

## **6.0 PARK COMPLETION ISSUES**

There are two key policies that guide land additions to protected areas in the Cariboo Region; the CCLUP and park management plans. The guiding policy specific to the Marble Range is provided in the CCLUP. It indicates that mineral tenures held by Continental Lime may be added to the park once the company has determined that the claims are no longer required for their operations. To accommodate this objective, portions of these claims were “save and excepted” from the park in the legal description (claims in Clinton Creek and along the western boundary of Marble Range Park). The intent is to add these claim areas to the parks, once they are relinquished by the company.

The Pear Lake area, an area of private property along the southern boundary of Edge Hills Park is of specific interest to BC Parks and is the subject of current acquisition negotiations.

Park completion issues are shown on Map 7.

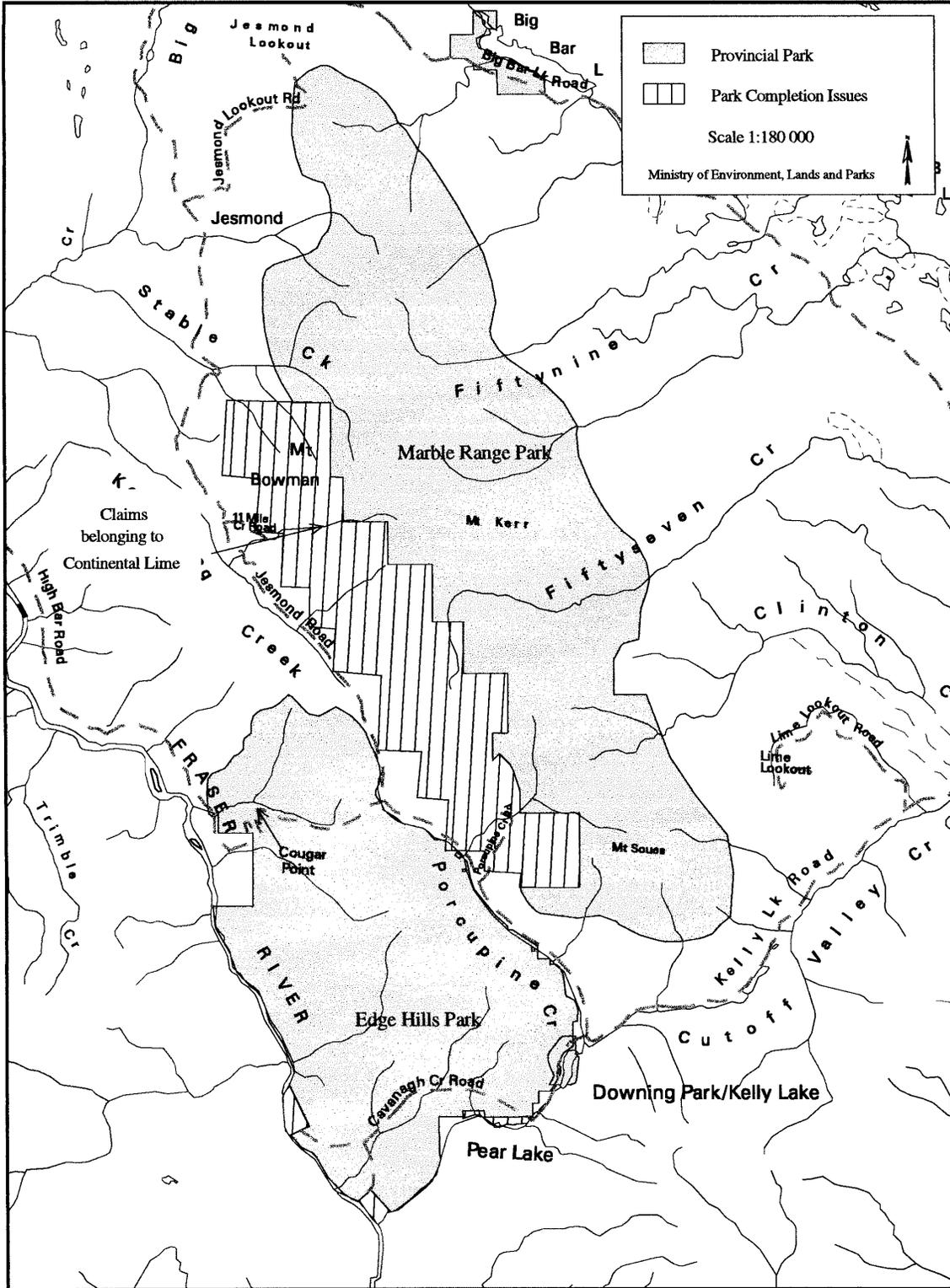
During preparation of this management plan, Clinton and area residents also provided their recommendations for adjacent lands with important values that might be considered for future park additions. *Appendix E* describes these “Public Recommendations for Adjacent Lands”.

### **6.1 Lime Ridge to Mt. Bowman**

The area of interest for park completion is that area excluded from the park at the time of CCLUP approval, where claim areas were identified to revert to park status when relinquished by Continental Lime. These claim areas extend along Lime Ridge northward to the Mt. Bowman area.

This area is highly visible from road access to the parks. First seen from the Jesmond Road heading north, this section to Mt. Bowman is what residents and travelers often regard as the Marble Range (the Limestones). It is the most scenic visible feature of the Marble ranges, as seen from the Jesmond Road, and is the primary scenic feature for recreation lodge operations in the Jesmond area. The Mt. Bowman area is used by lodges as a recreation destination area and by local recreationists and visitors who frequent the area to horseback ride and hike.

Map 7. Park Completion Issues



e Lime Ridge area contains many steep cliffs and rugged limestone terrain. From the top of the ridge, a rider or hiker gets grand views of the Marble Range and the mountains to the west and southwest beyond Lillooet.

There are several interesting geological features in this area. The lower slopes of Lime Ridge is the geological dividing line between Marble Range and Edge Hills. During the Permian period (about 225-270 million years ago), the Marble Range was a shallow shelf under the seas that covered western B.C. The rock which is now the Edge Hills was deep ocean beyond the shelf. Subsequent withdrawal of the sea as the land lifted, folded and faulted during the Triassic and Jurassic periods, resulted in the Edge Hills formation being pushed onto the side of the Marble Range at Lime Ridge.

The Lime Ridge area contains numerous caves and interesting rock formations. Vent holes are numerous, appearing as small piles of dust or dirt directly over the vent. It is not locally known whether these vents result from air flowing to the surface through caves and cracks in the porous limestone, or from thermal convection from magma intrusions into the limestone. Some residents have noted locations of bare ground surrounded by snow in deep winter in this area, as well as warm air currents from holes in the limestone.

One location of special interest is Buckskin Basin. It is the only location in the Marble Range with good grass and water. This has made an ideal campsite for horseback riders and a few backpackers. The area has never been over-grazed. A difficult area to reach, Buckskin Basin is presently used by only a few hunters in the fall. Part of the area is in Marble Range Park and part is in the area of mineral claims.

Wildlife makes good use of the area. Bats can be found in the vicinity of the mining exploration roads. Black bear, mule deer and California bighorn sheep have summer ranges here. It is reported that lambing grounds are also located in this area. Peregrine falcons have been seen in adjacent areas and Lime Ridge offers cliff nesting locations that would be ideally suited for that species. Merlins, a smaller falcon, have been seen on Lime Ridge.

California bighorn sheep migration routes have been dwindling over the past three decades, for unknown reasons. The last remaining sheep migration routes, from winter range on the Fraser River to summer range in the Marble Range, are located here. BC Environment is planning to conduct bio-telemetry collaring studies on these sheep to determine migration routes, numbers of animals and primary migration habitat types.

The water flowing from several drainages along Lime Ridge forms Porcupine Creek. This creek is the main source of water on the west side of the Marble Range. Its taste and purity have resulted in people collecting their drinking water where Porcupine Creek meets the Jesmond Road. Homes along the Jesmond Road depend on this water. A poorly built diversion dam in Cutoff Valley allows water to be diverted to Cutoff Valley Creek for irrigating ranchlands there. The water is also necessary to maintain the level of Kelly Lake for trout feeding and spawning.

## **6.2 Mineral Claims in Upper Clinton Creek**

This area of the upper Clinton Creek watershed is of interest as additional park land and is covered with existing mineral claims. It is understood that, as these claims expire, land will be added to the park as part of the “save and except” area defined by the CCLUP.

The other portions of the Clinton Creek watershed are discussed in Section 6.2.2 below, and in Section 4.3.

## **6.3 Pear Lake Private Property**

The Pear Lake property is privately owned land that adjoins the southern boundary of Edge Hills Park and continues southward to the BC Rail right-of-way. It includes the only road through the area. Acquisition would allow controls to be placed on access to the Edge Hills at the Fraser River, and would permit public access to Pear Lake, which is now private property. The area would serve as a buffer zone on the southern boundary of Edge Hills Park.

This area is important for historical reasons. According to archaeologist R. Blacklaws (Vancouver Community College, Langara Campus), the Kelly Creek area may contain more than 200 pit houses or Kwigli holes, one of the largest concentrations of this kind in the province. This indicates that the area was probably the largest Shuswap aboriginal settlement in the province.

Ditches built by gold miners and a hand-built trail for mules are still visible from Pear Lake toward Kelly Creek. When the trail to the Grange Mine became too steep for mules, Chinese miners packed equipment and supplies into the area by way of a large donkey wheel and cable. The wheel still exists as evidence of this activity.

Pear Lake is a prime camping site. Although the lake is small, it is very picturesque and can support a limited recreational fishery. The property also affords a view of the Moran Canyon California bighorn sheep herd on the south side of the valley.

The Pear Lake property should be a priority addition to Edge Hills Park. Because it is private property, it is not governed by protected area recommendations of the CCLUP.