Backcountry Protected Areas of the Muskwa-Kechika

Strategic Management Plan

Public Review DRAFT

Disclaimer: This draft management plan contains preliminary proposals that are subject to change and therefore may not necessarily reflect the position of the Ministry of Environment. At the conclusion of the planning process, a revised management plan will be approved by the Ministry.

June 2024

BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Parks

Cover Page Photo: Mayfield Lakes Chain, Dune Za Keyih Park

This Strategic Management Plan replaces the following approved management direction documents:

- Finlay Russel Provincial Park and Protected Area - Purpose Statement and Zoning plan, Omineca Region 2005
- Horneline Creek Provincial Park - Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan, Peace Region 2006
- Kwadacha Provincial Park - Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan, Omineca Region 2005
- Ospika Cones Ecological Reserve - Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan, Omineca Region 2005
- Prophet River Hotsprings Provincial Park - Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan, Peace Region 2006
- Scatter River Old Growth Park - Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan, Peace Region 2006
- Sikanni Chief River Ecological Reserve - Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan, Peace Region 2006

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Forewords by First Nations

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Acknowledgements

BC Parks would like to acknowledge Pamela Wright, Ph.D., retired professor at the University of Northern British Columbia, and her colleagues for their work on multiple assessments that inform this management plan. These include an Ecosystems Overview Assessment, Conservation Values Assessment, Protected Area Management Effectiveness Assessment, and Connectivity Assessment.

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Vision Statement

From the alpine meadows, glaciers, raging rivers and serrated peaks of the Rocky and Cassiar Mountains to the exceptional flora and fauna of many regional hot springs, the backcountry protected areas of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area are renowned as world-class destinations. Adventure, spectacular wilderness, and a diversity of wildlife await in the backcountry. The vast network of protected areas provides connectivity across the landscape to maintain the majestic mountain ecosystems and provide a refugia upon which diverse and abundant wildlife depend. The protected areas are home to caribou, bison, mountain goats, Stone's sheep, moose, elk, fisher, grizzly and black bear, amongst many other species.

With a long history of use and travel, the protected areas remain locations where First Nations members practice their social, ceremonial, and cultural activities. The backcountry protected areas in the Muskwa-Kechika exist across a vast area of the northern Rocky Mountain and Cassiar Mountain ranges, within many First Nations territories. The Kaska Dena First Nations, Treaty 8 First Nations, Kwadacha First Nation, and Tsay Keh Dene First Nation call portions of this area home.

The network of protected areas within the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area plays an important role in providing remote, low impact, backcountry recreation opportunities for local, national, and international visitors. The few existing facilities are maintained to support a wilderness experience with low levels of public and commercial recreation use, and to ensure that key values are protected.

Management of these protected areas will ensure values remain intact and exceptional wilderness visitor experiences are maintained for future generations.

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1.0 Background

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this strategic management plan is to guide the management of thirteen provincial protected areas within, and adjacent to, the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA).

The protected areas in this plan do not exist in isolation; they are part of a network of backcountry protected areas with related management issues and goals. The protected areas included in this plan are all remote backcountry parks with limited access.

This strategic management plan establishes the future management direction for the protected areas by:

- establishing a long-term vision and management objectives for the planning area;
- identifying appropriate types and levels of management activities;
- determining appropriate levels of use and development; and,
- responding to current and predicted threats and opportunities by defining a set of management strategies to achieve the management vision and objectives.

Multiple background documents were prepared in advance of this plan and were used to inform management direction. An Ecosystem Overview Assessment was prepared for all the protected areas in the M-KMA. Reference should be made to this document for a thorough description of ecological values in the protected areas:

- Protected Areas of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area - Ecosystem Overview Assessment[1], August, 2020. Confluence – Conservation Science and Practice, Pamela Wright, Ph.D.
- Additional background documents include:
    - Connectivity Assessment, 2021. Confluence – Conservation Science and Practice, Pamela Wright, Ph.D.

[1] Ecosystem Overview Assessment

- Conservation Values Assessment[2], 2020. BC Parks & Confluence – Conservation Science and Practice, Pamela Wright, Ph.D.
- Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Assessment[3], 2020 BC Parks & Confluence – Conservation Science and Practice, Pamela Wright, Ph.D.

1.2 Management Planning Process

BC Parks initiated this strategic management plan in 2020, during the final approval stages of management plans for other protected areas within the M-KMA: Northern Rocky Mountains Park and Protected Area and Redfern-Keily Park. Many of the interests identified during these planning projects, engagement feedback, and subsequent management direction has been used to inform this strategic management plan.

Local First Nations have been invited to participate in the development of the plan. Ongoing engagement with interested First Nations has and will continue to occur throughout the life of the project.

The following consultation process is being used to develop this plan:

- 2020 – Initiate project by public announcement and letters to key interested groups. Conduct preliminary online survey and interviews with interested groups to identify known management concerns and themes of interest.
- 2020-2024 – Develop draft strategic management plan.
- 2024 – Public release of draft plan, public meetings, and online consultation to gather feedback and develop final draft plan.
- 2025 – Public release of final plan.

1.3 Muskwa-Kechika Planning Area

The protected areas[4] included in this strategic management plan are within the M-KMA (Figure 1) located in northern British Columbia and named after two of the great rivers that traverse the area, the Muskwa and Kechika Rivers.

The *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act* and the Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan Regulation were adopted through Order-in-Council and enacted in 1998. The

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[2] BC Parks | Conservation assessments and protected area management effectiveness

[3] Muskwa-Kechika Park and Protected Area management effectiveness evaluation

[4] The term "protected area" is used generically throughout the document to describe "Ecological Reserves" established under the *Ecological Reserve Act* or *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, "Parks" established under the *Park Act* or the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* or "Protected Areas" established under the *Environment and Land Use Act*.

M-KMA developed out of the land and resource management planning (LRMP) tables in the 1990s in Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, and Mackenzie. The purpose of the legislation was to provide guidance to managers in government agencies and non-government organizations, communities, and industry groups while conducting their activities in the M-KMA.

To support land management, the *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act* specified the creation of local strategic plans to guide land managers to maintain the intent of the M-KMA for wildlife, oil and gas, parks, recreation, and forestry. This plan helps to fulfill the commitment for park planning.

BC Parks works with the M-KMA Advisory Board, mandated with advising government on natural resource management in the M-KMA, to ensure that the management objectives and strategies in this plan are consistent with the objectives of the M-KMA.

There are approximately 1.17 million hectares of protected land in the M-KMA, totaling 27% of the area. Management plans for Northern Rocky Mountains Park and Protected Area and Redfern-Keily Park were approved in 2021. Management direction for frontcountry parks along the Alaska Highway (Liard River Hot Springs Park, Muncho Lake Park, and Stone Mountain Park) is being developed through a separate planning process. The remaining protected areas within the M-KMA are included in this backcountry strategic management plan, completing management direction for all M-KMA protected areas. For more information on the M-KMA, visit the M-KMA website.

The following protected areas are included in this strategic management plan[5]:

1. Dall River Old Growth Park
2. Denetiah Park and Corridor Protected Area
3. Dune Za Keyih [a.k.a Frog-Gataga] Park and Protected Area
4. Finlay-Russel Park and Protected Area
5. Graham-Laurier Park
6. Horneline Creek Park
7. Kwadacha Wilderness Park
8. Liard River Corridor Park and Protected Area, and
   Liard River West Corridor Park
9. Ospika Cones Ecological Reserve
10. Prophet River Hot Springs Park
11. Scatter River Old Growth Park
12. Sikanni Chief River Ecological Reserve
13. Toad River Hot Springs Park

[5] Note that all listed protected areas are within the M-KMA except Scatter River Old Growth Park. This remote park shares a boundary with Liard River Corridor. For operational management purposes, Scatter River Old Growth Park is being included in this plan.

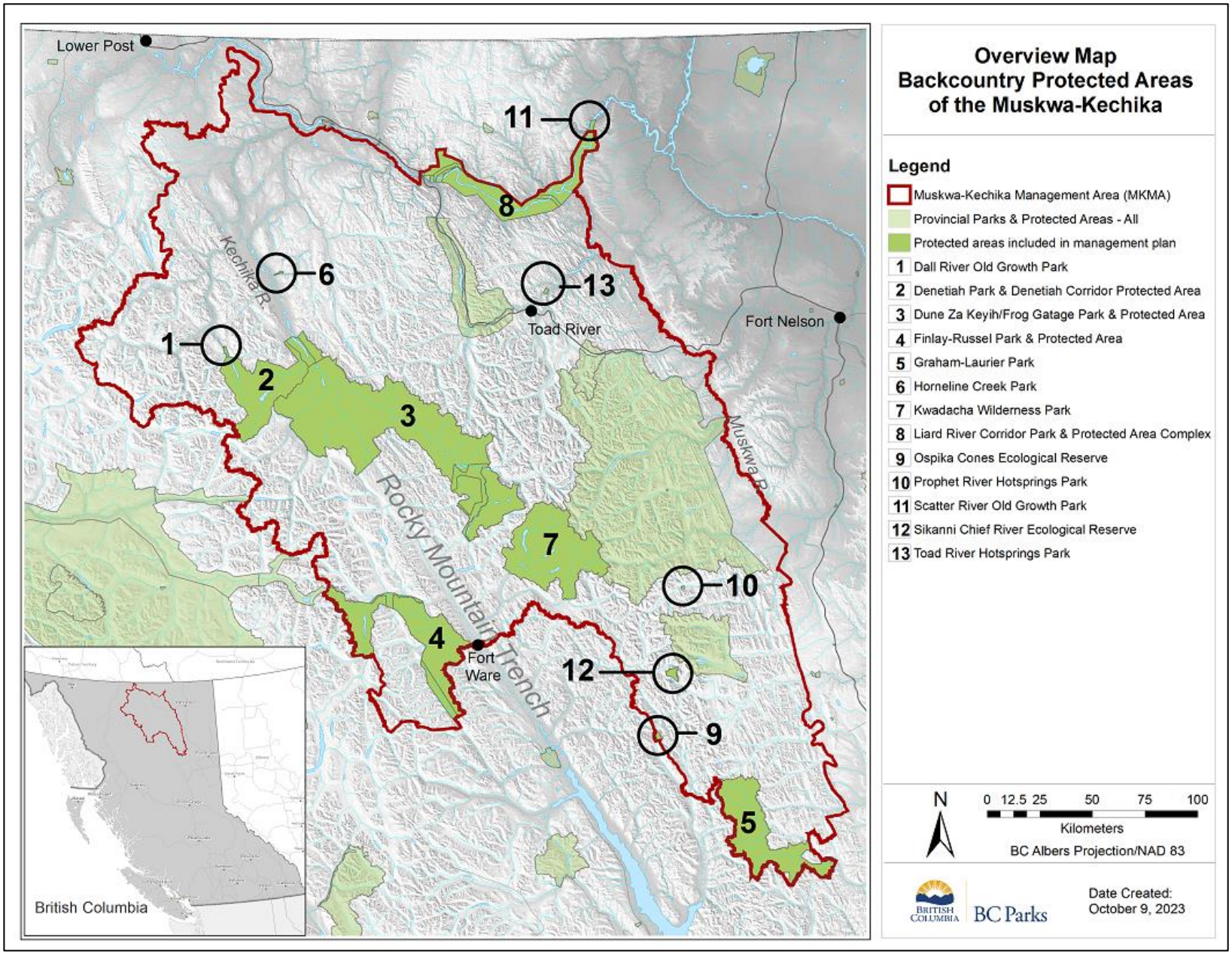

Figure 1: Overview Map

1.4 Protected Area Establishment

Establishment details for each of the protected areas included in this strategic management plan are described in Section 2.2 and Appendix 2. The protected areas were established following recommendations of regional LRMP, except for Sikanni Chief River Ecological Reserve and Kwadacha Wilderness Park which were both established in the 1970s.

The protected areas are designated as:

- Class A Parks, established either by order in council under the *Park Act* or under Schedule C or D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*;
- Protected Areas under the *Environment and Land Use Act*; or,
- Ecological Reserves under Schedule A of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

For a detailed description of the BC Parks designations, visit BC Parks - Summary of the Parks and Protected Areas System[6].

Protected Areas were established under the *Environment and Land Use Act* in Liard River Corridor, Finlay-Russel, Denetiah and Dune Za Keyih to provide for future industrial purposes that would not usually be allowed in a park (e.g., road access to remote natural resources, proposed pipeline).

1.5 Significance in the Protected Areas System

The M-KMA, and the protected areas within it, are spectacular, large and intact. The area contains more than 50 undisturbed watersheds and intact predator – prey relationships. The protected areas of the M-KMA are set within a matrix of special resource management zones that is intended to protect wildlife and wilderness across the larger landscape in perpetuity, an approach that should minimize impacts to the protected areas and help integrate them into the larger landscape. The M-KMA protected area complex is of sufficient size that if connectivity between protected areas is maintained, it should be large enough to sustain populations of most large mammals.

[6] https://bcparks.ca/about/our-mission-responsibilities/types-parks-protected-areas/

The M-KMA protected areas play a critical role in representing northern ecosystems and providing intact, connected habitat for species at risk. These protected areas are also invaluable in providing a continental link for species moving up and down the Rocky Mountain cordillera and trench. The area offers extensive biological research opportunities.

Photo: Dall Lake, Denetiah Park

The area has tremendous cultural significance to local First Nations, contains important travel routes, and is used for sustenance, spiritual, social and ceremonial purposes.

Significant development within the entirety of the M-KMA is confined to a section of the Alaska Highway and a limited footprint from recreation use, either clustered near the highway or in low levels in the backcountry (e.g., guide outfitter lodges, trapline cabins, air strips).

As awareness about the M-KMA increases and as areas in southern British Columbia become more heavily used, backcountry travel in the M-KMA and the protected areas will likely increase. Although travel time to get to the area and the difficulty and time required to reach the protected areas is significant, anecdotally recreation use is increasing in the M-KMA.

1.6 Relationship with First Nations

BC Parks acknowledges all First Nations on whose territories BC Parks were created. BC Parks has benefited from the stewardship First Nations have played and continue to play on the land. We honour their connection to the land and respect the importance of the diverse teachings, traditions, and practices within

these territories. BC Parks is committed to moving to a place of deep acknowledgement and respect for First Nations. BC Parks' approach to reconciliation is guided by the UN Declaration (UNDRIP), the Declaration Act[7], Draft 10 Principles, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report.

The protected areas exist over a vast area of the Rocky Mountain and Cassiar Mountain ranges, across many First Nations territories, including portions of the territory of Tsay Keh Dene First Nation, Kwadacha First Nation, Kaska First Nations, and Treaty 8 First Nations.

Kaska First Nations:

- Daylu Dena Council
- Dease River First Nation
- Liard River First Nation
- Ross River Dena Council

Treaty 8 First Nations:

- Blueberry River First Nation
- Doig River First Nation
- Fort Nelson First Nation
- Halfway River First Nation
- McLeod Lake Indian Band
- Prophet River First Nation
- Saulteau First Nation
- West Moberly First Nations

Aboriginal rights are recognized under s. 35 of Canada's *Constitution*. In making land and resource management decisions, BC Parks recognizes that First Nations have the continued ability to exercise their rights on the land to sustain and promote their distinct ways of life. This includes First Nations' traditional harvesting, cultural activities, and other Aboriginal rights and interests. First Nations' access, use and occupation of lands and the management of cultural sites and heritage resources within protected areas will be managed in accordance with First Nation laws and protocols and any agreements[8] between BC Parks and First Nations. The management directions included in this plan will be interpreted and applied in a manner that recognizes ongoing First Nations use. Exercise of their rights within protected areas must be accommodated, respected, and implemented. The management of protected areas is improved by incorporating First Nations' traditional ecological and cultural knowledge. BC Parks' goal is to

[7] Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (gov.bc.ca)

[8] First Nations A-Z Listing - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)

gather, collate and integrate local traditional knowledge with other scientific data to manage the protected areas.

1.7 Authorizations within the Protected Areas

Authorizations within the protected areas include, but are not limited to, guide outfitting operations, commercial recreation operations[9], range tenures, access to traplines, communication sites, commercial filming, and research activities. Valid park-use permits are required to authorize such activities. Appendix 3 details the active authorizations (park-use permits) at the time of writing within each protected area. These permits are subject to change over time.

1.8 Relationship with other Resource Agencies

BC Parks works directly with other provincial land and resource management agencies to address specific management issues in and around the protected areas in the M-KMA. These agencies include those responsible for Crown land, fish and wildlife, range, and wildfire management. They manage fish and wildlife values, wildfires, prescribed fire, range tenures, pest and disease problems, and authorize commercial and industrial activities. BC Parks works with these provincial agencies to ensure that resource development applications on lands around the protected areas consider protected area values.

Multiple guide outfitting territories overlap with the protected areas. Guide outfitter wildlife harvest levels are set by the ministry responsible for wildlife management, in collaboration with BC Parks. Guide outfitting commercial recreation activities and facilities in the protected areas are managed by BC Parks via park-use permits.

Range tenures for horse grazing, held by guide outfitters and licensed transporters, exist within some of the protected areas. Range tenures for grazing can occur in parks listed in Schedule D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* and are managed by the Ministry responsible for the *Range Act* under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BC Parks. These range tenures pre-date the establishment of the protected areas. The number of Animal Unit Months[10] allocated to each range tenure in a park is capped at that which was authorized for the range tenure at the time of park establishment.

Multiple trapline tenures overlap with the protected areas. Trapping is managed by the ministry responsible for wildlife management. That ministry also manages

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[9] Services may include guided angling, hiking, horseback riding, camping, wildlife viewing, boat tours, canoeing, privately owned structures such as lodges or cabins, transporting via ground, water or air.

[10] "Animal Unit Months" is defined in the *Range Act*: Range Act (gov.bc.ca)

hunting regulations and harvest allocations at the management unit level, and in collaboration with BC Parks. Park-use permits authorize the access to traplines and the use of associated cabins within protected areas.

Trapline, guide outfitting, and range tenures that overlap the protected areas are listed in Appendix 3.

1.9 Relationship with Communities

The closest large communities to these protected areas are Fort Nelson (approx. population 2,600), Fort St. John (approx. population 20,500), and Mackenzie (approx. population 3,300).

Rural communities near the protected areas include Toad River (approx. population 40), located east of Muncho Lake Park at Mile 422 on the Alaska Highway and Muncho Lake community (approx. population 30), located along the eastern shore of the lake. The remote, Indigenous community of Kwadacha (Fort Ware) is in the Rocky Mountain Trench at the confluence of the Finlay, Kwadacha and Fox Rivers (approx. population 300). The village is adjacent to Finlay-Russel Park, located to the west, and Kwadacha Wilderness Park is located to the northeast.

Other Indigenous communities in the region are Tsay Keh, near the north end of Williston Reservoir, and Lower Post, just south of the Yukon border.

The protected areas in the M-KMA play an important tourism and recreation role for communities along the Alaska Highway corridor.

1.10 Adjacent Land Use

Patterns of adjacent land use can have an influence on protected area values, such as recreational access, wildlife movement and viewscapes. The lands adjacent to the protected areas are included in Resource Management Zones (RMZ) that were designated through the LRMP processes. There are a variety of land uses adjacent to the protected areas. Appendix 4 lists the private property, private inholdings, and Crown land tenures that exist adjacent to the protected areas.

The protected areas fall within the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, the Peace River Regional District, and the Stikine Region.

1.10.1 Dene K'éh Kusān IPCA

The Dene K'éh Kusān Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA)[11], has been declared by the Kaska Dena and covers the land between many of the provincial protected areas in the northern M-KMA. DENE K'ÉH KUSĀN in English means "The people's way we follow". The goals of the Kaska-led initiative are: to protect their

[11] Dene K'éh Kusān IPCA

ancestral territory from effects of climate change and biodiversity loss; preserve Kaska peoples' material, cultural and spiritual lives; protect caribou; sustain and create economic opportunities; and, provide a world-class protected area for all people.

1.10.2 Resource Management Zones

The Fort Nelson, Fort St. John and Mackenzie LRMPs delineate RMZs within their respective planning areas. Activities permitted within the different RMZs that surround the protected areas can affect park values, particularly when those activities occur near the protected area.

The RMZs adjacent to the protected areas are split into five land use categories: Settlement/Agriculture, Enhanced Resource Development, General Resource Management, Special Resource Management, and Special Resource Management – Wildland. For complete descriptions of RMZs and their locations, refer to the Fort Nelson[12], Fort St. John[13], Mackenzie[14], and Cassiar-Iskut-Stikine[15] LRMPs.

Most of the protected areas are adjacent to Special Resource Management and Special Resource Management, Wildland RMZs. Small portions of Denetiah, Finlay-Russel and the entire north side of Liard Corridor and the south and west sides of Graham-Laurier are adjacent to General Resource Management zones, which allow for development in some capacity. The southeast portion of Finlay-Russel is adjacent to an Enhanced Resource Development zone, which is managed for oil and gas, mineral, and timber resources.

1.10.3 Motor Vehicle Prohibitions

The M-KMA has motor vehicle restrictions in place under the Muskwa-Kechika Access Management Area[16] (AMA). The area prohibits the use or operation of a motor vehicle except on designated routes. AMA routes access a small portion of Graham-Laurier Park and Liard River Corridor Park (see Figure 6 and 9 in Section 2.2).

1.10.4 Other Adjacent Uses

The Alaska Highway corridor runs adjacent to the Liard River Corridor Protected Area. The highway corridor is excluded from the protected areas and is managed by the federal ministry responsible for property and infrastructure.

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[12] Fort Nelson LRMP
[13] Fort St. John LRMP
[14] Mackenzie LRMP
[15] Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP
[16] MK 2018 (gov.bc.ca)

Adjacent Wildlife Habitat Areas, Ungulate Winter Ranges (Northern Mountain Caribou, Stone's Sheep and Mountain Goat), and Conservation Lands have been established outside of the protected areas, under various provincial legislation.

2.0 Management Direction

This section identifies protected area values and provides management direction to guide their protection. This section also addresses management issues identified through previous provincial land use planning processes and through consultation with other government agencies, First Nations, user groups, and the public.

Considering this strategic management plan includes thirteen protected area complexes with similar management issues, management direction has been divided into three sections to minimize repetition:

- **Section 2.1 General Management Objectives and Strategies** provides management direction for issues that are consistent across the protected areas, excluding the two ecological reserves.
- **Section 2.2 Protected Area Management Objectives, Strategies and Zoning** provides specific management direction for individual protected areas. Each of the protected areas in this plan has unique values, management challenges, and significance to the BC Parks system, as summarized in this section.
- **Section 2.3 Ecological Reserve Management Objectives and Strategies** provides management direction for the ecological reserves. These special protected areas have their own set of allowable uses[17]; therefore, BC Parks does not provide zoning plans for ecological reserves.

In 2020-2021, BC Parks completed a Conservation Assessment for the protected areas within the M-KMA. This was a multi-stage assessment of the complex of protected areas to assess their conservation status. It included a review of the values present in each protected area, a Conservation Threat Assessment to examine the threats posed, and finally, a Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessment. Results from this work have been used to inform this strategic management plan.

Indigenous Stewardship

BC Parks is committed to reconciliation and seeks to work collaboratively with First Nations to implement management objectives in the protected areas.

Protected area management will be mindful of the Indigenous laws that local First Nations use to guide their way of life.

[17] Ecological Reserves – BC Parks

2.1 General Management Objectives and Strategies

This section provides management direction for the protected areas included in this plan, except for the two ecological reserves.

2.1.1 Management Presence

The protected areas are remote and difficult to access. As a result, the 2021 PAME assessment identified BC Parks' staff presence in the protected areas as inadequate. BC Parks works with other agencies to monitor activities and conduct compliance and enforcement actions on the ground.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Maintain adequate management presence.	• Work with other agencies, First Nations, and user groups to gain an understanding of protected area condition and the need for BC Parks to increase management presence, as conditions change. • If increased management presence is needed, work with other resource management agencies to increase patrols into the protected areas. • Collaborate with other conservation agencies and First Nations Land Guardian programs to increase presence in protected areas.

2.1.2 Land Administration

Protected Areas were established under the *Environment and Land Use Act* in Liard River Corridor, Finlay-Russel, Denetiah and Dune Za Keyih to provide for specific, future industrial purposes that would not usually be allowed in a park (e.g., road access to remote natural resources, proposed pipeline). To date, none of these industrial projects have been developed. Maintaining the wilderness character of the protected areas would be difficult if proposed road corridors were established. If it is determined that there is no further need to provide for these industrial purposes, it may be possible to re-designate the Protected Areas as Class A Parks.

In some cases, mineral claims and petroleum and natural gas tenures existed prior to protected area establishment and were excluded from the protected areas. Specific management direction is provided in sections 2.2.3 Dune Za Keyih Park and 2.2.5 Graham-Laurier Park.

In the event a new protected area is added near the existing ones, this plan may be amended to include management direction for that protected area. The intent of this plan is to provide management direction for the most remote protected areas in the M-KMA.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Assess the potential to convert the Protected Areas established under the *Environment and Land Use Act* to *Park Act* designations.	• Collaborate with other agencies leading land use planning initiatives and assess the need to maintain opportunities for resource development in the existing Protected Areas. • Recommend re-designating the Protected Areas as Class A parks if there is no further need to maintain opportunities for resource development.
Manage boundary integrity of the protected areas to reduce the risk imposed by resource development.	• If resource extraction activities occur near the protected areas, work with the responsible agencies/organizations to ensure boundaries remain intact and impacts to protected area values are minimized, including viewscapes.

2.1.3 Natural Values

BC Parks actively manages protected areas to conserve natural values. Objectives of our conservation program are to maintain and restore ecosystems, as needed, and to protect and recover biodiversity. Natural process will be allowed to proceed unimpeded, where possible. BC Parks works with others to protect biodiversity in the protected areas, helping to protect species at risk and maintain overall diversity of species and ecosystems as well as the genetic diversity to maintain resilience into the future.

Geology and Landforms

Despite existing protections provided by the *Park Act*, some of the landform features in the protected areas (e.g., hoodoos/erosion pillars, karst) could be damaged by park users. Impacts to those features would detract from the spectacular scenic beauty of the area and could result in decreased visitation to the protected areas.

Fossil occurrences exist in the protected areas. Collection may be a problem due to lack of understanding or indifference concerning park regulations.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Protect the landform features that contribute to the scenic beauty within the protected areas.	• If/when visitation to features increases and damage is imminent or noted, develop and implement a monitoring plan and subsequent action plan. The action plan would aim at repairing and/or preventing damage and may include access restrictions.
Protect fossil occurrences	• Provide education about park regulations concerning collection of natural objects on the protected area

Management Objective	Management Strategies
	webpage and install signs at trailheads, as necessary. Do not promote location of fossil beds.

Water

The water values in the protected areas are pristine with multiple intact watersheds throughout. Potential threats to water quality include erosion and the introduction of contaminants.

Use of motorized watercraft is the main activity that could affect water quality in the protected areas. The spread of invasive species is a concern, as is fuel storage in proximity to watercourses, due to the potential for pollution.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Protect and maintain the natural quality of the freshwater values.	• Follow recommended practices[18] for fuel storage in the backcountry. - Fuel storage over 500 litres is only permitted at guide-outfitter camps and other designated locations, as identified in a park-use permit. A spill contingency plan must be in place. - Fuel containers must be appropriately certified, marked with personal contact information - Fuel containers must be removed within 14 days (unless authorized by a park officer). - All boaters and operators of aircraft are responsible for following appropriate fuel storage procedures. • Provide the public with information on minimizing impacts to water quality in the backcountry through the Responsible Recreation section on the BC Parks website and through signage at access points (e.g., provide information on spill reporting requirements under the *Environmental Management Act*[19]). • Encourage research and assessment focused on water quality monitoring (i.e. CABIN sampling[20]) to aid in determining impacts from contaminants, particularly in higher use recreation areas.

[18] Managing fuel tanks - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)

[19] Spill Reporting Regulation (gov.bc.ca)

[20] Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN)

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Prevent the establishment or spread of invasive aquatic species.	• Require commercial operators, through park-use permits, and encourage park visitors, to adhere to Best Management Practices and guidance[21] to reduce the risk of spreading invasive species.

Vegetation

Photo: Gataga River, Dune Za Keyih Park

Areas that are more readily accessible to the public are at greater risk when it comes to potential damage to vegetation, such as:

- during peak visitation seasons (e.g., hunting season), impacts to vegetation from camping may occur;
- near camping areas, damage to surrounding vegetation may occur as timber may be illegally harvested for firewood[22];
- the establishment of invasive plant populations along travel corridors is an increasing risk in protected areas; and,
- Horse grazing.

Impacts to vegetation from recreation activities in areas that are not easily accessed are unknown. Possible impacts to sensitive areas and species (i.e., alpine or sub-alpine areas and blue-listed species) are of particular concern.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Maintain vegetation and plant communities for ecological integrity and visual aesthetics.	• Conduct inspections of camping areas to ensure firewood is being obtained in accordance with park regulations for fires in the backcountry (e.g., only dead wood laying on the ground can be used for fires). Consider educational signage at higher use locations if needed. • Work with the ministry responsible for the Range Act (under the MOU with BC Parks) to ensure vegetation and plant community's ecological integrity in relation to range tenures for grazing.

[21] Invasive Species Guides and Factsheets (bcparks.ca)

[22] The Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulation states that backcountry park visitors may only use vegetation that is lying dead on the ground to start fires.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
	• Avoid locations containing at-risk species and ecological communities when considering any future development. Develop appropriate mitigation strategies if these areas cannot be avoided (e.g., formalizing campsite locations). • Prevent damage to riparian vegetation by encouraging horse users to rest horses away from the water's edge.
Increase knowledge of ecosystems, traditional and culturally significant species, and protect at-risk plant communities and species.	• Work with First Nations communities, other ministries, community groups and/or educational institutions to support inventories and studies aimed at better understanding the distribution of plant species and ecosystems and their ecology; including how they will respond to environmental changes such as climate change (e.g., Traditional Ecological Knowledge studies, BC Parks Long-term Ecological Monitoring Program, First Nations Land Guardian programs, iNaturalist Program). • Conduct appropriate recreation impact monitoring, as needed, to ensure natural and cultural values are not being compromised by recreation use levels, particularly during peak season(s). • Monitor and assess potential impacts of recreational activities occurring in areas containing known at-risk plant species, including alpine areas and the areas where red and blue-listed species are found. Limit activities, as necessary. • Where required, implement Species at Risk recovery and/or management plans within protected area boundaries for red- and blue-listed species and ecosystems.
Prevent the establishment or spread of invasive species.	• Require commercial operators, through park-use permits, and encourage park visitors, to adhere to BC Parks Invasive Plant Best Management Practices[23] and guidance in the regional hunting regulations, including using local weed-free hay, pelletized and processed feed for pack animals. • Encourage commercial operators and other park visitors to report occurrences of invasive species.

[23] Best management practices for invasive plants in Parks and Protected Areas in BC https://bcparks.ca/conservation/invasive-species/

Management Objective	Management Strategies
	• Monitor invasive species establishment, review management actions, and explore prevention and treatment options[24].

Wildlife

The protected areas play a critical role in maintaining wildlife habitat, movement corridors, and populations in the M-KMA. There are several red- and blue-listed mammal and bird species identified in the ecosystem overview assessment for the protected areas (Confluence, 2020).

The rugged remoteness of the protected areas presents challenges in determining wildlife abundance and key wildlife habitat, compliance and enforcement, and monitoring effectiveness of wildlife management. To address these challenges, BC Parks collaborates with other agencies to inventory and manage wildlife in the protected areas.

Many activities that visitors pursue in the protected areas are integrally tied to the area's abundance and variety of wildlife, such as hunting, trapping and nature appreciation.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Increase knowledge of wildlife populations, distributions, and habitats.	• Work with First Nations communities, other ministries, community groups and/or educational institutions to encourage wildlife inventories and studies aimed at better understanding species' needs and ecologies; including how the wildlife will response to environmental changes such as climate change, and natural disturbances. • Work with partners and other government agencies to identify and map locations of listed or significant species (e.g., caribou, elk, moose, mountain goat, Stone's sheep, grizzly bear, wolverine), or important wildlife habitat and habitat features (e.g. wet or dry licks, leks, calving/lambing areas, den site etc.) • Recommend the use of public databases to collect informal wildlife information from First Nations,

[24] The use of herbicides in parks is only considered if there is no alternative treatment that has proven to be successful and if there is a significant threat to the ecological integrity of the protected area, as well as the surrounding area.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
	commercial operators and other park visitors (e.g., BC Conservation Data Centre[25]).
Maintain healthy wildlife populations and minimize disturbance to the ecosystem.	• Maintain a precautionary approach to wildlife and wildlife habitat management.
Prevent impacts of non-native species on native wildlife populations and their habitats.	• To protect native species from competition or disease introductions, llamas and other exotic or domestic animals are not permitted within the protected areas; only domestic horses, mules and dogs are permitted.
Maintain current trapping and guide outfitting opportunities subject to conservation objectives.	• Coordinate with the ministry responsible for wildlife management to monitor harvest levels and ensure conservation objectives are met. • Work with tenure holders to ensure activities are not adversely affecting park values.

Fish and Aquatic Life

Records for species presence in all the rivers and lakes of the protected areas are not complete. Limited fishery studies and research into aquatic species in the protected areas has been conducted.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Increase knowledge and understanding of aquatic values and encourage needed research.	• Work with educational institutions, other ministries, and First Nations to plan and implement aquatic species studies in key waterbodies, as identified. • Encourage research and assessment focused on aquatic life (i.e. CABIN sampling[26]).
Protect and maintain the natural diversity and productivity of aquatic ecosystems while maintaining a low intensity, high quality fishery.	• Identify and map locations of listed or significant species and areas of critical habitat. Focus initially on higher use areas that could be negatively impacted by motorized or non-motorized recreation; apply best management practices or guidelines to minimize impacts. • Monitor and assess angling use levels for water bodies in cooperation with the ministry responsible for fish and consider angling restrictions if use levels are determined to be impacting the fish populations.

[25] https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/submit-data

[26] Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN)

2.1.4 Cultural Heritage Values

The cultural heritage role for the protected areas is to enable visitors, local and international, to understand the importance of history and traditional knowledge within the individual protected areas and surrounding area.

First Nations

The protected areas are used by First Nations for many activities, including the hunting of large and small game, fishing, plant collecting and peaceful enjoyment of the land.

While significant First Nations cultural values are known to be present across the protected areas, information on these values is limited. This lack of information increases the risk of unintentional damage to sensitive sites.

The area has historically been used for prominent travel routes, sustenance, spiritual, social and ceremonial purposes. Limited archaeological information is shared within this management plan. This is, in part, due to a lack of research and also out of respect for First Nations' desires to keep these critical aspects of culture private.

Information from Indigenous knowledge and use studies conducted in the park will be considered when making management decisions. BC Parks will work with First Nations to ensure appropriate use and confidentiality of shared information.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Gain a better understanding of cultural values, archaeological sites, spiritual sites and cultural use locations in order to better ensure protection.	• Support efforts to conduct historical and ethnographic research and cultural heritage field inventories as appropriate (e.g., funding opportunities or permits). • Work with First Nations to implement protective measures where threats to known cultural values are identified.
Promote stewardship and awareness of cultural values and First Nations use in the protected areas.	• Integrate First Nations language in park information, as appropriate (e.g., place names, First Nations language on maps, interpretive materials, signage). • Inform visitors that historic First Nations trails exist throughout the protected areas and encourage their respectful use via signage, cultural interpretive materials or tourism activities. • Support, when possible, opportunities to develop cultural interpretive material for the protected areas. • Pursue opportunities to incorporate traditional knowledge into management practices. • Support cultural activities in parks and protected areas.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Encourage cultural and First Nations tourism activities in the protected areas.	• Encourage commercial recreation operators to establish working relationships with First Nations and seek opportunities for mutual benefits. • Encourage discussions with First Nations regarding the development of appropriate cultural tourism activities.

Post-Contact History

The history and knowledge of early settlers closely relates to current land practices and is acknowledged as an important aspect of the M-KMA. Early settler use in the protected areas primarily consisted of trapping, fur-trading, guiding, packing (transporting) and hunting; these activities continue today. Horse-supported geologic survey expeditions were common in the pre-helicopter era and were important in establishing early routes, likely based on First Nations trails. These expeditions increased the general knowledge of the area.

Guide outfitters have conducted commercial big game hunting in many of the protected areas since the 1930s. Trapping has a very important history in the area as well.

On March 9, 1942, construction of the Alaska Highway commenced. The Alaska Highway had a large impact on what is now the M-KMA by providing road access through the area. The highway facilitates other forms of access such as riverboat, aircraft and horseback into remote protected areas.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Share information on the post-contact history of the protected areas.	• Incorporate information on the impact of post-contact history related to the protected areas as opportunities become available (e.g. signage, maps, interpretive materials, web-based education)

2.1.5 Climate Change

The most consistently recommended approach for adapting species and ecosystems to climate change is to maintain natural connectivity across the landscape. Species rely on the movement across protected area borders. Working with adjacent land managers to maintain connectivity across the landscape is one of the most important actions that can be taken, particularly considering the rapid changes that are occurring because of climate change. Refer to the accompanying ecosystem overview assessment (Confluence, 2020) for a detailed assessment and projections of the effects of climate change on protected areas in the M-KMA.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Increase knowledge of ecological components and processes, and their response to climate change.	• Work with local First Nations to develop key indicators and record observations on the status and trends of key environmental, cultural, social, and economic variables that may be influenced by climate change. • Encourage and support research/monitoring of climate change to determine the effects on protected area values and ecosystem functioning (e.g., changes in glacial extent), and appropriate actions for response.
Mitigate or lessen the effects of climate change on wildlife.	• Work with land managers of adjacent areas to maintain connectivity across the landscape to allow for species migration.
Encourage commercial operators to find alternative power sources to reduce fossil fuel consumption.	• Encouraging commercial operators (e.g., guide outfitters and other commercial users) to utilize alternative energy or fuel-efficient technology to reduce carbon footprint when possible (e.g., replace diesel generators with alternative sources such as solar).

2.1.6 Research and Education

The M-KMA has been a focus of research opportunities since its establishment. The University of Northern British Columbia and the M-KMA Advisory Board have had a partnership agreement that has led to important research being undertaken for the benefit of the M-KMA and to advance research in different areas. However, there are significant gaps in the understanding of ecosystems, cultural values, and conservation values in the individual protected areas. An objective of BC Parks' conservation program is to gain a better understanding of what values we are protecting and the threats to them. An increased focus on ecosystem-based management and associated strategies is needed and existing knowledge gaps need to be filled.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Increase public awareness of the ecosystem and features of special concern.	• Prepare educational information that can be viewed on the internet or distributed through brochures or information shelters.
Add to the available knowledge of protected area values to increase effective management.	• Collaborate with research institutions, other agencies and First Nations to encourage research on specific protected area values. Encourage research initiatives and provide support as resources allow.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
	• Address deficiencies in key natural values identified in the M-K PAME Summary[27] (e.g., range extension species, rare habitats/ecological communities, critical/essential habitat).

2.1.7 Access Management

Most access into the protected areas occurs in the summer and fall by horse and river boat, but also on foot, and in the winter by low levels of snowmobile use. Generally, routes in the protected areas are not formally developed, and maintenance has been ad hoc by various user groups such as guide outfitters, licenced transporters, and resident hunters.

Access Management Area (AMA) routes are designated recreation trails under the *Wildlife Act Public Access Prohibition* and are managed under the jurisdiction of the ministry that manages Crown land recreation. AMA routes exist in Graham-Laurier Park and the Liard River Corridor complex.

Historically, there has been widespread concern that resource development will move closer to the boundaries of the protected areas. Access management on adjacent land, outside of protected areas, may impact protected area values and BC Parks will encourage managers of adjacent land to consider protected area zoning, envisioned levels of use, and recreational experience expectations. Improved access may threaten ecological integrity due to increased human presence, hunting pressure, and motorized recreation.

Generally, the LRMPs recommended that recreational use in the protected areas should be managed in a way that recognizes unique historical use patterns and traditional access, and that the *status quo* remain while maintaining wilderness and wildlife values. Human use may be restricted to protect and manage these values.

Access into the protected areas varies by individual park but generally includes one or all the following methods: off-road vehicle (ORV), snowmobile, hiking, horse, boat, and aircraft.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Manage access to protect the natural, cultural and recreational values of the protected areas.	• Prohibit road development and additional motorized trail/route development; deactivate unauthorized trails. Road development will be allowed in Protected Areas as specified under the *Environment and Land Use Act,* see Section 2.1.2.

[27] Muskwa Kechika Park and Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Summary

Management Objective	Management Strategies
	• If industrial accesses are developed in adjacent Resource Management Zones, work with land managers to encourage development away from protected area boundaries to minimize impacts. • Sign protected area boundaries in areas of improved road access. • Encourage monitoring of any changes to industrial access to determine the effects of those changes on natural, cultural and aesthetic values.

Accessibility

Accessibility is an important part of inclusion. BC Parks is dedicated to improving accessibility to frontcountry recreation facilities, trails, and natural features so that all visitors can experience the beauty of nature without barriers. However, increasing accessibility in backcountry protected areas, such as those included in this management plan, presents a significant challenge as minimal facilities exist.

Trail Promotion, Development and Maintenance

Some of the protected areas are accessed by historic formalized trails (e.g., AMA routes, Aantse Davie Trail, RCMP historic routes, etc.). BC Parks does not maintain these routes within the protected areas.

The historic Atse Dena Tunna ("The Path of the Ancient Ones") or Davie Trail from Kwadacha (Fort Ware) to Lower Post is a wilderness route that runs along the Kechika River in the Rocky Mountain Trench, passing through Denetiah Protected Area and Dune Za Keyih Park.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Maintain the wilderness quality and protect the natural and cultural values while providing wilderness recreation opportunities.	• Continue low-impact traditional access methods in the backcountry (e.g. hiking trails). • The development of new trails will not be considered.

Snowmobiling, Off-road Vehicle Access

Off-road vehicle (ORV) access is not allowed within the protected areas except where AMA routes exist. Individual AMA routes have different travel restrictions and are subject to weight restrictions, therefore, users must refer to the Muskwa-Kechika Access Management Area Map MK 2018[28] to confirm the legal operation of

[28] MK 2018 (gov.bc.ca)

their vehicle. Use of machines that exceed weight restrictions are not compliant with the Muskwa-Kechika Access Management Area route regulation and can lead to additional trail damage.

Winter motorized access is limited to AMA routes (Graham-Laurier Park and the Liard River Corridor Park and Protected Areas). Due to the remoteness of the protected areas, recreational winter motorized use is infrequent. Packed trails on snow can facilitate access by predators by easing travel conditions. This can lead to increased predation if the trails are close to caribou and mountain goat winter ranges. Snowmobiling can also displace wildlife from their preferred habitat areas, causing them to use more energy and have less optimal food and cover available. Consistent with long term management objectives for the protected areas, winter motorized access will be limited to the AMA routes to ensure wilderness and wildlife values are not compromised.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Manage motorized access to protect the natural, cultural and recreational values of the protected areas.	• Allow ORV use on AMA routes only and where specifically authorized through a park-use permit. - Work with the ministry responsible for managing and maintaining the AMA routes outside of protected areas to understand user levels and to collaborate on environmental and safety concerns to maintain safe and sustainable access (i.e., Graham River Trail). - Continue to work with trappers and guide outfitters to ensure ORV use is not adversely affecting protected area values. • Allow snowmobiling on AMA routes only and where specifically authorized through a park-use permit (e.g., trapline use). • Encourage research aimed at studying the effects of motorized traffic on wildlife populations and other park users. Adopt proven management strategies to address impacts as identified.

Horse Use

Horses and mules have been a historical method of transportation to and within the protected areas. Horse and mule use will be managed to maximize recreation enjoyment and avoid wildlife conflicts, while not degrading natural values.

Trails and camps for horse users will remain rustic in nature. There may need to be site-specific restrictions and conditions developed for high-use areas to minimize social and environmental impacts. Although there are multiple-day horse

excursions possible using a network of routes, the trails are not designated and are not maintained by BC Parks.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Enhance visitor awareness of protected area values and backcountry etiquette	• Allow horses on existing trails unless specific restrictions are established in the future to protect certain important values (e.g., sensitive habitats). • Promote horse riders' backcountry ethics on the park websites and signage in higher use areas. • Inform horse users of required actions to mitigate the spread of invasive plant species (e.g., work with interest groups to educate their members). By using strategies outlined in section 2.1.3 for vegetation.

Boat Access

With the abundance of large rivers in the area, boating has been a means of providing access to the more remote protected areas. Water access is primarily via the Kechika River with trips starting at Skooks Landing along the Alaska Highway, between the communities of Fireside and Coal River.

The Gataga, Kechika and Frog Rivers provide access though Denetiah Protected Area into Dune Za Keyih Park. The Finlay River provides access to Finlay-Russel Park. The Liard and Toad Rivers provide access to Liard River Corridor Park and Scatter River Old Growth Park. Toad River Hot Springs is accessed via the Racing River and Toad River. Boat launches are located outside of the protected areas for river access.

Canoe trips are possible in many of the parks; however, access is incredibly challenging in all protected areas. Rafting trips are possible along the Finlay River in Finlay-Russel Park and Protected Area.

The presence of fuel caches along rivers and lakes in these protected areas has been identified as a concern because of possible soil and water contamination, and accumulation of litter.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Minimize the impacts of riverboats and other motorized water transportation on wilderness recreation and ecological integrity.	• Work with First Nations and local boating groups to monitor annual boating pressure, as needed, during periods of increased use (e.g., hunting season). • Assess potential impacts to conservation values (e.g., wildlife movement, river hydrology, fish spawning/rearing habitat) from boating, as issues are identified.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
	• Work with other resource management agencies to increase information signage at boat launches to promote responsible boat-based recreation. • Ensure park use permits enforce responsible boat based recreation.

Aircraft Access

Fixed-wing aircraft, both wheeled and floatplanes, and helicopters access a variety of locations within the protected areas. Fixed-wing aircraft have a long history of being used to access the protected areas, with use concentrated at guide outfitter camps and lakes. Existing air strips are minimally maintained and either predate the protected areas or are associated with permitted guide outfitter camps. In comparison to fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter use makes up a small proportion of total air traffic.

Private aircraft landings are currently not restricted in any of the protected areas. However, restrictions may be implemented if issues are identified that impact wildlife and/or conservation values with the protected areas.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Provide opportunities for aircraft access to the protected areas while preserving quality backcountry experiences and minimizing wildlife conflicts.	• Do not allow new or expanded airstrips except where required for environmental or safety reasons. • Do not allow cutting of live trees for helipad construction. • The landing of aircraft is strongly discouraged above 1400m elevation (i.e., high altitude plateaus) due to potential conflicts with wildlife values. If conflicts are identified, a high elevation aircraft landing prohibition may be proposed under Schedule A of the *Park Act, Park Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulation*. • If aircraft/wildlife conflicts are identified, develop flight guidelines to address specific wildlife concerns (i.e., mountain goat or caribou issues). These recommendations can be incorporated into park-use permits and shared for voluntary implementation by private operators. • New methods of air access (i.e., Remotely Piloted Aircraft/drones) will not be allowed unless authorized under permit for commercial filming or research.

2.1.8 Recreation Management

The protected areas provide wilderness recreation opportunities in pristine ecosystems for recreationalists with sufficient experience and preparedness. The management intent is to continue to provide similar recreational opportunities and experiences to those that existed at the time the protected areas were established and that have low impact on the wilderness environment. New development may be allowed, if consistent with the protected area vision and management direction, subject to BC Parks' impact assessment process. Although hunting is expected to remain very important to the local economy, recreational activities other than hunting such as horse trips, camping and hiking are also available.

To ensure enjoyment and safety of the public, users need to be aware of the different allowable uses in the protected areas and respect the varied needs of different users. The different types of use also pose risks that all users should be aware of (e.g., during hunting seasons, visitors should be aware that areas around hunting kills are higher risk for bear encounters).

The previous Section 2.1.7 Access Management provides direction regarding access to the protected areas. This section addresses other recreational activities: camping, hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, and skiing.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Enable high quality recreational experiences that align with the natural setting.	• Work with other regional organizations and First Nations for a coordinated approach to management of recreation opportunities (e.g., Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, Northern BC Tourism, etc.)
Enhance visitor awareness of protected area values, backcountry etiquette and risks associated with recreating in remote areas.	• Educate visitors about minimum impact camping and backcountry wilderness ethics, including the proper use of wall tents and design of food caches, to avoid site degradation and minimize human-wildlife conflict. • Provide and promote bear awareness information on the BC Parks website[29] to reduce potential for negative bear/human interactions.
Maintain the wilderness quality and protect the natural and cultural values while providing wilderness recreation opportunities.	• New facilities will only be installed where use levels require them. Visitor use assessments and strategies may be developed if visitation increases to a point where protected area values are being impacted. • Conduct appropriate recreation impact monitoring to determine the need for, and location of, new backcountry camping areas, as the need arises.

[29] Staying Safe in Bear Country – BC Parks

Camping

Most camping occurs in frontcountry campgrounds along the Alaska Highway corridor. At certain times of the year (e.g., during hunting season) backcountry camping is also popular.

Wilderness style camping, without any facilities, occurs in undesignated sites throughout the protected areas. Public use is thought to be low; however, BC Parks' presence in these remote protected areas is limited. BC Parks relies on coordination with First Nations, other agencies, park-use permit holders, and feedback from the public to identify impacts to protected area values.

Currently, backcountry camping is not known to have significant impacts on the environment in any of the protected areas. If backcountry use increases, BC Parks will need to consider establishing specific camping sites. While structures like toilets, bear caches, and fire pits may seem inappropriate to some in a wilderness setting, they may be needed in certain areas. If use increases, this infrastructure will confine impacts, minimize human-wildlife interactions, and minimize excessive site degradation. Campsites that conflict with known sensitive sites for wildlife may require relocation or need to be eliminated or closed during certain times of the year.

Recreational camps and food caches need to be temporary[30] (maximum of 14 days) unless authorized by park-use permit or a Park Officer.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Promote responsible backcountry recreation practices.	• Provide education to increase awareness of backcountry camping impacts and responsible use (e.g., BC Parks webpage, local tourist information centers).

Cabins, Huts, and Shelters

Few public structures exist in the protected areas. Denetiah Park is the only backcountry protected area in this plan with a public cabin. It is predominantly for emergency use.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Maintain the wilderness quality and protect the natural and cultural values while providing recreation opportunities.	• New structures may be allowed for public and research use if the need arises. Management objectives for the protection of natural and cultural values must be met.

Hiking & Biking

[30] Sections 17 and 39 of the *Park Act, Park, Conservancy, and Recreation Area Regulation*.

There are no designated hiking trails within the protected areas. AMA routes and other historic routes exist and may be hiked; however, BC Parks does not maintain them. New trail development will not be considered in the protected areas.

Non-motorized, mechanized access (e.g., mountain bikes, Class 1 e-bikes) within the protected areas is limited as there are no designated biking trails and no park roads. Biking is permitted on AMA routes only.

Public feedback from the initial input phase of this management planning process identified that hiking and wildlife viewing were high priority activities.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Maintain the wilderness quality and protect the natural and cultural values while providing recreation opportunities.	• BC Parks will not upgrade any existing routes or formalize trails, except where safety and environmental issues (i.e. avoidance of sensitive areas for wildlife, vegetation, and soils) prompt development to protect these values. • BC Parks will endeavour to partner with First Nations and other interested groups to complete trail maintenance on historic routes. • Mountain bike and Class 1 e-bike access is restricted to designated AMA routes.

Hunting & Fishing

Hunting and fishing are common past-times and are allowed in the protected areas (see exceptions in Appendix 1: Appropriate Use Table).

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Protect the wildlife values while providing wilderness recreation opportunities.	• Allow continuation of hunting and fishing; restrictions may be implemented in conjunction with the agency responsible for fish and wildlife under the *Wildlife Act*, as necessary to protect values.

2.1.9 Commercial Recreation Management

Lodges, cabins, and sheds of permitted commercial operators are the main types of facilities that exist in the protected areas. Smaller structures such as pit toilets and food caches also exist; however, such facilities are infrequent. Commercial operators have established camps they use regularly as part of their operations. In areas that have facilities, these generally function as the main base camp (base of operations) or satellite camps (annual or seasonal use secondary camps). In areas that have minimal facilities, but no buildings, spike camps are often established (short-term, low impact camps). Hunters and other visitors may also establish temporary camps to use as a base for their recreational activity.

Commercial recreation in all protected areas is authorized by a park-use permit (see Appendix 3 for existing permits). Continuation of commercial recreation opportunities is very important as it allows for a different wilderness experience than non-guided public recreation. Primarily, these park visitors value a remote wilderness hunting and/or fishing experience.

The LRMPs, in general, supported the continuation of existing commercial recreation opportunities.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Maintain commercial recreation opportunities within the protected areas.	• Work with regional and provincial tourism agencies and recreation operators to ensure marketing and promotion is consistent with the vision for the protected area and this management plan. • Work with commercial operators and First Nations to ensure sensitive wildlife and plant species, sites and features are not placed at undue risk due from use (i.e., sensitive wildlife areas, ecologically sensitive areas, and/or cultural sites). • Ensure commercial activities are not negatively affecting the wilderness experience for park visitors.
Ensure commercial recreation use levels and management practices protect natural and cultural values while respecting business needs of the commercial operators.	• Continue to collect information from commercial operators regarding use levels, locations, and management concerns at scales and frequency sufficient to enable meaningful analysis. • Ensure park-use permit holders are aware of conservation objectives and do not act, or condone guests acting, in a manner contrary to those objectives. • Coordinate with park-use permit holders to accomplish conservation, research, and recreation objectives (e.g., monitor recreational fishing activities, support research initiatives). • Consider reducing the number of permits and/or limiting areas accessed for different activities if necessary to protect values. If deemed necessary, a maximum number of trips/season may be established by protected area for each activity, so that visitor numbers are kept low and a high value wilderness experience is provided. The size of the protected area, number of existing permits, and other relevant factors may be considered to determine the recommended number of permits for each activity type. Visitor use studies may be initiated if levels of use increase significantly.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
	• Consider additional permits or changes to existing permits for commercial recreation, provided that: - equitable opportunity for public recreation is maintained; - activities demonstrate benefits to the local communities and region; - changes to facilities will occur on the existing site, be generally of similar size and style to other facilities, and generally reflect the rustic nature of the protected areas; and, - wilderness and wildlife values of the protected area and greater Muskwa Kechika area are maintained.

2.2 Protected Area Management Objectives, Strategies and Zoning

The previous section provides management direction for the protected areas included in this plan, except for the two ecological reserves. The following section and sub-sections provide specific, additional management direction for each protected area, including zoning plans.

Zoning Plans

In general terms, a zoning plan divides a protected area into logical management units within which certain activities/uses are permitted and a particular set of management objectives apply. Zoning is often used to physically separate incompatible activities or uses within the protected area and provides visitors and managers with a quick visual representation and appreciation of how a particular protected area is managed. Zones are designed to reflect the physical environment, existing patterns of use, and the desired level of management and development in each management unit. For a detailed description of each zone and the criteria that are used to determine zones within a protected area, see the BC Parks Zoning Framework[31].

Individual zoning maps for each protected area are shown in the following sub-sections.

Three park zones are identified throughout the protected areas. However, not all zones are represented in each park due to visitor use/development objectives. The

[31] BC Parks Zoning Framework

following zones have been identified: Nature Recreation Zone, Wilderness Recreation Zone, and Special Natural Feature Zone.

Nature Recreation Zone

The objective of the Nature Recreation Zone is to protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. The management intent of this zone is to recognize existing traditional routes and more recent power boat access routes, such as along watercourses; and to provide access for backcountry recreation.

There will also be provision for higher levels of visitor use where people will be able to see interesting features in a natural environment; however, visitors must expect to see other people in the park participating in similar activities. Motorized uses permitted in this zone are boating, fixed wing aircraft, rotary aircraft, ORV use on AMA routes only, and snowmobiling in designated areas.

New development may be considered in the Nature Recreation Zone provided the proposal is consistent with this management plan.

Wilderness Recreation Zone

The objective of this zone is to protect a remote, largely undisturbed natural landscape that is managed to ensure low visitor use levels. The zone provides backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine wilderness environment, generally free from artificial noise and anthropogenic effects. It will allow a range of recreational opportunities including backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, back-country skiing, camping, snowshoeing, horseback riding and specialised activities (e.g., caving, climbing). Low frequency air access will be restricted to existing airstrips, traditional float-plane landing locations and infrequent helicopter flights. The only motorized uses permitted in this zone are fixed wing aircraft, rotary aircraft, and boats.

Only very minimal new development will be allowed in the Wilderness Recreation Zone for the purposes of mitigating impacts to protected area values (e.g., formalizing existing trails, wilderness campsites, outhouse facilities).

Special Natural Feature Zone

The objective of the Special Natural Feature Zone is to protect significant natural or cultural values, features and processes because of their special character, fragility and/or heritage values. The management intent of this zone is to recognize and protect the special landforms in the protected areas.

No development will be allowed in the Special Natural Feature Zone except educational or interpretive signage.

Protected Area Management Objectives and Strategies

Although the protected areas share many similarities with each other, they were each created for the protection of features and/or values that are distinct to each area. Each protected area has unique management challenges. The following sub-sections summarize the specific significance, values, issues that have been identified in each protected area and the corresponding specific management objectives and strategies to address the concern.

2.2.1 Dall River Old Growth Park

Dall River Old Growth Park was established in 1999, following the Fort Nelson LRMP, to protect a section of the Dall River and riparian white spruce old growth forest. The park (644 ha) is located adjacent to Denetiah Park, within the Denetiah River drainage along the Dall River downstream from Dall Lake. It is approximately 300 km west of Fort Nelson.

Photo: Dall River Old Grown Park

Access to the park is by air; no roads exist.

The park contains important habitat for grizzly bear and furbearers. Stone's sheep are common outside of the park in the rugged mountainous alpine valleys that drain into Dall River. Bull trout, arctic grayling, whitefish and northern pike can be found in the clear, blue waters of Dall River.

The park holds significant spiritual value for First Nations, although there is limited documented information. The area has high potential for cultural and heritage resources. Gravesites are known to exist along the Dall River.

Most visitors to the area are members of guided hunting and/or fishing trips. No public facilities exist.

No specific management issues have been identified at Dall River Old Growth Park.

The entire park is zoned Special Natural Feature for the protection of old growth white spruce forest (Figure 2).

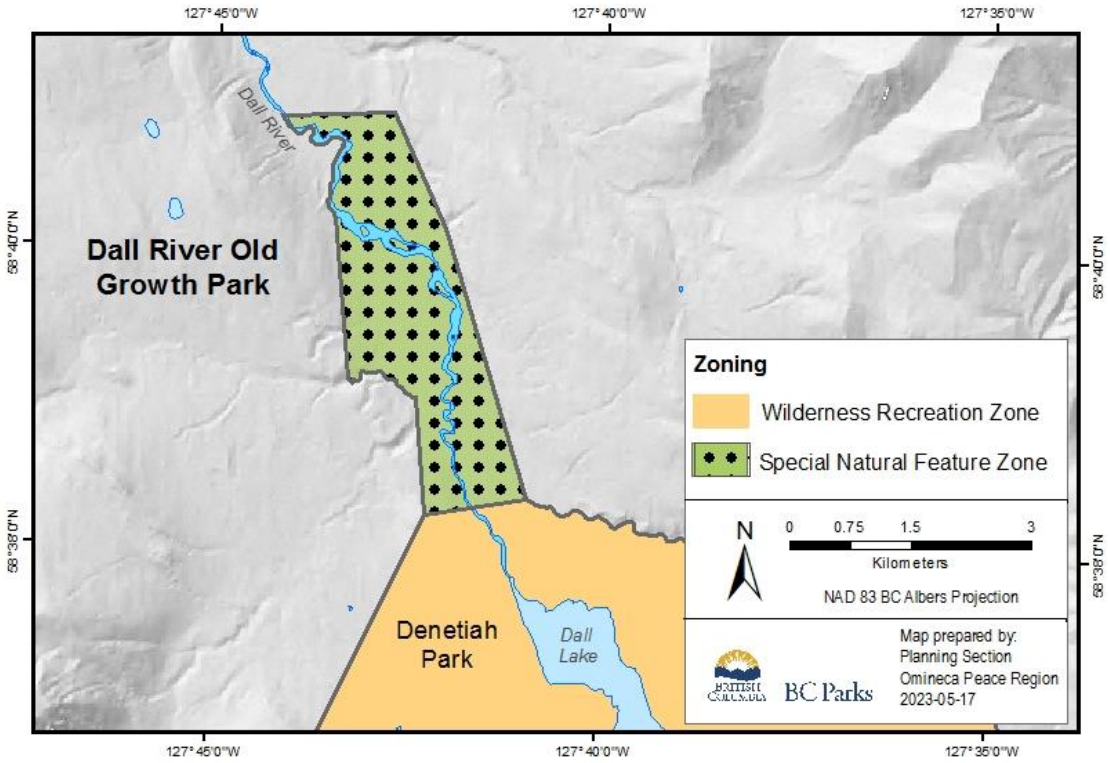

Figure 2: Dall River Old Growth Park Zoning Map

2.2.2 Denetiah Park and Denetiah Corridor Protected Area

Denetiah Park (97,908 ha) and Denetiah Corridor Protected Area (7,441 ha) were established in 1999 following the Fort Nelson LRMP. Denetiah's primary role is to protect representative alpine tundra and boreal forests of the Kechika Mountains and Cassiar Ranges, the scenic lake system and important wildlife populations. Denetiah is located 160 km upstream (northwest) of Kwadacha (Fort Ware) along the Kechika River within the Rocky Mountain Trench.

Denetiah Corridor Protected Area was established, as recommended in the Fort Nelson LRMP, through the Kechika River corridor under the *Environment and Land Use Act* to allow for future road access to natural resources outside of the protected area. Dune Za Keyih Park is located to the south, adjacent to Denetiah. Dune Za Keyih Park and Protected Area were recommended in the Mackenzie LRMP with the intent that the protected area would continue through the Kechika River corridor to meet up with the Denetiah Corridor Protected Area. However, this portion of the Dune Za Keyih Protected Area was never established, causing the Denetiah Corridor Protected Area to be unusable for its' intended purpose (see Figure 3).

Denetiah is a remote wilderness area with no designated roads. Access is by boat, air, hiking or horse to the south along the historic Davie Trail from Lower Post, or

Kwadacha (Fort Ware). River access is via a 250 km boat trip on the Kechika River from Skook's Landing, near the community of Fireside on the Alaska Highway.

The complex of Denetiah, Dune Za Keyih and Dall River Old Growth protects part of the largest intact predator-prey system in British Columbia. The area provides medium to high capability habitat for grizzly bear, wolf, caribou, moose and several furbearers (including wolverine, lynx, marten and fisher). They also provide significant habitat for other large mammals such as Rocky Mountain elk, Stone's sheep and mountain goat.

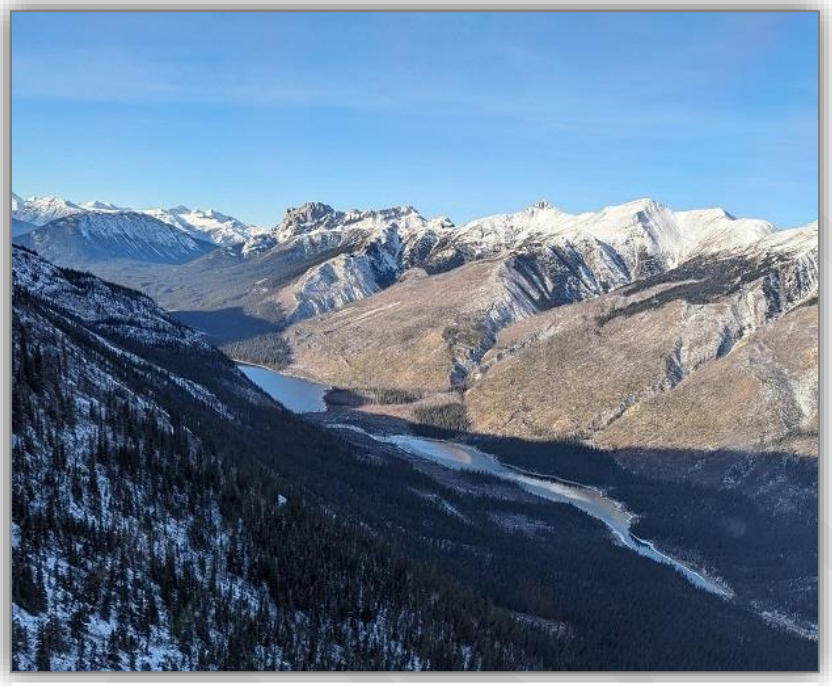

Photo: Denetiah Lake, Denetiah Park

The Denetiah and Dall Lakes area has long been recognized for its remote wilderness location, stunning beauty and outstanding recreational values. Sand-pebble beaches provide canoeing, fishing and camping opportunities at these lakes.

An extensive alpine plain southwest of Denetiah Lake is an ideal location for hiking, horseback riding and wildlife and scenery viewing in a beautiful, remote wilderness setting. For the experienced backcountry adventurer, a portion of the Davie Trail, which extends from Kwadacha (Fort Ware) to Lower Post, travels through the park adjacent to the Rocky Mountain Trench. The Kechika River is recognized as an outstanding special feature for its superb wilderness float trip and wildlife viewing values.

Peaks and valleys have been carved by glaciers, of which only a few alpine glaciers remain. Extensive areas of contiguous alpine areas cover the high areas. Mountains from the western portion of the protected area are in the Stikine Ranges, those in the middle represent the Kechika Ranges and mountains east of the Kechika River are in the Muskwa Ranges.

Denetiah and Dall Lakes are the main hydrological features. The Kechika River was designated as a BC Heritage River in 1996 for its outstanding ecological and wilderness recreation values and is one of British Columbia's largest unlogged watersheds. All drainages in the park drain into the Liard River and via the

Mackenzie River into the Arctic Ocean. Denetiah falls within a large undeveloped watershed that includes the Turnagain and Kechika Rivers and all their tributaries.

The area provides high quality habitat for moose, caribou, Stone's sheep and mountain goat. The abundance of prey supports predator species such as wolves and grizzly and black bears. Internationally renowned Stone's sheep habitat is located immediately north and south of Denetiah.

The Rocky Mountain Trench is an important migration corridor for many bird species, especially waterfowl. There are staging and nesting areas for swans. Dall and Denetiah are low productivity lakes, with fish exhibiting slow growth and late maturation. As a result, fish populations are easily overfished. Anglers can fish for arctic grayling, bull trout and whitefish in the Kechika River.

The area has a very strong historical First Nations presence. Historically the Kaska Dena travelled between Kwadacha (Fort Ware) and Lower Post, parallel to the Kechika River, by way of the 'Atse Dena Tunna' ("The Path of the Ancient Ones") or Davie Trail. The Davie Trail may have served as a travel corridor for First Nations as early as 14,000 years ago. The Kaska Dena refer to the Rocky Mountain Trench as "Warm Wind Valley."

Post-contact history within Denetiah is characterized by long-term trapping, prospecting, guide outfitting, and brief periods of gold mining. Other important historical events include the use of the Davie Trail as the main travel route to the Klondike. The Kechika River was used to transport furs to Lower Post.

Most visitors to the area are members of guided hunting and/or fishing trips. Backcountry recreational use includes canoeing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, wilderness camping. A rustic public cabin and outhouse exist on the northeast end of Denetiah Lake.

The known general management issues at Denetiah Park and Protected Area include the following:

- Potential impacts to riparian areas from jetboat use and fuel cache locations. Review management direction in Sections 2.1.7 and 2.1.8.
- Potential impacts to natural values may occur during peak visitation/hunting season due to the lack of designated camping locations and facilities (e.g., toilets, caches, fire pits, garbage management). Review management direction in 2.1.8.

Specific management issues that have been identified at Denetiah Park and Protected Area include the following, which will be managed according to the direction in the following table:

- Denetiah Protected Area was designated to allow for the development of road access for resource extraction activities. Dune Za Keyih Park is adjacent, to the south, and does not allow the development of road access.
- The cabin on Denetiah Lake that is available for public use requires upgrading/re-building; lack of upkeep may result in the facility falling into disrepair.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Correct inconsistency in designations of Denetiah Corridor Protected Area and Dune Za Keyih Park	• The Denetiah Corridor Protected Area does not align with a Dune Za Keyih Protected Area which would allow for a future resource road through the Kechika River corridor. In coordination with active land use planning and adjacent land management agencies, consider re-designating the Denetiah Corridor Protected Area from the *Environment and Land Use Act* to a Class A Park under the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act.*
Enable high quality recreational experiences that align with the natural setting.	• Create partnerships with volunteer society to manage and maintain facilities for public use.

Zoning across the protected area complex is Wilderness Recreation to maintain the remote, undisturbed natural landscape while providing backcountry recreation opportunities in a pristine environment (Figure 3).

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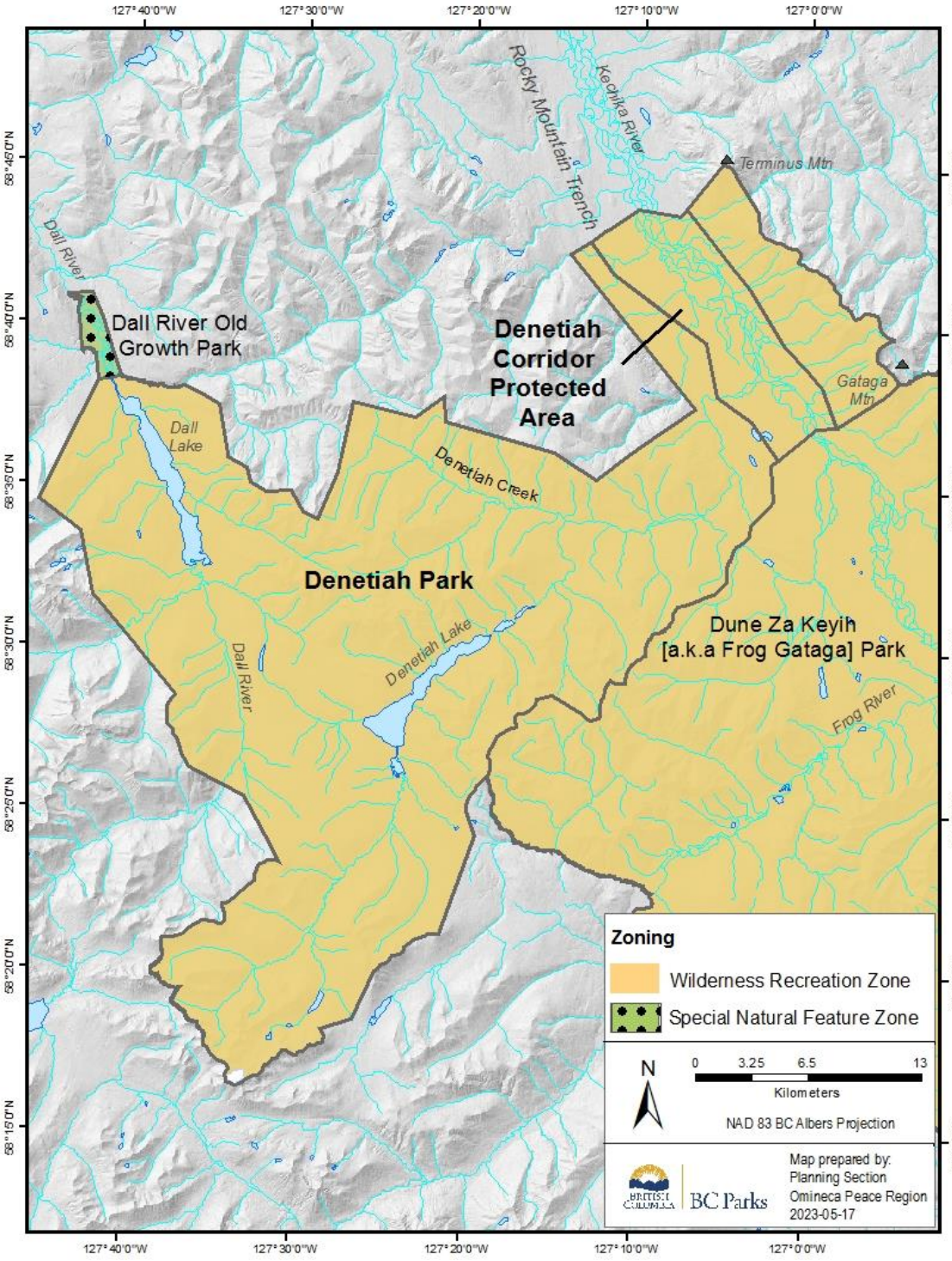

Figure 3: Denetiah Park and Denetiah Corridor Protected Area Zoning Map

2.2.3 Dune Za Keyih [a.k.a. Frog-Gataga] Park and Protected Area

Dune Za Keyih Park (330,774 ha) and Protected Area (16,059 ha) were established in 2001 following the Mackenzie LRMP. The primary role is to protect large sections of three river valleys (Kechika, Gataga and Frog) that are undisturbed by industrial or commercial activity. Features of this area include old growth forest, karst topography, numerous creeks and tributaries to both systems, and a large portion of the Rocky Mountain Trench.

Dune Za Keyih is in the Rocky Mountain Trench between Denetiah Provincial Park to the northwest and Kwadacha Wilderness Park to the southeast. The park encompasses portions of the 250 km Kechika River. It also includes two of its major tributaries: the Frog River, flowing from the Cassiar Mountains on the west side, and the Gataga River, merging from the northern Rockies to the east.

Dune Za Keyih Protected Area was established under the *Environment and Land Use Act* to allow for future road access to natural resources outside of the protected area.

The only motorized access into Dune Za Keyih is by air or boat; non-motorized access is by foot, raft, canoe, kayak, and horseback.

Photo: Gataga River, Dune Za Keyih Park

The Gataga River is currently one of the few sizeable rivers in northeast British Columbia that possesses significant scenic value, and yet has limited motorized boat access. Present use is by the occasional river rafter or canoeist. Historically, log jams and rapids have formed a barrier to boats, and canoes, kayaks and rafts, however these barriers can change seasonally. In 2023 no visible log jams were present.

Dune Za Keyih protects both the South Gataga Lakes Chain (12 km) and Mayfield Lakes, adjacent to the Gataga River.

The Frog River provides a highly scenic experience for visitors. It can be distinguished from the Kechika and the Gataga by its extremely clear, green coloured water. Near where the Frog enters the Kechika there are several small

pothole lakes, and further along the river the valley is characterized by adjacent wetlands.

The area has a very strong historical First Nations presence. Refer to Section 2.2.2 for more details on First Nations use in the area. “Dune Za Keyih”, is taken from the Kaska language and means “Land of the Original People”.

There are no public facilities within Dune Za Keyih Hunters, hikers, river rafters and canoeists comprise most visitors to the protected area.

The known management issues and associated management direction at Dune Za Keyih generally relate to unknown impacts of recreation on the natural values, lack of ecological research, and concerns relating to potential adjacent resource development. Specific concerns include:

- Jet boat impacts to riparian areas and associated fuel cash locations. Review management direction in Section 2.1.7.
- Potential impacts to natural values may occur during peak visitation/hunting season due to the lack of designated camping locations and facilities (e.g., toilets, caches, fire pits, garbage management). Review management direction in 2.1.8.
- One land administrative issue is known; during establishment, nine mineral claims were excluded from the park and it is unknown whether the mineral claims are still active or whether the land may be available for addition to the park.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Manage boundary integrity of the protected area.	• Assess the status of pre-existing mineral claims excepted from the protected areas ("Braid 5" 223937, "Braid 6" 223938, "Braid 7" 223939, "Braid 12" 329182, "Braid 21" 329185, "Braid 22" 329186, "S1" 221913, "Chodi 1" 384009, "Chodi 3" 384011). Work with the ministry responsible for mining to consider adding these tracts of land to the protected areas.

The entire park and protected area are zoned Wilderness Recreation (Figure 4).

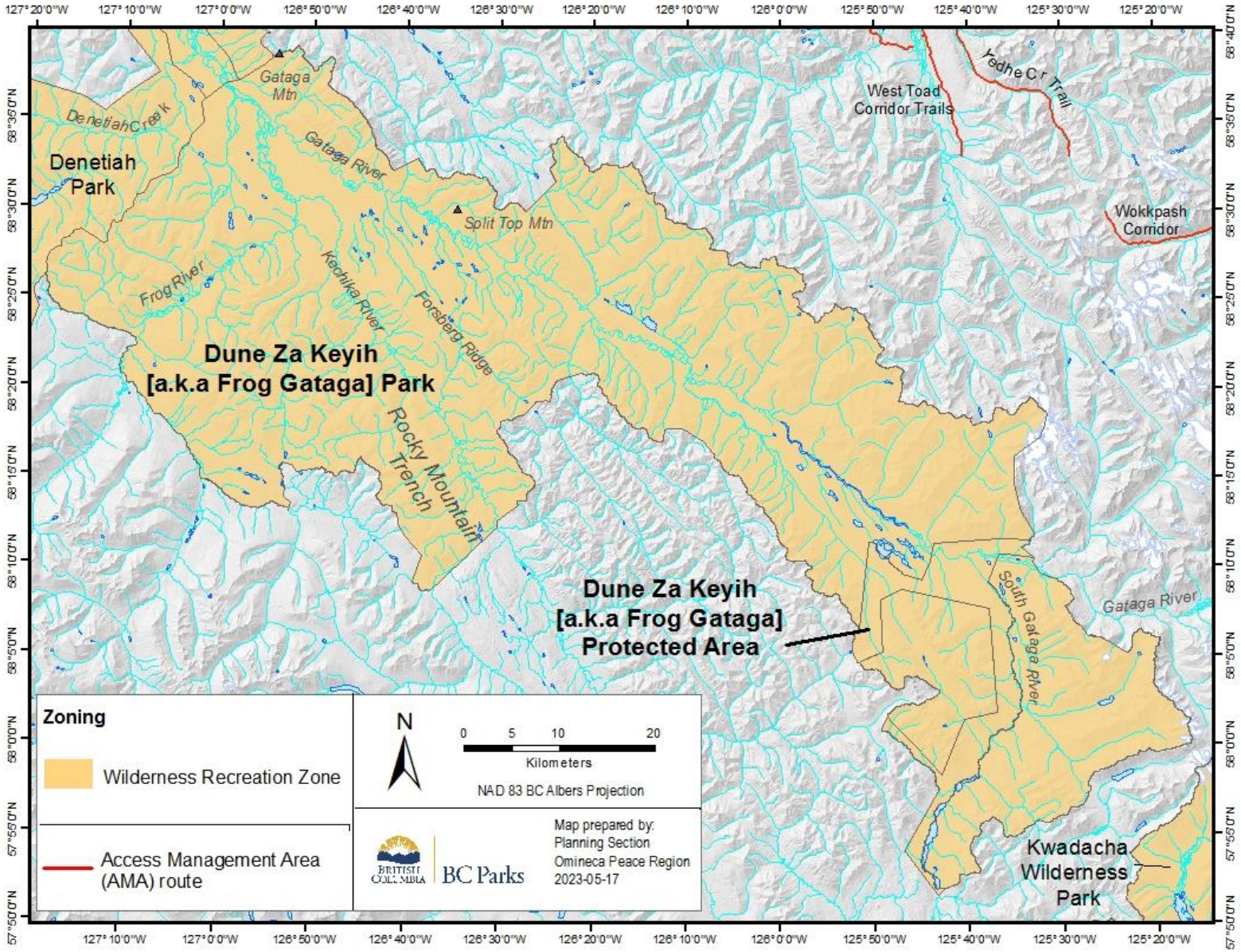

Figure 4: Dune Za Keyih Park and Protected Area Zoning Map

2.2.4 Finlay-Russel Park and Protected Area

Finlay-Russel Park and Protected Area was established in 2001 resulting from the Mackenzie LRMP. The park (109,214 ha) and protected area (13,566 ha) are located along an 85 km stretch of the Finlay River, between the Fox River confluence to the east and the Toodoggone River confluence to the west. The village of Kwadacha (Fort Ware) is located east of the park and protected area. Finlay-Russel protects a portion of the Omineca Mountains, including 20 km of the Upper Pelly Creek Valley and the northern end of the Russel Range. It encompasses a full elevation range of ecosystems and significant fish and wildlife habitat. The primary role of the park and protected area is for conservation, additional roles are to protect First Nations cultural values and continued sustenance use and to provide opportunities for river-oriented wilderness recreation and hunting.

Access to Finlay-Russel Park and Protected Area is by air or limited river and road access from Kwadacha.

The Protected Area was established under the *Environment and Land Use Act* to allow the development of two road corridors for mining or oil and gas purposes: to access the adjacent Upper Pelly and Obo River Resource Management Zones (RMZs).

The park and protected area protect important fish and wildlife habitat, including habitat for the most significant population of Stone's sheep in the Omineca Region. The Russel Range is in the snow shadow of the Fishing Range and thus supports a relatively isolated population of sheep. Negative impacts on this population could have long term consequences due to its isolation and resulting lack of potential immigrants. This range is also important to mountain goats and supports significant populations, although they are contiguous with other populations. The park and protected area also include important habitat for caribou and moose.

Fish habitat in the park and protected area is significant; the population of Arctic grayling in the Finlay River is part of the red-listed Williston population. Fishing Lakes are important from a fisheries perspective as they have a species composition that is different than most other lakes in the region. The lakes support several species of sport fish including rainbow trout, Arctic grayling, bull trout and lake trout. It is unusual to have two top-order predators in the same lake. The Upper Pelly Creek supports a small rainbow trout fishery.

First Nations cultural values are high in the area with continued sustenance use within Finlay-Russel Park and Protected Area. The park includes a section of a First Nations trail from Kwadacha (Fort Ware) to Caribou Hide and the Stikine country.

Recreational use is predominantly wilderness recreation such as hunting and fishing. Canoeing, kayaking, rafting and jet boat use all occur on the Finlay River.

The known management issues at Finlay-Russel Park and Protected Area include the following:

- Potential for impacts to park values from high levels of motorized boat use. Concern for riparian areas have been raised due to motorized recreation. River corridors are heavily used by wildlife, including waterfowl and migratory birds. Nests can be disturbed by boat wakes in the spring. Wildlife can be significantly impacted by disturbance. Review management direction in Section 2.1.7.
- Unauthorized activities including development of recreational facilities. Review management direction in Section 2.1.8.

Zoning is dominated by Wilderness Recreation to protect the remote, natural landscape and to provide non-motorized backcountry recreation opportunities in a pristine environment with limited facility development and low visitation (Figure 5).

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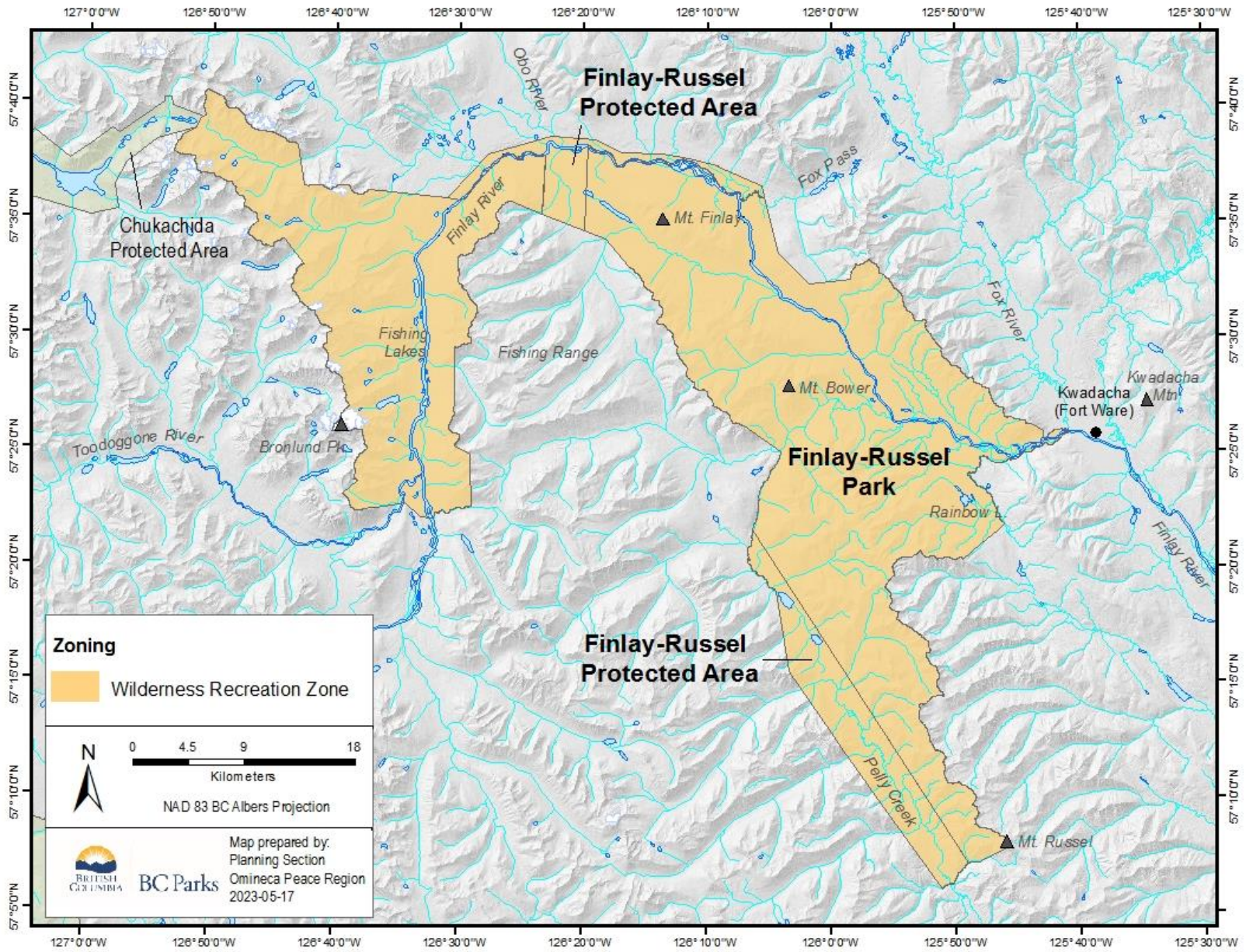

Figure 5: Finlay-Russel Park and Protected Area Zoning Map

2.2.5 Graham-Laurier Park

Graham-Laurier Park, 99,982 ha in size, was established in 1999 following the Fort St. John LRMP. The park's primary purpose is to protect Christina Falls on the Graham River and representative transition zones from river bottom old growth to subalpine and alpines areas. The park is located 145 km northwest of Fort St. John. It is the southern-most protected area included in this strategic plan and located 50 km south of Redfern-Keily Park.

The Halfway/Graham Forest Service Road is the only motorized access to within 10 km of the southeast corner of park. Three AMA routes exist along the eastern park boundary; the Graham River Trail is the only route that enters the park, providing access to Christina Falls along the Graham River.

The park conserves all the undeveloped Upper Graham River watershed and all its tributaries; short stretches of the Graham River are within the park. The southern portion of the park houses the Needham Creek drainage and a portion of the Emmerslund Creek drainage. Lady Laurier, a picturesque alpine lake, is one of the few waterbodies within the park and is surrounded by Mount Lady Laurier, the highest peak in the park. The Misinchinka Ranges, in the western part of the park, are different from the rest of the Rocky Mountains as they are composed of schist resulting in mountains that are more rounded and smaller. They have been subjected to less valley glaciation and have fewer alpine areas.

The park has high natural biodiversity, containing a mix of forest cover types and age classes, moist riparian corridors, and natural connectivity corridors between valley lowlands and alpine. A diverse variety of wildlife inhabits this mountain landscape. The area provides medium-high quality habitat for moose, elk, Stone's sheep, mountain goat, and predator species such as wolves and grizzly and black bears. The Graham River and its tributaries have very high fisheries values. Christina Falls is a natural barrier to fish migration and, as a result, populations in the rest of the park are genetically isolated. Lady Laurier Lake was illegally stocked with Arctic grayling and rainbow trout in the 1980's. The Arctic grayling have become well established; however, no rainbow trout have been caught in the lake for many years.

Graham-Laurier Park has significant cultural heritage values. This area was important for hunting and trapping and it supplied furs to the Hudson's Bay Company outposts in Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope. Laurier Pass was part of an important RCMP trail which was used to deliver mail to and from the north.

Recreational use of the park includes ORV use to Christina Falls, canoeing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and wilderness camping. Several small non-motorized trails have been created throughout the park; horseback and hiking are the mode of travel. Trails exist along Emmerslund, Needham and Horn Creeks and the Graham River; however, there are no developed facilities in the park. ORV and

snowmobiling use is restricted to the AMA route in the Christina Falls area. The rest of the park is closed to motorized use.

Adjacent land south and southeast includes mineral claims, a private lot, and License of Occupation (LOO) for commercial recreation. Adjacent forestry activities to the south may improve road access in the area and lead to increased access and park use.

Improved road access may provide an opportunity to expand recreational opportunities within the park and consider new facilities near Christina Falls.

The known management issues at Graham-Laurier Park include the following:

- Condition of the Graham River Trail AMA route and Christina Falls (trail to cliff) may be problematic due to safety hazards (i.e., viewing of the falls is not facilitated by platforms or fencing, lack of adequate signage). Review management direction in Section 2.1.7.
- Concern regarding off-trail ORV access into the park from the Chowade and Cypress Trails. Review management direction in Section 2.1.7.
- Reports of ORV access from the south due to commercial recreation and forestry activity. Review management direction in Section 2.1.7.
- Some vegetation and wildlife impacts may occur at camping sites and in localized areas (e.g., Christina Falls) due to capacity use during the hunting season, and to alpine areas due to a lack of designated camping locations and facilities (e.g., toilets, caches, fire pits). Review management direction in section 2.1.8.
- Private land and LOOs (hunting camps) exist outside of the southeast boundary of the park, including an airstrip, cabins and pastureland. Park management issues should be discussed with the owners of these lots. Review management direction in Section 2.1.2, 2.1.7, and 2.1.8.
- One land administrative issue is known; during establishment, one petroleum and natural gas tenure was excluded from the Park.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Manage boundary integrity of the protected area.	• Assess the status of pre-existing petroleum and natural gas tenure 41448 excepted from the park and work with the responsible agency to consider adding this land to the park.

Zoning in the park is dominated by Wilderness Recreation to maintain recreation in a pristine environment with limited facility development and low visitation (Figure 6). The area around Christina Falls is zoned Special Natural Feature, accessed by the Graham River Trail AMA route. The Nature Recreation Zone covers an area within 400 m of the AMA route due to the travel restrictions associated with the route.

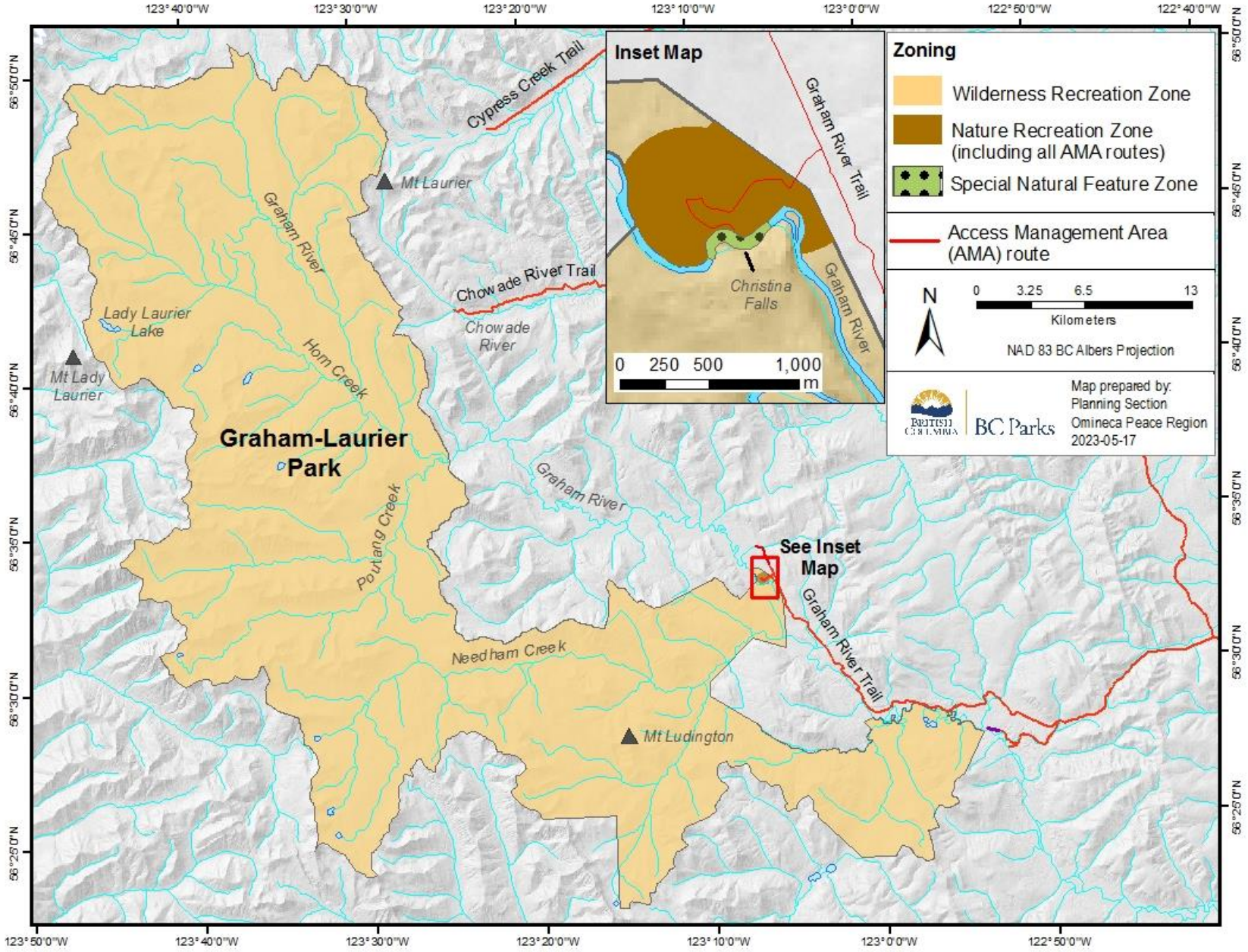

Figure 6: Graham-Laurier Park Zoning Map

2.2.6 Horneline Creek Park

Horneline Creek Park was established in 1999, resulting from the Fort Nelson LRMP. It is located east of the Kechika River, 130 km south of Lower Post, and 30 km north of Denetiah Park. The park is 298 ha in size and protects significant mountain goat habitat along Horneline Creek. A large mineral lick and steep cliffs provide important habitat for the goats.

The main access route to Horneline Creek Park is by riverboat along the Kechika River and hiking into the park. Access to the Kechika River primarily occurs at Skooks Landing, near the community of Fireside, and involves a 250 km boat trip.

Photo: Horneline Creek Park

Horneline Creek is located in the northern portion of the Rocky Mountain Trench. In the park, Horneline Creek cuts through a large glacial terrace to create steep cliffs. The sandstone bedrock material gives rise to a large mineral lick. Pockets of grasslands and stands of aspen line the canyon. As many as 60-75 goats have been observed in the area at one time.

Recreational use of the park has historically been for hunting. Due to the difficult access, there are few backcountry recreation opportunities and there are no facilities located in the park.

The park is zoned entirely Special Natural Feature for the purpose of conserving goat habitat (Figure 7). Due to current low levels of human use, specific management actions to conserve the goat populations are not contemplated. Motorized access is not permitted.

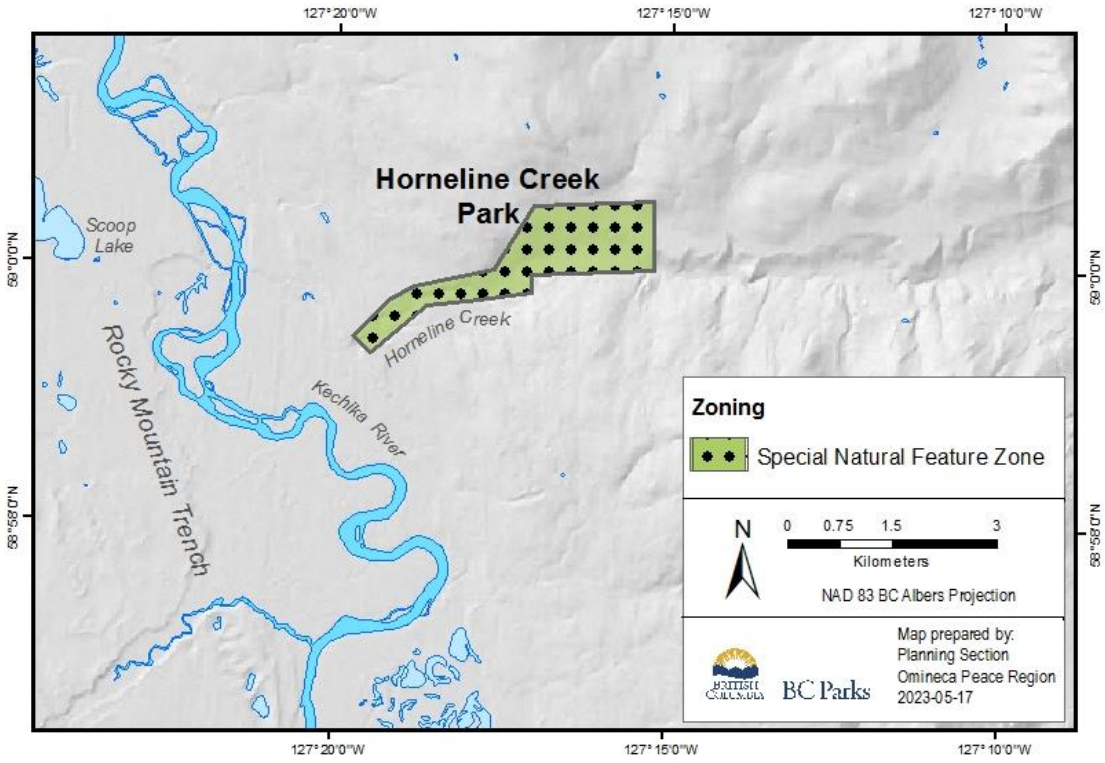

Figure 7: Horneline Creek Park Zoning Map

2.2.7 Kwadacha Wilderness Park

Kwadacha Wilderness Park, 130,279 ha in size, is located 35 km northwest of Kwadacha (Fort Ware) and 160 km southwest of Fort Nelson. The park is bordered by Northern Rocky Mountains Park to the east and Dune Za Keyih Park is located a few kilometers to the northwest.

The park is extremely remote and was established in 1973, originally encompassing 167,000 ha. The original southwest portion was removed from the park in 1987 to allow for resource development. In 2000, the Mackenzie LRMP recommended that 12,790 ha of the parcel be added back into the park to improve the likelihood of maintaining ecological integrity and biodiversity by adding low elevation forests on the west flank of the Rocky Mountains. The addition consisted of the Chesterfield Creek and Aramis Lakes area.

The park straddles the Rocky Mountain Divide and has a primary role of protecting representative ecosystems of the Eastern and Western Muskwa Ranges. The park is divided almost in half by the two ranges. The Eastern Muskwa Ranges boast the highest, most rugged mountains in the Northern Rocky Mountain Ecoregion. The park includes a network of connecting river valleys, the expansive Lloyd George Icefield, and lakes of various sizes and characteristics.

Additional roles of Kwadacha Wilderness Park are to provide opportunities for wilderness recreation, primarily fly-in hunting and fishing, as it offers spectacular

scenery and geological features in a pristine wilderness area. The park also offers opportunity to use and appreciate a cultural travel route. A historic Indigenous pack trail, and the route taken by a subarctic expedition in 1934, traverse through the park. The Indigenous trail, considered of regional historic value, was the most likely intermontane travel route used in the pre-contact period.

There is no road access into the park; instead, aircraft or horse trails are used. The park can be accessed by a 150 km wilderness trail beginning just north of Trutch on the Alaska Highway. It follows the north side of the Prophet River, then switches into the Muskwa Valley and follows the Muskwa River to Fern Lake. The second trail begins west of the Sikanni Chief on the Alaska Highway and heads northward, through Redfern-Keily Park, eventually joining up with the first trail.

Kwadacha houses a diversity of habitat which supports ample wildlife, ranging from wolves to lemmings. The park includes important habitat for moose, mountain goat and grizzly bear, wolverine, and provides seasonal or annual range for Stone's sheep, caribou, elk and mule deer. Two of the four large lakes support an excellent fishery for rainbow trout, bull trout, and whitefish. The rare pygmy whitefish is known to occur in Quentin Lake and likely occurs in other lakes within the park. Over 70 species of birds have been recorded in the park including grebes, teals, hawks, falcons, kestrels, eagles, and warblers.

The known management issues at Kwadacha Wilderness Park are general in nature and are addressed in Section 2.1 General Management Objectives and Strategies. The known issues include the following:

- Potential for overfishing could deplete fisheries resource. Review the management direction associated with fish and aquatic life in Section 2.1.3.
- Motorized boating on lakes in the park. Review the management direction associated with motorized water transportation in Section 2.1.7.

The park is zoned entirely Wilderness Recreation for the purpose of protecting a remote, largely undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a wilderness environment (Figure 8).

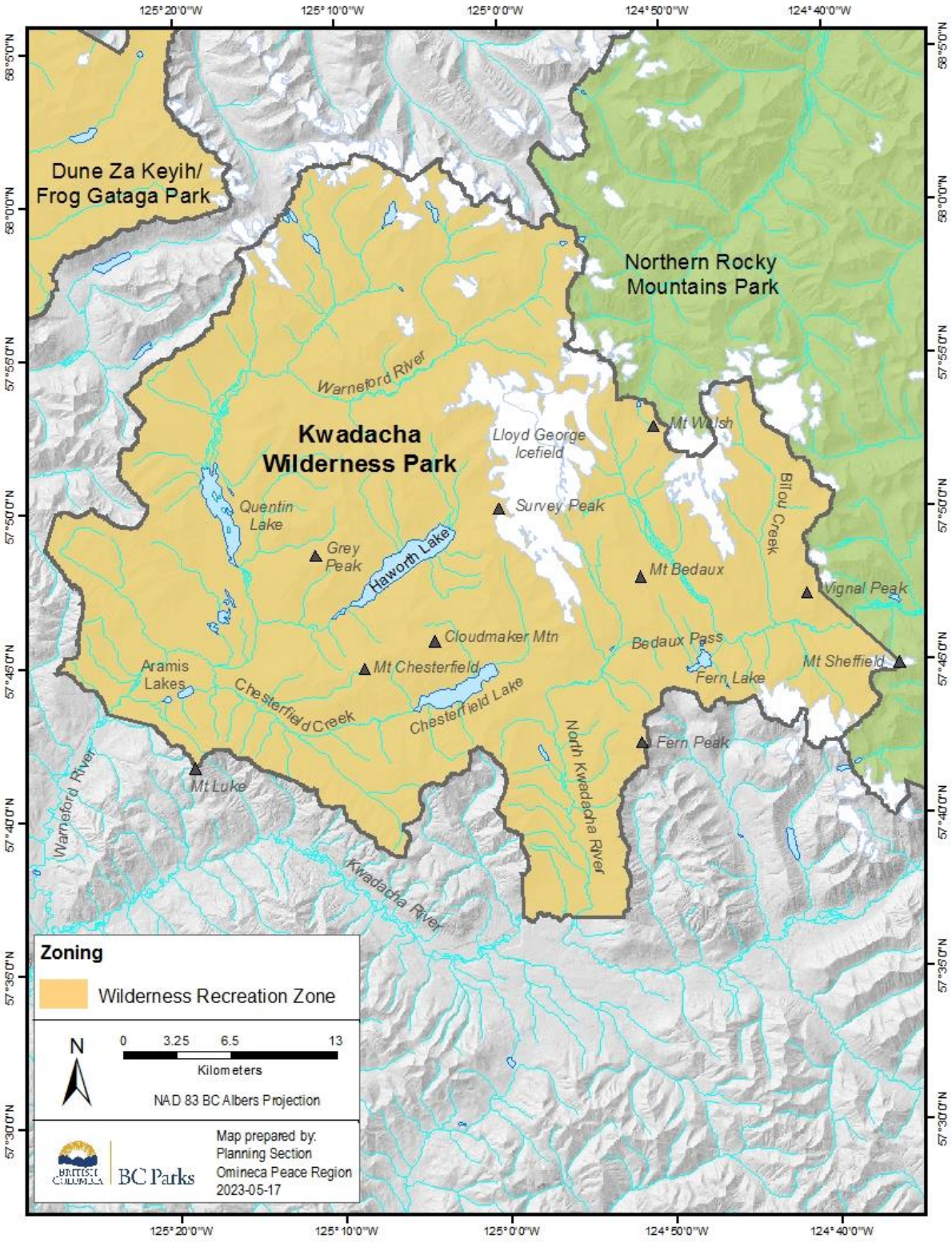

Figure 8: Kwadacha Wilderness Park Zoning Map

2.2.8 Liard River Corridor Park, Protected Area and West Corridor Park

The Liard River Corridor complex is 89,855 ha in size and includes Liard River Corridor Park, Liard River Corridor Protected Area, and Liard River West Corridor Park. The complex is located adjacent to Liard River Hot Springs Park[32], to the southwest, and the remote Scatter River Old Growth Park, to the northeast. It is located on the Alaska Highway, 185 km south of the community of Lower Post and 305 km northwest of Fort Nelson. The complex was established in 1999 and 2001, resulting from the Fort Nelson LRMP, for the protection of the Grand Canyon of the Liard River, old growth Boreal white and black spruce forests, and significant wildlife habitat for moose, grizzly bear, Rocky Mountain elk, wood bison, furbearers, northern long-eared bats, and the fire swept ecosystems of the Liard River valley.

Liard River Corridor Park is named and described in Schedule D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* to allow for the continued authorization of pre-existing uses, including range tenures.

The Liard River Corridor Protected Area was established under the *Environment and Land Use Act* to allow for the proposed Alaska Highway Pipeline. The proposed pipeline was meant to transport natural gas from Alaska to the lower 48 states in the U.S. There has been no public update on the project since 2012 when it was reported that a liquified natural gas (LNG) export facility was being considered instead of the pipeline through Northern BC.

Additional roles of the complex include protecting the mouths of three undeveloped watersheds: Grayling River, Scatter River, and Sulpher Creek. Geothermal activity forms an important feature in the protected area complex and provides research opportunities. Features include Deer River hot springs in the northwest, a waterfall that flows over tufa into the Deer River, and geothermal seepage areas located along the Liard River. Hot water snails are likely to exist in the hot springs and are a federally listed species at risk. The protected area complex protects fossilized ammonites that have been reported along the Liard River. The protected area also provides habitat for Stone's sheep, elk, caribou, as well as staging areas and migration routes for waterfowl.

Most of the protected area complex is remote with only a small area located near the Alaska Highway. There are no designated roads into the protected areas; however, one AMA route exists: the Liard River Corridor trail to Nordquist Lake and Elk Mountain (Figure 9). The route provides ORV and horse access. Riverboats provide access along the Liard River including the Grand Canyon of the Liard, a 30 km stretch of river with dangerous rapids.

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[32] Management direction for the Liard River Hot Springs Park is not included in this plan as the park is adjacent to the Alaska Highway and has very different visitation levels.

First Nations historically utilized the area and river corridors. Multiple archaeological sites are known to exist, including many along the Liard River.

Hudson's Bay Company activity in the area is known to date back to 1835. The Liard River was historically used as a travel corridor.

Recreational use includes hunting, fishing, canoeing, riverboat use, hiking, camping, and horseback riding. ORV and snowmobile use is allowed on designated AMA routes only.

Management issues that have been identified at Liard River Corridor include:

- There is a lack of information on the Deer River hot springs ecosystem. Species at risk are likely to be present and a study to confirm their presence and distribution is needed. Review management direction in Section 2.1.6.
- Future adjacent industrial roads may increase access to the protected area complex and threaten wildlife and wilderness values. Review management direction in Section 2.1.2.
- Development of the pipeline within the Liard River Corridor Protected Area may impact protected area values by increasing access. Review management direction in Section 2.1.2.
- Collection of cultural objects and disturbance of heritage sites may occur. Review management direction in Section 2.1.4.
- Fossil collection is a problem due to lack of understanding/indifference concerning park regulations. Review management direction in Section 2.1.3.

Zoning across the Liard River Corridor complex of protected areas is predominantly Wilderness Recreation (Figure 9). The area around Deer River Hot Springs is zoned Special Natural Feature. The Liard River Corridor Trails AMA route is zoned Nature Recreation with an offset of 10m from the mainline of the route[33].

[33] Offsets are subject to future changes to the Public Access Prohibition Regulation under the *Wildlife Act.* Weight restrictions are applicable as indicated in the regulation.

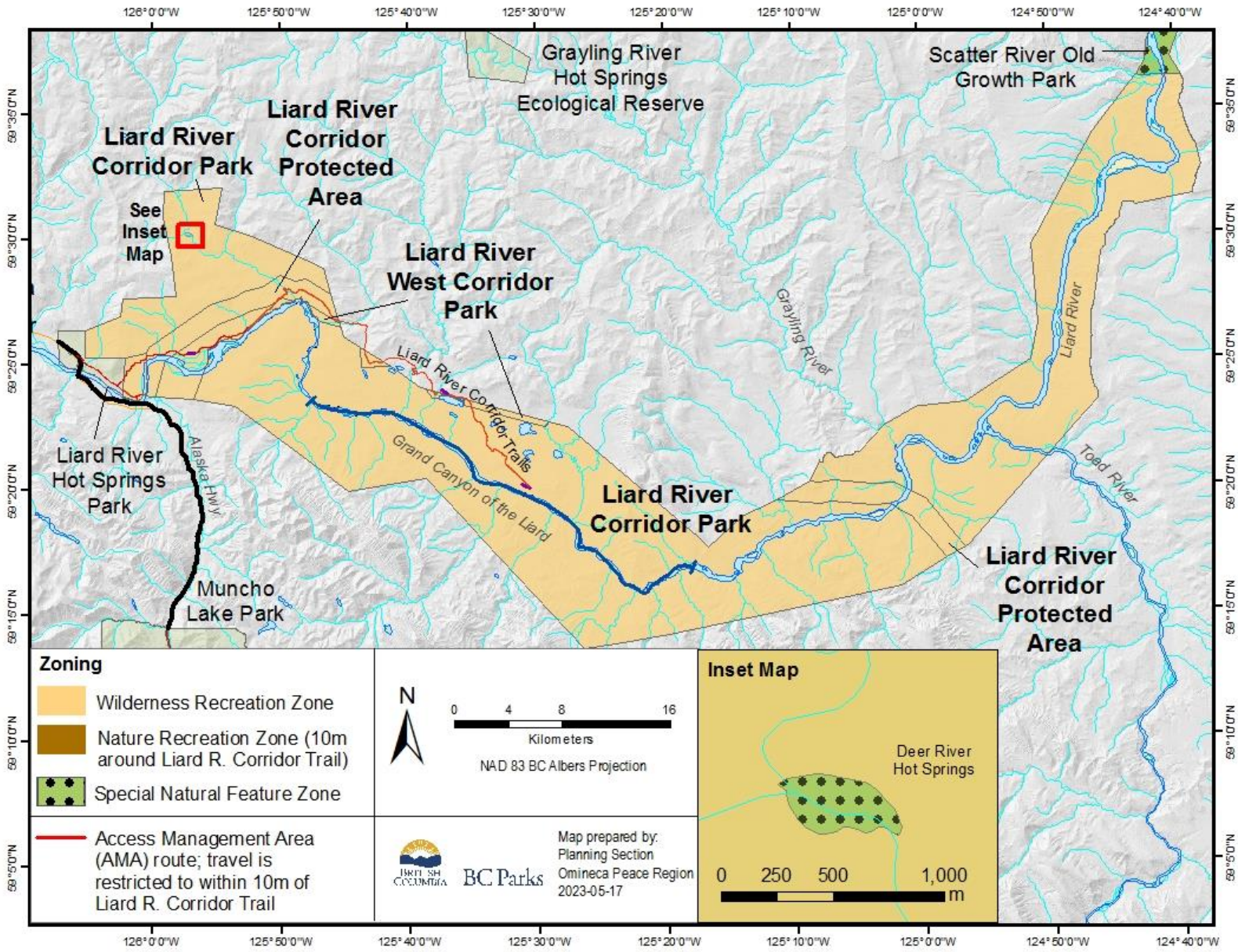

Figure 9: Liard River Corridor Zoning Map

2.2.9 Prophet River Hot Springs Park

Prophet River Hot Springs Park, 184 ha in size, was established in 1999 following the Fort Nelson LRMP. The park is located 60 km west of the Alaska Hwy and 250 km northwest of Fort St. John and straddles the shores of the Prophet River, which is designated as a BC Heritage River. The park protects locally significant hot springs habitats, tufa mounds created by mineral deposits from the springs, and a diversity of large mammals attracted to the area.

There is no road access to the park and no public facilities exist. Access is via helicopter or hiking/horse trails along the Prophet River, Redfern-Keily Park from the south, and Northern Rocky Mountains Park from the north.

The area is known to have been used by Treaty 8 First Nations for subsistence and spiritual use. One archaeological site is known to exist in the park, consisting of prehistoric surface lithics.

Recreational use of the park is low. The main activities include hunting and wildlife viewing.

No specific management issues are currently known to exist at Prophet River Hot Springs Park.

The park is zoned entirely Special Natural Feature for the purpose of protecting the hot springs and the wildlife that frequent them. Motorized access is not allowed in the park (Figure 10).

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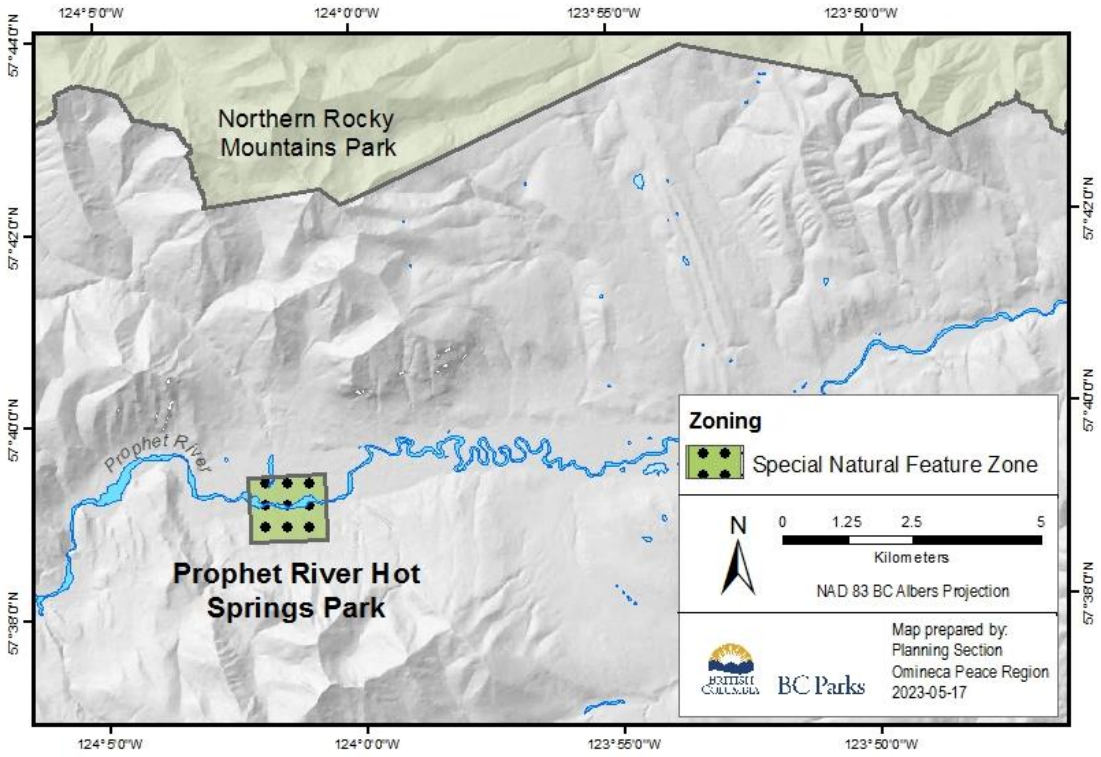

Figure 10: Prophet River Hot Springs Park Zoning Map

2.2.10 Scatter River Old Growth Park

Established in 1999, Scatter River Old Growth Park was proposed for establishment during the Fort Nelson LRMP process. The park is 1178 ha in size and located adjacent to the northeast end of Liard River Corridor Park, 320 km northwest of Fort Nelson. The park spans the Liard River with a primary role of conserving river bottom old growth spruce forests.

The secondary role of the park is to provide recreational opportunities, including wilderness camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, river boating, wildlife viewing, hunting and photography. No facilities exist.

The park is accessed via ORV, foot, horse, or boat. Riverboats can access the park via the Fort Nelson River, Toad River and Liard River.

The park contains a diversity of landscapes from high upland plateau to muskeg and is home to moose, grizzly bear, Rocky Mountain elk, northern long-eared bats, and ecosystems associated with succession from a series of large forest fires that have swept through the Liard River valley.

Management issues specific to Scatter River Old Growth Park, have not been identified. Issues that are common to many of the protected areas have been identified and are addressed by the general management objectives and strategies

in section 2.1 (e.g., lack of management presence due to difficult access, potential impacts of ORV use due to access by trappers).

The park is zoned entirely Special Natural Feature for the protection of old growth forest (Figure 11).

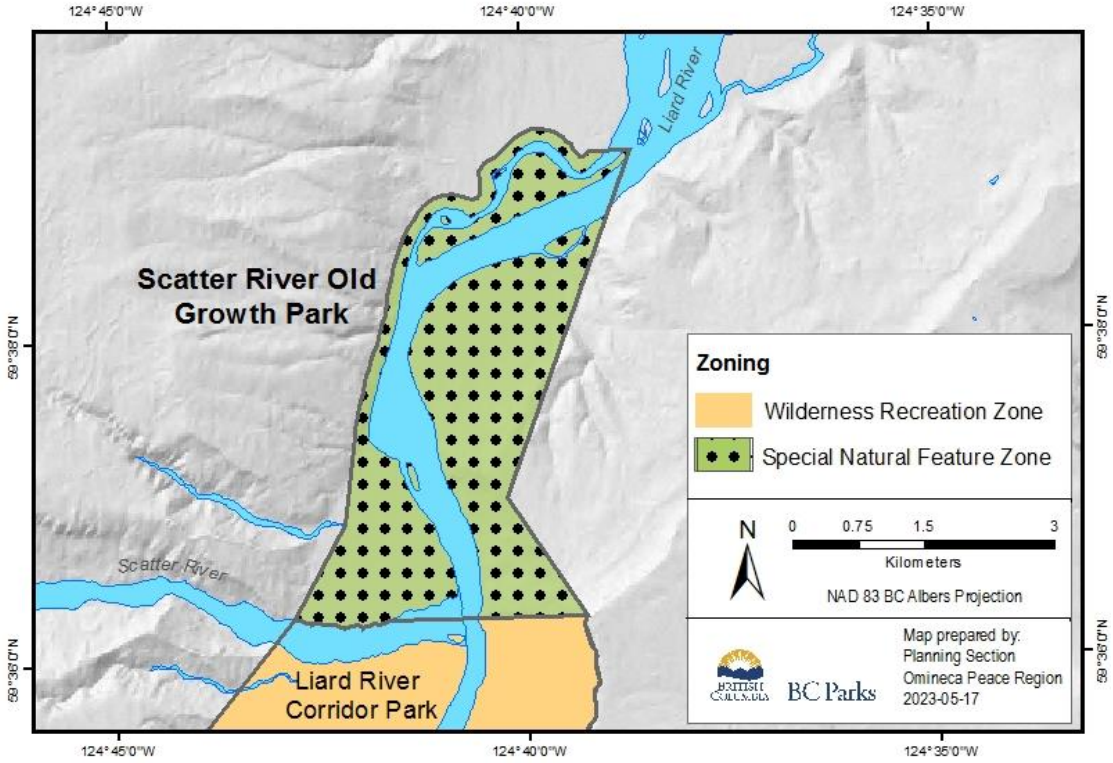

Figure 11: Scatter River Old Growth Park Zoning Map

2.2.11 Toad River Hot Springs Park

Toad River Hot Springs Park is 423 ha in size and located along the Toad River, approximately 160 km west of Fort Nelson and 25 km east of Muncho Lake Park. The hot springs were proposed as an ecological reserve in 1974, recommended as a Goal 2 Protected Area in the Fort Nelson LRMP (1997), and established as a park in 1999. The primary role of the park is to protect a regionally significant hot springs ecosystem within the Toad River valley of Muskwa Foothills, and related wildlife values associated with the hot springs. A secondary role of the park is to protect recreation values of regional importance, including wildlife associated with the hot springs habitat and river recreation opportunities, as well as First Nations cultural heritage values.

The hot springs are situated on the north bank of the Toad River about 1 km upstream of its confluence with the Racing River. Land access is via a 2 km gravel road north from the Alaska Highway followed by 8 km of trail. The park can also be accessed via river boat or helicopter.

The park occurs within the Toad River valley which includes an active floodplain, extensively disturbed by fire, that resulted in a diverse vegetation mosaic and important wildlife habitat. A series of springs originate at a base of alluvial terraces on the Toad River with three main hot springs in the middle of an extensive muddy area with diverse, thermal-influenced plant communities (although no tufa formation). Site reports indicate that the lower river bars around the springs are covered by shrubby vegetation with glaucous-leaved honeysuckle, common snowberry, western chokecherry, and silverberry. The higher terrace hosts alluvial poplar forests with luxurious herb layers that are mainly the result of nutrient enrichment caused by animals visiting the mineral lick. The hot springs provide an important mineral lick for moose Stone's sheep, and likely high capability habitat for grizzly and black bears.

Photo: Toad River Hot Springs Park

First Nations have traditionally used the area; there is an abandoned First Nations camp and cemetery on the site.

Recreational use is minimal since there is no pool, and the ground is soft; the hot springs themselves have little obvious bathing potential in their natural state. The park is primarily used by guide outfitters accessing via horse and regional residents accessing via river boat.

Previous management planning work noted the primary management issue at Toad River Hot Springs Park is the potential for increased boating and horse use to impact the ecosystem. Review the management direction for access management in Section 2.1.7.

The park is zoned entirely Special Natural Feature for the purpose of protecting the hot springs ecosystem (Figure 12).

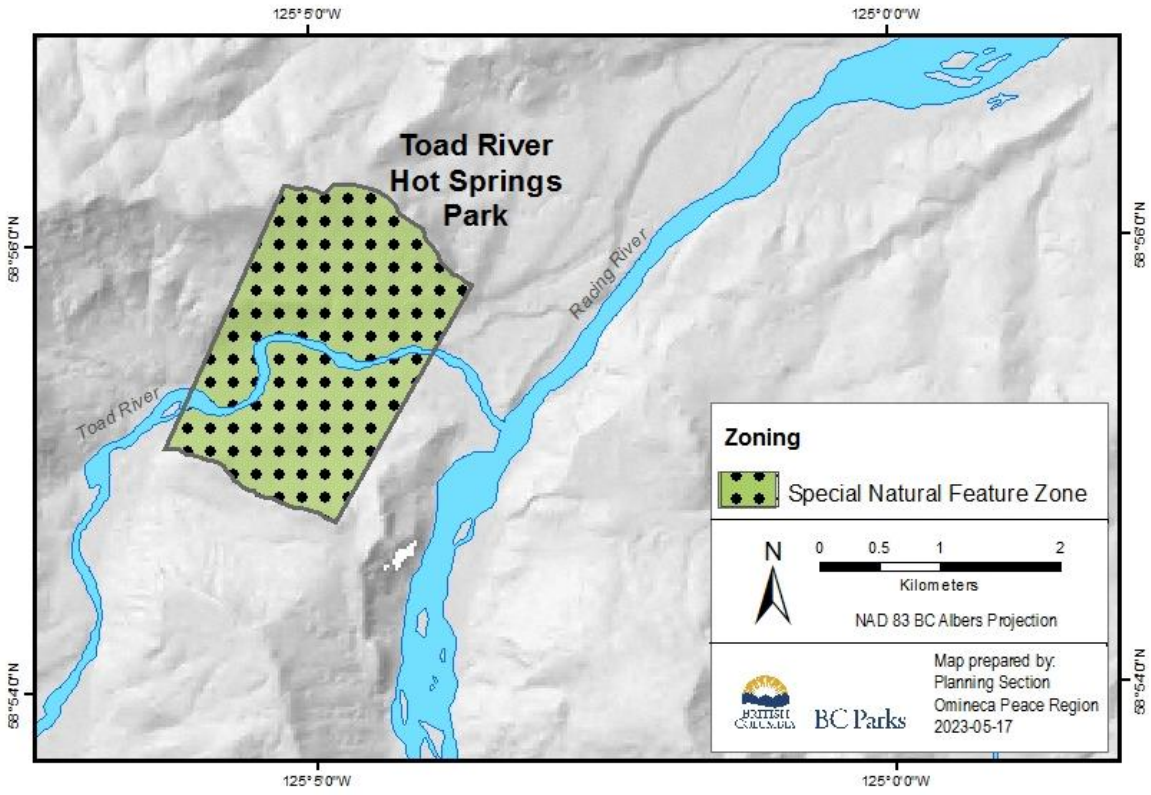

Figure 12: Toad River Hot Springs Park Zoning Map

2.2 Ecological Reserve Management Objectives and Strategies

The purpose of ecological reserves is to preserve natural ecosystems. Scientific research and education are the principal uses. All consumptive resource uses, such as tree cutting, hunting, fishing, mining, domestic grazing, camping, lighting of fires and removing materials, plants or animals, and the use of motorized vehicles are prohibited in ecological reserves.

Ospika Cones and Sikanni Chief River Ecological Reserves are open to the public for non-consumptive uses such as nature appreciation, wildlife viewing, bird watching and photography. The general management direction in Sections 2.1.1 through 2.1.6 apply to the ecological reserves, based on these allowable uses.

2.3.1 Ospika Cones Ecological Reserve

Ospika Cones Ecological Reserve, 1,282 ha in size, is located 50 km east-northeast of the north end of Williston Reservoir, southwest of Redfern-Keily Provincial Park and northwest of Graham-Laurier Provincial Park (Figure 13). It was established in 2001, following the Mackenzie LRMP, to include the fragile Ospika Cones complex of calcium deposits and representative surrounding mountain slopes that protect the spring hydrology. The Ospika Cones are colourful cold water tufa terraces and

raised cylindrical spring pools used as mineral licks for wildlife (e.g., moose, caribou).

The reserve protects one of only a few cold-water tufa terrace and pool formations in BC. It covers mainly west-facing mountain slopes of the Muskwa Ranges from the Ospika River up to alpine ridges. Several spring areas are scattered over about 2 km along the Ospika River, with the central area of springs, the Ospika Cones, comprising the most outstanding example of limestone mineral formations. The spring complex is comprised of raised limestone cones formed by calcium carbonate deposits from underground springs and filled with various turquoise hues of clear water. The limestone formations and surrounding springs are very fragile and vulnerable to human disturbance. The main spring area is surrounded by open fens (peat-forming wetland), alpine meadows and peat bogs mixed in unusual combinations. Vegetation includes dwarf shrub and herb communities and moss turf.

To protect the fragile ecosystem, no access to the reserve is permitted except for research or management purposes. Recreation is not an appropriate use of the reserve. There is no road access to the ecological reserve.

First Nations use of the ecological reserve is largely undocumented.

The known management issues and associated management direction at Ospika Cones Ecological Reserve include the following:

- Climate change may induce changes in the hydrology in the area and affect the mineral springs and associated flora and fauna. Review the management direction associated with climate change in Section 0.5.
- Visitation may impact the fragile mineral formations. The Mackenzie LRMP recommends that no aircraft landing be permitted to protect the sensitive tufa ecosystems.

The table below provides management direction.

Management Objective	Management Strategies
Minimize impacts to mineral spring formations and local ecology.	• Work with local helicopter companies to monitor visitation and ensure they are aware of the fragile natural values present in the reserve. • Aircraft landing in the ecological reserve is prohibited except for permitted research or management purposes. • Consider a legal closure under the *Ecological Reserve Act* to ensure protection of the ecosystem.

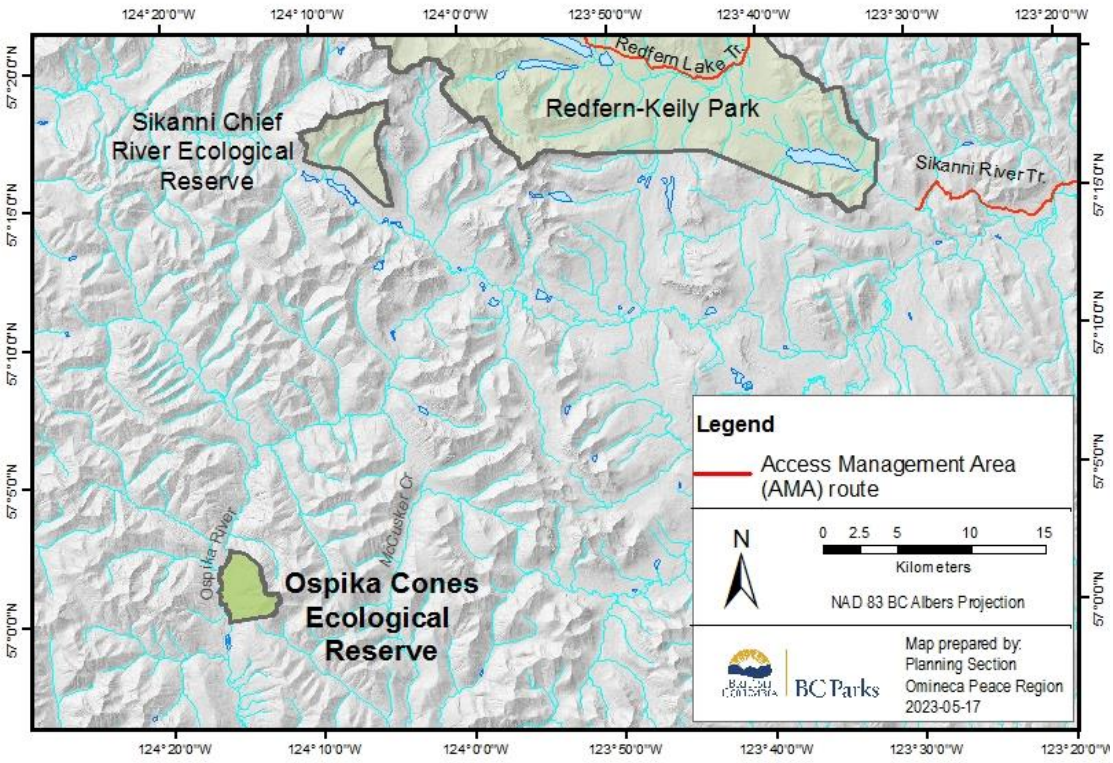

Figure 13: Ospika Cones Ecological Reserve Map

2.3.2 Sikanni Chief River Ecological Reserve

Sikanni Chief River Ecological Reserve, 2,401 ha in size, is located southwest of Redfern-Keily Park and 190 km northwest of Hudson's Hope (Figure 14). The reserve was established in 1973 to protect the headwaters of the Sikanni Chief River and the northern-most occurrence of Englemann Spruce in the Rocky Mountains.

The ecological reserve contains pristine flora and fauna typical of the alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems representative of the Northern Rocky Mountains. Alpine wildlife species that exist within the ecological reserve include Stone's sheep, mountain goat, grizzly bear, golden eagles, and ptarmigan.

Access is via float plane on Sikanni Chief Lake and a one kilometer walk uphill to the ecological reserve boundary.

The ecological reserve protects rugged geological features and alpine-subalpine ecosystems representative of the northern Rocky Mountains.

First Nations use of the area is largely undocumented.

No specific management issues are known.

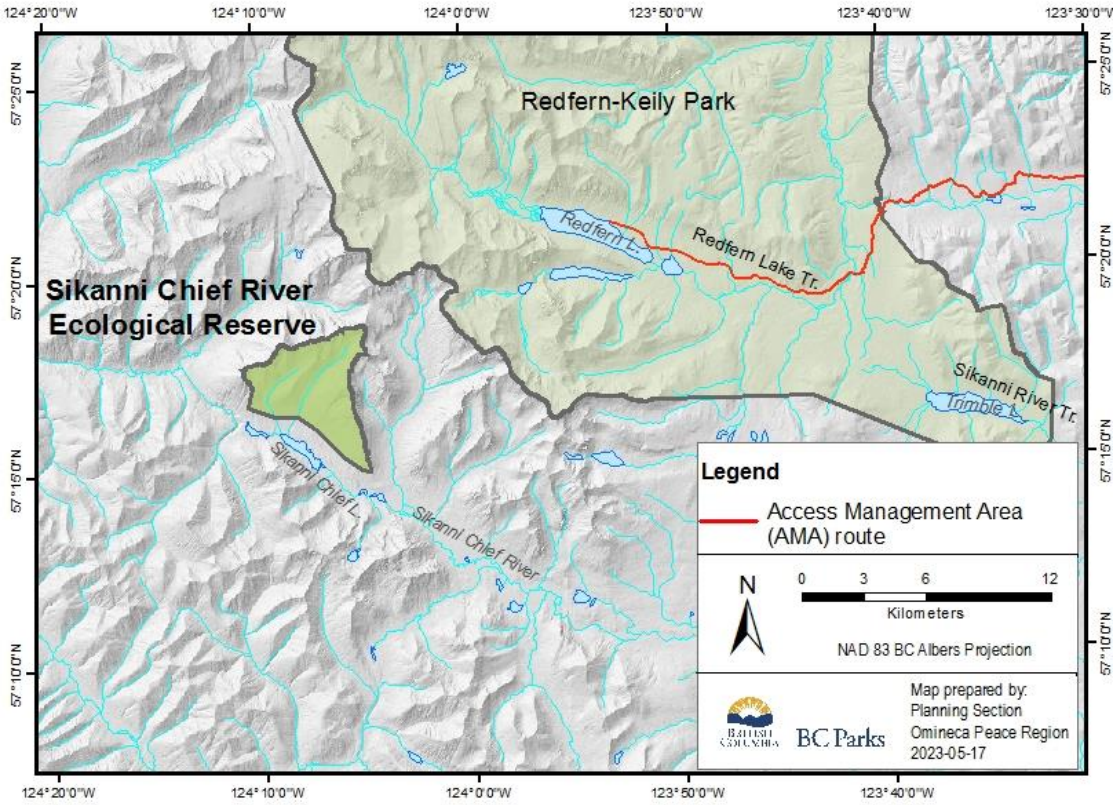

Figure 14: Sikanni Chief River Ecological Reserve Map

3.0 Plan Implementation

3.1 Implementation Plan

BC Parks will seek project-specific funding and partners to implement high priority strategies. Specific projects will be evaluated for their priority in relation to the overall protected areas system. Many of the initiatives contemplated are not funded as part of core BC Parks activities (e.g., wildlife surveys) so jointly seeking funds with our partners will be a key aspect of the management plan implementation.

BC Parks uses annual management plans to address operational and management issues in provincial parks on a priority basis. Issues and strategies presented in this management plan will form the basis of the annual management planning process for the protected areas. Items to be included in the annual management plan include a description of the resources available during a given time period, including staff and any additional operating or project funds that may support identified strategies. Alternate implementation strategies for priorities not funded as part of core ministry activities may be pursued by BC Parks or its partners.

BC Parks strives to ensure First Nations values and input are reflected in the development of annual management planning priorities. As such, an open invitation exists for the area's First Nations to discuss annual management plan items.

BC Parks is supportive of ongoing dialogue and willing to meet with interested groups, First Nations and the public regarding operational and management issues for the protected areas, as resources are available.

In addition to any legislation or policies highlighted in the management plan, there are numerous other provincial policies and guidelines which will be considered during management plan implementation. This includes items such as: BC Parks' policies on permitting, conservation, commercial recreation guidelines and policies, BC Parks bear-people conflict prevention plan and the impact assessment processes.

3.2 High Priority Strategies

- Collaborate with other agencies/ministries, First Nations communities, and community groups to increase presence in the more heavily used portions of the protected areas (e.g., First Nations Land Guardian programs, Conservation Officer Service, community clubs). This presence will ensure compliance with related legislation and assist in gathering information on the use of the protected areas to inform BC Parks operations staff and allow them to more effectively manage issues.
- Work with First Nations communities, other ministries, community groups and/or educational institutions to support inventories and studies aimed at better understanding the distribution of plant and wildlife species, ecosystems and their ecology; including how they will respond to environmental changes such as climate change (e.g., BC Parks Long-term Ecological Monitoring Program, First Nations Land Guardian programs, joint-agency wildlife surveys).
- Work with First Nations partners to increase the representation of their people and cultural heritage in the protected areas.
- Protected area management will be mindful of the Indigenous laws that local First Nations use to guide their way of life.
- The protected areas will be managed to support the connectivity between the protected areas for resiliency of the ecosystems and wildlife and encourage adjacent land managers to do the same.
- Consider a legal closure under the Ecological Reserve Act to ensure protection mineral spring formations and local ecology at Ospika Cones Ecological Reserve.

3.3 Plan Assessment

To ensure that the management direction for the protected areas remains relevant and effective, BC Parks staff will ensure that the management plan is assessed by BC Parks staff on a regular basis (i.e., at least every 5 years). Minor administrative updates may be identified and completed at any time (e.g., correct spelling errors, update protected area details where needed), and will be documented according to BC Parks guidelines.

If an internal assessment reveals that the management plan requires more significant updating or substantial new management direction is needed, a formal review by BC Parks, First Nations and other partner(s) may be initiated to determine whether the management plan requires an amendment or if a new management plan is required.

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Appendix 1: Appropriate Use Table

Note that the appropriate use table does not apply to Ospika Cones Ecological Reserve or Sikanni Chief River Ecological Reserve.

The following table summarizes existing and potential future uses in the Muskwa-Kechika protected areas that are and are not appropriate in each zone. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all uses that may be considered in this protected area in the future.

Please note that appropriate uses may be geographically restricted (i.e., only allowed in certain areas of the protected areas) or are only appropriate at certain times of the year. It is important to review relevant sections of the management plan when interpreting the table.

Appropriate Use Table Legend		
N	**<u>May not</u> be an appropriate use**	The use is not appropriate in the indicated zone, with a few exceptions denoted by "*".
Y	**<u>May be</u> an appropriate use**	Some level or extent of this use may be appropriate in the zone indicated. Clarifying statements are denoted by "*". The management plan provides guidance on the appropriate level of use and may address specific restrictions or planned enhancements (e.g., capacity, designated areas for a particular activity, party size, time of year, etc.). For new or expanded uses, this symbol indicates that the use <u>may be considered</u> for further evaluation. The appropriateness of some activities may not be confirmed until a further assessment (e.g., BC Parks Impact Assessment Process) or evaluation process (e.g., park-use permit adjudication) is completed.

Activity/Facility	Wilderness Recreation Zone	Nature Recreation Zone	Special Feature Zone	Comments
Aircraft (fixed wing and rotary) – access and landing/takeoff	Y	Y	N*	Access by commercial aircraft is subject to a park-use permit. BC Parks may request submission of a flight plan as part of a park-use permit. Operators are encouraged to keep to historical flight paths. Subject to restrictions based on environmental impacts or user conflicts.

Appropriate Use Table Legend				
				*Generally, not allowed; however, park-use permit may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) – with or without passengers (including drones)	Y	Y	Y	May only be authorized under permit for commercial filming (if not detrimental to recreational values) or research.
Boating (human powered)	Y	Y	Y	
Boating (powered engine)	Y	Y	Y	May be subject to restrictions based on potential future environmental impacts or user conflicts.
Camping (designated sites)	Y	Y	N	Rustic campsites may be developed by BC Parks if environmental impacts are observed.
Camping (wilderness style-undesignated sites)	Y	Y	N	
Commercial Recreation (guided hiking, boat tours, kayaking, horse trips, fishing, hunting)	Y	Y	Y*	Park-use permit is required. *Park-use permit may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
Commercial Recreation - Heli-assisted (e.g., skiing, hiking)	N	N	N	
Commercial gathering of botanical or timber forest products	N	N	N	
Cultural Tourism	Y	Y	Y	If commercial, subject to park-use permit.
Dogs off-leash	Y	Y	Y	Dogs are allowed off leash in parks larger than 2,000 Ha
Fish Stocking	Y	Y	Y	May only be allowed for conservation / restoration management purposes.
Fishing	Y	Y	Y	Fishing is regulated under the *Wildlife Act*. Refer to the Freshwater Fishing Regulations for seasonal closures and specific restrictions. Fishing is not allowed in ecological reserves.
Horse and Pack Animal Use	Y	Y	Y	Only horses, mules and dogs are permitted; llamas and other exotic animals are not permitted.
Hunting	Y	Y	Y	Hunting is regulated under the *Wildlife Act*. Restrictions exist in many protected areas. See the Hunting and Trapping Regulations for details. Hunting is not permitted in ecological reserves.

Appropriate Use Table Legend				
Land-based Mechanized Activity (e.g., mountain biking, Class 1 e-biking)	N	Y	N	Only allowed on AMA routes. Follow BC Parks e-biking policy.
Land-based Motorized Activity (e.g., 4x4, motorcycles, Class 2 & 3 e-biking, ORV; not including snowmobiles, or aircraft landings)	N	Y	N	Motorized activities only allowed on AMA routes, or if specified in a park-use permit. Follow BC Parks e-biking policy.
Non-motorized access (e.g., hiking, dog sledding, snowshoeing, rock/ice climbing, backcountry skiing)	Y	Y	Y	
Skiing (downhill and cross-country track based)	N	N	N	
Recreational Snowmobiling (including snow bikes, tracked ORVs are not allowed)	N	Y	N	Snowmobiling is allowed in: Graham-Laurier – on AMA route only Liard Corridor – on AMA route only
Snowmobiling for Trapping Purposes	Y	Y	Y	Requires a park-use permit
Boat Launches	N	N	N	
Boat Wharves and Docks	Y	Y	N	No new commercial structures. Existing docks related to guide outfitting will be allowed, subject to park-use permit conditions.
Cabins, Huts and Shelters (as defined in the Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy)	Y	Y	N	New structures may be allowed, if the need arises. New facilities will match the wilderness setting of the protected areas. No new commercial structures. Existing permitted facilities will be allowed to remain, certain changes are allowed as per Section 2.1.9.
Lodges (as defined in the Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy)	Y	Y	N	Existing permitted facilities only, certain changes are allowed as per Section 2.1.9.
Campgrounds (vehicle accessed)	N	N	N	
Picnic Areas (vehicle accessed)	N	Y	N	May be considered for public use if the need arises.
Parking Lots	N	N	N	
Roads	N	N	N	

Appropriate Use Table Legend				
Ski Facilities (vehicle accessed and serviced)	N	N	N	
Trails and Maintenance	Y	Y	N	Only existing trails; no new trail development.
Visitor Information Buildings	N	N	N	
Commercial Filming	Y	Y	Y	Only If authorized by a park-use permit.
Communication Sites and Towers	Y	Y	N	New development will only be allowed for essential protected area management communication or public safety needs.
Cutting Dead Standing Trees	Y	Y	N	Only if authorized by a park-use permit or Park Officer.
Grazing (horse)	Y	Y	N	
Hydro Electric Projects	N	N	N	
Prescribed Fire	Y	Y	Y	For forest management purposes only.
Trapping	Y	Y	Y	Requires a park-use permit. Trapping is regulated under the *Wildlife Act*.

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Appendix 2: Protected Area Establishment

Protected Area	Establishment Date	Establishment Details
Dall River Old Growth Park	1999-06-26	Class A Park, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, Schedule D
Denetiah Park	1999-06-29	Class A Park, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, Schedule D
Denetiah Corridor Protected Area	1999-06-29	*Environment and Land Use Act*
Dune Za Keyih Park	2001-04-05	Class A Park, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, Schedule C
Dune Za Keyih Protected Area	2001-04-18	*Environment and Land Use Act*
Finlay Russel Park	2001-04-11	Class A Park, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, Schedule C
Finlay Russel Protected Area	2001-04-18	*Environment and Land Use Act*
Graham-Laurier Park	1999-06-29	Class A Park, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, Schedule D
Horneline Creek Park	1999-06-29	Class A Park, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, Schedule D
Kwadacha Wilderness Park	1973-05-18	Class A Park, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, Schedule C
Liard River Corridor Park	1999-06-29	Class A Park, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, Schedule D
Liard River Corridor Protected Area	2001-01-25	*Environment and Land Use Act*
Liard River West Corridor Park	2001-01-25	Class A Park, *Park Act*,
Ospika Cones Ecological Reserve	2001-04-11	*Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, Schedule A
Prophet River Hot Springs Park	1999-06-29	Class A Park, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, Schedule D
Scatter River Old Growth Park	1999-06-29	Class A Park, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, Schedule D
Sikanni Chief River Ecological Reserve	1973-05-29	*Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, Schedule A
Toad River Hot Springs Park	1999-06-29	Class A Park, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, Schedule D

Appendix 3: Crown Land Tenures & Protected Area Authorizations

Protected Area	Overlapping Crown Land Tenures			Park-use permits
	Forest Range Tenure (*Horse grazing*)	**Guide Outfitting Tenure Territory**	**Trapline Tenure**	
Dall River Old Growth Park	RAN073578	7B0G129	TR0752T002	• One land use/occupancy permit for access to trapline, including cabin • One commercial recreation permit for big game guide outfitting
Denetiah Park and Denetiah Corridor Protected Area	RAN073578, RAN073846	7B0G129, 7B0G114, 619G002	TR0751T009, TR0752T001, TR0752T002, TR0752T003	• One land use/occupancy permit for access to trapline, including trapline cabins • Three commercial recreation permits for big game guide outfitting, angling, and privately owned structures • Two commercial recreation permits for air transport • One land use/occupancy permit for communication infrastructure • One research permit
Dune Za Keyih Park and Protected Area	RAN073578, RAN073846, RAN074677, RAN075591	7B0G129, 7B0G114, 619G002	TR0751T001, TR0751T002, TR0751T003, TR0751T006, TR0751T009, TR0751T011, TR0752T001, TR0752T002	• Two land use/occupancy permits for access to traplines; one permit includes trapline cabins • Three commercial recreation permits for big game guide outfitting; two permits include guided angling and privately owned structures • One commercial recreation permit for air transport, guided angling and other non-motorized guided activities, and privately owned structures • One commercial recreation permit for camping, guided angling, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and privately owned structures • One commercial recreation permit for air transport • One research permit
Finlay Russel Park and Protected Area	None	740G001, 740G002, 739G001	TR0620T001, TR0739T008, TR0740T003,	• Two commercial recreation permits for big game guide outfitting; one permit includes grazing and guided angling • One research permit

			TR0740T004, TR0740T005, TR0740T006	• One permit for air transport
Graham-Laurier Park	RAN073621, RAN076313	7B0G124, 7B0G123	TR0736T004, TR0736T005, TR0743T005	• Two commercial recreation permits for big game guide outfitting including privately owned structures; one permit includes other non-motorized guided activities • Two research monitoring and/or survey permits • One commercial recreation permit for air tranport • There is one closed forest road tenure (R06101) in the park
Horneline Creek Park	RAN073578	7B0G129	TR0751T009	• One land use/occupancy permit for access to trapline, including trapline cabins
Kwadacha Wilderness Park	RAN075591, RAN075879	7B0G103, 741G001	TR0741T005, TR0741T006, TR0741T007, TR0742T004, TR0750T002	• One land use/occupancy permit for access to trapline, including trapline cabins • One commercial recreation permit for air transport, guided angling, privately owned structures, and other non-motorized guided activities
Liard River Corridor Park, Protected Area and West Corridor Park	RAN073246, RAN074678, RAN077717, RAN077793	7B0G100, 7B0G115, 7B0G107, 7B0G126	TR0751T007, TR0751T010, TR0753T001, TR0753T002, TR0753T003, TR0753T005, TR0754T003, TR0754T004, TR0754T006	• Three land use/occupancy permits for access to traplines, including trapline cabins • One commercial recreation permit for big game guide outfitting • One commercial recreation permit for air transport, guided angling, privately owned structures and other non-motorized guided activities • One commercial recreation permit for air transport • One land use/occupancy permit for provincial structures
Ospika Cones Ecological Reserve	NA	NA	NA	None
Prophet River Hot Springs Park	RAN075879	7B0G103	TR0742T003	• One commercial recreation permit for big game guide outfitting, boat tours, and other recreation activities • One commercial recreation permit for camping, non-motorized guided activities
Scatter River Old Growth Park	RAN077717	7B0G100, 7B0G126	TR0753T003, TR0754T006	• There is a known trapline cabin in the park, but there is no active park-use permit

Sikanni Chief River Ecological Reserve	NA	NA	NA	None
Toad River Hot Springs Park	RAN073731, RAN074678	7B0G115	TR0751T006	• One commercial recreation permit for big game guide outfitting

Appendix 4: Adjacent Land Use Table

Protected Area	Adjacent Land	Private Land	Adjacent Crown Land Tenures	Inholdings
Dall River Old Growth Park	Undeveloped Crown land, Denetiah Park	NA	NA	None
Denetiah Park and Denetiah Corridor Protected Area	Undeveloped Crown land, Dall River Old Growth Park, Dune Za Keyih Park	NA	• Terminus Repeater Communication Site	None
Dune Za Keyih Park and Protected Area	Undeveloped Crown land, Denetiah Park and Protected Area	NA	• 19 adjacent mineral claims	None
Finlay Russel Park and Protected Area	Kwadacha (Fort Ware), Crown land (undeveloped except in southeast for timber resource development), Chukachida Protected Area	NA	• 2 adjacent mineral claims	None
Graham-Laurier Park	Crown land (undeveloped except in south for timber resource development)	1 adjacent private lot	• Licence of Occupation for commercial recreation • 13 adjacent mineral claims • Needham Repeater Communication Site	None
Horneline Creek Park	Undeveloped Crown land	NA	NA	None

Kwadacha Wilderness Park	Northern Rocky Mountains Park, undeveloped Crown land	NA	• 8 adjacent mineral claims	None
Liard River Corridor Park, Protected Area and West Corridor Park	Liard River Hot Springs Park, the Alaska Highway corridor and undeveloped Crown land	NA	• 1 adjacent mineral claim	None
Ospika Cones Ecological Reserve	Undeveloped Crown land	NA	NA	None
Prophet River Hot Springs Park	Undeveloped Crown land	NA	NA	None
Scatter River Old Growth Park	Undeveloped Crown land, Liard River Corridor Park	NA	NA	None
Sikanni Chief River Ecological Reserve	Undeveloped Crown land	NA	NA	None
Toad River Hot Springs Park	Undeveloped Crown land	NA	NA	None

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