

**Thompson River District**

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION  
STATEMENT**

**June, 1999**

**for Arrowstone  
Protected Area**



**BRITISH  
COLUMBIA**

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



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# APPROVALS

## KAMLOOPS GOAL 1 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

### Forward

This binder contains 15 management direction statements developed under the direction of the Kamloops Land and Resource Plan Implementation Table and BC Parks. The government designated these protected areas in May, 1996. The 15 management direction statements provide strategic direction for these protected areas until management plans can be developed with full public involvement. Protected areas' roles, strategies and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, implemented through operations plans, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrowstone Protected Area | <input type="checkbox"/> High Lakes Basin Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Earth Lake Park                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Momich Lakes Park      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte Park                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon Jack Park       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clearwater River Corridor            | <input type="checkbox"/> Porcupine Meadows Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cornwall Hills Park                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Roche Lake Park        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dunn Peak Park                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Taweel Park            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elephant Hill Park                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Adams Park       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emar Lakes Park                      |   |

Approved by:

District Manager  
Thompson River District  
BC Parks Division

Date: 98/04/30

Assistant Deputy Minister  
Park Management Committee  
BC Parks Division

Date: 99 10 25

## Table of Contents

<b>I.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	
A.	Setting and Context.....	1
<b>II.</b>	<b>Protected Areas Values</b>	
A.	Conservation .....	1
B.	Recreation .....	1
C.	Cultural.....	2
D.	Significance in the Protected Areas System.....	2
	Within the Protected Area “Resource Management Zone”	
A.	Conservation .....	2
B.	Recreation .....	2
C.	Cultural.....	2
D.	Significance in the Protected Areas System.....	2
<b>III.</b>	<b>Other Land Uses and Interests</b>	
A.	Existing Tenures.....	2
B.	Adjacent Patterns of Land Use.....	4
C.	First Nations Interests.....	4
D.	Other Agency Interests.....	4
E.	Private and Public Stakeholder Interests .....	4
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Protected Area Role Statement.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>Management Issues and Concerns</b>	
A.	Integration With Other Land Use Planning Processes.....	6
B.	Consultation and Future Planning.....	6
C.	Zoning Plan .....	6
D.	Management Strategies and Objectives.....	7
E.	Short Term Issues and Concerns.....	7
	<b>Appendix A.....</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>Figures:</b>	
	Figure 1 - Regional Context Map .....	3
	Figure 2 - Zoning Map .....	5

### **Purpose of Management Direction Statements**

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

# ARROWSTONE PROTECTED AREA

## MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

### I. Introduction

#### A. Setting and Context

The 6,203-hectare Arrowstone Protected Area, situated northeast of Cache Creek in the Thompson River Basin, contains important conservation, cultural, and recreational values. Inclusion of almost all of Arrowstone Creek drainage in the protected area is of particular conservation significance since it is one of the largest undisturbed valleys in the dry southern interior. The area is accessed from the Battle Creek Forest Road and by the "Back" road from Deadman Valley to Cache Creek.

This protected area was recommended through the Kamloops LRMP process and formally established on April 30th, 1996. With recognition of extensive pre-existing grazing lease tenure in the area, the whole of the protected area was designated under the *Environment and Land Use Act*. The grazing lease, covering the large southern portion of the area is save and except. While the *Park Act* does not apply over the grazing lease, these lands are managed as a "protected area resource management zone" under the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*. (See Figure 1).

This Management Direction Statement is intended to provide direction and guidelines for managing the Arrowstone Protected Area until a more comprehensive management plan is developed for the area. The Management Direction Statement applies to both the area managed under authority of the *Park Act* and the "protected area resource management zone" to provide consistent and co-ordinated direction over the whole area.

### II. Protected Area Values

#### A. Conservation

- includes almost all of the Arrowstone Creek drainage; much of the Arrowstone Creek watershed has no cattle grazing and is in pristine condition, representing habitats of the dry interior Douglas-fir zone that are rarely found in such an undisturbed and original state.
- contains one of the largest stands of old-growth Douglas-fir in the southern interior.

#### B. Recreation

- opportunities for hiking in a relatively pristine environment
- scenic forested valley with old-growth ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir
- photography, nature study and wildlife viewing
- hunting

### **C. Cultural**

- unknown although it is likely that the Arrowstone Creek drainage contains archaeological values

### **Within the Protected Area "Resource Management Zone"**

#### **A. Conservation**

- includes a major portion of the Cache Creek Hills as a representative landscape feature of the Thompson Basin.
- contains critical winter range for mule deer and is home to many rare species, including burrowing owls, falcons and rattlesnakes.
- adjacent to the regionally significant McAbee fossil beds.

#### **B. Recreation**

- opportunities for hiking in a relatively pristine environment
- scenic landscape of dry, colourful mountains, cliffs and basalt formations
- photography, nature study and wildlife viewing
- hunting
- fishing in Tsotin Lake (Brook trout)

#### **C. Cultural**

- rich in cultural history - linked to the historic Gang Ranch and the present Perry Ranch.
- regionally important aboriginal basalt quarry was located at the junction of Arrowstone and Cache creeks.
- contains many archaeological sites.

#### **D. Significance in the Protected Area System**

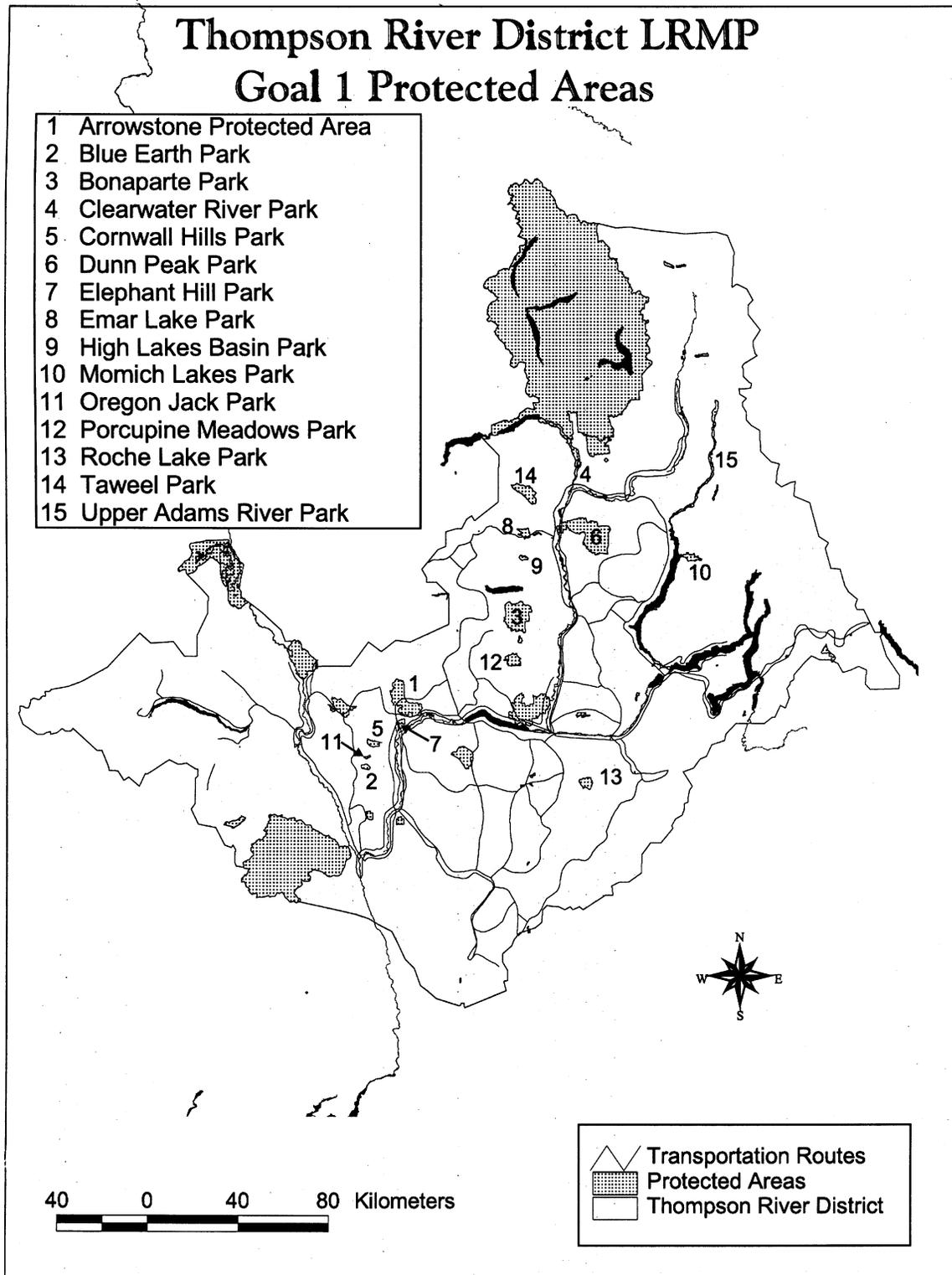
- the intact Arrowstone Creek drainage provides one of the only opportunities to capture habitats of the dry southern interior in a natural, undisturbed condition.
- Arrowstone Protected Area (including the protected area and the resource management zone) rates as provincially significant for its combination of conservation, recreation and cultural values.
- the whole of the protected area provides unique opportunity to represent grassland and forested habitats through an elevational gradient encompassing both the Thompson Basin ecosection and portion of the North Thompson Uplands ecosection.

### **III. Other Land Uses and Interests**

#### **A. Existing Tenures**

- grazing lease, essentially covering all of the protected area "resource management zone" (RMZ) under the Forests Practices Code. *Legal and policy direction is under review as to management obligations.*

Figure 1 – Regional Context Map



- remainder of the area has been designated as a protected area under the *Environment and Land Use Act*. All private lands are saved and excepted from the protected area. This designation ensures all existing liens, charges, and encumbrances other than those applying to commercial logging, mining or energy exploration and development will continue to be authorized through issuance of park use permits. This policy recognizes all existing water rights, trapping licences and other legal tenures and rights.
- BC Hydro right-of-way (quite large)
- RCMP communications site.

#### **B. Adjacent patterns of Land Use**

- logging roads, new and old cut blocks extend around the east side and top end of the Arrowstone Creek drainage (protected area)
- ranching activities occur through and around the protected area "resource management zone"; ranching is of historical interest with historical link to the Gang Creek Ranch
- mining activity (primarily exploration) occurs along the southern edge of the protected area "resource management zone"; primary interest is in zeolite deposits
- McAbee fossil beds, which are of provincial significance, lie immediately outside of the protected area resource management zone; the fossil beds are used commercially (Zugg mineral claim) and are managed by spirit and intent of the agreement negotiated between the LRMP and the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

#### **C. First Nations Interests**

- archaeological values.
- historic use for hunting and food gathering

#### **D. Other Agency Interests**

- The whole of the protected area will be managed in close co-ordination with various resource agencies, particularly BC Parks, BC Lands, BC Environment and Ministry of Forests.
- Ministry of Forests manages grazing use in the protected area.

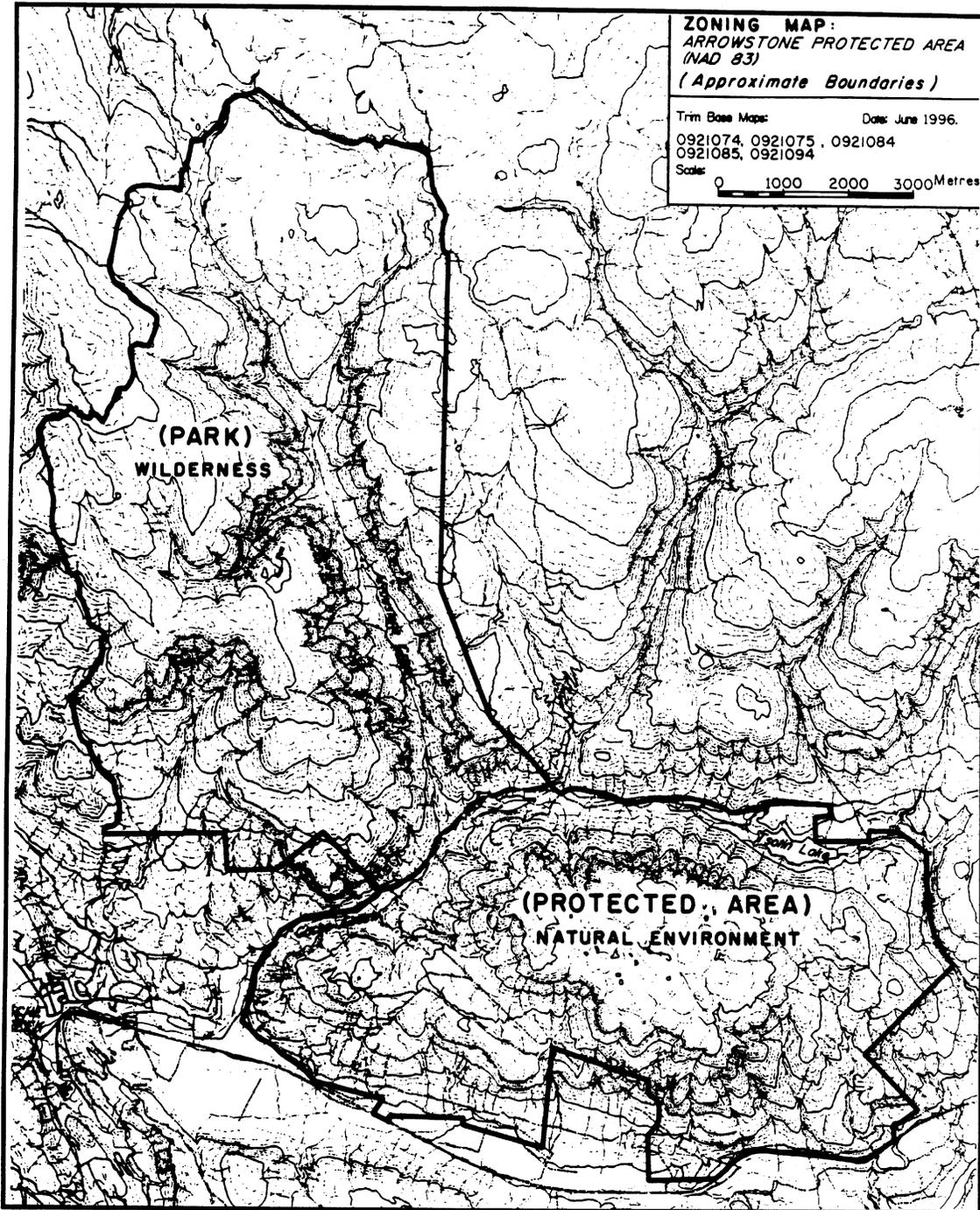
#### **E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests**

- private land at the lower portion of Arrowstone Creek limits public access to the protected area.

### **IV. Protected Area Role Statement**

The primary role of Arrowstone Protected Area is to protect the forested and grassland habitats of the Arrowstone drainage and a portion of the Cache Creek Hills. With inclusion of the Arrowstone drainage as one of the largest undisturbed watersheds in the southern interior, this protected area is of a scale and quality to be considered one of the more significant protected areas for representation of dry forest ecosystems. Together with Lac du Bois Park, Arrowstone Protected Area represents extensive grasslands and forests of the Thompson Basin and lower portions of the Northern Thompson Uplands Ecoregions. The protected area also protects cultural features of significance to local First Nations. A secondary role is to provide

Figure 2 - Zoning Plan



opportunities for the public to view and experience the dry natural habitats and to allow non-intrusive recreation opportunities.

## **V. Management Issues**

### **A. Integration With Other Land Use Planning Processes**

This Management Direction Statement, future management plans and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for the Arrowstone Protected Area.

The protected area will be planned and managed in co-ordination with other agencies' planning processes.

### **B. Consultation and Future Planning**

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

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

With much more urgent management issues and concerns in some of the other protected areas in the Kamloops LRMP, Arrowstone is considered to be of relatively low priority for management planning. Under these circumstances, it may be five years or more before a formal management planning process is initiated for the area. Resource agencies, stakeholders, first nations interests, and individuals and groups who may have an interest in the Arrowstone Protected Area will have opportunity to participate in the future management planning process.

### **C. Zoning Plan**

The zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page is preliminary and intended to reflect the intent of the LRMP recommendations for the Arrowstone Protected Area. The zoning plan may be changed in a future management planning process. Tentative zones include:

**Wilderness** (covers the protected area) - this PAS management zone is intended to protect and retain the undisturbed nature and conditions of the Arrowstone drainage. Livestock does not graze much of this zone.

**Natural Environment** - this zone covers the resource management zone over the southern Cache Creek Hills portion of the protected area. Legal and policy review is currently (1998) under review and may lead to management under the provisions of the *Park Act*.

A future management plan may incorporate small pockets of "preservation" zone over ungrazed benchmarks and "Heritage and Natural and Cultural Sites" zone over features of special natural, historical, archaeological or spiritual significance.

#### **D. Management Strategies and Objectives**

The following objectives will direct the short and long term management of the area:

- to maintain the natural, undisturbed conditions of Arrowstone Creek drainage.
- to maintain the visual and recreation attractions
- to maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats
- to maintain representative and special and rare native plant communities and species
- to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species
- to encourage non-destructive scientific studies
- to minimize vehicle impacts to wintering wildlife
- inventory and monitoring of environmental conditions
- establishment of non-grazed benchmarks
- management and acquisition of claims (in resource management zone)
- recreational access management
- co-operative management with grazing lease holder (in resource management zone)
- to provide for continued recreation use with opportunities for hiking, nature viewing, hunting and other associated dispersed outdoor recreation activities
- to record and protect cultural resource values which relate to First Nations and ranching use of the area
- to maintain the Tsotin Lake fishery in co-operation with BC Environment.

The more detailed management planning process will define how these strategies and objectives will be implemented. As well, there will undoubtedly be other strategies and objectives added to the list through the management planning process.

#### **E. Short Term Issues and Concerns**

Appendix A outlines guidelines for managing uses, activities and facilities in the protected area. The types and nature of recreation uses will not change, however, more intensive levels of management may be applied; i.e. security and safety, to provide better services to the public.

Douglas-fir beetle and mountain pine beetle infestation in Arrowstone drainage will also have to be dealt with in the short term. The interagency implementation team will assess results of the low impact assessment of the beetle infestation and will consider options and recommend control actions accordingly.

Planning and management of the area will seek co-operation of the grazing lease owner to implement the protected area objectives over the southern portion of the protected area.

No new grazing tenures will be permitted in the wilderness zone. Options to relocate the small amount of cattle use that now occurs at the northern edge of the wilderness zone will be investigated.

### Appendix A - Activity/Use Matrix for Arrowstone Protected Area

Activity/Use/Activity	Strict Preservation	Wilderness	Natural Environment Zone	Heritage areas/cultural sites
Hunting	N	Y	Y	Y
Fishing	N	Y	Y	N
Trapping	N	Y	Y	N2
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N	N	Y	N
Recreational gold panning/ rock hounding	N	Y	Y	N
Utility corridors	N	N	N2	N
Communication sites	N	N	N	N1
Horse use/ pack animals	N	Y <sup>3</sup>	Y <sup>3</sup>	Y <sup>3</sup>
Guide outfitting (hunting)	N	Y <sup>2</sup>	Y <sup>2</sup>	Y <sup>2</sup>
Guide outfitting (fishing)	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Guide outfitting (nature tours)	N	Y <sup>2</sup>	Y <sup>2</sup>	Y <sup>2</sup>
Guide outfitting (river rafting)	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cat-assisted skiing	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ski-hills	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Heli-skiing	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Heli-hiking	N	N	N	N
Tourist infrastructure - resorts	N	N	N	N
Backcountry huts/lodges/ cabins	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Water control structures	N	N	N2	N2
Fish stocking and enhancement	N	N/A	Y	N/A
Road access	N	N	Y <sup>1</sup>	N1
Off-road access (snowmobiles)	N	N	Y <sup>3</sup>	Y <sup>3</sup>
Off-road access (motorized)	N	N	Y <sup>3</sup>	Y <sup>3</sup>
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	N	N	Y <sup>3</sup>	Y <sup>3</sup>
Motorized water access	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Aircraft access	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fire management Wildlife management Prevention & preparedness Prescribed fire management	N1	N1	N1	N1
Fire management (suppression)	N1	N1	Y	Y
Forest insect/disease control	N1	N1	N1	Y
Noxious weed control	N1	N1	Y	Y
Exotic insect/disease control	N1	N1	Y	Y
Scientific research (specimen collection)	N1	N1	N1	N1
Scientific research (manipulation activities)	N1	N1	N1	N1

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

N = not allowed

N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

N2 = not normally allowed, but if present at time of PA establishment, will normally be allowed to continue

<sup>1</sup> = road access plan for this area designates open and closed roads

<sup>2</sup> = by permit only

<sup>3</sup> = on designated trails only

<sup>4</sup> = on designated lakes only