

Thompson River District

**MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENT**

June, 1999

**for Porcupine Meadows
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division



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APPROVALS

KAMLOOPS GOAL 1 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENTS BINDER APPROVALS PAGE

Forward

This binder contains 15 management direction statements developed under the direction of the Kamloops Land and Resource Plan Implementation Table and BC Parks. The government designated these protected areas in May, 1996. The 15 management direction statements provide strategic direction for these protected areas until management plans can be developed with full public involvement. 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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arrowstone Protected Area | <input type="checkbox"/> High Lakes Basin Park. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Earth Lake Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Momich Lakes Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon Jack Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clearwater River Corridor | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Porcupine Meadows Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cornwall Hills Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Roche Lake Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dunn Peak Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Taweel Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elephant Hill Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Adams Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emar Lakes Park | |

Approved by:

District Manager
Thompson River District
BC Parks Division

Date: 98/04/30

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Division

Date: 99 10 25

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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

PORCUPINE MEADOWS PARK

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

I. Introduction

A. Setting and Context

The 2,704-hectare Porcupine Meadows Park, located at the southern end of the Bonaparte Plateau about 40 kilometres northwest of Kamloops, contains important conservation, recreation and cultural values. Undisturbed extensive wetlands and patches of old-growth forests make this particularly significant in the region. Access to the southern boundary is by unpaved forestry roads past Pass and Saul Lakes, through the Tranquille valley to Tranquille Lake and from forest development roads in TFL 35. There are no developed roads and only a few trails within the park.

Porcupine Meadows Park was established by Order-in-Council under the *Park Act* on April 30th, 1996. Subsequently, the park was designated under Schedule E of the *Park Amendment Act, 1997*.

This Management Direction Statement is intended to provide direction and guidelines for managing Porcupine Meadows Park until a more comprehensive management plan is developed for the area.

II. Protected Area Values

A. Conservation

- extensive wetland meadows complexes in the Engelmann spruce-Sub-alpine Fir dry, cold subzone
- some patches of old-growth spruce forest
- very little disturbance in the protected area - no cattle grazing in the park.
- wetlands important to many wildlife species, especially sandhill cranes; attractive summer habitat for moose and mule deer
- natural linkages to Lac du Bois Provincial Park to the south

B. Recreation

- trails to the sub-alpine provide opportunities for hiking, wildlife viewing and nature appreciation
- an important area for snowmobiling and hunting

C. Cultural Heritage

- historic pack horse trail from Pass Lake to Porcupine Ridge for early surveyors
- old Forest Service lookout tower on the ridge
- Dominion Lands and Surveys marker on a rock beside the fire tower
- old Fruitlands Irrigation District trails around Carlo Lake

D. Significance in the Protected Areas System

- the only park in the region to protect extensive wetlands of the Engelmann Spruce-Sub-alpine Fir dry, cold subzone
- Porcupine Meadows Park rates as provincially significant for its conservation values

III. Other Land Uses and Interests

A. Existing Tenures

- existing trap lines will be allowed to continue

B. Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- cutblocks to the perimeter of the area, especially on the north, south and east (TFL35)
- resort lake (Tranquille) and forestry roads on the southern boundary

C. First Nations Interests

- unknown

D. Other Agency Interests

- The park will be managed in close co-ordination with various resource agencies, particularly BC Environment and Ministry of Forests.
- Ministry of Forests lookout tower; on-going trap tree program for spruce bark beetle infestation
- BC Environment: Tranquille Community Watershed

E. Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- Snowmobile Club maintains winter trails into the area and the old lookout tower
- part of the experience offered by resort operations on Tranquille Lake

IV. Park Role Statement

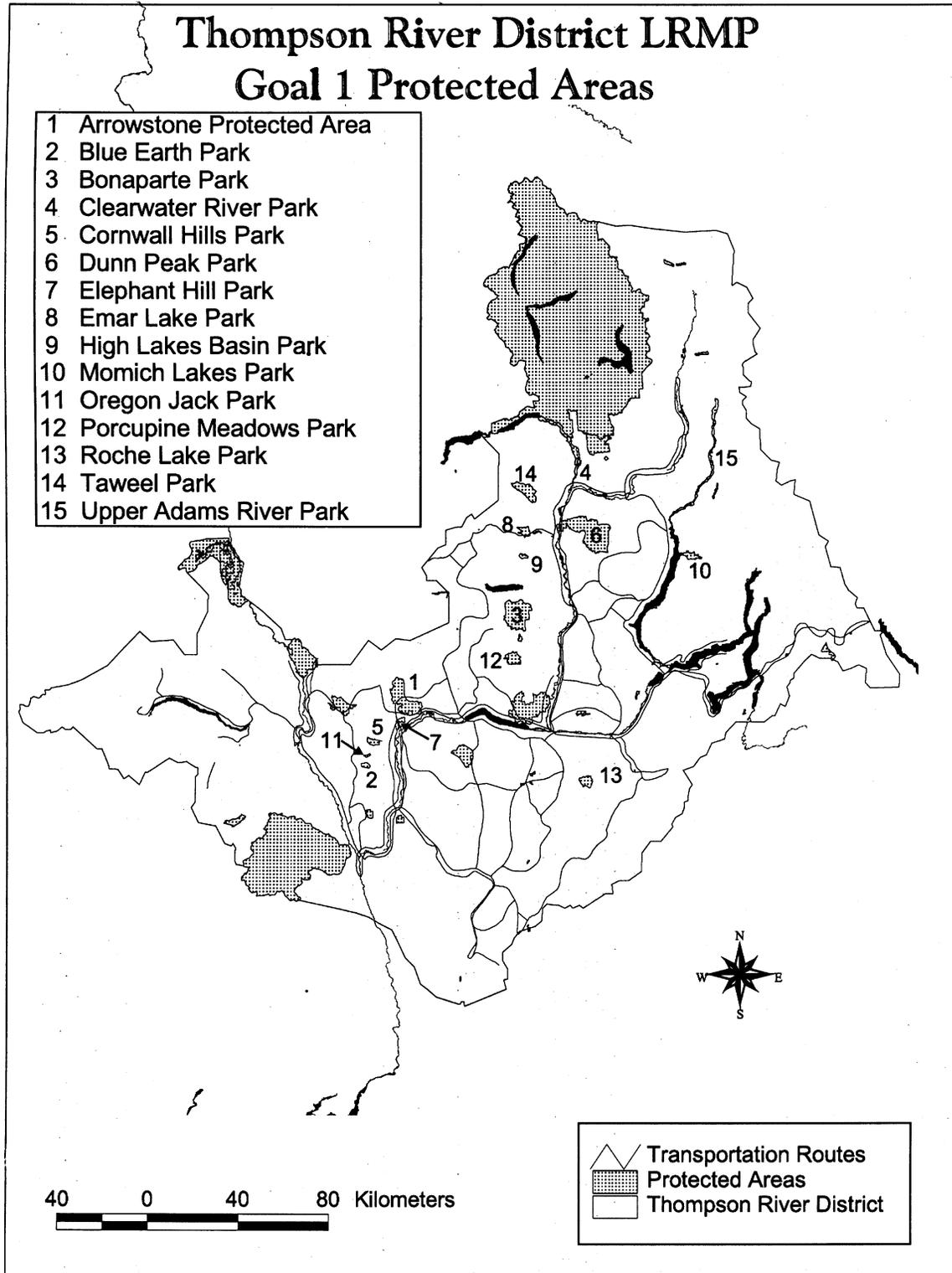
Porcupine Meadows Park protects extensive subalpine wetlands and old-growth forests. These ecosystem features contribute special landscape representation significance within a system of six parks including Porcupine Meadows in the south and extending north through Tsintsunko, Bonaparte, High Lakes Basin, Emar Lakes and Taweel parks which, in combination, capture the biological diversity of the Northern Thompson Uplands Ecosection. Porcupine Meadows Park provides regionally significant wilderness recreation opportunities and is especially attractive for winter snowmobiling.

V. Management Issues and Concerns

A. Integration With Other Land Use Planning Processes

This Management Direction Statement, future management statements, and all resulting management actions will follow the intent and criteria set out by the Kamloops LRMP for the Porcupine protected area.

Figure 1 – Regional Context Map



Also the park will be planned and managed in co-ordination with other agencies' planning processes. The park forms part of the Bonaparte Local Resource Use Plan of the Ministry of Forests.

B. Consultation and Future Planning

Planning and management of the park will conform to the intent and directions as set forth in the Provincial Protected Areas Strategy. BC Parks is accountable for planning, administration and management of the park through application of the laws, policies and regulations granted under the *Park Act*. BC Parks will coordinate with other agencies, the LRMP table, various public planning groups and First Nations in developing management plans for all of the new parks arising from the Kamloops LRMP.

This Management Direction Statement has been reviewed and approved in principle by the Kamloops LRMP implementation team.

The LRMP table considers Porcupine Park as low priority for management planning. This Management Direction Statement will provide direction and guidelines for managing the area for the next five years or so until a management plan is developed. Any future management plan will be developed through involvement of other agencies, stakeholders, First Nations interests and public interest groups.

C. Zoning Plan

This zoning plan as shown on the adjoining page is preliminary and reflects the intent of the LRMP recommendations for the Porcupine protected area. The zoning plan may be changed in a future management planning process. The only zone identified at this time is **Natural Environment**, covering the entire park, with the objective to protect and retain the wilderness qualities and character of the protected area.

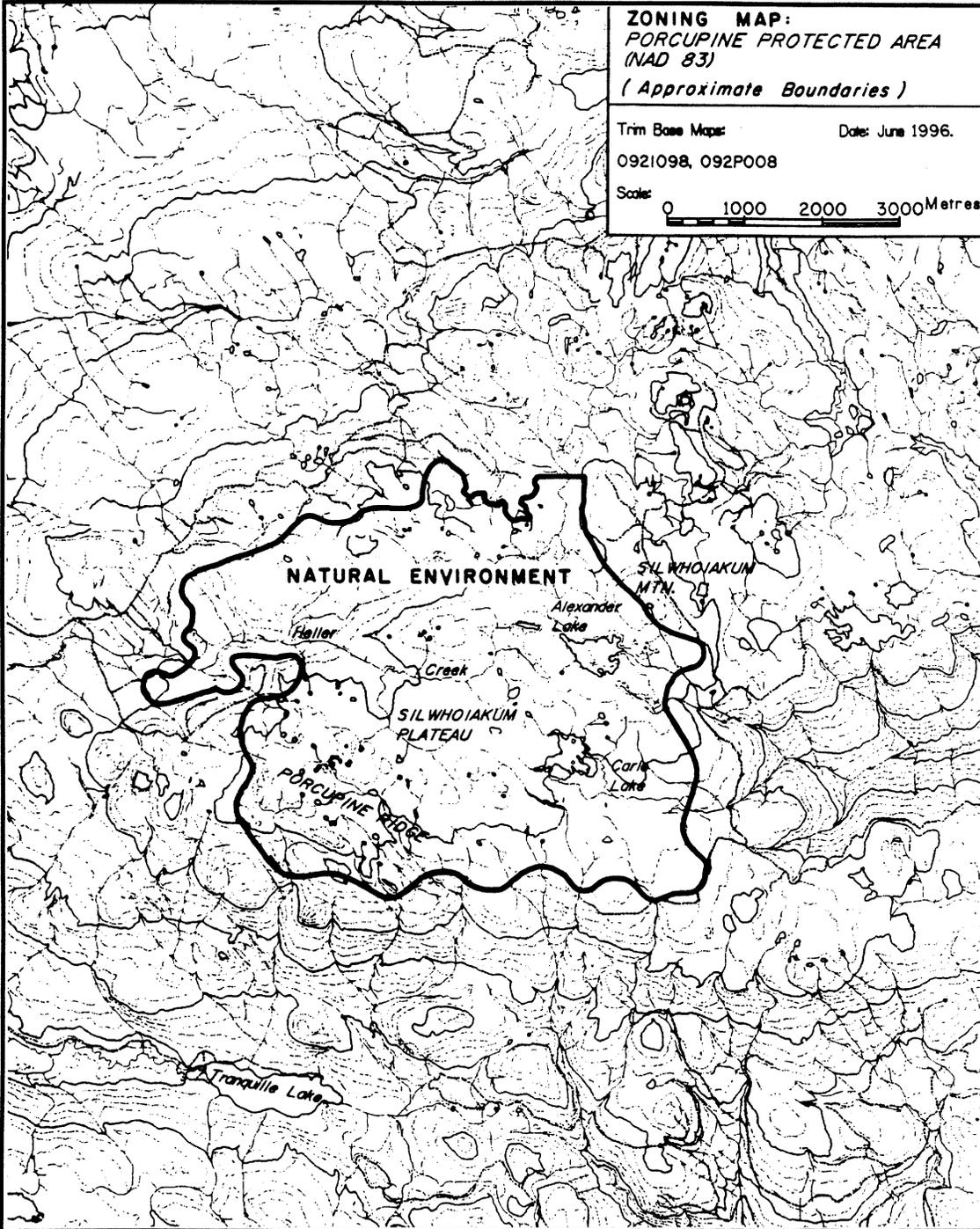
D. Management Strategies and Objectives

The following objectives will direct the short and long term management of the area:

- to maintain the natural qualities and conditions of the park
- to maintain the visual, recreational and tourism values
- to maintain the diversity of wildlife species and habitats
- to maintain the area in ungrazed (cattle) status as an ungrazed benchmark
- to discourage the introduction of non-native plant species
- to provide for continued recreation use with opportunities for hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, nature viewing, snowmobiling and other dispersed recreation activities

The more detailed management planning process will define how these strategies and objectives will be implemented. As well, there will undoubtedly be other strategies and objectives added to the list through the management planning process.

Figure 2 - Zoning Map



E. Longer Term Issues and Concerns

As a result of the LRMP process there are a number of apparent longer term issues that will be addressed in the management planning process that can be highlighted under the following broad topics:

Conservation

- vegetation management - insect and disease control and fire management; no livestock grazing.
- fisheries and wildlife management - regulation controls.

Recreation and Tourism

- access management - through co-ordination with local level planning; grazing access control; logging road access
- recreation use - appropriate activities, insuring compatibility between user groups

Culture

- inventory and protection of archaeological sites and recognition of any identified traditional First Nations uses

F. Short Term Issues and Concerns

Appendix A outlines guidelines for managing uses, activities and facilities in the park. The following provides further elaboration on some uses:

Motorized Use

- traditional snowmobiling use of the area will continue under current seasonal control
- ATV use will not be permitted

Recreation Use

- more intensive levels of management may be applied; i.e. periodic park ranger patrols

Appendix A - Activity/ Use Matrix for Porcupine Meadows Park

Activity/Use/Activity	Natural Environment Zone
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	Y ³
Guide outfitting (hunting)	Y ²
Guide outfitting (fishing)	Y ²
Guide outfitting (nature tours)	Y ²
Guide outfitting (river rafting)	N/A
Cat-assisted skiing	N/A
Ski-hills	N/A
Heli-skiing	N/A
Heli-hiking	N
Tourist infrastructure - resorts	N
Backcountry huts/lodges/ cabins	N2
Water control structures	N2
Fish stocking and enhancement	N1
Road access	N
Off-road access (snowmobiles)	Y
Off-road access (motorized)	N
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	N
Motorized water access	N
Aircraft access	N
Fire management Wildlife management Prevention & preparedness Prescribed fire management	N1
Fire management (suppression)	Y
Forest insect/disease control	Y
Noxious weed control	Y
Exotic insect/disease control	Y
Scientific research (specimen collection)	N1
Scientific research (manipulation activities)	N1

Y = allowed, subject to conditions identified in the management direction statement or management plan

N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

¹ = road access plan for this area designates open and closed roads

³ = on designated trails only

N = not allowed

N2 = not normally allowed, but if present at time of PA establishment, will normally be allowed to continue

² = by permit only

⁴ = on designated lakes only