regionally protected land or marine areas
- ❖ active logging (or other) roads

### **Example Language: Adjacent Land and Marine Use (Plan #1)**

*“Mount Erskine Park is surrounded by privately owned lands and protected areas managed by other agencies including the Islands Trust Fund, Capital Regional District, and Salt Spring Island Conservancy (Figure 2).*

*The northern park boundary borders on the 22-hectare Lower Mount Erskine Nature Reserve owned by the Islands Trust Fund (covenanted by the Nature Conservancy of Canada). The Jack Fisher Trail from Collins Road goes through the reserve into the park. In addition, four parcels of private land border the northern boundary of the park.*

*The southern boundary of the park borders the 20-hectare Manzanita Ridge Nature Reserve owned by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy. A BC Hydro right-of-way runs through the reserve close to the southern boundary of the park. Private property also borders the southern boundary.*

*The western boundary borders the 0.75 hectare Mount Erskine Drive Linear Park Reserve owned by the Capital Regional District. This long thin park extends from Collins Road to the northern boundary of the park. From Collins Road south, two privately owned properties border the park.*

*The eastern boundary borders the Rainbow Grove subdivision Phase II. This land has been logged, however as of 2011 there has been no residential development close to the park. In addition, the 0.06 hectare Mount Erskine Upper Access Park Reserve borders the park’s eastern boundary and includes a short trail, which is used as access into the park.”*

## **Example Language: Adjacent Land and Marine Use (Plan #2)**

### ***“Mining Tenures***

*The government agency responsible for mining has rated the industrial mineral and metallic mineral potential of the Rogers Creek area as “moderate” and the geothermal potential as “high”. There are six active mineral claims adjacent to the conservancy. When the conservancy was designated, portions of four of these mineral tenures overlapping the proposed conservancy were excluded from the conservancy.*

### ***Recreation***

*There is a license for commercial recreation for a large area of which a portion overlaps the conservancy. Activities covered under this licence include rafting, kayaking, rapelling, alpine skiing and mountaineering. There is also a commercial recreation tenure adjacent to the conservancy in the vicinity of Lizzie Lake for guided mountaineering and rock climbing excursions into Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park.*

### ***Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan Zoning***

*The Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan has designated two wildland zones adjacent to the conservancy. Wildland zones are identified under the land and resource management plans to recognise areas with First Nations’ cultural values, high wildlife values, backcountry recreation values and remote wilderness characteristics. The North Lizzie Creek to Cloudraker Mountain Wildland Zone (#4) is situated directly to the north and east of the conservancy and has a cultural emphasis to recognise First Nations’ spiritual, cultural and traditional renewable resource harvesting activities in this area. The Rogers Creek Watershed Wildland Zone (#40) is situated to the south of the conservancy and covers a small portion of the Upper Rogers Creek watershed. This wildland zone has a wildlife emphasis to recognise this as an area providing important habitat for wildlife, including wintering Mountain Goat.*

### ***Protected Areas***

*The eastern portion of the conservancy is bordered by the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park and Mehatl Creek Park.*

### ***Forestry***

*The western half of the conservancy is bordered by the Soo Timber Supply Area (TSA). “*

## 1.5 MANAGEMENT COMMITMENTS AND AGREEMENTS

This section should describe agreements or commitments that affect the timing, subject matter, or outcome of the management plan. These may include one or more of the following:

- ❖ protocol agreements
- ❖ strategic land use planning agreements
- ❖ collaborative management agreements with First Nations
- ❖ lease agreements
- ❖ land and resource management plans
- ❖ management agreements
- ❖ memoranda of understanding

Where there are multiple agreements, complex relationships, or multiple levels of planning (e.g., regional land use planning), this section may benefit from the use of level 3 subheadings (i.e., 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 1.4.3....).

This section should not include information which will be considered in the development of the management plan but where a formal commitment has not been provided by BC Parks (e.g., a First Nations Land Use Plan). If you do decide to include this information, create a new level 2 sub-section with an appropriate heading (e.g., First Nations Land Use Plans).

If a higher level plan is named, provide a reference to the document in a footnote.

## **Example Language: Management Commitments and Agreements (Plan #1)**

### ***“Collaborative Management***

*A collaborative management agreement between the Mamalilikulla-Qwe’Qwa’Sot’Em First Nation and BC Parks outlines the relationship that the Mamalilikulla-Qwe’Qwa’Sot’Em and the province have in the planning and management of protected areas within Mamalilikulla-Qwe’Qwa’Sot’Em First Nation Traditional Territory.*

### ***Land Use Planning***

*The Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plan identified Qwiquallaaq/Boat Bay Conservancy for protection and recommended that the principles of ecosystem based management be applied to land management throughout the central coast, including conservancies. The two overarching goals of ecosystem-based management are to maintain the ecological integrity of terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems, and achieve high levels of human well being. The Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plan identified protection of backcountry tourism and recreation values as a primary role for Qwiquallaaq/Boat Bay Conservancy, as well as research opportunities associated with Killer Whales and Robson Bight.*

*In the land use planning agreement-in-principle signed in 2006 between the province and the First Nations of the southern central coast, the parties agreed on the primary roles for the Qwiquallaaq/Boat Bay Conservancy: cultural heritage use and habitat conservation/protection. The agreement-in-principle lists ecosystem representation and recreation as secondary roles for the conservancy. Boat Bay was also included previously in a planning unit in the North Island Straits Coastal Plan, which recommended conservation as a priority for Boat Bay. This plan also noted the role of this area in reducing the impact of seasonal boating traffic in Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve, by offering viewing locations at an appropriate distance from the Killer Whales on the rubbing beaches at Robson Bight.*

*In this management plan, the primary roles for Qwiquallaaq/Boat Bay Conservancy have been adopted from the agreement-in-principle (2006), with the key roles recommended in the Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plan (2004) included as secondary roles. At the time that the central coast conservancies were announced, the Minister of the Environment also made a commitment that existing, tenured uses may continue.”*

### **Example Language: Management Commitments and Agreements (Plan #2)**

*“Morice Lake Park was established as a result of the recommendations of the Morice land and resource management planning process and subsequent government-to-government processes with First Nations, which concluded in 2007.*

*General management direction from the land and resource management plan for all new protected areas includes: maintaining existing access opportunities for First Nations, guide outfitters, trappers and other tenure holders where motorised opportunities have been restricted; and, identifying and protecting archaeological sites, special sites, traditional use (past and present) and heritage trails (First Nations and pioneer).*

*The land and resource management plan also provided the following area specific goals for Morice Lake Park: protect as a pristine wilderness area; conservation of ecosystem integrity, rare plant communities and wildlife habitat; conservation of First Nations’ cultural spiritual and heritage values; and, opportunities for education and interpretation of natural and cultural features. Summer motorised use is not permitted in the northwestern portion of the park.*

*The western half of Morice Lake Park lies within the Caribou Habitat Management Area and all of Morice Lake Park lies within the Morice Water Management Area, as identified in the land and resource management plan. Management direction for the Caribou Habitat Management Area focuses on identifying habitat and limiting disturbance from development activities on Caribou. Management direction in the Morice Water Management Area focuses on developing a water monitoring program and an area based water management plan to provide the maximum practicable water quality.”*

## **1.6 ENCUMBRANCES (AS APPLICABLE)**

This section should provide a brief description of existing or anticipated infrastructure (e.g., pipelines, transmission lines, roads) tenured or managed by other agencies, as well as an inventory of existing licences for continued land or resource use(s) issued by other agencies.

A description of the legal authorization for the use or activity must also be provided. For example, the construction of a road through a protected area may be authorized by a temporary licence of occupation under the *Land Act*, or construction of a transmission line may be authorized by a statutory right of way under the *Land Act*. Another example is an existing water licence issued under the *Water Act* that pre-dates the protected area’s establishment.

## 1.7 MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

This section briefly describes the process that was used to develop the management plan. Information should include all of the following:

- ✓ The respective roles of First Nations and the Province.
- ✓ The time period over which the management plan was developed.
- ✓ The length and timing of the online public review period(s).
- ✓ Other engagement methods or events for seeking public input (e.g., community forums, online surveys).
- ✓ Notable background research that was undertaken for the project.

Most importantly, this section should demonstrate that an appropriate level of First Nations, local government and public engagement was conducted.

In draft versions of the management plan, this section may be incomplete if further engagement is planned. Language discussing the public review period and finalisation of the plan should only be included in the final draft version of the plan.

### **Example Language: Management Planning Process**

*“The Parties initiated management planning for Duu Guusd Heritage Site/Conservancy in the fall of 2009 as part of a broader effort to prepare management plans for all eleven new heritage sites/conservancies on Haida Gwaii.*

*Background reports were developed for each heritage site/conservancy. These background reports identified important natural and cultural values, plus recreational and economic interests to be incorporated into the management plans.*

*Public information sessions were held in the communities of Old Masset, Masset, Port Clements, Skidegate, Queen Charlotte and Sandspit in January 2010 as part of a series of consultation sessions being held to implement ecosystem based management measures on Haida Gwaii. Heritage site/conservancy maps with proposed marine boundaries were shared with the public and information was provided regarding the management planning process, and what opportunities would exist for future public review and input.*

*In March 2010, draft management plans were developed for public review. They were presented at open houses held in Tlell, Sandspit, Skidegate and Old Massett. The public review drafts were also posted to the BC Parks and Council of the Haida Nation websites for broader comment and circulation. “*



## 1.8 RELATIONSHIP WITH FIRST NATIONS (*OPTIONAL*)

This section of the management plan is meant to briefly discuss First Nations in the area and whose asserted traditional territory overlaps the park and their relationship to the protected area and its management. This section should not describe cultural values or traditional uses (these are discussed in the Values and Roles section of the plan).

### **Example Language: Relationship with First Nations**

*“The Province and First Nations’ governments are working toward a relationship based on respect, recognition and accommodation of aboriginal title and rights. This management plan proposes to develop working relationships between BC Parks and First Nations in a number of areas to ensure that management of the park considers their traditional uses.*

*Valhalla Park lies within the asserted traditional territory of three First Nation tribal councils: the Ktunaxa Nation Council, the Okanagan Nation Alliance and the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council.*

#### **Ktunaxa Nation Council**

*The asserted traditional territory of the Ktunaxa people covers the Kootenay region and extends into the United States. In British Columbia, the Ktunaxa Nation Council includes four Indian Band members: St Mary’s Band, Tobacco Plains Band, Columbia Lake Band and Lower Kootenay Band. The Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Treaty Council is currently negotiating a treaty with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, and has signed a government-to-government memorandum of understanding with the Province for the management of provincial parks in their traditional territory. The memorandum of understanding makes provisions for the parties to cooperate in a variety of park management activities including planning, boundary reviews, economic development and capacity building.*

#### **Okanagan Nation Alliance**

*The Okanagan Nation Alliance asserted traditional territory extends from the Okanagan Valley to the West Kootenay and includes the Upper and Lower Arrow lakes. The alliance is composed of seven Indian Band members including: Lower Similkameen, Upper Similkameen, Osoyoos, Penticton, Westbank, Okanagan and Upper Nicola Indian bands.*

#### **Shuswap Nation Tribal Council**

*The Shuswap Nation Tribal Council asserted traditional territory extends from Kamloops to an area that roughly encompasses the Columbia River drainage, including the Upper and Lower Arrow lakes. It is an association of 10 of the 17 Secwepemc (Shuswap) bands of interior British Columbia: Adams Lake, Bonaparte, Tk'emlups, Little Shuswap Lake, Neskonlith, Shuswap, Simpcw (North Thompson), Skeechestn, Splots'in (Spallumcheen) and Whispering Pines/Clinton. “*

The information in this section does not always need its own heading and is **optional only if the information is covered elsewhere**. Often times the information is covered off in the previous ‘Management Agreements and Commitments’ section, especially when a collaborative management agreement or other formal commitment describing the working relationship between BC Parks and local First Nations is in place. For very simple planning projects, the information may also be covered off briefly in the ‘Planning Area’ section.

## 1.9 RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNITIES (*OPTIONAL*)

This section is meant to briefly discuss local communities and their relationship to management of the protected area. The section should list all communities in close proximity to the park and their distance away from the protected area.

This section should also discuss any urban centers whose populations use the protected area regularly or any distinct populations that are strongly interested in management of the protected area but may not be close to the park.

The information contained in this section does not always need its own heading is **optional only if the information is covered elsewhere**. Sometimes the information is covered in the previous ‘Management Agreements and Commitments’ section if there is a formal agreement in place with a particular community. In very simple management plans, relevant information may be covered off in the ‘Planning Area’ section.

### **Example Language: Relationship with Communities**

*“The village of Sandspit, 20 kilometres by road to the north, is the closest community to the Kunxalas Heritage Site/Conservancy. Many residents who live in Skidegate Village, Queen Charlotte City, Port Clements, Massett and Old Massett Village, also share an interest in the management of this area. The heritage site/conservancy is within Haida Traditional Territory, therefore representatives of the Haida people in particular, will play a key role in the management of the Kunxalas Heritage Site/Conservancy, due to their strong cultural ties and interest in maintaining the conservation values.*

*Ongoing engagement and outreach with local communities will be required to ensure that residents are aware of, and supportive of, the Kunxalas Heritage Site/Conservancy. This will include continued dialogue with Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands residents and any provincial and/or local interest groups or local governments who have expressed interest in the use and development of the heritage site/conservancy.”*

## 2 KEY ROLE AND VALUES OF THE PROTECTED AREA

This section conveys how the protected area fits in to the provincial protected areas system. It describes the key features and exceptional values of the protected area that make it special. It provides important context for decisions about how the site will be managed. The subsections required in this section depend on the complexity of the protected area's values and role(s), as well as the area's designation type. In a very small protected area, or one that has a focused role (e.g., a small road side picnic area; an area designated to protect a unique geological feature), this section may not need subheadings and may be very short. All that might be needed is a brief description of the area and its primary role. Conversely, a very large protected area with complex values and multiple roles may require detailed discussion under each subheading.

Where there are multiple designation types covered by one management plan, the text under each subsection heading will need to clearly differentiate each protected area's values and role(s) within the context of its designation type.

### 2.1 SIGNIFICANCE IN THE PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM

Each protected area contributes to the provincial protected areas system as a whole, and has a unique and important role to play in that system. This section should not be a laundry list of all protected area attributes. Rather, it should focus on what makes the protected area important locally, regionally and (or) provincially from a conservation, recreation and (or) cultural heritage perspective.

If there are only a few significant features, this section may be very brief. Some protected areas are not particularly unique or significant from a regional or provincial standpoint, but still provide an important contribution to the protected areas system by protecting a certain habitat type or important recreation opportunity.

Questions that can be asked by the planning team to assess a protected area's significance within the provincial system may include (but are not limited to):

- ❖ Are there any notable features or values that are the best examples in the province?
- ❖ Is the area notable in terms of its size?
- ❖ Is the area part of a larger protected area complex or provide a key link to other protected areas in terms of landscape connectivity or recreation opportunities?
- ❖ To what degree does the area contribute to maintaining ecological integrity?<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> For more information, see: “*Ecological Integrity in BC Parks: Definition and Performance Indicators*” (BC Parks, July 2012)

- ❖ Are there any terrestrial, marine or aquatic ecosystems that are notable because of their rarity, diversity or contribution to provincial representation?
- ❖ Does the area contain a notable diversity of species or play a key role in protecting a rare or endangered species?
- ❖ To what degree does the protected area remain undisturbed?
- ❖ Does the area play a key role in protecting important or rare cultural sites or values?
- ❖ Does the area play a key role in protecting special landforms or geological features?
- ❖ Does the area offer unique or significant recreation opportunities, either to the local population or as a regional or provincial destination?
- ❖ Does the area offer a notably wide range of recreational opportunity to a diversity of users?

This section of the management plan should:

- ✓ **Be protected area specific.** Significance statements should be unique to the protected area. Ask yourself: *can the statement be applied to a number of other protected areas?* If so, it is not specific enough.
- ✓ **Help set priorities in the protected areas system.** Understanding the relative significance of a protected area in comparison to others in the system informs decisions around allocating limited resources within the agency.
- ✓ **Only include applicable information.** Information should be succinct and clear and should not be a list of all park attributes.
- ✓ **Identify the primary role(s) of the protected area.** Each protected area was established for one or more specific reasons – these should be clear to the reader.

Below are some examples of poor significance statements that should not be used:

- ✗ *“The park and surrounding area provide a wide array of recreational activities”* → This statement could apply to numerous protected areas; it does not help to differentiate this particular area.
- ✗ *“The park contains significant archaeological and historical features”* → This statement does not explain or provide a reference for what is or is not significant or the type of features found in the protected area. Significant compared to what? What kind of archaeological features are present? Be specific.

- ✘ *“The park provides livestock grazing opportunities, consistent with legislation and land use plan direction, while conserving and protecting park values.”* → Grazing is likely not the reason this protected area was established. This statement is more appropriate as a management commitment.

#### **Example Language: Significance**

##### **Plan #1:**

*“Anstey Hunakwa Park is the only large natural protected area on Shuswap Lake. A large lake with no road access, and completely protected within a park, Shuswap Lake is a very significant natural feature within the highly populated southern interior of British Columbia.*

*The primary role of Anstey Hunakwa Park is to protect a diverse landscape of lakes and forest environments at the upper end of Anstey Arm on Shuswap Lake. The size, elevation gradient and habitat diversity of the park provides resilience to climate change by maintaining a range of representative ecosystems within the park and the Shuswap area.*

*As an important secondary role, the park provides regionally significant recreation opportunities associated with Shuswap Lake. Visitors can enjoy a natural and seemingly remote lake setting on the otherwise developed Shuswap Lake shoreline.”*

##### **Plan #2:**

*“Morice Lake Park protects the headwaters of the Morice River, one of the most important salmon and steelhead rivers in the Skeena basin. It contributes significantly to the protection of the Bulkley Ranges Ecosection and three poorly represented biogeoclimatic subzones/variants within that ecosection (SBSmc2, ESSFmc, ESSFmcp), and is an important component of a much larger park complex that includes Atna River and Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice parks.”*

##### **Plan #3:**

*“Qwiquallaaq/Boat Bay Conservancy is significant in the protected areas system for the following reasons: the conservancy is very culturally significant to the Mamalilikulla-Qwe’Qwa’Sot’Em First Nation as a seasonal resource gathering location; the conservancy and recommended foreshore addition protect a nutrient rich, dynamic and highly productive stretch of coastline, including kelp and seagrass beds, as well as a diversity of wildlife species, including globally significant Killer Whale populations and provincially blue-listed Harbour Porpoises; and the conservancy contributes to filling a gap in the underrepresented Coastal Western Hemlock very wet maritime biogeoclimatic variant within the Outer Fjordlands (OUF) Ecosection. “*

## 2.2 VALUES AND ROLES OF THE PROTECTED AREA

This section of the management plan should be descriptive, and provide the reader with a detailed picture of the protected area. It should highlight the various natural, cultural and recreational values within the protected area, and identify any notable features. This section should not discuss management issues, describe future opportunities, or provide management direction for the protected area.

When presenting facts, they should be quantified wherever possible. When making assumptions, where uncertainty exists, or where there are known information gaps, use an appropriate qualifying phrase (e.g., “to the best of our knowledge...” or “based on the most recent (2003) data...”).

Avoid including very specific information about sensitive ecological or cultural values (e.g., their exact location) if this may put the values at risk. Instead, provide a generalized description of the value and (or) its location. Maps, tables or photographs may be useful to help explain the values to the reader.

As outlined in Table 1, required management plan subsections vary between designation types. You may choose to use additional level 3 subheadings or order the subsections differently to emphasize certain values. For very simple plans, this entire section may be very short and simple, describing the area in a few paragraphs or bullet points.

**Table 1: ‘Values and Roles’ subsections required for each designation type.**

Section Heading	Designation Type			
	Park	Ecological Reserve	ELUA Protected Area	Conservancy
Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Values	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cultural Values	Y	Y	Y	Y
Recreation Values	Y	N	Y	Y
Development and Use of Natural Resources	N	N	S	Y
Research and Education	S	Y	S	S
Other [ <i>Protected Area Type</i> ] Attributes	Varies by Designation (see section 3.2.6)			

The ‘Y’ indicates that this heading is generally required and the ‘N’ indicates that this heading is not generally required for a particular designation.

The ‘S’ indicates that the section is sometimes required. For example, when an *Environment and Land Use Act* protected area is explicitly established for a particular resource use or a conservancy has very high potential for research and education.

### 2.2.1 BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL HERITAGE VALUES

As applicable, this section should include the following information:

- ✓ The protected area's contribution to ecological integrity (see discussion below). A description of ecosystems and species or habitats at risk found within the protected area.
- ✓ Any unique or special wildlife or habitat features.
- ✓ An inventory of features or characteristics of the site that are considered to be key strengths from a biodiversity or natural heritage perspective.
- ✓ A description of ecoregional representation and significance within the protected areas system (see discussion below).
- ✓ A description of BEC variant representation and significance within the protected areas system (see discussion below).

Good sources of information for this analysis are: the [Conservation Risk Assessment](#) system, the [BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer](#) and the [Protected Areas System Overview](#) tool. The [BC Conservation Framework](#) provides a structured approach to evaluating the value and role of species and ecosystems across BC and refers to several other conservation-related data sources and tools.

#### *ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY*

BC Parks is committed to the proactive stewardship of ecological integrity.<sup>3</sup> Ecological integrity is an important concept that drives management direction in many protected areas to ensure natural areas are well managed into the future. It provides strong justification for actions such as adapting to climate change, or dealing with invasive species. However, the protected areas system is comprised of areas that range from pristine wilderness to highly developed recreation areas. Therefore, ecological integrity is not a management objective that is uniformly applied across all protected areas.

In July 2012, BC Parks released a high-level framework for evaluating ecological integrity in BC Parks protected areas. The framework describes three categories of protected areas into which all protected areas within the system generally fall.

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<sup>3</sup> Ecological integrity occurs when an area or network of areas supports biological diversity, natural ecosystem composition, structure and function, and maintains a capacity for self-renewal.

These are:

1. **Protected areas where ecological integrity plays a dominant role** (i.e., large wilderness protected areas or areas large enough to be ecologically self-sustaining);
2. **Protected areas where ecological integrity is addressed in a limited manner** (i.e., small protected areas established primarily for recreation); and
3. **Protected areas where components of ecological integrity are actively managed** (i.e., interface areas supporting both recreation and ecological integrity).

At the time of writing, conservation program staff are in the process of developing detailed guidelines for categorizing individual protected areas, and should be consulted by planning project teams, until such time as guidelines have been finalized, to determine the appropriate category for a given protected area.

### *DESCRIBING ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION*

BC Parks aims to achieve ecosystem representation within a well-dispersed protected areas system in order to maintain ecological integrity across the province. Two complementary ecosystem classification systems are used to understand and manage the wide range of ecological diversity found in BC: Ecoregion Classification<sup>4</sup> and Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC)<sup>5</sup>.

The BEC system, more commonly used in forestry, uses regional vegetation, soils and topography to infer local climates and delineates a mosaic of broad forest types (“zones”) across the land base. Temperature and moisture are then used to refine zones into smaller site-level units called *subzones* and *variants*. The Ecoregion Classification system is used primarily for conservation and wildlife management purposes. It divides the province into discrete geographical units with similar macroclimatic influences and landforms. The smallest classification unit within this hierarchical system is the *ecosection*. Variations in climate, vegetation or site conditions within an ecosection can be described using BEC subzones or variants. BC Parks uses both systems to assess whether ecosystem representation is being achieved within the protected areas system.

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<sup>4</sup> The Ecoregion Classification System was first adopted by the Ministry of Environment in 1985. For more information see: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/ecology/ecoregions/index.html>

<sup>5</sup> BEC was developed as a forest classification system by V.J. Krajina and his students at UBC in the 1960s and 1970s. It has since been adopted and refined by the BC Ministry of Forests and has recently been refined to include non-forested ecosystems. For more information see: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hre/becweb/resources/classificationreports/index.html>



The management plan should name and briefly describe the ecosection(s) within which the protected area is located, and list all BEC variants present within the protected area. The plan should also describe and quantify a protected area’s contribution to provincial representation totals at the BEC variant level.

If three or more variants are present within the protected area, ecosystem representation information should be presented in a well laid out table with clearly labelled columns. Be selective, and only include the most relevant information (see example Table 2 below).

**Table 2: Example ecosystem (BEC subzone) representation table.**

Biogeoclimatic (BEC) Zone	BEC subzone	Area of BEC subzone in the park (ha)	Total area of BEC subzone protected in province (ha)	% of BEC subzone protected in the province that is contributed by the park	Total % BEC subzone protected in the province
Engelmann Spruce - Subalpine Fir	ESSF dk2	8,654	12,3534	7%	37%
	ESSF dkp	8,463	42,135	20%	40%
	ESSF dku	9.4	27,568	<1%	99%
	ESSF dkw	13,876	36,031	38%	21%
Interior Mountain-heather Alpine	IMA un	6,012	65,492	9%	65%
Montane Spruce	MS dk2	1,744	66,995	3%	30%

***PROTECTED AREA COMPLEXES***

In some cases, a protected area is part of a bigger “complex” of connected or contiguous protected areas with similar or related management objectives, or it is a “missing piece” adjacent to an existing protected area that was established to accomplish a particular conservation goal. If this is the case, this section of the management plan should situate the protected area within this local or regional context.

### 2.2.2 CULTURAL VALUES

As applicable, this section should include the following information:

- ✓ A description of historical and current Aboriginal and non-aboriginal cultural values, features and uses within the protected area.
- ✓ The current status of cultural practices in the area.
- ✓ An indication of significance (Are the cultural values or features unique in the region? Are the archaeological sites provincially significant?)

A list of information sources for this section can be found in the management planning [manual](#) and include: the provincial [Remote Access to Archaeological Database \(RAAD\)](#) and the CRA. Note that information about cultural heritage resources is usually considered sensitive and registered archaeological site locations are confidential - specific cultural site locations should not be included in a management plan.

### 2.2.3 RECREATION VALUES

As applicable, this section should include the following information:

- ✓ A summary of key recreational opportunities (activities, attractions and facilities) and their current status.
- ✓ The current and historical level of use (if unknown, clearly state this in the plan).
- ✓ An indication of significance (Are the recreational opportunities unique in the region? Are they provincially significant?).
- ✓ An overview of existing commercial recreation activities and facilities including guided recreation, hunting and (or) fishing. Include a descriptive list of relevant park use permits, but do not include the names of permit holders themselves.
- ✓ A summary of protected area users, where they come from and their patterns of use.
- ✓ An overview of recreational access to the site.

This section should not describe the desired future management direction for an existing activity or facility (e.g., ATV riding is currently practised but management direction later in the management plan recommends closing the area to that activity). All future management direction should be discussed in the Management Direction section of the management plan.

## 2.2.4 DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

As applicable, this section should include the following information:

- ✓ A summary of existing commercial or industrial use of natural resources, tenure rights, and land and resource development interests within the protected area including any existing permits for extractive activities (e.g., logging, mining).
- ✓ The instrument that authorizes each resource use.
- ✓ Description of potential natural resource use considered or referenced in a land use plan or a government-to-government agreement.

## 2.2.5 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

As applicable, this section should include the following information:

- ✓ Description of current and historical research or educational activities.
- ✓ A statement of significance regarding the research opportunities (are they unique or rare in the region or province?).

## 2.2.6 OTHER [PROTECTED AREA TYPE] ATTRIBUTES

Attributes which are not normally considered core values or roles for a particular designation type (and therefore won't be covered in a specific section as outlined in Table 1), but are still relevant to the area's management, should be described here.

As applicable to the designation type, this section should include the following information.

**Park:** Include any use of the park which is not related to the primary natural, cultural or recreational roles of the park (e.g., communication sites, non-recreation access roads, grazing activities, water control structures, etc.).

**Ecological Reserve:** Include any use of the ecological reserve which is not related to the primary natural, cultural or research/education role of the ecological reserve (e.g., recreation activities, access roads, grazing activities, other licenses/permits/tenures/encumbrances etc.).

**Protected Area:** Include any use of the protected area which is not related to the natural, cultural, recreation roles or the specific use/role outlined in the order in council (e.g., other licenses, permits, tenures, encumbrances etc.).

**Conservancy:** If there is a conservancy attribute which does not fit under one of the four conservancy headings, the information should go here. This section will likely not be needed in most conservancy plans.

### **2.2.7 CLIMATE CHANGE (OPTIONAL)**

*Detailed content for this section is under development. Useful resources on climate change topics and implications for protected areas can be found on the [BC Parks intranet site](#).*

*For protected areas along the BC coast, planners should include information contained in the relevant [shoreline sensitivity report](#) also found on the BC Parks intranet site.*

If a project team decides to include this section, it must be focused on the present; any management objectives or strategies related to addressing climate change should be included in the management direction section. Descriptions of observed changes in the protected area (e.g., glacier retreat, changes to hydrology, vegetation shifts) can be included here, as can any information about expected regional trends (e.g., expected changes in temperature or precipitation levels, sea level rise) that may affect ecosystem dynamics or the built environment. References should be included for all data used in this section.

## 3 MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

The purpose of this section of the management plan is to communicate a desired future condition for the protected area and specify why and how this future condition will be achieved.

Management direction is hierarchical and includes both strategic elements (vision statement and objectives) and more specific and tangible “how-to” elements (strategies and a zoning plan). It is critical to provide a clear rationale for all chosen management direction, and to clearly link management strategies to a specific management objective as well as the overall vision. Management direction should relate to and address any management issues and opportunities that have been identified in the management plan.

### 3.1 MANAGEMENT VISION

The management vision for a protected area should be succinct and describe a long-term desired future condition for the protected area (in 20 or more years). For some protected areas, the desired future condition may simply be the maintenance of natural conditions. For others, the desired future condition may include development of new recreation facilities (e.g., trails and campsites) or a thriving cultural heritage education program.

It may be helpful for the planning project team to ask these questions when developing the vision statement: What are we trying to accomplish? What are we trying to change or improve? What do we hope the protected area looks like when we have achieved success?

A management vision is a big picture statement that should reflect the protected area’s role and significance within the provincial protected areas system. It should:

- ✓ **Be written in the present tense.**
- ✓ **Be realistic but optimistic.** While remaining realistic, the vision should encourage support or commitments that go beyond current difficulties and constraints, and see beyond immediate aims and objectives. It should build on the site’s strengths and minimize weaknesses.
- ✓ **Be powerful and motivating.** The vision should describe the desired management outcomes in a way that energizes and helps create a mental picture of the target.
- ✓ **Be succinct and written in non-technical language.**
- ✓ **Be wide-ranging but specific.** The management vision shouldn’t be able to be used for multiple protected areas. It should be unique.

## **Example Language: Management Vision**

### **Plan #1:**

*“The Dzawadi/Klinaklini Estuary Conservancy continues to support the cultural heritage values, biological diversity and ecological functions associated with this rich estuarine environment. Da’naxda’xw/Awaetlala members continue to practise their cultural traditions and pass on their knowledge of Dzawadi, including the importance of K’lina (Eulachon oil), to future generations. Eulachon, Pacific salmon and Grizzly Bears thrive in this estuary ecosystem.*

*The collaborative relationship between BC Parks and the Da’naxda’xw/Awaetlala is strong, and ensures active Da’naxda’xw/Awaetlala involvement in protection of the conservancy. Both traditional ecological knowledge and scientific knowledge are utilized in the conservancy’s management. The parties strive to ensure the conservancy is managed into the future for the enjoyment of all visitors.”*

### **Plan #2:**

*“Morice Lake Park conserves a pristine lake and associated drainages at the headwaters of a provincially significant salmon river. The clean waters provide important habitat for salmon and other fish species. Grizzly Bears, American Black Bears, Moose and Mountain Goats thrive in the low elevation forested and mountain habitats. The Wet’suwet’en people maintain and use the park’s resources for social, ceremonial and cultural activities. Recreational users enjoy boating on Morice Lake, camping, scenic views, wildlife viewing, angling and hunting in a wilderness setting.”*

### **Plan #3:**

*“As a small and remote backcountry park, Denison-Bonneau Park continues to provide a unique opportunity for recreationalists to enjoy pristine sub-alpine lakes and vestiges of remaining old-growth forests in the Okanagan Highlands. Anglers are rewarded with excellent fishing opportunities in both Denison Lake and Bonneau Lake, whereas day use hikers and self-sufficient backcountry campers can explore the park’s unique forested environment, geological features, and viewscapes. A strong management linkage with stewardship groups that are passionate about the park has improved access opportunities while still maintaining the tranquility of the park area.*

*The importance of Denison-Bonneau Park to First Nations has been researched and the park continues to provide an important association to food, social and ceremonial harvesting activities of First Nations as well as preserving important spiritual and cultural values.*

*Owing to the industrial land uses that have historically occurred outside of the park, such as logging and road building, the park assists greatly in providing habitat connectivity and refuge for a range of plant and animal species, especially in an era of climate change.”*

## 3.2 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

This section of the management plan provides the framework for how the protected area will be managed into the future and why. Known management issues, including threats to the integrity of features and values as well as unrealized or new opportunities, should inform and be addressed by the management plan.

At the same time, management objectives and strategies should more broadly convey what managers are trying to achieve within the protected area. It is critical to ensure that there is a clear link between proposed strategies and management objectives, and that adequate rationale or context has been provided for management decisions. A simple issue statement alone rarely provides adequate background or context for proposed management direction. At the same time, issue statements can be useful summary statements if the context has been described in more detail elsewhere.

When developing management objectives and strategies, planning teams may want to consider the following questions:

- What factors are preventing (or may prevent) managers from achieving the management vision?
- What actions are helping (or may help) to achieve the management vision?
- What potential opportunities can and should be capitalized upon?
- What characteristics of the protected area may have a negative/positive effect on achieving management goals (e.g., user conflicts, small or isolated wildlife populations, an existing tenure, etc.)?
- What external factors are having a negative or positive impact on management of the protected area (e.g., adjacent land management, natural processes, shoreline sensitivity to sea level rise, species losses due to ecosystem shifts, etc.)?

Finally, it is important to recognize that not all issues facing a protected area can or should be dealt with in a management plan. Some may be related to a provincial, national or international concern or opportunity that is best dealt with by other agencies or processes.

### *PROVIDING ADEQUATE MANAGEMENT CONTEXT*

The planning project team will have already identified a preliminary list of issues requiring attention in the project plan. At the management plan drafting stage, these issues and opportunities should be re-visited and developed more thoroughly in order to help focus management objectives and strategies. New issues will often arise during

public consultation, or through new reports or studies, planning project team discussions, expert local knowledge or risk assessments.

Identifying and framing an issue correctly is the first step in resolving it. Good issues analysis identifies both the symptom and the underlying cause of the issue and ultimately leads to a more effective management response. This is not always simple.

For example, if a planning area has experienced a substantial decline in fish runs, it would be tempting to identify declining fish stocks as the issue. Looking more closely, a planner might find that declining fish runs is only the symptom, while habitat and water quality decline are the main causes and over-fishing is suspected to be exacerbating the decline.

When discussing management issues in a management plan, avoid vague statements like:

✘ *“Lack of good inventory of the protected area’s cultural values.”*

This statement leaves the reader wondering exactly what the problem is and how it threatens (or contributes to) the management vision. Use of vague terms like a “good inventory” also leaves considerable room for interpretation and possible confusion. It’s difficult to develop a suitable management objective and related strategies to address poorly defined issues.

A better way to describe this issue might be:

✓ *“While First Nations cultural values are known to be present in the park, information about the type and location of these values is limited, increasing the risk of damage to sensitive sites.”*

Describe the management issue in a way that results in the widest possible range of management options. The above example gives room for planners to propose a broad range of management strategies. For example, strategies might include: “work with local First Nations to document or map existing cultural use sites”, “limit access to, and improve protection of known archaeological sites”, or “develop information materials to educate park users about the importance of cultural values in the park”.

As well, it should be clear to the reader whether the issue being addressed is a current one, or one that managers are hoping to avoid or prevent in the future. For example:

✘ *“Cattle grazing can impact sensitive riparian areas and endangered plant communities.”*

From this statement alone, it is not clear if grazing by cattle is currently impacting sensitive areas in the park, or if this is a risk that managers are hoping to avoid in the future through preventative measures. It also isn’t clear whether the issue applies to the



entire park, or a particular area within the park. A better description of the management context would be:

- ✓ *“Impacts to sensitive riparian areas and endangered plant communities due to cattle grazing have been observed in the northeast corner of the park.”*

Or,

- ✓ *“Impacts to sensitive riparian areas and endangered plant communities due to cattle grazing are a growing concern in the park, particularly in areas near the park boundary.”*

#### **Example: Management Issues**

- *Public safety concerns exist along the upper section of Hazelton Station Road due to steep banks, sharp corners and potentially restricted visibility.*
- *Local First Nations have a strong interest in maintaining access to traditional resources in the estuary and continuing to participate in cultural activities, in particular the spring Eulachon harvest.*
- *Restoration of the at-risk cottonwood/ red osier dogwood plant community is being compromised by ongoing visitor use of the Cottonwood Creek riparian area.*
- *Vehicle use on gravel bars, if conducted in an inappropriate manner, impacts fish habitat, park foreshore and river shorelines.*
- *Increased shellfish harvest activities within the protected area could disturb the daily activities of Grizzly Bear and conflict with recreational bear viewing experiences.*
- *Boat visitors with no training or experience in water-based bear viewing can easily disturb and displace bears in the estuary while creating a potentially unsafe bear encounter.*
- *Previously uncontrolled recreation use, such as camping on shallow soiled rocky outcrops and parking vehicles on beach areas, has caused impacts to sensitive vegetation, including a number of rare species of conservation concern.*
- *Climate change in this area of the coast is expected to lead to a sea level rise of 0.6-0.8m this century which would inundate the existing park access road and main parking lot.*
- *Adjacent forest harvesting and associated road access have created an island and refuge characteristic to the park.*
- *A constructed float plane slough partially within the conservancy provides a well-used and important access point for adjacent tenure/land holders and recreational visitors. The dam associated with this slough has not been assessed and may require maintenance to ensure public safety.*
- *There is limited knowledge of the extent to which the conservancy is used for recreation, particularly by sea kayakers and other recreational boaters.*

### 3.2.1 IDENTIFYING MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The identification of management objectives is the most crucial stage in the management planning process. Objectives address known issues and opportunities and are consistent with the vision statement. The objectives in the management plan should:

- ✓ **Be achievable and realistic.**
- ✓ **Be geographically specific (where appropriate).** Objectives can apply to the whole plan area or specified parts of the plan area.
- ✓ **Be measurable.** Over time, managers must be able to qualitatively or quantitatively measure whether management strategies are achieving desired results. “If you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it.”
- ✓ **Spell out the desired result, but not necessarily the means to achieve it.** This is a common issue, probably because stating a desired result is more difficult than stating how it will be achieved. Actions, facilities or programs needed to achieve the desired condition will be addressed by the strategies.
- ✓ **Adequately address an identified issue.** Objectives need to respond to the issues that have been identified through the planning process. All key issues should be addressed by at least one objective, but one objective can address multiple issues.
- ✓ **Be clear.** All objectives should contain a verb (e.g., to protect, to increase, to retain, to conserve). Be careful with your choice of verbs - a verb can easily imply a particular management direction other than what was intended.

At first, the management planning team might want to brainstorm a “wish list” of objectives. In reality, certain constraints both within and outside the protected area exist and will limit what can really be achieved (e.g., climate change, ecological change, dramatic changes in visitor use, adjacent land use, BC Parks staff and resources, limited expertise or knowledge, technology, policies and legislation). After discussing the constraints that exist, the planning project team should shorten the list to a set of practically achievable objectives.

Planning teams must consider and ensure consistency with existing BC Parks policies and guidelines when determining management objectives and strategies for a protected area. BC Parks also has a number of agreements or memoranda of understanding (MOU) with various other agencies and organizations related to specific activities or uses within protected areas.

Examples of these documents include (but are not limited to):

**Policies and Guidelines:**

- ❖ BC Parks Strategic Management Planning Policy
- ❖ BC Parks Conservation Program Policies and Guidelines
- ❖ BC Parks Park Use Permit Policies
- ❖ BC Parks Impact Assessment Process Guidelines
- ❖ Backcountry Recreation Impact Monitoring Guidelines
- ❖ Fish Stocking in Provincial Protected Areas Guideline
- ❖ Wildlife Harvest Policy
- ❖ Invasive Plants – Best Management Practices
- ❖ Tree Removal Guidelines for Parks and Protected Areas
- ❖ Guidelines for Issuing Tree Removal Tenures in Parks

**Agreements:**

- ❖ MOU between the Ministry of Environment and BC Floatplane Association
- ❖ Partnership Agreement with BC Floatplane Association
- ❖ BC Trappers Association Protocol Agreement
- ❖ Approved MOU regarding Filming and Photography Activities on Park Lands
- ❖ Wilderness Tourism Association Protocol Agreement
- ❖ MOU between the Ministry of Environment and Ministry responsible for forestry regarding Mountain Pine Beetle Management
- ❖ MOU between the Ministry of Environment and Ministry responsible for forestry regarding Fire Management
- ❖ Protocol Agreement between Ministry responsible for forestry and Ministry of Environment regarding the administration and management of *Range Act* agreements in provincial protected areas.

### **Example Management Objectives:**

- *To maintain and improve opportunities for hiking in the park.*
- *To protect high value fish habitat.*
- *To re-establish the Duzcho Trail and interpret its historic significance in Northern British Columbia.*
- *To ensure Grizzly Bears and Black Bears continue to occupy the park.*
- *To evaluate and minimize grazing impacts on natural values.*
- *To minimize the impact helicopters have on backcountry experiences and wildlife.*
- *To identify, protect and maintain Haida cultural heritage features, archaeological sites and traditional use locations.*
- *To protect the natural values and aesthetic qualities that support cultural use and traditional resource harvesting activities of First Nations.*
- *To provide for a diverse range of fishing experiences, settings and fishing success.*
- *To maintain the extent and condition of the Garry Oak in the protected area.*
- *To ensure the value of the areas grasslands are not threatened by invasive plants such as \_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_.*
- *To meet or exceed provincial water quality standards in the Dog Lake Watershed at all times.*
- *To maintain the functional integrity of critical moose winter habitat on the peninsula.*
- *To maintain historic moose population levels.*
- *To maintain a viable caribou population throughout the protected area.*
- *To provide opportunities for swimming, camping, picnicking and canoeing at the day use area.*
- *To retain shoreline and vegetation features on Big Lake.*
- *To minimize seasonal reductions in water quality in critical fish bearing streams.*
- *To maintain opportunities for backcountry recreation in an undeveloped wilderness setting on the islands in the lake.*

### 3.2.2 IDENTIFYING MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The next step is to work out how the management objectives will be achieved. Where an objective describes an intended outcome (*what* will be achieved), and the management context provides the rationale for selecting the objective (*why* the objective was chosen), strategies describe the specific actions that will be taken (*how* the objective will be achieved). Strategies are the backbone of the management plan. They convert the strategic vision and objectives into concrete management direction.

One or more strategies may be defined for each objective. That direction may apply to the whole protected area or a portion of the protected area, such as a particular zone or watershed.

Management strategies might describe:

- ❖ appropriate types of resource use, visitor activities or management actions,
- ❖ procedures/standards that should apply in connection with an activity,
- ❖ where and when a resource use or management activity is to occur, or
- ❖ conditions that must be satisfied before an activity can occur.

Ensuring that objectives and strategies are internally consistent, or are not in conflict with each other, is critical. Planners can choose to either prevent or mitigate conflicts between incompatible uses in a few ways.

- ❖ **Constrain park uses or activities.** This approach prevents conflict by not allowing certain uses or activities within the protected area.
- ❖ **Separate incompatible uses in space or time.** A type of constraint, this approach also prevents conflict by limiting incompatible uses or activities to defined areas within the protected area, or limiting the timing or seasonality of the use or activity.
- ❖ **Mitigate impacts.** This approach allows for the possibility of a conflict to occur but has strategies in place to minimize or mitigate the impacts.

Management strategies should:

- ✓ **Be realistic and achievable.** This is not a wish list of what *could* be done, but what the agency has decided it can and will do. Strategies must be technically feasible and should consider financial and biophysical realities.
- ✓ **Balance detail with flexibility.** One of the biggest challenges in drafting management plans is deciding how much detail to specify. On one hand, clarity on your intended outcome is important. On the other, creating very detailed prescriptions may unreasonably limit future management flexibility or may

simply be unrealistic. There is no magic formula; reviewing recently approved plans and talking to planning colleagues are good approaches to getting familiar with what is expected or appropriate.

- ✓ **Clarify implementation roles and responsibilities.** Certain strategies may involve other agencies or partners in decision-making or implementation. Clarifying respective roles will be important in these cases, especially where jurisdictional responsibilities are complex or overlapping.

Management strategies may:

- ✓ **Define an implementation timeline.** There may be situations when it is appropriate for a strategy to apply only during a certain timeframe. For example, a strategy may commence only during a particular time of year (e.g., in summer) or following a specified event or activity (e.g., collection of additional inventory data), or may cease to have effect after a particular date or event.
- ✓ **Address information gaps.** Gaps result from: incomplete or dated inventory data, insufficient research related to a given value, or insufficient analysis due to limited time or budget. Planners often write strategies specifically designed to fill these gaps. Strategies may also be conditional and take effect only if a particular gap is filled. Strategies should always be developed on the basis of “best available” information, even if gaps exist.

Management strategies should not:

- ✗ **Postpone decisions that should be made as a part of the management planning process.** The result of any management planning process should be capable of standing on its own without the need to subsequently clarify management direction. It is important to try to extract as much direction as is possible and reasonable from every planning initiative. Management plans may, as appropriate, commit to future processes such as filling information gaps or reviewing planning priorities on a certain date.
- ✗ **Repeat direction in legislation, standard operating procedures or policy.** Avoid redundancy by excluding management direction for what would be considered routine operating procedures that are already established through strategic or operational policy, or what would be expected as standard professional BC Parks conduct.

### Example Management Strategies

- *Work collaboratively with the Ministry responsible for forestry to minimize negative impacts to park values from forest harvesting activities adjacent to the park.*
- *Limit prescribed burning to spring and early summer only.*
- *Road construction in areas adjacent to cold water streams will be seasonally restricted.*
- *Prohibit the construction of backcountry recreational huts, shelters or cabins.*
- *Fish stocking is not allowed in the following alpine and subalpine lakes: Doyle, Platt and Meadow lakes.*
- *Maintain, and if necessary, improve the existing Wash Creek Trail (e.g., trail clearing, new signage, bridge repair)*
- *Provide the public with information on minimising impacts to water quality in the backcountry.*
- *Recommend regulatory changes to prohibit hunting in the three First Nations cultural heritage zones.*
- *Develop a sea level rise risk assessment for archaeological and heritage sites in the park. Work with the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw to develop appropriate response strategies.*
- *Develop and implement a communication strategy to discourage recreational boat anchoring at Skull Cove, and encourage anchoring at Miles Inlet and other anchorages in the area.*
- *Recommend the addition of foreshore to the legal boundaries of the conservancy.*
- *Encourage viewing of park resources, including Bald Eagles and their habitat, from outside the park. This could be from the eastern shore of the Squamish River or from appropriately conducted river rafting trips.*
- *Monitor campground use through satisfaction surveys, comments and user trends to determine future frontcountry camping needs.*

### Questions to ask when developing management strategies:

- ❖ *In what different ways can the objective(s) be achieved?*
- ❖ *What options work well together?*
- ❖ *Which options represent the best value for money?*
- ❖ *Do the strategies align with one or more objectives?*
- ❖ *Are the strategies realistic, practical and economically feasible?*
- ❖ *Is support needed from other agencies or Cabinet to support the desired management direction? (e.g., land acquisition, hunting closures, boundary changes, boat motor size restrictions, marine harvesting)*

**Tips:**

- ✓ Avoid using terms like “consider”, “should” or “may” as they leave too much room for conflicting interpretation at the implementation stage.
- ✓ Use the terms “wherever possible” or “wherever practicable” or “if necessary” to indicate when an approach may not always be feasible or practical, but is encouraged.
- ✓ It is critical to provide solid rationale for management direction where an existing use or activity will no longer be permitted in the protected area.



## *PRESENTING MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES*

As indicated in the template, there are two options for presenting management direction (issues/opportunities, objectives and strategies) in a BC Parks management plan<sup>6</sup>.

### **OPTION 1**

This format is strongly preferred and appropriate in almost all cases. It provides a space for describing the management context, including current or anticipated management issues and opportunities. This context must offer a clear rationale for the management objective(s) and strategies that follow.

In longer and more complex management plans, the use of **themes and subsections** may be appropriate. These can be used to either:

- a) organize several related management objectives and strategies (e.g., a “Wildlife” section/theme with several relevant management objectives and associated strategies), or
- b) to address different aspects of a more complex theme (e.g., a “Recreation” section that is organized into three subsections - “Backcountry Camping”, “Mountain Biking” and “Access”, each of which includes relevant objectives and strategies).

### **Option 1 - Example**

#### ***“Wildlife***

*Mount Robson Park is home to a large variety of wildlife species including ungulates, large carnivores, small mammals, raptors, waterfowl, songbirds and invertebrates. Large carnivores such as wolf, black and grizzly bears are present within the park. Ungulate species found in the park include moose, mountain goat, Rocky Mountain elk, woodland caribou northern ecotype, mule deer and white-tailed deer. As part of a larger protected area complex, it is essential that the movement of wide-ranging species is maintained to promote genetic diversity and the long-term viability of populations.*

*Significant wildlife management issues in the park include: wildlife mortality along the travel corridor, allowing for the movement of wide ranging species across jurisdictional boundaries, preventing human/wildlife conflicts, and protecting wildlife species at risk such as woodland caribou and grizzly bear. Also of importance is gaining a better understanding of harlequin duck habitat use on the Fraser River, and of mountain goat population and habitat use.*

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<sup>6</sup>Options may be modified based on feedback from planners and/or the public.

*It is important to note that an annual “bird blitz” has occurred in Mount Robson Park since 1982. This has become a popular event and provides long-term trend data on the diversity of bird species in the park. Approximately 170 different bird species have been recorded.*

<b>Management Objective</b>	<b>Management Strategies</b>
<p><b>Maintain and protect the natural diversity of wildlife species and populations.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Continue to implement wildlife management, inventory, monitoring and research actions outlined in the 1996 Ecosystem Management Plan. Give special attention to Mountain Caribou, Grizzly Bear, Harlequin Duck and Mountain Goat.</i></li> <li>• <i>Continue to implement recommendations from the bear hazard assessment report and follow the BC Parks’ Bear/Human Conflict Prevention Plan to reduce conflicts between bears and park visitors.</i></li> <li>• <i>Work with Jasper National Park and other agencies to protect migration corridors for wide ranging species such as Caribou and Grizzly Bear.</i></li> <li>• <i>Continue to monitor and evaluate ungulate mortality along Highway #16 and the railway and assess ungulate migration routes. Work with the relevant provincial government agency and CN Rail to reduce ungulate mortality.</i></li> <li>• <i>Regulate domestic animals where necessary to protect park wildlife values (e.g., exclude dogs from overnight use of the Berg Lake corridor; and exclude domestic pack animal use other than horses to avoid possible transmission of disease to park wildlife).</i></li> <li>• <i>Continue to support the annual Bird Blitz and make the data accessible to the public and institutions for monitoring and assessing trends.”</i></li> </ul>

## OPTION 2

This second option may be appropriate for short and simple plans where the management context is self-explanatory and can clearly be expressed using a single issue or opportunity statement. If this format is chosen, the issue or opportunity statement must thoroughly explain the rationale for the chosen management direction. This is particularly critical if the management plan includes a new prohibition or phasing out of an existing use/activity (e.g., the plan includes a new prohibition on motorized vehicle use in a particular area of the park)

### Option 2 - Example

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
<i>Issue: Poor road conditions in remote areas of the park are preventing recreational access to certain areas and causing substantial erosion, resulting in negative water quality impacts.</i>	<p><b>Management Objective:</b> <i>To minimize road footprint and negative environmental impacts from all open, remote roads.</i></p> <p><b>Management Strategies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Monitor all remote access roads to determine access management needs, and impacts on adjacent vegetation and stream water quality.</i></li><li>• <i>Monitor and manage for environmental impacts on primitive roads that access the remote lakes.</i></li><li>• <i>If feasible, relocate road segments where environmental concerns (wetland damage, erosion) are evident (e.g., investigate alternative access options from the BC Hydro right-of-way to Frisken Lake). Restrict vehicle access in inappropriate places (e.g., over dam, through wetlands).</i></li><li>• <i>Close and accelerate rehabilitation of unnecessary roads. The roads on the east side of the park will remain open as trails for the use of the rancher in managing cattle movements within the range tenure.</i></li></ul>

### 3.3 ZONING PLAN

Zoning provides high-level management direction for defined management units within a protected area. A zoning plan defines a particular set of activities/uses that are appropriate within a given geographical area and the management objectives that apply within that area. Zoning is frequently used to segregate incompatible activities or uses within a protected area.

This section of the management plan should include the following template language.

**Template Language:**

In general terms, a zoning plan divides a protected area into logical management units within which certain activities/uses are permitted and a particular set of management objectives apply. Zoning is often used to physically separate incompatible activities or uses within the protected area and provide visitors and managers with a quick visual representation of how a particular protected area is managed. Zones are designed to reflect the physical environment, existing patterns of use and the desired level of management and development in a given management unit.

Be careful to ensure internal consistency - management objectives or strategies that have not been discussed in previous sections of the management plan should not appear exclusively in the zoning plan.

There are six possible zones in the [BC Parks Zoning Framework](#) that can be used in protected area planning.

1. Special Natural Feature Zone
2. Cultural Zone
3. Intensive Recreation Zone
4. Nature Recreation Zone
5. Wilderness Recreation Zone
6. Wilderness Conservation Zone

This section of the management plan should also include a description of each zone in the protected area (see Step 4 below) and a well-labelled zoning map.

A zoning plan is mandatory for all protected areas except ecological reserves.

### 3.3.1 ZONING PRINCIPLES

Use the following set of principles to guide the application and use of the zoning framework:

- ❖ Zoning communicates common management objectives over a given part of the landscape in an open and transparent way.
- ❖ Zoning provides a high level indication of the types of activities that may be appropriate – specific allowable uses or activities within a particular zone type will vary between protected areas. They may also vary *within* a protected area (i.e., the same zone type in one part of the protected area may allow different activities than other zones of the same type).
- ❖ Zone placement should consider adjacent zones and areas outside of the protected area that might influence the condition of the natural environment or visitor experience within the zone. Consider the desired level of use and protection in adjoining areas in particular (e.g., it is not optimal to place an Intensive Recreation Zone beside a Wilderness Conservation Zone unless a buffer (natural or planned) or barrier will prevent visitor movement between zones).
- ❖ Use of all six zones in a protected area is not required.
- ❖ Use of at least one zone is required.
- ❖ Where possible, zone boundaries should follow biophysical features (e.g., landforms, vegetation types, watersheds); particularly Nature Recreation, Wilderness Recreation and Wilderness Conservation zones.
- ❖ Zoning should guide public recreation use, as well as most BC Parks operation and administration activities, however exceptions may be made where practicable/necessary (e.g., for ecological restoration, public safety or conservation management activities).

### 3.3.2 STEPS FOR ESTABLISHING A ZONING PLAN

#### *STEP 1: ESTABLISH GENERAL MANAGEMENT UNITS*

Identify frontcountry areas, transportation corridors and access nodes. These may include existing and (or) planned features. Geographic and linear features (e.g., roads) are used wherever possible to define management units in frontcountry areas.

Backcountry management units are established at a landscape or watershed level. Heights of land (e.g., ridges, cols) and shorelines are the preferred geographic features for

defining a management unit. Other features (e.g., major creeks, lakes) may be used if there is a clear rationale for having different management goals in each area.

For marine areas, use the shoreline and shoreline features to establish a polygon around existing and planned recreation features. Straight lines in the water will be used with shoreline features as start and (or) end points. Marine zoning should be compatible with terrestrial zoning.

### ***STEP 2: DEFINE MANAGEMENT UNIT BOUNDARIES***

Define an appropriate polygon to encompass each management unit you have established.

Polygons may include a buffer zone where necessary (e.g., around sensitive features, to separate two zones with very different management objectives).

### ***STEP 3: APPLY AN APPROPRIATE ZONE TO EACH UNIT***

Based on an assessment of the natural environment conditions, visitor experience opportunity and management direction within each of the established management units, determine which of the six zones is suitable for each unit.

Refer to the zone descriptions in the [BC Parks Zoning Framework](#). Zoning principles should also be used to apply an appropriate zone.

Give each zone a name and number (if there are multiple zones of the same type in the protected area). For example: “Ridgeline Nature Recreation Zone (NR1)” or “Volcano Nature Recreation Zone (NR2)”. These labels should be clearly legible on the zoning map.

### ***STEP 4: DESCRIBE EACH ZONE IN THE MANAGEMENT PLAN***

The description should include the zone’s location, the size of the zone (include a breakdown of foreshore and marine components) and percentage of the protected area covered by the zone.

The description should also provide a brief rationale for the choice of zone (especially if it relates to visitor use patterns) and a description of the management intent of the zone (i.e., existing and potential future allowable uses).

### ***STEP 5: ADJUST ZONES IF NEEDED***

Ensure that the right geographic features were used to establish a logical and distinct separation between sections of the protected area with different management objectives.

## **Example Language: Zoning Plan**

*“The Tsa-Latl/ Smokehouse Conservancy is divided into two zones: a First Nations Cultural Zone and a Wilderness Recreation Zone.*

### **First Nations Cultural Heritage Zone**

#### **Zone Description**

*This zone includes approximately 7,630 hectares (20%) of the conservancy. The zone encompasses Long Lake and Triangle Lake, as well as the terrestrial area on the north side of Long Lake extending from Smokehouse Creek around to the unnamed creek that drains from Hazel Lake in the southwest end of the conservancy near the first narrows of Long Lake.*

#### **Objective and Management Intent**

*This zone aims to protect values associated with former Gwa’sala-‘Nakwaxda’xw village sites and other areas of spiritual and cultural significance. It is also aimed at facilitating Gwa’sala-‘Nakwaxda’xw access to the village site near Halowis (Indian Reserve No. 5).*

*Natural and cultural values are to be maintained and recreational activities are not encouraged in the terrestrial portions of the zone, particularly in the areas above Long Lake between the Docee River and Smokehouse Creek.*

*The portion of the zone between the Docee River and the unnamed creek draining from Hazel Lake may be utilized to support access into the conservancy if an appropriate route is identified. Low impact, small scale facilities may be appropriate in this area to support Gwa’sala-‘Nakwaxda’xw and/or recreational access, or to facilitate research, monitoring or restoration activities. Some low impact, recreational activities, such as such as wildlife viewing, canoeing and kayaking, may also be permitted at the western end of the conservancy.*

*Low frequency float plane landing on Long Lake is an appropriate use within this zone. The eastern and western ends of the lake are the preferred locations for low frequency helicopter landing sites in this zone. Motorized boat use on the lake is also expected to be low frequency, but is appropriate, especially as it is needed for research, restoration, monitoring and cultural access purposes.*

*Cultural/archaeological research is appropriate in this zone. All cultural/archaeological research proposals will be collaboratively evaluated by the Gwa’sala-‘Nakwaxda’xw and BC Parks.*

*Ecological research, fisheries management and the activities associated with the Fisheries and Oceans Canada counting fence will continue to be supported within the zone.*

*The types of activities considered appropriate in this zone are further described in Appendix 1.”....*

## 4 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This section of a management plan provides information on how the management direction will be implemented. This section also provides the reader with information on how actions will be prioritised, measured and amended.

### 4.1 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This section explains how the management plan will be implemented. This may include a description of partners, funding sources and other considerations specific to the protected area.

#### **Example Language: Implementation Plan**

*“The Parties [use “BC Parks” if there are no collaborative partners] will seek project-specific funding and partners to implement high priority strategies and to monitor key performance measures. Specific projects within [name of protected area] will be evaluated for priority in relation to the overall protected areas system. Many of the initiatives contemplated are not funded as part of core BC Parks activities so jointly seeking funds or outside partners will be a key aspect of management plan implementation”.*

*[Note: Similar text to the following should be added only if specific commitments have been made during the management planning process. Be careful about the commitments made in this section and consider the resources that would be required to implement them.]*

*As part of the collaborative relationship, BC Parks and [First Nation partner(s)] will:*

- Meet annually, or more frequently at the discretion of both parties, to discuss protected area management, address management issues, and jointly develop work plans;*
- Collaborate to prepare a work plan for the [protected area, system or territory] describing progress on implementation of management plans. Items in the work plan will include a description of the resources available during a given time period including staff and any additional operating or project funds that may support identified initiatives;*
- Collaborate to prepare an annual summary report describing progress on management plan implementation;*
- Assign a primary contact for questions or to discuss management issues that may arise during implementation;*
- Plan shared trips in to the protected area, whenever feasible; and,*
- Keep each other informed of any issues, or policy and procedural changes that may affect protected area management.”*



## 4.2 HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES

With BC Parks' limited resources there is a need to prioritize strategies that implementation efforts will focus on. This section of the management plan identifies the highest priority strategies for implementation.

High priority strategies should include any strategies that were identified during the management planning process as a high priority and any strategies that were specifically committed to in consultation with First Nations or interested parties (communities, individuals, organizations).

This section will be brief, and should include the **template language** below. Ensure that the management strategies here are consistent with those in the management direction section, especially if there have been several rounds of edits. Aim for 1-5 priority strategies, but use your discretion based on the total number of strategies in the management plan (more may be appropriate).

### Template Language: High Priority Strategies

The following strategies have been identified as high priorities for implementation:

1. Strategy A
2. ....

## 4.3 PLAN ASSESSMENT

This section includes **template language** to clearly identify when, how and why the management plan will be internally assessed for its continued validity (by BC Parks staff) or formally reviewed externally (by partners and the public).

### Template Language: Plan Assessment

In order to ensure that the management direction for *[protected area name]* remains relevant and effective, BC Parks staff will ensure that the management plan is assessed by BC Parks staff on a regular basis (i.e., at least every 5 years). Minor administrative updates may be identified and completed at any time (e.g., correct spelling errors, update protected area details where needed), and will be documented according to BC Parks guidelines.

If an internal assessment reveals that the management plan requires updating or substantial new management direction is needed, a formal review may be initiated by BC Parks to determine whether the plan requires an amendment or if a new plan is required.

The management plan amendment process or development of a new plan includes an opportunity for public input.

#### **4.4 PERFORMANCE MEASURES (OPTIONAL)**

*Performance measures are currently optional. Content for this section is in development.*

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The supporting documentation provides important additional information to help the reader better understand the plan that is not appropriate for inclusion in the body of the plan. Back matter includes the references, glossary and appendices.

### REFERENCES

Where many references are cited in the management plan, a reference section may be necessary. Use footnotes if there are only a few important references.

References should follow the standard format. Examples are provided in the [management plan template](#).

Internet references or references to online documents should include the appropriate URL (web address).

### GLOSSARY

Try to avoid the use of scientific or technical terms in the management plan. Where the use of many technical terms is necessary, include a glossary with a brief explanation of each term. Use footnotes if there only a few terms which need clarification.

### APPENDICES

#### APPENDIX 1: APPROPRIATE USE TABLE

The appropriate use table provides a summary of activities that are and are not allowed in the protected area.

Uses that do not apply to a particular protected area should be deleted from the table entirely. In some circumstances, it may be appropriate to add rows for additional uses. Any use restrictions (i.e., geographical or timing restrictions) should be indicated in the “comments” column along with a reference to the appropriate section(s) of the management plan.

Similarly, if there is a difference between if/where/when commercial and non-commercial activities of the same kind are permitted, ensure that this is clearly indicated in the table using separate rows (e.g., two rows for “guided mountain biking” and ”mountain biking”). A clear rationale should be included in the management direction section explaining any restrictions on guided versus non-guided recreation activities.

Where an activity is only allowed as a commercial activity (i.e., guided hunting) the term “guided” should always be used.

Each zone should have its own column. Where there are different zones of the same type (e.g., two nature recreation zones) include them as one column only if management objectives and allowable uses are identical. In some cases, management objectives or allowable uses vary between zones of the same type – in this situation, determine if a separate column is necessary (i.e., where there are many or significant differences) or if the difference can be explained in the comments column (i.e., only one minor difference). Where there are too many zones to fit the table on one portrait page complete a separate table for each zone or use a landscape format for the appropriate use table.

Where it is necessary to provide extra clarification in the table an explanatory footnote can be used.

The introductory template language should be followed by a legend (see below) and appropriate use table.

**Template Language: Appendix 1: Appropriate Use Table**

The following table summarizes existing and potential future uses in *[protected area name]* that are and are not appropriate in each zone. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all uses that may be considered in this protected area in the future.

Please note that many appropriate uses are geographically restricted (i.e., only allowed in certain areas of *[protected area name]*) or are only appropriate at certain times of the year. Please ensure that you are well informed of any use restrictions as indicated in the table. It is a good idea to review relevant sections of the management plan where indicated in the table.

Appropriate Use Table Legend		
<b>N</b>	<b>Not an appropriate use</b>	The use is not appropriate in the indicated zone. If the use currently exists but the management planning process has determined that the use is no longer appropriate in all or part of the protected area, the management plan will include strategies for ending the activity (e.g., phasing out, closing).
<b>Y</b>	<b>May be an appropriate use</b>	Some level or extent of this use may be appropriate in the zone(s) indicated. If the activity/use already exists, the management plan provides guidance on the appropriate level of use and may address specific restrictions or planned enhancements (e.g., capacity, designated areas for a particular activity, party size, time of year, etc.).  For new or expanded uses, this symbol indicates that the use <u>may be considered</u> for further evaluation and approval. The appropriateness of some activities may not be confirmed until a further assessment (e.g., BC Parks Impacts Assessment Process) or evaluation process (e.g., park use permit adjudication) is completed.
<b>Y1</b>	<b>Appropriate use as per section 30 or 31 of the Park Act</b>	Indicates that the use is not normally appropriate in a protected area but was either occurring pursuant to an encumbrance or Crown authorization at the time the protected area was designated, or was authorized by BC Parks prior to July 13, 1995, and is allowed to continue.
<b>N/A</b>	<b>Not an applicable use in this zone</b>	Indicates where it is not feasible for the use to take place in this zone (e.g., mooring buoys in a terrestrial zone).

**(DELETE ROWS FOR ALL USES THAT DO NOT APPLY TO THE PROTECTED AREA)**

Activity/Facility	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Comments (outline any key restrictions on the activity in this column & delete this text)
<b>Activities/Uses</b>				
Aircraft access				
Beach activities (swimming, sunbathing, etc.)				
Boating (non-power)				
Boating (power)				
Camping – vehicle accessible				
Camping – backcountry				
Camping – motorised boat accessible				
Camping - no trace (backpacking)				
Camping - other (at approved/designated* sites)				
Commercial recreation (facility-based)				
Commercial recreation (non-facility based)				
Cultural Tourism				

<b>Activity/Facility</b>	<b>Zone 1</b>	<b>Zone 2</b>	<b>Zone 3</b>	<b>Comments</b> <i>(outline any key restrictions on the activity in this column &amp; delete this text)</i>
Insect/Disease Control				
Filming (commercial)				
Fire Management (prescribed fire management)				
Fire Management (prevention)				
Fire Management (suppression)				
Fish stocking				
Fish habitat enhancement				
Fishing				
Forest Insect/Disease Control				
Grazing (domestic livestock)				
Guide outfitting				
Guide outfitting (fishing)				
Guide outfitting (hunting)				
Guide outfitting (nature tours)				
Hiking/Backpacking/Walking				
Horse use/pack animals (not exotic)				
Hunting				
Mechanized Off-road Access (non-motorised – i.e. mountain biking)				
Motorised Water access				
Motorised Off-road Access (not snowmobiles – i.e., 4x4, motorcycles, ATV)				
Non-motorised water access				
Noxious Weed Control				
Off-road access (mechanical activities)				
Off-road access (non-mechanical: dog sleds, horse sleds)				
Off-road access (motorised)				
Pack animal Use				
Scientific Research (assessment)				
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)				
Skiing (downhill and cross-country track based)				
Skiing (helicopter or cat-assisted)				
Snowmobiling				
Trapping				
<b>Facilities/Infrastructure</b>				
Administrative buildings and compounds				
Backcountry huts				

Activity/Facility	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Comments <i>(outline any key restrictions on the activity in this column &amp; delete this text)</i>
Boat launches				
Campgrounds (other)				
Campgrounds and picnic areas (vehicle access and serviced)				
Communication sites				
Emergency shelters				
Interpretation and information buildings				
Fixed Roof Accommodation				
Roads and parking lots				
Trails (hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking)				
Utility corridors (power/transmission lines and other rights-of-way)				
Water control structures				
Water Sampling Structures				
Wharves/docks				

*\*Designated campsites are those identified on park maps and that have associated infrastructure to control environmental impacts such as: tent pads, pit toilets, bear-proof food storage options, etc.*

## OTHER APPENDICES

In most cases additional appendices will not be required. Additional documents, public comment summaries, agreements, background information, detailed values information should usually not be included in the document but they can be posted online with the management plan.