



Paul Lake Provincial Park

Management Plan

[Draft for Public Review]

February 2022



BC Parks

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.

All Photos: Urban Systems

*This plan replaces the Management Plan
for Paul Lake Provincial Park of
November, 1996*

Paul Lake Provincial Park Management Plan

Approved by:

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Regional Director
[name of region]
BC Parks

Date

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Executive Director
Parks Planning and Management Branch
BC Parks

*[Insert Typed Date or
Scanned Date]*

Date

Acknowledgements

BC Parks acknowledges that Paul Lake Park is within the traditional territory of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, Skeetchestn Indian Band, Simpcw First Nation, Adams Lake Indian Band, Little Shuswap Indian Band, and Neskonlith Indian Band. The rich cultural history of the park is a legacy of the activities and uses that took place there from time immemorial prior to European settlement.

BC Parks thanks the more than 500 residents and stakeholders who took the time to contribute their perspectives and ideas during this planning process.

Urban Systems was pleased to assist in the preparation of this management plan.



Vision Statement

Paul Lake Park performs significant roles in protecting the natural environment of Paul Lake and associated terrestrial uplands. The park is nestled in a mixed forest of Douglas-fir, pine, and aspen, and has large specimens of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine.

Park habitats are used by a large variety of wildlife species. Mammals include Mule Deer, Bear, and Muskrats. Toads and Painted Turtles use the lake. Birds such as Loons, Red-necked grebes, Mallards, and Red-winged Blackbirds nest along or near the shoreline. Rainbow Trout and Kokanee thrive in the Paul Lake.

The park is a day use and overnight destination for Kamloops residents and people travelling in the region. Park visitors value the clear, deep waters and scenic setting of forested mountainsides. There are many excellent recreation opportunities in the park including hiking, paddling, swimming, fishing, nature study, beach activities, and camping. The lake is highly valued for its Kokanee fishery. The park also serves as a staging area for mountain-biking trails on Harper Mountain.

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc works on increasing cultural heritage knowledge of the park in collaboration with BC Parks and integrating that knowledge into the park experience for visitors. Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc has a role in park management.

Plan Highlights

Located 30 minutes from Kamloops, Paul Lake Park is a popular day use and overnight destination for Kamloops residents and people travelling through or within the region. The park performs significant roles in protecting the natural environment of Paul Lake and associated terrestrial uplands. There are also many excellent recreation opportunities in the park including hiking, paddling, swimming, fishing, nature study, beach activities, and camping.

Paul Lake Park is experiencing several challenges. The facilities in the campground and day use area do not provide the quality of facilities expected for this type of park and the amount of use. The group site is substandard for overnight use, and there is demand in this location for infrastructure to support mountain biking. There are appeals from some fishers to accommodate the launching of boats on trailers or truck-mounted automatic boat loaders at the boat launch in the park. Residents and most park visitors, however, are concerned that an expanded boat launch would result in more larger and faster boats that would have environmental, social, and safety impacts.

In order to provide a suitable forum for all voices to be heard on the future direction for Paul Lake Park, a significant level of engagement was conducted as part of this process. There was an online survey with 509 responses. Interactive virtual workshops were held with BC Parks staff, community associations around the lake, and fisheries interest groups. In-person engagement was conducted in the park on two summer weekend days. Indigenous communities were involved through emails and phone calls. There were also many emails, letters, interviews, and phone calls.

Key strategies are as follows:

- Retain the boat launch as it is to avoid a potential increase in use by larger motorboats.
- Provide signs in the park and improve online information regarding environmental and cultural park values, human impacts, regulations, and wayfinding.
- Collaborate with Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc on a Cultural Heritage Assessment, integration of culture and language into the park, and park management.
- Conduct improvements to the campground, day use area, park entry, and existing group site, and build a new group site.
- Establish a goose management program.
- Collaborate with lake residents and other stakeholders on safety, stewardship, risk management, and communication methods for emergency use related to the park.
- Increase BC Parks' presence in the park.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

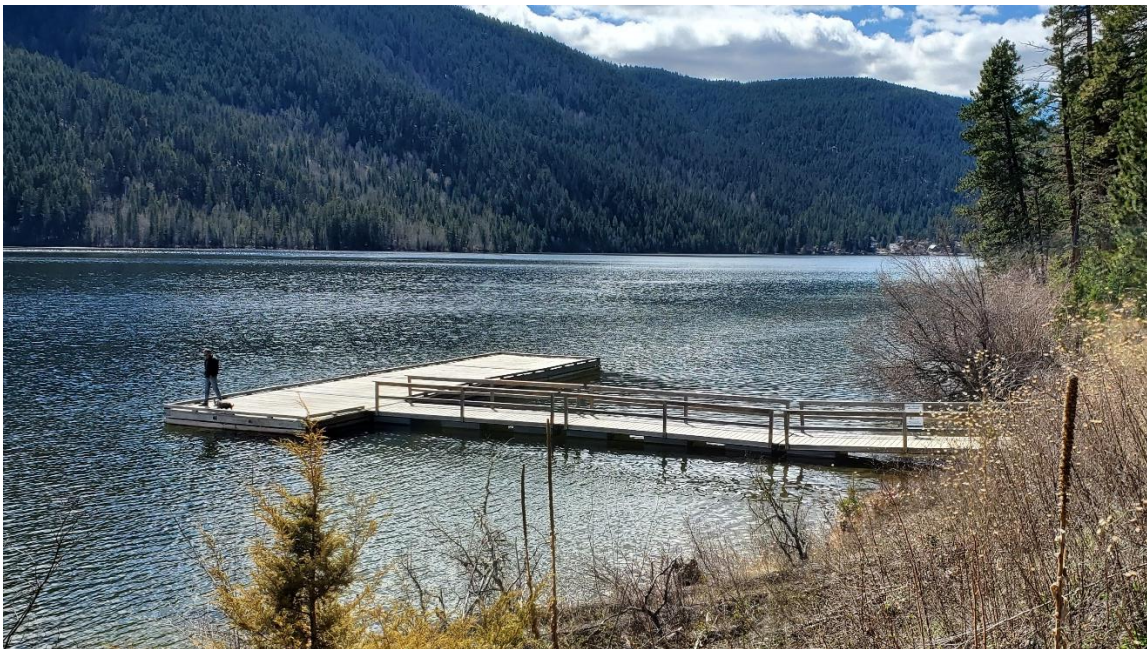
The purpose of this management plan is to guide the management of Paul Lake Provincial Park.

This management plan:

- articulates the key features and values of the park
- identifies appropriate types and levels of management activities
- determines appropriate levels of use and development
- establishes a long-term vision and management objectives for the park
- responds to current and predicted threats and opportunities by defining a set of management strategies to achieve the management vision and objectives

1.2 Planning Area

Paul Lake Park is a 30-minute drive northeast of Kamloops (Figure 1). From Kamloops, the route is five kilometres along Highway #5, then it follows the paved Pinantan Road for 19 kilometres to the park. It can also be accessed off Highway 1 from the east.



Accessible Fishing Dock at Paul Lake Park Waterfront

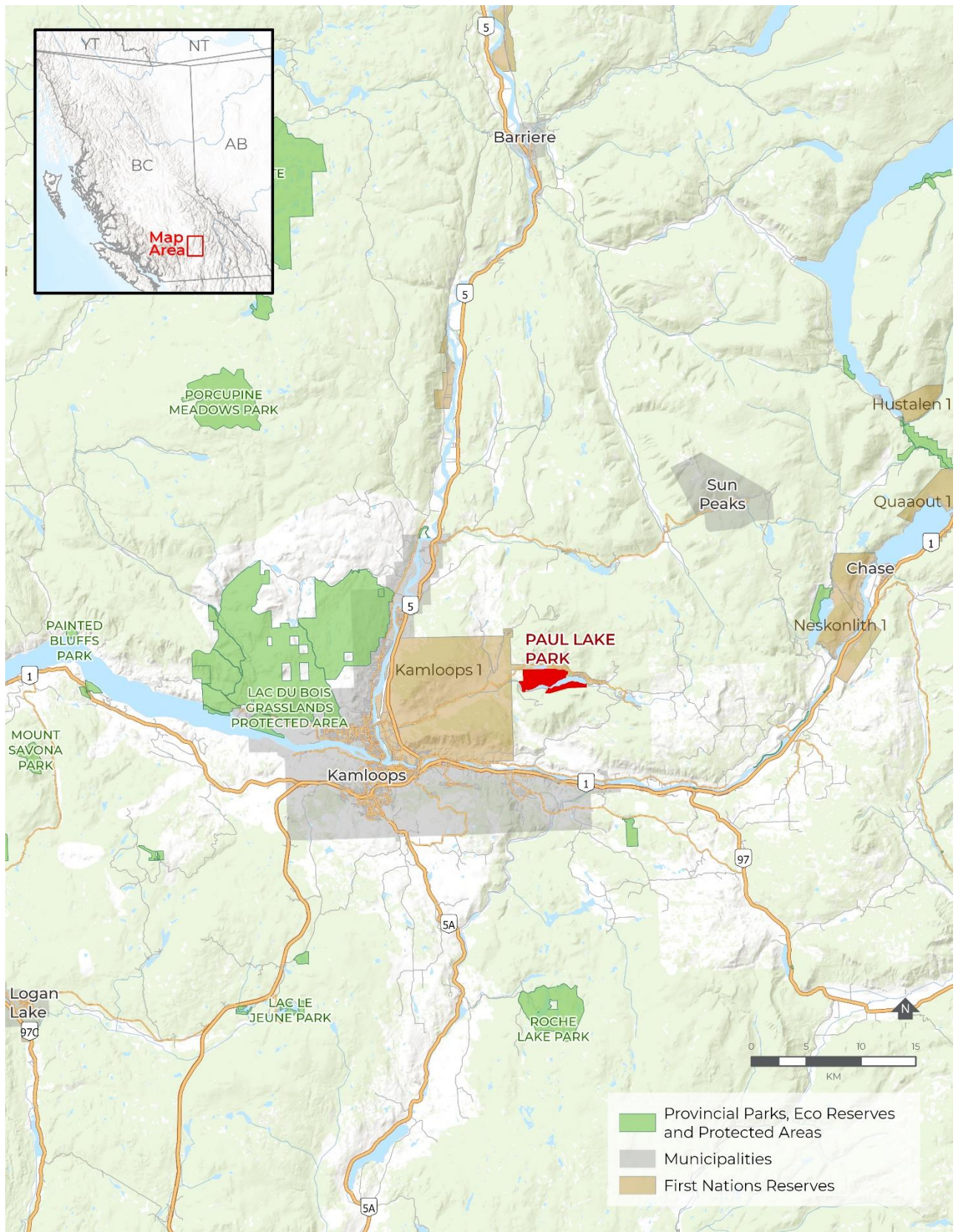


Figure 1 Context Map of Paul Lake Park

An original 168.5 hectares, mostly on the north side with a small parcel on the south shore of the lake, were designated as a park in 1961. Around 267 hectares were added to the north portion of the park between 1968 and 1971. An additional 268 hectares were added in 1996 based on recommendations made in the Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan (Figure 2). The 1996 addition to Paul Lake Provincial Park adds interior Douglas-fir forests, including stands of old growth. It protects habitat for the Falcon, White-throated Swift, Bald Eagle, Coyote and Mule Deer. Several other small property additions and deletions happened over the years. The park is currently 728 hectares – 567 on the north, 154 hectares on the south, and 7 hectares in the group site.

Paul Lake is the only protected area in the local region, with the nearest parks or protected areas being 35 kilometres to the west (Lac du Bois Protected Area), 12 kilometres to the south (Buse Lake Protected Area), and 21 kilometres to the east (Neskonlith Lake Provincial Park). As such, it is not part of a corridor of protected areas.

Paul Lake Park's landscape is generally forested with small steep hills on the north and south sides of the lake, and lands gently sloping land along the northeast portion of the lake creating a beach area. Lands surrounding the park to the north and east are generally forested and hilly, whereas lands to the south and west transition from forest to semi-arid and arid landscapes within a few kilometres.

The lake is 6.1 kilometres in length, with an average width of 0.48 kilometres, covering a surface area of 3.9 square kilometres. The maximum depth of the lake is 55.5m with approximately 33% of the area of the lake with depths less than 50 metres. Paul Lake has one major inlet (Upper Paul Creek) that flows in from Pinantan Lake east of Paul Lake, and one main outflow creek (Lower Paul Creek) draining to the west.

1.3 Legislative Framework

Paul Lake Park was established as a Class A park in 1961. It is currently included in Schedule D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

Class A parks are Crown lands dedicated to the preservation of the natural environment for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public. Development in Class A parks is limited to that which is necessary to maintain the park's recreational values. Some activities that existed at the time a park was established (e.g., grazing, hay cutting) may be allowed to continue in certain Class A parks¹ but commercial resource extraction or development activities are not permitted (e.g., logging, mining, or hydroelectric development).

¹ Applies only to class A parks listed in Schedule D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

1.4 Adjacent Land and Marine Use

Paul Lake Park occupies over half of the shoreline of Paul Lake. Two residential communities also have waterfront access. The Paul Lake Community Association is located on the southwest shoreline, and the East Paul Lake Community Association is located on the northeast lakefront within the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Kamloops 1 Reserve.

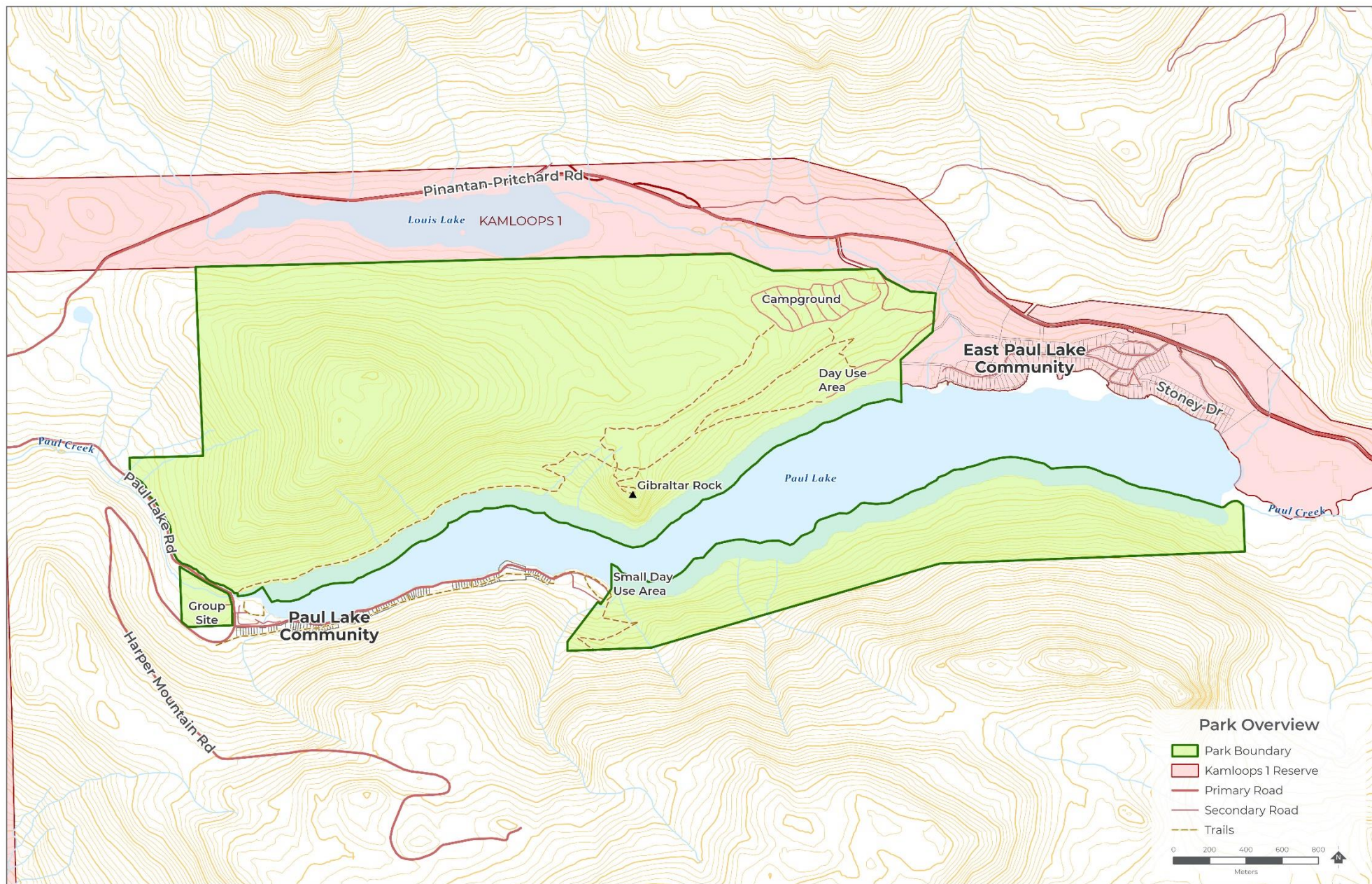


Figure 2 Park Overview Map

1.5 Management Planning Process

This management plan is based on an extensive community engagement process. It was guided by a Communications and Engagement Strategy with the following goals:

- Inform governments, community, and interest groups of opportunities to participate in this project
- Offer multiple opportunities for providing input
- Collect information on the perspectives and interests of governments, community, and interest groups
- Build support for the Paul Lake Park Management Plan
- Meet the expectations of BC Parks to thoroughly engage governments, community, and interest groups in this project

Letters and follow-up phone calls were used to reach out to six First Nations whose traditional territory encompasses Paul Lake - Tk'emlups te Secwepemc, Skeetchestn Indian Band, Simpcw First Nation, Adams Lake Indian Band, Little Shuswap Indian Band, and Neskonlith Indian Band. The latter five all indicated that they would defer to Tk'emlups te Secwepemc for the engagement regarding this project. Tk'emlups te Secwepemc have a Reserve that supports a subdivision on the lake.

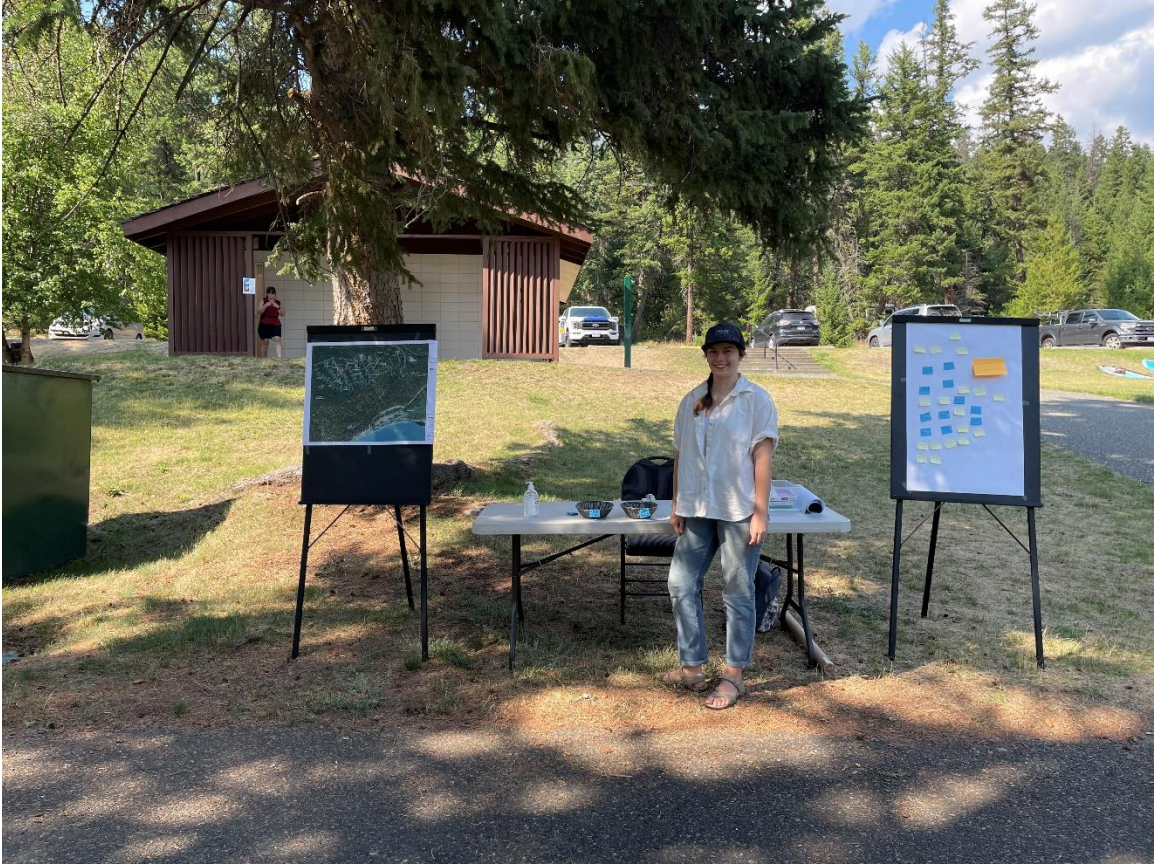
A webpage on *Let's Talk BC Parks* was established to support community input and the link was publicized on the BC Parks website, Facebook, Instagram, QR codes on signs in the park, and RSS feed.

An online survey was promoted on the social media channels and posters, and emails were sent to known stakeholders. The survey received responses from 509 individuals.

Emails were sent to representatives of both communities fronting the lake. There were numerous phone calls and correspondence received from residents of these communities.

Interactive online workshops were held, using Zoom, Mural, and Forms, with three separate groups - BC Parks staff, community associations around the lake, and fisheries interest groups. Interviews and phone calls were held with other government agencies and any stakeholders who wanted to have a private conversation. There were nine phone calls, 12 emails, and six letters.

In-person engagement was conducted in the park on two summer weekend days – July 17 and August 21, 2021. At both times, the engagement team spent time near the parking lot of the day use area, at the day use area itself, and at the group site.



Engagement in Paul Lake Park

1.6 Land Tenures

Range tenure RAN077688 (2343 ha, 359 Animal Unit Months) overlaps the park by approximately 270.2 ha. on the northwest.

1.7 Relationship with First Nations

The BC Government has passed legislation to bring the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) into provincial law. This new legislation – the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act – serves as the legislative framework for reconciliation, recognizing the constitutional and human rights of Indigenous peoples and aligning British Columbia's laws with the internationally recognized standards of UNDRIP, as well as the legal rights of Indigenous peoples.

1.8 Relationship with Communities

Paul Lake Park is important to the surrounding communities. Residents use the park as a day-use destination and they are interested in protecting the environmental and visual qualities of the park and the lake. BC Parks maintains a good relationship with these communities and residents want to work with BC Parks on emergency management.

2.0 Values and Roles of the Park

2.1 Significance in the Protected Areas System

Paul Lake Provincial Park plays a significant role in the protection of interior Douglas-fir forests, including stands of old growth. It protects habitat for the White-throated Swift, Bald Eagle, Coyote, and Mule Deer. The park also helps to protect fisheries and aquatic habitats that are used by multiple species.

Paul Lake's reputation for its recreational fishery combined with its clear, deep waters and scenic setting of forested mountainsides makes it an attractive destination for recreation. Through the years, Paul Lake Park has maintained much of the natural values of the lake and upland environments on the north and south sides.

Paul Lake serves as a day use and overnight destination for the Kamloops area and as a stopover for tourists. The park attracts heavy day use for swimming, paddling, and picnicking in summer, and hiking, fishing, and nature study through the spring, summer, fall. Use is lower in the winter months. There has been a steady increase in day use over the past five years, from 85,145 visitors in 2017 to 116,139 in 2021 despite COVID-19 and wildfires. Camping attendance has varied between 18,604 and 23,273 over the same period. Group site attendance has ranged from 1,110 to 1,364 annually.

2.2 Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Values

Ecological Context

The majority of Paul Lake Park (88 per cent) is located within the Thompson Basin Ecoregion. Vegetation in this Ecoregion reflects the warm, dry climate containing grasslands consisting of sagebrush-steppe and bunchgrass-steppe in the valley and lower slopes, transitioning to meadow-steppe and ponderosa pine forest with increasing elevations. Douglas-fir is restricted to the cooler aspects and narrow draws². Paul Lake Park protects around two per cent of this Ecoregion in BC.

The remainder of the park, on the south shore of Paul Lake, is within the cooler Northern Thompson Upland Ecoregion. The climate in this forested area is transitional between the warm, dry climate to the south and the cool moist climates to the north.

Paul Lake Park is within the Interior Douglas-fir very dry hot biogeoclimatic zone (IDFxh2) Thompson variant. The small area protected within Paul Lake Park is

² Ministry of Environment. 2011. An Introduction to the Ecoregions of British Columbia. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/ecosystems/broad-ecosystem/an_introduction_to_the_ecoregions_of_british_columbia.pdf

insignificant (at 1.3 per cent) compared to the total area of IDF protected in the province; however, only four per cent of the IDFxh2 variant is protected in BC. Frequent stand-maintaining fires are a characteristic of this hot dry ecosystem.

The steep slopes and ridges on the north side of the lake have dry open interior Douglas-fir forest with large specimens of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine with an understory of saskatoon, snowberry, juniper, and balsam root, small pockets of open grassy slopes, aspen stands, and talus and rock faces. Dry ridgetops support pine grass in an open Douglas-fir canopy with many superb old growth specimens.

The south side of the lake has lower slopes of relatively dense and humid forest dominated by Douglas-fir, including many old growth specimens, with pockets of western redcedar, black cottonwood, and paper birch in seepage areas. Common understory shrubs include snowberry, Douglas maple, and red-osier dogwood. Three Old Growth Management Areas (OGMA) are identified immediately adjacent to the park boundary with two areas along the southern park boundary, and one at the western end of the park³.

Riparian habitats, particularly along the south shore, are rich with shrubs, deciduous trees (willows, aspens, and cottonwoods), and extensive foreshore reed beds and shallow shoals supporting extensive growth of the alga Chara. These shallow areas provide forage for many species of ducks and habitat for invertebrates and small fish.

The limestone cliffs of Gibraltar Rock and the contrast with adjacent igneous and metamorphic formations present interesting insights into the geology of the area. There are ancient granitic and limestone rock formations within the park.

Flora and Fauna

The park is used by many wildlife species including small and large mammals (e.g., Deer, Bear, Bobcat, Lynx, Bat, Coyote, Deer Mouse, Columbian Ground Squirrel), raptors and songbirds (e.g., Owls, Woodpeckers, Grouse), and reptiles and amphibians (Western Toad, Pacific Treefrog, Rubber Boa, Gopher Snake) The park is identified as critical deer winter range⁴ as Mule Deer are known to winter along the south-facing slopes. Bears are noted to frequent the northwest part of the park in the spring.

The lake supports habitats for a variety of aquatic species including Muskrat, Western Toad, and Painted Turtles. The shallow marsh areas and woody debris along the shorelines are important for foraging and basking, e.g., Turtles bask on logs near the shoreline. The lake is used by waterfowl such as Loons, Red-necked Grebes, Mallards, Barrow's and Common Goldeneye, and songbirds such as the Red-winged Blackbird that

³ Province of BC. iMapBC web function. Accessed February 1, 2022, from <https://maps.gov.bc.ca/ess/hm/imap4m/>.

⁴ Identified in the Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan.

nests in wetlands along the shoreline. Raptors such as Bald Eagle, Ospreys, and Vultures also use the park, with Osprey and Eagle actively catching fish. Swallows and White-throated Swift are insectivorous songbirds that forage over the lake from the adjacent cliffs. The numerous bird species in and around Paul Lake make the park a popular area for bird watching.

The BC Conservation Data Center notes publicly available occurrences for three species at risk— Flammulated Owl, American Badger, and Northern Painted Turtle – intermountain - Rocky Mountain population. The park is also within a quadrat identified under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) as containing critical habitat for the Great Basin Gophersnake.

Fish and Fish Habitat

Paul Creek flows through Paul Lake in an east to west direction to drain into the North Thompson River approximately 15 kilometres downstream. Paul Lake is stocked with Rainbow Trout (first stocked in 1909), and Kokanee have been introduced annually since 2013. Paul Creek supports a small fall run of Coho Salmon from the North Thompson River; however, Salmon are not known to occur in the lake.

2.3 Cultural Heritage Values

The Tk'emlúpsmc, 'the people of the confluence', now known as the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc are members of the Interior-Salish Secwepemc (Shuswap) speaking peoples of British Columbia.

The Shuswap or Secwepemc people occupy a vast territory of the interior of British Columbia. This traditional territory stretches from the Columbia River valley along the Rocky Mountains, west to the Fraser River, and south to the Arrow Lakes. Most Secwepemc people live in the river valleys.

The traditional Secwepemc lived as a self-governing nation grouped into bands. Although the bands were separate and independent, a common language and a similar culture and belief system united them. There are 17 of the original 32 Secwepemc Nation bands remaining and three Secwepemc dialects.

Traditionally, the Secwepemc depended on the natural resources of the land. It is very likely that they used the land that is now Paul Lake Park.

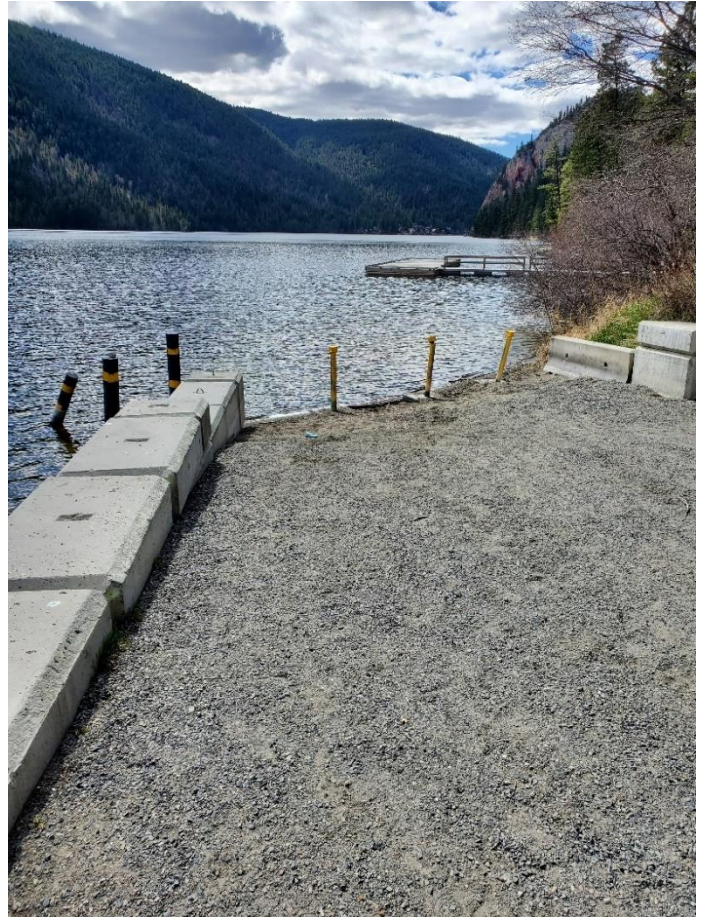
The park's location within the territory of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and the location of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Kamloops 1 Reserve on the lakeshore suggest that cultural heritage activities occurred within the park. There is one documented archaeological site close to the park.

2.4 Recreation Values

Paul Lake Park offers a wide array of recreation values of which the following are the highlights. The activities are listed in order of popularity per the community survey, with activities that were not on the survey at the end:

- Hiking — there are over seven kilometres of hiking trails, with a trail to Gibraltar Rock offering magnificent views; this trail is popular year-round
- Paddling – the park is a good location for paddleboarding, which has seen a recent surge in popularity, and visitors also use kayaks, canoes, and other non-motorized watercraft, i.e., car-top boats
- Swimming – many people enjoy swimming in the fresh, clear water
- Fishing from a boat–Rainbow Trout (Gerrard and Blackwater strains) and Kokanee are desirable species for fishing, and a boat provides more access to the fishing areas
- Nature/wildlife viewing – the park is used for birdwatching and viewing of mammals due to the species present and excellent vantage points
- Day use picnicking and beach activities – the popular day use site includes a grass area, 400 metres of sandy beach, and car-top boat launch; the small day use area on the south shore includes a picnic area and a quiet beach and it is used for launching kayaks and canoes
- Fishing from accessible fishing float or shoreline – those without boats, especially families and children, can fish from the float and shoreline
- Dog walking – park visitors walk their dogs throughout the park; one area is designated for on-leash dogs at the east end of the day use area
- Motor Boating – park visitors launch car-top motorboats at the small launch in the park
- Camping (individual sites) – there are 90 vehicle-accessible campsites set in the trees above the day use area, a sani-station, and an adventure playground
- Parking to access mountain biking elsewhere – a significant number of people park in the group site to ride their bikes to Harper Mountain
- Group site – the group site can be reserved for camping and/or day use
- Winter recreation – the trails provide an opportunity for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, no winter facilities are provided

- Ice fishing – the parking area and trail at the small day use area on the south side of the lake are used for ice fishing access
- Interpretive Programs – the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC has a fun, hands on, Learn to Fish Program that teaches basic angling skills to youth under 16 years old, and there are sometimes other programs, e.g., a federally funded Park Ambassadors Program in 2020 and 2021 in which student ambassadors created informational events for people camping in the park
- ATV use – a trail used by ATVs and hikers extends a short distance into the west boundary of the southeast portion of Paul Lake Park; ATV use is not a permitted activity elsewhere within the park



Boat Launch at Day Use Area

2.5 Development and Use of Natural Resources

The following are the developed facilities within the park (see Figure 2). There are also trails connecting these areas and extending into the surrounding natural areas.

Day Use Area

- parking lot
- overflow gravel parking lot
- car-top boat launch
- accessible fishing float
- beach
- grass lawn above beach
- change houses
- pit and flush toilets
- new well for drinking water supply
- cold water taps
- outdoor shower (water not heated)
- picnic tables with briquette barbecue stands
- dog on-leash area



Day Use Area

Campground

- 90 campsites with a semi-disturbed area to the west of the existing campground
- pit toilets
- sani-station/dump
- drinking water supply from lake with pumphouse and multi-stage treatment (chlorine, UV)
- playground
- small amphitheatre



Campground

Group Site

- parking areas
- picnic shelter with washrooms, septic system under the field
- hand water pump
- large grassy area
- trail
- car-top boat launch



Group Site

Small Day Use Area

- parking lot
- picnic area



Small Day Use Area

2.6 Research and Education

Paul Lake Park plays a role in research and education. There have been several studies on Redside Shiners and their impacts on other fisheries and wildlife species. Through BC Parks, student rangers' study and collect data on the invasive and native species in the park.

In the summer, there are interpretive programs and fishing programs as outlined in section 2.4.

2.7 Climate Change

The most imminent risks related to climate change are the fires that have been increasing in numbers within the region. Residents around Paul Lake are concerned about communications between BC Parks and the two communities during times of fire risk.

The effects of climate change vary by region and are highest in dry ecosystems. The Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium⁵ provides a predictive model for impacts of climate change in each region in British Columbia. The model for the Thompson-Nicola Regional District indicates that from 2040 to 2069, mean annual temperature, annual precipitation, frost-free days, and growing degree days will increase substantially, whereas snowfall and summer precipitation will substantially decrease. These climatic changes will likely result in changes to ecosystem composition and function across the landscape.



Fuel Load in Portions of Park

In dry ecosystems, water is often a limiting factor. Changes in the amount, timing, and type of precipitation (snow vs rain) will have the greatest impact on forest and aquatic ecosystems. Warmer temperatures and changes in precipitation are expected to affect forest vegetation through drought stress, insect infestations and increased risk of fire that will likely shift drier forested ecosystems toward open forest or grasslands. Wildlife species that rely on dry forest ecosystems may follow the shift in ecosystem in search of suitable habitat. The changing ecosystems may improve conditions for invasive non-native species.

⁵ Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium. Plan2Adapt. Accessed February 2, 2022, from <https://services.pacificclimate.org/plan2adapt/app/>.

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Management Objectives and Strategies

3.1.1 Introduction

There are three main types of park users, each with unique interests and concerns:

General Recreation

Most park visitors come to Paul Lake Park for a day use or overnight camping experience. Their main activities are hiking and nature/wildlife viewing and lake-oriented activities. The following are their key interests and concerns:

Interests	Concerns
• Peace and tranquility • More and better trails • Upgraded facilities	• Increase in goose population and associated droppings along the beach areas • Aquatic weeds (Chara) in swimming area • Fast motorboats • Not enough water access (without goose droppings) • Lack of cell phone service • Condition of trails



Trail from Overflow Lot to Day Use Area



Trail from Campground to Day Use Area

Fisheries Interests

Park visitors fish in Paul Lake from the shoreline and from boats. Regular fishers have indicated that the best fishing is not available from the shoreline. Some of the avid fishers have the following key interests and concerns:

Interests	Concerns
• Recreational fishing, especially for Kokanee • Access to lake fishing for all individuals • Serenity and safety on the lake • Environmental protection • Harmony among lake users • Water quality	• Current car-top boat launch does not enable launching for larger fishing boats on trailers or truck-mounted automatic boat loaders and it is physically difficult for some to hand-launch boats • Lack of opportunity to camp along the lakeshore • Condition of riparian habitat at the southwest shoreline • Speeds of some boats and lack of signs stating speed restrictions

Property Owners

Property owners around the lake walk and hike in Paul Lake Park. The following are their key interests and concerns:

Interests	Concerns
• Peace and tranquility • Wildlife and habitat • Fisheries • Safety for paddling • Harmony among lake users • Trails • Water quality	• Potential impacts on environment and recreation if there were to be more fast motorboats • Crowding of waterfront, parking and roads, and waste management related to increased use • Lack of cell service • Fire risks

Environmental Concerns

There are also environmental concerns that are shared by various park users and BC Parks. The following are some specific issues.

Motorboat activity and high water in June cause erosion that deposits silt over the nearshore shoal, choking out invertebrates, disturbing shore-nesting birds, and affecting drinking water quality (Tisdale, pers. comm. July 2021).

Redside Shiners (RSC) are an invasive fish species that are thought to have been introduced into Paul Lake in approximately 1945. They became over-abundant and were chemically killed in the early 1960s. Since then, the RSC population has again become overabundant, resulting in poor size and condition of the resident Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) due to competition for existing food resources.

Tisdale Environmental Consulting Inc. undertook a project from 2017 to 2020 to electrofish and kill the RSC. (Tisdale, 2021). Although not measured, it was speculated that the amphipod population was starting to recover after one year of RSC reduction. It was also noted that various species of Swallows were present and increased numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds were noted in the reeds feeding on hatching insects when the RSC population declined. The Swallow population that was previously noted in the hundreds had all but disappeared when the RSC population was high. Although not measured, it was also observed that the Paul Lake aquatic insect population as a whole was recovering and attracting the foreshore nesting and feeding bird life. (Tisdale, 2021)

There are 13 invasive upland plants at Paul Lake Park, as identified by student rangers, including thistles, knapweeds, and hawkweed (Province of BC). *Daphne laureola* (*Spurge-Laurel*) is the highest priority for management.

Invasive plants identified by the BC Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) within Paul Lake include: burdock, spotted knapweed, diffuse knapweed, Canada thistle, bull thistle, St. John's wort/goatweed, dalmation toadflax, hoary alyssum. Other invasive plants noted outside the park boundary include sulphur cinquefoil, oxeye daisy, yellow hawkweed, and western goat's beard.

3.1.2 Biodiversity and Natural Heritage

Public input and identified needs focussed on the following biodiversity and natural heritage aspects, based on comments received through the initial public engagement sessions:

- Protection of ecological integrity as a high priority
- Protection of wildlife habitat
- Protection of water quality, especially because the lake provides drinking water for residents
- Management of shoreline erosion
- Protection of nesting sites along the shoreline
- Damage to environmentally sensitive areas by the wakes from fast motorboats and wake boats
- Protection of fisheries
- Pollution from large boats and waste (litter)
- Management of invasive species

Management Direction for Biodiversity and Natural Heritage

Management Objective:

Retain and enhance the diversity of plant and wildlife species and natural ecological process.

Management Strategies:

- Employ an ecosystem-based management approach that considers entire ecosystems and human interactions at a broad scale and long-term timeframe.
- Retain old growth characteristics in the forest structure.
- Encourage and support a biophysical inventory and long-term monitoring of habitat conditions and changes, including potential effects of climate change.

Management Objective:

Protect and enhance the biodiversity of riparian habitats and water quality.

Management Strategies:

- Retain the boat launch as car-top only to avoid a potential increase in use by larger and faster motorboats and their associated environmental impacts.
- Provide information on the impacts of motorboats, including wake boats, on riparian areas and resources.
- Remove Chara growth to the minimum necessary for safe and comfortable beach use and swimming.

Management Objective:

Increase knowledge of the park's ecosystems, vegetation, and wildlife, including the resources of Paul Lake and its riparian areas.

Management Strategies:

- Provide interpretive signs within the park that describe the ecological resources and human activities that have negative impacts on the resources; design signs to fit within the natural park setting and reflect Indigenous input.
- Provide and encourage interpretive programs within the park that describe the ecological resources and human activities that have negative impacts on the resources.
- Encourage, support and, where appropriate, undertake research, monitoring, and scientific studies to ensure appropriate and up-to-date ecological and species information is collected and used in decision-making.
- Encourage a citizen science program that will enable students, visitors, and volunteers to assist with monitoring activities and inventory needs, and to report on wildlife or plant sightings.

Management Objective:

Prevent the establishment of new invasive species and control existing species from spreading to new areas.

Management Strategies:

- Monitor for non-native species and remove or reduce where feasible, with a focus on Daphne as a key priority.
- Encourage ongoing monitoring and management of Redside Shiners in Paul Lake.

3.1.3 Cultural Heritage

Public input and identified needs focussed on the following cultural heritage aspects, based on comments received through the initial public engagement sessions:

- Protection of Indigenous interests as a high priority
- Collaboration with Indigenous communities

Management Direction for Cultural Heritage

Management Objective:

Increase understanding of the cultural heritage values of the park.

Management Strategies:

- Collaborate with Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc to build upon the cultural heritage knowledge of the park, working with the Language and Culture Department on a Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Management Objective:

Integrate Indigenous culture and language into the park experience.

Management Strategies:

- Collaborate with the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Cultural Heritage Working Group on incorporating culture and language within the park in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Assessment, potentially including signs and interpretive programs.

Management Objective:

Increase the role of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc in park management.

Management Strategies:

- Collaborate with the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc on park management.

3.1.4 Recreation

Public input and identified needs focussed on the following recreation aspects, based on comments received through the initial public engagement sessions (this is a summary of a more detailed list in Appendix 2):

- Protection of peaceful enjoyment of the park environment
- Safety and comfort of swimmers, toddlers, paddlers, and other non-motorized watercraft in the water
- Accessibility to the lake for all users

- Bollards at boat launch limiting access for those with boats on trailers or automatic boat loaders
- Congestion in parking areas and along roads, especially near the boat launch and the group site
- Need to upgrade facilities and provide more campsites
- Not enough provision for off-leash dogs
- Mountain bikers have interests in more parking and places to camp at the group site location

Management Direction for Recreation Opportunities and Facilities

Management Objective:

Improve recreation facilities for a better visitor experience while minimizing impacts to environmental and cultural heritage resources.

Management Strategies:

- Conduct the following improvements:

Campground

- Add a flush toilet/shower building, additional campsites, and a central trail.

Day Use Area

- Add new accessible toilets.
- Establish a fenced dog off-leash area.

Lake Access and Use

- Retain the boat launch as car-top only to avoid potential increase in use by larger and faster motorboats and their associated impact on safety and a quiet park experience.
- Explore ways to assist those who may have difficulties in launching car-top boats.

Group Site

- Relocate the group site within the semi-disturbed area immediately west of the existing campground to be closer to the campground and the proposed new facilities.
- At the existing group site, provide more parking to serve mountain bikers with space for camping, and build trails that connect to Harper Mountain.

Trails

- Provide a better, more accessible trail from the campground to the day use area; when that is complete, decommission and restore the existing trail.
- Explore opportunities for more trails in the north portion of the park, potentially including a trail to the summit west of Gibraltar Rock and a loop trail within the park perimeter.
- Motorized use of trails is restricted to the short section of trail through the park south of the small day use area on the south shore.

Management Objective:

Address the impacts of geese on park visitors.

Management Strategies:

Establish a goose management program.

3.1.5 Park Management

Public input and identified needs focussed on the following park management aspects, based on comments received through the initial public engagement sessions:

- Goose droppings in the beach area
- Fire risks and wildfire planning, including communication with BC Parks and designated evacuation routes
- Maintenance of facilities
- Waste management
- Off-leash dogs
- Security related to lack of a gatekeeper
- Removal of hazard trees
- Lack of cell phone service
- Crowding at beach
- Bikes and motorized uses on pedestrian paths
- Construction of undesignated mountain bike trails within the park
- Partying that disturbs some park visitors

Management Direction for Park Management

Management Objective:

Work with the surrounding community and other stakeholders to maintain park values with respect for the environment, cultural heritage resources, and lakeshore residents.

Management Strategies:

- Provide opportunities for residents and other stakeholders to work collaboratively with BC Parks on topics of mutual interest, such as safety, stewardship, and risk management.
- Establish communication methods for park visitors and lake residents for emergencies such as medical issues or forest fires.

Management Objective:

Improve the safety of park visitors.

Management Strategies:

- Consider addition of a park gatehouse or park host for better security.
- Provide more signage on wayfinding and regulations including a park map and acceptable uses of each trail.
- Provide online information on park environmental and cultural heritage resources, activities that have negative impacts on the resources, and park regulations.
- Work with other authorities to acquire cell and internet service.

Management Objective:

Monitor park use and impacts and adjust management measures accordingly.

Management Strategies:

- Maintain regular seasonal ranger patrols and a BC Parks' presence to increase compliance with park regulations and respect for park values.
- Encourage participation by volunteers, potentially including volunteer partnership agreements.
- Maintain contact with non-government organizations, education institutions, the local community, and other organizations to identify joint stewardship opportunities.

3.2 Zoning Plan

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 a park and it provides visitors and managers with a quick visual representation and appreciation of how a particular park is managed. Zones are designed to reflect the physical environment, existing patterns of use, and the desired level of management and development in a given management unit. There are three management zones in Paul Lake Park as described below (see Figure 3).

Intensive Recreation Zone

The objective of this zone is to provide for a variety of readily accessible facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities. This includes facilities such as campgrounds, picnic areas, parking areas, and boat launches. The management intent of this designation is to accommodate vehicle-based users in as natural a setting as possible.

There are three intensive recreation zones in the park. The largest one, 95 hectares (ha), includes the campground, day use area, boat launch, and the proposed expansion of the campground for the group site. The secondary one, 7 ha, includes the existing group site, which is proposed as a staging and camping area to support trail uses, particularly mountain biking. There is also a small day use area of 1.5 ha on the south shore.

Nature Recreation Zone

The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

This zone in Paul Lake Park encompasses 472 ha, including the trail to Gibraltar Rock, the trail along the northwest shoreline, and potential additional trails in this area.

Special Natural Feature Zone

The objective of this zone is to protect and present significant natural values, features, or processes because of their special character, fragility, or natural value.

This includes the park area of 152.5 ha along the southeast shoreline. Other than the small day use area at the west boundary, and a trail used by ATVs and hikers that extends a small distance into the park, there is no public access in this area and its purpose is environmental protection.

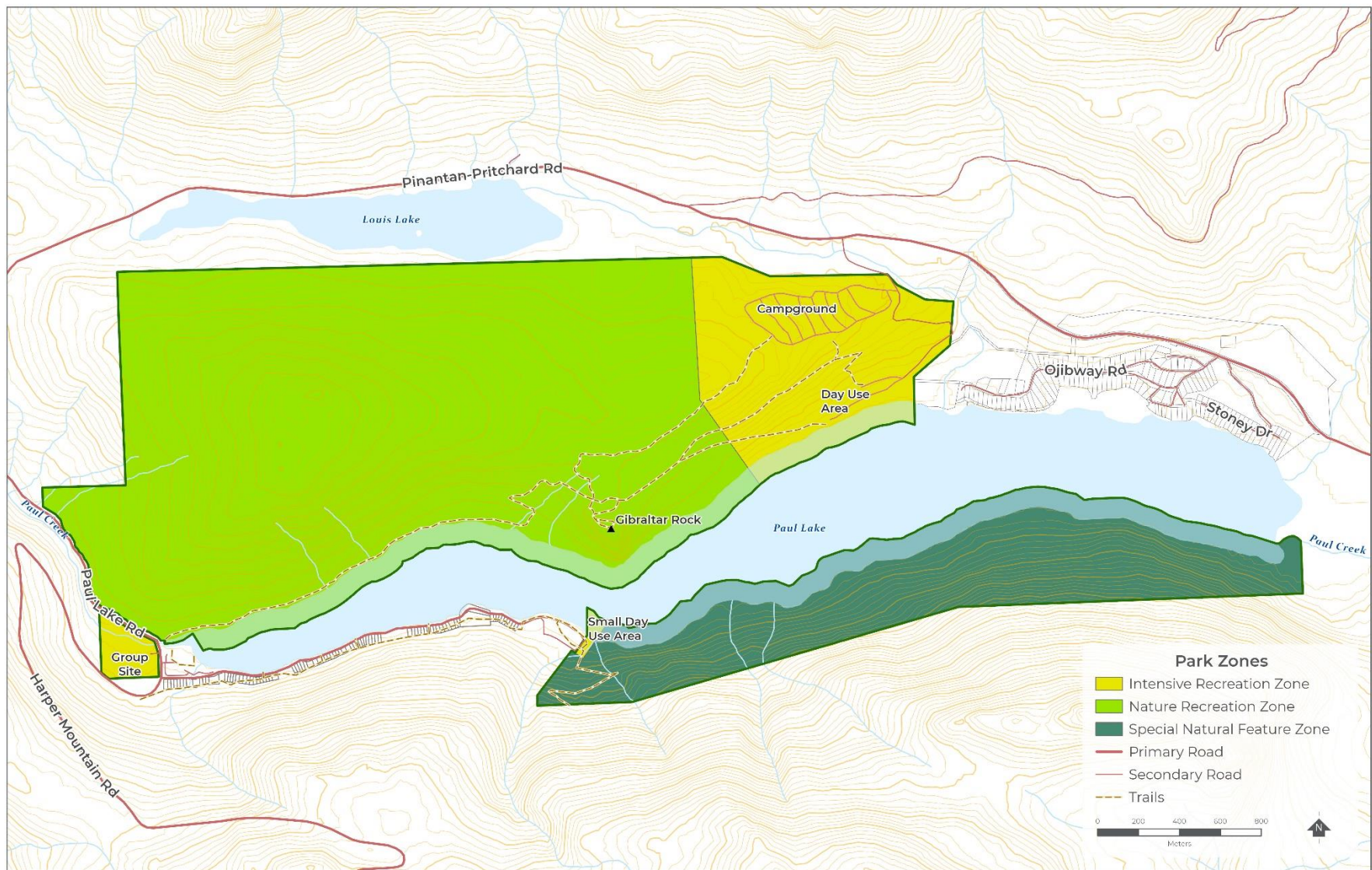


Figure 3 Zoning Map

4.0 Plan Implementation

4.1 Implementation Plan

This management plan provides the guidance for the management of Paul Lake Park. The management plan forms the basis from which BC Parks and other agencies can set priorities to meet management objectives. More detailed planning and design will be required for the upgrading and expansion of facilities, increase in management services, invasive plant management, and on-going monitoring and research.

Implementation of these strategies is dependent on financial availability and staffing capacity. The implementation of actions is also affected by the management needs of other parks in the entire protected areas system. BC Parks will collaborate with Indigenous communities, Paul Lake residents, park user groups, and other stakeholders where appropriate in the implementation of the management strategies.

There are numerous provincial and regional policies and guidelines that will be considered during management plan implementation. This includes items such as BC Parks' policies on conservation, archaeological and environmental permitting processes, and the BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy.

4.2 High Priority Strategies

The following strategies have been identified as high priorities for implementation:

1. Retain the boat launch as car-top only to avoid potential increase in use by larger and faster motorboats and their associated impact on safety and a quiet park experience.
2. Provide signs in the park with the following:
 - kiosks with park map, information on the ecological resources in the park and human activities that have negative impacts on the resources, e.g., the impacts of motorboats and wake boats on riparian resources, and regulations for park use
 - wayfinding signs that include acceptable uses of each trail
3. Remove Chara growth to the minimum necessary for safe and comfortable beach use and swimming.
4. Collaborate with Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc to identify First Nations cultural features and traditional uses, assess threats to these features, and work together on ways to protect them.
5. Conduct improvements to the campground (add an accessible flush toilet/shower building, additional campsites, a central trail, and more accessible trail from the campground to the day use area), day use area (add new accessible toilets and fenced dog off-leash area), new group site (clear area west of the campground within the semi-

disturbed area), park entry (consider a park gatehouse), and existing group site (provide more parking to serve mountain bikers with space for camping, and trails that connect to Harper Mountain).

6. Establish a goose management program.
7. Provide opportunities for residents and other stakeholders to work collaboratively with BC Parks on topics of mutual interest, such as safety, stewardship, and risk management.
8. Provide online information on park environmental and cultural heritage resources, activities that have negative impacts on the resources, and park regulations.
9. Maintain regular seasonal ranger patrols and a BC Parks' presence to increase compliance with park regulations and respect for park values.
10. Encourage participation by volunteers, potentially including volunteer partnership agreements.

4.3 Plan Assessment

In order to ensure that the management direction for Paul Lake Park 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 five 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 may be initiated to determine whether the management plan requires an amendment or if a new management plan is required.

The management plan amendment process or development of a new management plan includes an opportunity for public input.

5.0 References

Tisdale, A.E. (Gene), ASCT, Tisdale Environmental Consulting Inc. REDSIDE SHINER
(Richardsonius balteatus) REDUCTION PROGRAM (DRAFT), PAUL LAKE, BC 2017-2020

Appendix 1: Appropriate Use Table

The following table summarizes existing and potential future uses in Paul Lake Park 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 Paul Lake Park or are only appropriate at certain times of the year. Please ensure that you are well informed of any use restrictions as indicated in the table. It is important to review relevant sections of the management plan when interpreting the table.

Appropriate Use Table Legend		
N	Not an appropriate use	The use is not appropriate in the indicated zone. If the use currently exists but the management planning process has determined that the use is no longer appropriate in all or part of the protected area, the management plan will include strategies for ending the activity (e.g., phasing out, closing).
Y	<u>May be an appropriate use</u>	Some level or extent of this use may be appropriate in the zone indicated. The management plan may provide 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	Intensive Recreation Zone	Nature Recreation Zone	Special Natural Feature Zone	Comments
Recreational Activities/Uses				
Aircraft Landing/Takeoff	Y	Y	Y	Concerns due to small size of lake and heavy use by visitors
Boating (human powered and electrical)	Y	Y	Y	
Boating (combustion engine)	Y	Y	Y	
Camping (designated sites)	Y	N	N	
Camping (wilderness style-undesignated sites)	N	N	N	
Fish Stocking	Y	Y	Y	
Fishing	Y	Y	Y	
Hiking	Y	Y	Y	
Land-based Mechanized Activity (e.g., mountain biking)	Y	Y	N	
Land-based Motorized Activity (e.g., 4x4, motorcycles, ATV-not including snowmobiles, snowcats, or aircraft landings)	Y	N	Y	Restricted to existing trail that passes through the Special Natural Feature Zone south of small day use area
Recreation Facilities/Infrastructure				
Boat Launches	Y	N	N	Car-top boats only
Boat Wharves and Docks	Y	N	N	
Campgrounds (vehicle accessed))	Y	N	N	
Picnic Areas (vehicle accessed)	Y	N	N	
Designated Camping Sites (not vehicle accessed)	N	N	N	
Parking Lots	Y	N	N	
Roads	Y	N	N	
Trails	Y	Y	N	
Visitor Information Buildings	Y	N	N	
Other Activities/Infrastructure				
Utility Corridors	Y	N	N	

Appendix 2: Full Summary of Public Input on Recreation

General

- Protection of peaceful enjoyment of the park environment

Water Uses

- Concern about the safety and comfort of swimmers, toddlers, paddlers, and other non-motorized watercraft in the water when fast-moving and noisy motorboats are present; waves at the beach cause risks; waterskiers often come too close to shore
- Accessibility to the lake for all users
- Conflict among user groups (e.g., day users vs campers and boaters vs swimmers and paddlers)
- Bollards at boat launch limiting access for those with boats on trailers or automatic boat loaders
- Aquatic weeds (Chara or muskgrass) in the beach/swimming area
- Congestion of uses at the boat launch and in the water
- Space for manoeuvring a vehicle at the boat launch is tight and the lower part of the launch below the bollards cannot support a vehicle; paving would have to extend far into the lake and would damage trout habitat
- Noise of motorboats
- Lake is too small and narrow to support more motorboats
- Many suggestions to limit boat speeds and horsepower, allow electric motors only, etc., but this is challenging to achieve within Transport Canada regulations
- There are other lakes nearby for motorboats
- Increasing boat launch capacity would draw many recreational motorboats
- Water bombers using the lake to fight fires and with higher use, clearing the lake would take longer

Land Uses

- Accessibility and number of trails
- Congestion in parking areas and along roads, especially near the boat launch and the group site
- Need to upgrade facilities
- Interest in more campsites, but retaining trees between campsites
- Not enough provision for off-leash dogs
- Bikers and motorized uses on trails

- There is demand for overnight group use, which the park is unable to provide now; area near existing campground has been logged and burned - would make management of the group site easier and support overnight users
- Mountain bikers have interests in more parking and places to camp at the group site location
- Opportunities to explore and learn about geology