Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park

Management Plan

September 2010

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Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park

Management Plan

Approved by:

May 7th, 2010

Scott Benton
Executive Director
Parks and Protected Areas Division

Date

August 11th, 2010

Chief Woos (Roy Morris)
Cas Yex (House)
Gitdumden (Clan)
Wet'suwet'en Territory

Date

Chief Caspit (Stanley Morris)
On behalf of
Chief Goohlat (vacant)
Yextsowiten (House)
Gilseyhyu (Clan)
Wet'suwet'en Territory

Sept 2 /10

Date

Acknowledgements

The development of the Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park 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 management planning process for the Ministry of Environment, with the assistance of Mike Neto and Rick Heinrichs, 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.

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This management plan:

- establishes long-term strategic direction for Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park;
- sets out a vision for the future state of the park;
- addresses current issues affecting that long-term vision; and,
- guides day-to-day park management.

1.2 Planning Area

Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park covers 17,006 ha and is located in west-central British Columbia, approximately 70 km southwest of Houston (Figure 1).

The park is one of seven parks and protected areas resulting from the Morice Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and associated government-to-government discussions with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en. Other nearby protected areas include: Nadina Mountain Park 25 km to the northeast, Burnie-Shea Park 35 km to the northwest, Burnie River Protected Area 35 km to the northwest, Atna River Park 20 km to the west, Morice Lake Park adjacent to the southwest and Old Man Lake Park 75 km to the northeast. 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[1]. Other nearby protected areas include: Morice River Ecological Reserve 35 km to the northeast, Topley Landing and Red Bluff parks 120 km to the northeast, Babine Mountains Park 90 km to the north, Uncha Mountains Red Hills Park 80 km to the east and Tweedsmuir Park 50 km to the southeast.

Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park contains a provincially significant wilderness lake chain canoe route that includes Stepp, Anzac and Kidprice lakes (Figure 2). The start of the lake chain is on Lamprey Lake, which is outside the park. The park has high fishery values including populations of Chinook Salmon, Sockeye Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Mountain Whitefish, and Blue-listed Bull Trout, Dolly Varden and Cutthroat Trout. The park also contains Grizzly Bear habitat, important riparian and wetland ecosystems, and rare whitebark pine ecosystems.

The park lies in the Lhudis Bin and C'iniggit Nenikëkh house territories within the Wet'suwet'en territory (Figure 3). The Lhudis Bin house territory is in the house of Cas Yex ("Grizzly House") that belongs to the Gitdumden (Bear/Wolf) clan. The C'iniggit Nenikëkh

[1] 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.).

house territory is in the house of Yextsowiten ("Thin House") that belongs to the Gilseyhyu (Big Frog) clan. (See Section 1.7 for a description of the Wet'suwet'en clan and house system). The Wet'suwet'en name for the park, "Nenikëkh" means "canoe swerving against the current to make its way upstream". A traditional fishing site and village site for the Wet'suwet'en is located below Nanika Falls. The area was also used for hunting, trapping, and food and medicine gathering.

Access to the park is by logging road from Houston and then by canoe and portage trail from Lamprey Lake. Recreational use in the park includes canoeing, hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing, hunting and snowmobiling.

Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park lies within the Morice Timber Supply Area in the Nadina Forest District, and is bordered by Morice Lake Park to the west. The area to the south of the park is in the Morice Range/Nanika Lake No Timber Harvesting Area and the area to the east of the park is in the Tahtsa/Troitsa No Timber Harvesting Area, while the area to the north is under general management direction (Morice LRMP 2007). A number of mineral claims lie adjacent to the northwestern boundary of the park.

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

1.3 Legislative Framework

Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice 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.*

Its management and development is 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

Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park was 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.

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 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 Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park:

- opportunities for an unroaded wilderness experience; and,
- recognition and management of the Kidprice Lake chain as a regionally significant wilderness recreation feature.

The specific management intent of the park is to:

- manage for a wilderness recreation experience through protection of ecological values and motorized access restrictions.

Other specific management direction for Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park from the Morice LRMP includes:

- minimizing the impacts on wilderness recreation from motorized activities.

The Morice LRMP also provides direction on motorized uses. Summer motorized use is not permitted in the low elevation areas around Anzac, Stepp and Kidprice lakes. Motorized boat use is not allowed on Anzac, Stepp and Kidprice lakes. Motorized restrictions apply to land-based activities and do not include aircraft access.

Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park also lies 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

Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park lies entirely within hunting guiding territory 609G006 and within two trapline territories (609T020, 609T021). A cabin associated with the hunting guide territory is located at the south end of Kidprice Lake. Two angling guides use the Nanika River. One recreation guiding company operates a recreation tenure for multi-day canoe trips in the area and averages 50 user days each year. The Water Survey of Canada operates a hydrometric station at the outlet of Kidprice Lake. A cabin is located on Kidprice Lake near the outlet of the lake, but it is unclear who built it.

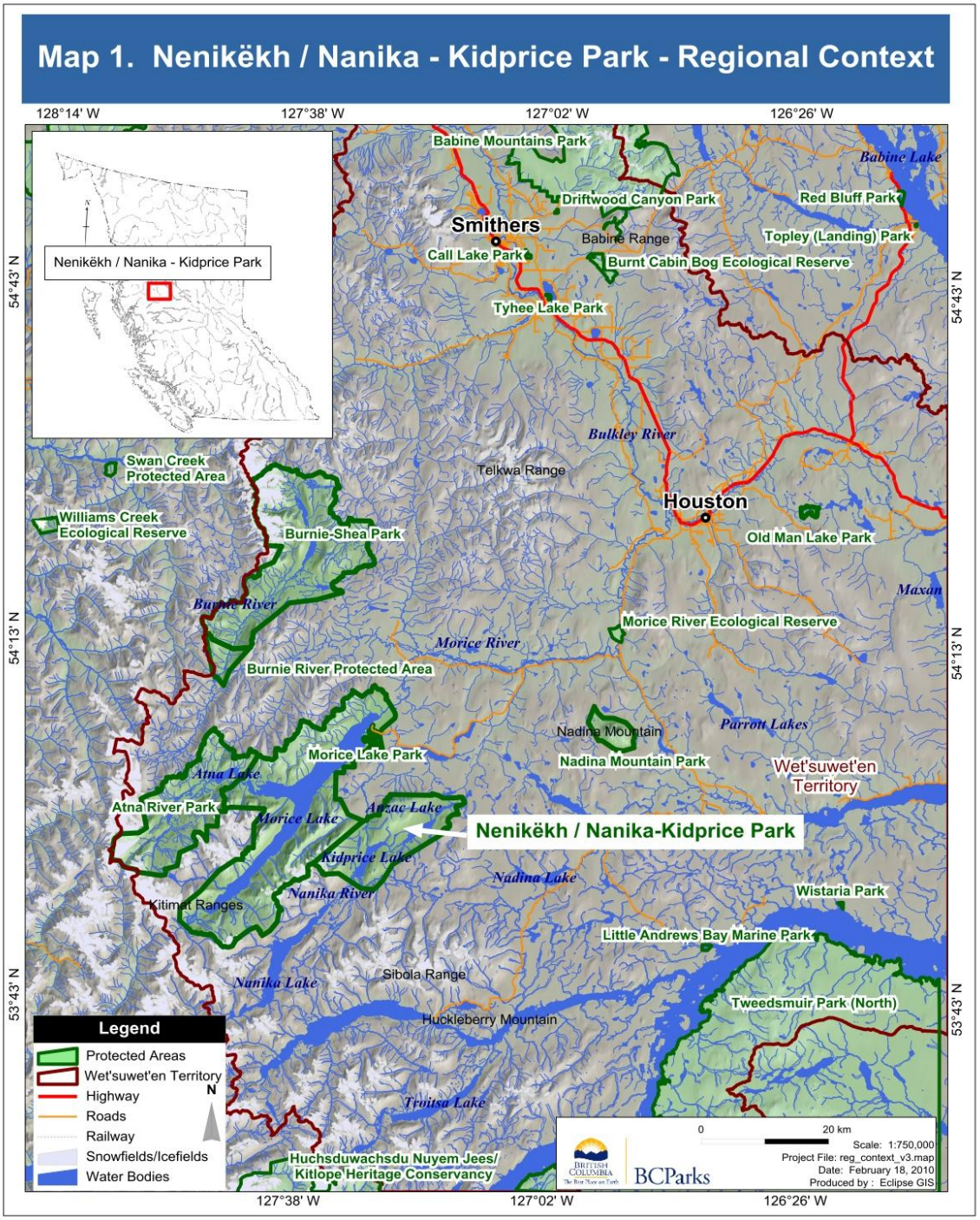

Figure 1: Map 1 – Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park Regional Context

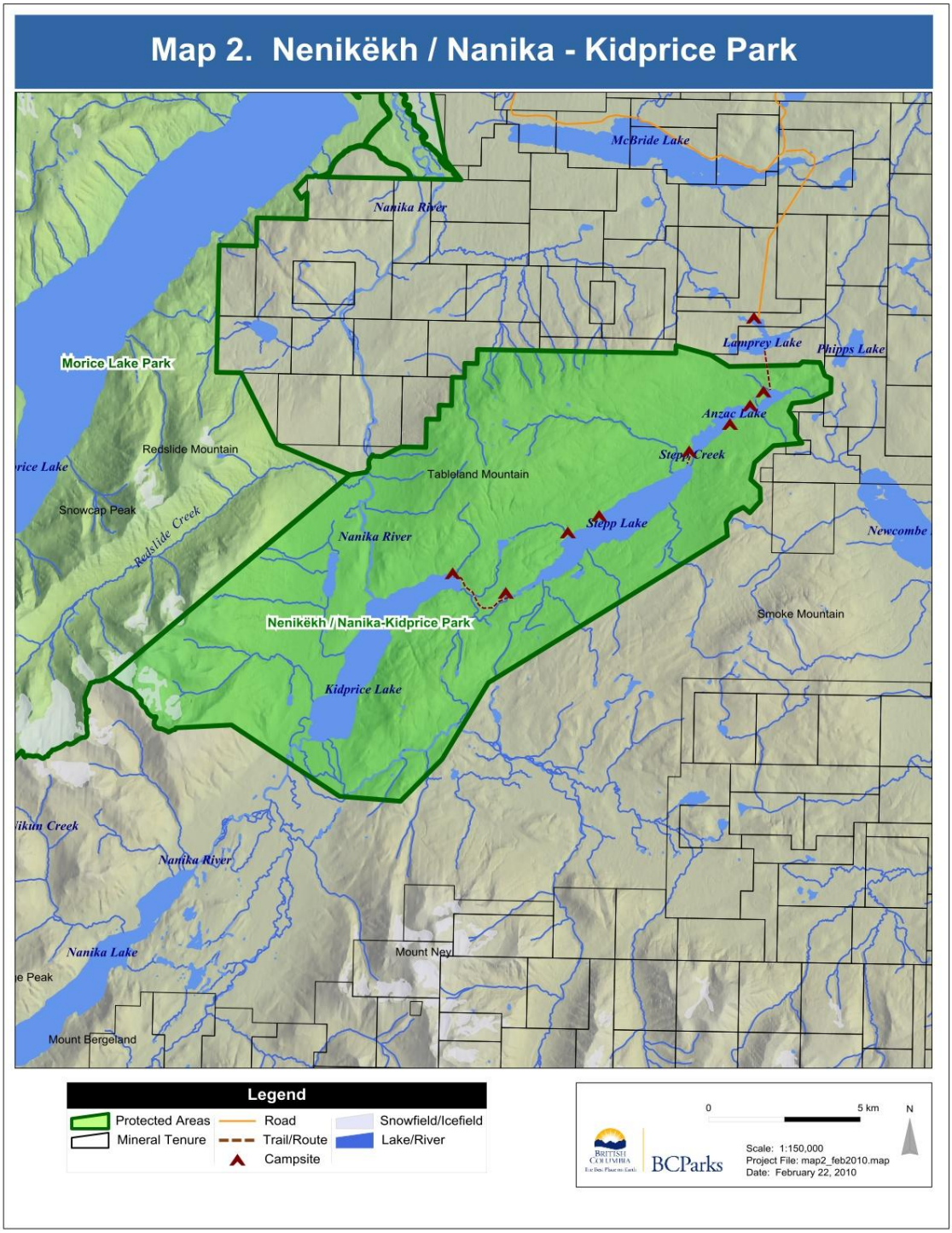

Figure 2: Map 2 – Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park

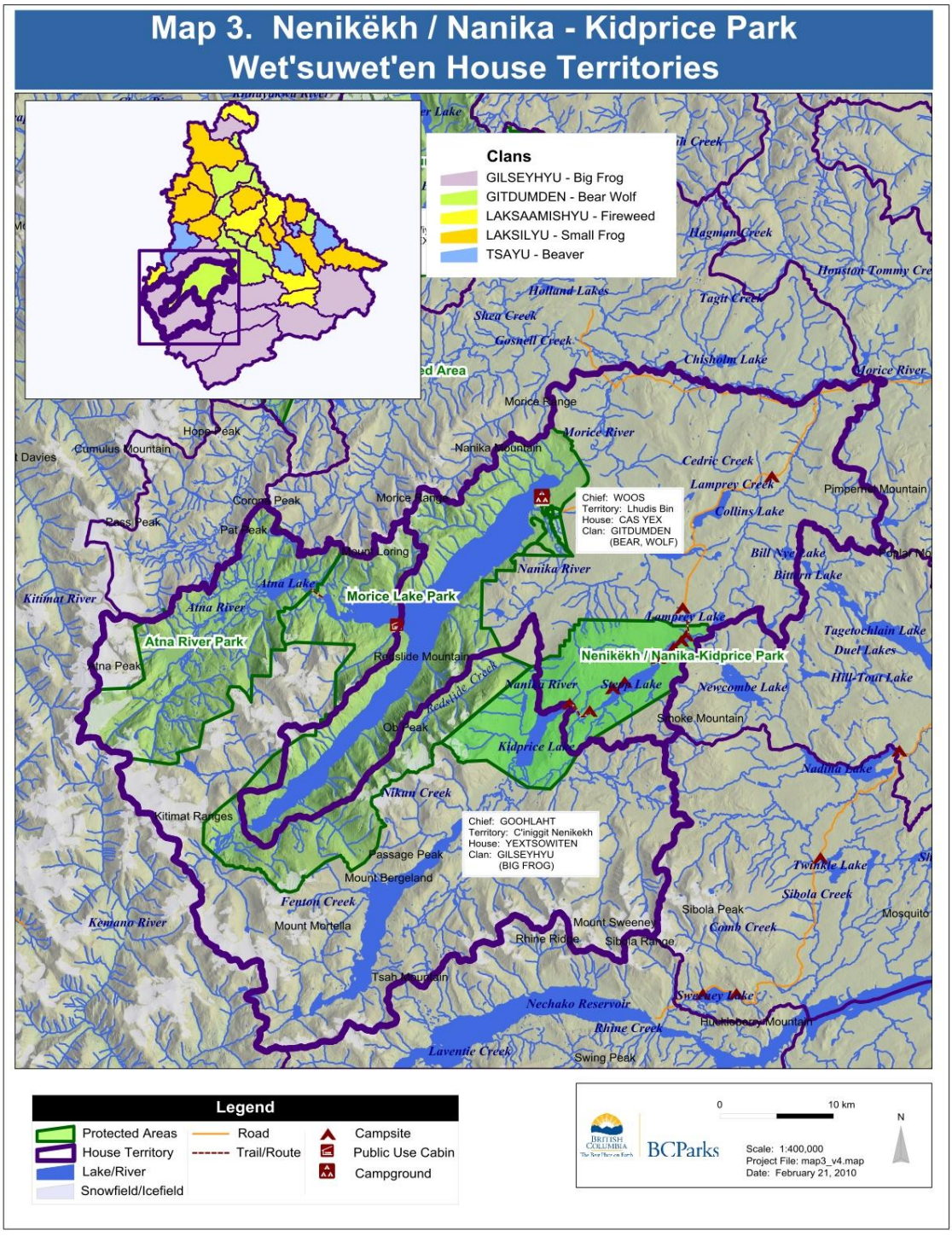

Figure 3: Map 3 – Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park/Wet'suwet'en House Territories

1.6 The Planning Process

The management plan for Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park was developed together with management plans for six other parks and protected areas (Atna River Park, Burnie-Shea Park, Burnie River Protected Area, Morice Lake Park, Nadina Mountain 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.

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, 70 km to the northeast of the park, is the closest community to Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park. 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 Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park, due to their strong cultural ties and interest in maintaining the conservation values. The park is 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, Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park. 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.

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.

2.0 Values and Roles of the Park

2.1 Significance in the Protected Area System

Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park is significant in the parks and protected areas system because it:

- protects a provincially significant wilderness lake chain that is a popular multi-day canoeing destination; while many perceive this area a wilderness, Wet'suwet'en have lived here for thousands of years;
- protects high value fish habitat and blue-listed Bull Trout, Dolly Varden and Cutthroat Trout;
- significantly contributes to the protection of the Bulkley Ranges Ecosection and three poorly represented biogeoclimatic subzones/variants within that ecosection (SBSmc2, ESSFmc, ESSFmcp);
- protects rare whitebark pine ecosystems; and,
- includes Wet'suwet'en fishing and cabin sites, and trails.

2.2 Values and Roles

Biological Diversity and Natural Environment Values and Role

Values

Large Relatively Intact Ecosystem Complex

Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park protects a remote area with ecological values largely unaltered by human disturbance. The significance of this ecological feature is compounded by the fact that Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park is part of a larger park complex of 90,531 hectares.

Due to its size and remoteness, Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park provides 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. The park plays an important role in regulating water quantity, water temperature, and release of spring melt waters, which is important for both fish habitat and downstream water users.

Water sampling was conducted in Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park in 2008. Although final results are not yet available, water quality is consistent with a relatively pristine watershed.

Ecosystem Representation

Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park lies entirely within the Bulkley Ranges (BUR) Ecosection and contributes 24% to the representation of this ecosection. The Bulkley Ranges

Ecosection is poorly represented (5.3% of the ecosection in protected areas); therefore, Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park contributes significantly to the protection of the Bulkley Ranges Ecosection in the province.

The park contains six biogeoclimatic subzones/variants and contributes significantly to the protection of the Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir moist cool (ESSFmk) and moist cool parkland (ESSFmkp) biogeoclimatic subzones (Table 1). Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park, together with Atna River Park and Morice Lake Park protect over 43% of all the ESSFmk currently protected in the provincial protected areas system. Whitebark pine is a distinctive feature of the ESSFmk, especially on dry rocky sites, but it also occurs on dry sites in the ESSFmc.

Table 1: Biogeoclimatic Zone Representation

Biogeoclimatic (BEC) subzone		Area of BEC in Nenikëkh/ Nanika-Kidprice Park (ha)	Total Area of BEC Protected in the Province (ha)	% Total Area of BEC Protected in the Province Contributed by Nenikëkh/ Nanika-Kidprice Park	% BEC Protected in the Province
Sub-boreal Spruce moist, cold, Nechako variant	SBSmc2	2 858	275 562	1.04	13.3
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir moist, cold	ESSFmc	2 544	263 495	0.97	22.8
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir moist, cold parkland	ESSFmcp	905	46 441	1.95	19.4
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir moist, cool	ESSFmk	7 354	73 369	10.02	41.3
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir moist, cool, parkland	ESSFmkp	535	22 902	2.34	39.6
Boreal Altai Fescue Alpine	BAFA	1 381	839 357	0.16	27.0
Fresh Water (in all subzones)		1 438	436 424	0.33	16.0
Total		17 015[1]			

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

Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park contributes to the protection of three biogeoclimatic subzones that are not well represented in the Bulkley Ranges Ecosection. In that 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. Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park contributes 30.4%, 37.0% and 25.5% respectively to the protection of those biogeoclimatic subzones in the Bulkley Ranges Ecosection.

The forest cover in Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park is primarily subalpine fir and pine. Over 50% of the forested landscape in the park is young forest (<80 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.

Both whitebark pine trees and whitebark pine ecosystems (ESSFmk/02) are blue-listed[2] and also occur in 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 of these rare whitebark pine stands on coarse parent materials is located at the southwest end of Kidprice Lake. A research plot has been established at this site for a long-term monitoring study.

Mountain pine beetle attack is widespread along the slopes above Stepp Lake and Anzac Lake. Mountain pine beetles are killing both lodgepole pine and whitebark pine. 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. A recent fire in 2004 burned 330 hectares on the northwest side of Kidprice Lake and on Tableland Mountain.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park provides important habitat for wildlife that live in and around the park. Lower elevations in the park provide moderate value habitat for Grizzly Bears in late spring, summer and fall. Considerable bear activity occurs along the Nanika River, which is an important feeding area. Caribou have also been observed in this park and the park contains Mountain Goat habitat. Herring Gulls have been observed nesting on an island in Stepp Lake. Herring Gulls and their nests are protected from disturbance under the federal *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.

Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park contains high fish values including populations of Chinook Salmon, Sockeye Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Cutthroat Trout (blue-listed), Mountain Whitefish, Dolly Varden (blue listed), and Bull Trout (blue listed) in the Nanika River below the falls. Nanika Falls is a barrier to upstream fish passage. Rainbow Trout and Dolly Varden occur above the falls in Anzac, Stepp and Kidprice lakes. Most of the observed Sockeye Salmon spawning in the Morice takes place in the Nanika River (96%) below Kidprice Lake (Schell 2003); this area is also important for Rainbow Trout spawning. The

[2] 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)

upper Nanika River has been identified as a core year-round holding and feeding area for Morice Bull Trout and was previously recommended as a Wildlife Habitat Area, prior to park designation.

Role

The conservation role of Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park is to protect important fish habitat and populations, Grizzly Bear habitat, biogeoclimatic subzones poorly represented in the Bulkley Ranges Ecosection (SBSmc2, ESSFmc, ESSFmcp), and rare whitebark pine ecosystems. It is also part of a larger park complex, which will play an important role in maintaining connectivity as species and ecosystems move and evolve with climate change.

Cultural Heritage Values and Roles

Values and Uses

The area in and around the park is also used for hunting, trapping and food and medicine gathering. A traditional fishing site and village site for the Wet'suwet'en is located below Nanika Falls.

Role

The cultural heritage role for Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park 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 Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park include canoeing, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, hunting and snowmobiling.

Nenikëkh/Nanika Kidprice Park protects a provincially significant wilderness lake chain that is a popular multi-day canoeing destination. The start of the lake chain is on Lamprey Lake, which is located outside of the park. Canoeists traverse Lamprey Lake then enter the park along the 1.5 km portage trail between Lamprey and Anzac lakes. From Anzac Lake, a 0.5 km portage trail leads to Stepp Lake, and from Stepp Lake, a 2.0 km portage trail leads to Kidprice Lake. The portage trails include canoe rests, boardwalks, bridges and wharves. There are eight established campsites along the lake system although a number of other informal campsites also exist. Most campsites are rustic; a few campsites offer toilet facilities or bear caches. Marine camp markers mark most campsites.

Hiking opportunities include a hiking trail from Stepp Lake to Tableland Mountain, and short hiking trails from Kidprice Lake to Nanika Falls on either side of the outlet. The hiking trail up Tableland Mountain is difficult to locate.

Snowmobilers access Tableland Mountain using a trail from the northwest and also use other areas in the park.

Role

The recreation role of Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park is to provide a provincially significant multi-day canoeing opportunity along a wilderness lake chain.

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Vision

Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park conserves a provincially significant wilderness canoe route along Anzac, Stepp and Kidprice lakes on the eastern edge of the Coast Mountains. Grizzly Bears, American Black Bears, and Moose are abundant and fish thrive in the pristine lakes and rivers. The Wet'suwet'en people maintain and use the park's resources for social, ceremonial and cultural activities. Recreational users enjoy canoeing and camping along the wilderness chain of lakes with scenic views, and wildlife viewing, hiking, angling, hunting and snowmobiling in a wilderness setting.

3.2 Management Issues, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Biological Diversity and Natural Environment

Management Issues/Interests:

- The Nanika River right below Nanika Falls is very high value Bull Trout and Rainbow Trout habitat. Bull Trout are susceptible to overfishing.
- The park contains moderate to high value Grizzly Bear habitat. Recreational use could result in negative human-bear interactions.
- 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.
- Recreational use could disturb Herring Gulls nesting on the island in Stepp Lake. Herring Gulls often desert their nests if disturbed. Herring gulls and their nests are protected from disturbance under the federal *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.
- There is no ground-based information on the location or state of species and ecological communities of conservation concern in the park. Recreational use of the park could negatively impact species and ecological communities of conservation concern.
- Development on the landscape surrounding the park will continue to alter adjacent habitat and access. Mineral claims along the northern boundary of the park could result in new access and on-going exploration or development with potential effects on natural, cultural and recreation values. Forest harvesting is occurring north of the park and could potentially affect park values, including wildlife that uses areas both within and outside of the park.
- Global climate change will continue to alter weather patterns, hydrology, and vegetation, with resulting effects on fish, 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 values	**The carbon footprint from park operations is minimized.**	▪ Measure carbon footprint of park activities (both management and visitor activities). ▪ Minimize greenhouse gas emissions from park 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 values are better understood.	▪ Summarize/evaluate potential effects of climate change on park 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 values and ecosystem functioning.
	The public, industry and communities are aware of the ecological services and benefits that the park provides.	▪ Highlight the ecological services and benefits that this park provides for downstream users, communities and industry (i.e., on park signs, in brochures, in newspapers, on the BC Parks website, etc.).
	Forest harvesting activities and related access on neighbouring lands have minimal impacts on park values.	▪ 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 values.
	Mineral exploration and development activities and related access on neighbouring lands have minimal impacts on water quality and other park 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 on-going exploration and development has minimal impact on park values.
	Water quality is protected.	▪ Track the progress of the Morice Watershed Management Protection Area Team. Support activities conducted by the team including monitoring water quality and implementing riparian management.
Healthy fish populations and fish habitat	**High value fish habitat is protected.**	▪ Assess extent of mountain pine beetle attack and the recent burn in the area below Nanika Falls and mitigate effects where necessary.
	Fish populations are at or higher than current levels.	▪ Monitor Bull Trout numbers if necessary. ▪ Assess the current level of angling use in the park's waterbodies, particularly on the Nanika River below Nanika Falls. ▪ Work with other divisions of Ministry of Environment to ensure angling regulations are appropriate and enforced. ▪ Do not develop new trails in the Nanika Falls area.
Healthy wildlife populations and habitat	**Grizzly Bears and American Black Bears continue to occupy Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park 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.
	Herring Gulls continue to nest on the island in Stepp Lake.	▪ Assess the status of Herring Gull nesting on the island in Stepp Lake. ▪ Do not allow recreational use (camping, hiking) on the nesting island.
Naturally functioning species and ecological	**Species and ecological communities of conservation concern are**	▪ Assess current facilities and trails for impact on or overlap with species and ecological communities of conservation

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
communities of conservation concern	**viable and are protected from human disturbance.**	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 southwest end of Kidprice Lake) 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 (e.g., Kidprice Lake fire). ▪ 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	**First Nation people use the park 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 management issues and gather input from traditional knowledge. ▪ Support management approaches that help maintain wildlife populations for traditional and sustenance activities.
	The park name is meaningful to the Wet'suwet'en Nation.	▪ Recommend legislation be revised to be consistent with the new park name, which contains a Wet'suwet'en name in Wet'suwet'en language.
Healthy local tourism industry	**The park 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 stewardship with the Wet'suwet'en Nation	**Foster collaborative park 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 are aware of the rich cultural heritage of the park.**	▪ Include cultural heritage information in interpretive materials. ▪ Facilitate education and sharing of Wet'suwet'en culture through the use of historical names in the park.

Recreation Values Management

Management Issues/Interests:

- Access to Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park is on an industrial road with very active logging and mining traffic.
- The start of the canoe route and all trailhead facilities are on Lamprey Lake, which is outside of the park.
- A number of campsites already exist along the lake chain, with varying levels of development and use. Campsites are not built to BC Parks' standards and additional facilities (e.g., toilets, bear caches, fire rings, tables, etc.) may need to be added to some campsites.
- Mountain pine beetles have attacked and killed significant numbers of lodgepole pine trees in some campsites.
- Some campsites have been heavily used. No-trace camping guidelines and group size limits may need to be implemented.
- The portages include a number of boardwalks and docks that require frequent maintenance.
- The hiking route up Tableland Mountain is difficult to locate and may be incorrectly marked on maps.
- Portions of the trail from Kidprice Lake to Nanika Falls are located near a cliff and can be slippery and may need upgrading for safety reasons.
- Kidprice Lake can be very windy resulting in difficult access to Nanika Falls.
- There is no information available about canoeing on the Nanika River (e.g., class, logjams, sweepers) or on Kidprice Lake (e.g., winds).
- Some users would like to see a portage trail from Kidprice Lake to Nanika Lake, whereas other users would not.
- Snowmobiling occurs on Tableland Mountain. Mountain Goat habitat has also been identified on Tableland Mountain.
- The unclaimed cabin on Kidprice Lake near Nanika Falls is in disrepair and is unsafe for use.
- Proposed recreational facilities in the future could potentially negatively affect other park values.

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
A provincially significant, road-accessible, wilderness lake chain canoe route	**The access point at Lamprey Lake, outside of the park, facilitates recreational use of the park.**	▪ Work with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Recreation Sites and Trails Branch to continue to provide suitable facilities (e.g., parking area, campsites, toilet, dock) at the access point at Lamprey Lake. ▪ Provide a sign at the access point at Lamprey Lake showing the park boundary, recreational opportunities and facilities.
	Park visitors enjoy a wilderness lake chain canoeing experience.	▪ Assess the condition of each campsite along the canoe route and where necessary, upgrade facilities to BC Parks standards. ▪ Designate the eight currently established campsites identified on the map. ▪ Provide information on, and implement no-trace camping practices. ▪ Monitor the level of use on the canoe route.

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
		▪ Continue Backcountry Recreation Impact Monitoring at campsites with a focus on more frequent monitoring at high use sites. ▪ Use information from use levels and Backcountry Recreation Impact Monitoring to continually evaluate facility needs; consider designating party size limits for each campsite. ▪ Designate one site on Stepp Lake for larger group occupancy. ▪ Consider management options for restricting use on the canoe route if use levels increase significantly. ▪ Assess the extent of mountain pine beetle attack at each campsite and modify or close campsites if necessary. Consider establishing alternative campsites if necessary. ▪ If use patterns warrant, consider developing a campsite at the south end of Kidprice Lake. ▪ Maintain the existing system of portage trails only (i.e., trails between Lamprey and Anzac lakes, Anzac and Stepp lakes, and Stepp and Kidprice lakes). ▪ Monitor the condition of portage trails, boardwalks and bridges on an annual basis and repair/replace facilities as required. ▪ Use the *Park Act* regulations to prohibit motorized boats from launching on Anzac Lake, Stepp Lake and Kidprice Lake (other than to support commercial operations). ▪ Encourage the federal government to close Anzac Lake, Stepp Lake and Kidprice Lake to motorized boat use.
	Hiking opportunities provide additional recreational opportunities.	▪ Locate, upgrade, re-route where necessary, or develop a trail to Tableland Mountain from Stepp Lake; clearly indicate the location of the trail on park signs, maps and brochures. ▪ Conduct a safety assessment of the trail from Kidprice Lake to Nanika Falls; realign the trail where necessary. ▪ Assess existing and proposed trails for bear hazards, cultural heritage resources, and species and ecological communities of conservation concern, and re-align trails where necessary to avoid conflicts.
	Park visitors enjoy snowmobiling opportunities.	▪ Work with the Houston Snowmobile Club to manage the snowmobile trail from Lamprey Lake to Tableland Mountain. ▪ Verify any important winter range used by Mountain Goats on Tableland Mountain and, if necessary, inform snowmobilers about areas to avoid.
	Park visitors are aware of park values and recreational opportunities in the park.	▪ Provide a sign at the access point at Lamprey Lake that shows the park boundary, recreational opportunities and facilities, and that discusses park values, and risks such as winds on Kidprice Lake, bear-human interactions, and travel on active industrial roads. ▪ Provide information on recreational opportunities and visitor safety (e.g., winds, bear-human interactions, travel on industrial roads) on the brochure and website. ▪ Provide a comment/sign-in box at Anzac Lake at the end of the portage trail between Lamprey and Anzac lakes.
	Proposed new park facilities and changes to existing park facilities comply with Ministry standards and impact assessments.	▪ Follow Morice LRMP direction that allows for existing tenure holders to 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. ▪ Remove the unclaimed cabin near the outlet of Kidprice Lake.

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 Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park is zoned Wilderness Recreation (Figure 4) to protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities. The Wilderness Recreation Zone is consistent with the Morice LRMP direction for the park area. Motorized use is restricted to snowmobiling. Motorized boat use, other than to support commercial operations, is not permitted on Anzac, Stepp and Kidprice lakes.

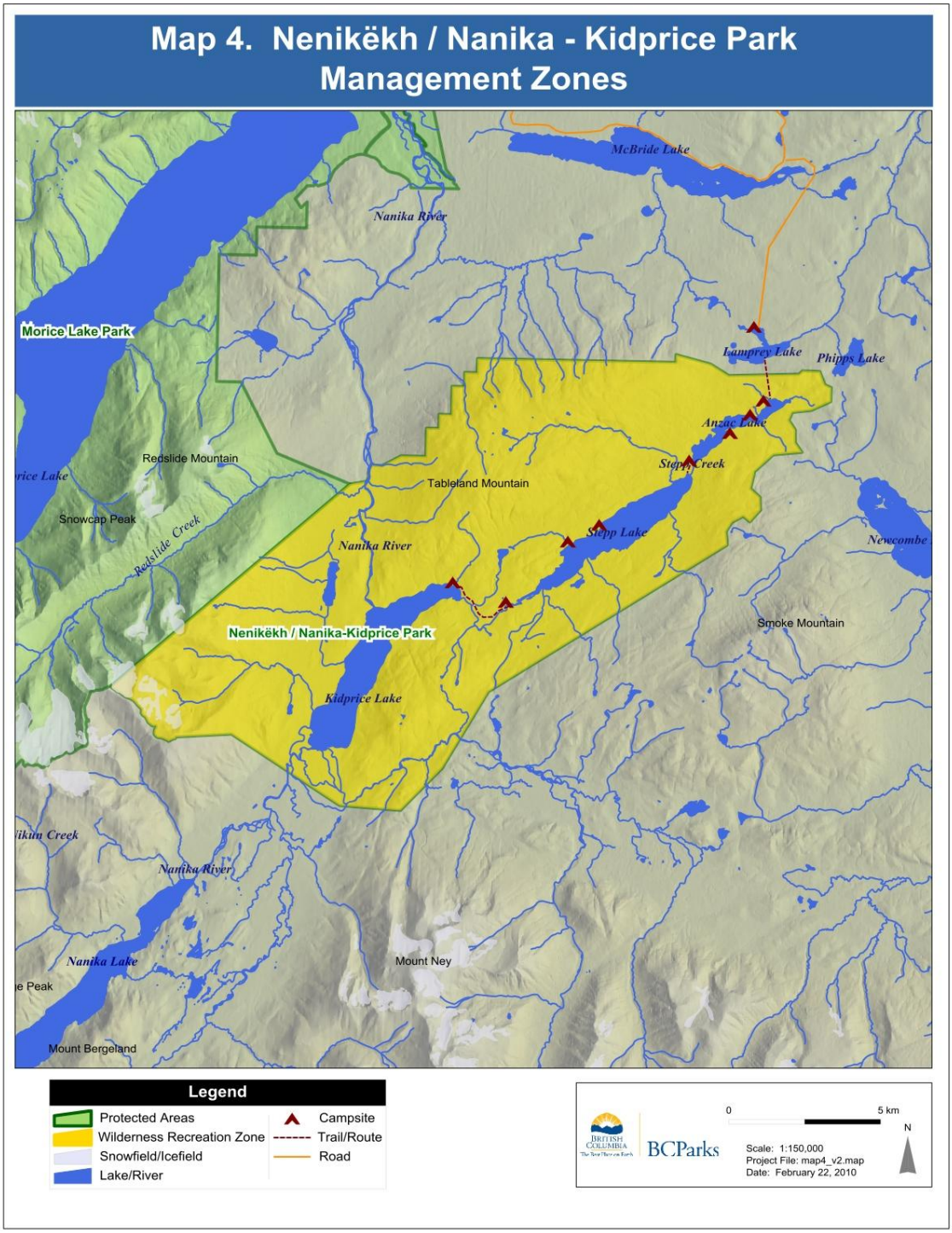

Figure 4: Map 4 – Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park Management Zones

Table 2 defines the activities and facilities that are appropriate in the Wilderness Recreation Zone in Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park.

Table 2: Appropriate Use Table

Activity/Facility	Appropriate in Wilderness Recreation Zone
Biological Diversity and Natural Environment Management	
Activities	
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	Y
Fire Management (prescribed fire management)	Y
Fire Management (prevention)	Y
Fire Management (suppression)	Y
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N
Forest Insect/Disease Control	Y
Noxious Weed Control	Y
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	Y
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	Y
Scientific Research (assessment)	Y
Cultural/Heritage Management	
Activities	
Cultural, ceremonial and social uses by First Nations	Y
Cultural Tourism	Y
Recreation Value Management	
Activities	
Aircraft Access	Y
Boating (power)	N[3]
Boating (non-power)	Y
Camping – backcountry	Y
Camping – auto accessible	N
Camping – motorized boat accessible	N
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	N
Commercial Recreation (no facilities)	Y
Exotic Pack animal Use	N
Fishing	Y
Heli-hiking	N
Hiking/Backpacking/Walking	Y
Horse/Non-Exotic pack Animal Use	N
Hunting	Y
Mechanized Off-road Access (non-motorized – i.e., mountain biking)	N
Motorized Off-road Access (not snowmobiles – i.e., 4x4, motorcycles, ATV)	N
Off-road Access (non-mechanical – dog sleds, horse sleds)	N
Rockclimbing	Y
Skiing (downhill and cross-country – groomed runs or trails)	N
Skiing (helicopter or cat-assisted)	N
Skiing (self propelled, not groomed)	Y
Snowmobiling	Y
Wildlife/Nature Viewing	Y
Facilities	
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	N
Backcountry Huts and Shelters	N
Boat Launches	N
Campgrounds and Picnic Areas (vehicle access and serviced)	N
Campsites (other)	Y
Interpretation and Information Buildings	N
Roads and Parking Lots	N

[3] Except to support existing commercial recreation operations

Activity/Facility	Appropriate in Wilderness Recreation Zone
Ski Hills and Snowplay Areas	N
Trails (hiking, portage)	Y
Wharves/docks	Y
Natural Resource Use Management	
Activities	
Angling Guiding	Y
Filming	Y
Guide Outfitting	Y
Trapping	Y
Facilities	
Communication Sites	N
Utility Corridors (power/transmission lines and other rights-of-way	N
Water Control Structures	N
Water Sampling Structures	N2

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

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 Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park:

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

2. Conduct a safety assessment of the trail from Kidprice Lake to Nanika Falls; realign the trail where necessary.

3. Recommend that the legislation be revised to be consistent with the new park name, which contains a Wet'suwet'en name in Wet'suwet'en language.

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

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

6. Assess the current level of angling use in the park's waterbodies, particularly on the Nanika River below Nanika Falls. Work with other divisions of Ministry of Environment to ensure angling regulations are appropriate and enforced.

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

8. Assess the status of Herring Gull nesting on the island in Stepp Lake. Do not allow recreational use (camping, hiking) on the nesting island.

9. 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.

10. Work with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Recreation Sites and Trails Branch to continue to provide suitable facilities (e.g., parking area, campsites, toilet, dock) at the access point at Lamprey Lake. Provide a sign at the access point at Lamprey Lake showing the park boundary, recreational opportunities and facilities.

11. Assess the condition of each campsite along the canoe route and where necessary, upgrade facilities to BC Parks standards.

12. Continue Backcountry Recreation Impact Monitoring at campsites with a focus on more frequent monitoring at high use sites.

13. Designate one site on Stepp Lake for larger group occupancy.

14. Monitor the condition of portage trails, boardwalks and bridges on an annual basis and repair/replace facilities as required.

15. Provide a comment/sign-in box at Anzac Lake at the end of the portage trail between Lamprey and Anzac lakes.

16. Work with the Houston Snowmobile Club to manage the snowmobile trail from Lamprey Lake to Tableland Mountain. Verify any important winter range used by Mountain Goats on Tableland Mountain and, if necessary, inform snowmobilers about areas to avoid.

17. 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 values.

18. 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 values.

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 operations is minimized.	Carbon footprint measurements	Not applicable	All activities measured
Effects of climate change on park 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 provides.	Number of newspaper articles per year	Zero	One
Forest harvesting activities and related access on neighbouring lands have minimal impacts on park values.	Communications established with forest licensees working in areas adjacent to the park	Not applicable	Communications established with all licensees
Mineral exploration and development activities and related access on neighbouring lands have minimal impacts on water quality and other park values.	Communications established with mineral exploration and development companies working in areas adjacent to the park	Not applicable	Communications established with all mineral exploration and development companies
Water quality is protected.	Water quality measurements (trace mineral levels, etc.)	Reference state	Reference state
	Updates from Morice Watershed Management Protection Area Team	Information not compiled	Updates from all meetings
High value fish habitat is protected.	Area (ha) of important habitat	Current areas	No net loss of habitat
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 Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park 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
Herring Gulls continue to nest on the island in Stepp Lake.	Number of nests	Current number of nests	No decrease
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
Whitebark pine is represented on the landscape.	# locations/live trees	Current level	Current level

Objective	Indicator	Baseline	Target
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 for traditional and sustenance activities.	Number of community workshops on park management and traditional use	Zero	One
The park name is 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 contributes 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 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 are aware of the rich cultural heritage of the park.	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
The access point at Lamprey Lake, outside of the park, facilitates recreational use of the park.	Number of complaints by visitors of unsuitable facilities at the access point	Information not compiled	Zero
Park visitors enjoy a wilderness lake chain canoeing experience.	Number of complaints by visitors	Information not compiled	Zero
Hiking opportunities provide additional recreational opportunities.	A well marked trail from Stepp Lake to Tableland Mountain	Zero	Trail completed
Park visitors enjoy snowmobiling opportunities.	Trail up to Tableland Mountain	One	One
Park visitors are aware of park values and recreational opportunities in the park.	Sign at access point at Lamprey Lake	Zero	Sign in place
Proposed new park facilities and changes to existing park facilities comply with Ministry standards and impact assessments.	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.

Schell, C. 2003. A Concise Review of Fish, Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Resources in the Morice TSA. Morice Land and Resource Management Plan document. Prepared for Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Skeena Region. 38p.

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 Kidprice Lake Chain Protected Area (5.3.1).

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-exiting 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.	

5.3.1 Kidprice Lake Chain Protected Area

The Kidprice Lake chain lies within a deep valley between the Sibola Range to the south and east, and an un-named ridge to the northwest. The lake chain consists of four lakes, with the canoe route starting from Lamprey lake (outside of the protected area) and continuing through Anzac, Stepp, and Kidprice Lake. This area has long been recognized for its beauty and remoteness as a portage and canoe route. While Lamprey Lake is accessible by road, access into the protected area is limited to canoe and portage or fly-in.

Present uses in the area include backcountry canoeing, snowmobiling, camping, fishing, wildlife viewing, hunting, trapping and guide outfitting. The pristine wilderness, natural beauty and

abundant fish and wildlife support and contribute to these activities. The topography and ecology of the area, including steep timbered hillsides, alpine slopes, riparian and wetland ecosystems, contribute to important goat, grizzly and fish habitats.

While Lamprey Lake is not within the protected area, the intent is that general management direction for the visual resource (Section 3.2.5), lakeshore management (Section 3.4.2: Fish, Fish Habitat and Aquatic Ecosystems), and trail management (Section 3.2.6: Recreation) will adequately address its function and values as the start of the Kidprice canoe route.

Issues:

- Impacts to the integrity of the ecosystems and fish and wildlife habitat.
- Impacts to the wilderness recreation experience.

Goals:

- Opportunities for an unroaded wilderness experience.
- Recognition and management of the Kidprice lake chain as a regionally significant wilderness recreation feature.

Management Intent:

Area to be managed for a wilderness recreation experience through protection of ecological values and motorized access restrictions.

Objective	Measures/ Indicators	Targets	Implementation Direction
1. Minimize the impacts on wilderness recreation from motorized activities.[1].	**Intent**: The primary goal for this area is to maintain a wilderness recreation experience. Summer motorized access, with the exception of existing eligible tenure holders, will not be allowed outside of designated areas. While winter motorized access is allowed throughout the area, a fair process must be developed to address future tenure applications, with due consideration of the existing recreational and tenured uses.		
	1.1 Number of total daily helicopter flights within the immediate vicinity of the Kidprice lake chain.	Aim for <6 per day	Encourage helicopter use (flights and landings) away from lake chain.
	1.2 Incidence of motorized recreation on identified non-motorized lakes.	Zero	Applies to gas powered boats only. Refer to Section 3.2.6 (Recreation) for the list of non-motorized lakes and associated management direction.
	1.3 Incidence of summer motorized recreation in designated non-motorized areas.	Zero	Motorized access restrictions do not apply to aircraft. Refer to Section 3.2.6 (Recreation) for the motorized and seasonal access restrictions, and area boundaries.

[1] Retain over time, all existing and future access routes and methods of transportation (pickups, snowmobiles, horses, boats, aircraft, ATVs, dog sled) across all land use designations for the purpose of tenure holders access to trap line areas and guide territories.

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, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (e.g., caving, climbing).	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (e.g., caving, climbing).
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.