

Appendix C

Kootenay and Boundary Land Use Plan Chapter 4

4.1 Introduction

One of the purposes of regional and sub-regional land use planning processes, including the Kootenay/Boundary Regional Land Use Plan, has been to implement the provincial government's protected area strategy (PAS). The PAS has two goals:

Goal 1 - Ecosystem Representation: To protect viable examples of the natural diversity of the province, representative of the major terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems, the characteristic habitats, hydrology and landforms, and the characteristic backcountry recreational and cultural heritage values of each ecosection.

Goal 2 - Special Features Protection: To protect the special natural, cultural heritage and recreation features of the province, including rare and endangered species and critical habitats, outstanding or unique botanical, zoological, geological and paleontological features, outstanding or fragile cultural heritage features, and outstanding outdoor recreational features.

Through the Kootenay/Boundary Regional Land Use planning process, the provincial government, in July 1995, established sixteen new protected areas. Through designation under the provincial *Park Act*, all new protected areas have become class A provincial parks. Consequently, the terms 'provincial parks' and 'protected areas' are used interchangeably in the KBLUP Implementation Strategy.

The establishment of the new protected areas plays a key role in the realization of the Plan's environmental conservation objectives, particularly through contribution towards general biodiversity maintenance and the protection of key habitat areas for maintenance of species health. The parks also contribute significantly to regional recreational and cultural heritage objectives, as well as to long-term economic objectives.

The following section identifies general management objectives and strategies for the region's new protected areas. A description of each new part and an indication of further planning priorities is included in Table 4.1.

4.2 **General Management Objectives and Strategies for New Parks in the Kootenay/Boundary Region**

| PROTECTED AREA OBJECTIVES | MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES |
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| Park Planning | |
| <p>1. To develop comprehensive park master plans, over time, for each new protected area in order to ensure the maintenance of the conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values within the new protected areas.</p> | <p>1.1 Park master plans will be developed for each new protected area in accordance with the availability of budget resources and the general park planning priorities identified in the overview of new protected areas with Appendices 1-7.</p> <p>1.2 Park master plans will be developed with the benefit of extensive public and inter-agency participation. Among other things, the plans will define park-specific management objectives, acceptable levels of use, accepted uses, zoning and other strategies that will minimize conflicts, and help ensure the integrity of important park values.</p> <p>1.3 Park master planning processes will consider existing uses and management objectives and strategies (as identified in this regional plan and in operational level plans) for lands that are adjacent to the protected areas.</p> <p>1.5 Provincial park master planning processes will include consultation with tourism industry representatives in order to examine potential commercial opportunities within provincial park land, subject to the prime goal to protect the conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values within the parks. Commercial opportunities will be assessed with a view towards limiting/locating the development of physical commercial infrastructure (e.g. roads, lodgings, staging areas, etc.) on the periphery of park boundaries in order to minimize park impacts.</p> <p>1.7 Pending the development of comprehensive park master plans for each new protected area, the management guidance provided in BC Parks’ “<i>Management Direction Statements</i>” will be used to direct park management and operations</p> |

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| | <p>1.7 Upon completion of Goal 2, management direction statements will be prepared for those new protected areas.</p> <p>1.8 Resource issues adjacent to park boundaries will be identified and the responsible government agencies will work together to address them.</p> |
| Pre-Existing Tenures and In-Holdings | |
| <p>2. To recognize the legal rights of pre-existing tenure holders and landowners within newly established parks in the region, and to deal fairly with those interests.</p> | <p>2.1 Pre-existing mineral and timber tenures and other tenures/encumbrances associated with commodity extraction (e.g. gravel reserves) will be discontinued within new protected areas. The terms of discontinuance will be negotiated with owners of pre-existing tenure interests, in accordance with provincial policy respecting resource rights compensation. Tenure discontinuance negotiations will also consider ongoing silviculture obligations (e.g. free-to-grow requirements), and rehabilitation of harvested areas and roads in key locations.</p> <p>2.2 Pre-existing tenures within new protected areas for utility rights-of-way, communication sites, grazing, commercial backcountry recreation, commercial heli-skiing or hiking, guide-outfitting, trapping, water works and use, etc., will be permitted to continue, in accordance with the existing management conditions attached to those tenures. In the future, the management conditions attached to those tenures may be amended to comply with the requirements of park master plans that are developed for individual protected areas.</p> <p>2.3 Existing grazing authorizations issued under the <i>Range Act</i> within new (1995) protected areas will continue to be managed according to the <i>Range Act</i> and are fully transferable. Where pre-existing tenures other than <i>Range Act</i> tenures lapse or are voluntarily surrendered by a tenure holder, the province is under no obligation to re-issue the tenure rights to a new party. Whether or not tenure rights are to be re-issued should be resolved through the protected areas management planning process.</p> |

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| | <p>2.4 Existing owners of private land in-holdings within new parks will continue to exercise their property rights, and existing opportunities for access to those properties will be addressed.</p> |
| <p>Natural Occurrences</p> | |
| <p>3. To protect key park values and adjacent private property, as appropriate, from natural occurrences in protected areas.</p> | <p>3.1 Where appropriate, natural occurrences in new parks, such as fires, insects, forest diseases, will be managed as in other provincial parks, through consultation and joint action by BC Parks, BC Environment and the Ministry of Forests at the District level.</p> <p>3.2 Fire management plans will be developed for areas within new parks that are proximate to residential settlement, and where traditional land management includes burning for winter range enhancement.</p> |
| <p>Park Management</p> | |
| <p>4. To maintain ecosystem representation and ensure protection of key representative features.</p> | <p>4.1 Park management emphasis will be placed on maintaining the ecosystems and features for which these areas were established.</p> <p>4.2 Parks will be managed to complement biodiversity objectives across landscape units, where appropriate.</p> <p>4.3 Where existing grazing tenures occur, alpine and subalpine grassland meadows will be maintained in conjunction with MOF through application of high elevation grassland guidelines.</p> <p>4.4 Sound park management relies on good resource information. BC Parks, BC Environment and the Ministry of Forests will work together to collect resource inventory for the new parks.</p> <p>4.5 The natural diversity of previously harvested sites and affected habitats will be restored through negotiation of silvicultural obligations.</p> <p>4.6 Previously open forests and grasslands have become ingrown as a result of fire suppression. Where appropriate, vegetation management will be undertaken primarily using fire to restore natural grasslands.</p> |

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| <p>5. To ensure protection of key species and their habitats.</p> | <p>5.1 BC Parks will work with other agencies to ensure connectivity of wildlife habitat between the park and surrounding area.</p> <p>5.2 Opportunities to establish grizzly bear benchmarks for scientific study and management will be investigated.</p> <p>5.3 Rare, endangered and at risk species, and their habitats will be protected.</p> <p>5.4 Ungulate habitat and cover and site specific features will be considered in management processes.</p> |
| <p>6. To maintain backcountry recreation opportunities.</p> | <p>6.1 While BC Parks will continue to manage parks to provide a wide range of recreational experiences, protected areas will provide the primary opportunities for primitive and wilderness recreation. Where appropriate, existing access and trails within protected areas may be closed or decommissioned to support primitive recreational experiences. Similarly, recreational access to some areas may be limited to maintain the quality of recreational experience.</p> <p>6.2 Levels of recreational use and associated impacts will be monitored and management applied where necessary to maintain the wilderness qualities, where appropriate.</p> <p>6.3 BC Parks will work with MOF to promote good visual design of logging and appropriate access management in areas adjacent to parks.</p> |
| <p>7. To plan and manage parks in a manner which reflects the cultural heritage.</p> | <p>7.1 Local First Nations will be consulted to establish traditional use in the area.</p> <p>7.2 Options to work in cooperation with First Nations in the management of areas will be identified in the treaty process.</p> <p>7.3 European history will be considered in the management actions.</p> |

Table 4.1

**New Protected Areas (Class A Provincial Parks)
Established as a Result of the Kootenay/Boundary Regional Land Use
Plan**

| Park Name | Approx. Area (ha) | Priority to Develop Park Master Plan |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>East Kootenay</i> | | |
| Akamina-Kishinena | 10,921 | Moderate |
| Bugaboo | 13,646 | High |
| Upper Cummins | 61,081 | Low |
| East Purcells | 36,938 | Moderate |
| Elk Lakes | 17,245 | High |
| Gilnockie | 2,822 | Low |
| Height of the Rockies | 53,964 | High |
| <i>subtotal</i> | <i>141,717</i> | |
| <i>West Kootenay</i> | | |
| Gladstone | 39,361 | High |
| Goat Range | 78,936 | High |
| Granby | 40,845 | High |
| Kianuko | 11,677 | Moderate |
| Lockhart Creek | 3,751 | Moderate |
| West Arm | 25,254 | High |
| Syringa | 4,191 | Low |
| Kokanee Glacier Extension | 6,203 | Moderate |
| West Purcells | 32,662 | Low |
| <i>subtotal</i> | <i>242,880</i> | |
| <i>Total Area</i> | <i>383,182</i> | |

Note: the Findlay corridor within the East Purcells is protected under the *Environment and Land Use Act*.