

# CROWSNEST PROVINCIAL PARK

## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

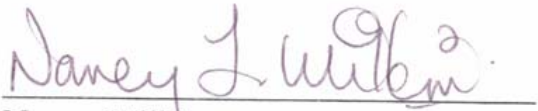
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Approved by:



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Date: February 20/03



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Date: March 31/03

## **CROWSNEST PROVINCIAL PARK**

### **Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan**

#### **Primary Role**

The primary role of Crowsnest Provincial Park is to retain significant cultural heritage features associated with First Nations use of the area.

One known archaeological site within the park symbolizes the evolutionary importance of prehistoric chert mining and refinement into tools and weaponry. Varying colors of this obsidian-like rock have been unearthed within the park, indicating treatment with heat to make the chert sharper and harder. In addition, the park is located on one of the first traditional use campsites on the west side of Phillips Pass and is estimated to have been used since 6,600 years BP (before present).

This area was a homeland for a large group of First Nations, as other traditional use sites have also been identified at nearby Summit Lake.

#### **Secondary Role**

The **secondary role** is to provide a day use/rest area for travellers along Highway 3.

Crowsnest Pass is a gateway to British Columbia. The park serves as an introduction and information stop for travellers entering the province from Alberta. A historical interpretation of the area combined with a large scale map provides tourists with local highlights and destinations.

The rest stop portion of the park is maintained by the Ministry of Transportation and is one of three such roadside provincial parks in the East Kootenays under a facility maintenance agreement. The park is not identifiable by any formal provincial park signage; rather it is signed by the Ministry of Transportation as the Crowsnest Rest Stop.

#### **Tertiary Role**

The **tertiary role** is to provide an important travel corridor for wildlife migrating through the Crowsnest Valley and to protect two known endangered plant species.

Road, facility and utility corridor development within and adjacent to the park is strikingly apparent and has modified the landscape to a high degree. Despite this degradation, forest cover increases proportionately with the distance away from the rest stop area. The canopy shelters ungulates such as deer, elk and

moose from human disturbance, in addition to providing foraging land on the west side of Crowsnest Pass and Phillips Pass.

A small creek provides a minor riparian habitat from Highway 3 north to the park boundary. It is within this moist stream bank complex that the blue-listed Booth's willow can be found. Moreover, the blue-listed elk thistle has also been observed in the park and apart from Akamina Creek to the south, the Crowsnest Pass area is the only other location known to support the species.

<b>Known Management Issues</b>	<b>Response</b>
Prevalence of hydro/gas utility corridor detracts from the park's natural setting. Twinning of gas line has been suggested by industry.	Follow Ministry's Boundary Integrity Policy.
Unauthorized camping in undeveloped portions of the park, particularly in hunting season.	Monitor and enforce when appropriate.
Unauthorized vehicle entry. Old Highway 3 roadbed bisects the park and allows for access through park.	Deactivation and restoration of old roadbed to be completed in future.
Noxious weed infestations (knapweed, hounds tongue, blueweed).	Monitoring and treatment continues.
Area of high vandalism.	Minimize facility infrastructure and utilize vandal resistant facilities.

## **Zoning**

Intensive Recreation (approximately 2 ha or 4% of the park)

*Objective: To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.*

Natural Environment (approximately 49 ha or 92% of the park)

*Objectives: To protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.*

Special Feature (approximately 2 ha or 4% of the park)

*Objectives: To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.*

## Conservation

Representation -ecosection	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor contributor to the under represented Border Ranges (BR) Ecosection (4.2%). The park contributes only 0.24% of the overall representation to this ecosection. Primary contributors to representation of the BR ecosection are Elk Lakes (73.4%) and Height of the Rockies (24.8%).
-biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Minor contributor to the very poorly represented IDF dm2 (0.93%) and the MSdk (10.05%). Exclusive contributor (100%) to IDFdm2 and MSdk protected area within the BRR ecosection. IDFdm2 within the total PA system is substantially under-represented (0.93%).
Special Feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	None identified.
Rare and Endangered Values	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elk thistle (blue listed), Booth's willow (blue listed).
Scientific/ Research Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conduct test excavations for potential archaeological sites.

## Recreation

Representation -backcountry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.
-destination	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.
-travel corridor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	First provincial park upon entering British Columbia from Alberta along Hwy 3.
-local recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Day use opportunities (picnicking). Parking capacity for 70 cars.
Special Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	None identified.

Education/ Interpretation Opportunities  Interpretive display outlining First Nations uses of area and historic wagon route.

### Cultural Heritage

Representation  Significant locale for traditional use by Kootenai and Blackfoot people.

Special Feature  One known archaeological site associated with chert workings and temporary campsite (more sites suspected).

### Other Management Considerations

Other designations  None identified.

Relationship to other PAs  1 of 2 front country parks designated as highway rest stops on Hwy 3 between Fernie and the Alberta border.

Cooperative Management Arrangement  Agreement in principle with Ministry of Transportation to maintain rest stop portion of the park.

Partnerships  None identified.

Vulnerability  Loss of artifacts associated with known or potential archaeological sites.

Noxious weed infestations.

Adjacent land use disrupts wildlife movement.

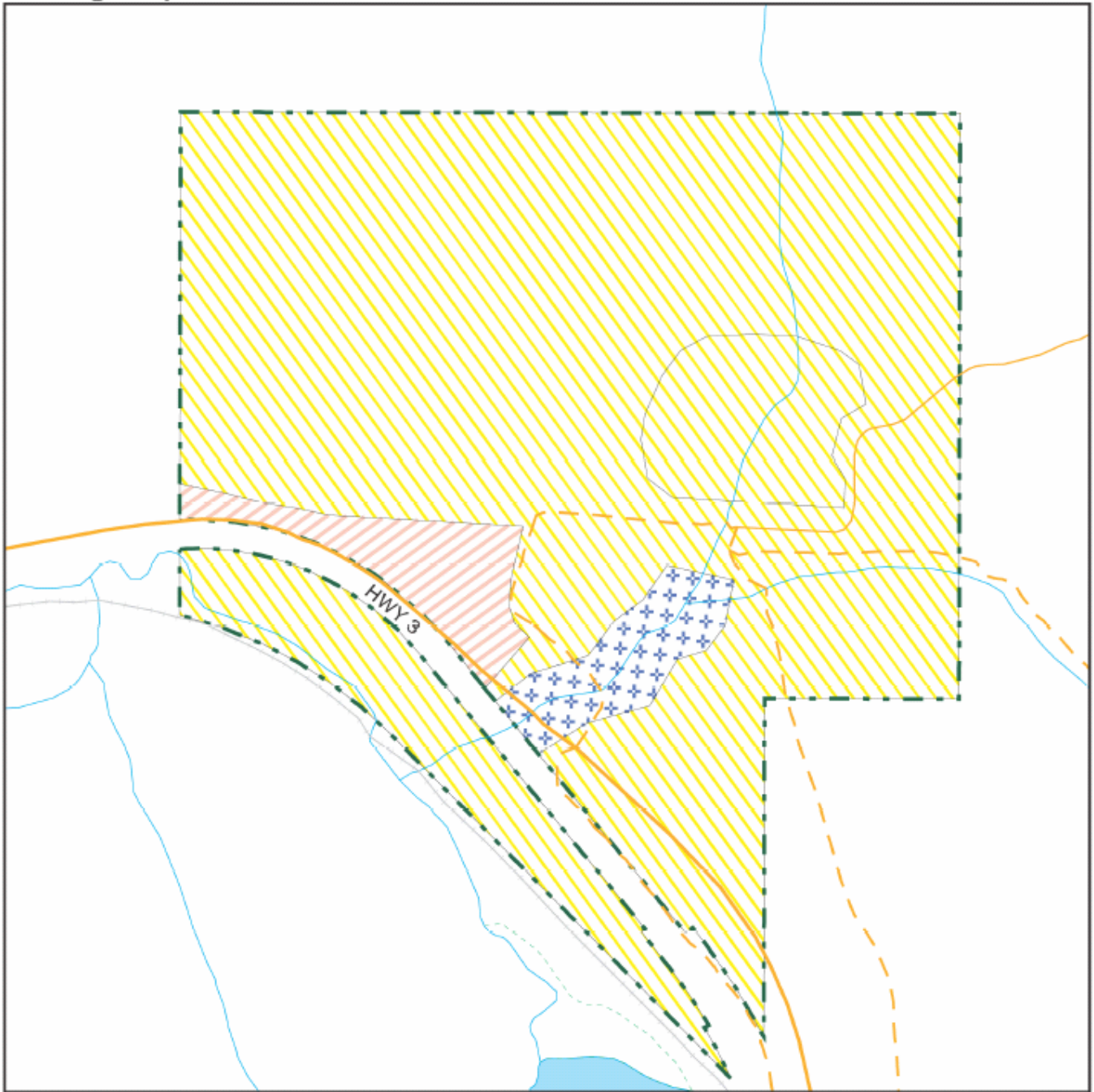
Loss of SAR plant population.

Relationship to other Strategies  None identified.

**Area:** 53 hectares

**Date of Establishment:** November 8, 1960

# Zoning Map - Crowsnest Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas  
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Special Feature
-  Protected Area Boundary

0 100  
m

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Support Services

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