

Skeena Region

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

March 2003



**for Boulder Creek
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

**Ministry of Water, Land
and Air Protection
Environmental Stewards
Division**

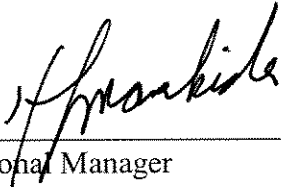
Boulder Creek Provincial Park

Approvals Page

Forward

This management direction statement for Boulder Creek Provincial Park provides management direction until such time as the plan is revised or a more detailed management plan is prepared. Ongoing consultation with First Nations may require changes to this management direction statement.

Approvals:



Regional Manager
Skeena Region
Environmental Stewardship Division



Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Table of Contents

	Page
Forward and Approvals Page	
Introduction	
Purpose of the Management Direction Statement	1
Context.....	1
Provincial Park Attributes	
Conservation.....	2
Recreation and Tourism.....	2
Cultural Heritage	2
Commercial Business Opportunities.....	2
Significance in the Protected Areas System.....	2
Land Uses, Tenures and Interests	
Access.....	4
Tenures.....	4
Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities	4
Adjacent Patterns of Land Use.....	4
First Nations Interests	4
Other Agency Interests.....	4
Private and Public Stakeholder Interests	4
Provincial Park Role Statement	4
Management Commitments and Issues	
Management Direction from Previous Planning.....	4
Management Issues.....	6
Management Direction	
Priority Management Objectives and Strategies.....	6
Consultation and Future Planning	8
Zoning Plan.....	8
Figures	
Figure 1 Regional Context Map	3
Figure 2 Tenures and Land Uses Map.....	5
Figure 3 Zoning Map.....	7
Appendix 1	
Table of Acceptable Uses, Activities and Facilities	9

Boulder Creek Provincial Park

Management Direction Statement

Introduction

Purpose of the Management Direction Statement

Management direction statements (MDS) provide strategic management direction for protected areas that do not have an approved management plan. Management direction statements also describe protected area values, management issues and concerns; a management strategy focused on immediate priority objectives and strategies; and, direction statements from other planning processes. While strategies may be identified in the MDS, the completion of all these strategies is subject to funding and funding procedures. In addition, all development associated with these strategies within the protected area is subject to the Environmental Stewardship Division Impact Assessment Policy.

Context

The provincial government established Boulder Creek Park as a Class A provincial park on June 28, 1999 by the *Park Amendment Act* (Figures 1 and 2). Schedule C of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* currently lists and describes the park. Boulder Creek Provincial Park lies in the Roche Deboule Range, 20 kilometres southwest of Hazelton and is within the asserted traditional territory of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation (See Figure 3, as provided by the Wet'suwet'en).

Boulder Creek Provincial Park protects 53 hectares of old-growth western hemlock forest, a special natural feature within the ICHmc1a (Interior Cedar Hemlock, moist cold subzone, Nass variant, amabilis fir phase) biogeoclimatic subzone. Originally proposed as an ecological reserve, the landscape is a typical rugged, glaciated valley in the Hazelton Mountains. It is located in the transition area between coastal and continental ecosystems and thus has representative biota from both areas; this includes amabilis fir (*Abies amabilis*), which is uncommon in this area.

Large provincial parks, such as Babine Mountains, Swan Lake Kispiox River and Seven Sisters, protect backcountry values in the region. In addition, several smaller parks provide a diversity of day-use or camping opportunities including camping at Tyhee Lake Provincial Park and day use opportunities at Driftwood Canyon, Call Lake, Seeley Lake and Ross Lake parks. In combination, these protected areas present the public with a wide variety of conserved landscapes and outdoor recreation activities.

Provincial Park Attributes

Conservation

- Protects an extremely small area of the very poorly represented Cranberry Upland Ecosystem. Currently only 0.29% of this ecosystem is included in the protected areas system. Boulder Creek Provincial Park is one of only seven small protected areas in this ecosystem.
- Protects 53 hectares of the ICHmc1 (Interior Cedar Hemlock, moist cold Subzone, Nass variant, amabilis fir phase). This variant is moderately represented in the protected areas system (6.37%). The park contributes only 0.16% of the overall protected areas system representation of the ICHmc1.
- Protects a parcel of old-growth western hemlock forest representative of the coast – interior transitional area.
- Contains some coastal features, such as amabilis fir and spruce hybrids, despite its interior, continental location.

Recreation and Tourism

- Provides hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and hunting recreation activities. ATV use occurs along the excepted road through the park.
- Contains no developed recreational facilities.

Cultural Heritage

- Identified the park as being in Laksilyu or Small Frog Clan territory according to information from the Wet'suwet'en. Wah-tah-g'eght or Henry Alfred is the head chief of this clan. The Wet'suwet'en have also indicated that the Tsee K'alk'e yex or House on a Flat Rock is the house group within the clan whose territory encompasses the park. (See Figure 3).
- Protects part of a historical trading trail running through the park (Bolder Creek trail) according to information from the Wet'suwet'en. This trail runs parallel to Boulder Creek north to Moricetown Village and south to where it joins with the trading trail from MacDonell Lake through to Kitseguekla Village to the west. The Wet'suwet'en and specifically Laksilyu used this trail for trading purposes at MacDonell Lake. Boulder Creek trail also links into other systems of trails including the 24 Mile trail south of the park and north of the highway and to other traditional trails such as the Copper River trail.

Commercial Business Opportunities

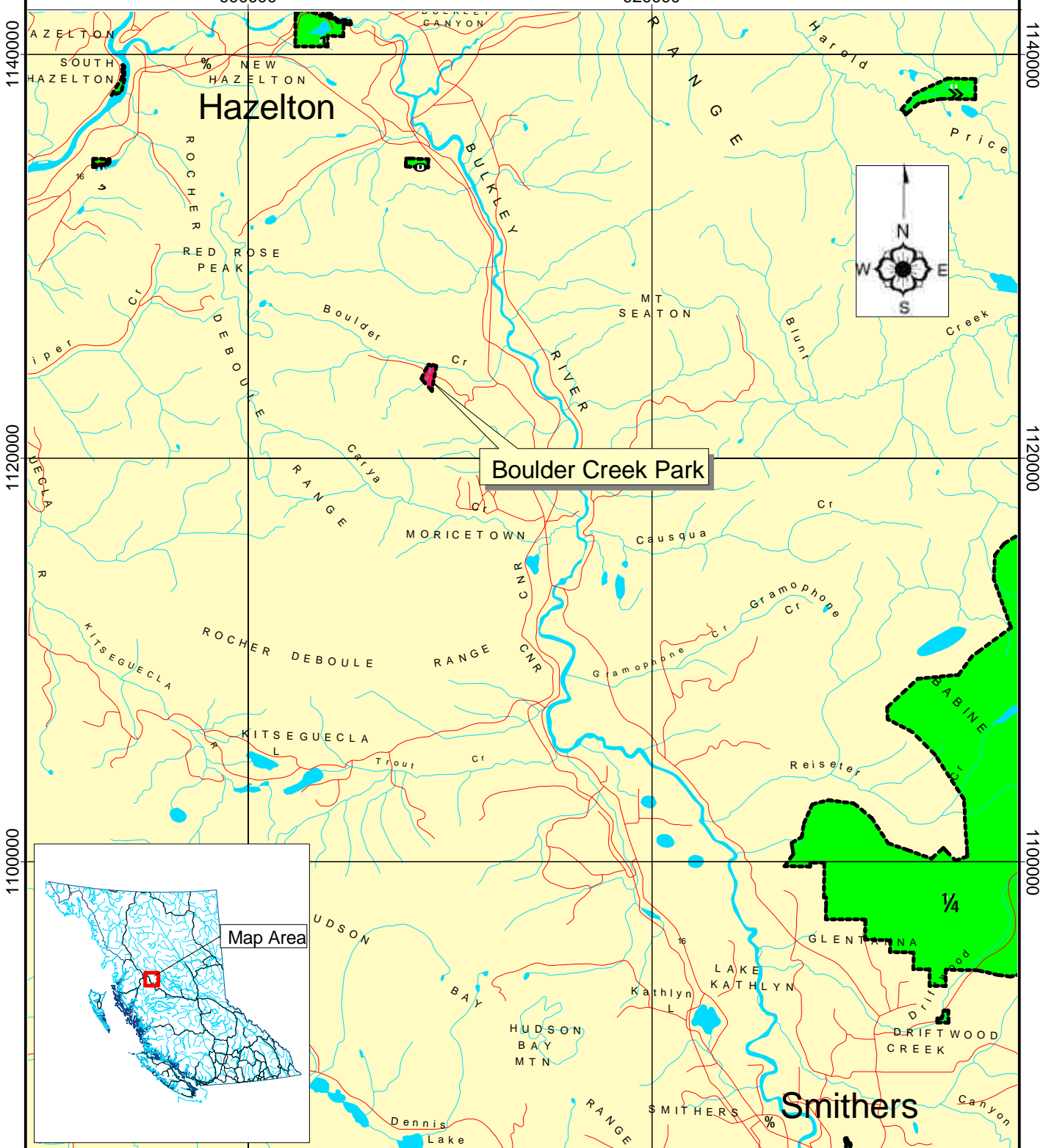
- Provides limited commercial business opportunities for guided interpretation and education tour groups based on the special features of this park. This business opportunity is best developed as part of a systems approach where several provincial parks, protected areas and Crown lands are included in the tour to give clients a broad and interesting program.
- Provides limited commercial business opportunities for angling. (See Appendix 1 for activities allowed in this park).

Significance in the Protected Areas System

- Protects 53 hectares of old-growth western hemlock forest within the ICHmc1a (Interior Cedar Hemlock, moist cold subzone, Nass variant, amabilis fir phase) biogeoclimatic subzone. This special natural feature conserves this old-growth forest example of ICH in a transition area between coastal and interior ecosystems that also contains rare species.
- Protects a small portion of an important Wet'suwet'en trail.

Figure 1: Regional Context

Boulder Creek Park



Scale 1:275000
 3 0 3 Kilometers



- MDS Study Area
- Lakes, Ocean
- Rivers
- Seeley Lake Park
- Ross Lake Park
- Catherine Creek Ecological Reserve
- Netalzul Meadows Park
- 1/4 Babine Mountains Park



Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

Access to the park is via the Boulder Creek Forest Service road which is only passable by all terrain vehicles. The park boundary is 5.5 kilometres from Highway #16. The park contains no facilities.

Existing Tenures, Alienations and Encumbrances

- Trapline 609T039. This resource use is not authorized by a valid Park Use Permit.
- The park is not within a guide-outfitter territory.

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- Boulder Creek Road is excepted from the park
- Ministry of Forests manages surrounding forest lands. Commercial forest operations have harvested portions of the nearby forest.

First Nations Interests

Boulder Creek Provincial Park is within the asserted traditional territory of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation. More specifically, the park is indicated to be Laksilyu (Small Frog Clan) territory and part of the Tsee K'alk'e yex (House on Top of a Flat Rock). (See Figure 4).

Other Agency Interests

- Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection's Fish and Wildlife Recreation and Allocation Branch has an interest in the park's wildlife and habitat values. The park lies within wildlife management unit 6-9.
- Ministry of Forests, Research Branch has an interest in the forest ecosystem.
- Ministry of Forests has an interest in the access road through the park.

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- Local forest research institutes.
- Bulkley Valley Naturalists.
- Bulkley Valley Backpackers.
- Residents of Moricetown and Smithers.

Park Role Statement

Boulder Creek Provincial Park's primary role within British Columbia's protected areas system is to conserve 53 hectares of old-growth western hemlock forest as a special feature. The park has a secondary role of protecting cultural values and presenting outdoor recreation opportunities though this role is limited because of the park's small size and its remote location.

Management Commitments and Issues

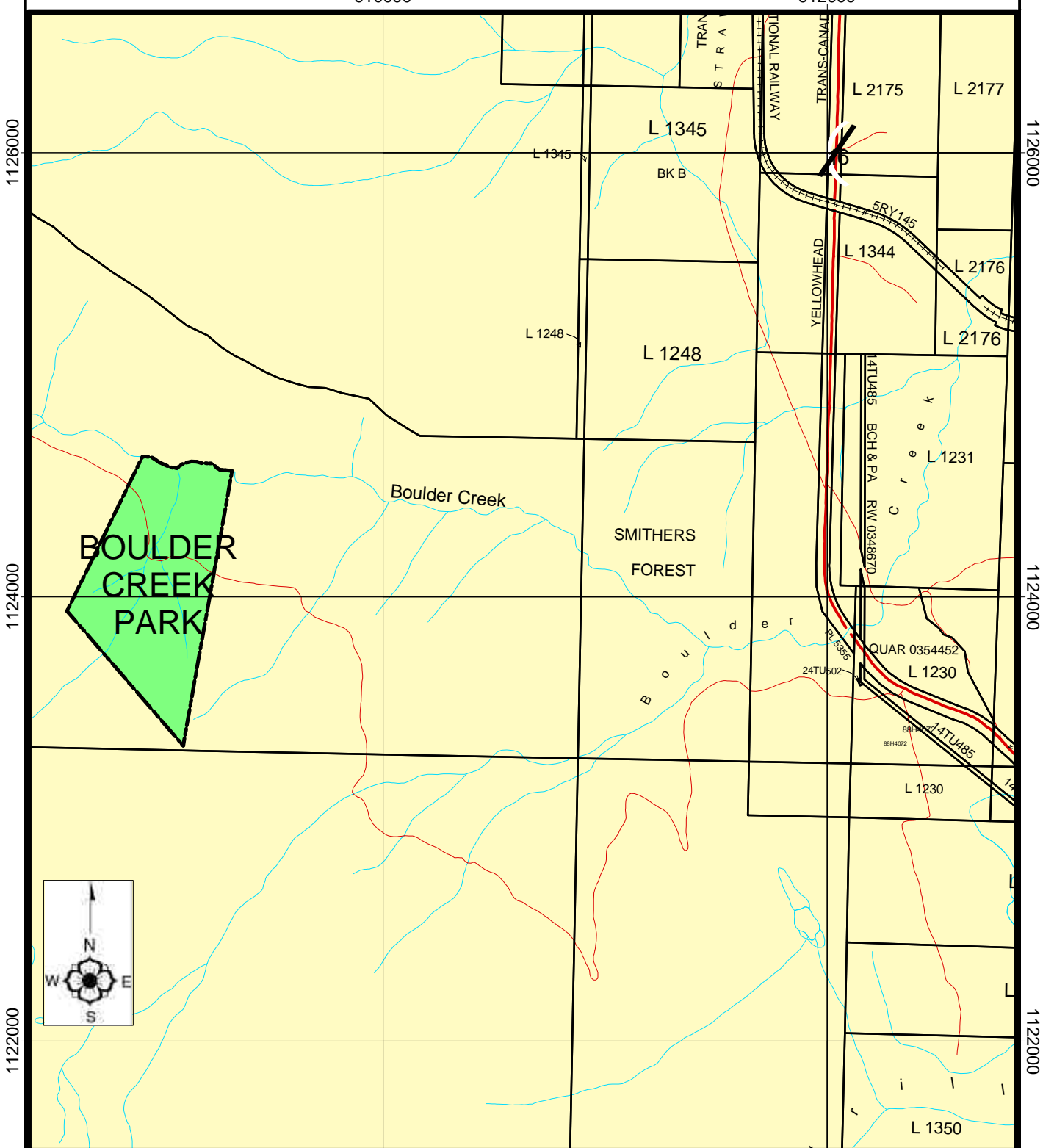
Management Direction from Previous Planning

The Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) recommended Boulder Creek as a protected area and stated that:

- Industrial exploration or extraction are not permitted.
- An access corridor is to be maintained through the park.
- Other activities will be guided by Cabinet-approved policy.

Figure 2: Tenures and Land Use

Boulder Creek Park



Scale 1:25000

100 0 100 200 300 Meters



	Minor Roads		Boulder Creek Boundary		Indian Reserve
	Major Roads		Cadastral Data/Tenures		Protected Areas
	Rail		EMPR Mines and Showings		



Skeena District

Management Issues

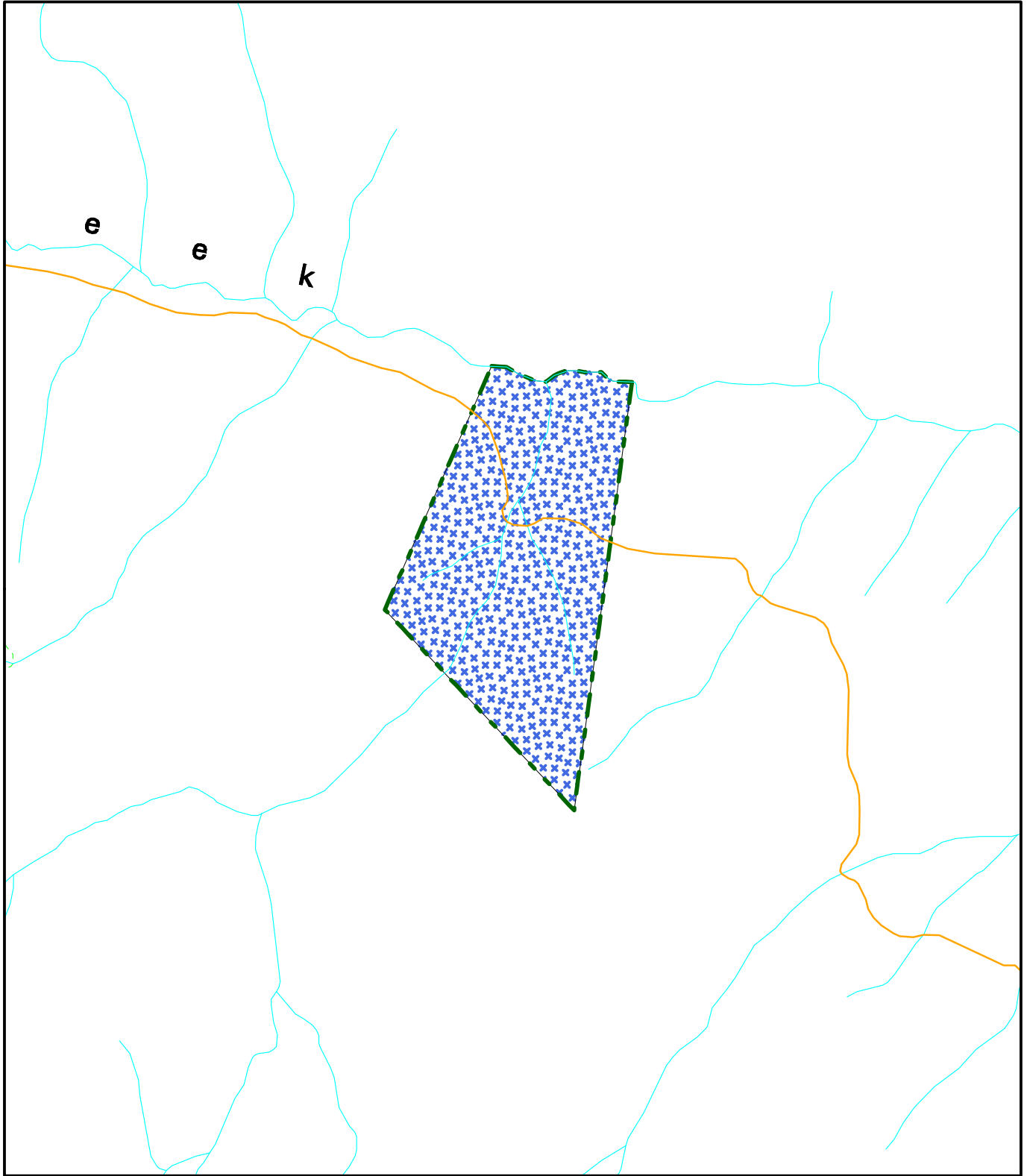
Theme	Issue
Protecting natural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park's flora and fauna are relatively unknown because of an incomplete inventory of these values. • The access corridor through the park may damage ecological values if the road is not properly maintained. • The park's ecological integrity may be at risk because of land use activities, such as forest harvesting, on lands next to the park. • The park's natural values may be at risk because the park's boundary remains undefined on the ground. • Impacts to the park's values may occur because management agencies may not be coordinated in their resource management activities. • The access corridor through the park may threaten the park's natural values because of unregulated ATV activities. • The park's wildlife may be at risk because the existing trapline owner does not have a Park Use Permit authorizing trapping in the park.
Protecting recreational values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park natural values may be affected and outdoor recreation opportunities reduced because the Boulder Creek Trail location is not identified and trail maintenance is lacking.
Protecting cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significance of cultural values is unknown because no cultural and historical inventories exist.
Park Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public often does not know the park exists because the park boundary is not surveyed and no boundary markers deployed.

Management Direction

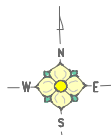
Priority Management Objectives and Strategies

Objective	Strategy
To protect the park's natural values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete an inventory of flora and fauna. • Ensure that park boundary is defined on the ground. • Issue a valid Park Use Permit to the owner of the existing trapline so this activity is managed and controlled. • Work with the Ministry of Forests to ensure road maintenance does not affect park forest values. • Work with other agencies such as Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Ministry of Forests and the Fish and Wildlife Recreation and Allocation Branch to ensure co-ordination between management agencies and to ensure management activities do not affect the ecological integrity of the park. • Cooperate with the Ministry of Forests to develop a program to regulate ATV activities along the Boulder Creek road through the park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An appropriate road and park signs strategy is essential.
To protect the park's cultural heritage and recreational values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and collect information on cultural heritage values contained in the park. • Work with the Wet'suwet'en to undertake an inventory of the Boulder Creek trail and to institute an appropriate level of trail maintenance. • Ensure The Wet'suwet'en is the lead partner in any plans involving the trail.
To provide information to park visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform park visitors of the area's park status by placing appropriate signs in the park.

Figure 3: Zoning



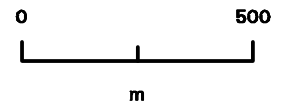
Projection: UTM Zone 9
Datum: NAD83



Special Feature



Protected Area Boundary



Consultation and Future Planning

Environmental Stewardship Division will consult with the Wet'suwet'en First Nation, local stakeholders and resource users regarding issues as they arise. This priority for preparing a management plan for Boulder Creek is ranked as low.

Zoning Plan

The entire park is zoned Special Feature affording protection of the 53 hectares of old-growth western hemlock forest and reflecting the importance of the Wet'suwet'en trail within the park (see Figure 3).

**Appendix 1. Boulder Creek Provincial Park
Table of Acceptable Uses, Activities and Facilities.**

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptability
Aboriginal traditional uses	Y
Hunting	Y
Fishing	Y
Trapping	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational Gold Panning/Rock Hounding	N
Utility corridors	N
Communication Sites	N
Horse Use/ Pack Animals	N
Guide Outfitting (hunting)	Y
Guide Outfitting (fishing)	Y
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)	N
Backcountry Huts	N
Water Control Structures	N
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N
Road Access	N
Off-road Access (snowmobiling)	N
Off-road Access (motorized)	N
Off-road Access (mechanical activities)	N
Motorized Water Access	N/A
Aircraft Access	Y
Fire Management (suppression)	Y
Fire Management (prescribed fire management)	M
Fire Management (prevention)	M
Forest Insect/Disease Control	N1
Noxious Weed Control	N1
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	N1
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