

Bridge River Delta Park Background Information Sheet

Area: 992 hectares

Representation: Remnant and representative of the broad valley, glacial-fed, braided stream complex that remains in a natural condition within the Bridge River system. This ecosystem type of large Douglas-fir and valley bottom riparian conditions was essentially eliminated by flooding of valley bottoms by BC Hydro developments.

Values: Protects a benchmark for understanding and research of natural processes and an opportunity to compare with similar ecosystems that have been modified by human disturbance. The park captures the following features:

- Old river channels and extensive gravel bars, supporting extensive cottonwood stands and riparian habitats.
- Intricately braided river system and braided tributaries to the delta on Downton Lake.
- Mixed stands of Douglas fir/Lodgepole pine, mostly old growth on steep slopes with occasional Douglas fir/western white pine stands and brushy avalanche chutes.
- Down flow winds from glacier with cold air drainage give rise to plants especially adapted to these conditions.
- Important spring habitats and cross valley connection for Grizzly bear; habitat for moose, mule deer, wolverine, mink, harlequin duck

Management Intent: Emphasis on maintaining the natural environment and continued use of habitat by wildlife. The following points were discussed during the development of the Lillooet LRMP:

- Management priority is to maintain the environments of the Bridge River Delta in a natural, undisturbed condition and to maintain the natural gene pool of species in the area.
- Provide long term opportunity for research activities and ecological education that do not impact natural qualities.
- Management planning will be coordinated with management plans and actions for grizzly bear management in this unit and the surrounding area.
- Consider negotiating the removal of all non-conforming rights and activities (e.g., trapping, guide and outfitting.)
- Consider development of fire and forest pest management plans..
- Limit recreational activities to non-consumptive and of low intensity and impact (e.g., nature studies, photography, etc.).

Land Status: Class A provincial park. Located approximately 80 kilometres west of Lillooet and 65 kilometres north of Pemberton

Concerns: Conservation of grizzly bear habitat and populations in face of use of the area (grazing, trapping, hunting, access).