

3.0 PARK ZONING

BC Parks uses zoning to assist in the planning and management of provincial parks. In general terms, zoning divides a park into logical units to apply uniform and consistent management objectives for conservation and recreational values. The zones reflect the intended land use, existing patterns of use, the degree of human use desired, and the level of management and development required. At one end of the spectrum, the Intensive Recreation Zone indicates a portion of a park that is appropriate for high levels of recreation and facility development. At the opposite end, the Wilderness Conservation Zones indicate an area of a park that receives the highest level of resource protection and minimal human presence. Between these two extremes, there are three additional zones providing a range of conservation and recreation priorities — Natural Environment Zone, Special Feature Zone and Wilderness Recreation Zone. *Appendix C* contains a detailed description of park management zones and their respective management intents.

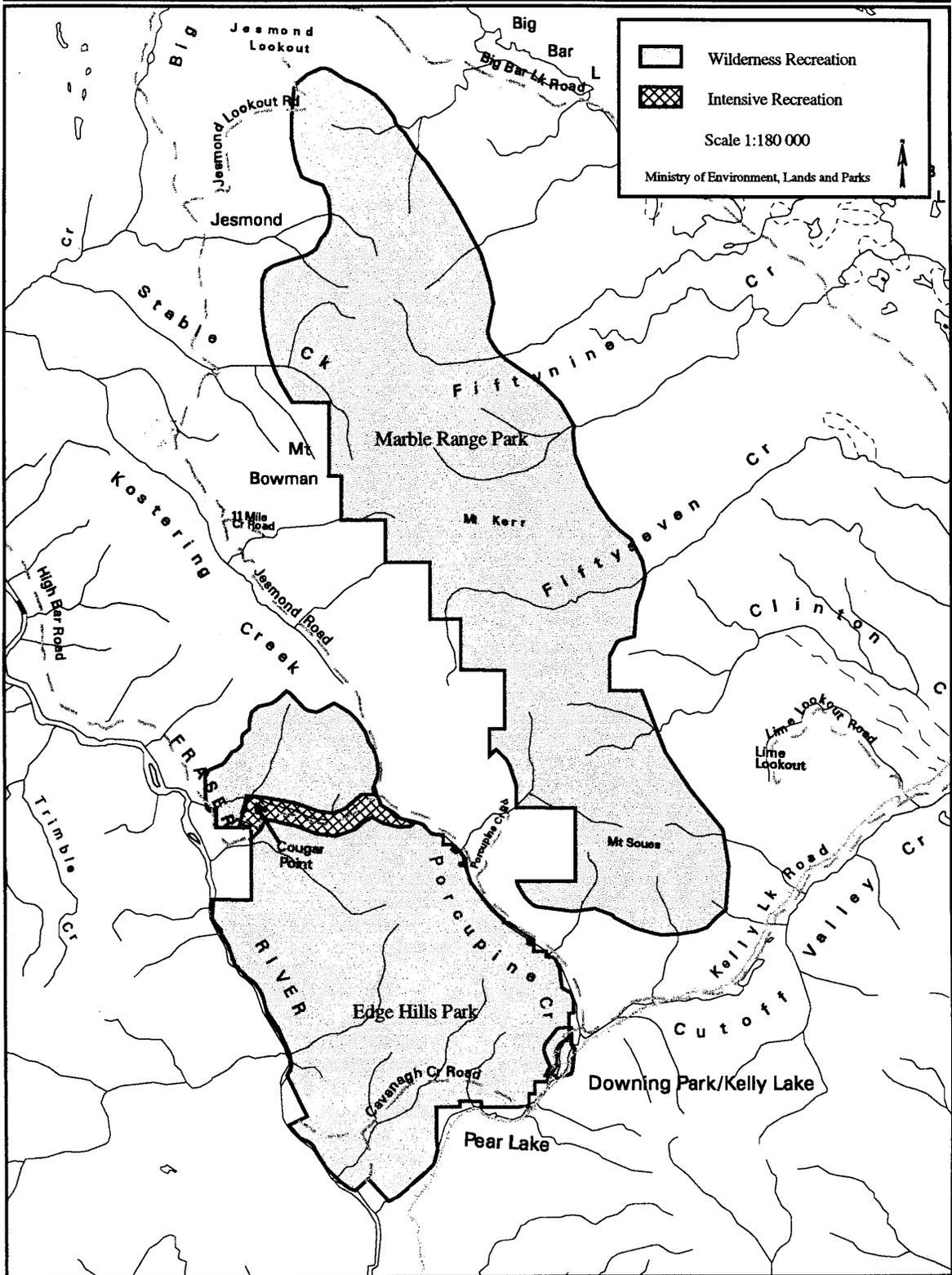
Map 3 shows the zoning for Marble Range and Edge Hills Provincial Parks. Marble Range is zoned entirely as a Wilderness Recreation Zone. Edge Hills is also a Wilderness Recreation Zone, but has a small area of Intensive Recreation Zone that contains the dayuse opportunities at Cougar Point and the access road traversing the park.

3.1 Wilderness Recreation Zone

The intent of this zone is to place a high priority on conserving the natural environment, particularly wildlife values, while providing some level of backcountry use that is compatible with the natural environment and its wilderness atmosphere. Facility development is minimal, at a level sufficient to satisfy user needs and to protect the overall environment of the park. In summary, areas designated Wilderness Recreation are large natural areas where natural ecological processes occur largely uninfluenced by human activity, and where low levels of recreation use are permitted but evidence of human presence is confined to specific primitive facilities and sites (for example, designated trails for commercial backcountry operators).

The Wilderness Recreation Zone covers the entire 17,920 hectares of Marble Range Park and 11,772 hectares of Edge Hills Park.

Map 3. Park Zoning for Marble Range and Edge Hills



3.2 Intensive Recreation Zone

The objective of this zone is to provide for a variety of readily accessible facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities. This includes facilities such as campgrounds, picnic areas, parking areas, and boat launches. The management intent of this designation is to accommodate vehicle-based users in as natural a setting as possible.

In Edge Hills Park, this 100 hectare zone encompasses the east to west access corridor and the Cougar Point viewpoint. This area provides an exceptional opportunity for road-accessible day use recreation and scenic viewpoint development, offering spectacular views of Edge Hills Park and the Fraser River valley. No overnight use is permitted.

A second intensive recreation zone could be created in Edge Hills Park if the Pear Lake area is successfully acquired by BC Parks at a future date. This is an area of private land on the southern border of Edge Hills.

Also adjacent to the southeastern corner of Edge Hills Park, just east of the Pear Lake property, is the existing Downing Provincial Park. The potential may exist in the future for amalgamation of Downing and Edge Hills Parks under one park entity. The joint management and possible amalgamation of these areas should be investigated for consideration at a future date. If both the Pear Lake property and Downing Park were to become additions to Edge Hills Park, this would require the creation of an intensive recreation zone over these areas to recognize the rustic camping and day use activities that take place there.