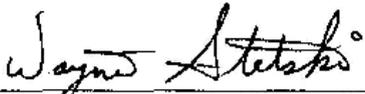


WHITESWAN LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

February 2003

Approved by:



Wayne Stetski
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: 13-02-03



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: 25-02-03

WHITESWAN LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Whiteswan Lake Provincial Park is to protect an under-represented remnant forest ecosystem.

Almost one third of the Southern Park Ranges Ecosection is included in the national and provincial parks systems. While the role of Whiteswan Lake Provincial Park in protecting representation of the ecosection is minor, it has a significant role in protecting an example of an under-represented forest ecosystem.

In addition, cultural heritage values are significant in the park. Whiteswan Lake was used intensively by the Ktunaxa and Kinbasket people because of its important geographical location. Not only did the lake served as a marshalling point for journey to the Elk Valley and the prairies, but also as a staging area for religious and social events. Numerous archeological and traditional use sites remain in the park and are a great source of pride to modern day Ktunaxa.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to maintain holiday destination outdoor recreational opportunities oriented to a forested mountain lake setting and to protect the Lussier Hotsprings.

Whiteswan Lake has historically been the focal point for fishers in the East Kootenays. The highly productive lake and easy access combined with year round use has made the park one of the best lake fishing destinations in the province. The park also protects an important special recreational feature; an easily accessible natural hot spring.

The Lussier Hotsprings is a minimally developed year round attraction that contributes to the destination status of the park. Although there are other opportunities available in the area at commercial hot springs, the experience at the Lussier Hotsprings is unique in the high degree of naturalness of the surroundings. The Lussier Hotspring's proximity to the Ram Creek Ecological Reserve serves as a recommended alternative to public use of the ecological reserve's hotpools. Management direction for the ecological reserve has prioritized removing recreational bathing because of impacts directly related to loss of biodiversity and protection of species at risk.

Known Management Issues	Response
Forest health diseases.	Forest health plan developed for Home Basin and Moose Lake campgrounds. Recommendations included conducting periodic assessments and undertaking appropriate action. Follow up required of original plan. Wildlife hazard tree program ongoing.

Known Management Issues	Response
Bear use of prime habitat in park presents a safety hazard when bears become habituated to people and conditioned to unnatural foods.	Bear emergency plan requires updating and implementation.
No species at risk inventory information	Assessment and overview of endangered species required to determine probability and abundance.
First Nations interest for ceremonial use and protection of cultural heritage values.	Meet with First Nations to determine details of interests

Zoning

Intensive Recreation (approximately 26 ha or 1% of the park)

Objective: To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural Environment (approximately 1,968 hectares or 99% of the park)

Objectives: To protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

- Representation
- ecosection Minimal contribution to the very well represented Southern Park Ranges Ecosection (31.18%).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Provides the second greatest extent of representation of the MS dk subzone/variant; contains the highest representation of MS dk (3.5%) in the Southern Park Ranges Ecosection.
- Special Feature Easy access natural hot spring extensively used by the public.
- Rare/Endangered Values Grizzly bears (BC Status: blue; COSEWIC status: special concern) and bighorn sheep (BC status: blue).
- Scientific/Research Opportunities Not applicable.

Recreation

- Representation
backcountry Not applicable.
- destination Provincially significant angling.
- travel corridor Not applicable.
- local recreation Residents use hot springs and fish.
- Special Opportunities Hot springs bathing in an accessible, natural setting.
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities Not applicable.

Cultural Heritage

- Representation Not yet assessed.
- Special Feature Significant First Nation values and resources.

Other Management Considerations

- Other Designations Not applicable.
- Relationship to other PAs Helps offset use of Ram Creek ER hot springs by accommodating public use through easy access.

Co-operative Management
Arrangements

Not applicable .

Partnerships

Not applicable .

Vulnerability

Forests pest and disease, grizzly bear human conflicts and fisheries impacts from adjacent logging, CRA ranking is medium risk.

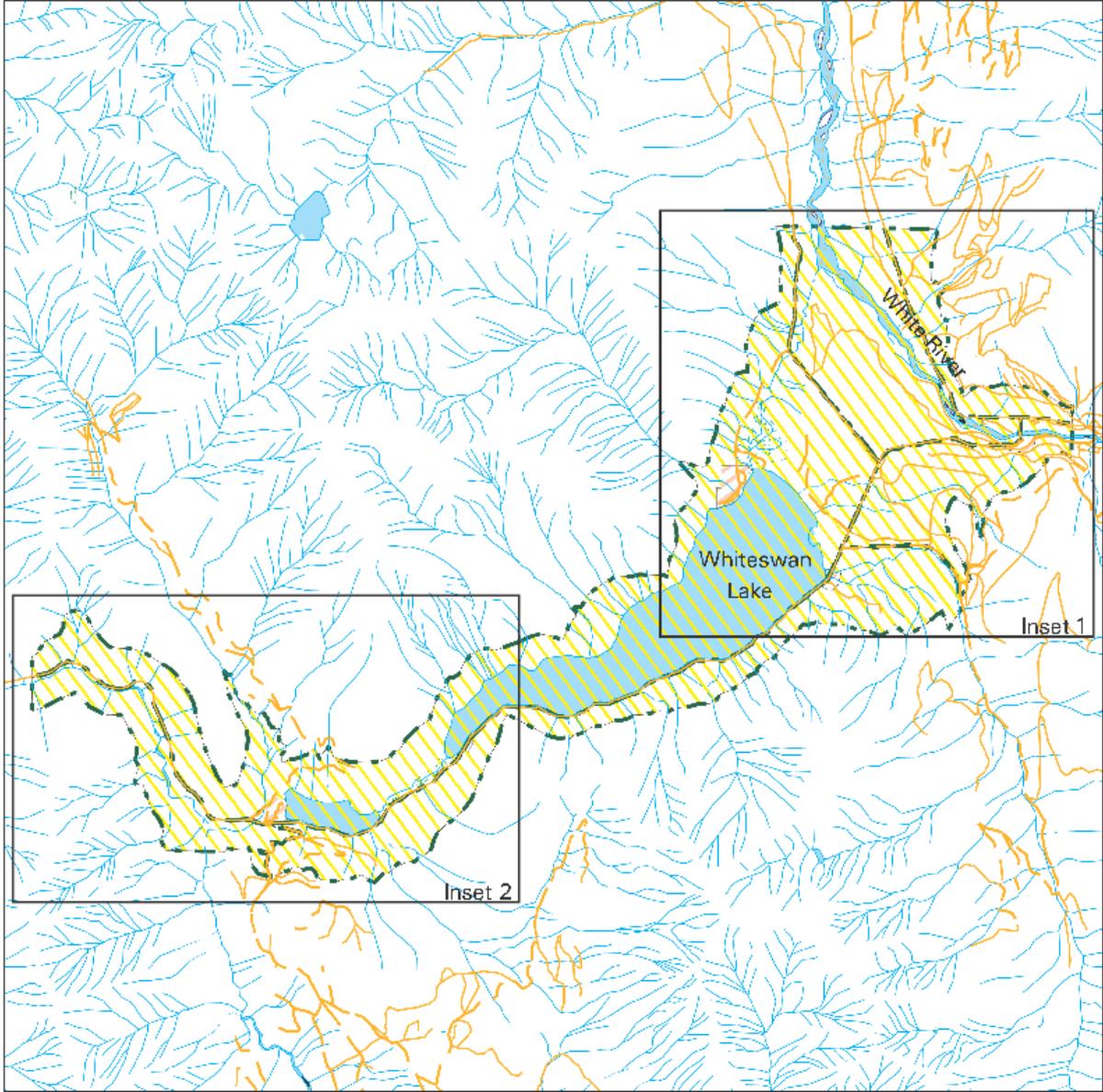
Relationship to other Strategies

Not applicable .

Area: 1,994 hectares

Date of establishment: August 2, 1978

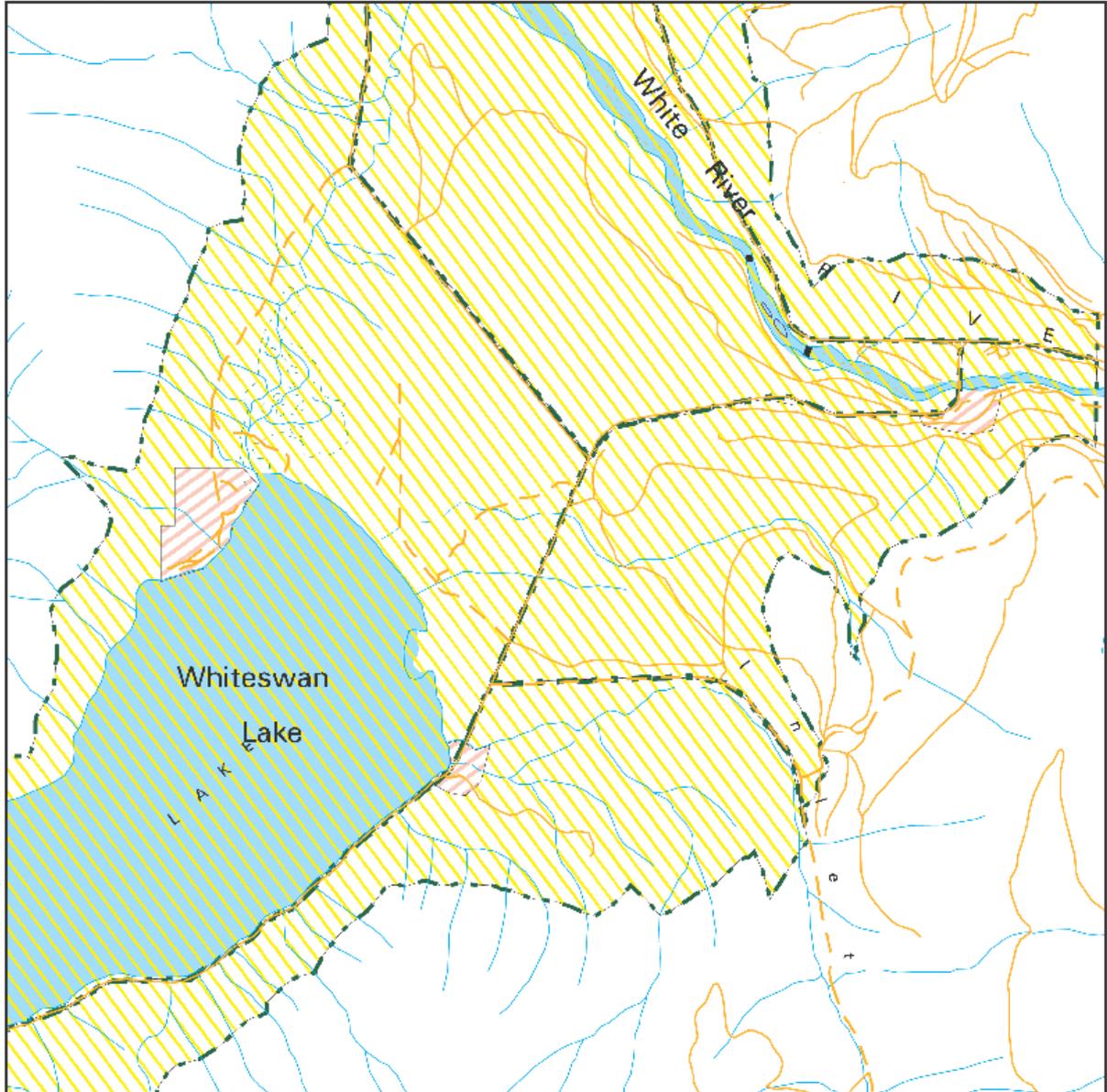
Zoning Map - Whiteswan Lake Provincial Park



<p>Projection: Allvers Equal Areas Datum: NAD83</p>	<p> Intensive Recreation  Natural Environment  Protected Area Boundary</p>	<p>0 2  km</p>
<p>Produced in Oct 2003 for Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection by MSR, Decision Support Services</p>	<p>This is a visual representation only and should not be used for legal purposes.</p>	

Zoning Map - Whiteswan Lake Provincial Park

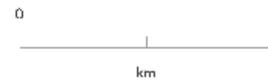
Inset 1



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



-  Intensive Recreation
-  Natural Environment
-  Protected Area Boundary

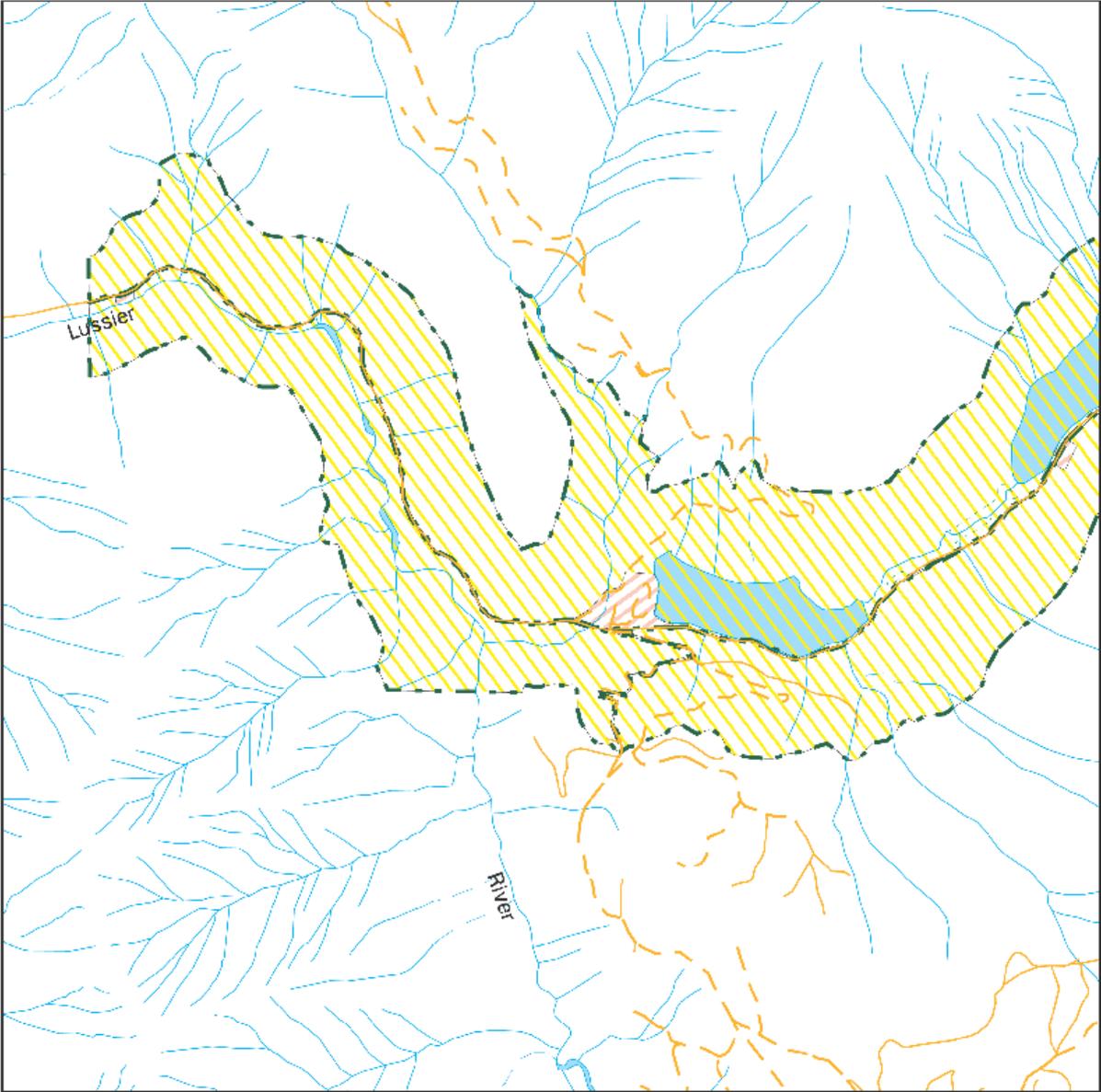


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Zoning Map - Whiteswan Lake Provincial Park

Inset 2



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



 Intensive Recreation
 Natural Environment
 Protected Area Boundary

0 1
km

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