

MANAGEMENT PLAN

November, 1996

for Paul Lake
Provincial Park



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of
Environment, Lands
and Parks
BC Parks Department

Paul Lake
Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by
BC Parks Kamloops Area Pilot Project Team
for Thompson River District
Kamloops, B.C.





Kamloops Area Management Planning Pilot Project Binder Approvals Page

Forward

This binder contains 16 management plans developed under the Kamloops Area Management Planning Pilot Project. This project began in 1994 to develop, implement and evaluate a systems approach to management planning. The project concluded in October, 1996. The management plans contained in this binder provide long-term direction for a group of 10 Class A parks, five ecological reserves and one recreation area. The intention is to review this binder and the plans contained here at regular intervals. Plan vision statements and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coldwater River Park | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Lake Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goldpan Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Skihist Eco. Res. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juniper Beach Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Skihist Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lac Le Jeune Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Skwaha Lake Eco. Res. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marble Canyon Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap Lake Eco. Res. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> McConnell Lake Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Steelhead Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> McQueen Creek Eco. Res. | <input type="checkbox"/> Tranquille Eco. Res. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monck Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Walloper Lake |

Approved by:

District Manager
Thompson River District
BC Parks Department

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Department

Paul Lake Provincial Park

Management Plan

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PAUL LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction

This management plan defines the role of Paul Lake Park within the provincial park system and the objectives and guidelines for managing the resources and visitor use activities in the park.

The management plan incorporates those lands that were recently added to the park as a result of the Kamloops Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) process. The park addition area is subject to management criteria set out by the LRMP and the Park Amendment Act of 1996.

The park role, objectives and zoning as stated in the plan cannot be contravened in meaning or intent without consultation with the public and approval of the District Manager and the Parks Management Committee (PMC). A five year business plan is included as appendix B to provide direction for management and development of the park. The business plan is subject to annual review and adjustments.

Background

Paul Lake's reputation as a world class trout fishery combined with its clear, deep waters and scenic setting of forested mountain sides led to establishment of the Provincial Park in 1961. Through the years Paul Lake Park has served to maintain much of the natural values of the lake and upland environments on both the north and south sides as well as providing a primary recreation focus with present facilities including a 90 unit campground, extensive beach and day use picnicking area and hiking trails.

Paul Lake serves both a destination and regional recreation focus in the Kamloops area. The campground is used at moderate levels, averaging 18,500 people through the spring, summer and fall months. Within close proximity (25 kilometres) to the City of Kamloops, the Park attracts heavy day use for swimming and picnicking in summer, and hiking, fishing and nature study through the spring, summer, fall and, to a lesser extent, the winter months. Day use is estimated at over 100,000 people a year.

Protected Area Values

Conservation

- The park provides partial representation of dry forests and lake ecosystems associated with the Thompson Basin Ecosection. The 250 hectare addition significantly enhances the park's representation of interior Douglas fir forest, particularly of old growth characteristics of this forest type.
- The steep slopes and ridges on the north side have dry open interior Douglas fir forest with large specimens of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine with understory of saskatoon, snowberry, juniper and balsam root, small pockets of open grassy slopes, aspen stands and talus and rock faces; dry ridge tops are open pine grass under Douglas fir with many superb old growth specimens.
- The south side takes in lower slopes of relatively dense and moist humid forest and plant community types found in the Thompson Basin; dominated with Douglas fir, mixed in wetter seepage pockets with cedar, cottonwoods and birch and understory of snowberry, Douglas maple and red-osier dogwood; many large old growth specimens of Douglas fir.
- Riparian habitats, particularly along the south shore are rich with shrubs, deciduous trees (willows, aspens and cottonwoods) with the extensive foreshore reed beds and chara covered shoals
- Park habitats are used by a large variety of wildlife species; mule deer winter along the south facing slopes
- Limestone cliffs of Gibraltar Rock and the contrast with adjacent igneous and metamorphic formations present interesting insights into the geology of the area.

Recreation

- Provides access to a highly productive trout fishery.
- Beach, campground, group use and picnic areas have been developed in a scenic setting with backdrop of turquoise coloured waters and forested mountain slopes; the park is a favourite destination for local residents to escape the hot valley bottom conditions in summer and enjoy the cooler air and swimming in the clear cool waters of the lake.

- Canoeing and car-top boating.
- Hiking along extensive system of trails.
- Nature study, particularly for birding and botany enthusiasts; woodland flowers and bird migration in the spring months are regional attractions.

Culture

- No known archaeological or other native values, although proximity to Kamloops Band would suggest that area and lake was traditionally used.

Vision Statement

Paul Lake Park will continue to perform significant roles in protecting the natural environment at Paul Lake and in the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities in the Thompson River District.

Day use demands will increase with the expansion of the regional population base. Use of the park for hiking and nature study activities is already popular and will also increase over time, especially with the recent park addition to the north and extensions to the trail system. With more tourists coming to the Kamloops area there will be a continuing trend of increased destination-vacation and transient overnight use of the Park. These user increases will be gradual and existing facility capacities for both day use and camping are expected to be adequate for next ten to 15 years.

Conservation Role

- To maintain the natural environment and features which form the aesthetic and recreational appeal of the Park.
- To ensure the protection of riparian and shoal habitats in the Park.

Recreation Role

- To maintain existing recreational opportunities for regional day use, destination and travel corridor, and group use. Recreation activities include camping, beach/waterplay, picnicking, hiking, nature study, fishing, canoeing and boating.
- To co-operate with commercial interests in provision of recreation opportunities such as canoe and mountain bike rentals.

Zoning

As defined under the guidelines and criteria of the Provincial Park zoning system, the Park is separated into two zones:

- **Intensive Recreation** - This zone delineates the limits for intensive facility development and includes most of the campground, picnic and beach area, group use area at the west end of the Lake, parking site at trail head at the west end of the Park and parking area at the old picnic site on the western end of the southern section of the Park.
- **Natural Environment** - Includes remaining portions of the park, including the new addition area, to reflect the intent to maintain the relatively undisturbed condition of the environment. Trails are permitted in this zone.

Management Objectives - Natural and Cultural Resources

Land

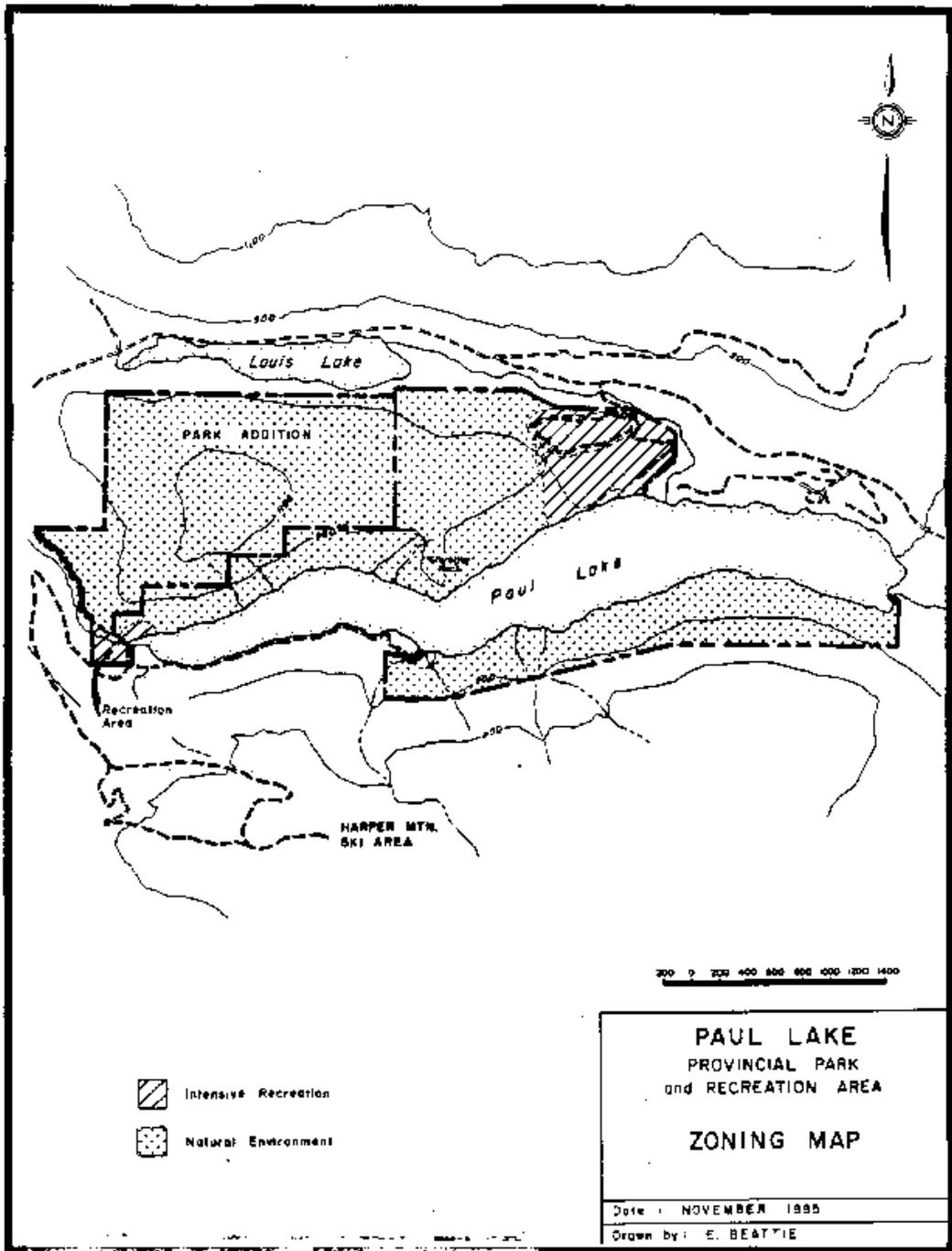
- To add immediate foreshore to the existing portions of the park.
- To pursue cancellation of a small portion of park on south side of lake that has been used for community water development. This area has no park value and is developed with water reservoir and water line.

Water

- To provide potable water for park users and to ensure that the park does not become a source for water pollution.

Vegetation

- To gradually convert the forest cover in the campground to a vigorous, young forest condition as a result of the continuing root rot (*Armillaria*) infestation.
- To keep the area of Chara growth removal to the minimum necessary for beach and safe swimming use.
- To maintain natural conditions in the natural environment zone with emphasis on retaining existing old growth characteristics in the forest structure.



PAUL LAKE
 PROVINCIAL PARK
 and RECREATION AREA

ZONING MAP

Date: NOVEMBER 1995
 Drawn by: E. BEATTIE

- To maintain a biophysical inventory and ongoing long term monitoring of conditions and changes to habitats and composition, distribution and densities of plant and animal species.
- Existing grazing rights in the park addition area will continue to be administered under the Range Act by the Ministry of Forests. These rights are transferable, but no new grazing tenures will be issued.

Wildlife

- To ensure protection of fish and wildlife habitat.

Visual

- To ensure that park facilities are designed and managed in harmony with the park setting.

Management Objectives - Recreation Opportunities

- To provide facilities and service levels to following uses and standards (refer to appendix A):

Campground - service level 1;

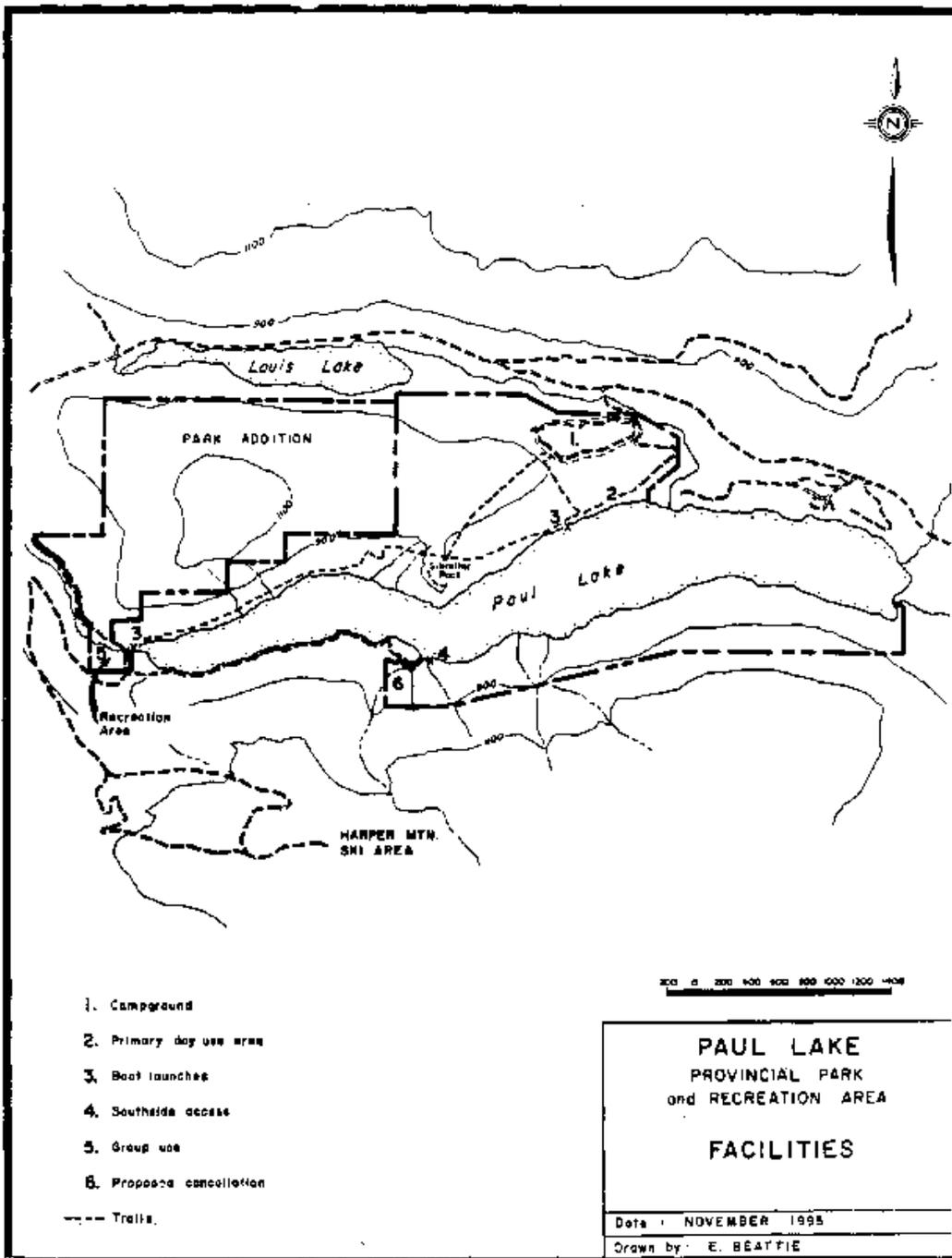
Primary picnicking/beach area - day use service level 1;

Boat launches (main and west end) - cartop (while the lake is large, water skiing and use of large boats creates conflicts with other users and is discouraged in the Park by maintaining only car-top boat drop offs);

South side access - day use service level 4, parking and toilet are provided (this site is primarily used by locals);

Group use site - day and overnight use - service level 3;

Trails - from campground to beach, from campground to Gibraltar Rock and from beach to Gibraltar Rock - Type 2; all other trails Type 3 including future extensions on both the north and south portions of the Park (see map for proposed trails);



- To promote Paul Lake Park as a travel corridor and destination recreation site;
- To provide basic information to potential visitors which stresses the park's natural features and recreation opportunities; and
- To provide personal and non-personal interpretation of the park, Paul Lake and surrounding environments and local native history of the area.

Appendix A - Service Level Explanation

BC Parks service levels provide a method of defining the facilities, information and services which the public can expect within the BC Provincial Parks system. The service levels do not include any measure of the capacity or use of the area, operating standards, or resource management issues. Instead, they are strictly a list of the key facilities and services that may be provided within a particular campground or day-use area. They also provide an opportunity to explore and understand the relationship between the facilities and services BC Parks offers and the expectations of the users or potential users. This will help in making decisions based on the type and grade of facilities and services that BC Parks plans to provide and their associated costs.

Table 1. Campground Service Levels Attributes

Attribute	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Facilities				
▪ Roads	paved	paved	usually gravel	gravel , dirt or none
▪ Toilets	flush	usually flush	pit	pit or none
▪ Water system	pressure	pressure	pressure or handpump	not usually supplied
▪ Campsites	standard design	standard design	standard design	informal (non-standard)
▪ Tables	Type I	Type I	Type I or II	Type II
▪ Sani-station	available	available	not usually available	not available
▪ Showers	available	not available	not available	not available
Information				
▪ Park entrance sign	portal or plaque	plaque	plaque or Type A	Type A
▪ Campground entrance sign	Type A	Type A	Type A	Type A or none
▪ Visitor centre	usually available	not available	not available	not available
▪ Information structures	information shelter	information shelter	single signs	single sign or no information
Services				
▪ Public telephone	usually available	usually available	not usually available	not available
▪ Garbage collection	minimum daily	minimum daily	minimum weekly	not usually available
▪ Security	up to 24 hour	routine patrols	occasional patrols	no patrols
▪ Visitor programs	available	possibly available	not usually available	not available

Table 2. Day-use Areas Service Level Attributes

Attribute	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Facilities				
▪ Roads	paved	paved	usually gravel	gravel , dirt or none
▪ Toilets	flush	usually flush	pit	pit or none
▪ Water system	pressure	pressure	handpump	not usually supplied
▪ Tables	Type I	Type I	Type II	Type II or none
▪ Change House	available (if suitable for swimming)	available (if suitable for swimming)	not usually available	not available
Information				
▪ Park entrance sign	portal or plaque	plaque	plaque or Type A	Type A
▪ Day-use Areas entrance sign	Type A	Type A	Type A	Type A or none
▪ Visitor centre	usually available	not available	not available	not available
▪ Information Structures	information shelter	information shelter	single signs	single sign or no information
Services				
▪ Public Telephone	usually available	usually available	not usually available	not available
▪ Garbage Collection	minimum daily	minimum daily	minimum weekly	not usually available

APPENDIX B FIVE YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

Paul Lake

Goal: Improve efficiency by reducing maintenance costs of facilities.

- Action:
- Replace rotten perimeter logs in playground.
 - Replace worn water system components.
 - Install two traffic control gates to upper day-use parking lot.
 - Provide road shouldering to protect asphalt.
 - Install barbecue table attachments to protect tables.

Goal: Improve the campground sanitary facilities to reduce deficiency payments.

- Action:
- Convert existing pit toilets to flush.

Goal: Implement strategy to control armillaria.

- Actions:
- Develop a vegetation management plan.
 - Begin removing armillaria infested stumps from day-use area.

Goal: Improve visitor information about the role of this park in a system of parks.

- Actions:
- Develop a sign that talks about BC Park's mandate and the role and value of the park in system of parks.
 - Produce an in park handout.