

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

October, 1999

**for Finn Creek
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

**Ministry of Environmen
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.

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|--|--|
| <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 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 checked="" 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.

FINN CREEK PARK
MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context

The 303-hectare Finn Creek Park protects the lower Finn Creek and a portion of the North Thompson River lowlands. It is situated 215 kilometers north of Kamloops on Highway 5 (Yellowhead).

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 Finn Creek Park for the foreseeable future.

II. Protected Area Values

A. Conservation

- includes braided lower Finn Creek, a deep meander and islands in the North Thompson River
- wetter bottomlands include old growth cottonwoods, western red cedar, hybrid spruce, birch; forested uplands provide a protective buffer to enhance the wetland and spawning values
- highest values for salmonids including chinook spawning in Finn Creek and downstream in the North Thompson for a kilometer; fairly high values for coho spawning and juvenile rearing
- bull trout spawning in Finn Creek
- grizzly bear and moose habitat; potential for many bird species

B. Recreation and Tourism

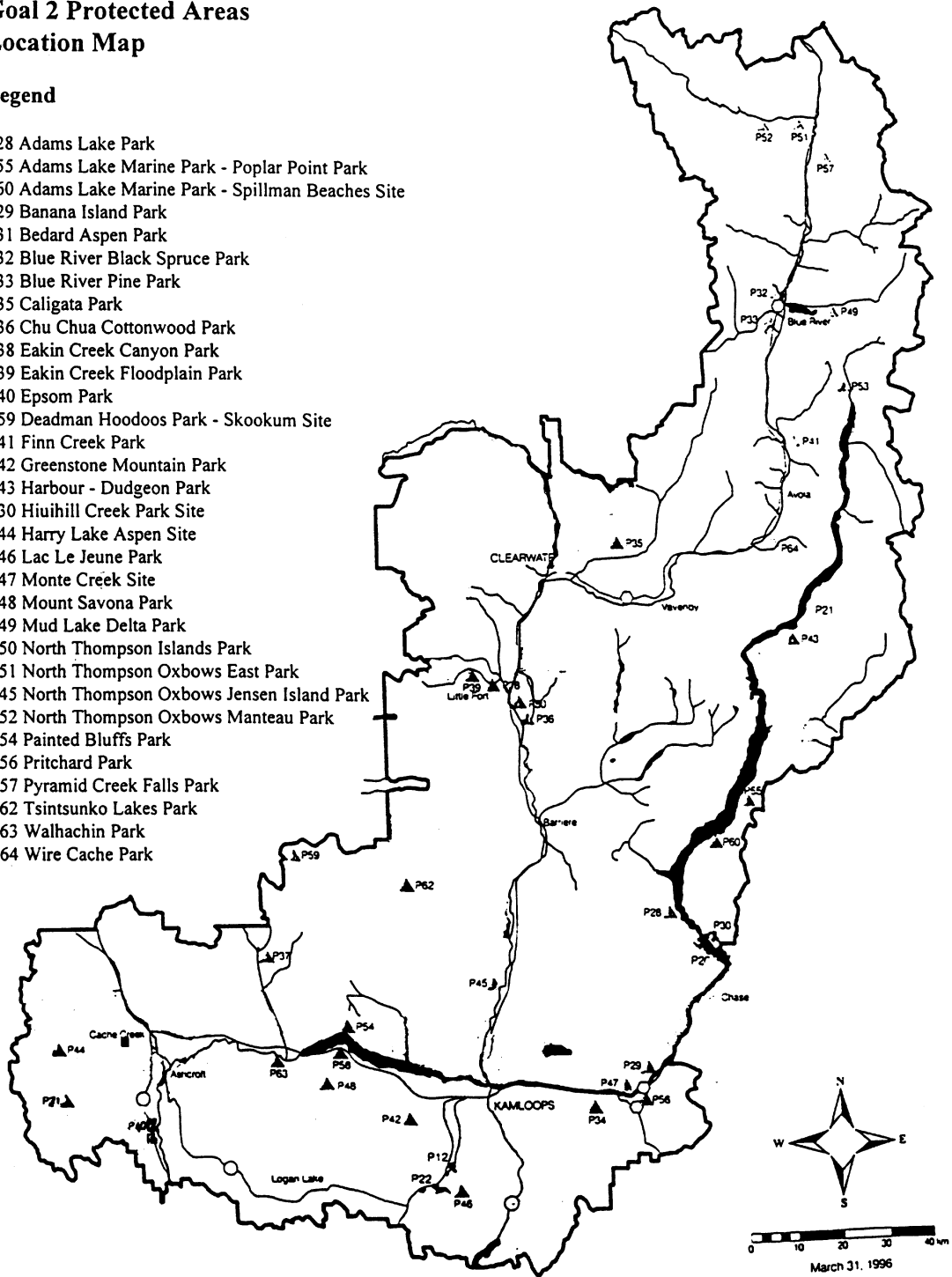
- good viewing spot for chinook spawning; wildlife viewing
- old trails along Finn Creek
- road access to North Thompson River for rafting and canoeing
- strategic location and potential for a transient campground and day use site between North Thompson Park and Mount Robson
- Thompson-Nicola Regional District day use park, situated 3 kilometers from Finn Creek Park, with viewing platform overlooking spectacular river canyon feature

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



C. Cultural Heritage

- old Highway 5 road along west side of the park - old homesites
- Pinkie Peak adjacent to the east side: used by surveyors as lookout point up and down the valley

D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- protection of important salmon habitat and adjacent riparian and uplands in the North Thompson River lowlands
- a small representative of the North Thompson River valley lowlands not represented in large protected areas. Contributes wetland, riparian and upland habitats to the series of protected areas along the North Thompson north of Clearwater.

III. Other Land Uses and Interests

A. Existing Tenures

- 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

- Canadian National Railway and old homesites along the western boundary
- Highway 5 (Yellowhead) and oil pipeline rights of way along east side; gravel pit
- large cutblock adjacent to the northern boundary
- one cutblock and logging roads on east side of Highway 5. See Longer Term Issues and Concerns on page 6.

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, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Ministry of Forests.

- salmonids managed by Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Government of Canada)

E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- local group and Weyerhaeuser Canada interested in developing cross- country ski trails from the Little Hell's Canyon Regional Park to the north

IV. Management Issues and Concerns

A. Integration with Other Land Use Planning Processes

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

Also the park will be planned and managed in coordination with the Finn Creek 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 Finn Creek Park is to protect the ecological integrity of the river riparian and associated upland environments, with particular emphasis on fish spawning and rearing habitats. The park contributes a key component within a system of small protected areas distributed along the North Thompson River which together capture representative examples of the river's diverse riparian and upland ecosystems. A secondary and minor role of the park is to serve local recreation interests for cross country skiing, hiking, nature interpretation and other types of low impact activities. The Park has potential to serve as a key transient campground and day use site along Highway 5 between Clearwater and Mount Robson Park.

D. Zoning

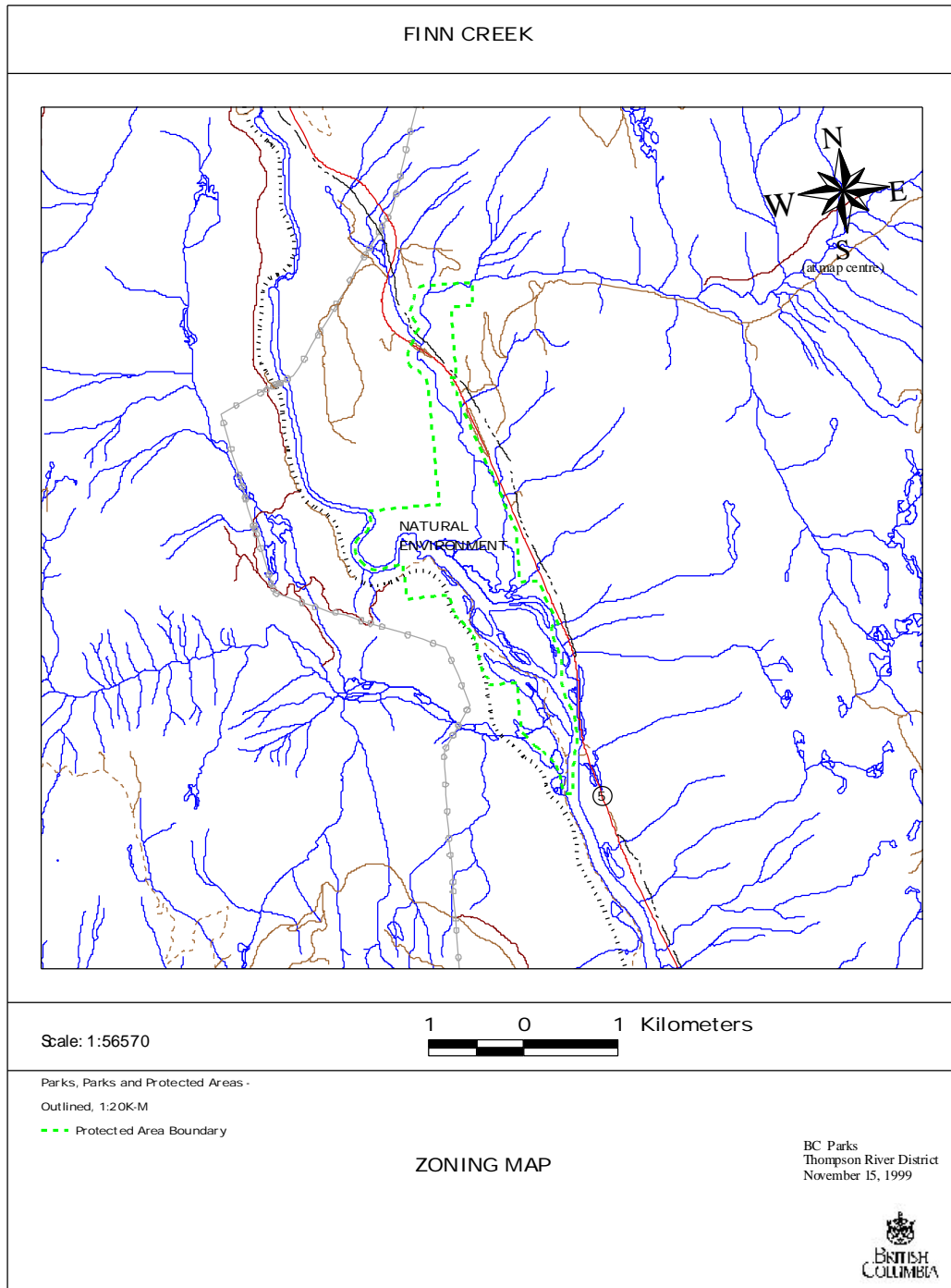
The zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for Finn Creek Park. The Park is zoned as **Natural Environment** to maintain the area in a natural condition while allowing some recreational use.

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

Figure 2 - Zoning Map



- to maintain and enhance 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 fish viewing, walking, nature study, wildlife viewing, canoeing, rafting
- to recognize the long term potential to develop a transient day and overnight facilities at this site; development will have to account for seasonal use of the park by grizzly bear

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 and identification of special species and habitats
- vegetation management - protection for special species and habitats; protection of riparian areas for shade, food supply for salmonids; insect and disease control; fire management
- fisheries and wildlife management in conjunction with adjacent land and resource use management activities.
- BC Parks will monitor proposed logging activities next to the park through the normal Ministry of Forests referral process.

Recreation and Tourism

- access management, particularly for fish viewing, potential for river boating
- recreation use - appropriate activities, levels of development, types of facilities, carrying capacities
- considered by BC Parks as the best location between Clearwater and Mount Robson to locate a future campground to serve highway tourist use
- excellent potential for interpretation of a variety of features

Culture

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

G. Short Term Issues and Concerns

The following Activity/Use Matrix outlines guidelines for managing use, 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 Finn Creek

Activity/Use Facility	Natural Environment
Hunting	Y
Fishing	Y
Trapping	Y ²
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational Gold Panning/Rock Hounding	N
Utility Corridors	N2
Communication Sites	N2
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)	Y ²
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	Y ¹
Off-road Access (snowmobiling)	N
Off-road Access (motorized)	N
Off-road Access (mechanical activities)	N
Motorized Water Access	Y
Aircraft Access	N
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