

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

October, 1999

**for Eakin Creek Canyon
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

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



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APPROVALS

KAMLOOPS GOAL 2 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS - GOAL 2 BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward

This binder contains 32 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 32 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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams Lake Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiuihill Creek Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams Lake Marine Park - Poplar Point | <input type="checkbox"/> Lac Le Jeune Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams Lake Park – Spillman Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> Monte Creek Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banana Island Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Mount. Savona Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedard Aspen Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Mud Creek Delta Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue River Black Spruce Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Islands Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue River Pine Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbows East Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caligata Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbow Jensen Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chu Chua Cottonwood Park | <input type="checkbox"/> North Thompson Oxbow Manteau Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Canyon Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Painted Bluffs Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deadman Hoodoos Park - Skookumt Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Pritchard Park |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Canyon Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Pyramid Creek Falls Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eakin Creek Floodplain Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Tsintsunko Lakes Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Epsom Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Wallachin Oxbows Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finn Creek Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Wire Cache Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenstone Mountain Park. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harbour - Dudgeon Park. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harry Lake Aspen Park. | |

Approved by:

Monty Downs
Monty Downs
District Manager
Thompson River District

Denis O’Gorman
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Date: 99/11/30

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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. 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 BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy.

EAKIN CREEK CANYON PARK

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context

The 10 hectare Eakin Creek Canyon Park protects a narrow canyon on Eakin Creek with large cottonwoods, cedars, and specialized plants. It is situated 100 kilometers north of Kamloops, and accessed by gravel road off Highway 24 five kilometers west of Little Fort.

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 *Park 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 Eakin Creek Canyon Park for the foreseeable future.

II. Protected Area Values

A. Conservation

- small, narrow canyon with steep walls, natural tunnels, and rock outcrops
- eight meter waterfall
- second growth Douglas-fir; spray zone plants; dry ecosystems and habitats
- predicted bat presence
- well-established populations of wild trout stocks

B. Recreation and Tourism

- trail up scenic canyon with old-growth cedars and cottonwoods
- picturesque waterfalls and interesting natural rock tunnel
- hiking, fishing, photography and nature study
- potential to provide tourism opportunities in Little Fort area as a scenic attraction.

C. Cultural Heritage

- remnants of old placer gold mining operations - sluice box

D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

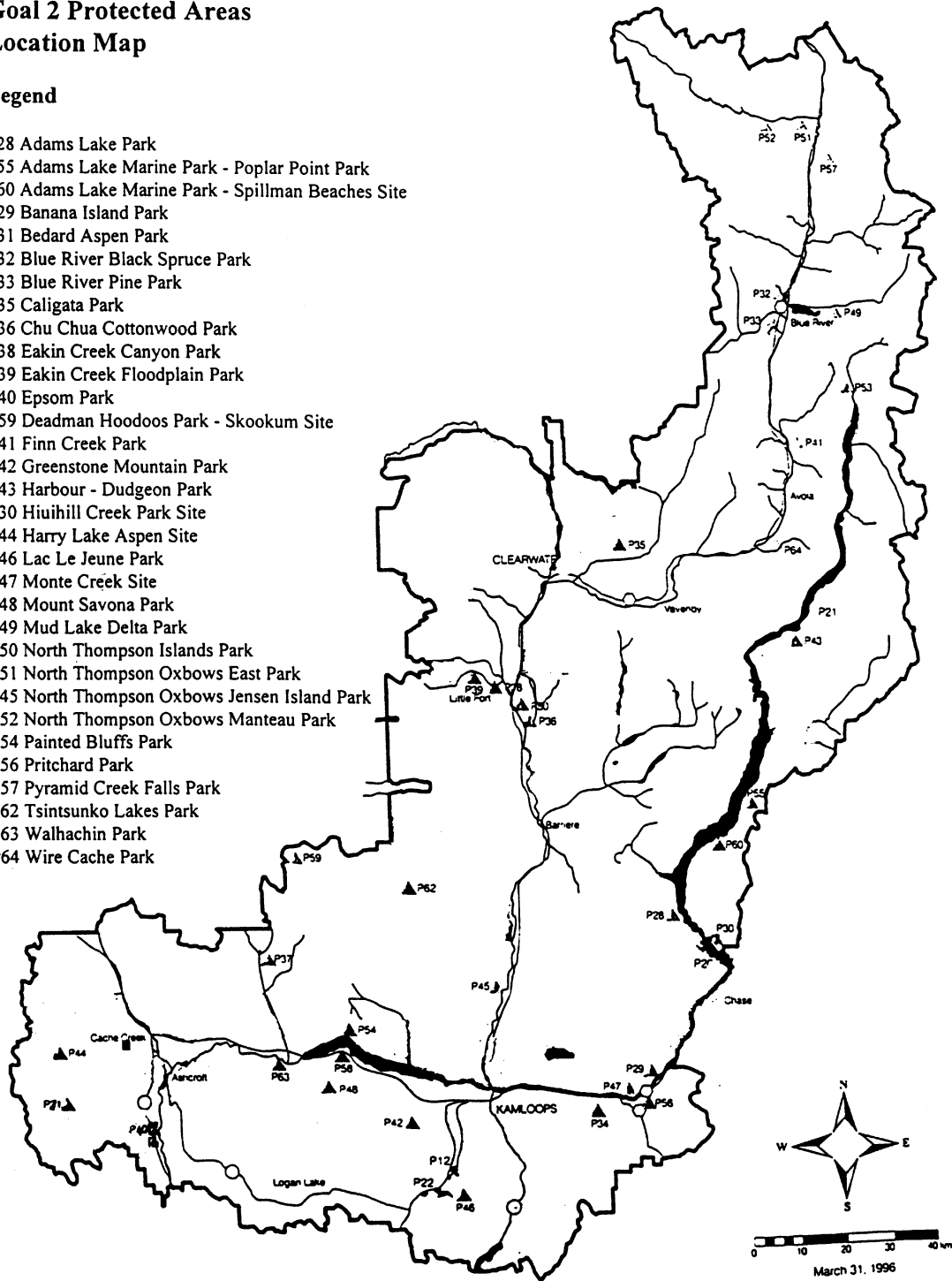
- one of two small protected areas in the Eakin Creek valley (Eakin Creek Floodplain Park)
- two small representatives of the IDFMw in the Northern Thompson Upland Ecosection not found in large protected areas

Figure 1 - Location Map

**Kamloops LRMP
Goal 2 Protected Areas
Location Map**

Legend

- P28 Adams Lake Park
- P55 Adams Lake Marine Park - Poplar Point Park
- P60 Adams Lake Marine Park - Spillman Beaches Site
- P29 Banana Island Park
- P31 Bedard Aspen Park
- P32 Blue River Black Spruce Park
- P33 Blue River Pine Park
- P35 Caligata Park
- P36 Chu Chua Cottonwood Park
- P38 Eakin Creek Canyon Park
- P39 Eakin Creek Floodplain Park
- P40 Epsom Park
- P59 Deadman Hoodoos Park - Skookum Site
- P41 Finn Creek Park
- P42 Greenstone Mountain Park
- P43 Harbour - Dudgeon Park
- P30 Hiuihill Creek Park Site
- P44 Harry Lake Aspen Site
- P46 Lac Le Jeune Park
- P47 Monte Creek Site
- P48 Mount Savona Park
- P49 Mud Lake Delta Park
- P50 North Thompson Islands Park
- P51 North Thompson Oxbows East Park
- P45 North Thompson Oxbows Jensen Island Park
- P52 North Thompson Oxbows Manteau Park
- P54 Painted Bluffs Park
- P56 Pritchard Park
- P57 Pyramid Creek Falls Park
- P62 Tsintsunko Lakes Park
- P63 Walhachin Park
- P64 Wire Cache Park



III. Other Land Uses and Interests

A. Existing Tenures

- all private lands are excluded
- Park designation under the *Park Amendment 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 all existing land act tenures, water rights, trapping licenses and other legal tenures and rights.

B. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- developed private land adjacent to the eastern boundary
- powerline right of way forms the western boundary
- access road along the southern boundary. See Long Term Issues and Concerns on page 4.

C. First Nations Interests

- Management of the park will require ongoing consultation with the North Thompson Indian Band to incorporate First Nations interests.

D. Other Agency Interests

The Park will be managed in close coordination with various resource agencies, particularly BC Environment and Ministry of Forests.

E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- unknown

IV. Management Issues and Concerns

A. Integration with Other Land Use Planning Processes

This management statement, future management plans, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for the Eakin Creek Canyon protected area.

Also the park will be planned and managed in coordination with the Nehalliston Local Resource Use planning process of the Ministry of Forests to ensure compatibility and complementary support for objectives of the protected area and surrounding forest land base.

B. Consultation and Future Planning

Planning and management of the park will conform to the goals, objectives and guiding principles 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 amending the MDS or

developing management plans for all of the new protected areas arising from the Kamloops LRMP.

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

C. Role of the Park

The primary role of Eakin Creek Canyon Park is to protect the ecological integrity of the river riparian and upland environments at this site. Together with Eakin Creek Floodplain Park, this park provides representation of the more humid ecosystem conditions of the North Thompson Uplands. A secondary role of the park is to provide opportunities for the public to view and recreate in this attractive river canyon setting. With development and promotion of a hiking trail up the Canyon, the park has long term potential to provide tourism opportunities in the Little Fort area.

D. Zoning

The zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for Eakin Creek Canyon Park. The Park is zoned as **Natural Environment** to maintain the area in a natural condition while allowing some recreational use. Protection may be required for special species and/or habitats.

E. Management Objectives and Strategies

In addition to accepting the basic principles of maintaining existing tenures and rights, 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 foster relationships with First Nations through ongoing consultation and discussion of their concerns and views on protected area management and planning
- to maintain the visual, recreational and tourism values
- to maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats
- to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species
- to provide for continued recreation use with opportunities for hiking, fishing, photography, nature study, and interpretation

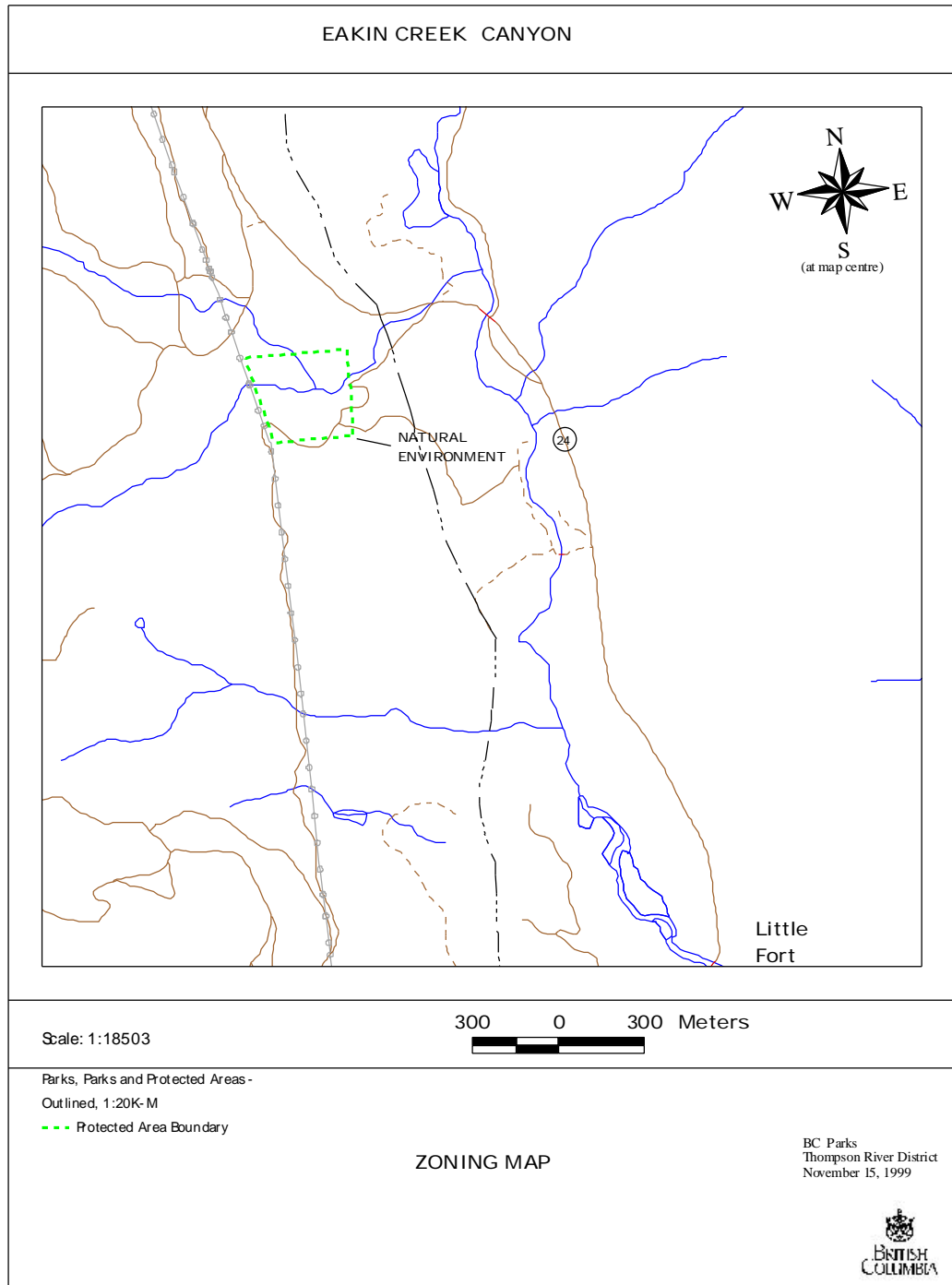
F. Longer Term Issues and Concerns

Specific issues that will be considered in the longer term can be highlighted under the following topics:

Conservation

- inventory of conservation values
- vegetation management - protection for special plants and habitats on talus slopes and rock walls; insect and disease control; fire management
- fisheries and wildlife management in coordination with management activities on surrounding lands

Figure 2 - Zoning Map



- BC Parks will be involved in the review of any future proposed access road changes through the normal Ministry of Forests referral process.

Recreation and Tourism

- access management, particularly on talus slopes and rock walls
- recreation use - appropriate activities, levels of development and types of facilities
- safety concerns around rock walls and talus slopes

Culture

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

G. Short Term Issues and Concerns

The following Activity/Use Matrix outlines guidelines for managing uses, activities and facilities in the Park. These guidelines reflect the intent of the LRMP and, in general principle, follow the policies as set out for use and management of provincial park natural environment zones.

Appendix - Activity / Use Matrix for Eakin Creek Canyon

Activity/Use Facility	Natural Environment
Hunting	Y
Fishing	Y
Trapping	Y ²
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 ²
Guide Outfitting (fishing)	Y ²
Guide Outfitting (nature tours)	Y ²
Guide Outfitting (river rafting)	N/A
Cat-Assisted Skiing	N/A
Ski-Hills	N/A
Heli-skiing	N/A
Heli-hiking	N
Tourist Infrastructure - Resorts	N/A
Backcountry Huts / Lodges / Cabins / Guest Ranches	N/A
Water Control Structures	N2
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N1
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	N/A
Fire Management (Prescribed) Wildlife Management Prevention & Preparedness Prescribed Fire Management	N1
Fire Management (suppression)	Y
Forest Insect / Disease Control	N1
Noxious Weed Control	Y
Exotic Insect / Disease Control	Y
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	N1
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	N1

Y= allowed, subject to conditions identified in the interim management 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

¹ Road access plan for this area designates open and closed roads
² By permit only
³ On designated trails only
⁴ On designated lakes only