

Skeena District

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

July, 2000

for Kleanza Creek
Provincial Park



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division



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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
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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

Kleanza Creek Park covers 269 ha around Kleanza Creek, at its confluence with the Skeena River, about 19 km northeast of Terrace on Highway 16 (area population ~21,000; Figure 1). The park is formed of several parcels of land, separated by roads and by Kitselas IR #1. The park lies within the traditional territory of the Tsimshian people.

The park, established in 1956, protects about 2 km of Kleanza Creek upstream of its mouth, and provides recreation and camping opportunities for local residents and Highway 16 travellers. A portion of Singlehurst Creek also lies within the park. The scenic setting attracts local residents for weekend outings and day-trips. A forest recreation trail begins near the park. Kleanza Creek offers the only camping for 75 km in either direction along Highway 16 (Seeley Lake to the east; Exchamsiks River to the west). Lakelse Lake provides full-facility lakeshore camping about 50 km away, south of Terrace on Highway 37.

Protected Area Attributes

Conservation

- Nass Ranges Ecoregion; CWHws1 (wet subarctic coastal western hemlock subzone, submontane variant)
- pink salmon spawning habitat; other salmon (chinook, chum, coho, sockeye) and steelhead pass through park
- bull trout (blue-listed) may be present
- Kleanza Creek canyon—geological feature

Recreation and Tourism

- regionally-significant recreation opportunities (picnicking, hiking, fishing, swimming, kayaking, camping, salmon spawning viewing) in scenic site
- camping accommodation for Highway 16 travellers (en route to Prince Rupert ferries)

Cultural Heritage

- many prehistoric and historic sites within park, including Kitselas Village Site (steamboat era) and evidence of mining history

- evidence of 5000+ years of occupation at Kitselas canyon—Parks Canada expressed interest in developing a National Park with Kitselas First Nation in early 1990s

Significance in the Protected Areas System

- protects nationally-significant cultural, and regionally-significant ecological, features
- provides popular recreational opportunities for regional residents and Highway 16 travellers
- provides accommodation for travellers using ferries leaving Prince Rupert

Figure 1 – Context Map

Figure 2 – Park Map

Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

Highway 16 bisects the park 19 km northeast of Terrace. A road accesses the day-use and camping areas in the east of the park, and an overgrown trail runs through Kitselas IR #1 to the old village site in the west. There is access to residences through the park on the old highway (Plan 1558) and Gold Creek Road (Section 8 Road).

Existing Tenures

- none

Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities

- 12 picnic tables in day-use area; 25 parking stalls
- 30 “pad-and-spur” campsites (9 new in 1999); 2 tent sites (new in 1999)
- pit toilets, water pump, wood lot, operators yard
- 1-km trail to view point over canyon

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- Kitselas IR #1 borders the park on the west, and surrounds one parcel of land
- the Skeena River bounds the southwest portion of the park
- crown land (part of DL 985) and crown land identified for possible IR expansion (DL 984) lie to the north; undeveloped private parcels (DL 1748) and planned residential development (DL 985, Plan 5767) also lie just north of the park
- crown land, subject to timber harvest, lies upslope, to the east; a large tenure, supporting miscellaneous use, is held by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways (File 0268804)
- crown (DL 5663) and private land (DL 6639, Blk A; DL 1004, Blk B, lot 1) lie to the south

First Nations Interests

- part of the traditional territory of the Tsimshian people
- evidence of over 5000 years of occupation in the area
- many important sites in and near the park, particularly in the Kitselas Canyon

Other Agency Interests

- BC Environment and DFO have an interest in the fish in Kleanza Creek and the Skeena River—DFO has a particular interest in the salmon spawning habitat
- Ministry of Forests has an interest in forest issues and adjacent crown land
- Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture, Archaeological Branch, has an interest in the archaeological sites
- Regional District of Kitimat Stikine has an interest in regional tourism

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- recreational users: hikers, picnickers, anglers, picnickers, swimmers

- local residents: Terrace communities
- naturalists
- historians and archaeologists

Role of Kleanza Creek Park

Kleanza Creek Park serves a moderately important conservation role within the British Columbia protected areas system. The park protects regionally significant (possibly nationally significant) cultural features, including a steamboat era village site and evidence of continued human occupation for millennia. The park also protects a stretch of a regionally important salmon-spawning creek just above its confluence with the Skeena River—one of the primary salmonid systems worldwide.

Kleanza Creek Park also serves a regionally significant recreation role. The scenic picnic area and campsite, and nearby hiking trail, attract regional residents and Highway 16

Management Commitments and Issues

Direction from Previous Planning

Kleanza Creek Park has been managed as a Class A Park since 1956. Annual Management Plans provide year-to-year direction.

Management Issues

The following management issues require attention:

Theme	Issue
Public safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cliffs above canyon and trail leading from viewpoint, beyond park boundary, create potential hazard
Protecting ecological values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inventory of natural features in incomplete • spawning habitat is sensitive to erosion management • logging upstream may impact the stream • overuse damages vegetation
Protecting recreational values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interpretative material would facilitate viewing of salmon spawning
Protecting cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unknown significance of many cultural features • high use may damage cultural sites
Unauthorised activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vandalism destroys facilities

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 the park.

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure Kleanza Creek Park is safe for public use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow Hazard Tree Guidelines Follow Bear-People Conflict Prevention Plan Manage risk on trail and viewing area; post warning signs and park boundary marker
<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 Minimise sediment input and nutrient addition to Kleanza and Singlehurst Creeks during construction and maintenance activities Monitor forestry activities upstream of park Continue to rehabilitate denuded area Consider developing Conservation Stewardship program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect the park's recreational values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain interpretative materials about pink salmon and other species that spawn in park-enclosed stream reaches Consider developing Park Watch program
<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; investigate means of protecting archaeological sites; prepare Cultural Features Information Summary and Management Plan in consultation with Tsimshian people (based on Tsimshian (Kitselas) interest and desire);
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain standard camping facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain facilities; document strategies in Annual Management Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce deficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor success of new sites added in 1999

Consultation and Future Planning

BC Parks will discuss management options for cultural sites with the Kitselas community and discuss the preparation of a Cultural Information Summary and Management Plan.

The priority for preparing a management plan for Kleanza Creek Park is ranked as low.

Zoning

The developed day-use and campsite areas are zoned Intensive Recreation. The area surrounding the Kitselas Village Site (near the confluence of Kleanza Creek and Skeena River) is zoned as a Special Feature to ensure the protection of the site. The remainder of the park is zoned as Natural Environment (Figure 3 - Zoning Map).

Figure 3 – Zoning

Appendix - Activity/Use Matrix for Kleanza Creek 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)	M
Motorised water access	N
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