



# Old Man Lake Park Management Plan

July 2010

Cover photo – D. Cichowski.

# Old Man Lake Park

## Management Plan

### Approved by:



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Scott Benton  
Executive Director  
Parks and Protected Areas Division

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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Date



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Chief Hagwilnegh (Ron Mitchell)  
Ginehklaiyex (House)  
Laksilyu (Clan)  
Wet'suwet'en Territory

July 28, 2010

Date



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Chief Samooh (Herb Naziel)  
Kayex (House)  
Gilseyhyu (Clan)  
Wet'suwet'en Territory

July 28 2010

Date



# Acknowledgements

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# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose

This management plan:

- establishes long-term strategic direction for Old Man Lake 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

Old Man Lake Park covers 326 ha and is located in west-central British Columbia, approximately 20 km east 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 50 km to the southwest, Burnie-Shea Park 75 km to the west, Burnie River Protected Area 100 km to the west, Atna River Park 110 km to the southwest, Morice Lake Park 80 km to the southwest and Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice Park 75 km to the southwest. 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<sup>1</sup>. Other nearby protected areas include: Morice River Ecological Reserve 30 km to the southwest, Topley Landing and Red Bluff parks 50 km to the northeast, Babine Mountains Park 60 km to the northwest, Uncha Mountains Red Hills Park 70 km to the southeast and Tweedsmuir Park 70 km to the south.

Old Man Lake Park includes Old Man Lake, Beaver Lake, and a portion of McBreirie Lake, and the land surrounding and connecting the lakes (Figure 2). The park is an ecologically significant complex of small lakes, marshy shorelines and wetlands. Due to the abundant aquatic vegetation, the area is an important feeding area for migratory birds and contains locally rare breeding populations of Black Tern and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. In 1987, Ducks Unlimited Canada constructed an earthen berm dam and overflow channel in an area which is just outside the park, to raise water levels to enhance waterfowl habitat in the Old Man Lake system. In 2009, Ducks Unlimited Canada initiated actions to remove the dam.

Complete removal of the dam infrastructure is still pending. The natural grasslands located on the south-facing slopes are of high ecological value and include red-listed communities.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.).

The dry south-facing grasslands also contain high-quality winter range habitat for Moose and Deer<sup>2</sup>.

The park lies in the Tze Zul and Gguzih Keyikh house territories within the Wet'suwet'en territory (Figure 3). The Tze Zul house territory is in the house of Ginehklaiyex ("House of Many Eyes") that belongs to the Laksilyu (Small Frog) clan. The Gguzih Keyikh house territory is in the house of Kayex ("Birchbark 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). Contributing to its cultural significance is the abundance of Saskatoon berry thickets on the south-facing natural grasslands. The Old Man Lake area is known to be very rich in the abundance and variety of berries, including soapberries, huckleberries, cranberries and blueberries. The area also has abundant Moose, and is known for wild rice (*Fritillaria camschatcensis*) and wild celery.

Access to the park is by the Heading Creek Forest Service Road from Highway 16, 25 km east of Houston. The access road to the park from the main logging road was realigned in 2008 and is in rough condition in some places. The lake is small and shallow; aircraft access is not advisable. Recreational use in the park includes canoeing, hiking, and wildlife viewing.

The park lies within the Morice Timber Supply Area in the Nadina Forest District, and is surrounded by forest and range lands to the north, east and south, and by private property/farmland to the west. Grazing occurs on the private land as well as on adjacent forest and range lands. A natural gas pipeline runs east-west near the southern boundary of the park. The area immediately to the north of Old Man Lake Park is in the Swan Lake/China Nose No Timber Harvesting Area and the rest of the area surrounding the park is under general management direction (Morice LRMP 2007). Summer motorized use in the Swan Lake/China Nose No Timber Harvesting Area is restricted to hard surface trails to conserve the grassland and wetland ecosystems, First Nations historical sites and other sensitive sites.

A detailed account of available information for Old Man Lake Park can be found in the Morice Protected Areas Background Report (Ronalds and Jaward 2008). The background report is available on the BC Parks website.

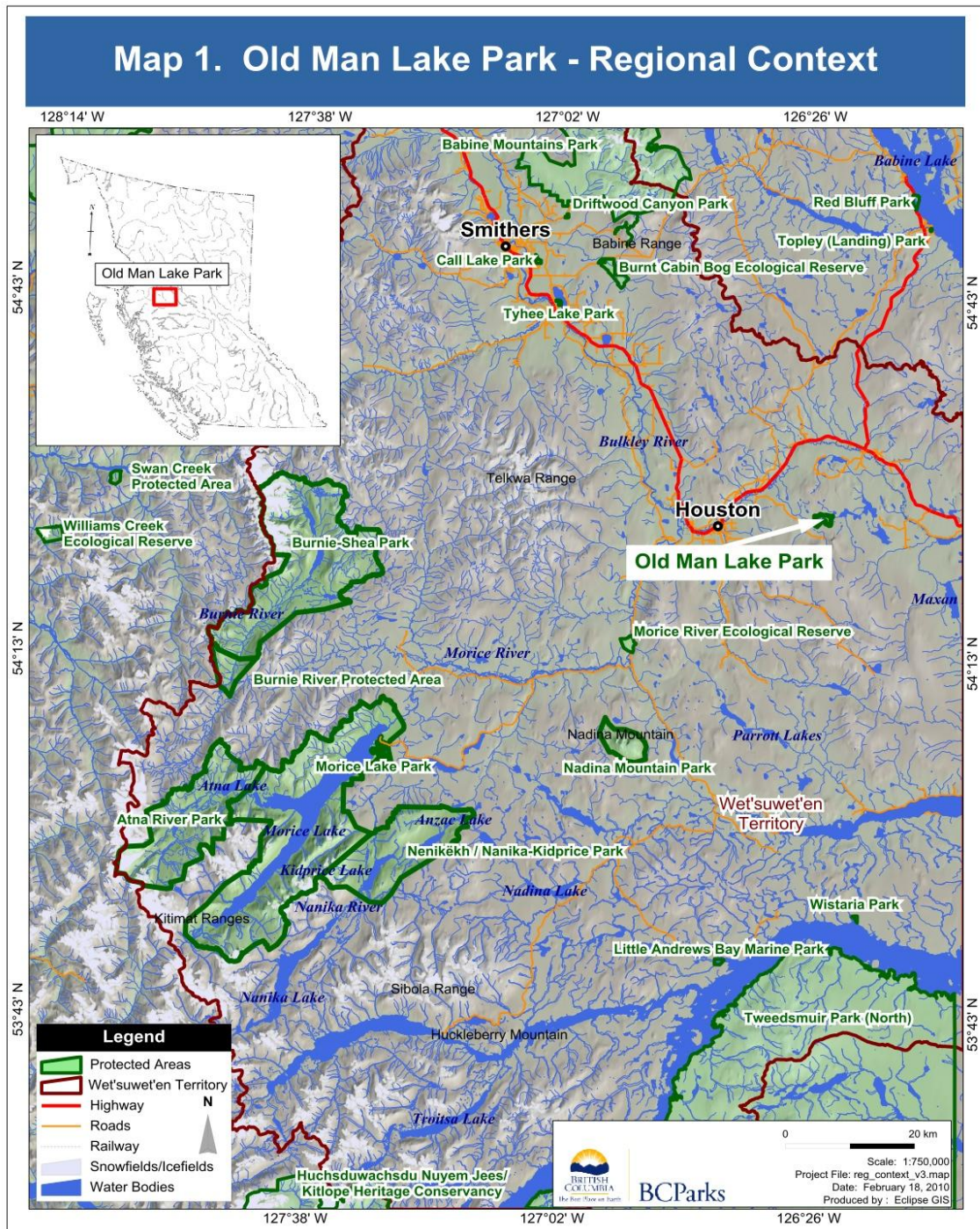
### 1.3 Legislative Framework

Old Man Lake 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.

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<sup>2</sup> Mule Deer are the primary species of deer in this area; however, White-tailed Deer may also be present.



**Figure 1: Map 1 – Old Man Lake Park – Regional Context**



## Map 2. Old Man Lake Park

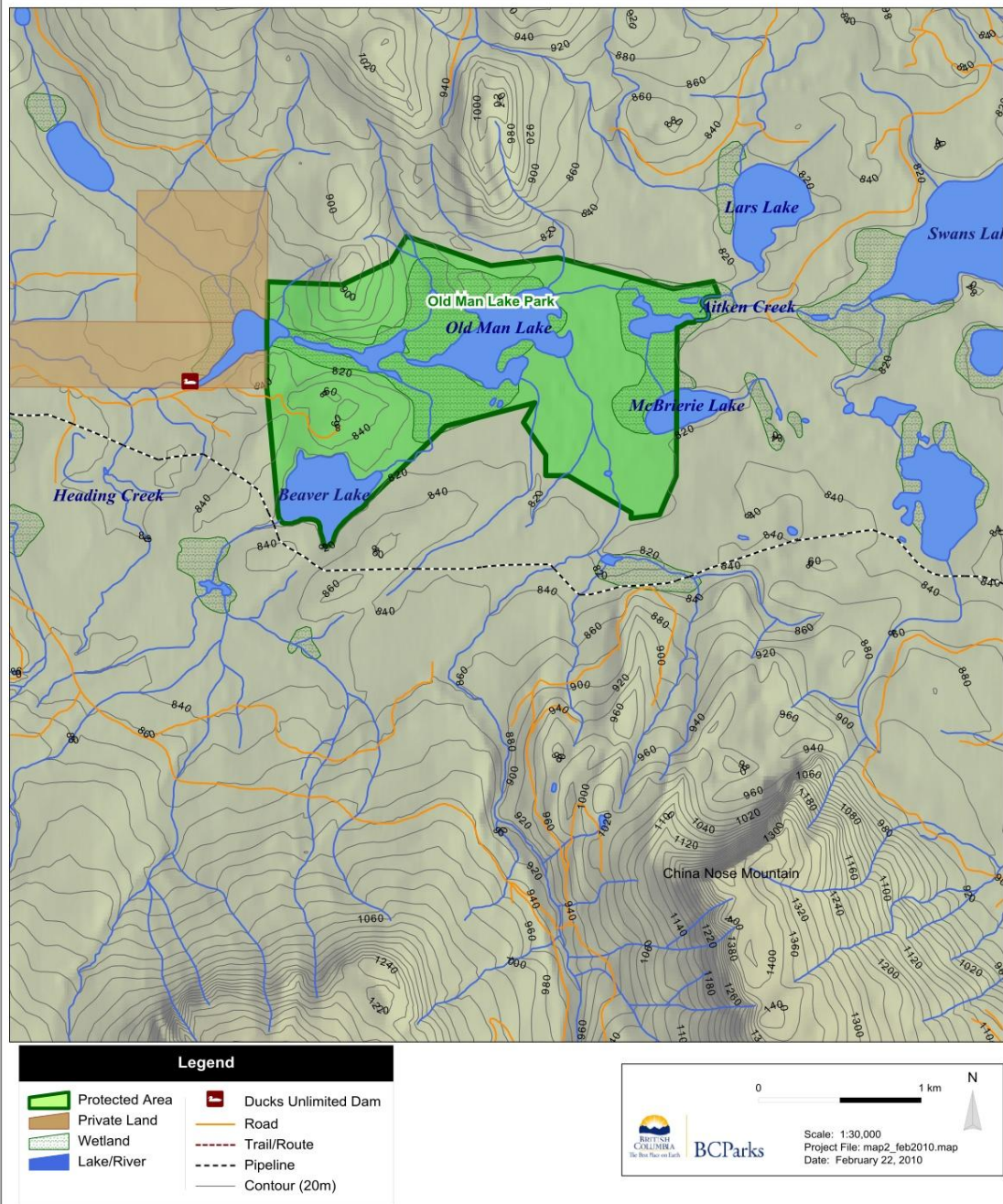


Figure 2: Map 2 – Old Man Lake Park

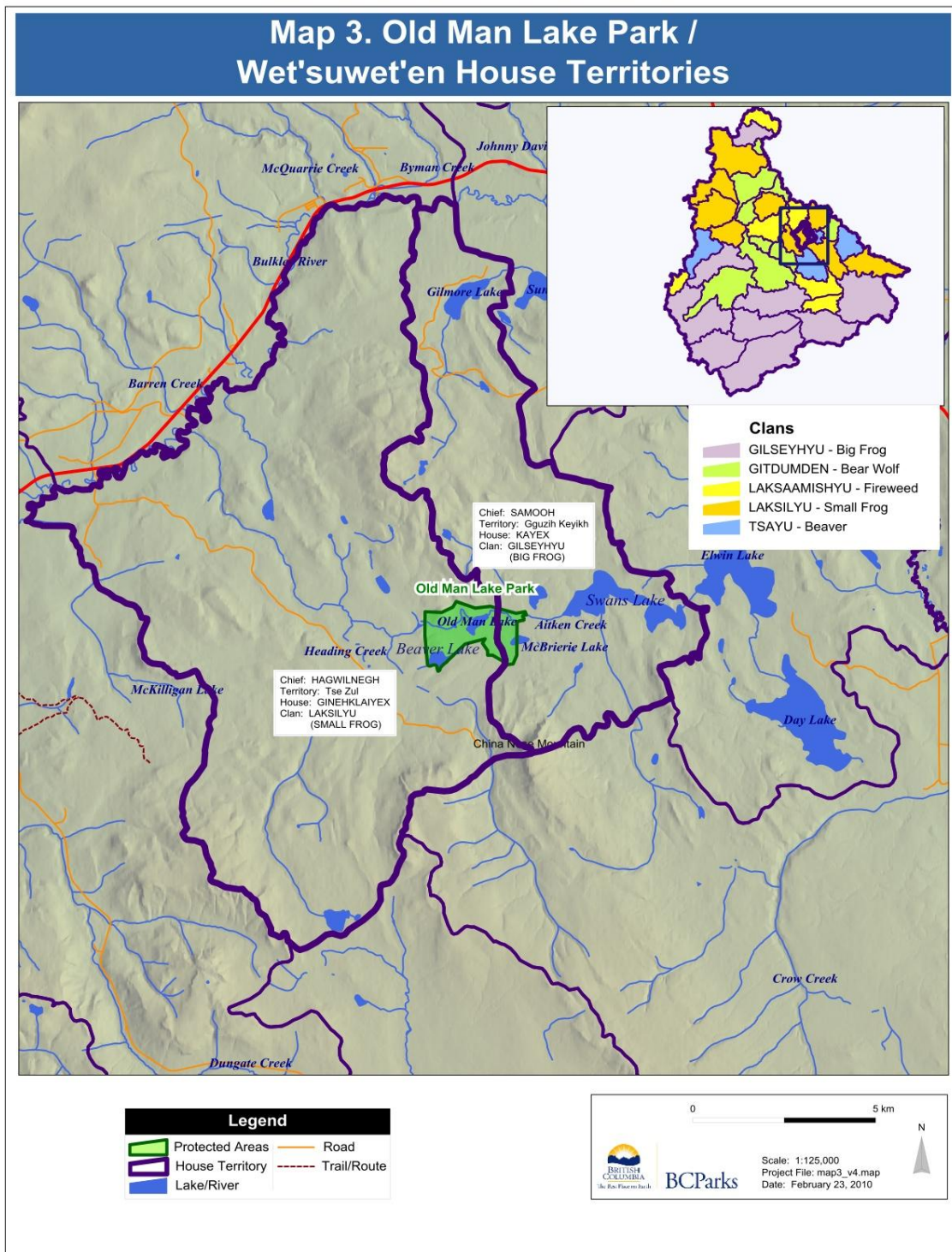


Figure 3: Map 3 – Old Man Lake Park/Wet'suwet'en House Territories

## 1.4 Obligations and Agreements

Old Man Lake 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 Old Man Lake Park:

- protection of high value breeding and migratory bird habitat;
- protection of grassland and aquatic ecosystems; and,
- conservation of First Nations' cultural and heritage values.

The specific management intent of the park is to:

- conserve riparian and rare grassland ecosystems, wildlife habitats and cultural heritage values, with no motorized access allowed.

Other specific management direction for Old Man Lake Park from the Morice LRMP (see Appendix 1) includes:

- fencing park boundaries using wildlife-friendly methods (to exclude livestock);
- conserving the functional integrity of breeding and migratory bird habitats with no loss of breeding and migratory bird habitats; and,
- managing cultural and heritage features and values as per Office of the Wet'suwet'en values and intent.

The Morice LRMP also provides direction on motorized uses. Motorized use is not permitted in the park.



## 1.5 Existing Tenures and Facilities

Old Man Lake Park lies entirely within hunting guiding territory 609G005 and trapline 609T001. There are no facilities associated with commercial activities in the park.

## 1.6 The Planning Process

The management plan for Old Man Lake 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, Nenikëkh/Nanika-Kidprice 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<sup>2</sup> 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, 20 km to the west of the park, is the closest community to Old Man Lake 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 Old Man Lake 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, Old Man Lake 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 Areas System

Old Man Lake Park is significant in the parks and protected areas system because it:

- protects rare wetland ecosystems in the dry cool subzone of the Sub-Boreal Spruce (SBSdk) biogeoclimatic zone that are important for migratory birds;
- protects red-listed SBSdk/81 – Saskatoon - Slender wheatgrass grasslands;
- protects south facing slopes that are high quality Moose and deer winter range;
- provides accessible day-trip canoeing, hiking and wildlife viewing recreational opportunities in a wilderness setting; and,
- protects an area with a high diversity of berry producing shrubs and contains other food producing plant and animals that are used by the Wet'suwet'en.

### 2.2 Values and Roles

#### Biological Diversity and Natural Environment Values and Role

##### **Values**

##### *Ecosystem Representation*

Old Man Lake Park lies entirely within the Bulkley Basin (BUB) Ecosection and the dry cool subzone of the Sub-Boreal Spruce (SBSdk) biogeoclimatic zone (Table 1). Much of the BUB and SBSdk occur in areas developed for human settlement and agriculture. Land cover in Old Man Lake Park consists of a mosaic of swamps, lakes, open range, pine leading forests, spruce leading forests, non-productive brush, and deciduous leading stands.

**Table 1: Biogeoclimatic Zone Representation**

Biogeoclimatic (BEC) subzone		Area of BEC in Old Man Lake Park (ha)	Total Area of BEC Protected in the Province (ha)	% Total Area of BEC Protected in the Province Contributed by Old Man Lake Park	% BEC Protected in the Province
Sub-boreal Spruce – dry, cool	SBSdk	265	53 896	0.49	5.9
Fresh Water (within subzone)		61	436 424	0.01	16.0
Total		326			

Old Man Lake Park protects a portion of 1 biogeoclimatic subzone, and some fresh water, which are not well represented in the Bulkley Basin Ecosection. In the Bulkley Basin Ecosection, only 4.0% of the SBSdk, and 1.4% of water are represented in protected areas. Old Man Lake Park contains 1.0% and 3.4% respectively of the provincial protected area coverage of these biogeoclimatic subzones in the Bulkley Basin Ecosection.

### *Species and Ecological Communities of Conservation Concern*

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

- Saskatoon - Slender wheatgrass (SBSdk/81 – red-listed<sup>3</sup>) located on dry slopes; and,
- SBSdk riparian shrub, fen/marsh, bog or wetland habitat.

In addition, SBSdk/02 sites (blue-listed) were also observed on rocky outcrops but were not predicted by the PEM analysis. These sites are generally open lodgepole pine forests with terrestrial lichen ground cover.

### *Fish and Wildlife Habitat*

Old Man Lake Park provides important habitat for wildlife that live in and around the park and contains important ungulate winter range. Lower snow depths in the SBSdk are important for Moose and Deer. A garter snake hibernaculum has been noted in the park.

American Bitterns (blue-listed) have been heard in the Old Man Lake area and are suspected to be breeding in the park. Trumpeter Swans are known to breed in the park. The area is routinely used as a stopover by migratory birds and contains locally rare breeding populations of Black Tern and Yellow-headed Blackbird. In 1987, Ducks Unlimited Canada built an earthen berm dam and overflow channel just outside of the park to create higher water levels to enhance waterfowl habitat in the Old Man Lake system. In 2009, Ducks Unlimited Canada initiated actions to remove the dam because of erosion of the overflow channel. Complete removal of the dam infrastructure is still pending.

Peregrine Falcons (red-listed) have been observed preying on waterfowl in the Old Man Lake/China Nose area. The cliffs on China Nose Mountain are an ideal nesting location for Peregrine Falcons with good access to prey in Old Man Lake Park.

Old Man Lake is eutrophic<sup>4</sup>, and vulnerable to winter kill due to its shallowness and abundant growth of aquatic weeds. Suitable habitat for Rainbow Trout is present but no formal surveys of fish populations have been conducted.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.ca/risk/faq3.html#1>).

<sup>4</sup> Eutrophic refers to waterbodies that are rich in nutrients, supporting a dense plant population, the decomposition of which kills animal life by depriving it of oxygen.

### **Role**

The conservation role of Old Man Lake Park is to protect important wetland and ungulate habitat, and rare grassland and forest ecosystems within a landscape that has been modified by ranching and forest harvesting.

## **Cultural Heritage Values and Roles**

### **Values and Uses**

The Old Man Lake area is known to be very rich in the abundance and variety of berries, including soapberries, huckleberries, cranberries and blueberries. The area also has abundant Moose, and is known for wild rice (*Fritillaria camschatcensis*) and wild celery.

### **Role**

The cultural heritage role for Old Man Lake 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 Old Man Lake Park include canoeing, hiking, wildlife viewing and hunting.

Opportunities for hiking from the lake are limited to areas where dry access landing is possible. A system of old logging/skid trails in the eastern portion of the park provides some hiking opportunities within the park through young pine forests. China Nose Mountain can be viewed from the lakes as well as some of the higher points in the park. The majority of recreational use is mainly by local residents.

Access is by road from Highways 16. Canoes are generally launched outside of the park near the Ducks Unlimited Canada dam to access Old Man Lake. However, water-based access to the park from the dam area may become difficult if the dam is removed.

### **Role**

The recreation role of Old Man Lake Park is to provide day-use opportunities for non-motorized activities such as hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting and canoeing in a relatively undisturbed low elevation landscape.

## 3.0 Management Direction

### 3.1 Vision

Old Man Lake Park conserves a diverse assemblage of low elevation aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Waterfowl thrive in the lakes and surrounding marshland vegetation while Deer and Moose continue to use important winter and summer habitats. Species and ecological communities of conservation concern have been identified and continue to occupy their natural habitats. The Wet'suwet'en people maintain and use the park's resources for social, ceremonial and cultural activities. Recreational users enjoy canoeing on Old Man Lake, scenic views of China Nose Mountain, hiking, wildlife viewing and hunting in a relatively undisturbed setting.

### 3.2 Management Issues, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

#### Biological Diversity and Natural Environment

##### ***Management Issues/Interests:***

- In 2009, Ducks Unlimited Canada initiated actions to remove the dam just outside of the park, which is on private land, because of erosion of the overflow channel. Removing the dam may result in impacts on nesting bird species, wetlands and recreation; however, there is limited understanding of what those impacts will be. The Morice LRMP recommended protecting this park to protect the wetland ecosystem.
- There is strong interest from the Cattlemen's Association and Ministry of Forests and Range to issue two new grazing tenures adjacent to the park boundary. The Morice LRMP provides direction for Old Man Lake Park to be fenced to keep cows out of the park. The local range users are not opposed to the fencing of the park, but are concerned that: cleared fence lines, especially in forested areas, could promote ATV use in the area; portions of the boundary are too wet to fence; fences could potentially impede wildlife movements; fence lines could enhance wolf movements; fence lines could direct cattle to areas where they are not wanted; and, fences must not connect to existing trails.
- Recreational activities could potentially negatively affect nesting waterfowl.
- 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 affect species and ecological communities of conservation concern.
- The status of the grasslands in the park is unknown. Trees and shrubs are encroaching onto many grassland communities in the region.
- Mountain pine beetles are affecting lodgepole pine stands in the park and on adjacent forest lands. Although only a small portion of the park is made up of

lodgepole pine leading stands, lodgepole pine is the dominant tree species on blue-listed SBSdk/02 sites.

- Development, including forest harvesting is occurring outside of the park and could potentially affect park values, including wildlife that uses areas both within and outside of the park. Development on the landscape surrounding the park will continue to alter adjacent habitat and access.
- 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 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure carbon footprint of park activities (both management and visitor activities).</li> <li>• Minimize greenhouse gas emissions from park management actions.</li> <li>• Use “green” technology for designing and developing new facilities where feasible.</li> </ul>
	Effects of climate change on park values are better understood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarize/evaluate potential effects of climate change on park weather, hydrology, vegetation, fish and wildlife based on existing information.</li> <li>• Use the summary to determine appropriate actions for managing climate change impacts.</li> <li>• Encourage research/monitoring of the effects of climate change on park values and ecosystem functioning.</li> </ul>
	The public, industry and communities are aware of the ecological services and benefits that the park provides.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight the ecological services and benefits that this park provides for downstream users, communities and industry (e.g. on park signs, on brochures, in newspapers, on the BC Parks website, etc.).</li> </ul>
	Forest harvesting activities and related access on neighbouring lands have minimal impacts on park values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
An aquatic ecosystem for waterfowl	The park provides aquatic habitat for waterfowl.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the extent of aquatic habitat for waterfowl following the proposed removal of the Ducks Unlimited Canada dam.</li> <li>• Design and implement a waterfowl monitoring strategy.</li> <li>• Assess the impact of the removal of the Ducks Unlimited Canada dam, and the subsequent return of the natural water flow and flooding pattern, on waterfowl and other park values.</li> </ul>
	Waterfowl nesting sites are protected from human disturbance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess high value waterfowl nesting areas.</li> <li>• Do not allow canoeing or hiking near waterfowl habitat during the critical period around the nesting season.</li> <li>• Designate shoreline access areas away from prime nesting areas.</li> </ul>

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
Naturally functioning terrestrial ecosystems	Terrestrial ecosystems are protected from cattle grazing and motorized vehicle access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider all fencing options that will keep cattle outside the park boundary.</li> <li>Undertake fencing of the park boundary where required using ecologically and wildlife sensitive methods.</li> <li>Assess the proposed fence line for species and ecological communities of conservation concern.</li> <li>Where fence lines are needed, consider techniques such as keeping stump heights above 60 cm to discourage motorized use.</li> <li>Work with the Ministry of Forests and Range and surrounding range tenure holders to maintain fencing in the long-term.</li> </ul>
Naturally functioning species and ecological communities of conservation concern	Species and ecological communities of conservation concern are protected from human disturbance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a survey of the park using air photos and ground investigations to identify ecological communities of conservation concern.</li> <li>Consider prescribed fire for managing rare grasslands where appropriate.</li> <li>Encourage research on grassland ecosystem dynamics.</li> <li>Conduct a survey of plant species of conservation concern by targeting the park's very wet and very dry ecosystems.</li> <li>Conduct surveys for targeted wildlife species of conservation concern.</li> <li>Avoid species and ecological communities of conservation concern for any proposed facilities and trails.</li> <li>Inform visitors of general characteristics of ecological communities of conservation concern to avoid impacts.</li> </ul>
	SBSdk/02 ecosystems are represented on the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the Ministry of Forests and Range to identify the extent of mountain pine beetle attack on SBSdk/02 sites.</li> <li>Ensure that management activities do not impact fragile terrestrial lichen communities.</li> </ul>
Naturally functioning and resilient ecosystems and processes	Park lands are not isolated from the larger ecosystem in which they are embedded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify important links between ecosystems within the park and areas outside the park.</li> <li>Work with adjacent land managers to maintain connectivity between the park and the broader landscape.</li> </ul>

## 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 greater a 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 other historical resources	Cultural heritage resources and historic sites are identified and protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Perform historical and ethnographic research, and cultural heritage field inventories if developments are proposed.</li> <li>▪ Identify threats to cultural heritage resources and implement protective measures that may include marking areas as off-limits and distributing maps of prohibited areas.</li> <li>▪ Educate rangers and Watchmen on how to identify cultural heritage resources.</li> <li>▪ Promote Wet'suwet'en language by indicating Wet'suwet'en name places (creeks, lakes, summits) on maps and other publications.</li> </ul>
First Nations people reconnect with the park	First Nations people use the park for traditional and sustenance activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain opportunities for Wet'suwet'en traditional, sustenance and harvesting activities.</li> <li>▪ Work towards re-establishing historical Wet'suwet'en trails, campsites and cabins.</li> <li>▪ Increase public and Wet'suwet'en community awareness regarding traditional, sustenance use and harvesting activities.</li> <li>▪ Deliver annual community workshops that facilitate the sharing of park management issues and gather input from traditional knowledge.</li> <li>▪ Support management approaches that help maintain wildlife populations for traditional and sustenance activities.</li> </ul>
	The park name is meaningful to the Wet'suwet'en Nation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify an appropriate addition of a Wet'suwet'en name in Wet'suwet'en language to the park name.</li> <li>▪ Recommend legislation be revised to be consistent with the new park name.</li> </ul>
Healthy local tourism industry	The park contributes to local employment, especially cultural tourism associated with the Wet'suwet'en.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage tourism operators to establish working relationships with the Wet'suwet'en and seek opportunities for mutual benefits.</li> <li>▪ Permit and support development of appropriate cultural tourism activities.</li> <li>▪ Identify and allocate appropriate tenured opportunities to assist local economic diversification, particularly local First Nations.</li> </ul>
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider undertaking a formal agreement for collaborative stewardship.</li> <li>▪ Engage Wet'suwet'en in operation and management of the park.</li> <li>▪ Include Wet'suwet'en in management activities and monitoring.</li> </ul>
Communication of cultural heritage	Visitors to the park are aware of the rich cultural heritage of the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Include cultural heritage information in interpretive materials.</li> <li>▪ Facilitate education and sharing of Wet'suwet'en culture through the use of historical names in the park.</li> </ul>

## Recreation Values Management

### ***Management Issues/Interest:***

- The current access point at the Ducks Unlimited Canada dam area is outside of the park and is partly on private land.
- There are no formal facilities (signs, toilets, parking) at the access point.
- The new access road, which was constructed for timber harvesting and is not on private land, could result in increased recreational use.
- Logging/skid trails in an old cutblock that is located partially within park boundaries provides some ground-based access into the park.

Goal	Objective	Management Strategies
Non-motorized day use recreational activities in a relatively undisturbed lowland setting	The primary access to Old Man Lake Park is near the Ducks Unlimited Canada dam area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a survey to determine where the private land boundary is located in the area around the Ducks Unlimited Canada dam.</li> <li>• Work with the private land owner to develop an agreement for access for non-motorized boats on the Old Man Lake system.</li> <li>• Work with the private land owner, the Ministry of Forests and Range, and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Recreation Sites and Trails Branch to identify and develop a parking area, toilet and sign, just outside of the private property near the Ducks Unlimited Canada dam area.</li> </ul>
	Recreational use focuses on non-motorized day-use activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Ministry of Forests and Range to ensure that roads leading to the park boundary are rehabilitated.</li> <li>• Consider developing a hiking trail using the old skid trail in the park.</li> <li>• Do not develop/allow camping sites.</li> <li>• Do not develop any new portage trails.</li> </ul>
	Park visitors are aware of park values and recreational opportunities in the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a sign at the park access point that shows the park boundary and non-motorized recreational opportunities, and provides information on park values and impacts of recreational use.</li> </ul>
	Proposed new park facilities and changes to existing park facilities comply with Ministry standards and impact assessments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow Ministry design guidelines and conduct impact assessments for any proposed facilities or proposed changes to existing facilities.</li> </ul>



### 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 Old Man Lake Park is zoned Nature Recreation (Figure 4) to reflect the ecological values in the park, and the non-motorized designation of the park by the Morice LRMP. Motorized use is not permitted in the park and the recreational focus of the park is on day-use activities.

## Map 4. Old Man Lake Park - Management Zones

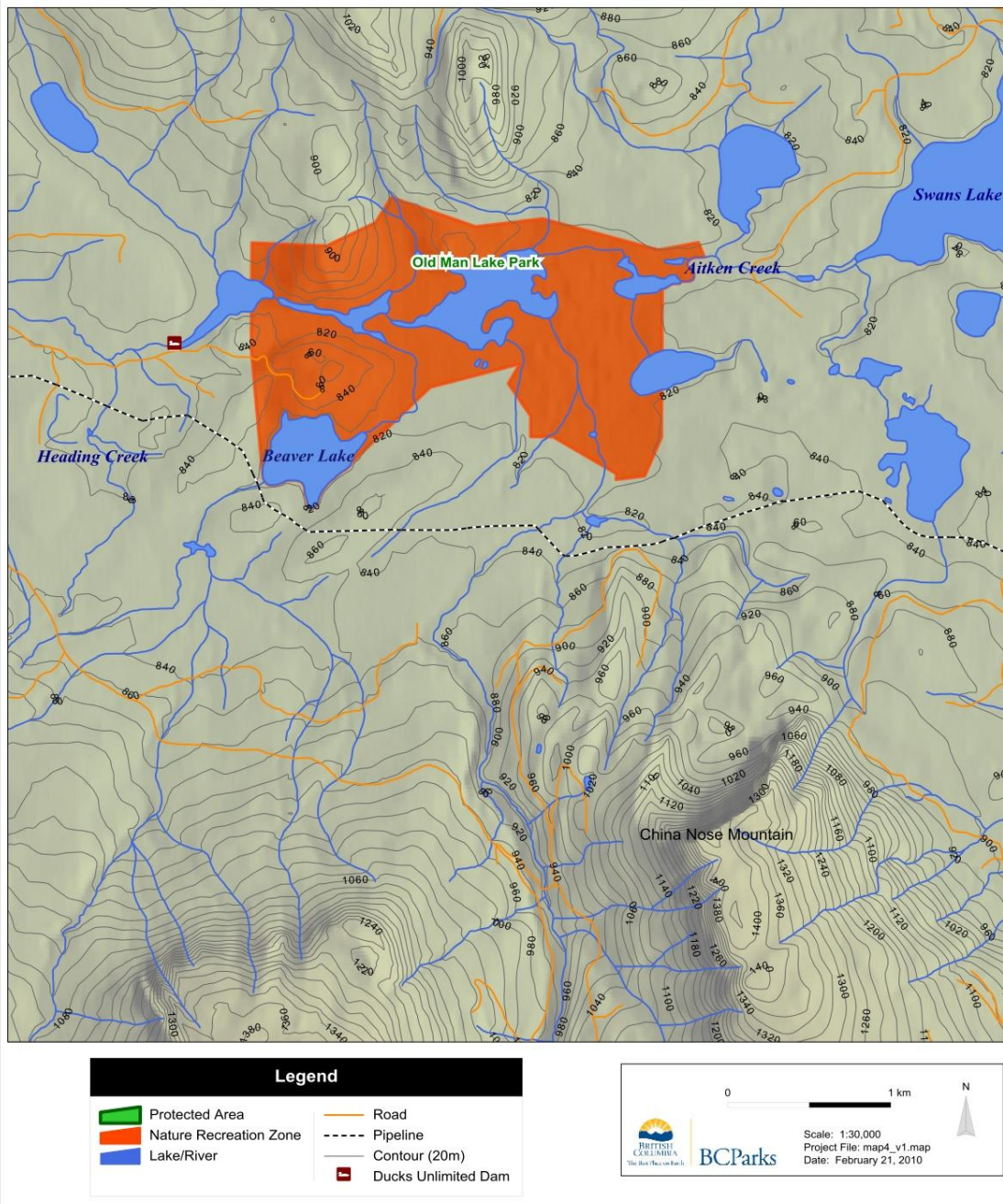


Figure 4: Map 4 – Old Man Lake Park Management Zones

Table 2 defines the activities and facilities that are appropriate in the Nature Recreation Zone in Old Man Lake Park.

**Table 2: Appropriate Use Table**

Activity/Facility	Appropriate in Nature Recreation Zone
<b>Biological Diversity and Natural Environment Management</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	
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
<b>Cultural/Heritage Management</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	
Cultural, ceremonial and social uses by First Nations	Y
Cultural Tourism	Y
<b>Recreation Value Management</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	
Aircraft Access	Y
Boating (power)	N
Boating (non-power)	Y
Camping – backcountry	N
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
Skiing (self propelled, not groomed)	Y
Snowmobiling	N
Wildlife/Nature Viewing	Y
<b>Facilities</b>	
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	N
Backcountry Huts and Shelters	N
Boat Launches	N
Campground and Picnic Areas (vehicle accessed and serviced)	N
Camp sites (other)	N
Interpretation and Information Buildings	N
Roads and Parking Lots	N
Trails (hiking, cross-country skiing)	Y
Wharves/docks	N
<b>Natural Resource Use Management</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	
Angling Guiding	Y
Filming	Y
Guide Outfitting	Y
Trapping	Y

Activity/Facility	Appropriate in Nature Recreation Zone
<b>Facilities</b>	
Communication Sites	N
Utility Corridors (power/transmission lines and other rights-of-way)	N
Water Control Structures	N
Water Sampling Structures	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

## 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 plan.

#### High Priority Strategies

The following strategies were identified as high priorities for implementation for Old Man Lake Park:

1. 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.
2. Engage Wet'suwet'en in operation and management of the park and try to hire Wet'suwet'en rangers or Watchmen.
3. Deliver annual community workshops that facilitate the sharing of park management issues and gather input from traditional knowledge.
4. Assess the impact of the removal of the Ducks Unlimited Canada dam, and the subsequent return of the natural water flow and flooding pattern, on waterfowl and other park values.
5. Assess high value nesting areas. Do not allow canoeing or hiking near waterfowl habitat during the critical period around the nesting season.
6. Undertake fencing of the park boundary where required using ecologically and wildlife sensitive methods. Assess the proposed fence line for species and ecological communities of conservation concern.
7. Conduct a survey of the park using air photos and ground investigations to identify ecological communities of conservation concern. Conduct a survey of plant species of conservation concern by targeting very wet and very dry ecosystems.
8. Work with the Ministry of Forests and Range to identify the extent of mountain pine beetle attack on SBSdk/02 sites.
9. Conduct a survey to determine where the private land boundary is located in the area around the Ducks Unlimited Canada dam.

10. Work with the private land owner to develop an agreement for access for non-motorized boats on the Old Man Lake system. Work with the private land owner, the Ministry of Forests and Range, and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Recreation Sites and Trails Branch to identify and develop a parking area, toilet and sign, just outside of the private property near the Ducks Unlimited Canada dam area.
11. Provide a sign at the park access point that shows the park boundary and non-motorized recreational opportunities, and provides information on park values and impacts of recreational use.
12. 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.
13. Work with the Ministry of Forests and Range to ensure that roads leading to the park boundary are rehabilitated.

### **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 have been 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, aquatic habitat, 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
	Sign at parking area	Zero	Sign in place
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
The park provides aquatic habitat for waterfowl.	Area (ha) of aquatic ecosystem	Extent of natural aquatic habitat (following dam removal)	No net loss of natural aquatic habitat
Waterfowl nesting sites are protected from human disturbance.	Number of visitors during nesting season	Information not compiled	Zero
Terrestrial ecosystems are protected from cattle grazing and motorized vehicle access.	Number of cows/cow tracks observed in park	Information not compiled	Zero
	Number of motorized vehicles/tracks observed in park	Information not compiled	Zero
Species and ecological communities of conservation concern are protected from human disturbance.	Area (ha) of plant communities of conservation concern impacted	Information not compiled	Zero
SBSdk/02 ecosystems are represented on the landscape.	Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) of terrestrial lichen communities impacted by recreation/management activities	Information not compiled	Zero
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 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



Objective	Indicator	Baseline	Target
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 primary access to Old Man Lake Park is near the Ducks Unlimited Canada dam area.	Parking/access area	Zero	Parking/access area completed
Recreational use focuses on non-motorized day-use activities.	Number of motorized vehicles/tracks observed in park	Information not compiled	Zero
Park visitors are aware of park values and recreational opportunities in the park.	Sign at parking area	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.

# 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 Old Man Lake Protected Area (5.3.4).

## 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize management planning with respect to the priority resource values at risk.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Encourage economic opportunities for small, locally based commercial recreation.</li> </ul>	
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible uses under the <i>Park Act</i>; and</li> <li>• Compatible with the new protected area.</li> </ul>	100%
	Implementation Direction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible tenures that are eligible to continue under the <i>Park Act</i> will be grandfathered into newly established protected areas where consistent with the management direction for each protected area.</li> <li>• Trapping, guiding and commercial recreation will be considered acceptable uses.</li> <li>• Issue 10-year tenures for trapping, guiding and commercial recreation.</li> <li>• Tenures are to be eligible for transfer.</li> <li>• Guide outfitter and trapping tenures to be re-issued under existing conditions when an area changes hands.</li> <li>• No loss of species quotas for guide outfitters, except for reasons based on biological or habitat science and in consultation with the guide outfitter.</li> <li>• Retain over time, all existing and future access routes (including new trails) and methods of</li> </ul>	

Objective	Measures/Indicators	Target
	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing tenure holders should be able to perform maintenance on their existing trails and cabins if necessary.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Maintain ecosystem representation, abundance and integrity, and protect key resource values and natural features.</b>	3.1 Incidence of human recreation or management practices that impact negatively on the natural resource values of the protected area.	Zero
	<p>3.2 Number of identified red and blue-listed plants, animals and communities that are lost are negatively affected by human disturbance.</p> <p>Implementation Direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management emphasis will be placed on maintaining the ecosystems, resource values and natural features for which the protected areas were established.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Consider forest health issues in the management of parks.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Facilities will be designed and managed to have the lightest “footprint” possible.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p>To prevent impact to red-and blue-listed species and other habitat values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain functional habitat, cover and site-specific features for fish and wildlife species.</li> <li>Encourage human use patterns that minimize impacts on the environment (e.g. trails, boardwalks, facilities).</li> </ul>	Zero
<b>4. Protect cultural heritage values.</b>	4.1 Incidence of damage to, or loss of, cultural heritage values	Zero
	<p>Implementation Direction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and protect archaeological sites, special sites, traditional</li> </ul>	
<b>5. Recognize hunting and angling as an acceptable use within protected areas.</b>	5.1 Percent o sustainable hunting and angling opportunities in protected areas maintained.	100%
	<p>Implementation Direction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	

### 5.3.4 Old Man Lake Protected Area

The protected area includes Old Man Lake, Beaver Lake and part of McBreirie Lake. It lies at the foot of China Nose Mountain and is adjacent to the Swan Lake-China Nose Area Specific RMZ. The area is located approximately 25 kilometres east of Houston and 12 kilometres south of Topley. It is an ecologically significant complex of small lakes, marshy shorelines and wetlands. Old Man Lake contains abundant aquatic vegetation, including extensive fields of emergent marsh cinquefoil. The area is routinely used as a stopover by migratory birds and contains locally rare breeding populations of black tern and yellow-headed blackbirds.

Of particular ecological value are the natural grasslands located on the south facing slopes, some of which are red-listed. The Old Man lake area is of importance to First Nations as a historic settlement area. Contributing to its cultural significance is the abundance of Saskatoon on the south facing natural grasslands. This rare plant community is of conservation importance, both from an ecological and a cultural perspective.

**Issues:**

- Impacts to the function and integrity of the grassland and aquatic ecosystems and associated avian breeding habitats.
- Impacts to First Nations traditional settlement areas and cultural activities.

**Goals:**

- Protection of high value breeding and migratory bird habitat.
- Protection of grassland and aquatic ecosystems.
- Conservation of First Nations' cultural and heritage values.

**Management Intent:**

Area to be managed to conserve riparian and rare grassland ecosystems, wildlife habitats and cultural heritage values, with no motorized access allowed.

Objective	Measures/ Indicators	Targets	Implementation Direction
1. Conserve the natural composition, structure and function of the grasslands, lakes and wetlands.	1.1 Incidence of loss of the natural composition, structure and function of the grasslands, lakes and wetlands.	Zero	Protected area boundaries to be fenced using wildlife-friendly methods. Range tenure holders are not responsible for fence construction.
2. Conserve the functional integrity of breeding and migratory bird habitats.	2.1 Incidence of loss of breeding and migratory bird habitats.	Zero	
3. Conserve cultural and heritage features and values.	3.1 Incidence of loss of cultural heritage features and values.	Zero	Manage as per Office of the Wet'suwet'en values and intent.

## Appendix 2. BC Parks Zoning Framework

	Intensive Recreation	Nature Recreation	Special Feature
<b>Objective</b>	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.
<b>Use Level</b>	Relatively high density and long duration types of use.	Relatively low use but higher levels associated with nodes of activity or access.	Generally low.
<b>Means of Access</b>	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.
<b>Location</b>	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.
<b>Size of Zone</b>	Small, usually less than 2,000 hectares.	Can range from small to large.	Small, usually less than 2000 hectares.
<b>Boundary Definition</b>	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).
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>	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.
<b>Facilities</b>	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.
<b>Impacts on Natural Environment</b>	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.
<b>Management Guidelines</b>	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.
<b>Example of Zoning</b>	Campground in Rath Trevor 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.

	<b>Wilderness Recreation</b>	<b>Wilderness Conservation</b>
<b>Objective</b>	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.
<b>Use Level</b>	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.
<b>Means of Access</b>	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.
<b>Location</b>	Remote, not easily visited on a day-use basis.	Remote, not easily visited on a day-use basis.
<b>Size of Zone</b>	Large, greater than 5,000 hectares.	Large, greater than 5,000 hectares.
<b>Boundary Definition</b>	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.
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>	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).
<b>Facilities</b>	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.
<b>Impacts on Natural Environment</b>	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.
<b>Management Guidelines</b>	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.
<b>Example of Zoning</b>	Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park; Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park.	Upper Murray River watershed within Monkman Park; Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy Area.