



Stikine Country Protected Areas Newsletter Number 1

Volume 1

February 2000

**Management Planning is commencing for Stikine Country Protected Areas
You are urged to become involved and provide your advice.**

Skeena District Parks Involved

**Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Park
Mt. Edziza Provincial Park
Tatlatui Provincial Park
Stikine River Recreation Area
Mt. Edziza Recreation Area
Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park
Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve**



"The Stikine River Recreation Area near Highway 37."

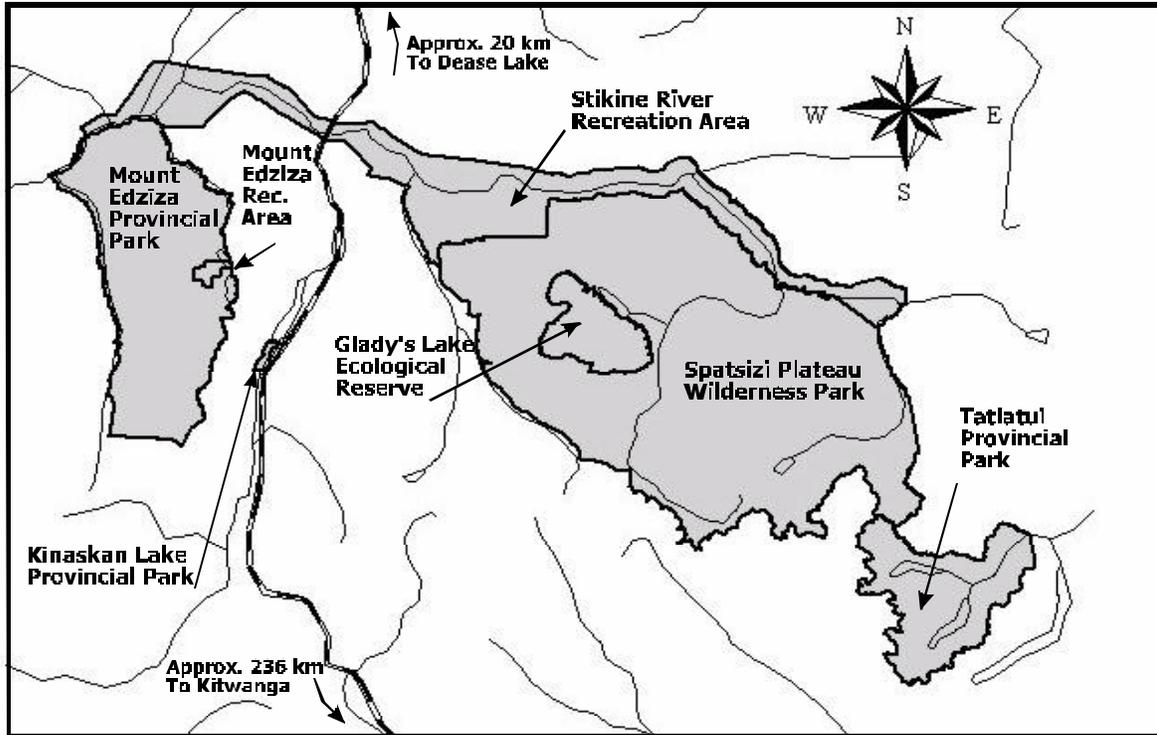
Background

Stikine Country contains some of the most outstanding protected areas in British Columbia. They lie within the traditional territory of the Tahltan First Nations.

Each of these protected areas is important in its own right, and together they protect provincial and international values for future generations. These include:

- ↪ largely intact predator/prey ecosystems
- ↪ provincially important populations of caribou, mountain sheep, mountain goats, grizzly bears and wolf
- ↪ spectacular mountain, plateau, river and volcanic landscapes
- ↪ important archaeological sites, cultural and heritage values and activities of the Tahltan First Nations
- ↪ internationally significant wilderness recreation and tourism activities such as nature appreciation, rafting, canoeing, hiking, hunting, angling and horseback riding

Planning is proposed to begin shortly and to be completed by the fall of 2001. A systems approach to planning is being undertaken in recognition of the ecosystem connectivity and related issues among this group of protected areas.



Plan Purpose

What is a Protected Areas Management Plan?

A Protected Area Management Plan provides strategic management direction on the future of protected areas. The plan will:

- ✓ describe in detail park values and establish a vision statement for the protected areas 20 to 100 years and beyond
- ✓ outline the purpose and roles of the protected areas within the BC protected area system
- ✓ identify management issues that need to be addressed
- ✓ establish management objectives and strategies to deal with each management issue
- ✓ define a zoning strategy for each protected area that describes management prescriptions for the use, development and management of the protected area.

Planning Process

What process will be followed?

Involvement of local committees, the Tahltan First Nations, the public and provincial organizations and agencies will be a priority of the planning process. While the details of the process are yet to be developed, interested parties will have ample opportunity to become involved over a 1.5 to 2 year period by attending open houses, responding

to questionnaires, and reviewing newsletters and other draft material.

The publication of this newsletter officially launches the development of the Management planning project for the Stikine Country protected areas.



How will First Nations be involved?

BC Parks will look to the Tahltan Joint Council to decide how it wishes to be involved in the planning process. Active involvement and support of the Tahltan First Nations will be critical to the success of the Management Plan.

Work is underway to establish a government to government relationship between the Tahltan First Nations and BC Parks regarding the planning, management and operation of protected areas within the Tahltan traditional territory.

One option is to establish a joint BC Parks/Tahltan Park Committee. This committee would serve as a forum for discussion of a wide range of issues, including protected area plans. It would also provide for BC Parks to appoint several other community or stakeholder people with an interest in protected area management.



“Eve Cone in Mount Edziza Provincial Park”

Management Issues

What Issues will be dealt with?

Management issues will be fully canvassed during the initial phases of the planning process. A preliminary list of issues includes:

- 📁 protection and management of fish and wildlife populations
- 📁 facility, trail and structures management
- 📁 type and extent of recreation and commercial opportunities
- 📁 protection and management of cultural heritage values and archaeological sites
- 📁 motorized and non motorized access
- 📁 future plans for use by the Tahltan and other First Nations for sustenance, spiritual, cultural, commercial and other activities
- 📁 coordination with management of adjacent land and access into the protected areas
- 📁 relationships of recreation and tourism in the protected areas to the local and regional economies
- 📁 permitted uses
- 📁 access and use by local communities

LRMP & Legacy Processes

Will the current Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) affect the Stikine Country Protected Areas Management Plan?

The short answer is yes for new protected areas and additions to existing protected areas. Existing protected areas are not affected.

The Cassiar Iskut Stikine LRMP will recommend to the Province whether the Stikine Recreation Area and the Mt. Edziza Recreation Area will be upgraded to full park status or not. As well, the LRMP table is considering other additions to Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness and Mt Edziza Parks. The plan area for the Stikine Country protected areas will be adjusted as soon as is practical to incorporate the LRMP recommendations. For the recreation areas and the other park additions,

the LRMP table will likely make recommendations on objectives and uses. These objectives and uses will be implemented and refined by the park management planning process. For existing Stikine Country parks, BC Parks will rely on advice received in this planning process, existing plans and other relevant information. In addition, legislation, regulations and policy to guide development of the management plan.



Will the recommendations of the Parks Legacy Panel affect how the Stikine Country protected areas are planned and managed?

In all probability, yes.

The Legacy Panel submitted wide ranging recommendations about sustaining British Columbia's protected areas system to the Provincial Government in February 1999. The recommendations deal with a vision for BC's protected areas system, strengthening the way protected areas are governed, providing adequate resources to support the system, enhancing planning, management and public education in protected areas and implications for legislation.

The panel's recommendations are being actively considered in the review of legislation, regulations and policies affecting protected areas. One example is the panel's recommendation for the focus on ecological integrity, where the preservation of nature is paramount in the acquisition, planning and management of the protected area system. This principle, if adopted by government, would set the maintenance of ecological integrity as the fundamental goal of ecosystem-based management and affect human use considerations.



"The Grand Canyon of the Stikine – Stikine River Rec.Area"

What's next?

This newsletter will be made available to local committees and other interested parties. Over the next several months BC Parks will be starting the planning process and organizing a wide range of background information.

If you have any thoughts on how you would like to be involved in preparing the Stikine Country Protected Areas Management Plan, please let us know.

Contact
Peter Levy - Senior Planner
BC Parks Skeena District
Bag 5000
Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0
Telephone (250) 847-7320

Hugh Markides
District Manager