

Stikine Country Protected Areas Newsletter Number 2

Volume 2

February 2001

Park Management Planning Process: An Ecosystem-based Approach

Management Planning is commencing for Stikine Country Protected Areas. You are urged to become involved and provide your advice. Please fill out a copy of the enclosed questionnaire and return it to the BC Parks Office in Smithers.

Protected Areas Involved

Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Park
Mt. Edziza Provincial Park
Tatlatui Provincial Park
Stikine River Provincial Park
Boya Lake Provincial Park
Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park
Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve
Ningunsaw Ecological Reserve
Newly Designated Protected Areas



"Coldfish Lake in Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Park."

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Introduction

A park management planning process is currently underway for the Stikine Country's protected area system. Through establishing objectives and strategies for conservation, recreation use and cultural heritage, park management plans guide BC Parks' strategic and operational level management. These plans are intended to create an appropriate management to ensure the long-term preservation of these special places.

To prepare park management plans for the Stikine Country protected areas, a number of steps are proposed. These are listed below along with the estimated timeframe to complete each step:

Steps:

1. Accomplish background research
2. Establish vision, identify issues and define broad management directions
Open House and Workshop events in early March, 2001
3. Propose solutions to resolve management issues for each protected area
Open Houses and Workshops events in November, 2001
4. Prepare draft protected area management plans
5. Review of draft management plans
6. Approve protected area management plans

BC Parks recognizes that public involvement is a cornerstone in providing balanced and informed park management plans. Given this, your participation in this current planning process is important. To assist the



"The Spectrum Range in Mt. Edziza Park"

Timeframe:

1. Largely completed
2. February - June, 2001
3. July – November, 2001
4. December 2001 – March, 2002
5. June 2002 - August 2002
6. September 2002 – December, 2002

planning process, a background information study has been prepared to describe conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values.

This can be viewed at:

<http://www.elp.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/protect/mgmtplns/mgmtback.htm> or obtained at the BC Parks office in Smithers at 3790 Alfred Avenue, or call (250) 847-7320).

Public open houses and workshops are scheduled to occur at the times and locations noted below. Workshops are intended for those who can participate for a full day. Open houses provide an opportunity for those people who can participate only for an hour or so and who may want to discuss specific topics with BC Parks staff.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Town:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
March 6 workshop	Dease Lake	Ministry of Forests building	8:30am – 3pm
March 6 open house	Dease Lake	Ministry of Forests building	4:00pm -- 9pm
March 8 workshop	Smithers	Aspen Motor Inn	8:30am – 3pm
March 8 open house	Smithers	Aspen Motor Inn	4:00pm – 9pm
March 9 open house	Terrace	Coast Inn of the West	4:00pm – 9pm
March 16 workshop	Vancouver	Holiday Inn (Metrotown)	8:30am – 3pm
March 16 open house	Vancouver	Holiday Inn (Metrotown)	4:00pm -- 9pm

If you are interested in attending a workshop event, please contact the BC Parks office in Smithers (250-847-7320) as soon as possible.

If you cannot make it to one of these scheduled events, a questionnaire has been provided to include your input into the planning process (please refer to page 9).

Progress to Date

A number of initiatives have occurred since circulation of the first planning process newsletter.



“Newly Designated Park at Lava Forks”

These initiatives include: ratification of the Cassiar-Iskut Stikine (CIS) Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and approval of a number of new protected areas; establishment of a Protected Areas Committee with the Tahltan First Nation; and preparation of a background information summary.

Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP Adds to Existing Protected Area System

In October 2000, the Provincial Government approved several new protected areas recommended by the LRMP. While a number of smaller protected areas were established, a major focus of the LRMP was to increase the ecological integrity of two core wilderness systems – Mt. Edziza and Spatsizi parks – by adding important low elevation forest habitat. The Stikine River Recreation Area is also being upgraded to full protection status as a Class A park.

The following table provides a brief overview highlighting the Stikine Country’s new and existing protected areas.

Protected Area	Size (ha)	Outstanding Values
Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Park • Mount Brock Addition • Metsantan Addition Gladys Lake Eco-Reserve	710,600 48,560	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together with adjacent protected areas, protects a virtually intact large mammal predator-prey system. Identified values include rare/threatened vegetation and wildlife, world class recreation values and important cultural features and sites. • Provides valuable caribou winter range habitat with the Mount Brock addition (41,870 ha) • Adds significant cultural-heritage infrastructure and history with the Metsantan addition (13,950 ha) • Provides a higher level of protection and an opportunity to study the wildlife and vegetation in the Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve.
Mount Edziza Provincial Park • Klastline Addition • Mess Creek Addition	266,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects internationally significant volcanic landforms, exceptional wilderness hiking opportunities and important cultural heritage values. • Protects an important cultural trail, south facing aspen slopes and important ungulate habitat in the Klastline addition (12,700 ha) • Protects important low elevation wildlife habitat along a wildlife migration corridor, and mineral springs with associated tufa deposits and wetlands within the Mess Creek addition (23,700 ha).
Stikine River Park(upgrade of Stikine River Recreation Area) Chukachida Protected Area Pitman River Protected Area	252,500 19,500 16,300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects an internationally significant waterway and important wildlife habitat. An addition, just north of the Stikine River, protects critical caribou wintering habitat. • Preserves a unique population of mountain goats and an uncommon dry steppe ecosystem within the Grand Canyon of the Stikine. • Provides wildlife movement corridors and associated habitats within the Pitman and Chukachida protected areas.
Tatlatui Provincial Park	105,829	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains part of the Spatsizi predator-prey complex and high fishery values and high cultural heritage and recreational values.
Ningunsaw River Park Ningunsaw River Eco-Reserve	15,000 2,046	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides valley bottom to alpine representation of an interior cedar hemlock ecosystem in the Eastern Skeena Mountains ecosection. • Contains high value grizzly habitat.
Tuya Mountains Provincial Park	18,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects an excellent example of rare tuya landforms and associated fragile alpine ecosystem.
Great Glacier Provincial Park	9,300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserves a spectacular glacier extending into a beautiful periglacial lake at valley bottom, adjacent to the Stikine River.
Craig Headwaters Protected Area	7,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects important low elevation coastal western hemlock forest and High value grizzly and fish habitat. • Spectacular scenery.
Lava Forks Provincial Park	7,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserves Canada's most recent lava flow. • Presents a unique opportunity to study primary succession in a relatively undisturbed environment.
Boya Lake Provincial Park	4,597	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a highway corridor campground. • Contains Boya Lake and important boreal white and black spruce forest.
Todayin South Slope Park	3,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserves a critical stone's sheep lambing area and winter range.
Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park	1,800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a campground and scenic lakeshore environment and protects important fishery values.
Border Lake Provincial Park	800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects highly productive lake and wetland ecosystem and important fish and grizzly habitat.
Spatsizi Headwaters Provincial Park	400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects part of the headwaters of the Spatsizi River.
Choquette Hotsprings Provincial Park	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserves uncommon plant species and important winter ungulate habitat.
Iskut River Hotsprings Provincial Park	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects unique plant communities and potential recreational values.
Total Hectares	1,489,000	

First Nations Participation

For hundreds of years, the First Nations people, who have fished its lakes and rivers, hunted animals on its open plateaus and gathered plants for food, medicine and other uses have co-evolved with the Stikine River's productive natural ecosystem. In contemporary times, the First Nations continue to maintain a special relationship with the land and its resources. In recognition and respect of this special relationship, BC Parks is committed to working with the First Nations people to establish park management plans for the Stikine Country protected areas.

Most of the Stikine Country's protected areas are located in the traditional territory of the Tahltan Nation. A number of protected areas also fall within the traditional territories of the Kaska Dene and Carrier Sekani First Nations. The latter First Nations are being contacted to determine how they wish to be involved in the planning process.

Under the terms of an agreement between BC Parks and the Tahltan Joint Councils, a Protected Areas Committee has been established. This committee will provide a valuable forum to share information, discuss issues and, if necessary, make management recommendations. The committee will have a key role in the preparation and review of management plans for the Stikine Country parks.

Background Information Summary

To help develop informed park management plans for the Stikine Country's protected areas, a background information summary is available. This summary contains information on the conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values of the protected areas system. This report can be viewed at: <http://www.elp.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/protect/mgmtplns/mgmtback.htm> or obtained at the BC Parks office in Smithers at 3790 Alfred Avenue, or call (250) 847-7320).

Overview of Conservation, Cultural Heritage and Recreation Values

British Columbia is the most geographically and biologically diverse province in Canada. Approximately 12% of BC's Crown lands are designated as protected areas. The Stikine Country's protected areas comprise approximately 1.489 million hectares of this internationally significant parks system.

The backbone of the Stikine Country's system consists of Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Park, Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve, Stikine River Park, Mt. Edziza Provincial Park and Tatlatui Provincial Park. This assemblage of connected parks, with their ecological, geological, cultural and recreational features is recognized by some to be among the "jewels in the crown" of BC's provincial parks system.

To gain a broad understanding of existing park values, the following provides a brief overview of significant natural and socio-cultural features in the Stikine Country's protected area system.

Conservation Features: One of the most significant aspects of the Stikine Country's protected areas system is the vast size of its contiguous habitat as well as the diversity and abundance of its biological features. As a system, it protects areas large enough for self-sustaining fish and wildlife populations. In fact, the Upper Stikine River is the only system in BC that fully protects all requirements for the blue-listed bull trout.



"Important wildlife values will be protected"

Habitat for six species of rare vascular plants, 11 rare plant ecosystems, 10 rare bird species and three rare/sensitive mammal species is also provided in the Stikine Country's protected areas.

Large mammal predator-prey systems occur in the Mt. Edziza and the Spatsizi complexes. The Mt. Edziza complex protects a diverse ungulate system comprised of caribou, mountain goat, Stone's sheep and moose. The Spatsizi complex is large enough to fully support a diverse large mammal predator/prey system consisting of grizzly bears, black bears, wolves, caribou, moose, Stone's sheep and mountain goat. Few such systems are protected in the world.



"Stone's Sheep in Mt. Edziza Park"

Spatsizi is also the core area of the largest population of woodland caribou in the province. The Grand Canyon of the Stikine River supports a unique, low-elevation population of mountain goats.

Exceptional geological features and landforms also exist in the Stikine Country protected area system. A rich history of volcanic activity in Mt. Edziza Park has produced special features including obsidian deposits and columnar basalt formations. This system also includes shield volcanoes with several cones and flows; deep canyons; cliffs, buttes and rimrock plateaus; hot springs and mineral springs. In fact, three of these hot springs are the only known springs in Canada that are related to recent volcanic activity.

Recreation Values: With the exception of front-country parks, the majority of recreation pursuits in the Stikine Country consist of remote, wilderness-based backcountry activities. Generally, these activities are non-motorized with a minimum of support facilities. Due to the Stikine Region's wild, navigable rivers, rolling plateaus, spectacular scenery and abundant fish and wildlife attributes, world-class recreation opportunities exist here. Activities include: hiking, hunting/trapping, fishing, horseback riding, photography, mountaineering, rafting, canoeing, kayaking, jet boating, angling and ski touring.

Cultural Values: Because of a long-term relationship between the landscape and First Nations people, a collection of identities, experiences and traditions have evolved here. While technology and cultural diffusion has altered First Nations' relationships with the area over time, the land and its resources continue to play a vital role.



"Stikine River Provincial Park"

Management Issues and Questions

The following section provides a set of questions developed to receive your feedback and advice regarding broader management direction and management issues. Short introductions preface a number of the questions on ecosystem health, human use, access and adjacent use, and front-country parks. Following this, a final question is asked about how you envision the state of the Stikine Country's protected areas to be in decades to a century from now.

Please note that questions 1-19 are intended to focus on the backcountry protected areas (e.g. Tatlatui) and questions 20-22 on front-country protected areas (e.g. Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park.)

In drafting the following statements and questions, we have referenced legislation and policy, previous interim plans, and direction from the recently completed LRMP with respect to newly established protected areas.

Ecosystem Health

To ensure the long-term viability of this system, BC Parks uses principles of ecosystem management. Incorporating a holistic, scientifically based approach to managing protected areas, ecosystem management focuses on long-term, large-scale issues to prevent or mitigate potential negative effects. Implicit within this management philosophy is the notion that humans and the environment are interconnected and need to be recognised in ecosystem planning and management.

Ecosystems are dynamic in nature. Ongoing ecological processes occur involving the physical land base and its inhabitants. In large enough areas, ecosystem-based management methods are used by BC Parks to maintain "ecosystem health". This involves managing ecosystems' structural features (e.g. wildlife, fish, vegetation, water bodies) and functional components (e.g. processes involved to sustain species and natural features).



"Great Glacier Provincial Park is one of the newest parks to be designated in Northern BC."

Broadly speaking, the Stikine Country protected areas system has been established to protect outstanding wilderness areas consisting of large, intact ecosystems.

1. Do you agree that the primary management goal is to maintain viable natural ecosystems and features including plants, animals, other organisms and the natural processes that affect them?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please comment if you disagree or feel there are specific protected areas, or parts thereof, where this should not apply:

To support the maintenance of natural ecosystems—including native wildlife populations, their habitat and the ecological processes that affect them—BC Parks’ conservation policy allows for both direct and indirect management actions.

Direct management involves undertaking projects, which mimic natural processes and/or maintain ecosystem health. Direct management actions may include:

- fall and burn or prescribed burns for forest insect infestation controls
- prescribed fire for maintenance of critical wildlife habitat
- mechanical, chemical or biological controls. or removal of noxious weeds
- prescribed fire for removal of blowdown accumulations
- fire suppression, prescribed burning or wildlife transplants for the maintenance of rare or endangered species

Indirect management is focused on monitoring and regulatory controls. Indirect management actions include:

- wildlife and vegetation inventories and monitoring
- hunter harvest surveys
- monitoring insect infestations but allowing infestations to progress naturally
- closures of areas to consumptive and or recreational activities to rehabilitate vegetation,
- fish and wildlife transplants for the maintenance of rare or endangered species

2. Do you agree that direct management of vegetation and wildlife populations should be considered only in exceptional circumstances? (i.e. population or species at risk; risk to important values)?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments:

3. Do you agree that indirect management should be used as the main management method in this protected area system?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments:

Despite the significance of the Stikine Country's protected areas system, there is little information on vegetation (rare plants and plant associations), terrestrial ecosystems, non-harvested fish and wildlife species, recreation use and cultural heritage values. In addition, there is a lack of current inventory information for harvested species.

4. Do you agree that obtaining natural and cultural heritage inventories and research is a high priority?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

5. Please indicate which areas of inventory and research are of highest priority to you by numbering the following (rank 1 – 7).

- _____ Vegetation including rare and endangered flora
- _____ Terrestrial ecosystem inventories
- _____ Harvested fish and wildlife
- _____ Non-harvested fish and wildlife
- _____ Backcountry recreation use and activity-specific goals
- _____ Cultural heritage
- _____ Other (specify)

6. Aboriginal rights (e.g. hunting, fishing, sustenance use) are protected by law. BC Parks seeks to facilitate traditional use activities by First Nations while maintaining conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values.

Do you agree that the following cultural heritage goals should be the primary ones?

- a) to facilitate traditional uses by First Nations as an integral component of the ecosystem and**
- b) to protect cultural heritage values such as sites, trails, etc.**

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

B. Recreation Use

A guiding principle of BC Parks is to ensure that recreation activities, facilities and services are compatible with the long-term protection of conservation and cultural heritage values. Within the Stikine Country’s protected areas, human use is a long-standing component. While BC Parks strives to facilitate quality backcountry recreation opportunities, concern exists that these activities could in some places be diminishing the very wilderness attributes being sought. At the same time, interest in increasing the economic and employment benefits from these protected areas also exists.

- 1. Do you agree that the primary backcountry goal is to provide high quality wilderness recreation opportunities?**

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments: _____

- 2. Do you agree that recreation use must be compatible with and not damage conservation, and cultural heritage values?**

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Generally, what type of activities do you think are appropriate in backcountry areas of the Stikine Country protected area system?
(Please check only those that you think apply).

- _____ hiking
- _____ nature appreciation
- _____ hunting
- _____ trapping
- _____ fishing
- _____ horseback riding
- _____ photography
- _____ mountaineering
- _____ rafting
- _____ canoeing
- _____ kayaking
- _____ jet boating/motorboating
- _____ angling
- _____ aircraft access
- _____ snowmobiling
- _____ ski touring
- _____ research
- _____ others (specify)

Comments: _____

Overall, current backcountry recreation use levels are relatively low; although concentrated use does occur in certain areas (i.e. popular campsites, trails)

The Stikine Country protected area system plays an important role in the tourism sector. Benefits are local, regional and provincial. Interest has been expressed during the recent Cassiar Iskut Stikine LRMP and in other forums in increasing economic and employment benefits, particularly for local communities.

9. Do you agree that there are opportunities to increase use in the protected area system and provide economic and employment benefits without compromising conservation and cultural heritage values or existing recreation uses?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please note the types of activities and locations where these opportunities may exist:

Hunting and fishing use are historic and accepted activities in the Stikine Country protected area system (outside ecological reserves). Trapping is likewise a historic use and will continue unless tenure holders voluntarily sell licenses to BC Parks. BC Parks conservation policy states that consumptive use of park resources may be allowed if conservation and recreation values are not compromised. Due to the higher emphasis on the conservation mandate for parks, however, allowable harvest levels of all wildlife (including fish) is generally more conservative in parks than in adjacent areas.

10. Do you agree that if unacceptable population impacts occur, management strategies should be employed to lessen the impacts?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please note any species or locations where you feel management strategies should be considered.

11. Do you agree that target for levels of use should be established to maintain a high quality wilderness experience if levels of use in certain locations (i.e. popular fishing sites) result in a diminished wilderness experience?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please note any areas/activities where you feel target levels should be considered now or in the foreseeable future.

12. Do you agree that recreation-based impacts on conservation and/or cultural heritage values should be monitored closely and where unacceptable impacts occur, management strategies should be employed (i.e. limit use levels, types of access, harden campsites, etc.) to lessen impacts?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

In your opinion are there any types of uses or areas where unacceptable impacts are occurring or are likely to occur?

Other than Coldfish Lake camp in Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Park, public facilities (i.e. cabins, wharves, pit toilets, bear caches, rustic campsites, etc.) are limited in the Stikine Country protected area system. There are approximately seven locations where these types of public facilities exist.

Commercial facilities (cabins, tent frames, cookhouses, corrals, shower buildings, bear caches, wharves etc.) are more abundant and are generally associated with guiding operations. In addition to Hyland Post (private property), there are approximately 25 separate locations where these commercial facilities exist mostly centred in Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Park and Tatlatui Provincial Park.

While there is interest in improving both public and commercial infrastructure, there is also concern that the current level of infrastructure may not be consistent with maintaining a 'wilderness' protected area system.

13. Given broader conservation, cultural heritage and recreation goals,

a) Do you agree that the current level and condition of public infrastructure is generally appropriate?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please note the type and location of public infrastructure you feel should be either improved or removed.

b) Do you agree that the current level and condition of commercial infrastructure is generally appropriate?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please note the type and location of commercial infrastructure you feel should either be improved or removed.

14. Historically, a number of unauthorized temporary structures have been placed in certain protected areas and refuse has accumulated near a few camps (unauthorized structures do not include those structures required for First Nations to exercise aboriginal rights). Do you agree that a priority should be placed on removing unauthorized structures and the clean up of refuse where this exists?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Can you identify any sites that needs clean up or removal of structures?

15. Do you agree that, in addition to ecological reserves, recreation use should be discouraged in sensitive and certain special areas (e.g. critical habitat for species at risk and other native flora or fauna, cultural sites)?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments:

C. Access and Adjacent Land Use

For wildlife and ecological processes, the boundary between protected areas and other crown lands is arbitrary. With an interest in managing whole ecosystems, BC Parks is also concerned about any out-of-park activities that may damage particular species or processes.

Currently, access to the Stikine Country's protected areas occurs by foot, horseback, vehicle, jetboat, fixed-wing aircraft, and helicopter. Air access is most common. Determining the type and level of access is a challenging task, since the provision of access routes enhances human use and enjoyment, however, it can also place significant pressures on fish and wildlife species in the park and other sensitive natural attributes.

16. Do you agree that the current level of access to the Stikine Country's protected areas is generally appropriate?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

If not, please identify the type and location of access you feel should be enhanced or restricted.

The Cassier Iskut Stikine LRMP recommended that, for new protected areas, strategic planning and management should be coordinated between protected areas and the adjacent land base.

17. Do you agree that strategic planning should be coordinated between protected areas and the adjacent land base across the entire Stikine Country protected area system? (i.e. logging, mineral exploration and development, access, insect management, fire control etc.)

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments:

18. Do you agree that motorized access, including aircraft, should be managed carefully and restricted if necessary to protect park values and wilderness experience?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please comment with any specific activity type or location of specific interest or concern:

Currently, a number of resource development roads exist near protected areas' boundaries. These include:

- Willow Creek Forest Service Road on the eastern edge of Mt. Edziza Park;
- Omineca Mine road on the eastern side of Tatlatui Park;
- Jade Road on the north side of the Stikine River Park; and
- BCR line on the southwestern side of Spatsizi Park.

19. Given this, do you agree that BC Parks should work with other relevant Provincial Agencies to manage road access?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please comment about any specific access road or other detail:

D. Front-country Parks

Front-country Parks include Kinaskan Lake, Boya Lake and Stikine River Park (at Highway 37 bridge). Kinaskan Lake Park features a 50-unit campground, boat launch and two short trails. Boya Lake Park features a 45-unit campground, boat launch, two walking trails and a mountain biking trail.

While most of the Stikine River Park is remote, it has an information shelter and rustic boat launch off Highway 37 and a viewpoint trail off Telegraph Creek road. While, the primary purpose of front-country parks is to provide accessible camping and recreation areas, these parks also feature important ecological values.

20. Do you agree that front-country facilities are generally adequate in the Stikine Country protected area system?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please note the type and location of any front-country facility you feel should be enhanced or removed:

21. Do you agree that there may be opportunities to improve the visitor quality experience in front-country Parks?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please note examples of things that you think can be done to improve the visitor quality experience. (E.g., promote day hikes, encourage other activities.)

22. Do you agree that recreational use in front-country parks should be monitored to avoid unintended negative impacts on conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values?

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Are you aware of any areas where negative impacts are currently occurring or are likely occur?

E. Developing a Long-Term Vision

Vision statements establish what we, as a society, want to see for our protected area system over the next decades and century. These broad goals guide BC Parks' management of each protected area. BC Parks is seeking your vision for the Stikine Country's protected area system.

An example of a vision statement that describes the future state of the protected area system might be:

“Front-country protected areas provide quality visitor experiences that encourage tourists along Highway 37 to stay longer and visit other protected areas and attractions in Northwest BC.”

Please provide us with your “visions” for the Stikine Country protected area system say 50 years from now. The following are suggested topic areas, but feel free to provide your vision in any area of interest.

- Wildlife, fish populations
- Wilderness values
- Rare and endangered species
- First Nations traditional uses
- Appreciation and understanding of the protected area system
- Role of protected area system in the economy
- Natural/healthy ecosystems
- Vegetation
- Recreation opportunities/experiences
- Commercial operations and facilities
- Public use opportunities and facilities
- Inventory and research
- Roles of communities, First Nations, stakeholders, park users in protected area management
- Remoteness/Accessibility
- Levels of use
- Predator prey systems

Please outline your Vision Statements on the attached page.

Thank you for taking the time to contribute your input and support towards this management planning process. Completed questionnaires should be returned to the following address no later than Monday, April 16, 2001.

Mail questionnaires
And/or comments to:

Peter Levy, Senior Park Planner
BC Parks, Skeena District
BAG 5000, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
Phone: (250) 847-7320

Your Vision Statement:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

