

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

June, 1999

**for Blue Earth Lake
Provincial Park**



**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 type="checkbox"/> Arrowstone Protected Area | <input type="checkbox"/> High Lakes Basin Park. |
| <input checked="" 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

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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

BLUE EARTH LAKE PARK

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context

The 725 hectare Blue Earth Lake Park, situated 30 kilometres southwest of Cache Creek, has important conservation, recreation and cultural values. Access is by gravel road from the Trans Canada Highway north of Spences Bridge. This protected area was recommended through the Kamloops LRMP process and formally established on April 30th, 1996 as a provincial park through Order-in-Council under the *Environment and Land Use Act*. The park was then designated in Schedule E of the *Park Amendment Act, 1997*.

This Management Direction Statement is intended to provide direction and guidelines for managing Blue Earth Lake Park until a more comprehensive management plan is developed for the area.

II. Protected Area Values

A. Conservation

- lakes, wetlands and riparian areas in a deep valley with significant value for song birds and waterfowl
- small areas of old-growth Douglas-fir and mature aspen stands
- two very distinct geological types on each side of the park: at the junction of the spectacular Marble Canyon limestones on the north and the volcanics of the Spences Bridge group on the south

B. Recreation

- a popular and attractive area for fishing and nature appreciation

C. Cultural Heritage

- regionally important archeological sites and traditional native use

D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- this small lake, wetland riparian area provides the only opportunity in the western part of the region to protect this type of habitat
- Blue Earth Lake Park is regionally significant for conservation, recreation and cultural values

III. Other Land Uses and Interests

A. Existing Tenures

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

B. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- access road through the middle of the park from Trans Canada Highway to upper Hat Creek valley
- cattle grazing

C. First Nations Interests

- unknown

D. Other Agency Interests

- The park will be managed in close co-ordination with various resource agencies, particularly BC Environment and Ministry of Forests.
- Ministry of Forests manages grazing in the area
- Ministry of Forests concern about mountain pine beetle infestations east of Blue Earth Lake
- long-term possible mines interest in access road through Blue Earth Lake valley
- Provincial Fisheries Branch - maintain an existing fishery

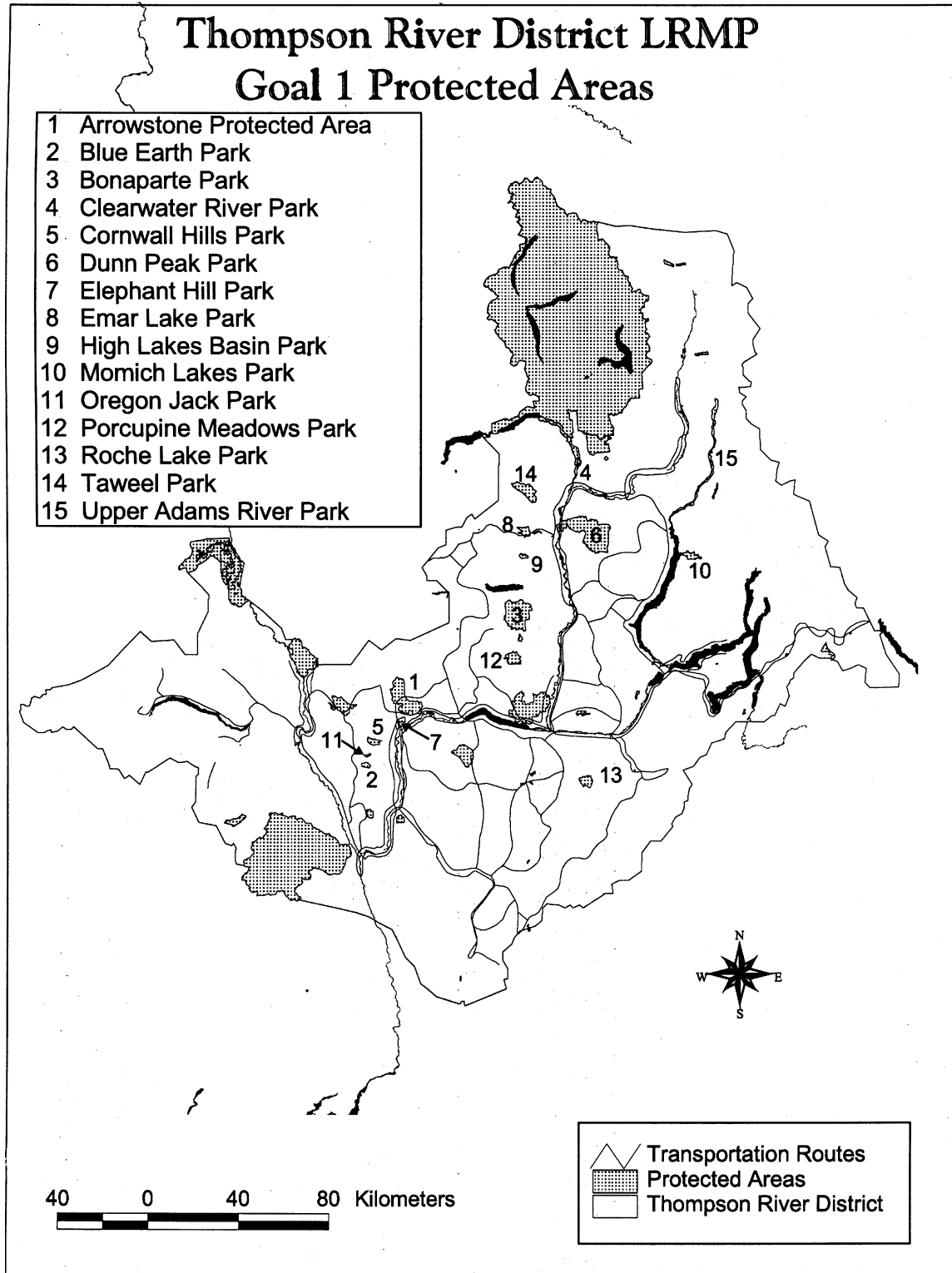
E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- unknown

IV. Park Role Statement

The primary role of Blue Earth Park is to protect the lakes, wetlands, upland forests, habitats and cultural features associated with the setting and environs of Blue Earth Lake. The park is one of a number of small parks in the BC Parks Thompson River District (Cornwall Hills, Oregon Jack, Bedard Aspen and Harry Lake Aspen) and larger parks in Cariboo District (Marble Range and Edge Hills) that together represent the diverse ecosystems of the Pavilion Ranges Ecosection. A secondary role is to continue providing traditional and regionally significant recreation opportunities particularly for relatively remote, road accessible camping, fishing, hiking and hunting.

Figure 1 – Regional Context



V. Management Issues and Concerns

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 Blue Earth Lake protected area.

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

B. Consultation and Future Planning

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

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

The LRMP table considers Blue Earth Lake Park as low priority for management planning. This Management Direction Statement will provide direction and guidelines for managing the area for the next five years or so until a management plan is developed. Any future management plan will be developed through involvement of other agencies, stakeholders, First Nations and public interest groups.

C. Zoning

This zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page is preliminary and reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for Blue Earth Lake Park. The zoning plan may be changed in a future management planning process. Tentative zones include:

Natural Environment

includes the major portion of the park; the objective is to maintain the area in a natural condition.

Intensive Recreation

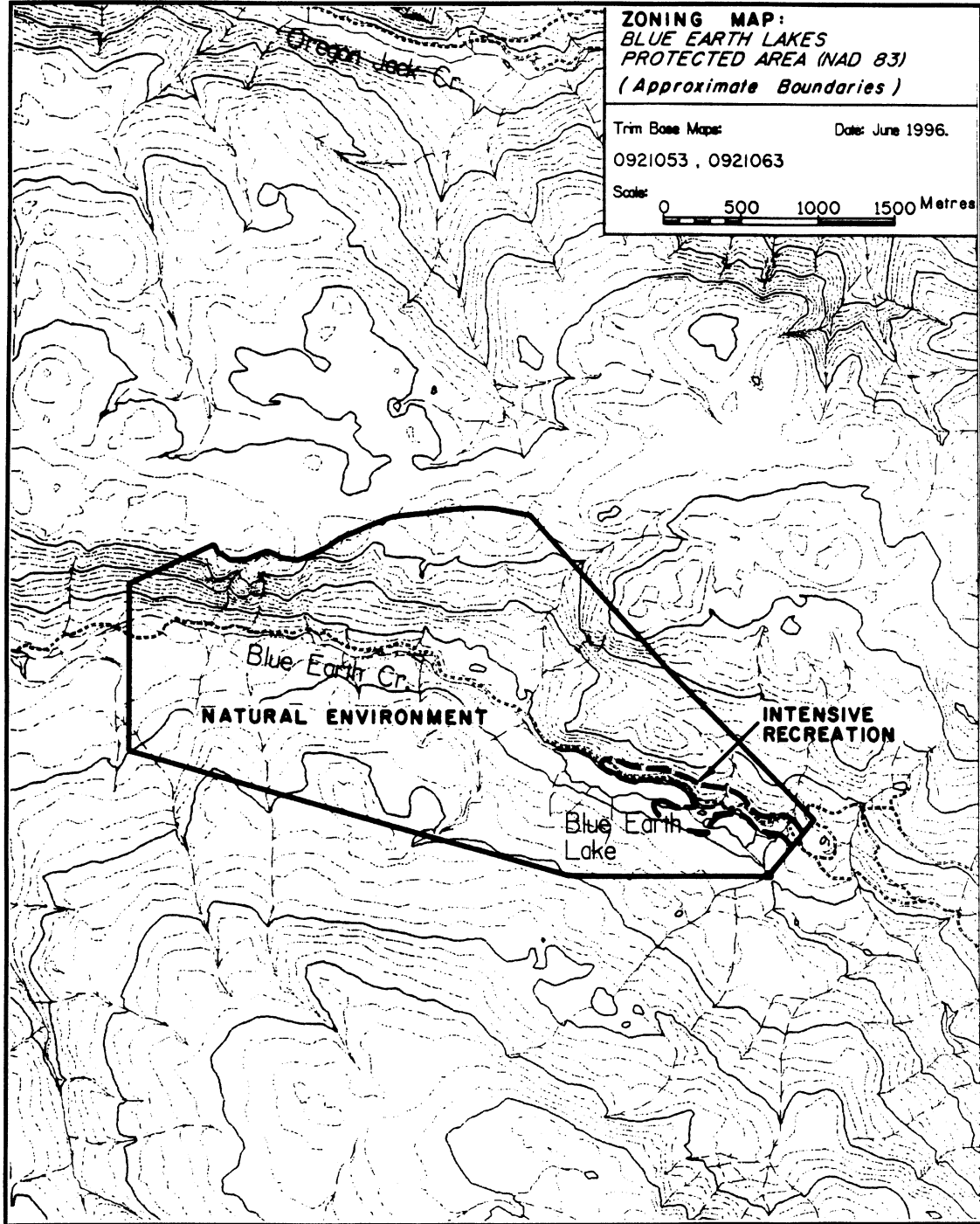
covers existing access and campsites on the lakes; the future management plan may identify other intensive use sites; the objective is to focus camping and concentrated day use activities (boat drop offs, loading, etc.) to specific locations.

D. Management Strategies and Objectives

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

- to maintain the natural qualities and conditions of the park;
- to maintain the visual and recreational values;

Figure 2 – Zoning Map



- to maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats;
- to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species; and,
- to provide for continued recreation use with opportunities for fishing, canoeing, camping, nature viewing, hunting and other dispersed recreation activities.

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. Longer Term Issues and Concerns

As a result of the LRMP process there are a number of apparent longer term issues that will be addressed in the management planning process that can be highlighted under the following broad topics:

Conservation

- vegetation management - insect and disease control and fire management
- fisheries and wildlife management

Recreation and Tourism

- access management - through co-ordination with local level planning
- recreation use - appropriate activities, insuring compatibility between user groups

Culture

- inventory and protection of archaeological sites and recognition of any identified traditional native uses

F. Short Term Issues and Concerns

Appendix A outlines guidelines for managing uses, activities and facilities in the park. The types and nature of recreation uses of the park will not change, however, more intensive levels of management may be applied; i.e. security and safety, to provide better services to the public. Emphasis will be placed on "user maintained" cooperation of park users.

Appendix A - Activity/ Use Matrix for Blue Earth Park

Activity/Use/Activity	Natural Environment Zone	Intensive Recreation Zone
Hunting	Y	N
Fishing	Y	Y
Trapping	Y	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N ²	N ²
Recreational gold panning/ rock hounding	N	N
Utility corridors	N	N
Communication sites	N	N
Horse use/ pack animals	Y ³	Y ³
Guide outfitting (hunting)	Y ²	Y ²
Guide outfitting (fishing)	Y ²	Y ²
Guide outfitting (nature tours)	Y ²	Y ²
Guide outfitting (river rafting)	N/A	N/A
Cat-assisted skiing	N/A	N/A
Ski-hills	N/A	N/A
Heli-skiing	N/A	N/A
Heli-hiking	N	N
Tourist infrastructure - resorts	N/A	N/A
Backcountry huts/lodges/ cabins	N/A	N/A
Water control structures	N2	N2
Fish stocking and enhancement	Y	Y
Road access	Y ¹	Y ¹
Off-road access (snowmobiles)	Y ³	Y ³
Off-road access (motorized)	N	N
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	Y ³	Y ³
Motorized water access	Y ⁴	Y ⁴
Aircraft access	N/A	N/A
Fire management Wildlife management Prevention & preparedness Prescribed fire management	N1	N1
Fire management (suppression)	Y	Y
Forest insect/disease control	Y	Y
Noxious weed control	Y	Y
Exotic insect/disease control	Y	Y
Scientific research (specimen collection)	N1	N1
Scientific research (manipulation activities)	N1	N1

Y = allowed, subject to conditions identified in the management direction statement or management plan
 N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

N = not allowed

N2 = not normally allowed, but if present at time of PA establishment, will normally be allowed to continue
² = by permit only

¹ = road access plan for this area designates open and closed roads

³ = on designated trails only

⁴ = on designated lakes only