

Skeena District

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

July, 2000

for Babine Lake Marine Park -
Pendleton Bay Site





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Lands and Parks

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MEMORANDUM

HIGHWAY 16 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS - BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward

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

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

Approved by:


Hugh Markides
District Manager
Skeena District

Date: 6 July 2000


Denis O'Gorman
Assistant Deputy Minister
Parks Division

Date: 2000.07.17



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Introduction

Purpose of Management Direction Statements

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

Setting and Context

Babine Lake Marine Park - Pendleton Bay Site - covers 36.8 ha, divided into two parcels of land, on the southwest shore of Babine Lake, about 34 km north of Burns Lake (area population ~7,000; Park Map). The park lies within the asserted traditional territory of the Yekooche and Ned'u'ten (Lake Babine Nation).

The park, established in 1993 as part of the Babine Lake Marine Park system, provides access to internationally significant fishing opportunities along 200 km of waterways and offers camping for local residents and destination travellers. Ethel F Wilson Memorial Park offers rustic camping and angling on Pinkut Lake, 10 km to the south. Other parks along Babine Lake, including Topley Landing, Red Bluff and Smithers Landing, not directly linked by road, can be visited by motor boat from Pendleton Bay.

Protected Area Attributes

Conservation

- remnant Babine Upland Ecosystem; SBSmc2 (moist, cold sub-boreal spruce subzone, Babine variant)

Recreation and Tourism

- destination camping with access to internationally-significant angling opportunities (rainbow and lake trout) along 200 km of waterways

Cultural Heritage

- cultural features not identified to BC Parks

Significance in the Protected Areas System

- protects remnant ecosystem within the Babine Upland Ecosystem (high priority, underrepresented ecosystem)
- provides angling and boating opportunities for local residents and destination travellers as part of the Babine Lake Marine Park system

Figure 1 – Context Map

Figure 2 – Park Map

Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

The gravel Babine Forest Service Road bisects the developed portion of the park 34-km north of Burns Lake and Highway 16. A second, undeveloped parcel lies 1 km further north.

Existing Tenures

- Babine Forest Service Road runs through the park

Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities

- 16 “pad-and-spur” campsites
- pit toilets, water pump
- concrete boat launch

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- private land, some residentially developed, runs along the lakeshore to the west and south of the northern parcel of park land (District Lots 7579, 7580, 7586, 7585, 7582)
- private land occupies the lakeshore to the north of the southern parcel of park land (DL 6684 Block C, D)
- crown land with a Ministry of Forests Special Use Permit lies to the north of the southern parcel
- crown land, subject to timber harvest, lies upslope to the southwest of the northern parcel and to the west and south of the southern parcel

First Nations Interests

- asserted traditional territory of the Yekooche and Ned’u’ten (Lake Babine Nation)
- interested in being consulted on park matters

Other Agency Interests

- BC Environment has an interest in the Babine Lake fishery
- Ministry of Forests has an interest in forest issues in nearby crown land, and manages several nearby Forest Recreation Sites
- Regional District of Bulkley Nechako has an interest in regional tourism

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- recreational users: anglers, boaters
- local residents: Burns Lake community
- Pendleton Bay Action Committee

Role of Pendleton Bay Park

The Pendleton Bay Site serves primarily a recreation role within the British Columbia protected areas system. The park site provides access to the internationally significant

boating and angling opportunities afforded by Babine Lake, one of the largest freshwater natural lakes in the province. Local residents and destination travelers use Pendleton Bay Park Site as a key staging point to the lake. The Pendleton Bay Park Site also complements several other small park sites, including Topley Landing, Red Bluff and Smithers Landing, that provide camping, picnicking, boat launching and nature appreciation opportunities within the Babine Lake Marine Park system.

Pendleton Bay Park Site lies within the Babine Upland Ecosession. This ecosession is under-represented within the protected areas system. The small size of the Pendleton Bay Park Site precludes ecosystem representation by this site. The park site is extensively developed for outdoor recreation activities and therefore performs a limited conservation role.

Management Commitments and Issues

Direction from Previous Planning

Pendleton Bay Park has been managed as a Class A Park since 1993. Annual Management Plans provide year-to-year direction.

Management Issues

The following management issues require attention:

Theme	Issue
Public safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ageing cottonwood create potential hazards
Protecting ecological values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> inventory of flora and fauna is incomplete impact of angling on fish populations in Babine Lake is unknown; BC Environment has concerns about fishing pressure, particularly on lake trout
Protecting recreational values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> non-compliant camping, especially on May long weekend, can impact recreational values deteriorating facilities (e.g. boat launch pad) reduce recreational values
Protecting cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> significance of cultural values is unknown
First Nations Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> feel that further consultation is required
Park operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> high deficiency second parcel of land currently undeveloped

Management Strategy

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

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure Pendleton Bay Park is safe for public use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow Hazard Tree Guidelines; continue to assess cottonwoods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect the park's natural values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the significance of the park's flora and fauna; prepare Ecology Information Summary Quantify park-based angling activity if requested by BC Environment Encourage angler compliance with regulations; maintain posting of provincial sport angling regulations, including daily and possession limits for rainbow trout and lake trout, and area and seasonal closures Discuss options for lake trout management with BC Environment; consider designating a size window (i.e. minimum and maximum size for

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect the park’s recreational values 	retention) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor activities on May long weekend; enforce Park Act regulations through public education and public programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect the park’s cultural heritage values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and collate existing information on cultural heritage values; prepare Cultural Features Information Summary (based on Yekooche and Ned'u'ten interest and desire)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nation Values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Rights may be exercised subject to safety and conservation concerns • Meet with the Lake Babine Nation to discuss issues in various parks • Follow ministry guidelines on consultation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide and maintain standard camping facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain sign informing visitors that the park is user-maintained • Investigate development of second parcel of land • Investigate conversion to low-maintenance facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce deficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider strategies for Ethel F Wilson and Pendleton Bay Parks together; review recommendations given in Highway 16 Overview Analysis; consider options for transferring facilities management • Maintain good relationship with communities about needs for campsites

Consultation and Future Planning

BC Parks will invite discussion about options for facility management from local communities, the Ministry of Forests and the Yekooche and Lake Babine Nation.

The priority for preparing a management plan for Pendleton Bay Park is ranked as low.

Preliminary Zoning

The developed portion of the park is zoned Intensive Recreation. Until development is planned for the second parcel, it is zoned as Natural Environment (Figure 3 - Zoning Map).

Figure 3 - Zoning

Appendix - Activity/Use Matrix for Pendleton Bay Park

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

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

M = may be permitted if compatible with protected area objectives

N = not allowed

N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

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