

Skeena District

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

July, 2000

for Ethel F Wilson
Provincial Park



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division



Ministry of
Environment,
Lands and Parks

Ministry of Environment,
Lands and Parks
Parks Division
PO Box 9398 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9M9
Phone: (250) 387-5002
Fax: (250) 387-5757

MEMORANDUM

HIGHWAY 16 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS - BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward

This binder contains 11 management direction statements developed by BC Parks. These protected areas are all long established, some parks existing since the early 1950s. The 11 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.

- Diana Lake Park
- Driftwood Canyon Park
- Ethel F. Wilson Park
- Kleanza Creek Park
- Lakelse Lake Park
- Pendleton Bay Park
- Prudhomme Lake Park
- Red Bluff Park
- Ross Lake Park
- Seeley Lake Park
- Tyhee Lake Park

Approved by:

Hugh Markides
District Manager
Skeena District

Date: 6 July 2000

Denis O'Gorman
Assistant Deputy Minister
Parks Division

Date: 2000.07.17



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Introduction

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.

Setting and Context

Ethel F Wilson Memorial Park covers 29 ha at the north end of Pinkut Lake, about 24 km north of Burns Lake (area population ~7,000; Park Map). The park lies within the asserted traditional territory of the Yekooche and Ned'u'ten (Lake Babine Nation) First Nations.

The park, donated in memory of Ethel F Wilson in 1953, protects the outlet of Pinkut Lake into Pinkut Creek, along with some large spruce trees on the shore, and provides recreation and rustic camping opportunities for local residents. Local residents camp, fish and picnic in the park. Angling visitors often stop en route to Pendleton Bay Park (part of the Babine Lake Marine Park system, 10 km to the north).

Protected Area Attributes

Conservation

- remnant Babine Upland Ecosection; SBSmc2 (moist, cold sub-boreal spruce subzone, Babine variant)
- some large hybrid white spruce trees

Recreation and Tourism

- locally significant lake and lakeshore recreation opportunities (picnicking, fishing, camping)

Cultural Heritage

- archaeological site within park
- park dedicated in memory of Ethel F. Wilson

Significance in the Protected Areas System

- protects remnant lakeshore old growth within the Babine Upland Ecosection (high priority, underrepresented ecosection)
- provides lake recreation opportunities for regional residents and travelling visitors
- provides rustic camping accommodation for travellers

Figure 1 – Context Map

Figure 2 – Park Map

Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

The gravel Babine Forest Service Road passes through the park 24 km north of Burns Lake on Highway 16.

Existing Tenures

- Babine Forest Service Road runs through the park and across Pinkut Creek

Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities

- 6 rustic campsites
- pit toilets, water pump
- gravel boat launches

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- Ned'u'ten I.R. 23 lies along the southeast border
- crown land, subject to timber harvest, surrounds the rest of the park

First Nations Interests

- asserted traditional territory of the Ned'u'ten and Yekooche people; I.R. 23 adjacent
- interested in a more active role in park management

Other Agency Interests

- BC Environment has an interest in the Pinkut Lake fishery
- Ministry of Forests has an interest in forest issues in crown land, and manages several nearby Forest Recreation Sites
- Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture, Archaeology Branch, has an interest in the archaeological site within the park
- Regional District of Bulkley Nechako has an interest in tourism in the area

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- recreational users: picnickers, anglers, swimmers
- local residents: Burns Lake and Babine Lake communities
- naturalists
- Burns Lake museum has historical information on Ethel F Wilson

Role of Ethel F Wilson Memorial Park

Ethel F Wilson Memorial Park serves a minor conservation role. The park protects an extremely small remnant (29 ha) of lakeshore moist cold sub-boreal spruce (SBSmc2) old growth within the Babine Upland Ecosession. This ecosession is under-represented within the British Columbia protected areas system. The park's small size, however, precludes ecosystem representation. Babine River Corridor Park, to the northwest, protects a much larger area of riparian SBSmc2 forest.

Because of its small size and undeveloped nature, Ethel F Wilson Memorial Park performs primarily a recreation role. The park provides lake and lakeshore recreation opportunities, including rustic camping accommodation, for regional residents and visitors en route to the internationally significant recreational activities at Babine Lake.

Management Commitments and Issues

Direction from Previous Planning

Ethel F Wilson Memorial Park has been managed as a Class A Park since 1953. Annual Management Plans provide year-to-year direction.

Management Issues

The following management issues require attention:

Theme	Issue
Protecting ecological values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> inventory of flora and fauna is incomplete vehicles compact soil and damage roots impact of angling on fish populations in Pinkut Lake is unknown
Protecting recreational values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> non-compliant camping, especially on May long weekend, can impact recreational values
Protecting cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> significance of cultural features is unknown use may damage archaeological site
First Nations Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> feel further consultation is required
Park operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> high deficiency

Management Strategy

The following table describes management strategies to deal with outstanding issues raised. In addition, figure 1 contains a list of acceptable land and resource uses for this park.

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure Ethel F Wilson Memorial Park is safe for public use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow Hazard Tree Guidelines Follow Bear-People Conflict Prevention Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect the park's natural values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the significance of the park's flora and fauna; prepare Ecology Information Summary Investigate need for barriers to limit driving area Minimise sediment input and nutrient addition to the lake and stream channels during construction and maintenance activities Quantify park-based angling activity if requested by BC Environment Encourage compliance with angling regulations; maintain posting of provincial sport angling regulations, particularly daily and possession limits for char and trout
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect the park's recreational values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor activities during May long weekend; enforce <i>Park Act</i> regulations through public education and public programs

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect the park’s cultural heritage values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and collate existing information on cultural heritage values; prepare Cultural Features Information Summary (based on Ned'u'ten interest and desire)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nation Values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Rights may be exercised subject to safety and conservation concerns • Meet with the Lake Babine Nation to discuss issues in various parks • Follow ministry guidelines on consultation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide and maintain rustic facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue operations contract for maintenance as a low-maintenance, rustic site • Maintain sign informing visitors that the park is user-maintained
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide information to the public about the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain information sign on Ethel F Wilson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce deficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider strategies for Ethel F Wilson and Pendleton Bay Parks together; review recommendations given in Highway 16 Overview Analysis; • Consider options for transferring facility management and for designating park as day-use only • Maintain good relationship with communities about needs for campsites

Consultation and Future Planning

BC Parks will invite discussion about options for facility management from local communities, the Ministry of Forests and the Yekooche and Lake Babine Nation.

The priority for preparing a management plan for Ethel F. Wilson Park is ranked as low.

Preliminary Zoning

The camping area is zoned Intensive Recreation. The remainder of the park is zoned as Natural Environment (Figure 3 - Zoning Map).

Figure 3 – Zoning

Appendix - Activity/Use Matrix for Ethel F Wilson Memorial Park

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptable Uses
Aboriginal Rights	Y
Hunting	N
Fishing	Y
Trapping	N
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational gold panning/rock hounding	N
Utility corridors	N
Communication sites	N
Horse use/pack animals	N
Guide outfitting (hunting)	N
Guide outfitting (fishing)	N
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)	M
Backcountry huts	N
Water control structures	N
Fish stocking and enhancement	N1
Road access	Y
Off-road access (snowmobiling)	N
Off-road access (motorised)	N
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	N
Motorised water access	Y
Aircraft access	N
Fire management (suppression)	Y
Fire management (prescribed fire management)	N
Fire management (prevention)	Y
Forest insect/disease control	M
Noxious weed control	M
Exotic insect/disease control	M
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