

# HITCHIE CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

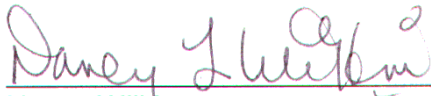
August 2003

Approved by:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Dick Heath  
Regional Manager  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: August 8/03



\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Wilkin  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Jan. 21/04

## HITCHIE CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

### Primary Role

The **primary** role of Hitchie Creek Park is to protect old growth lowland rainforest and freshwater ecosystems. This 226-hectare park is located in the Nitinat Lake watershed and is adjacent to the northeasterly boundary of the West Coast Trail Unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. It adds to the conservation values protected in the Nitinat Lake portion of the national park, in particular values associated with Hitchie Lake and Creek. Hitchie Creek is a salmon-bearing stream and is important for anadromous cutthroat trout, a blue-listed species. The old growth forest habitat protected in Hitchie Creek Park and the adjacent national park provides a key wildlife corridor for large species moving through the watershed. A wide range of species, from salamanders to songbirds, reside in here, including the large predators of Vancouver Island -- cougar, black bear and gray wolf. The park protects potential habitat for the endangered marbled murrelet and Keen's long-eared myotis, while the vulnerable Roosevelt elk travel the river corridor.

Additionally, this park adds to the representative value of the national park in protecting the submontane very wet maritime variant of the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone (CWHvm1) which is under represented in the protected areas system. The characteristic understory of false azalea, bunchberry, and oval-leaved blueberry occurs in this western hemlock forest.

### Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to provide wilderness recreation opportunities. This undeveloped park provides opportunities for wilderness camping, sport fishing, hiking, nature appreciation and exceptional wildlife viewing. There is no road or boat access to the park, which can only be reached by hiking from Hitchie Lake or Nitinat Lake within the adjacent Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. Nearby Nitinat Lake is a popular recreation destination for swimmers, boaters, paddlers and anglers.

### Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Limited knowledge of natural, cultural and recreation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Undertake field assessment of park starting with species at risk as a priority.</li> <li>➤ Conduct a Conservation Risk Assessment of the park.</li> <li>➤ Collect research and reports on values of the adjacent national park.</li> </ul>
Lack of management presence given difficult access and staffing pressures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Investigate opportunities to develop stewardship agreements with local groups. Work closely with Parks Canada staff in monitoring boundaries and identifying management issues.</li> </ul>
Unknown cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Work with local First Nations to undertaken cultural values assessment and traditional use study.</li> </ul>

## **Zoning**

**Natural Environment Zone** – covers the entire park (225 hectares) to reflect the conservation and recreation values. The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

### Conservation

Representation - ecosection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hitchie Creek Provincial Park contributes minimally (0.12%) to the representation of the Windward Island Mountains Ecosection which has 17.4% of its area protected provincially.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hitchie Creek Provincial Park contributes minimally (0.18%) to the representation of the CWHvm1 variant which is under represented provincially at 7%.
Special Features	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Old growth forest and salmon bearing creek
Rare/Endangered Values	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blue-listed cutthroat trout. Potential habitat for red-listed marbled murrelet, Keen's long-eared myotis and blue-listed Roosevelt elk.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Undertake park assessment to better understand the natural values

### Recreation

Representation backcountry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adds to backcountry experience associated with Pacific Rim National Park Reserve
destination	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
travel corridor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part of Carmanah/Walbran and Nitinat Lake triangle
local recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
Special Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	None known at this time

### Cultural Heritage

Representation	<input type="checkbox"/>	May have First Nations interests
Special Feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Values unknown

### Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part of a system of protected areas on Vancouver Island. Adjacent to Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.
Co-operative Management Arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable

Partnerships

Not Applicable

Vulnerability

Park is isolated and unmonitored; unauthorized activities could be taking place. Other issues unknown at this time.

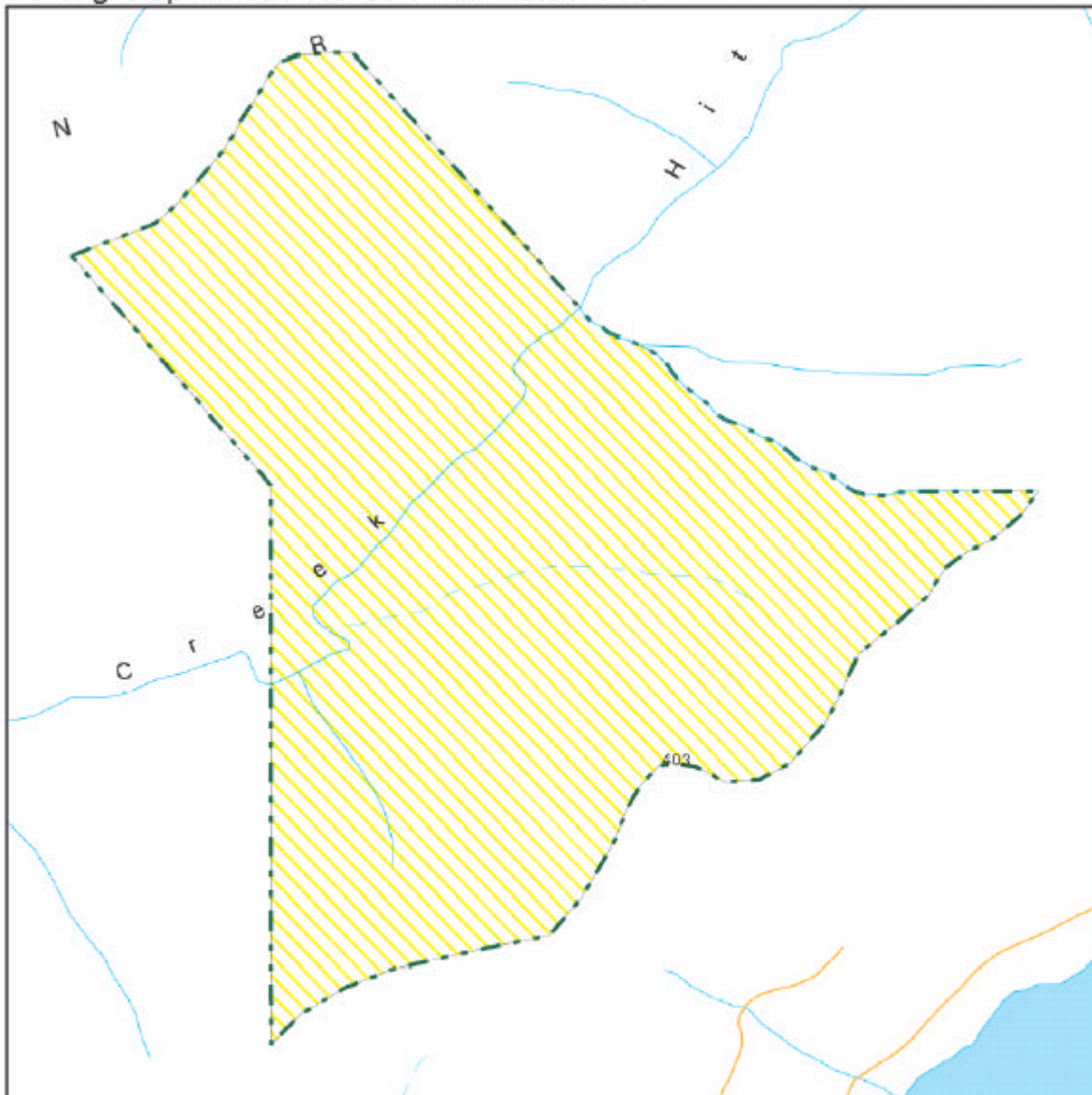
Relationship to other Strategies

Protected as a result of Goal 1 recommendations made in the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan

**Area:** 226 hectares

**Date of establishment:** July 12, 1995

# Zoning Map - Hitchie Creek Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas  
Datum: NAD83



 Natural Environment  
 Protected Area Boundary



Produced in Feb 2003 for  
Ministry of Water, Land and Air  
Protection by MSRM, Decision  
Support Services

This is a visual representation  
only and should not be used for  
legal purposes.