MANAGEMENT PLAN

November, 1996

for Monck Provincial Park

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
BC Parks Department

Monck
Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by

BC Parks Kamloops Area Pilot Project Team

for Thompson River District

Kamloops, B.C.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

BC Parks
Kamloops, BC

APPROVALS

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.

- ☐ Coldwater River Park
- ☐ Goldpan Park
- ☐ Juniper Beach Park
- ☐ Lac Le Jeune Park
- ☐ Marble Canyon Park
- ☐ McConnell Lake Park
- ☐ McQueen Creek Eco. Res.
- ☑ Monck Park
- ☐ Paul Lake Park
- ☐ Skihist Eco. Res.
- ☐ Skihist Park
- ☐ Skwaha Lake Eco. Res.
- ☐ Soap Lake Eco. Res.
- ☐ Steelhead Park
- ☐ Tranquille Eco. Res.
- ☐ Walloper Lake

Approved by:

District Manager
Thompson River District
BC Parks Department

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Department

Monck Park Management Plan

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Monck Park Management Plan

1.0 Introduction

Monck Park is a small provincial park recognized for its camping, picnicking, viewing, boating and beach related recreation activities. This park is intensely used during the peak summer months. BC Parks, therefore, is faced with the challenge of balancing the conservation of park values with heavy visitor use. This management plan reflects this challenge and sets forth planning and management objectives which will protect Monck Park values and ensure the provision of recreation opportunities beyond the year 2000.

The park role, objectives and zoning as stated in this plan cannot be contravened in meaning or intent without consultation with the public and the approval of the district manager and Parks Management Committee (PMC). A five year business plan is included as Appendix B to provide direction for implementing the management plan. The actions identified in the business plan will be accomplished as funding and resources allow. The business plan is also subject to annual review and adjustments.

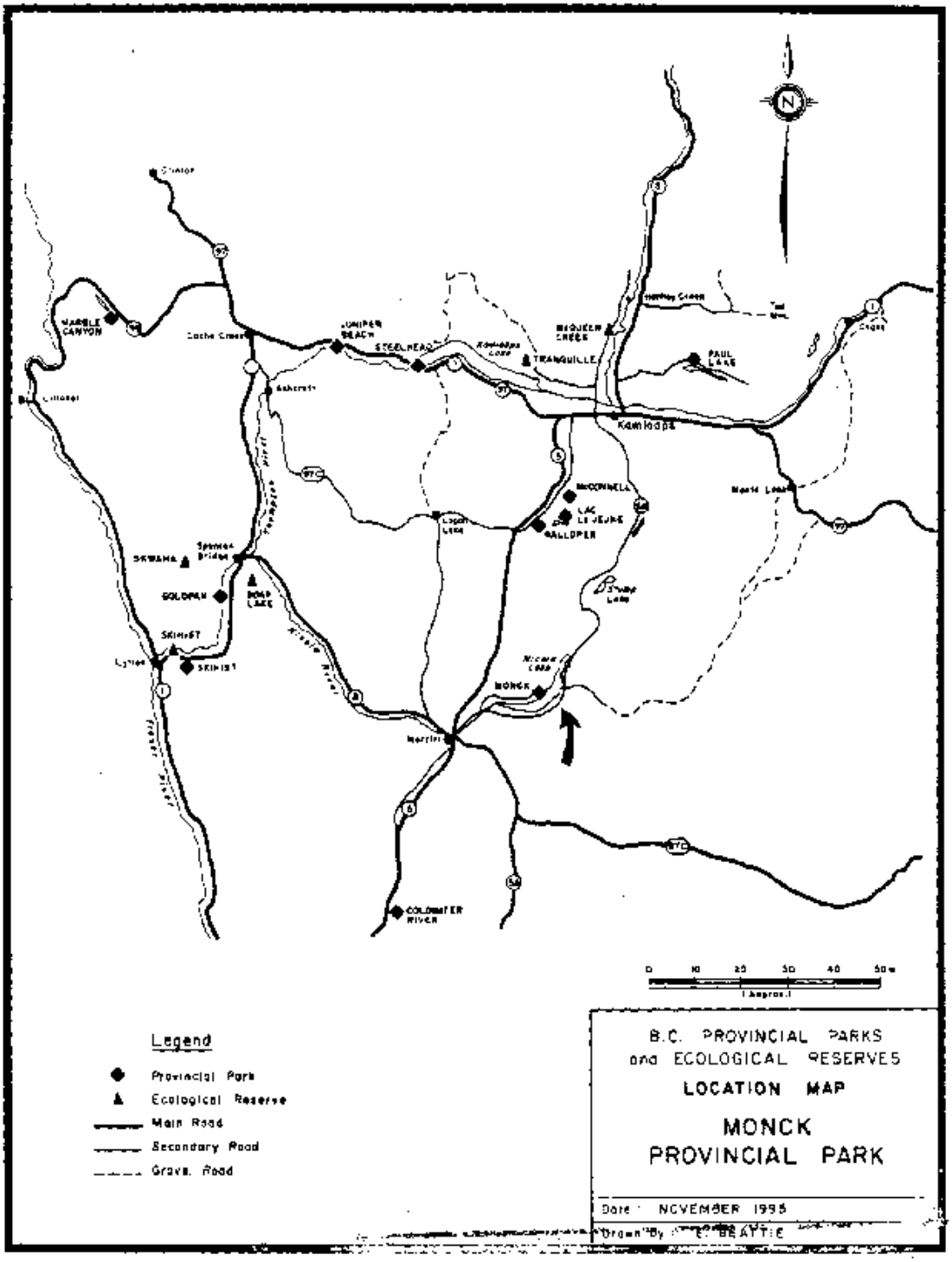
2.0 Background

- Monck Park is primarily a recreation oriented park providing lake-side day-use facilities and vehicle access camping.
- The government established the park September 28, 1951 as a Class A park covering 87 hectares.
- Park facilities include a vehicle access campground containing 71 campsites; a day-use area with 40 picnic tables; parking capacity for 160 vehicles; two change houses; flush toilets; amphitheatre; boat launch; and, five kilometres of hiking trails.
- Monck Park is one of the few provincial parks with a small but important example of the ponderosa pine and bunchgrass ecosystem. Tranquille Ecological Reserve, Skihist Park and Skihist Ecological Reserve are other protected area sites in the Thompson River District with similar values. The park contains First Nation settlement values including kikuli pits.
- Monck Park performs two important recreation functions. First, the park provides destination camping opportunities for people travelling from the Lower Mainland to the southern interior region. Second, the park's day use facilities primarily attract users from the nearby growing community of Merritt.

3.0 Protected Area Values

3.1 Conservation

- climate: hot and dry
- dry interior ecosystem
- vegetation: ponderosa pine forest and bunchgrass ecosystem
- volcanic rock cliffs


N
MARBLE CANYON
Cache Creek
JUNIPER BEACH
STEELHEAD
TRANQUILLE
REQUEEN CREEK
PAUL LAKE
Kamloops
McCONNELL
LAC LE JEUNE
GALLOPER
SKWAHA
Spences Bridge
GOLDPAN
SKIHIST
SKIHIST
MONCK
COLDWATER RIVER
0 10 20 30 40 50 km
(Approx.)
Legend
Provincial Park
Ecological Reserve
Main Road
Secondary Road
Gravel Road
B.C. PROVINCIAL PARKS
and ECOLOGICAL RESERVES
LOCATION MAP
MONCK
PROVINCIAL PARK
Date NOVEMBER 1995
Drawn By L. BEATTIE

2

3.2 Recreation

- dryland (ponderosa pine-bunchgrass) setting next to a large lake. This is the first dryland interior lake system people see when travelling from the coast.
- sand beach and sand point landforms.
- viewscape of dry interior valley and grasslands.
- long recreation user season because of dry and hot climate
- opportunities: destination, travel corridor and local
- activities: camping, picnicking, swimming, beach play, fishing, boating, canoeing, wind surfing, hiking, nature study, nature and historical interpretation

3.3 Culture

- First Nations kikuli pits. These pits were dug into the ground and were used as houses during winter months.

4.0 Vision Statement

Monck Provincial Park will continue to perform a significant role in the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities in the Thompson River District. By the year 2000, the park likely will have expanded to include some 900 hectares of adjacent upland identified under the Protected Areas Strategy process in 1995. BC Parks will enhance recreation opportunities by developing a trail system on the new park lands. The park will also preserve some old-growth forest on the new lands.

The full recreation potential for picnicking and camping opportunities has been achieved with the existing facility development of the park. The demand for camping and picnicking opportunities will continue to increase.

5.0 Conservation Role

- To conserve and present a representative example of a ponderosa pine and bunchgrass forest ecosystem and lake shore habitat.
- To conserve and present evidence of First Nations settlement and use

6.0 Recreation Role

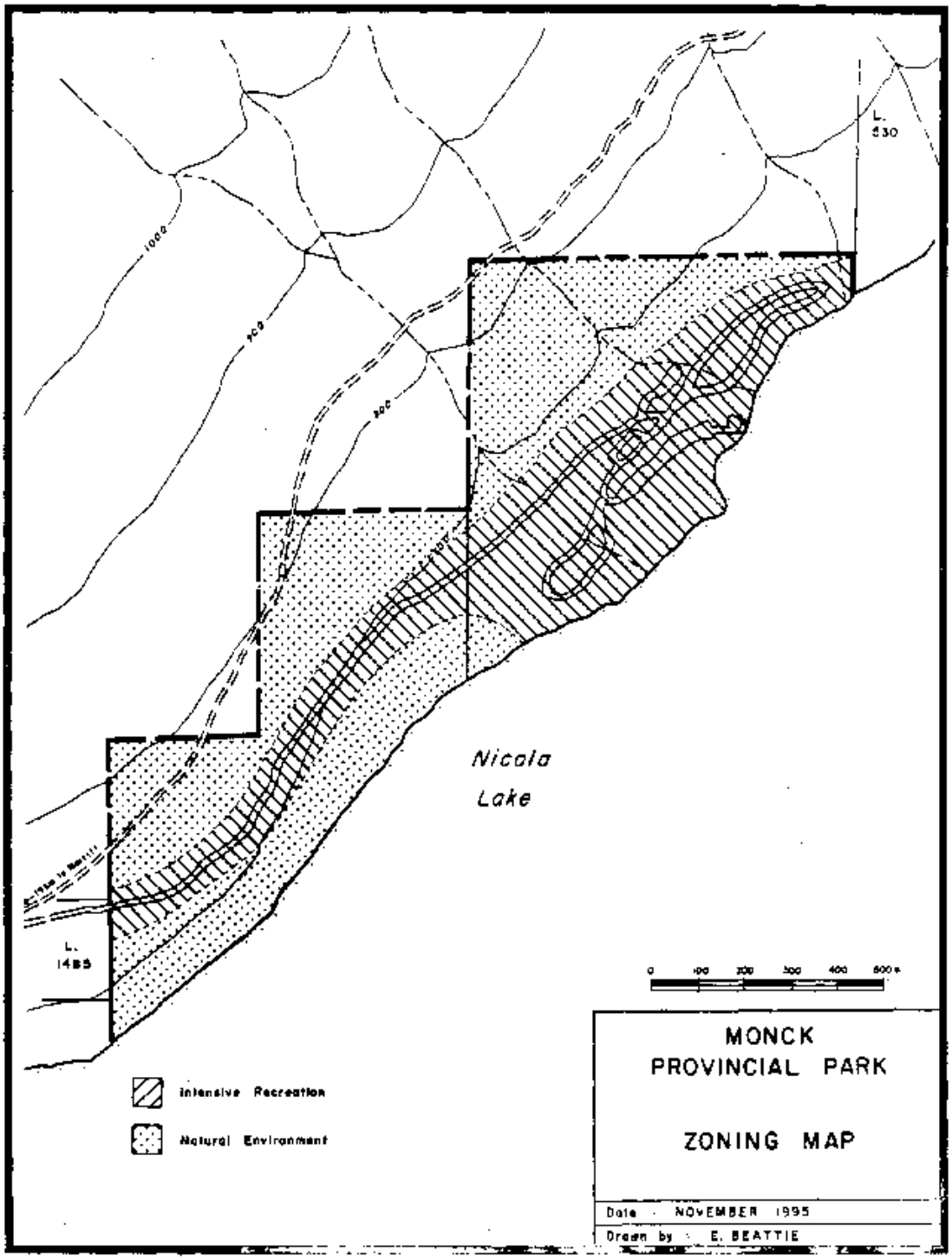
- To provide destination camping and regional day-use opportunities.

7.0 Zoning

Monck Park is zoned intensive recreation and natural environment.

Intensive Recreation Zone

- Zone objective: To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.


L.
530
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Nicola
Lake
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1485
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100
200
300
400
600 m
Intensive Recreation
Natural Environment
MONCK
PROVINCIAL PARK
ZONING MAP
Date - NOVEMBER 1995
Drawn by - E. BEATTIE

4

- Includes: the park access road and all campground, picnicking, bathing, service and boat launch facilities.
- Special zone consideration: this zone contains archaeological values. Because of their fragility and vulnerability careful impact assessment must occur before park development proceeds. These archaeological values are not identified on management plan maps.

Natural Environment Zone

- Zone objective: To protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.
- Includes all those lands outside the intensive recreation zone.

8.0 Natural and Cultural Resource Management Objectives

8.1 Land

Crown and private lands next to Monck Park contain significant conservation, recreation and cultural values. A new protected area is recommended for 931 hectares north and west of the park which if designated provides more protected ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forest within the under-represented Ponderosa Pine/bunchgrass biogeoclimatic zone. BC Parks is concerned about the implications of potential private land development, possibly for residential or recreational uses, next to the park's north boundary.

- To acquire adjacent Crown and private lands holdings to add natural, cultural and recreation values to the park.
- To ensure potential impacts on Monck Park are considered in any proposed development of private lands next to the park.
- To add foreshore lands and waters to the park to enable Park Act regulations enforcement.

8.2 Water

BC Parks is concerned about the deterioration of Nicola Lake's water quality. As a significant land administrator on Nicola Lake, BC Parks wants to help ensure that the lake's water quality is maintained.

- To help protect the water quality of Nicola Lake.

8.3 Vegetation

- To maintain a ponderosa pine and bunchgrass forest type.
- To control introduced species such as milfoil.

8.4 Wildlife

- To protect the habitats of resident and transient species within Monck park.

8.5 Visual

- To identify and protect key locations in the park from which to view the surrounding Nicola Valley landscape and Nicola Lake scenery.

8.6 Cultural

- To control access, activity and facility development to protect cultural values.
- To undertake cultural heritage inventories and studies to increase knowledge of these values.

9.0 Recreation Opportunities Management Objectives

Monck Park is developed to service level 2 standard. The park is heavily used in the summer by both local people from nearby communities and by tourists, particularly people from the Lower Mainland. This use pattern will increase as Merritt expands and the Coquihalla Highway continues to serve as the main transportation artery to the Southern Interior. BC Parks has an excellent opportunity to provide enhanced recreation, information and interpretation service levels at this small but strategically located park.

- To provide opportunities for camping, picnicking, beach play, fishing, boating, canoeing, wind surfing, nature study, hiking, nature and historical interpretation.
- To raise the service level of Monck Park from 2 to 1 after the year 2000.

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
▪ Security	up to 24 hour	routine patrols	occasional patrols	no patrols
▪ Visitor Programs	available	possibly available	not usually available	not available

Appendix B - Five Year Business Plan

Monck Park

Goal: Reduce operating deficiency and increase visitor satisfaction.
Action: Secure funding and install shower building.

Goal: Reduce dust in campsites.
Action: Re-crush campsites and pave day-use parking lot.

Goal: Expand camping opportunities.
Action: Acquire a portion of adjoining private lands.

Goal: To identify, protect and maintain the park's natural and cultural values.
Action: Develop a resource management plan.

Goal: Provide a better representation of interior dry forest habitats.
Action: Expand park boundaries through LRMP process.

Goal: Inform public about role of Monck Park within the Protected Areas system.
Action: Update information shelters.