

Skeena District

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

September 2000

for Nilkitkwa Lake Provincial
Park



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division

This management direction statement was developed through direction received from the Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan.



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MEMORANDUM

**BULKLEY GOAL 2 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENTS - BINDER APPROVALS PAGE**

Forward

This binder contains five management direction statements developed by BC Parks. The Provincial Government designated these protected areas under *Bill 17, Protected Areas Act of British Columbia* which received Royal Assent on June 29th 2000. The five 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.

- Burnt Cabin Ecological Reserve
- Call Lake Park
- Netalzul Meadows Park
- Nilkitkwa Lake Park
- Rainbow Alley Park

Approved by:


Hugh Markides
District Manager
Skeena District

Date: Aug. 24, 2000


Denis O'Gorman
Assistant Deputy Minister
Parks Division

Date: 00 09 01

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Introduction

Purpose

This management direction statement (MDS) provides management for newly designated Nilkitkwa Lake Park. It identifies key strategies that will be ranked according to priority and completed as funding permits. Implementation of the strategies advocated in the MDS will be dependent on available funding and agency priorities. All development associated with these strategies is subject to BC Parks' Impact Assessment Policy.

Setting and Context

The park covers seven ha in two parcels about three km apart on the east side of Nilkitkwa Lake, about 130 km north of Smithers (area population ~12,000; Figure 1). Nilkitkwa Lake carries water north from Babine Lake into the Babine River which drains into the Skeena River system. The Ned'u'ten community of Wud'at (Fort Babine, population 135) lies at the head of Babine Lake. The park lies within the asserted traditional territory of the Ned'u'ten (Lake Babine Nation) people.

The two sites are long-standing park reserves for the Use, Recreation and Enjoyment of the Public (UREP). They are located in bays, providing protected anchorage. Such bays are uncommon on the linear, glacier-formed Nilkitkwa Lake and have been used by the Ned'u'ten people of Wud'at for preparing fish. Both sites have active smokehouses.

Nilkitkwa Lake Park is part of the Babine Lake and Nilkitkwa Lake recreational boating system, linked by water to Rainbow Alley, Pendleton Bay, Topley Landing, Red Bluff and Smithers Landing. Together, these parks provide access to internationally significant fishing opportunities along 200 km of waterways and offer camping for local residents and destination travelers. Nearby Babine River Park offers wilderness river recreation.

Protected Area Attributes

Conservation

- Babine Uplands Ecoregion; SBSmc2 (moist cold sub-boreal spruce subzone, Babine variant)

Recreation and Tourism

- access to internationally-significant lake recreation opportunities within system of water-based parks (boating, angling, picnicking)
- gentle beaches: good natural anchorage's and haul-up sites

Cultural Heritage

- long history of use for fish preparation by Ned'u'ten people
- active smoke houses occupy both sites

Figure 1

Nilkitkwa Lake Provincial Park Locator Map

Legend

- Highways
- Rivers/Lakes
- Coastline
- Nilkitkwa Lake Provincial Park
- Skeena Parks District



0 100 200 300 Kilometers

Scale 1:6,000,000

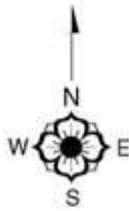
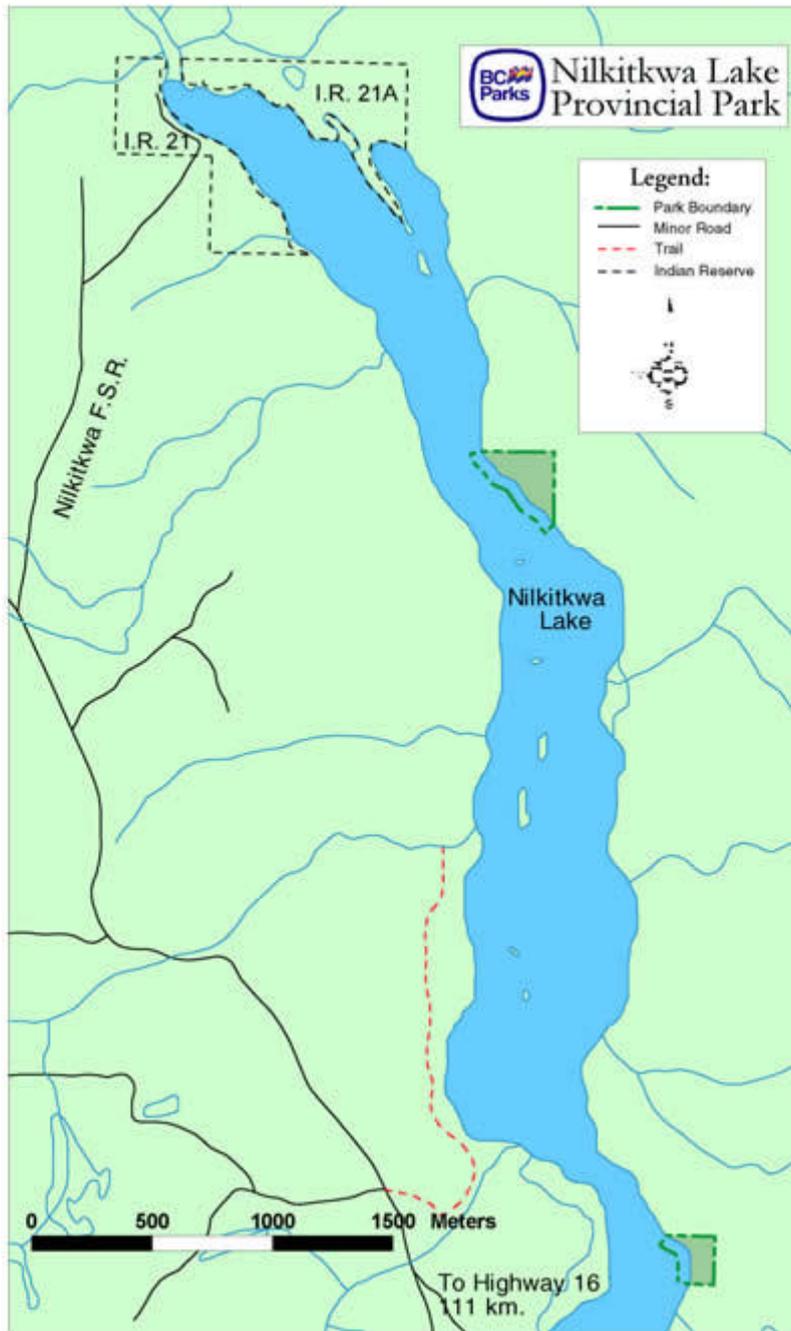


Figure 2



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Significance in the Protected Areas System

- protects remnant under-represented SBSmc2 within Babine Uplands Ecosection
- provides anchorage sites as part of a system of parks offering internationally-significant lake recreation

Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

Access to both sites is via boat travel along Nilkitkwa Lake. Boat launches exist at the Babine River fish weir and the southwest end of Nilkitkwa Lake. No roads reach the park and no trails run through the sites.

Existing Tenures

- no formal tenures identified

Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities

- smoke house on each site used for preparing fish (Ned'u'ten families from nearby Wud'at)
- occasional use by hunting guides, angling guides and recreational boaters

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- surrounded by crown forest land subject to timber harvest
- private lot (L. 49) located north of northern site

First Nations Interests

- asserted traditional territory of the Ned'u'ten (Lake Babine Nation)
- close to Ned'u'ten community of Wud'at
- smoke houses on sites used regularly as part of food fishery
- trapping along lakeshore identified as an important activity
- concern on the process of designation and ongoing consultation

Other Agency Interests

- BC Environment and DFO have an interest in the fishery in Nilkitkwa Lake
- Ministry of Forests manages forest on adjacent crown land

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- recreational users: boaters, anglers
- local residents: Wud'at community
- trapper
- guide outfitter, angle guides

Role of Nilkitkwa Lake Park

Nilkitkwa Lake Park serves a minor conservation role within the British Columbia protected areas system. The park protects a tiny remnant (only 7 ha) of moist cold sub-boreal spruce (SBSmc2) ecosystems within the Babine Uplands Ecoregion. The small size precludes ecosystem representation. Nearby Babine River Corridor Park (Babine Uplands Ecoregion) and Babine Mountains Park (South Skeena Mountains Ecoregion) protect much larger areas of SBSmc2 riparian and upland ecosystems respectively.

Both sites within Nilkitkwa Lake Park are actively used for First Nations cultural purposes, primarily fish preparation. The park, hence, contains the potential for a significant education role related to the presentation of First Nations cultural heritage values and the education of the public about past and present First Nations use of the lake. This role needs much further evaluation and discussion with the Lake Babine Nation (Ned'u'ten) and community of Wud'at.

The park also serves a minor recreation role, providing sheltered anchorage along Nilkitkwa Lake. More significantly, the sites are linked by water to the internationally significant recreational boating system along Babine Lake.

Management Commitments and Issues

Direction from Previous Planning

The Bulkley LRMP recommended Nilkitkwa Lake Sites as a protected area in 1996 to conserve the recreational fishery. The LRMP recommends that the entire shoreline of Nilkitkwa Lake be managed as a landscape corridor, maintaining connectivity within the landscape. Management direction within the surrounding Babine River Landscape Unit also follows guidelines set out in the Babine River Interim Local Resource Use Plan and Coordinated Access Management Plan. In this landscape unit, emphasis is placed on grizzly bear management.

Management Issues

The following management issues require attention:

Theme	Issue
Protecting ecological values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• inventory of natural features is incomplete
Protecting cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• actively used for traditional purposes• high use may damage cultural sites
First Nations Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• food fishery and trapping• concerned about the process of designation and ongoing consultation

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 this park.

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the park's natural values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory fauna and flora; prepare Ecology Information Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the park's recreational values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with BC Environment and DFO over arising fishery issues • Pursue designation of Babine and Nilkitkwa Lake recreational boating system under federal Pleasure Craft Sewage Pollution Prevention Regulation; discuss options for appropriate human waste disposal or removal
<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; prepare Cultural Features Information Summary in consultation with Ned'u'ten • Support Ned'u'ten traditional use of sites • Continue to work with Ned'u'ten and Wud'at community over park use and management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nation Values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Rights may be exercised subject to safety and conservation concerns • Meet with the Lake Babine Nation to discuss park issues including the designation process • Follow ministry guidelines on consultation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop appropriate facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No development anticipated

Consultation and Future Planning

BC Parks will continue to consult with Ned'u'ten (Lake Babine Nation) people about their use of the sites and future site management actions. No development is planned as part of this MDS and BC Parks will not encourage additional use or services at the park without prior consultation with the Lake Babine Nation. Future planning and consultation for the Nilkitkwa Lake Sites will be carried out as part of an entire Babine Lake and Nilkitkwa Lake recreational boating system.

Preliminary Zoning

The sites are zoned as Natural Environment to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

**Appendix 1. Nilkitkwa Lake Park - Table of
Acceptable Activities, Uses and Facilities**

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptable Uses
Aboriginal Rights	Y
Hunting	Y
Fishing	Y
Trapping	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational gold panning/rock hounding	N
Utility corridors	N
Communication sites	N
Horse use/pack animals	N
Guide outfitting (hunting)	Y
Guide outfitting (fishing)	Y
Guide outfitting (nature tours)	Y
Guide outfitting (river rafting)	Y
Cat-assisted skiing	N
Ski hills	N
Commercial recreation (facility-based)	N
Commercial recreation (non-facility-based)	N
Backcountry huts	N2
Water control structures	N
Fish stocking and enhancement	Y
Road access	N
Off-road access (snowmobiling)	N
Off-road access (motorized)	N
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	N
Motorized water access	Y
Aircraft access	Y
Fire management (suppression)	Y
Fire management (prescribed fire management)	M
Fire management (prevention)	M
Forest insect/disease control	N1
Noxious weed control	N1
Exotic insect/disease control	N1
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