Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area

Management Plan

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Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area Management Plan

Approved by:

May 7th, 2010

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Scott Benton — Date
Executive Director
Parks and Protected Areas Division

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Chief Mutt (Bill Naziel) on behalf of Chief Kweese (vacant) — Date
Djakanyex (House)
Tsayu (Clan)
Wet'suwet'en Territory

_____ _____

Dan Michell (*Wigetimstachol*) — Date
President of the Office of the Wet'suwet'en Treaty Society

Acknowledgements

The development of the Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area Management Plan was a joint initiative between the Ministry of Environment, Parks and Protected Areas Division, and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en. Brandin Schultz coordinated the planning process for the Ministry of Environment, with the assistance of Mike Neto, Rick Heinrichs and Scott McMillan, whom represented the Ministry of Environment on the management planning team. Francois Depey and David Dewit represented the interests of the Office of the Wet'suwet'en on the management planning team, and gathered and summarized cultural knowledge and information from members of the Wet'suwet'en Nation with the assistance of Karen Plasway. Deborah Cichowski of Caribou Ecological Consulting and Adrian de Groot of Drosera Ecological Consulting assisted in community consultation, and drafted and revised the management plan based on direction from the management planning team. Johann Pfalz of Eclipse GIS produced the maps in the management plan.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This management plan:

- establishes long-term strategic direction for Burnie-Shea Park[1] and Burnie River Protected Area;
- sets out a vision for the future state of the areas;
- addresses current issues affecting that long-term vision; and,
- guides day-to-day park management.

1.2 Planning Area

The 34,536 hectare Burnie-Shea Park and the 2,345 hectare Burnie River Protected Area are located in west-central British Columbia, approximately 50 km west of Houston (Figure 1).

Burnie-Shea Park was established in 2008 as per recommendations resulting from the Morice Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), and associated government-to-government discussions with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en. Burnie River Protected Area was established in 2009. This protected area was designated differently from Burnie-Shea Park because it protects the southern tip of the Burnie River watershed while providing allowances for the possibility of two linear pipeline corridors to traverse the area.

Five other nearby parks designated in 2008 include: Atna River Park 15 km to the south, Morice Lake Park 20 km to the southeast, Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park 30 km to the southeast, Nadina Mountain Park 40 km to the southeast and Old Man Lake Park 75 km to the east. These moderate to large backcountry parks were established to increase representation of regionally significant ecosystems, to provide opportunities for unroaded wilderness recreation, and to protect cultural heritage resources[2].

Other nearby protected areas include: Morice River Ecological Reserve 40 km to the east, Topley Landing and Red Bluff parks 100 km to the northeast, Babine Mountains Park 60 km to the northeast, Uncha Mountains Red Hills Park 100 km to the southeast, and Tweedsmuir Park 80 km to the southeast.

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[1] The legislated name of the park is Tazdli Wyiez Bin/Burnie-Shea Park. Because the Office of the Wet'suwet'en was not involved in choosing the legal name for the park, BC Parks and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en have agreed to work together to develop and recommend a new legal name for the park (see page 20). In recognition of the proposed change to the legal name, in this management plan the park will be referred to only as Burnie-Shea Park.

[2] Cultural heritage resources, as defined by the Wet'suwet'en, include cultural heritage features and sites such as culturally modified trees, cultural depressions, symbolic markers, artefacts, gravesites, home places, gathering places and traditional use sites (e.g., for fishing, hunting, tool manufacturing, food processing, etc.).

Burnie-Shea Park and the Burnie River Protected Area include the Burnie River, Burnie Lakes, and Shea Lake, and most of the area surrounding the lakes to the height of land (Figure 2). The park and protected area protect mountain peaks rising to 2,759 meters on the western side, rolling mountain terrain on the east side, and a deep U-shaped valley. Forests are primarily subalpine fir at higher elevations and lodgepole pine at lower elevations in the Shea Lake area, with patches of whitebark pine in the area northeast of Burnie Lake. The park and protected area contain avalanche tracts, numerous wet meadows and fens, and important Grizzly Bear, Mountain Goat and Caribou habitat. Burnie-Shea Park and the Burnie River Protected Area lie partly within the Telkwa Caribou Herd Recovery Area, which includes currently used habitat, and areas important for Caribou recovery. Burnie Lakes support populations of Kokanee and Mountain Whitefish, but cold conditions limit productivity.

Within the Wet'suwet'en territory, the park lies in the Talhdzi Wiyez Bin house territory in the house of Djakanyex ("Beaver House") that belongs to the Tsayu (Beaver) clan (Figure 3). (See Section 1.7 for a description of the Wet'suwet'en clan and house system.) A long history of First Nations use is evidenced by numerous trails and a traditional cabin at Shea Lake. First Nations continue to use this area to educate future generations. The Burnie Lake area was used before a feast following the death of a clan member. Talhdzi Wiyez (Burnie Lake) used to have a house on its shores belonging to Mooseskin Johnny. There is a Wet'suwet'en cabin on Shea Lake.

Access to the park is by helicopter during winter, and by helicopter and via floatplane on Burnie Lakes in summer. Recreational activities include skiing, hiking, mountaineering, hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing. Snowmobiling is permitted one weekend each year in the northern part of the park. A tenured backcountry recreation operator provides guided recreation opportunities based out of a chalet near North Burnie Lake.

Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area lie within the Morice Timber Supply Area of the Nadina Forest District. The Kalum Forest District lies adjacent to the west; this portion of the Kalum Forest District is an Identified Grizzly Watershed Unit with constraints on forest harvesting to allow for adequate levels of berry feeding and natural levels of forage supply. The areas adjacent to the north and southeast are in the Starr Creek and Herd Dome No Timber Harvesting Areas, and the area to the east is under general management direction (Morice LRMP 2007).

A natural gas pipeline project, which is proposed to traverse the Burnie River Protected Area, was approved for an Environmental Assessment Certificate by the BC Government in 2008, but at the time this management plan was approved, the project had not yet received federal approval. A second project entails developing two parallel pipelines through the Burnie River Protected Area - one that imports condensate to Alberta, the other that exports petroleum to Kitimat - and at the time this management plan was approved the project was in the pre-application phase with the Environmental Assessment Office. These two known pipeline proposals are the only two pipeline proposals that will be considered in

the Burnie River Protected Area. The Wet'suwet'en Nation though, do not support establishment of these pipelines through their traditional territory.

A detailed account of available information for Burnie-Shea Park and the Burnie River Protected Area can be found in the Morice Protected Areas Background Report (Ronalds and Jaward 2008). This background report is available on the BC Parks website.

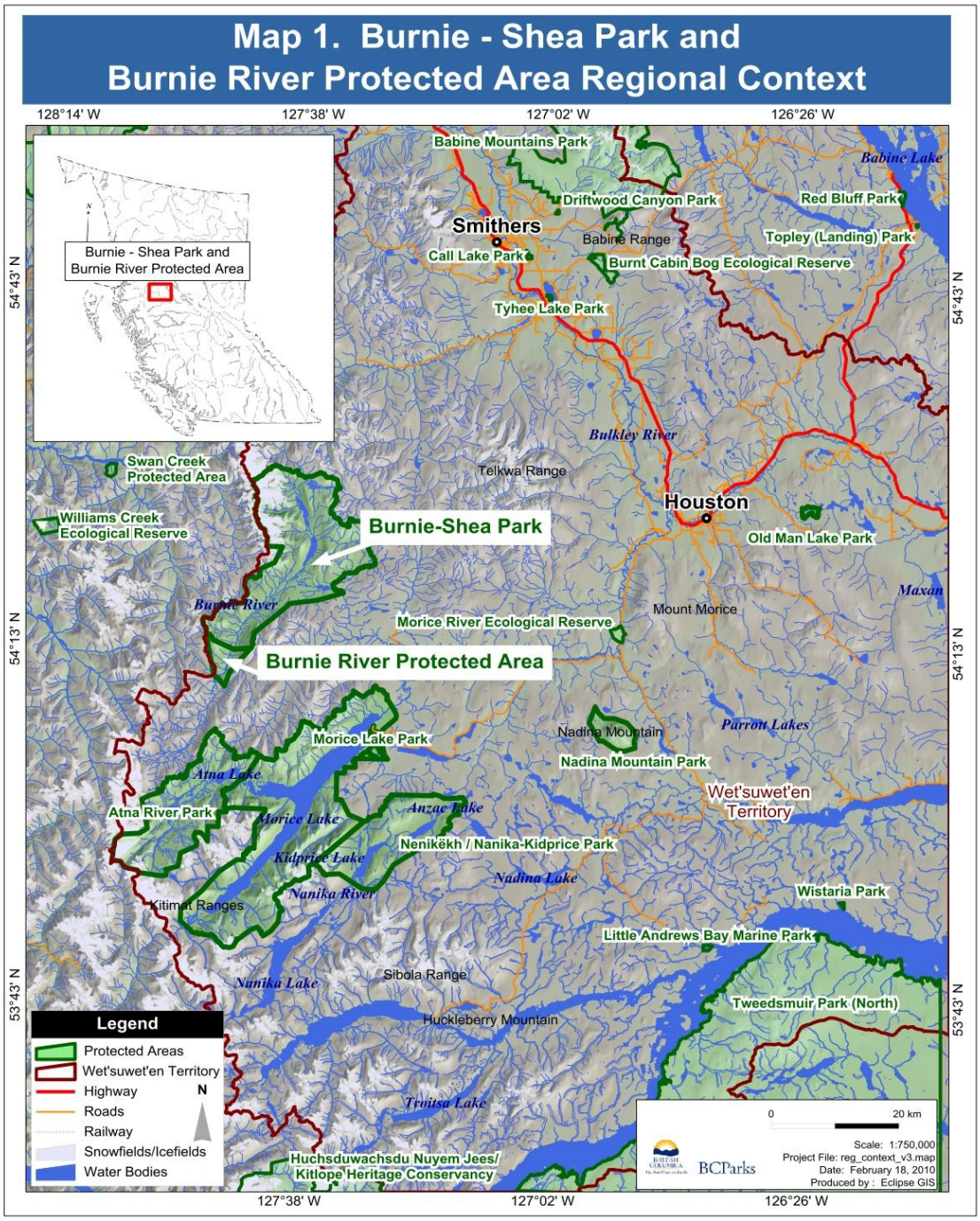

Figure 1: Map 1 – Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area Regional Context

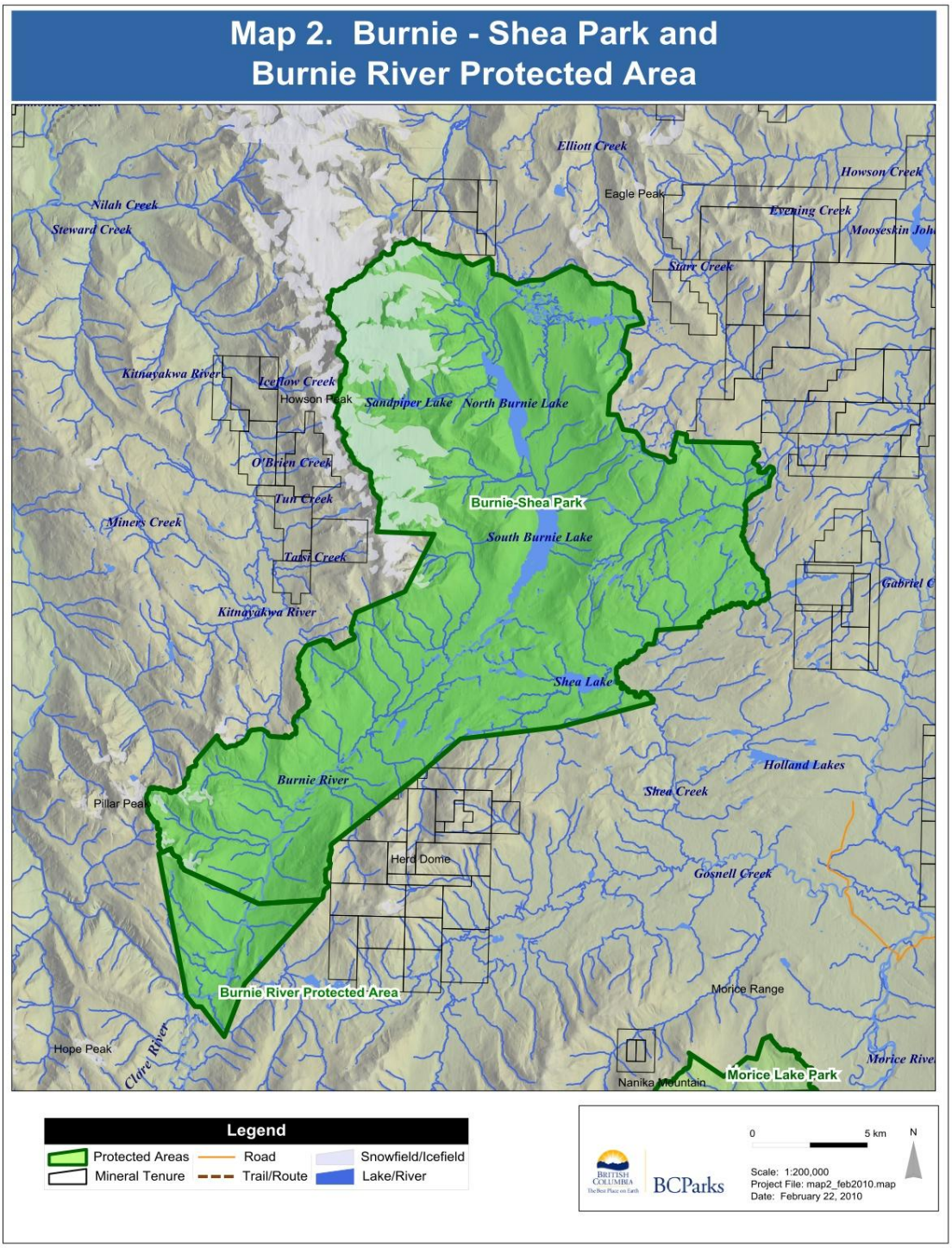

Figure 2: Map 2 – Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area

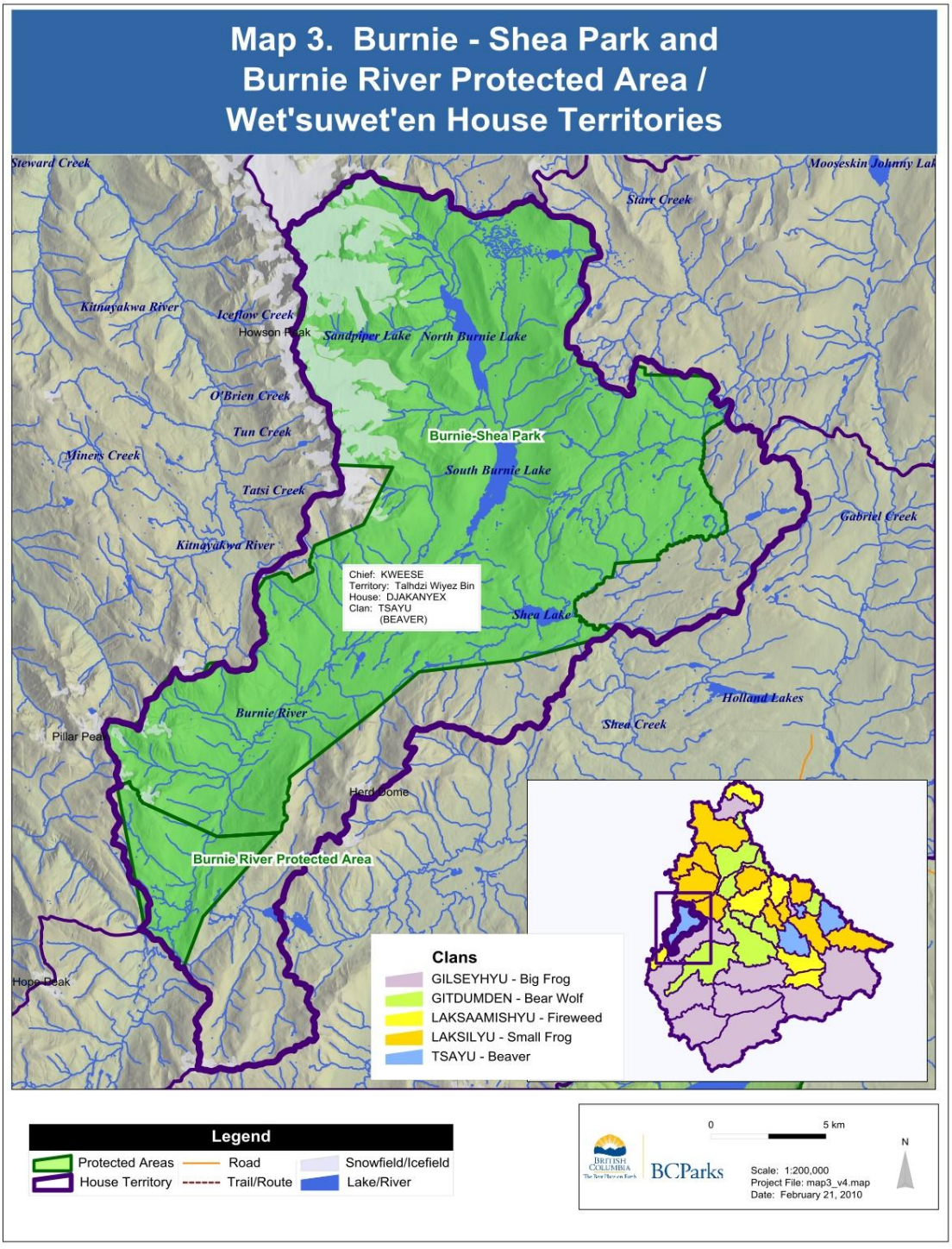

Figure 3: Map 3 – Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area/Wet'suwet'en House Territories

1.3 Legislative Framework

Burnie-Shea Park was established as a "Class A" park in May 2008 by the *Protected Areas of British Columbia (Conservancies and Parks) Amendment Act, 2008*. The park is named and described in Schedule D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*. Burnie River Protected Area was established as a protected area in February 2009 by an Order in Council under the *Environment and Land Use Act*.

Management and development of the park and protected area are directed by the *Park Act*. Section 8 of the *Park Act* directs that any interest in land in a park must be authorized by a park use permit. Section 9 directs that most uses of a natural resource in a park must be authorized by a park use permit.

1.4 Obligations and Agreements

Burnie-Shea Park and the Burnie River Protected Area were established as a result of the recommendations of the Morice LRMP process and subsequent government-to-government processes with First Nations, which concluded in 2007. Appendix 1 contains management direction from the Morice LRMP for the park and protected area.

General management direction for all new protected areas includes:

- maintaining the conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values and features for which the protected area was established;
- completing management plans with First Nations and public participation;
- continuing existing eligible tenures (i.e., trapping, guiding, commercial recreation) and hunting and angling opportunities;
- maintaining existing access routes (e.g., trails and traditional trails) within the park and protected area;
- maintaining existing access opportunities for First Nations, guide outfitters, trappers and other tenure holders where motorized opportunities have been restricted; and,
- identifying and protecting archaeological sites, special sites, traditional use (past and present) and heritage trails (First Nations and pioneer).

The Morice LRMP also provided the following area specific goals for Burnie-Shea Park and the Burnie River Protected Area:

- opportunity of an unroaded wilderness experience;
- representation of ecosystems; and,
- protection of critical fish and wildlife habitat.

The specific management intent of the park and protected area is to:

- manage for a wilderness recreation experience, with a priority on the protection of ecological values and motorized access restrictions.

Other specific management direction for Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area from the Morice LRMP includes:

- minimizing the impacts to wilderness recreation from motorized activities;
- ensuring that motorized access is consistent with the Telkwa Caribou Herd Recovery Plan when it is completed; and,
- allowing one weekend for snowmobiling a year by mutual agreement between the commercial recreation tenure holder and local snowmobile clubs.

The Morice LRMP also provides direction on motorized uses. Motorized use is not permitted in the northern portion of Burnie-Shea Park, north and east of the Burnie lakes. Summer motorized use is not permitted in the rest of the park and in the Burnie River Protected Area. Motorized boat use is not allowed on North Burnie Lake, South Burnie Lake and Shea Lake. Motorized restrictions apply to land-based activities and do not include aircraft access.

Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area also lie within the Morice Water Management Area, as identified in the Morice LRMP. Management direction in the Morice Water Management Area focuses on developing a water monitoring program and an area based water management plan to provide the maximum practicable water quality.

1.5 Existing Tenures and Facilities

Burnie-Shea Park and the Burnie River Protected Area lie within three hunting guiding territories (609G002, 609G003, 609G006) and two trapline territories (609T023, 609T024). There are two seasonal guided hunting camps: one on South Burnie Lake and one on North Burnie Lake. There is a recreational guiding tenure based out of a chalet at the north end of North Burnie Lake, which operates during both winter (skiing) and summer (hiking, mountaineering, rock climbing). The recreational guide uses approximately 100 user days in the summer and 560 user days in the winter.

1.6 The Planning Process

The management plan for Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area was developed together with management plans for five other parks (Atna River Park, Morice Lake Park, Nadina Mountain Park, Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park, Old Man Lake Park) that were established as a result of the Morice LRMP process and associated government-to-government processes with First Nations. All seven parks and protected areas fall within the Wet'suwet'en territory. Draft management plans were developed co-operatively with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en and were based on: management direction from the Morice LRMP, park values (natural, cultural, and recreation), discussions with Ministry of Environment staff, discussions with stakeholders, and public input. Discussions with stakeholders and bi-monthly meetings with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en were initiated in September 2008. Public input into the management plans was solicited through open houses that were held in Smithers on October 28, 2009 and in Houston on November 2, 2009. In

the fall of 2009, draft management plans were also available for review on the BC Parks website for 30 days.

1.7 Collaborative Working Relationship with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en

This management plan reflects the results of a joint park management planning initiative within Wet'suwet'en territory between representatives of the Office of Wet'suwet'en and the BC Government. The parties were committed to working together in a spirit of mutual respect, understanding, and co-operation in a government-to-government manner. The recommendations for the management plan were collaboratively developed and based on achieving consensus.

Wet'suwet'en Matrilineal and Hereditary Chief Systems

"People of the lower drainage", the Wet'suwet'en, have been living in this part of the continent since time immemorial. The Wet'suwet'en territory covers 22,000 km^2 and the Wet'suwet'en people are highly dependent on many types of fish and wildlife in the area.

The Wet'suwet'en people have a matrilineal system and are socio-politically structured by the clan. There are five clans:

- Gilseyhyu (Big Frog);
- Gitdumden (Bear/Wolf);
- Laksaamishyu (Fireweed/Killer Whale);
- Laksilyu (Small Frog); and,
- Tsayu (Beaver).

Each clan has two or three houses, which are kin-based groups also known as Yikhs. There are 13 houses in total, each an autonomous collective that has jurisdiction over up to six defined geographical areas known as house territories, for a total of 38 house territories in the Wet'suwet'en territory. Every Wet'suwet'en person belongs to the clan and house group of their mother (matrilineal). A Wet'suwet'en person cannot marry another person of his or her own clan.

Each extended family has a 'dinize'(man) or 'tsakze' (woman) chief who is responsible for making important decisions and settling disputes. Hereditary chiefs are entrusted with the stewardship of a territory by virtue of the hereditary name they hold. It is the responsibility of a head chief to ensure that the house territory is managed in a responsible manner so that the territory will always produce enough game, fish, berries and medicines to support the subsistence, trade and customary needs of house members. All hereditary titles or names, which belong to specific house groups, are given out at feasts or potlatches.

The chief's name is closely linked to the house and survives the death of a chief. The name is passed on to the next house chief that earns the responsibility by demonstrating commitment to the nation, the clan, and the house and through participation in the feast

system. Becoming a chief is a lifelong process. Feasts or potlatches have long been recognized as the Wet'suwet'en form of governance.

1.8 Community Involvement

The village of Houston, 50 km to the east of the park and protected area, is the closest community to Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area. Many residents who live in Smithers, Telkwa and Burns Lake also share an interest in the management of this area. The park lies within Wet'suwet'en Territory; therefore, representatives of the Wet'suwet'en people in particular, will play a key role in the management of Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area, due to their strong cultural ties and interest in maintaining the conservation values. The park and protected area are also located within the Bulkley-Nechako Regional District.

Ongoing engagement and outreach with local communities will be required to ensure that residents are aware of, and supportive of, Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area. This will include continued dialogue with residents in the local area and any provincial and/or local interest groups or local governments who have expressed interest in the park and protected area.

Interests will be addressed through ongoing outreach activities associated with management operations. Collaboration, along with community outreach activities, will help to increase First Nation and non-aboriginal community awareness and engagement in management of this park and protected area.

2.0 Values and Roles of the Park and Protected Area

2.1 Significance in the Protected Areas System

Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area are significant in the parks and protected areas system because they:

- protect a remote pristine wilderness area; while many perceive this area a wilderness, Wet'suwet'en have lived here for thousands of years;
- protect important Grizzly Bear, Mountain Goat and Caribou habitat, and whitebark pine ecosystems;
- contribute significantly to the protection of the Bulkley Ranges Ecosection and three poorly represented biogeoclimatic subzones/variants within that ecosection (SBSmc2, ESSFmc, ESSFmcp); and,
- protect an important cultural area that was used in the preparation of feasts following the death of a clan member.

2.2 Values and Roles

Biological Diversity and Natural Environment Values and Role

Values

Intact Ecosystem

Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area protect a remote area with ecological values largely unaltered by human disturbance. Due to its size and remoteness, Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area provide important ecosystem services (the benefits that people receive from ecosystems) that include clean water, natural flood control, carbon storage, air purification, nutrient cycling, food, biodiversity, recreation, aesthetic experience and spiritual experience. Water sampling was conducted in Burnie-Shea Park in 2008. Although results are not yet available, water quality in the area is consistent with a relatively pristine watershed.

Ecosystem Representation

Burnie-Shea Park lies predominantly within the Bulkley Ranges Ecosection (31,737 ha), with a portion of the park in the Nass Mountains Ecosection (2,820 ha). The park contributes 45% and 4% to the representation of those ecosections respectively. The Bulkley Ranges Ecosection is poorly represented (5.3% of the ecosection in protected areas); therefore, Burnie-Shea Park contributes significantly to the protection of the Bulkley Ranges Ecosection in the province.

Burnie-Shea Park contains seven biogeoclimatic subzones/variants (Table 1) and protects portions of three biogeoclimatic subzones/variants that are not well represented in the Bulkley Ranges Ecosection.

Table 1: Biogeoclimatic Zone Representation for Burnie-Shea Park

Biogeoclimatic (BEC) subzone		Area of BEC in Burnie-Shea Park (ha)	Total Area of BEC Protected in the Province (ha)	% Total Area of BEC Protected in the Province Contributed by Burnie-Shea Park	% BEC Protected in the Province
Sub-boreal Spruce moist, cold, Nechako variant	SBSmc2	1 969	275 562	<1%	13%
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir moist, cold	ESSFmc	2 021	263 495	<1%	23%
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir moist, cold parkland	ESSFmcp	1 644	46 441	<1%	19%
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir moist, cool	ESSFmk	12 752	73 369	7%	41%
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir moist, cool, parkland	ESSFmkp	5 612	22 902	10%	40%
Boreal Altai Fescue Alpine	BAFA	9 441	839 357	<1%	27%
Coastal Mountain-heather Alpine	CMA	6	1 000 893	<1%	24%
Fresh Water (in all subzones)		1 113	436 424	<1%	16%
Total		34 557[1]			

[1] Total area is calculated using GIS; therefore, it differs slightly from the legal area

In the Bulkley Ranges Ecosection, only 4.6% of the Sub-Boreal Spruce moist cold, Nechako variant (SBSmc2), 4.4% of the Engelmann Spruce - Subalpine Fir moist cold (ESSFmc) and 8.1% of the Engelmann Spruce Subalpine Fir moist cold parkland (ESSFmcp) are represented in protected areas. Burnie-Shea Park contributes 21.0%, 29.4% and 46.4% respectively to the protection of these biogeoclimatic subzones in the Bulkley Ranges Ecosection.

Burnie River Protected Area lies entirely within the Bulkley Ranges Ecosection and contains three biogeoclimatic subzones/variants (Table 2).

Old-Growth

The forest cover in Burnie-Shea Park and the Burnie River Protected Area is primarily subalpine fir with alpine at higher elevations. About 90% of the forested landscape in the park is old forest (>140 years old).

Species and Ecological Communities of Conservation Concern

Predictive Ecosystem Mapping (PEM) analysis predicts the occurrence of one plant community of conservation concern in the park:

- SBSmc2 riparian shrub, fen/marsh, bog or wetland habitat.

Table 2: Biogeoclimatic Zone Representation for Burnie River Protected Area

Biogeoclimatic (BEC) subzone		Area of BEC in Burnie River Protected Area (ha)	Total Area of BEC Protected in the Province (ha)	% Total Area of BEC Protected in the Province Contributed by Burnie River Protected Area	% BEC Protected in the Province
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir moist, cool	ESSFmk	1 684	73 369	2%	41%
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir moist, cool, parkland	ESSFmkp	305	22 902	1%	40%
Boreal Altai Fescue Alpine	BAFA	357	839 357	<1%	27%
Total		2 346[1]			

[1] Total area is calculated using GIS; therefore, it differs slightly from the legal area

Both whitebark pine trees and whitebark pine ecosystems (ESSFmk/02) are blue-listed[3] and also occur throughout the park. In general, while whitebark pine stands on dry rocky sites are more common, whitebark pine stands on coarse parent materials are very rare. One large occurrence of whitebark pine on coarse parent materials is on the terraces at the confluence of the Burnie and Clore rivers. A research plot has been established at this site for a long-term monitoring study.

Mountain pine beetles are present in the park and are killing both mature lodgepole pine and whitebark pine. Lodgepole pine stands in the Shea Lake area have been heavily attacked. White pine blister rust (an alien invasive pathogen introduced to British Columbia in the 1920s) is also killing whitebark pine trees; young trees are more susceptible to white pine blister rust than older trees. Seed caching by Clark's Nutcrackers is the primary dispersal mechanism for whitebark pine. The primary food source for Clark's Nutcrackers is whitebark pine seed, which they cache for winter; therefore, the mountain pine beetle epidemic could result in declines in Clark's Nutcracker populations. Some Grizzly Bears also feed on whitebark pine seeds in Clark's Nutcracker caches.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Burnie-Shea Park and the Burnie River Protected Area contain important Mountain Goat habitat, moderate to high value Grizzly Bear habitat, and high quality Wolverine habitat due to their isolation from roads and nearby development. All of the park and protected area, except for the northwestern portion (west of North Burnie and South Burnie lakes), is within the Telkwa Caribou Herd Recovery Area. The alpine plateau south of Eagle Peak (area east of Burnie Lakes) is closed to motorized use to protect Caribou; the rest of the park and the protected area are in the Caribou movement corridor area between the

[3] Blue list = list of ecological communities, and indigenous species and subspecies of special concern in B.C. Red list = list of ecological communities, and indigenous species and subspecies that are extirpated, endangered or threatened in B.C. (http://www.env.gov.bc.cs/atrisk/faq3.html#1).

Telkwa Mountains and north Tweedsmuir Park. The Telkwa Caribou population declined to less than 20 animals in the 1990s but has increased substantially following a transplant program and high calf survival in recent years. As the population increased, the range expanded to include the area now included in the park and protected area.

Trumpeter swans have been observed wintering at the outlet of Burnie Lakes.

Fish populations include Rainbow Trout, Kokanee, Mountain Whitefish and blue-listed Dolly Varden and Cutthroat Trout, but cold conditions limit productivity. Fish populations may be vulnerable to over-fishing due to presumed slow growth rates and late maturity.

Role

The conservation role of Burnie-Shea Park and the Burnie River Protected Area is to protect: the Telkwa Caribou population and habitat; other wildlife (Grizzly Bears, Mountain Goats); habitat for wildlife that use the park and protected area and the adjacent land-base of the Morice River watershed; biogeoclimatic subzones poorly represented in the Bulkley Ranges Ecosection (SBSmc2, ESSFmc, ESSFmcp); old-growth forests; and, rare whitebark pine ecosystems in a remote pristine wilderness area.

Cultural Heritage Values and Roles

Values and Uses

The Burnie Lakes area was used before a feast following the death of a clan member. Clan members would go to their territory around the Burnie Lakes to prepare for the feast. The association of the area with grief is why there is much sentimental value for the Burnie Lakes area.

Pillar Mountain was a marker for the boundary with the next territory, which started just before the Clore River. Wet'suwet'en people transplanted fish into Lower Burnie Lake; these fish were later used as a food source.

Talhdzi Wiyez (Burnie Lake) used to have a house on its shores belonging to Mooseskin Johnny. Mooseskin Johnny used this area for trapping and lived there for several months at a time; he knew that area very well and knew the names of many features in the Burnie Lakes area. There is a Wet'suwet'en cabin on Shea Lake.

Role

The cultural heritage role for Burnie-Shea Park and the Burnie River Protected Area is to provide a "connection to place" for the Wet'suwet'en Nation. Cultural heritage on the land is the essence of the Wet'suwet'en identity. Connection to place can be achieved through protecting significant cultural heritage values and resources, supplying food for sustenance, providing cultural education, exercising traditional activities, and linking to the land through job opportunities and management of the park.

Recreation Values and Roles

Values

Recreational activities in Burnie-Shea Park and the Burnie River Protected Area include skiing, hiking, mountaineering, fishing, wildlife viewing, hunting and snowmobiling. Winter activities are generally based out of the chalet operated by the recreation tenure holder at the north end of North Burnie Lake. A low pass at the northeast end of the park connects to Starr Creek, a popular backcountry skiing and hiking area. The park and protected area provide wilderness recreation opportunities with few trails and no public facilities. Although a road is located approximately 4 km east of Shea Lake, access to the park is primarily by air (helicopter, floatplane).

Role

The recreation role of Burnie-Shea Park and the Burnie River Protected Area is to provide recreational opportunities such as skiing, hiking, mountaineering, fishing, wildlife viewing, hunting and snowmobiling in a remote wilderness setting.

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Vision

Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area conserve pristine alpine and subalpine terrain on the eastern edge of the Coast Mountains. Grizzly Bears, American Black Bears, Moose and Mountain Goats thrive in their natural habitats and Caribou frequent the park during both summer and winter. The Wet'suwet'en people maintain and use the park and protected area's resources for social, ceremonial and cultural activities. Recreational users enjoy the scenic views while mountaineering, hiking, skiing, camping, angling and hunting in a wilderness setting.

3.2 Management Issues, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Biological Diversity and Natural Environment

Management Issues/Interests:

- Fish populations are potentially vulnerable to over-fishing due to presumed slow growth rates and late maturity.
- The park and protected area contain high value Grizzly Bear habitat. Recreational use could result in negative human-bear interactions.
- There is no ground-based information on the location or state of species and ecological communities of conservation concern in the park and protected area. Recreational use of the park and protected area could negatively impact species and ecological communities of conservation concern.
- The park and protected area are part of the Telkwa Caribou Herd Recovery Area. Snowmobiling in adjacent areas could affect expansion of the Telkwa Caribou population into the park and protected area.
- Little information is available on Mountain Goat distribution and numbers. Current levels of recreational activities could be affecting Mountain Goats.
- Mountain pine beetles and white pine blister rust are affecting whitebark pine stands. Mountain pine beetle attack affecting mature whitebark pine trees could result in declines in Clark's Nutcracker populations.
- Pacific Trail Pipelines Limited Partnership's Kitimat-Summit Lake natural gas pipeline project, which is proposed to traverse through the Burnie River Protected Area, was approved for an Environmental Assessment Certificate by the BC Government in 2008. However, at the time this management plan was approved, the project has not yet received federal approval.
- A second project, proposed by Enbridge, entails developing two parallel pipelines (one that imports condensate to Alberta, the other that exports petroleum to Kitimat) through the Burnie River Protected Area and was in the pre-application

phase with the BC Environmental Assessment Office at the time this management plan was approved.

- The proposed pipelines through the Burnie River Protected Area could affect park and protected area values, including blue-listed whitebark pine communities. The proposed pipelines may traverse the terrace near the mouth of the Burnie River that contains the rare whitebark pine ecosystem on coarse parent materials.
- Development on the landscape surrounding the park will continue to alter adjacent habitat and access. Forest harvesting is occurring west of the park and could potentially affect park and protected area values, including wildlife that uses areas both within and outside of the park. Mineral claims near the northwest and northeast boundaries of the park could result in new access and ongoing exploration and development may have potential effects on park and protected area values.
- Global climate change will continue to alter weather patterns, hydrology, and vegetation, with resulting effects on fish and wildlife and human activity. Potential effects of climate change include: melting glaciers and a resulting long-term reduction in water supply; reorganization of ecosystems including potential new ecosystems; changes in wildlife ranges including the possibility of extirpation of wildlife from the park or park complex; and, increased likelihood of wildfire and forest insect epidemics.

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
Intact park and protected area values	**The carbon footprint from park and protected area operations is minimized.**	▪ Measure carbon footprint of park activities (both management and visitor activities). ▪ Minimize greenhouse gas emissions from park and protected area management actions. ▪ Use "green" technology for designing and developing new facilities where feasible. ▪ Convert existing facilities using "green" technology where feasible.
	Effects of climate change on park and protected area values are better understood.	▪ Summarize/evaluate potential effects of climate change on park and protected area weather, hydrology, vegetation, fish and wildlife based on existing information. ▪ Use the summary to determine appropriate actions for managing climate change impacts. ▪ Encourage research/monitoring of the effects of climate change on park and protected area values and ecosystem functioning.
	The public, industry and communities are aware of the ecological services and benefits that the park and protected area provide.	▪ Highlight the ecological services and benefits that this park and protected area provide for downstream users, communities and industry (e.g. on park signs, in brochures, in newspapers, on the BC Parks website, etc.).
	Access management planning adjacent to the park and protected area considers park and protected area values.	▪ Support and participate in developing an interagency access management plan (Morice LRMP objective) in areas adjacent to the park and protected area.
	Forest harvesting activities and related access on neighbouring lands have minimal impacts on park	▪ Work with the Ministry of Forests and Range and forest licensees to minimize the effects of forest harvesting activities and related access on adjacent lands on park and protected area values.

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
	and protected area values.	
	Mineral exploration and development activities and related access on neighbouring lands have minimal impacts on park and protected area values.	▪ Work with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and mineral exploration and mining companies to ensure that any new access to mineral claim areas or ongoing exploration and development has minimal impact on park and protected area values.
	The natural gas pipeline and proposed condensate/petroleum pipeline have minimal impacts on park and protected area values.	▪ Work with Pacific Trail Pipelines Limited Partnership to minimize adverse effects on park and protected area values from the natural gas pipeline. ▪ Monitor the environmental assessment process (provincial and federal) for status of review and approval process for the Enbridge condensate/petroleum pipeline and provide information on park and protected area values as required. ▪ If environmental assessment certificates are approved, ensure that conditions/ obligations of the permit within Burnie River Protected Area are met and review the environmental review process annually for both projects. ▪ Ensure that no permanent access is created in Burnie River Protected Area. ▪ Work with the pipeline companies to minimize disturbance to the rare whitebark pine ecosystem and research plot on the terraces near the confluence of the Burnie and Clore rivers. ▪ Work with the pipeline companies to ensure that research is conducted on the effects of the pipeline on the protected area ecosystem and that appropriate restoration is conducted. ▪ Work with the pipeline companies to ensure that invasive species are not introduced during the construction phase; to monitor the pipeline area for invasive species after construction; and to remove invasive species if and when they are detected. ▪ If the known pipeline projects are not approved, or are cancelled, or are relocated elsewhere, recommend that the Burnie River Protected Area be converted to Class A park status and be added to Burnie-Shea Park. ▪ If the known pipeline projects are completed, recommend that the entire Burnie River Protected Area be converted to Class A park status and be added to Burnie-Shea Park.
Healthy fish populations and fish habitat	**Fish populations are at or higher than current levels.**	▪ Assess angling use levels. ▪ Consider angling restrictions if use levels are too high. ▪ Work with other divisions of the Ministry of Environment to ensure angling regulations are appropriate and enforced.
Healthy wildlife populations and habitat	**Grizzly Bears and American Black Bears continue to occupy the park and protected area and interactions with humans are avoided.**	▪ Conduct bear hazard assessments for current facilities and trails. ▪ Reduce potential for bear-human interactions where necessary. ▪ Conduct bear hazard assessments for facilities and trails proposed in the future. ▪ Support access management initiatives to conserve Grizzly Bears in landscape units adjacent to the park and protected area.
	Caribou use the park and protected area during both summer and winter.	▪ Implement motorized access restrictions consistent with those established by the Morice LRMP. ▪ Implement strategies for the park and protected area that are consistent with the Telkwa Caribou Herd Recovery Plan when it is completed.

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
	Mountain Goats are not adversely affected by recreational activities.	▪ Assess Mountain Goat population size and determine distribution of Mountain Goat habitat, especially winter and kidding areas. ▪ Assess whether current levels of recreational activities affect Mountain Goats and implement strategies to reduce effects where necessary, especially in natal areas.
Naturally functioning species and ecological communities of conservation concern	**Species and ecological communities of conservation concern are viable and are protected from human disturbance.**	▪ Assess current facilities and trails for impact on or overlap with species and ecological communities of conservation concern. ▪ Re-route trails and remove facilities where possible to avoid negative impacts to species and ecological communities of conservation concern. ▪ Avoid species and ecological communities of conservation concern for any future proposed facilities and trails.
	Whitebark pine is represented on the landscape.	▪ Work with the Ministry of Forests and Range to identify the extent of mountain pine beetle attack and white pine blister rust in whitebark pine stands. ▪ When assessing whitebark pine ecosystems, distinguish between those that occur on dry rocky slopes and those that occur on coarse parent materials. ▪ Minimize disturbance to the known whitebark pine ecosystem on coarse parent materials (near the confluence of the Burnie and Clore rivers) and associated research plot. ▪ Identify other potential whitebark pine ecosystems on coarse parent materials, and work to minimize any disturbance to those sites. ▪ Support research on the function of whitebark pine ecosystems, including the status, diet and dynamics of Clark's Nutcrackers following the mountain pine beetle epidemic. ▪ Collect rust resistant whitebark pine seed and plant whitebark pine trees where viable and feasible. ▪ Monitor the status of any new strategies for maintaining whitebark pine stands and consider applying those strategies where possible. ▪ Consider prescribed fire for managing/conserving whitebark pine stands where appropriate.
Naturally functioning and resilient ecosystems and processes	**Park lands are not isolated from the larger ecosystem in which they are embedded.**	▪ Identify important links between ecosystems within the park and areas outside the park. ▪ Work with adjacent land managers to maintain connectivity between the park and the broader landscape.

Cultural Heritage Management

Management Issues/Interests:

- The Wet'suwet'en Nation wants to ensure that cultural heritage resources are protected.
- The Wet'suwet'en Nation is interested in having a greater connection with the park, and re-establishing known historical trails and campsites that were previously used.
- The Wet'suwet'en Nation is interested in sharing in the economic benefits of the park.

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
Intact cultural heritage and historical resources	**Cultural heritage resources and historic sites are identified and protected.**	▪ Perform historical and ethnographic research, and cultural heritage field inventories if developments are proposed. ▪ Identify threats to cultural heritage resources and implement protective measures that may include marking areas as off-limits and distributing maps of prohibited areas. ▪ Educate rangers and Watchmen on how to identify cultural heritage resources. ▪ Promote Wet'suwet'en language by indicating Wet'suwet'en name places (creeks, lakes, summits) on maps and other publications.
First Nations people reconnect with the park and protected area	**First Nation people use the park and protected area for traditional and sustenance activities.**	▪ Maintain opportunities for Wet'suwet'en traditional, sustenance and harvesting activities. ▪ Work towards re-establishing historical Wet'suwet'en trails, campsites and cabins. ▪ Increase public and Wet'suwet'en community awareness regarding traditional, sustenance use and harvesting activities. ▪ Deliver annual community workshops that facilitate the sharing of park and protected area management issues and gather input from traditional knowledge. ▪ Support management approaches that help maintain wildlife populations for traditional and sustenance activities.
	The park and protected area names are meaningful to the Wet'suwet'en Nation.	▪ Identify an appropriate addition of a Wet'suwet'en name in Wet'suwet'en language to the park and protected area names. ▪ Recommend legislation be revised to be consistent with new park and protected area names.
Healthy local tourism industry	**The park and protected area contributes to local employment, especially cultural tourism associated with the Wet'suwet'en.**	▪ Encourage tourism operators to establish working relationships with the Wet'suwet'en and seek opportunities for mutual benefits. ▪ Permit and support development of appropriate cultural tourism activities. ▪ Identify and allocate appropriate tenured opportunities to assist local economic diversification, particularly local First Nations.
Collaborative park and protected area stewardship with the Wet'suwet'en Nation	**Foster collaborative park and protected area stewardship between British Columbia and the Wet'suwet'en Nation in a government-to-government manner.**	▪ Consider undertaking a formal agreement for collaborative stewardship. ▪ Engage Wet'suwet'en in operation and management of the park. ▪ Include Wet'suwet'en in management activities and monitoring.
Communication of cultural heritage	**Visitors to the park and protected area are aware of the rich cultural heritage of the park and protected area.**	▪ Provide cultural heritage information in interpretive materials. ▪ Facilitate education and sharing of Wet'suwet'en culture through the use of historical names in the park and protected area.

Recreation Values Management

Management Issues/Interests:

- The north end of the park was designated as a non-motorized zone by the Morice LRMP to protect Caribou. However, the Morice LRMP also allowed for snowmobile use in that area during one weekend each year by mutual agreement between the commercial recreation tenure holder and local snowmobile clubs.
- There is no trail access to the park. Trail access from the Telkwa River to the park would facilitate foot access to the park reducing the need for fly-in access.
- Recreational activities and facilities could affect the Telkwa Caribou population.
- The current tenured recreation operator would like to investigate the potential for building staff quarters at his current facilities, and building facilities in other locations in the park to facilitate summer operations.
- Some of the current trails and bridges were built and maintained by the tenured recreation operator. Responsibility for the maintenance of these trails and bridges needs to be determined.
- Mountaineers do not want to have air access restricted to specific landing sites, but to have open access to drop off points.
- The extent of aircraft flight-seeing and associated landings is not well known.
- Currently, recreation information available for Burnie-Shea Park and the Burnie River Protected Area is limited.
- Proposed recreational facilities in the future could potentially affect other park and protected area values.

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
Wilderness recreation opportunities in a natural setting	**Park and protected area visitors enjoy wilderness recreation with few facilities and with minimal impacts on the Telkwa Caribou population.**	▪ Assess location, extent and status of current trails. ▪ Work with the tenured recreation operator to develop an agreement on maintenance of existing trails. ▪ Consider supporting hiking trail access to the park if the trail does not conflict with the intent of the Telkwa Caribou Herd Recovery Plan (when completed), Mountain Goats, or bear habitat, or other recreational restrictions. ▪ Ensure that recreational activities and facilities are consistent with the intent of the Telkwa Caribou Herd Recovery Plan when it is completed. ▪ Allow helicopter drop-off sites where they do not conflict with the Telkwa Caribou population and Mountain Goats. ▪ Limit helicopter access to one pick-up or drop-off per day per party. ▪ Assess the extent of fixed-wing aircraft flight-seeing/landings in the park and protected area and establish limits if necessary. ▪ Develop and implement voluntary aircraft guidelines for areas around Caribou habitat and Mountain Goat winter and kidding areas.

	Impacts of motorized activities on wilderness recreation are minimized.	▪ Follow Morice LRMP direction on motorized use including:
		  ▪ no motorized boat use on North Burnie Lake, South Burnie Lake, and Shea Lake;
		  ▪ no land-based motorized use in the northern part of the park (zone A – see Figure 4) other than snowmobiling allowed in the non-motorized area (zone A) for one

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
		weekend a year by mutual agreement between the commercial recreation tenure holder and the local snowmobile clubs; ▪ no summer motorized use in the southern part of the park (zone B – see Figure 4) and protected area; and, ▪ maintain existing access opportunities for First Nations, guide outfitters, trappers and other tenure holders. ▪ Use the *Park Act* regulations to prohibit motorized boats from launching on North Burnie Lake, South Burnie Lake and Shea Lake (other than to support commercial operations). ▪ Encourage the federal government to close North Burnie Lake, South Burnie Lake and Shea Lake to motorized boat use.
	Park and protected area visitors are aware of park and protected area values and recreational opportunities in the park and protected area.	▪ Provide information on park and protected area values, recreational opportunities and visitor safety on the brochure and website.
	Proposed new park and protected area facilities and changes to existing park and protected area facilities comply with Ministry standards and impact assessments.	▪ Follow Morice LRMP direction that allows for the existing tenure holders to each build a new cabin if necessary when expanding their operations with due consideration for conservation, recreation and cultural heritage resources. ▪ Follow Ministry design guidelines and conduct impact assessments for any proposed facilities or proposed changes to existing facilities.

3.3 Zoning

Zoning assists in the planning and management of protected areas. In general terms, zoning divides an area into logical units to apply consistent management objectives. The zones reflect the intended land use, the degree of human use desired, and the level of management and development required.

At one end of the spectrum, the Intensive Recreation Zone indicates a portion of a protected area that is appropriate for high levels of recreation and facility development. At the opposite end, the Wilderness Conservation Zone indicates an area of a protected area that receives the highest level of resource protection and minimal human presence. In addition, there are three other zones providing a range of conservation and use priorities – Nature Recreation Zone, Special Feature Zone and Wilderness Recreation Zone.

All of Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area are zoned Wilderness Recreation to protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities. The zoning is also consistent with Morice LRMP direction.

In Burnie-Shea Park, the Wilderness Recreation Zone is divided into two areas (Figure 4).

1) Wilderness Zone A (13,411 ha): This zone includes the north end of the park. No motorized activity is permitted in this zone except: motorized boat use on North Burnie Lake to support commercial operations; aircraft access, and snowmobiling for one weekend a year by mutual agreement between the commercial recreation tenure holder and the local snowmobile clubs.

2) Wilderness Zone B (21,146 ha): This zone includes the south end of the park. Although motorized activities are not normally permitted in wilderness recreation zones, some seasonal motorized uses are permitted in this zone to be consistent with Morice LRMP direction. In the summer, aircraft use is the only motorized activity permitted in this zone. Motorized boat use is not permitted on South Burnie Lake or Shea Lake, other than to support commercial operations. In the winter, motorized uses identified as appropriate (i.e., aircraft access and snowmobiling) are permitted in this zone.

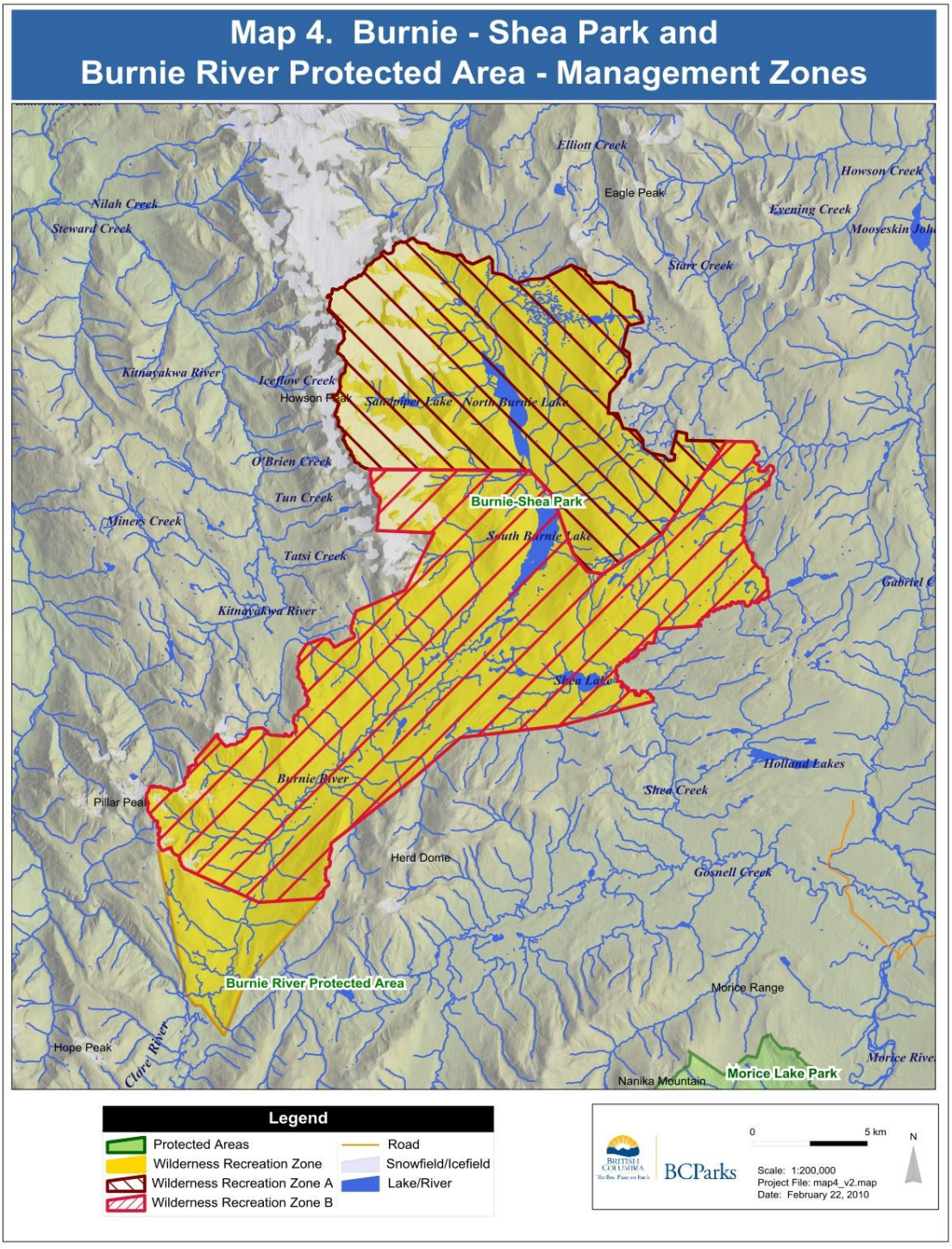

Figure 4: Map 4 – Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area Management Zones

Table 3 defines the activities and facilities that are appropriate in Wilderness Recreation Zone A and Wilderness Recreation Zone B in Burnie-Shea Park, and in the Wilderness Recreation Zone in the Burnie River Protected Area.

Table 3: Appropriate Use Table

Activity/Facility	Appropriate in Wilderness Recreation Zone A	Appropriate in Wilderness Recreation Zone B	Appropriate in Protected Area
Biological Diversity and Natural Environment Management			
Activities			
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	Y	Y	Y
Fire Management (prescribed fire management)	Y	Y	Y
Fire Management (prevention)	Y	Y	Y
Fire Management (suppression)	Y	Y	Y
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N	N	N
Forest Insect/Disease Control	Y	Y	Y
Noxious Weed Control	Y	Y	Y
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	Y	Y	Y
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	Y	Y	Y
Scientific Research (assessment)	Y	Y	Y
Cultural/Heritage Management			
Activities			
Cultural, ceremonial and social uses by First Nations	Y	Y	Y
Cultural Tourism	Y	Y	Y
Recreation Value Management			
Activities			
Aircraft Access	Y	Y	Y
Boating (power)	N[4]	N[3]	N
Boating (non-power)	Y	Y	Y
Camping – backcountry	Y	Y	Y
Camping – auto accessible	N	N	N
Camping – motorized boat accessible	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	Y[5]	N	N
Commercial Recreation (no facilities)	Y	Y	Y
Exotic Pack animal Use	N	N	N
Fishing	Y	Y	Y
Heli-hiking	N	N	N
Hiking/Backpacking/Walking	Y	Y	Y
Horse/Non-Exotic pack Animal Use	Y	Y	Y
Hunting	Y	Y	Y
Mechanized Off-road Access (non-motorized – i.e. mountain biking)	N	N	N
Motorized Off-road Access (not snowmobiles – i.e., 4x4, motorcycles, ATV)	N	N	N
Off-road Access (non-mechanical – dog sleds, horse sleds)	N	N	N
Rockclimbing	Y	Y	Y
Skiing (downhill and cross-country – groomed runs or trails)	N	N	N

[4] Except to support existing commercial recreation operations
[5] Existing lodge only

Activity/Facility	Appropriate in Wilderness Recreation Zone A	Appropriate in Wilderness Recreation Zone B	Appropriate in Protected Area
Skiing (helicopter or cat-assisted)	N	N	N
Skiing (self propelled, not groomed)	Y	Y	Y
Snowmobiling	Y[6]	Y[7]	Y[8]
Wildlife/Nature Viewing	Y	Y	Y
Facilities			
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	N	N	N
Backcountry Huts and Shelters	Y	Y	N
Boat Launches	N	N	N
Campground and Picnic Areas (vehicle accessed and serviced)	N	N	N
Camp sites (other)	Y	Y	Y
Interpretation and Information Buildings	N	N	N
Roads and Parking Lots	N	N	N
Ski Hills and Snowplay Areas	N	N	N
Trails (hiking, cross-country skiing)	Y	Y	Y
Wharves/docks	N	N	N
Natural Resource Use Management			
Activities			
Angling Guiding	Y	Y	Y
Filming	Y	Y	Y
Guide Outfitting	Y	Y	Y
Trapping	Y	Y	Y
Facilities			
Communication Sites	N	N	N
Utility Corridors (power/transmission lines and other rights-of-way)	N	N	Y[9]
Water Control Structures	N	N	N
Water Sampling Structures	N	N	N

Y Appropriate
N Not appropriate
N1 Not appropriate except for expressed management purposes as identified in the Management Plan
N2 Not appropriate, but if the specific activity or facility existed at the time of establishment of the protected area, it is normally appropriate for it to continue
N/A Not applicable

[6] Only permitted for one weekend a year by mutual agreement between the commercial recreation tenure holder and the local snowmobile clubs
[7] As described in the management plan
[8] As described in the management plan
[9] As described in the management plan

4.0 Plan Implementation

4.1 Implementation Period

Implementation Resources

Implementing management strategies in this management plan will be subject to available funding. Where possible, partnerships will be developed with First Nations, stakeholders and local communities to achieve specific strategies in this management plan.

High Priority Strategies

The following strategies were identified as high priorities for implementation for Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area:

1. Conduct bear hazard assessments for current facilities and trails. Reduce potential for bear-human interactions where necessary.

2. Identify an appropriate addition of a Wet'suwet'en name in Wet'suwet'en language to the park name. Revise the legislation to be consistent with the new park name, which contains a Wet'suwet'en name in Wet'suwet'en language.

3. Engage Wet'suwet'en in operation and management of the park and try to hire Wet'suwet'en rangers or Watchmen.

4. Deliver annual community workshops that facilitate the sharing of park management issues and gather input from traditional knowledge.

5. Implement strategies for the park and protected area that are consistent with the final Telkwa Caribou Herd Recovery Plan when it is completed.

6. Assess Mountain Goat population size and determine distribution of Mountain Goat habitat, especially winter and kidding areas.

7. Monitor the status of any new strategies for maintaining whitebark pine stands and consider applying those strategies where possible.

8. Implement motorized access restrictions consistent with those established by the Morice LRMP.

9. Work with the pipeline companies to avoid disturbance to the rare whitebark pine ecosystem and research plot on the terraces near the confluence of the Burnie and Clore rivers.

10. Work with Pacific Trail Pipelines Limited Partnership to minimize adverse effects on park and protected area values from the natural gas pipeline.

11. Monitor the environmental assessment process (provincial and federal) for status of review and approval process for the Enbridge condensate/petroleum pipeline and provide information on park and protected area values as required.

Management Plan Review

A management plan review is an internal process to identify if any changes are needed to the management plan. A management plan review looks for any necessary updates to the management plan that: are required to keep management direction current and relevant; correct the intent of a policy statement; address some error or omission; or, address a new proposal.

In order to ensure management plans remain contemporary and relevant, it is important that the entire management plan is reviewed on a regular basis. Management plan reviews should occur within a timeframe that reflects the complexities of the management issues in a protected area as well as the time and money needed to conduct the review. A review of the management plan content should be triggered by changing circumstances (e.g., circumstances such as a natural disaster or environmental change like the mountain pine beetle), and not a by a specific time period.

5.0 Performance Measurement

Performance will be measured using one or more indicators for each objective. Indicators are based on the strategies developed for each objective. The following table provides a list of indicators for each objective, the baseline status of the indicator, and the target to be achieved. Where possible, objectives and indicators will be reviewed on an annual basis to determine how well targets are being achieved.

Objective	Indicator	Baseline	Target
The carbon footprint from park and protected area operations is minimized.	Carbon footprint measurements	Not applicable	All activities measured
Effects of climate change on park and protected area values are better understood.	Summary of potential effects of climate change on weather, hydrology, vegetation, fish and wildlife	Zero	Summary completed
The public, industry and communities are aware of the ecological services and benefits that the park and protected area provide.	Number of newspaper articles per year	Zero	One
Access management planning adjacent to the park and protected area considers park and protected area values.	Participation in access management planning in areas adjacent to the park and protected area	Not applicable	100% participation
Forest harvesting activities and related access on neighbouring lands have minimal impacts on park and protected area values.	Communications established with forest licensees working in areas adjacent to the park and protected area	Not applicable	Communications established with all licensees
Mineral exploration and development activities and related access on neighbouring lands have minimal impacts on park and protected area values.	Communications established with mineral exploration and development companies working in areas adjacent to the park and protected area	Not applicable	Communications established with all mineral exploration and development companies
The natural gas pipeline and proposed condensate/ petroleum pipeline have minimal impacts on park and protected area values.	Compliance with Environmental Certificate	Not applicable	100%
Fish populations are at or higher than current levels.	Angling use levels	Current levels	No increase
Grizzly Bears and American Black Bears continue to occupy Burnie-Shea Park and Burnie River Protected Area and interactions with humans are avoided.	Number of negative interactions	Information not compiled	Zero
	Number of bears removed/destroyed due to negative bear/human interactions	Information not compiled	Zero
	Number of trail/park closures	Information not compiled	Zero
Caribou use the park and protected area during both summer and winter.	# of radio-collared Caribou locations and incidental sightings	Current level	No net decrease
Mountain Goats are not adversely affected by recreational activities.	# of Mountain Goats displaced by recreational activities	Information not compiled	Zero
Species and ecological communities of conservation concern are viable and are protected from human disturbance.	Area (ha) of plant communities of conservation concern impacted	Information not compiled	Zero

Objective	Indicator	Baseline	Target
Whitebark pine is represented on the landscape.	# locations/live trees	Current level	Current level
Park lands are not isolated from the larger ecosystem in which they are embedded.	Links between ecosystems within and outside the park	Not applicable	Links are identified
	Connectivity between the park and broader landscape	Not applicable	Discussions on connectivity with adjacent land managers are ongoing
Cultural heritage resources and historic sites are identified and protected.	Number of cultural heritage or historical resources damaged or destroyed	Not applicable	Zero
First Nations people use the park and protected area for traditional and sustenance activities.	Number of community workshops on park management and traditional use	Zero	One
The park and protected area names are meaningful to the Wet'suwet'en Nation.	Park name	Current park name	Park name that includes a Wet'suwet'en name in Wet'suwet'en language
The park and protected area contribute to local employment, especially cultural tourism associated with the Wet'suwet'en.	Presence of a relationship between the Wet'suwet'en Nation and tourism operators	Not applicable	Communication established between tourism operators and the Wet'suwet'en Nation
Foster collaborative park and protected area stewardship between British Columbia and the Wet'suwet'en Nation in a government-to-government manner.	Presence of a collaborative stewardship agreement	Not applicable	Collaborative stewardship agreement is in place
	Wet'suwet'en participation	Not applicable	Wet'suwet'en participation
	Collaborative Stewardship committee acts on implementation	Not applicable	Implementation of management plan
Visitors to the park and protected area are aware of the rich cultural heritage of the park and protected area.	Presence of interpretive materials containing cultural information	Not applicable	All appropriate interpretive materials contains cultural information
	Use of Wet'suwet'en names on park signs and materials	Not applicable	All appropriate signs and materials uses Wet'suwet'en names
Park and protected area visitors enjoy wilderness recreation with few facilities and with minimal impacts on the Telkwa Caribou population.	# of facilities	Current level	Current level
	Aircraft disturbance of Caribou or Mountain Goats	Information not compiled	Zero
Impacts of motorized activities on wilderness recreation are minimized.	# of motorized uses (other than the 1 weekend of snowmobiling) in Zone A in Burnie-Shea Park	Zero	Zero
	# of summer motorized uses in Zone B in Burnie-Shea Park and in the Burnie River Protected Area	Zero	Zero
Park and protected area visitors are aware of park and protected area values and recreational opportunities in the park and protected area.	Brochure/website	Zero	Park and protected area values and recreational opportunities included in the brochure and on the website
Proposed new park and protected area facilities and changes to existing park and protected areas facilities comply with Ministry standards and impact assessments.	# of proposed facilities or proposed changes to existing facilities	Not applicable	100% with impact assessments and in compliance with design guidelines

6.0 References

Morice LRMP. 2007. Morice Land and Resource Management Plan. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Integrated Land Management Bureau. Victoria, B.C. 259p.

Ronalds, I., and S. Jaward. 2008. Morice Protected Areas Background Report. Prepared for Ministry of Environment, Smithers, B.C. 125p.

Appendix 1. Management Direction for Protected Areas from the Morice LRMP

This appendix contains Section 5 from the Morice LRMP. This section is not part of a higher level plan but provides management direction guidance for new protected areas in the Morice LRMP area. The first two sections (5.1, 5.2) contain general management direction for all new protected areas, while the third section (5.3) contains park-specific management direction. Park-specific management direction is provided only for Burnie-Shea Lakes Protected Area (5.3.2).

5. Protected Areas

5.1 Introduction

Protected areas are managed for their significant natural, recreational and cultural heritage values. The Morice LRMP area has four protected areas that existed prior to the LRMP: Red Bluff, Topley Landing and Little Andrews Bay Provincial Parks and the Morice River Ecological Reserve. The three provincial parks focus on recreational use; the Morice River Ecological Reserve is the only pre-existing protected area with a conservation focus. The following is a brief description of these protected areas:

- Red Bluff Park (148 hectares): On Babine Lake near the community of Granisle, this park is named for the iron-stained cliffs that drop into the lake. Activities include swimming, angling or taking in the salmon enhancement projects at nearby Fulton River and Pinkut Creek. The area is also a popular stopover for boaters on Babine Lake.

- Topley Landing (Babine Lake Marine) Park (12 ha): On Babine Lake 12 kilometers east of Granisle, immediately west of the community of Topley Landing. The park, adjacent to the spawning channel on the Fulton River, has a large natural beach.

- Little Andrews Bay Marine Park (45 ha): Located on the north shore of Ootsa Lake, the park provides camping and boat access to North Tweedsmuir Park. The park protects part of the Nechako Upland ecosection and the Ootsa Lake reservoir system.

- Morice River Ecological Reserve (358 ha): This ecological reserve was established to preserve, for research purposes, forest ecosystems representative of the western edge of the sub-boreal spruce biogeoclimatic zone.

Collaborative management agreements are to be considered between First Nations and the Province for management of new parks/conservancies.

The planning and management of new protected areas is carried out in a cooperative manner, encouraging the involvement of First Nations and parties with a key interest or stake in each area. While commercial logging, mining and energy exploration and development are not allowed in protected areas, many other existing activities can continue, subject to the management plan for each protected area.

5.2 General Management Direction for Protected Areas

The table below contains a set of general objectives and implementation direction that applies to all protected areas that are created as a result of this plan. Specific management direction for each protected area follows in Section 5.3. Overall, this direction will guide management of these protected areas until such time as a management plan of some form is developed for each protected area. Any subsequent management plans will be consistent with the initial management direction provided by the LRMP.

Prior to the development of these management plans, the protected area boundaries must be confirmed at an operational scale. This exercise typically involves adjustment to the boundaries that were proposed at the strategic scale during the planning process. Boundary adjustments may be the result of terrain or ecological considerations, adjacency concerns or access issues. Protected area boundaries will be established in a manner that does not constrain access to known resources or utility corridors.

Issues:

- Loss of ecological integrity, recreational opportunities and cultural heritage values.
- Reduced opportunities for compatible economic development.
- Incremental constraints to pre-existing tenure holders
- Decrease in quotas for pre-existing tenure holders.

Goals:

- Maintenance of ecological integrity, recreational opportunities and cultural heritage values.
- Continuation of First Nations social, cultural and ceremonial activities.
- Opportunities for compatible economic development.
- Maintenance of existing tenure conditions.

Objective	Measures/Indicators	Target
1. Maintain conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values and features within protected areas.	1.1 Completion of management plans (includes a range of planning products) for protected areas.	By 2012
	Implementation Direction: • Prioritize management planning with respect to the priority resource values at risk. • Comprehensive management plans shall define management objectives specific to each protected area as well as acceptable uses and acceptable levels of use, zoning, and other strategies to minimize conflicts and help ensure the integrity of important protected area values. • Develop management plans collaboratively with the benefit of public (i.e. Morice LRMP Monitoring Committee), First Nations and inter-agency participation; incorporate direction and consider advice from the approved LRMP. • Encourage economic opportunities for small, locally based commercial recreation.	
2. Recognize the rights and interests of existing eligible tenures and landowners within newly established protected areas.	2.1 Percent of existing eligible tenures that are retained that are: • Eligible uses under the *Park Act*; and • Compatible with the new protected area.	100%
	Implementation Direction: • Eligible tenures that are eligible to continue under the *Park Act* will be grandfathered into newly established protected areas where consistent with the management direction for each protected area. • Trapping, guiding and commercial recreation will be considered acceptable uses. • Issue 10-year tenures for trapping, guiding and commercial recreation. • Tenures are to be eligible for transfer. • Guide outfitter and trapping tenures to be re-issued under existing conditions when an area changes hands. • No loss of species quotas for guide outfitters, except for reasons based on biological or habitat science and in consultation with the guide outfitter. • Retain over time, all existing and future access routes (including new trails) and methods of	

Objective	Measures/Indicators	Target
	transportation (pickups, snowmobiles, horses, boats, aircraft, ATV's, dog sled) across all land use designations. Management plans for protected areas will incorporate provisions for maintenance of access (e.g. trails and traditional trail locations) to trap line areas. Recognize the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the BC Trappers Association and BC Parks. • Existing tenure holders should be able to perform maintenance on their existing trails and cabins if necessary. • Existing tenure holders should be able to build a new cabin if necessary when expanding their operations with due consideration for the conservation, recreation and cultural heritage values of the protected area.	
3. Maintain ecosystem representation, abundance and integrity, and protect key resource values and natural features.	3.1 Incidence of human recreation or management practices that impact negatively on the natural resource values of the protected area. 3.2 Number of identified red and blue-listed plants, animals and communities that are lost are negatively affected by human disturbance.	Zero Zero
	Implementation Direction: • Management emphasis will be placed on maintaining the ecosystems, resource values and natural features for which the protected areas were established. • Management interventions will not significantly alter natural ecological, hydrological and geomorphic processes, except for express management purposes as defined in a protected area management plan. • Consider forest health issues in the management of parks. • Where any alleged conflicts involving wildlife or environmental impacts occur between recreation users, (both motorized and non-motorized), First Nations, local clubs or representatives must be involved in any process leading to the resolution to the issue, and issues must be supported by documented evidence and/or verifiable science before any proposed restrictions are applied. • Subject to Map 7 (Motorized and Non-Motorized Recreation Access – see Section 3.2.6, Recreation) snowmobiling is permitted in these protected areas with due consideration for the conservation, cultural and recreation values of the areas. • Facilities will be designed and managed to have the lightest "footprint" possible. • Manage natural processes/occurrences (e.g., fires, insects, and forest disease) within park boundaries relative to their impact, both on the ecosystem within the boundaries of the protected area and on the broader ecosystem values of which the protected area is a part. To prevent impact to red-and blue-listed species and other habitat values: • Maintain functional habitat, cover and site-specific features for fish and wildlife species. • Encourage human use patterns that minimize impacts on the environment (e.g. trails, boardwalks, facilities).	
4. Protect cultural heritage values.	4.1 Incidence of damage to, or loss of, cultural heritage values	Zero
	Implementation Direction • Identify and protect archaeological sites, special sites, traditional	
5. Recognize hunting and angling as an acceptable use within protected areas.	5.1 Percent o sustainable hunting and angling opportunities in protected areas maintained.	100%
	Implementation Direction • Continue to provide hunting and angling opportunities for First Nations, local and resident hunters, anglers and guide outfitters in protected areas, subject to hunting and fishing regulations, provincial conservation priorities and public safety. • No loss of species quotas for resident hunters, except for reasons based on biological or habitat science and in consultation with the Hunter Advisory Committee.	

5.3.2 Tazdli Wiyez Bin (Burnie-Shea Lakes) Protected Area

Located in the Howson Range, north of Morice Lake, the landscape in this area is steeper and more rugged than the areas to the south west. Burnie Lakes are two small lakes which lie in a narrow valley, out of which the Burnie River flows to the southwest. Shea Lake lies in a wetland complex southeast of the Burnie Lakes, on the eastern slope of the Howson Range.

This tract of wilderness, extending from mountain peaks to riparian valley bottoms, is an important source of ecosystem representation for the plan area. Located adjacent to the Telkwa Caribou Recovery Area, the rugged landscape and lack of road development allow populations of caribou, mountain goat and grizzly bear to thrive. Associated with the steep terrain are

numerous avalanche chutes, providing valuable grizzly bear forage. The lakes, rivers and streams support populations of kokanee, mountain whitefish and cutthroat trout.

Historical use by First Nations is evidenced by numerous trails and a traditional cabin at Shea Lake. First Nations continue to take advantage of this wilderness area to educate future generations. The wilderness of Burnie-Shea Lakes is a destination for both winter and summer wilderness experiences, including mountaineering, hiking, skiing and snowmobiling. The abundance of wildlife also provides opportunities for hunting, trapping and guide outfitting.

Issues:

- Impacts to First Nations settlement areas and the trail network.
- Availability of wilderness recreation and tourism opportunities.
- Impact to the integrity of the ecosystems and fish and wildlife habitat.

Goals:

- Opportunity for an unroaded wilderness experience.
- Representation of ecosystems.
- Protection of critical fish and wildlife habitat.

Management Intent:

Area to be managed for a wilderness recreation experience, with priority on protection of ecological values and motorized access restrictions.

Objective	Measures/ Indicators	Targets	Implementation Direction
1. Minimize the impacts to wilderness recreation from motorized activities.	1.1 Incidence of winter motorized recreation in areas designated for all season non-motorized use.	Maximum one weekend per year	Motorized access to be consistent with the Telkwa caribou recovery strategy. Refer to Section 3.2.6 (Recreation) and Map 7 for motorized and seasonal access restrictions and area boundaries. Area to be made available to snowmobiling for one weekend a year by mutual agreement between commercial recreation tenure holder and local snowmobile clubs.
	2.1 Incidence of summer motorized recreation.	Zero	Refer to Section 3.2.6 (Recreation) and Map 7 for motorized and seasonal access restrictions and area boundaries.

Appendix 2. BC Parks Zoning Framework

	Intensive Recreation	Nature Recreation	Special Feature
Objective	To provide for a variety of readily-accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.	To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.	To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.
Use Level	Relatively high density and long duration types of use.	Relatively low use but higher levels associated with nodes of activity or access.	Generally low.
Means of Access	All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see "Impacts" below).	Motorized (powerboats, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles) and non-motorized (foot, horse, canoe, bicycles). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pick-up points will be permitted.	Various; may require special access permit.
Location	Contiguous with all-weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas.	Removed from all-weather roads but easily accessible on a day-use basis. Accessible by mechanized means such as boat or plane.	Determined by location of special resources; may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones.
Size of Zone	Small, usually less than 2,000 hectares.	Can range from small to large.	Small, usually less than 2000 hectares.
Boundary Definition	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas.	Boundaries should consider limits of activity and facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features.	Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of cultural resources (adequate to afford protection).
Recreation Opportunities	Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, power-boating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, snow play, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialized activities.	Walk-in or boat-in camping, power-boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heliskiing, helihiking and specialized activities.	Sightseeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.
Facilities	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic or play areas, trail accommodation or interpretative buildings, boat launches, administrative buildings, service compounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, woodlots; parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Permitted: trails, walk-in or boat-in campsites, shelters, accommodation buildings, facilities for motorized access (docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.)	Interpretative facilities only; resources are to be protected.
Impacts on Natural Environment	Includes natural resource features and phenomena in a primarily natural state, but where human presence may be readily visible as both recreation facilities and people using the zone. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas.	Area where human presence on the land is not normally visible. Facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	None: resources to be maintained unimpaired.
Management Guidelines	Oriented to maintaining a high-quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while unobtrusive to park visitors.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and high-quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation modes. Designation of transportation may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g., horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).	High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high-quality recreational and interpretative experience. Active or passive management, depending on size, location and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts.
Example of Zoning	Campground in Rathtrevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski area in E.C. Manning Park.	Core area in Cathedral Park; North beach in Naikoon Park.	Botanical Beach tidepools in Juan de Fuca Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mt. Assiniboine Park.

	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
Objective	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities, depending on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites.	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities, depending on a pristine environment where no motorized activities will be allowed.
Use Level	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.
Means of Access	Non-mechanized & non-motorized. May permit low-frequency air access to designated sites; foot, canoe and horse access may be permitted.	Non-mechanized & non-motorized; foot, canoe and horse access may be permitted.
Location	Remote, not easily visited on a day-use basis.	Remote, not easily visited on a day-use basis.
Size of Zone	Large, greater than 5,000 hectares.	Large, greater than 5,000 hectares.
Boundary Definition	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Boundaries will encompass areas of visitor interest for specific activities supported by air access.	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features.
Recreation Opportunities	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (e.g., caving, climbing, mountaineering).	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (e.g., caving, climbing, mountaineering).
Facilities	Minimal facility development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment e.g., trails, primitive campsites. Some basic facilities at access points, e.g., dock, primitive shelter.	None.
Impacts on Natural Environment	Natural area generally free of evidence of human beings. Evidence of human presence is confined to specific facility sites. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	Natural area generally free of evidence of human beings.
Management Guidelines	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.
Example of Zoning	Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park; Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park.	Upper Murray River watershed within Monkman Park; Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy Area.