

9.2.3 Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation is an important component of management of Stikine Country Protected Areas. Visitors to the protected areas expect a high quality wilderness experience with few encounters with other users. Knowledge of outdoor recreation use levels within Stikine Country Protected Areas is limited at present for unguided visitors, which is partly because of self-registration at remote access points. Better user information would assist protected area managers in detecting changes in use patterns and in determining appropriate use levels.

Currently, issues of overcrowding or unacceptable impacts on natural or cultural heritage values caused by outdoor recreation use are few. However, as in most major protected area systems, use levels are expected to increase over time and, as a result, impacts to natural, cultural heritage, or outdoor recreation values may occur.

Current use levels in Stikine Country Protected Areas are relatively low, estimated at about 900 visitors per year, including all activities associated with commercial and public recreation. First Nations traditional use levels are not included in this estimate. Over the next 20 years, demand for outdoor recreation is expected to increase. At the same time, First Nations traditional activities are expected to increase as First Nations reconnect with protected areas in their traditional territories.

General management direction for outdoor recreation applies to all outdoor recreation activities, including hunting and angling. See sections 8.5.3 and 8.6 for management direction on levels of harvest for hunting and angling respectively.

9.2.3.1 General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Outdoor recreation management will focus on providing a range of outdoor recreation experiences in a wilderness setting. Experiences will range from facility-based outdoor recreation near Highway 37 to recreation experiences where quiet and solitude prevail. Recreation use must not compromise the ecological values of the protected areas, and must respect cultural heritage values. Appropriate outdoor recreation activities include camping, picnicking, hiking, mountaineering, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, horse travel, hunting, photography, nature appreciation, cultural heritage appreciation, wildlife viewing, fishing, cross-country skiing, ski touring and snowshoeing. Some of these activities will be restricted to certain areas. Limited snowmobile use will continue in support of First Nations' traditional uses, trapping and camp maintenance for guide-outfitters. In general, commercial and public opportunities (except hunting and angling which are regulated under the *Wildlife Act*) will be in balance where use levels are limited. Competitive outdoor recreation events are considered inappropriate for these protected areas. Protected area values described in this management plan will guide authorizations for other outdoor recreation activities.

The priority for increased use will be for non-motorized, non-mechanized and low impact activities that have minimal impact on natural and cultural values and on the wilderness qualities of the Stikine Country Protected Areas System. Despite relatively low use levels overall, localized high use areas will be carefully managed and use will be curtailed if necessary. Maximum levels of use or carrying capacities will be established over time in consultation with

affected user groups for specific activities and /or for specific portions of the protected areas system. In the interim, maximum numbers of commercial opportunities for various activities are established in Section 12 of the plan.

Objectives and Strategies

To provide high quality wilderness recreation opportunities to backcountry visitors.

- Monitor levels of use and visitor satisfaction to determine if use limits or other controls need to be implemented.
- Collect more detailed information on outdoor recreation use levels and trends.

To ensure that outdoor recreation activities do not have unacceptable impacts on the fish and wildlife populations, cultural heritage values, plant species and plant communities at risk, other vegetation, and physical features in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.

- Monitor the impacts of outdoor recreation activities and facilities on natural and cultural heritage values and implement measures to reduce unacceptable impacts if necessary.
- Conduct site assessments to determine if campsite locations conflict with cultural heritage values.
- Designate campsites, if needed, to avoid impacts on sensitive sites.
- Educate protected area visitors on minimal impact/no trace camping techniques.
- Implement regulations/guidelines as appropriate.
- Maintain group sizes at current levels to ensure a quality outdoor recreation experience and curtail site damage. Group sizes for parties in the field currently do not exceed ten persons including all guides and employees, except for river rafting or canoe trips where group size can be up to 15 people, including all guides and employees. Upon application and approval by Environmental Stewardship Division, group size for individual trips may be increased if a commercial operator employs an approved fulltime interpreter delivering an approved program, for a large family group, or occasionally for an approved trainee.
- Work with First Nations and users to develop strategies to reduce or eliminate damage where outdoor recreation use impinges on First Nations' traditional uses or cultural heritage sites.

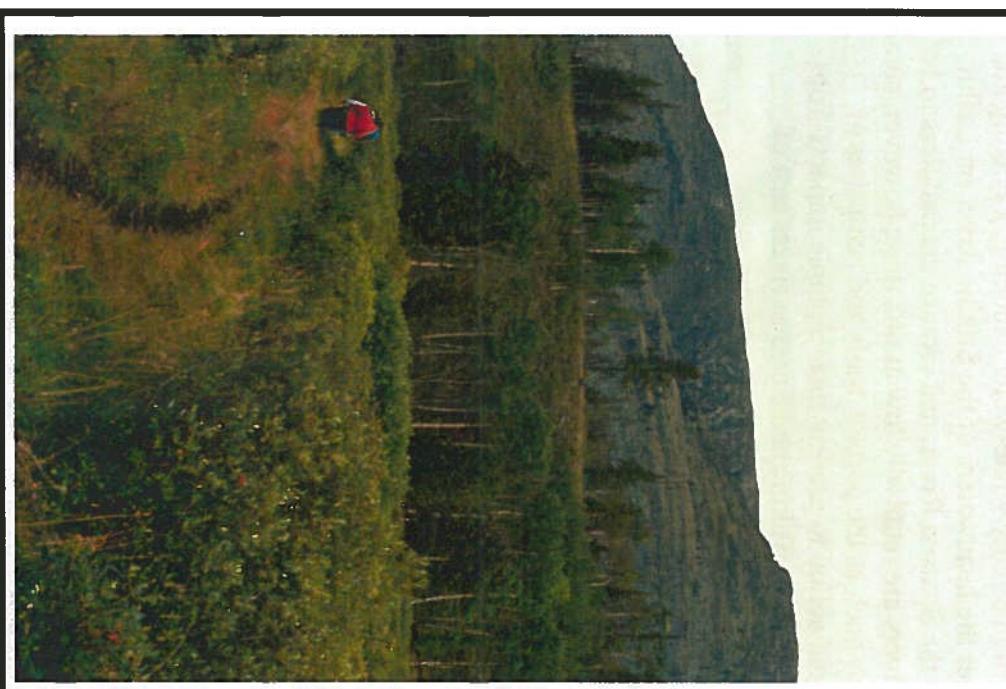
To enhance the backcountry visitors' awareness of First Nations and pioneer cultural heritage, natural history, wildlife etiquette, and bear encounter avoidance techniques.

- Employ educational programs to increase visitor awareness of natural and cultural history, and bear avoidance, where feasible.

To minimize conflicts between outdoor recreation users.

- Monitor visitor satisfaction of outdoor recreation user groups and develop strategies to minimize conflicts between recreation user groups, if required.

9.2.3.2 Backcountry Hiking and Mountaineering



The gentle relief of the plateaus in Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness and Mount Edziza provincial parks provides opportunities for wilderness backcountry hiking within these protected areas. More adventurous hikers and mountaineers may prefer the rugged terrain of the Eaglenest Range in Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Park and the Spectrum Range and the Mount Edziza massif in Mount Edziza Provincial Park. The difficult access to the protected areas means that most hiking parties that enter the protected areas do so for multi-day trips. The remoteness of the protected areas from population centres and local highways restricts the number of users.

Visitors commonly use several routes and trails within Stikine Country Protected Areas. These routes and trails are not well developed or marked, so good map reading and navigation skills are essential. The hiking season can be extremely short in the area because of the persistence of snow accumulations into the summer and the arrival of new snow in early autumn. Storms can bring significant snowfalls at any time of year so visitors need to be prepared for all conditions.

Figure 19. Hiking in Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park.

General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Backcountry hiking and mountaineering will continue and emphasis will be placed on providing high quality wilderness experiences to visitors without unacceptable impacts on natural and cultural heritage values.

Objectives and Strategies

To provide high quality wilderness backcountry hiking and mountaineering opportunities.

- Maintain levels of hiking and mountaineering use that are appropriate for wilderness areas through monitoring of visitor satisfaction levels and implementing use controls if necessary.

- Limit activity where necessary to protect natural, cultural heritage and outdoor recreation values.

9.2.3.3 Floatcraft

The Stikine River and its tributaries provide high quality white-water canoeing, kayaking and rafting opportunities. These trips start at either the headwaters of the Stikine River on Lashui Lake or Tuaton Lake, or at Didene Creek on the Spatsizi River, and require the paddlers to be skilled and self-reliant. Use levels on these rivers are relatively low at this time; however, some concern exists about impacts to high use areas such as the portage trails and campsites at portages. These areas may require management action to prevent unacceptable impacts from occurring. For commercial floatcraft operators on the Stikine and Spatsizi rivers east of Highway 37, maximum group size is 15 including guides.

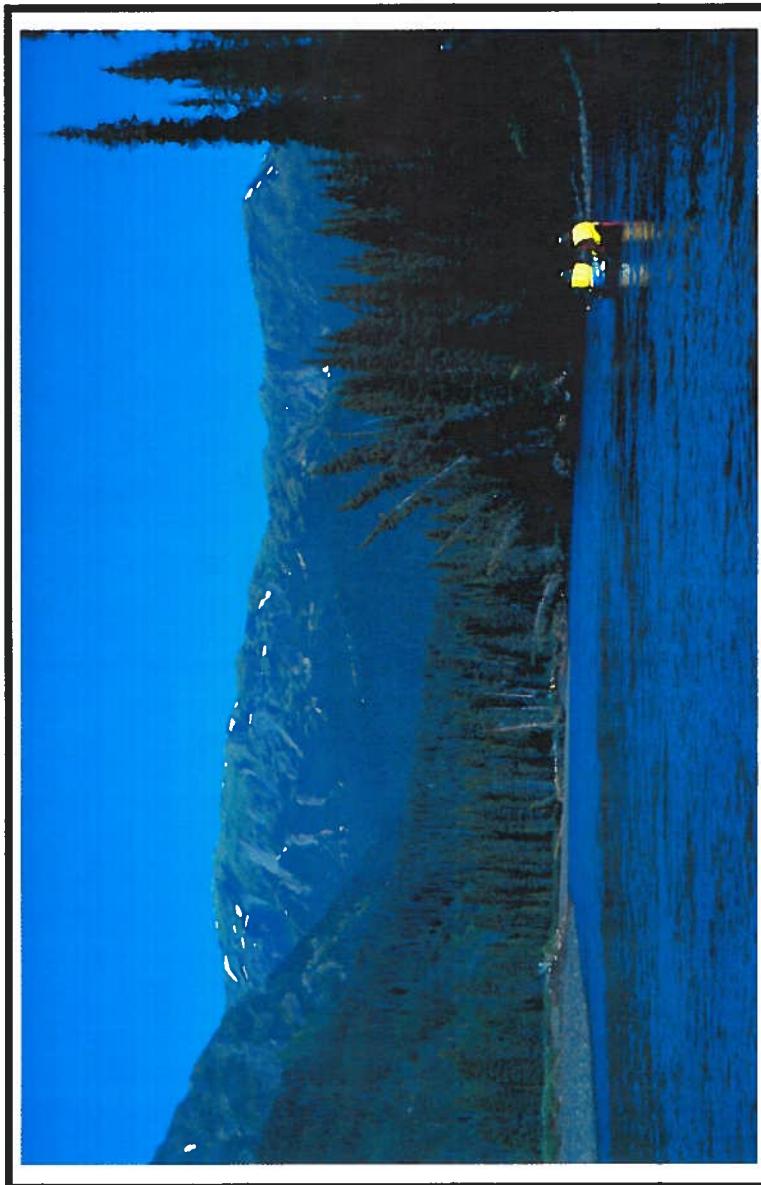


Figure 20. Canoeing down the Spatsizi River, Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park.

The Kakiddi Lakes chain is beginning to receive attention from canoeists, but use is low. Little information about this trip is presently available, and portage trails and campsites may need to be developed. The Kakiddi Lakes chain trip is less technical than the river trips.

Potential opportunities exist to increase use, including commercial use, of the rivers in Stikine Country Protected Areas for trips by floatcraft without adversely affecting natural, cultural heritage and wilderness values. Possible trips include day trips from Klappan River Bridge to the Highway 37 Bridge, and multi-day trips down the Stikine and Spatsizi rivers, and on the Kakiddi Lakes chain.

General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Canoeing, kayaking and rafting will continue as self-supported wilderness activities. Impact monitoring will continue to assess use impacts at popular sites.

Objectives and Strategies

To provide high quality private and commercial wilderness rafting and canoeing opportunities.

- Consider new commercial floatcraft outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Pending establishment of maximum use levels or carrying capacity, no more than 4 commercial trips will be permitted for each 8 day period down the Stikine and Spatsizi rivers combined, and no more than 4 commercial trips will be permitted for each 8 day period on the Kakiddi Lakes chain.
- Monitor user experiences and site impacts, and establish additional controls if needed to maintain visitor satisfaction and ecological values. Possible controls include numbers of groups, group size, trip timing, and number of trips/day.
- Provide floatcraft users with information on river etiquette for operation of floatcraft on rivers where motorboat use also occurs. Include information on river etiquette and safety while navigating through Jewel Rapids and Beggerlay Canyon.

Protected Area-Specific Management Direction

Mount Edziza Provincial Park and Proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area - Objectives and Strategies

To provide wilderness canoeing opportunities on the Kakiddi Lakes chain.

- Evaluate the potential of the Kakiddi Lakes chain as a canoe route.
- Conduct impact monitoring along the lake chain at the initial stages of visitor canoe use of this route.

Stikine River Provincial Park and Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park - Objectives and Strategies

To provide non-motorized user groups with wilderness experiences that include few interactions with motorized users.

- Encourage non-motorized users to travel at times when the chance of meeting motorboats will be minimal and provide information about motorized use to non-motorized users. (See Motorboat Use on Rivers Section 9.2.1.4).
- Maintain the non-motorized use restriction on the Spatsizi River upstream of Hyland Post from breakup to September 1. One exception is provided to allow the guide-outfitter to access Bear Camp for maintenance purposes.

9.2.3.4 Winter Recreation

Opportunities for backcountry ski touring exist in Stikine Country Protected Areas but current use is low because of the region's remoteness. Commercial operators offer trips at Hyland Post, Laslui Lake and Tatlatui Lake, and some private fly-in use of Cold Fish Lake camp occurs. Opportunities exist to increase non-motorized winter recreation in Stikine Country Protected Areas, especially in Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park and Tatlatui Provincial Park,

where support facilities exist. Snowmobile use is currently restricted to First Nations traditional use, trapline use, camp maintenance, and outdoor recreation use on the Klastline Trail.

General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Winter outdoor recreation will be non-motorized except for on the Klastline Trail. Heli-skiing is prohibited in all protected areas in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System. Habitat mapping will be used to direct winter use to suitable areas away from important winter ranges, and impacts of winter recreation on wildlife will be monitored. Snowmobile use will continue to be restricted to First Nations traditional use, trapline use, camp maintenance, and outdoor recreation use on the Klastline Trail in the Klastline area. Limited opportunities for dog sledding will be considered in addition to traditional use of dog sledding by First Nations to exercise existing aboriginal rights.

Objectives and Strategies

To provide safe non-motorized winter recreation opportunities that do not incur unacceptable impacts on wildlife or their critical winter range.

- Map critical wildlife winter range areas and restrict access in these areas.
- Monitor the impacts of winter recreation on wildlife.
- Consider allowing a limited number of opportunities for dog sledding by permit only. Initial dog sledding opportunities will be monitored for impacts to protected area values.
- Dogs used for sledding trips must be under the care of a licensed veterinarian. For each dog used for the sledding program the owner must provide, in the form of a health certificate or similar document signed by the veterinarian, evidence that the dog is:
 - free of infectious diseases of canids;
 - has a current vaccination for infectious diseases of canids; and,
 - is under a current prophylactic program for the control of internal parasites of canids.

Protected Area-Specific Management Direction

Stikine River Provincial Park, Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park and Tatlatui Provincial Park - Objectives and Strategies

To facilitate non-motorized winter outdoor recreation activities.

- Consider new commercial non-motorized winter recreation opportunities.

9.2.3.5 Horse Use and Pack Animals

First Nations, guide-outfitters and private groups have historically used horses for transportation and as pack animals within Stikine Country Protected Areas for hunting and non-consumptive outdoor recreation trips. Other species of pack animals have not been used in these protected areas and there is concern about possible disease transmission to wildlife from other species such as llamas. Concern also exists about the impact of horses on some of the trails in the protected areas. Under existing regulations, horse users are required to have authorization from the Environmental Stewardship Division before travelling in Stikine Country Protected Areas.

General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Horses are recognized as an acceptable means of travel within Stikine Country Protected Areas in support of high quality wilderness recreation. The prohibition on other species of pack animals will continue in recognition of the risk to wildlife species. Use levels for horses will be monitored to determine impacts to trails and vegetation, and controls will be implemented if necessary.

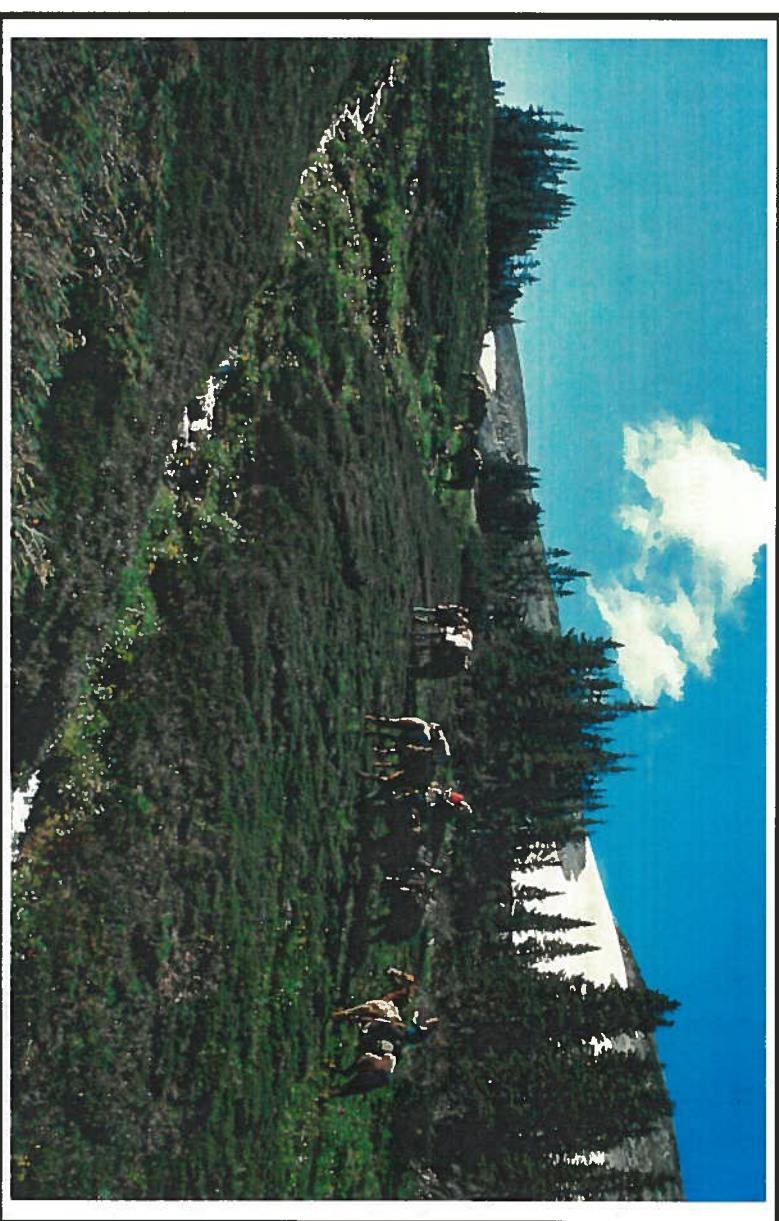


Figure 21. Horse use, Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park.

Objectives and Strategies

To minimize the risk of disease transmission from pack animals to wildlife.

- Allow only horses (i.e. equines) to be used as pack animals.

To prevent unacceptable impacts caused by horse use in Stikine Country Protected Areas.

- Continue horse use on designated trails only, subject to prior authorization.
- Allow concentrated feed pellets and certified weed free hay to be the only feed brought into Stikine Country Protected Areas.
- In consultation with commercial operators, First Nations and other users, apply seasonal limitations or other restrictions on horse use, if needed, to prevent trail damage.
- Survey protected areas for introduced plant species.
- Complete trail impact surveys and monitor plants and plant communities at risk near trails.

- Implement a maximum group size of 14 horses for commercial operators and private users (14 horses would normally accommodate a six to eight person trip given the need for pack horses). Guide-outfitters may exceed maximum group size only at the beginning and end of the season for trailering horses in and out for the season, subject to approval in their permit.

To determine the effects of horse use on natural values.

- Evaluate areas of concentrated horse use (e.g. guide-outfitter camps) and develop strategies to minimize impacts of horse use if required.

9.2.3.6 Other Outdoor Recreation Activities

Interest in other outdoor recreation activities, such as mountain biking, may arise for Stikine Country Protected Areas in the future. Because it is difficult to plan for all future outdoor recreation possibilities, the precautionary principle will be applied where potential risk to natural, cultural heritage and outdoor recreation values exist. Stikine Country Protected Areas will remain closed to ATV use for outdoor recreation purposes.

General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Mechanized and motorized ground travel of any type, except those provided for in this management plan, are generally considered to be incompatible with the wilderness values of Stikine Country Protected Areas. Commercial or competitive sporting events and aerial sports, such as but not limited to hang-gliding and paragliding, are also considered inappropriate.

Objectives and Strategies

To prohibit mechanized or motorized uses other than motorboats and floatplanes and snowmobiles where authorized.

- Consider limited opportunities for uses such as mountain bikes adjacent to Highway 37 subject to a full impact assessment.
- Continue to prohibit ATV use in Stikine Country Protected Areas.

9.2.4 Fuel handling and storage and waste management

Motorized transportation in support of outdoor recreation activities in Stikine Country Protected Areas requires the use and storage of fuel. The remote nature of the protected areas means that fuel must be transported to and stored on site where operations are based. Propane is also used to run cooking facilities, refrigerators and lights at some of the larger base camps. Currently, the fuel storage and handling guidelines apply to only one commercial operator in Stikine Country Protected Areas (Appendix 12). No guidelines are in place for propane storage and handling.

Waste management is also a concern at some of the larger base camps where garbage and human waste is more concentrated. Waste management guidelines that apply for most permitted base camps are found in Appendix 12.

9.2.4.1 General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Guidelines will be developed to manage commercial and non-commercial fuel storage and handling and waste management in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.

Objectives and Strategies

To manage fuel handling and storage to avoid fuel spills and their impact on the environment.

- Develop fuel handling and storage guidelines for permitted commercial operators in Stikine Country Protected Areas in consultation with user groups. At a minimum, guidelines should include direction on:
 - acceptable fuel storage containers and dispensing methods;
 - location of the fuel storage site;
 - management of empty storage containers;
 - management of full or partially full storage containers at the end of the season; and,
 - a spill kit requirement.
- Require non-commercial outdoor recreation users who handle and store fuel during their recreation activities to follow fuel handling and storage guidelines.
- Require all commercial operators who handle and store fuel to have fuel spill kits.

To manage waste to avoid impacts on the environment.

- Apply waste management guidelines to all commercial base camps.
- Develop garbage disposal guidelines for non-commercial users.
- Review the waste management requirements for users of other rivers, such as the Tatshenshini River, and adapt those waste management requirements to the Stikine Country Protected Areas System if necessary.

9.3 Spiritual Values

One aspect of the vision statement is that the landscapes will "... support cultural, spiritual, recreational and economic activities...". Spiritual values are often mentioned in management plans but rarely described or addressed with management objectives and strategies. Since defining spiritual values is difficult, within the context of wilderness conservation and recreation in Stikine Country Protected Areas, spiritual values may be considered the connection or appreciation that one feels to his/her surroundings that cannot be described in physical, intellectual or emotional terms. For First Nations, spiritual values are intimately linked with their relationship with the land. The Tahltan Nation advises that Tahltan spiritual relationship is expressed in their oral stories, which describe how people were transformed into land formations, the origin of animals and plants, or where and what Tseskeyia Cho (Crow Big) created 'things we know today'.

Although spiritual values are difficult to define, protected area management planning still needs to at least attempt to address the spiritual connection that people feel towards the land and environment.

9.3.1 General Management Direction

Overall Direction

Spiritual values are recognized as key elements of the Stikine Country Protected Areas System and of the protected area visitor's experience.

Objectives and Strategies

To incorporate spiritual values into management in Stikine Country Protected Areas.

- Through consultation with First Nations, develop a summary of spiritual values for the Stikine Country and the British Columbia protected areas system.
- Work with First Nations to understand and define (if appropriate) their perspective about spiritual values in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.
- Encourage management and activities that are respectful of spiritual values.
- Develop a management strategy to conserve spiritual values in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.

10 Zoning and Managing Recreation Use in Specific Areas

10.1 Zoning

An integral part of the Stikine Country Protected Areas Management Plan is the application of the Environmental Stewardship Division's protected areas zoning framework to all protected areas except ecological reserves. Management plan zoning assists the planning and management of provincial parks, recreation areas and *ELU Act* protected areas. The zones reflect the intended land use, degree of human use, and the level of desired management and development. The following sections provide detailed descriptions of each zone found in Appendix 13. In addition, a summary of legislation and policies for ecological reserves is also provided. The management plan zones provide the framework for which activities are allowed within management areas (see below), with special considerations for local conditions.

Four zones are applied in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System:

- Wilderness Recreation;
- Natural Environment;
- Special Feature; and,
- Intensive Recreation.

The majority of the Stikine Country Protected Areas System is zoned Wilderness Recreation (Map 5).

10.1.1 Wilderness Recreation Zone

Zone Objective: To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites.

Zone Description: Covers about 1,345,100 hectares or 95.4% of the protected areas in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System. This zone includes all of Tatlatui Provincial Park and most of Pitman River Protected Area, Chukachida Protected Area, Mount Edziza Provincial Park, Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park and Stikine River Provincial Park.

Zone Management Guidelines: Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience.

Zone Facilities and Access: Facility development is minimal and is intended for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment (e.g. trails, primitive campsites, etc.). Some basic facilities may be developed at access points (e.g. dock, primitive shelter, etc.). Access is non-mechanized access, except for low frequency air access that may be permitted to designated sites, and motorboat access in accordance with the management plan. Horse access may be permitted subject to prior approval. Foot, canoe, and raft access is permitted.

Zoning Rationale: By placing most of the protected areas in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System within a Wilderness Recreation Zone, Environmental Stewardship Division intends to protect the system's conservation values while providing an appropriate level of backcountry outdoor recreation. The protected areas are remote and relatively undisturbed, offering high quality wilderness opportunities. Most of these protected areas receive light visitor use.

People travel to these parks and protected areas to explore their backcountry. To protect the wilderness character of this zone, Environmental Stewardship Division will exercise control on methods of transportation and the location of landing sites. In general, Environmental Stewardship Division will closely manage visitor use as necessary to protect the natural, cultural heritage and outdoor recreation values of the Wilderness Recreation Zone.

10.1.2 Natural Environment Zone

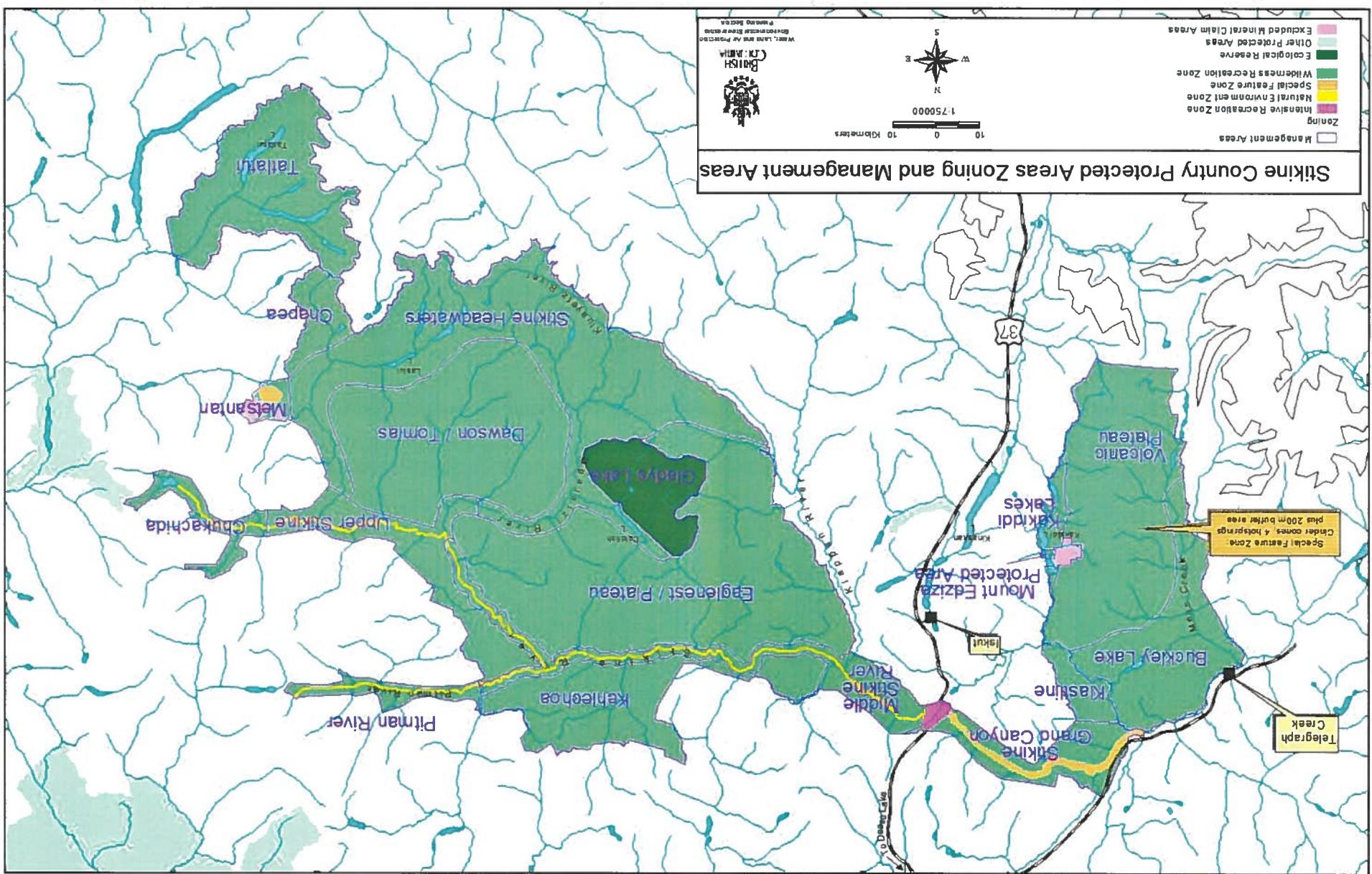
Objective: To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Description: Contains about 2000 hectares or 0.1 % of the planning area and applies to all major facility developments, such as main camps with multiple structures, and includes facilities at Cold Fish Lake, Bug Lake, Laslui Lake, Tatlatui Lake, Kitchener Lake, Stalk Lake, Firesteel River (two sites), Buckley Lake, and the Stikine River (guide-outfitter camp just downstream from the mouth of the Spatsizi River). The Natural Environment Zone covers the water portion of the Stikine River upstream from the Intensive Recreation Zone to the mouth of the Chukachida River, the water portion of the Spatsizi River downstream from Hyland Post, and the water portions of the mainstems of the Pitman and Chukachida rivers (the associated foreshore areas are zoned Wilderness Recreation). The Natural Environment Zone will also apply to mining access roads through Pitman River Protected Area, Chukachida Protected Area and the proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area if those roads are developed.

Management Guidelines: Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and a high quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Incompatible outdoor recreation activities and transportation modes may be separated. Designation of transportation may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).

Zone Facilities and Access: Facilities are moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk-in/boat-in campsites, shelters, accommodation buildings may be permitted; facilities for motorized access (e.g. docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.) may also be permitted. Access may be motorized (powerboats, snowmobiles) or non-motorized (foot, horse, canoe, bicycles). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pickup points will be permitted.

Zoning Rationale: Under the guidelines for Natural Environment Zone, facilities such as those at Cold Fish Lake, Bug Lake Laslui Lake, Tatlatui Lake, Kitchener Lake, Stalk Lake, Firesteel River (two sites), Buckley Lake and the Stikine River (guide-outfitter camp just downstream from the mouth of the Spatsizi River) are in this zone. The intent for these facilities is to ensure their compatibility with the surrounding natural environment.





Stikine Country Protected Areas Management Plan – November 2003

Map 5. Stikine Country Protected Areas Zoning and Management Areas.

The Natural Environment Zone applies to the water portion of most of the Stikine River, a portion of the Spatsizi River, and all of the Chukachida and Pitman rivers. This zone acknowledges the use of these rivers for motorboat use.

10.1.3 Special Feature Zone

Objective: To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.

Description: Applies to four areas in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System:

- Mount Edziza cinder cones and the nearby pumice fields;
 - Mess Creek hot springs and tufa deposits and other hot spring sites in Mount Edziza Provincial Park;
 - Grand Canyon of the Stikine River; and,
 - the Metsantan Area, which includes the Metsantan and Caribou Hide village sites.
- In these four areas combined, the Special Feature Zone covers approximately 12,000 hectares or 0.9% of the Stikine Country Protected Areas System.

Management Guidelines: High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high quality recreational and interpretative experience. The Special Feature Zone advocates active or passive management depending on size, location, and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts.

Zone Facilities and Access: Only interpretative facilities are permitted since the intent of the zone is to protect resources. Various types of access may be permitted. Special access permits may be required.

Zoning Rationale: The Special Feature Zone contains the Mount Edziza cinder cones and the nearby pumice fields because of the delicate and vulnerable character of these landforms. The cones are comprised of unstable volcanic material often covered with a lichen crust that is easily disturbed. The pumice fields issued from the cones are easily damaged by visitor foot traffic. Special management precautions may be needed to protect these cones and pumice fields to prevent further disturbance of the type that has occurred on Eve Cone.

The Special Feature Zone is appropriate for the Mess Creek hot springs and tufa deposits, and other hot spring areas to protect the calcite deposits from potential visitor damage. These deposits are provincially significant. This zoning designation is consistent with the direction given in the Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP.

The Special Feature Zone applies to the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River in recognition of its status as an internationally significant landform feature, its spectacular volcanic character and spiritual significance to the Tahltan Nation. This canyon is home to mountain goats that are vulnerable to aerial disturbance from aircraft, particularly low-flying helicopter flights. Special aircraft management procedures are needed to minimize this disturbance.

The Special Feature Zone also covers the Metsantan area, which includes the Metsantan and Caribou Hide village sites in recognition of the extremely high cultural significance of these sites

to the Tahltan Nation. The village sites contain gravesites, remnant buildings and archaeological sites. Special access management protocols will be needed to protect these sites.

10.1.4 Intensive Recreation Zone

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

Description: Covers about 2900 hectares or 0.2% of the planning area and applies to the area around the Stikine River Bridge in Stikine River Provincial Park.

Management Guidelines: Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Guidelines call for intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor.

Zone Facilities and Access: This zone may be intensely developed for user convenience with campgrounds, landscaped picnic/play areas, trail accommodation or interpretative buildings, boat launches, administrative buildings, service compounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, wood lots, parking lots, etc. All-weather public roads or other types of access may be permitted where use levels are high.

Zoning Rationale: The Intensive Recreation Zone applies to the area around the Stikine River Bridge in Stikine River Provincial Park. Here public outdoor recreation use concentrates largely because of the strategic location of this site as the take-out point for rafting and canoeing trips on the Stikine River. A toilet and a crude boat launch support these uses and some camping also occurs although no designated campground exists. This zoning designation also “allows opportunities for frontcountry tourism development in the vicinity of the Stikine bridge on Highway 37” as directed by Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP.

10.1.5 Ecological Reserves

The intent of ecological reserves is to preserve representative and special natural ecosystems, plant and animal species, features and phenomena. The Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve, which is surrounded by Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park, covers 44 098 hectares and represents 3.4% of the Stikine Country Protected Areas System. Ecological reserves prohibit all consumptive uses, with scientific research and education the main activities. The Environmental Stewardship Division management zoning framework does not apply to ecological reserves.

10.2 Management Areas

This management plan divides the protected areas into management areas to allow for more specific management in portions of the protected areas that have the same zoning designation (Map 5). The large size of the Wilderness Recreation Zone, in particular, necessitated the definition of management areas. Both ecosystem (e.g. wildlife) and recreation use patterns information helped define the boundaries of the management areas.

The zone designations provide the framework for the kind of activities allowed within the management areas, with special considerations for local conditions. This section provides details

about the specific outdoor recreation and conservation (natural and cultural heritage values) management objectives, considerations and actions for each management area. Sections 8 and 9 contain general direction that applies to all areas. Table 5, at the end of this section, provides a summary of key natural, cultural and outdoor recreation values and management direction.

The Volcanic Plateau, Buckley Lake, Klastline, Kakiddi Lakes, Mount Edziza Protected Area and Stikine Grand Canyon management areas are located within the Mount Edziza Greater Ecosystem. All other management areas are located within the Spatsizi Greater Ecosystem except the Middle Stikine River Management Area, which lies in both Greater Ecosystems.

10.2.1 Volcanic Plateau Management Area

The Volcanic Plateau Management Area covers most of Mount Edziza Provincial Park including the Mount Edziza massif, the Spectrum Range, and the upper reaches of Mess Creek and Mess Lake. This management area contains significant volcanic landscapes including Mount Edziza and its associated cinder cones and the colourful Spectrum Range, as well as calcite deposits, hot springs and culturally important obsidian deposits. Pipe Organ Mountain, a volcanic feature of radiating columnar basalts, also occurs in this management area along the boundary with the Mount Edziza Resource Management Zone (formerly the Mount Edziza Recreation Area). Most of the Stone's sheep and mountain goat habitat and a substantial portion of the caribou summer range occur within this management area. Plants and plant communities at risk associated with volcanic features and hot springs exist in this management area.

The Volcanic Plateau Management Area is primarily used by hikers and hunters, with most hikers travelling between Buckley and Mowdade lakes with some travelling through the Spectrum Range. Mountaineers occasionally climb Mount Edziza. These users access or egress the park mostly by floatplane from Buckley, Mowdade, Little Ball, Ball, and Arctic (outside the park) lakes. Horses are used by both hunters and other backcountry recreation users who primarily gain access to the management area via the Klastline and Mount Edziza trails. The southern areas of the Volcanic Plateau Area see limited horse use. Outdoor recreation use of this management area is generally extremely low and will continue to be lower than in the Buckley Lake and Kakiddi Lakes management areas.

Few facilities or signs of human presence exist within this management area; the exceptions include the historic Dominion Telegraph Trail, a trapper's camp on Mess Lake, a guide-outfitter camp on Mess Lake, and the central, mostly alpine parts of the Mount Edziza Trail. This is a well-established route and has markers such as cairns along portions of it. Most of the Volcanic Plateau Management Area is zoned Wilderness Recreation except for the cinder cones, pumice fields and Mess Creek hot springs/calcite deposits and other hot springs, which are zoned Special Feature in recognition of the fragile volcanic deposits, and the vulnerability of the calcite deposits and associated plants communities.

The Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP provides the following direction for the Mess Creek hot springs area (Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP 2000):

- “Provide designated trails to minimize damage to calcite deposits”.

Management Objectives

- To protect the plant communities and physical features of the cinder cones and calcite deposits in Mount Edziza Provincial Park.
- To prevent damage to the calcite deposits at Mess Creek hot springs and the other hot spring sites.
- To maintain Stone's sheep, mountain goat and caribou and their habitat.
- To maintain a high quality wilderness environment with few signs of human presence and a focus on self-supported outdoor recreation activities.
- To maintain low levels of use with no day trips or limited helicopter activity.

Key Considerations and Strategies

- New trails and structures will not be considered in this management area.
- Provide for the maintenance of the Mount Edziza Trail to BC Parks and Protected Areas Class IV standards.
- Limit floatplane access to Little Ball Lake and Little Arctic Lake to drop-off and pick-up for multi-day trips only (i.e. no day-use activities). The number of takeoffs and landings may need to be controlled in the future.
- Maintain the prohibition on wheeled aircraft landings.
- Allow helicopter landings only for management purposes or by special permit, and only if they have extremely low impacts and provide significant benefits to the protected areas system.
- Maintain the ban on helicopter landings on cinder cones and implement a ban on helicopter landings on calcite deposits, associated plant communities and other associated features at hot springs.
- Develop and provide information to protected area visitors about the cultural importance of the obsidian deposits to the Tahltan Nation to help protect these sensitive cultural heritage features.
- Monitor the effects of hiking use on the cinder cones and restrict access to designated trails or prohibit access, if necessary, to protect natural values.
- Provide information to protected area visitors about the fragility of lichen crust communities.
- Protect Eve Cone by marking and restricting access to the established route up the cinder cone.
- Protect all hot springs and associated plants and plant communities at risk by providing information about the sensitivity of the calcite deposits, and by building designated trails where necessary.
- Assess the Mess Creek hot springs and other hot springs for location and extent of plants and plant communities at risk and sensitive plants and plant communities.
- Work with the Tahltan Band Council, the Iskut First Nation, the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the mining industry to protect Pipe Organ Mountain.
- Monitor outdoor recreation use levels and develop strategies if outdoor recreation use results in unacceptable impacts on Stone's sheep, caribou, mountain goat and damage to plants and plant communities at risk.

10.2.2 Buckley Lake Management Area

The Buckley Lake Management Area covers the northern portion of Mount Edziza Provincial Park between the alpine areas of the Mount Edziza massif and the Stikine River, and includes the northern part of the Mess Creek addition. The management area contains important caribou winter range, mule deer habitat, canyon features along Stikine River and Mess Creek including dry steppe slopes, and the Tahltan Eagle, a culturally significant volcanic feature to the Tahltan people. This management area also includes the Telegraph Creek/Klastline Trail and the northern section of the Mount Edziza Trail.

Hikers, horse travellers, hunters and guide-outfitters travelling on the Mount Edziza and Telegraph Creek/Klastline trails are the main recreation users in this management area. Some angling on Buckley Lake also occurs. Outdoor recreation use of this management area is expected to be higher than in the Volcanic Plateau Management Area.

The Buckley Lake Management Area is zoned Wilderness Recreation. The management area contains most of the facilities in Mount Edziza Provincial Park, although few facilities exist. A rustic campsite and a guide-outfitter camp with tent-frames and corrals are located at Buckley Lake, and two trapper cabins are located at Mess Creek. Other facilities include an old village site near Telegraph Creek and some old cabins in the area around Buckley Lake.

Management Objectives

- *To protect sensitive canyon features, cultural features, and caribou winter range.*
- *To maintain a high quality wilderness experience with little sign of human presence and few facilities to support backcountry use.*

Key Considerations and Strategies

- Consider new facilities (trails, routes and structures) or additions to existing camps in selected locations subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process. Strictly control the size, design and location of any new facilities. New shelters will be considered in the form of small, rustic backcountry shelters, such as tent frames and small cabins. For the portion of the Buckley Lake Management Area east of Mess Creek, new structures will be considered only in the form of non-permanent shelters. Additions to existing commercial recreation camps will only be considered in conjunction with new approved commercial recreation activities.
- Provide for the maintenance of the Mount Edziza and Telegraph Creek/Klastline trails to BC Parks Class IV standards.
- Manage floatplane drop-off and pick-up access on Buckley Lake for multi-day trips and limited day-use activity. Monitor the number of takeoffs and landings to determine if use warrants further management controls and limits on flight numbers.
- Allow motorboat use to continue on Buckley Lake, consistent with historic levels of use.
- Review and revise the status of motorboat use of Buckley Lake if necessary.
- Investigate the current population structure of trout in Buckley Lake and monitor angling pressure. Further stocking of Buckley Lake will not be allowed.
- Conduct a study using radio-collars for caribou in Mount Edziza Provincial Park to determine winter habitat use and important wintering areas.

- Monitor outdoor recreation use levels and develop strategies if outdoor recreation use results in unacceptable impacts on caribou, caribou habitat and dry steppe plant communities.
- Work with the Tahltan Band Council, the Iskut First Nation and the Ministry of Transportation to assess a possible pullout for viewing the Tahltan Eagle.
- Work with the Tahltan Band Council and the Iskut First Nation to develop an interpretive package for the Tahltan Eagle.
- Map dry steppe plants and plant communities at risk along the Stikine River, Klastine River and Mess Creek and develop management actions to protect these plants from human disturbance.

10.2.3 Klastline Management Area

The Klastline Management Area covers the Klastline River area added to Mount Edziza Provincial Park resulting from the Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP process. The management area contains important mule deer habitat as well as caribou winter range and canyon features along the Klastline River. Outdoor recreation use of this management area is low and is primarily related to hunting and travel along the Klastline Trail. The Klastline Management Area is zoned Wilderness Recreation Zone.

The Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP provided the following direction for the Klastline Management Area (Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP 2000):

- “Snowmobile use is allowed along the Klastline Trail”;
- “Maintain opportunities for construction of cabins, as required, to support recreational use along the Klastline Trail”; and,
- “Permit non-motorized use only on Klastline Trail from spring thaw to fall freeze-up”.

Management Objectives

- *To minimize impacts of outdoor recreation activities on high value mule deer winter range.*
- *To maintain a high quality wilderness experience with little sign of human presence.*
- *To provide access over the Klastline River.*

Key Considerations and Strategies

- Follow the Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP direction regarding snowmobile use, motorized use and cabin construction.
- Consider new facilities (trails, routes and structures) in selected locations subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process. Strictly control the size, design and location of any new facilities. New shelters will be in the form of small, rustic backcountry shelters such as tent frames and small cabins.
- Provide for the maintenance of existing trails and routes, including the Telegraph/Klastine Trail, to BC Parks Class IV standards.
- Work with the Tahltan Band Council and the Iskut First Nation to develop snowmobile use guidelines along the Klastline Trail in the Klastline Management Area.

- Review bridge placement options over the Klastline River with the Tahltan Band Council and the Iskut First Nation, and construct a bridge if funding is available.
- Map mule deer winter range so that impacts can be minimized.

10.2.4 Kakiddi Lakes Management Area

The Kakiddi Lakes Management Area contains the regionally significant chain of lakes on the east side of Mount Edziza Provincial Park including Nuttlude, Kakiddi, Mowchilla and Mowdade lakes, the immediate area around those lakes, and the southern portion of the Mount Edziza Trail. The Kakiddi Lakes chain is important in conserving a rainbow trout only fish system. This chain of lakes has recently started receiving limited attention from canoeists. Recreation use is relatively low and largely from visitors who use Mowdade Lake as an access or egress point for the Mount Edziza Trail. Some hunting occurs around the lakes and some canoeing occurs on the lake chain. The Kakiddi Lakes Management Area is zoned Wilderness Recreation.

Access to this management area could potentially become easier if the mineral claims in the Mount Edziza Resource Management Zone (formerly the Mount Edziza Recreation Area) are developed. The only existing facilities in this management area are the campsite on Mowdade Lake and the Mount Edziza Trail. The proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area is not part of the Kakiddi Lakes Management Area.

Management Objectives

- *To maintain the natural rainbow trout only fish system in the Kakiddi Lakes chain.*
- *To provide wilderness canoeing opportunities on the Kakiddi Lakes chain.*
- *To minimize and mitigate impacts on the viewscape from Kakiddi Lake to support wilderness recreation, while respecting management regimes outside the park.*
- *To minimize and mitigate impacts on natural, cultural heritage and outdoor recreation values, while respecting management regimes outside the park, if mining activities occur within and a road is developed to the Mount Edziza Resource Management Zone.*

Key Considerations and Strategies

- Consider new facilities (trails, routes and structures) in selected locations subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process. Strictly control the size, design and location of any new facilities. New shelters will be in the form of small, rustic backcountry shelters such as tent frames and small cabins.
- Allow floatplane drop-off and pick-up access on Mowdade, Nuttlude and Kakiddi lakes for multi-day trips and limited day-use activity. Monitor the number of takeoffs and landings to determine if use warrants further management controls and limits on the number of flights.
- Work with other agencies and the Tahltan Band Council and Iskut First Nation in managing any development in the management area, including roads, forestry and tourism, that could affect park values.
- Evaluate the potential of the Kakiddi Lakes chain as a canoe route and consider establishing Mowchilla Lake as a non-motorized lake only.
- Conduct impact monitoring along the lake chain at the initial stages of visitor canoe use of this route.

- Monitor water quality in the Kakiddi Lakes chain prior to and after development of a mining road if such a road is required to the Mount Edziza Resource Management Zone (formerly the Mount Edziza Recreation Area).
- Work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the mining industry to minimize and mitigate impacts on water quality, quantity and flow in the Kakiddi Lakes Management Area if a mining road is developed or other mining activities occur on adjacent lands.
- Monitor angling pressure on the Kakiddi Lakes chain prior to and after mine road development if such access is required. Revise angling regulations if necessary.

10.2.5 Mount Edziza Protected Area Management Area

The Mount Edziza Protected Area Management Area includes all 607 hectares of the proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area. The Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP recommended this protected area to facilitate access to the Mount Edziza Resource Management Zone (formerly the Mount Edziza Recreation Area). Outdoor recreation use of this management area is currently low, with some hunting activity based out of the Kakiddi Lakes chain, but will increase if the mine road proceeds.

The Mount Edziza Protected Area Management Area will be zoned Wilderness Recreation when the protected area is established. If a mining road is developed, however, the road portion of the management area will be zoned Natural Environment Zone while the rest of the management area will remain Wilderness Recreation. Once the road alignment is finalized, the balance of the proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area will be upgraded to Class A provincial park and amalgamated into the Mount Edziza Provincial Park as part of the Kakiddi Lakes Management Area.

Management Objectives

- *To maintain the natural rainbow trout only fish system in the Kakiddi Lakes chain.*
- *To maintain the wilderness setting with few permanent facilities.*
- *To minimize and mitigate impacts on natural and cultural heritage values in the proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area and in Mount Edziza Provincial Park if a road is developed through the proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area.*

Key Considerations and Strategies

- The Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP provided guidelines, including the possibility that, following a full review, a road may be built through the proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area to provide access to mineral claims in the proposed Mount Edziza Resource Management Zone (formerly the Mount Edziza Recreation Area), if required.
- Consider new facilities (trails, routes and structures) in selected locations subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process. Strictly control the size, design and location of any new facilities. New shelters will be in the form of small, rustic backcountry shelters such as tent frames and small cabins.
- Evaluate the need to develop a portage trail to supply canoe access to Nuttlude Lake if a road is constructed through this management area.
- Work with First Nations, other management agencies and mining companies to manage access to the proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area, if a mining road is constructed.

- Work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines and with the mining industry to minimize and mitigate impacts on water quality, quantity and flow within the proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area if a mining road is developed in or adjacent to the proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area or if other mining activities occur adjacent to Mount Edziza Provincial Park and the proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area.
- Follow the Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP guidelines for road access to the Mount Edziza Resource Management Zone (formerly the Mount Edziza Recreation Area), if road development is required through the proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area.
- Work with the mining company and other land management agencies to minimize and mitigate impacts to Mount Edziza Provincial Park and proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area from access, mining exploration and mining activities.
- Install a gate on any road to the proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area, and deactivate the road when use associated with mining ends.

10.2.6 Stikine Grand Canyon Management Area

The Stikine Grand Canyon Management Area includes the area of Stikine River Provincial Park downstream of the boat launch at Highway 37 and most of the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River. This management area is home to a mountain goat population that lives on the steep canyon walls and to several dry steppe plant communities at risk. Aircraft flights below the rim of the canyon are banned from May 15 – July 15 to protect mountain goats on their natal areas. Boating through this area is extremely dangerous and not recommended. Recreation use in the Stikine Grand Canyon Management Area focuses mainly on viewing the canyon and the mountain goats that inhabit it. Some sightseeing flights over the canyon and some hunting activity occur within the Stikine Grand Canyon Management Area.

The Tahltan Nation considers the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River a sacred site.

The Grand Canyon of the Stikine River is zoned Special Feature and the remainder of the Stikine Grand Canyon Management Area is zoned Wilderness Recreation. The Grand Canyon of the Stikine River is currently relatively inaccessible, and the Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP has provided the following direction (Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP 2000):

- “Allow a range of frontcountry to backcountry viewing opportunities along the Grand Canyon of the Stikine”.

Management Objectives

- *To protect the mountain goat population and dry steppe ecosystems along the Stikine River.*
- *To provide viewing opportunities of the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River.*
- *To recognize Tahltan Nation spiritual values in managing the area.*

Key Considerations and Strategies

- Closely monitor sightseeing aircraft flights to determine their effects on the mountain goat population.
- Maintain current avoidance specifications for mountain goats in the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River.

Stikine Country Protected Areas Management Plan – November 2003

- Flying over the Stikine Canyon (Lathan Creek to Telegraph Creek) is permitted at an altitude of greater than 1050 meters (3500 feet) above sea level.
- Flying within the Stikine Canyon is permitted only from site Z (UTM 255422) to UTM 140447, and must be low in the canyon, and only when wind, visibility, and pilot skill permits. No hovering or circling is permitted to take place.
- All efforts are to be made to avoid disturbing mountain goats occupying the area of site Z (UTM 255422).
- Flying within the Stikine Canyon is prohibited during the kidding season May 15 to July 15.
- Monitor the effects of aircraft on the mountain goats for possible impacts and develop and implement additional management strategies if necessary.
- Allow helicopter landings only for management purposes or by special permit, and only if they have extremely low impacts and provide significant benefits to the protected areas system.
- Consider new facilities (trails, routes and structures) in selected locations subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process. Strictly control the size, design and location of any new facilities. New shelters will be in the form of small, rustic backcountry shelters such as tent frames and small cabins.
- New facilities (trails, routes and structures) will not be considered in the Special Feature Zone other than those associated with approved backcountry viewing opportunities.
- Initially, develop one trail or route to the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River subject to conducting an impact assessment following BC Parks Impact Assessment Process to avoid unacceptable impacts on mountain goat populations or on plants or plant communities at risk, from viewing activities or trails.
- Provide a pullout on the Telegraph Creek Road for access to the proposed initial trail to the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River. Provide additional pullouts for additional trails as required.
- Work with the Tahltan Nation to ensure that public viewing areas or trails are located, designed and signed in recognition of First Nations spiritual values.
- Establish up to 2 commercial recreational guiding opportunities (excluding hunting) in the Stikine Grand Canyon Management Area. Preference for guided recreational opportunities will be given to qualified guides from the Tahltan Nation.
- Consider restrictions on hunting of mountain goats in viewing areas of the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River in consultation with affected user groups.
- Accommodate existing commercial uses that are consistent with protected area values, as recommended in the Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP.
- Implement the Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP direction to “*Identify existing private commercial uses that may be untenured and seek to accommodate those uses consistent with protected areas values and the protected area management plan e.g. the existing trail riding operation*”.
- Map plants and dry steppe communities at risk along the Stikine River and protect them from human disturbance.
- Boating through the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River is not recommended. Boating through the canyon will be by permit only and must be undertaken at the boater’s own risk.

10.2.7 Middle Stikine River Management Area

The Middle Stikine River Management Area contains the boat launch at Highway 37, Stikine River Provincial Park between the Highway 37 crossing and Beggerlay Creek, and a corridor area 0.5 kilometres on either side of the river upstream of Beggerlay Creek to the Spatsizi River, and along the Pitman River to Pitman River Protected Area. This management area contains important caribou winter range, and a significant portion of the only fully protected area in British Columbia enclosing contiguous streams, large rivers and lakes believed to support blue-listed bull trout in the full diversity of its life histories.

The middle section of the Stikine River is commonly used by floatcraft and motorboats. Facilities include: a guide-outfitter camp near the confluence of the Stikine and Spatsizi rivers; a trapper's cabin beside the McBride River; an Environmental Stewardship Division cabin on the Stikine River near the Spatsizi River; the BCR railroad bridge over the Stikine River; and a foot bridge over Beggerlay Creek. Any future facility development within Stikine River Provincial Park will be focussed in this management area.

The Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP provided the following direction (Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP 2000):

- “Allow opportunities for construction of backcountry cabins as required to support recreational use, compatible with protected area values”;
- “Continue to allow motorized boat use for recreation and hunting along the Stikine, Chukachida, and Pitman Rivers, consistent with acceptable types and levels of use”; and,
- “Allow opportunities for frontcountry tourism development in the vicinity of the Stikine Bridge on Highway 37”.

Three management plan zones apply to the Middle Stikine River Management Area. The area around the Highway 37 Bridge is zoned Intensive Recreation in recognition of the area's higher use and to allow possible frontcountry tourism development at this strategic location. The Natural Environment Zone covers the water portion of the Stikine River upstream from the Intensive Recreation Zone, and the water portion of the mainstem of the Pitman River (the associated foreshore areas are zoned Wilderness Recreation) to acknowledge the multi-day motorboat trips. The guide-outfitter camp near the confluence of the Stikine and Spatsizi rivers is also zoned Natural Environment. The rest of the Middle Stikine River Management Area is zoned Wilderness Recreation

Rafters, canoeists, hunters and motorboat users travelling on the Stikine River are the main outdoor recreation users of this area. Motorboats, floatplanes and horses are often used to access hunting areas. Other users include guide-outfitters and their clients, and some hikers.

Management Objectives

- To protect bull trout populations and caribou winter range.
- To provide non-motorized user groups with wilderness opportunities with few interactions with motorized users.
- To provide for motorboat use as a means of transportation.
- To maintain a wilderness setting with few facilities.

- To facilitate non-motorized winter outdoor recreation activities.
- To provide limited frontcountry development near the Highway 37 Bridge.

Key Considerations and Strategies

- Consider new facilities (trails, routes and structures) and additions to existing camps in selected locations subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process. Strictly control the size, design and location of any new facilities. New shelters will be in the form of small, rustic backcountry shelters such as tent frames and small cabins. Additions to existing commercial recreation camps will only be considered in conjunction with new approved commercial recreation activities.
- Work with Ministry of Transportation to maintain access to the Stikine River at the Highway 37 Bridge.
- Consider road access to potential frontcountry type development at the Highway 37 Bridge while avoiding unacceptable impacts to park values.
- Investigate developing a trail for half to full day frontcountry hiking trips and/or an interpretive trail in the Stikine River Bridge area.
- Allow motorboat use to continue on the Stikine and Pitman rivers, consistent with historic types and levels of use.
- Encourage non-motorized boat users to travel at times when the chance of encountering motorboats will be minimal and provide them with information about motorized use.
- Encourage all river users to practice no-trace camping techniques.
- Provide information on river etiquette to motorized and non-motorized river users to address safety concerns and to minimize potential negative interactions.
- Consider limits on motorboat use above Beggerlay Canyon before the hunting season opens, if necessary, to maintain an appropriate balance between motorized and non-motorized users.
- Monitor river user experiences and site impacts and establish controls on river use, if needed, to maintain visitor satisfaction. Possible controls include number of groups, group size, trip timing and number of trips/day.
- Consider commercial motorboat use on the Stikine River system above the Highway 37 Bridge for drop-off and pick-up purposes involving multi-day trips, and guide-outfitter support only. Provide a limited number of trips by a maximum of 2 commercial operators.
- Consider commercial non-motorized winter recreation opportunities where they do not pose unacceptable impacts on caribou and their winter range.
- Assess the extent and impacts of unauthorized camps (e.g. along the Stikine River downstream from the mouth of the Spatsizi River) and develop site plans as needed. If necessary, remove some sites and designate formal camping areas.
- Monitor water quality in the Stikine River and affected tributaries prior to and after proposed forest harvesting development north of the park.
- Work with the Ministry of Forests to minimize and mitigate impacts on water quality, quantity and flow, and other protected area values by forest harvesting practices and associated road building.
- Work with BC Rail to determine the safety conditions at the BCR railroad bridge and to implement any required measures.

10.2.8 Kehlechoa Management Area

The Kehlechoa Management Area covers the area within Stikine River Provincial Park north of the Stikine River corridor between Beggerlay Creek and Pitman River Protected Area. This management area consists mostly of lower elevation forests in the northern portion with some alpine areas in the western portion. The low elevation forests contain high value caribou and moose winter habitat; high elevation alpine areas contain important Stone's sheep and mountain goat habitat. Outdoor recreation use in the management area is low and there are no known facilities in this management area. The management area is mostly used by hunters, and guide-outfitters and their clients; guide-outfitters often use horses to access hunting areas.

The Kehlechoa Management Area is zoned Wilderness Recreation with a focus on maintaining caribou and caribou winter habitat values. New structures will generally not be considered in this management area unless necessary to support existing tenures. Instead, potential new structures will be directed to the river corridor in the Middle Stikine River Management Area.

Management Objectives

- *To protect wildlife and high value wildlife habitat, especially caribou winter range.*
- *To provide generally non-facility based backcountry recreation.*

Key Considerations and Strategies

- New structures will not be considered in this management area unless they are necessary to support existing tenures. Additions to existing commercial recreation camps will only be considered in conjunction with new approved commercial recreation activities.
- New trails and routes may be established only after conducting an impact assessment following the BC Parks Impact Assessment Process.
- Consider commercial non-motorized recreation that uses existing facilities within this and adjacent areas.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations to minimize and mitigate impacts of potential industrial activity and access in the area adjacent to the north, in the McBride River area, and in the area east of Tucho River, on protected area values, especially caribou and caribou winter range.
- Focus on maintaining caribou and caribou winter habitat, and Stone's sheep and mountain goat populations and habitat.

10.2.9 Upper Stikine Management Area

The Upper Stikine Management Area covers the area north and east of the Middle Stikine River and Dawson/Tomias areas between the Pitman and Chukachida rivers. This management area contains mostly valley bottom and lower elevation forest, as well as the Stikine River upstream of the Spatsizi River to the Chukachida River, and the lower reaches of the Chukachida River. The management area includes significant low elevation caribou and moose winter habitat and bull trout habitat.

Outdoor recreation use of areas not adjacent to the Stikine River is low; most use in that part of the area is by hunters and guide-outfitters and their clients; guide-outfitters often use horses to access hunting areas. Both motorized and non-motorized boat traffic use the Stikine and Chukachida rivers.

Facilities include the guide-outfitter camp at Hyland Post (on private property) and a guide-outfitter cabin at the confluence of the Chukachida and Stikine rivers. In recognition of the high wildlife values in this management area and difficult access, new cabins or tent frames will not be considered in this management area; any potential new facilities will be directed to the river corridor in the Middle Stikine River Management Area.

Two management plan zones apply to the Upper Stikine Management Area. The Natural Environment Zone covers the water portions of the Stikine and Chukachida rivers and the water portion of the Spatsizi River downstream from Hyland Post (the associated foreshore areas are zoned Wilderness Recreation) to acknowledge the multi-day motorboat trips. The rest of the management area is zoned Wilderness Recreation and excludes the private property at Hyland Post.

Management Objectives

- *To protect high value wildlife habitat, especially low elevation moose and caribou winter habitat.*
- *To protect bull trout and bull trout habitat.*
- *To continue to provide non-facility based backcountry recreation.*
- *To provide non-motorized user groups with wilderness opportunities with few interactions with motorized users.*
- *To provide for motorboat use as a means of transportation.*

Key Considerations and Strategies

- New structures will not be considered in this management area.
- New trails and routes may be established only after conducting an impact assessment following the BC Parks Impact Assessment Process.
- Allow helicopter landings only for management purposes or by special permit, and only if they have extremely low impacts and provide significant benefits to the protected areas system.
- Allow motorboat use to continue on the Stikine River, on the Spatsizi River downstream from Hyland Post, and on the Chukachida River, consistent with historic types and levels of use.
- Maintain the non-motorized use restriction on the Spatsizi River upstream of Hyland Post from breakup to September 1. One exception is provided to allow the guide-outfitter to access Bear Camp for maintenance purposes.
- Encourage non-motorized boat users to travel at times when the chance of meeting motorboat users is minimal and provide them with information on motorized boat use.
- Provide information on river etiquette to all motorized and non-motorized river users to address safety concerns and to minimize potential negative interactions.
- Consider limits on motorboat use above Beggerlay Canyon before the hunting season opens, if necessary, to maintain an appropriate balance between motorized and non-motorized uses.
- Monitor river user experiences and site impacts and establish controls on river use, if needed, to maintain visitor satisfaction. Possible controls include number of groups, group size, trip timing, and number of trips/day.

- Consider commercial motorboat use on the Stikine River system above the Highway 37 Bridge for drop-off and pick-up purposes for multi-day trips, and guide-outfitter support only. Provide a limited number of trips by a maximum of 2 commercial operators.
- Consider commercial non-motorized recreation that uses existing facilities within this and adjacent management areas.
- Assess areas of concentrated horse use (e.g. guide-outfitter camps) and develop strategies to minimize impacts of horse use where required.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations to minimize and mitigate impacts of potential industrial activity and access in the adjacent area to the east of the management area on protected area values, especially caribou and moose.
- Assess the extent and type of impacts of informal campsite use (e.g. along the Stikine River downstream from the mouth of the Spatsizi River) and develop site plans as needed. If necessary, remove some sites and designate formal camping areas.
- Work cooperatively with the private property owner of Hyland Post to encourage private management of the site that reflects the intent of the Stikine Country Protected Areas Management Plan.

10.2.10 Pitman River Management Area

The Pitman River Management Area includes the entire Pitman River Protected Area. The management area includes important moose winter habitat and bull trout habitat and a wildlife movement corridor linking Stikine Country Protected Areas with important wildlife habitat and protected areas to the east. Guide-outfitters and hunters are the primary outdoor recreation users of this management area; motorboats, floatplanes and horses are often used to access hunting areas. The only facility in this management area is the guide-outfitter camp on Pitman Lake.

The Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP provided for possible road access across the Pitman River to allow access to potential mines in the adjacent area, if no alternative routes exist outside the protected area. The Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP also provided the following direction for recreation management in the Pitman River Protected Area (Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP 2000):

- “Allow opportunities for construction of backcountry cabins as required to support recreational use, compatible with protected area values”; and,
 - “Continue to allow motorized boat use for recreation and hunting along the Stikine, Chulkachida, and Pitman Rivers, consistent with historic types and levels of use”.
- The Pitman River Management Area is zoned Wilderness Recreation except for the water portion of the mainstem of the Pitman River, which is zoned Natural Environment (the associated foreshore areas are zoned Wilderness Recreation). If a mining road is developed, the road corridor will be zoned Natural Environment.

Management Objectives

- To maintain moose and bull trout and their habitat.
- To maintain the integrity of the wildlife movement corridor along the Pitman River between the Stikine Country area and wildlife habitat to the east.
- To ensure that if road access is required through the area that it follows guidelines set out in the Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP.

- To minimize and mitigate impacts on protected area natural, cultural heritage and recreation values if road access is developed and mining activities occur adjacent to the protected area.
- To maintain the wilderness setting with few facilities.

Key Considerations and Strategies

- Consider new facilities (trails, routes and structures) or additions to existing camps in selected locations subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process. Strictly control the size, design and location of any new facilities. New shelters will be in the form of small, rustic backcountry shelters such as tent frames and small cabins. Additions to existing commercial recreation camps will only be considered in conjunction with new approved commercial recreation activities.
- Allow motorboat use to continue on the Pitman River and Pitman Lake, consistent with historic types and levels of use.
- Consider limits on motorboat use above Beggerlay Canyon before the hunting season opens, if necessary, to maintain an appropriate balance between motorized and non-motorized uses.
- Consider commercial motorboat use on the Stikine River system above the Highway 37 Bridge only for drop-off and pick-up purposes of multi-day trips, and guide-outfitter support. Provide a limited number of trips by a maximum of 2 commercial operators.
- Monitor water quality in the Pitman River prior to and after development if a bridge/road crossing is required.
- Work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines and with the mining industry to minimize and mitigate impacts on water quality, quantity and flow and other protected values within the protected area if bridge/road crossing is required over the Pitman River or if other mining activities occur adjacent to the protected area.
- Work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the mining industry to minimize and mitigate impacts on the Pitman River wildlife movement corridor.
- Conduct stream inventories for the Pitman River to identify important bull trout habitat and to collect basic aquatic information.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations to ensure that any potential bridge across the Pitman River avoids crossing the river near important bull trout habitat.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations on access management if road access is constructed across the Pitman River.
- Assess the extent and type of impacts of informal campsite use and develop site plans as needed. If necessary, remove some sites and designate formal camping areas.
- Monitor angling pressure on the Pitman River fish populations prior to and after development if bridge/road crossing is required and revise angling regulations if necessary.

10.2.11 Chukachida Management Area

The Chukachida Management Area includes all of Chukachida Protected Area. This management area contains important moose winter and summer habitat and bull trout habitat, and a wildlife movement corridor linking Stikine Country Protected Areas with important wildlife habitat and protected areas to the east. Guide-outfitters, angling guides and hunters are the primary outdoor recreation users of this management area, motorboats, floatplanes and

horses are often used to access hunting areas. The only facilities in this area are two cabins, one trapline cabin and one guide-outfitter cabin, on Chukachida Lake.

The Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP provided for possible road access across the Chukachida River to access potential mines in the adjacent area, if no alternative routes exist outside the protected area. The Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP also provided the following direction for recreation management in Chukachida Protected Area (Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP 2000):

- “Allow opportunities for construction of backcountry cabins as required to support recreational use, compatible with protected area values”; and,
- “Continue to allow motorized boat use for recreation and hunting along the Stikine, Chukachida, and Fitman Rivers, consistent with acceptable types and levels of use”.

The Chukachida Management Area is zoned Wilderness Recreation except for the water portion of the mainstem of the Chukachida River, which is zoned Natural Environment (the associated foreshore areas are zoned Wilderness Recreation). If a mining road is developed, the road corridor will be zoned Natural Environment.

Management Objectives

- To maintain moose and bull trout and their habitat.
- To maintain the integrity of the wildlife movement corridor along the Chukachida River between the Stikine Country area and wildlife habitat to the east.
- To ensure that if road access is required through the area that it follows guidelines set out in the Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP.
- To minimize and mitigate impacts on protected area natural, cultural heritage and recreation values if road access is developed or mining activities occur adjacent to the protected area.
- To maintain the wilderness setting with few facilities.

Key Considerations and Strategies

- Consider new facilities (trails, routes and structures) or additions to existing camps in selected locations subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process. Strictly control the size, design and location of any new facilities. New shelters will be in the form of small, rustic backcountry shelters such as tent frames and small cabins. Additions to existing commercial recreation camps will only be considered in conjunction with new approved commercial recreation activities.
- Allow motorboat use to continue on the Chukachida River and Chukachida Lake, consistent with historic types and levels of use.
- Consider limits on motorboat use above Beggerlay Canyon before the hunting season opens, if necessary, to maintain an appropriate balance between motorized and non-motorized uses.
- Consider commercial motorboat use on the Stikine River system above the Highway 37 Bridge only for drop-off and pick-up purposes of multi-day trips, and guide-outfitter support. Provide a limited number of trips by a maximum of 2 commercial operators.
- Monitor water quality in the Chukachida River prior to and after development if a bridge/road crossing is required.

- Work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines and with the mining industry to minimize and mitigate impacts on water quality, quantity and flow and other protected area values within Chukachida Protected Area if bridge/road crossing is required over the Chukachida River or if other mining activities occur in adjacent areas.
- Work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the mining industry to minimize and mitigate impacts on the Chukachida River wildlife movement corridor.
- Conduct stream inventories for the Chukachida River to identify important bull trout habitat and to collect basic aquatic information.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations to ensure that any potential bridge across the Chukachida River avoids crossing the river near important bull trout habitat.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations on access management if road access is constructed across the Chukachida River.
- Assess the extent and type of impacts of informal campsite use and develop site plans as needed. If necessary, remove some sites and designate formal camping areas.
- Monitor angling pressure on the Chukachida River prior to and after development if bridge/road crossing is required and revise angling regulations where required.

10.2.12 Gladys Lake Management Area

The Gladys Lake Management Area includes all of Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve, which is completed surrounded by Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park. The ecological reserve contains important ungulate habitat as well as plants and plant communities at risk. Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve's primary conservation role is to conserve an intact, undisturbed wilderness environment for Stone's sheep, mountain goat and grizzly bear. The ecological reserve also acts as a special benchmark for scientific research and education purposes. The presence of one of the main access trails to Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park, side routes, and a cabin on Gladys Lake present management challenges because outdoor recreation is not a use intended to be specifically accommodated or encouraged in ecological reserves. When the ecological reserve boundary was extended in 1979, existing horse and hiking use was occurring along the Eaglenest Trail through Danihue Pass and a number of other trails near and along the expanded boundary of the ecological reserve. Accommodation of this existing use was and is considered a reasonable compromise in expanding the ecological reserve to ensure better protection of the wildlife populations and their habitats.

Overall Direction

Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve will be managed to protect the Stone's sheep, mountain goat, caribou, grizzly bear populations and their associated habitats. Ecological education and research use will be accommodated under permit provided it is consistent with protecting ecological reserve values and consistent with this management plan. While it is recognized that non-guided public recreational use may occur given the ecological reserve's proximity to Cold Fish Lake, this use will not be encouraged or facilitated (e.g. maintenance or providing information on trails or structures). Horse and hiking use will be accommodated along the Eaglenest Trail through Danihue Pass and designated trails near and along the boundary of the ecological reserve. This horse and hiking use will be limited to supporting access to park lands beyond the ecological reserve for recreational use only (including lawful hunting), and supporting access within the ecological reserve for ecological education and research use only. All horse use and guided activities must be specifically authorized in writing by the Environmental Stewardship Division.

Management objectives and strategies below are intended to provide for this horse and hiking use. If the objectives or strategies prove not feasible in the future, then alternative approaches will be considered to ensure that the ongoing hiking and horse use can continue.

Management Objectives

- *To conserve the values for which the ecological reserve was established, including the protection of significant populations of Stone's sheep, mountain goat, caribou and grizzly bear, and their associated habitat.*
- *To encourage scientific research that focuses on naturally functioning ecosystems with a priority on Stone's sheep, mountain goat, caribou and grizzly bear populations and habitat, and on species and plant communities at risk.*
- *To protect the values of the ecological reserve while allowing reasonable access to Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park for recreational use (including lawful hunting) along designated trails.*
- *To accommodate guided and unguided ecological education.*

Key Considerations and Strategies

- Consider proposals for scientific research consistent with the objectives for the ecological reserve and this management plan. Research priorities include: naturally functioning ecosystems (including use of the ecological reserve as a benchmark for measuring the effects of human use that occurs in other areas); Stone's sheep, mountain goat, caribou and grizzly bear populations and habitat; and species and plant communities at risk.
- Allow access to the ecological reserve by foot only except for horse travel along the following specific trails - Eaglenest Creek Trail through Danihue Pass, Icebox Canyon Trail, Waterfall Creek Trail, and Paramount Trail (see Appendix 12 for a map showing designated trails in Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve).
- Persons authorized to use horses along the above trails will use their best efforts to prevent horses from wandering off the trails, or from adjacent camps, into the ecological reserve. If horses do wander into the ecological reserve or move into the ecological reserve as a reaction to predators, then the persons authorized to use the horses will be permitted to enter the ecological reserve to return the horses to the trails or camps as expeditiously as feasible, and the incident must be reported to a designated Ministry representative within a reasonable time.
- Reasonable maintenance of the above trails will be allowed subject to prior agreement on the type and extent of maintenance.
- Do not encourage or facilitate public outdoor recreation use of the ecological reserve (e.g. discontinue maintenance of the Gladys Lake Trail and remove references to the trail from all protected area brochures and the official Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection web site).
- Allow the Airplane Creek Trail to remain open to hiking use subject to ongoing assessments of impacts on or conflicts with ecological reserve values.
- Close Gladys Lake to aircraft access, except for research and management purposes.
- Work with Transport Canada and other agencies to implement this closure.
- Allow use of the Gladys Lake cabin only for research and management purposes and remove any references to the Gladys Lake cabin from all protected area brochures and the

official Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection web site to discourage outdoor recreation use.

- Review the need for maintenance of the Gladys Lake cabin for research purposes and assess the level of unauthorized recreation use of the cabin.
- Conduct regular impact assessments on the Eaglenest, Icebox Canyon, Waterfall Creek and Paramount trails to ensure that hiking and horse use do not result in unacceptable impacts on ecological reserve values. If necessary, close or relocate portions of trails to avoid further impacts while accommodating continued hiking and horse access to areas beyond the ecological reserve.
- Consider proposals for guided or unguided educational opportunities involving an approved educational plan and subject to a full assessment of potential impacts on ecological reserve values. Priority topics for educational activities are: the significance and intent of the Ecological Reserve system in British Columbia; the role of Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve in the protected areas system in British Columbia; Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve values; natural ecosystem function; wildlife ecology (especially on Stone's sheep, mountain goats, caribou and grizzly bears); boreal vegetation ecology; species and plant communities at risk; geological features and processes; and the role of humans in the ecosystem. Activities that compromise ecological reserve values will not be considered.
- Monitor permitted educational and research activities to assess ongoing use and implement any measures needed to reduce or eliminate unacceptable impacts.
- Clearly locate ecological reserve boundaries and trail locations using GPS technology to facilitate on the ground management.

10.2.13 Eaglenest/Plateau Management Area

The Eaglenest/Plateau Management Area covers most of the northern and western portion of Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park and the southern fringe of Stikine River Provincial Park between the Middle Stikine River Management Area and Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park. This management area contains most of the plateaus in this western area and the Eaglenest Range. The Eaglenest/Plateau Management Area also includes most of the Stone's sheep range in the park as well as important caribou, mountain goat and moose habitat, limited mule deer habitat near Hyland Post, and some plants and plant communities at risk.

Facilities in this management area include most of the popular trails within Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park, including Eaglenest Creek and McEwan Creek trails, and several non-permanent guide-outfitter camps. These facilities are well used, but the management area does not contain any major facility development such as main lodges. Much of the land-based and self-supported outdoor recreation use of Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park, such as hiking, hunting and horse trips, occurs within this management area. Horses are often used to access hunting areas.

This management area is zoned Wilderness Recreation. New structures, such as cabins or tent frames, will not be considered within this management area, although some trails may be developed if they do not pose unacceptable impacts to natural or cultural heritage values.

Management Objectives

- To maintain wildlife populations and their habitat including Stone's sheep, mountain goat, caribou, moose and grizzly bear.
- To protect plants and plant communities at risk.
- To maintain the wilderness setting with few facilities.
- To protect Denkladia Mountain.

Key Considerations and Strategies

- New trails and routes may be established only after conducting an impact assessment following the BC Parks Impact Assessment Process.
- New structures will not be considered in this management area.
- Allow helicopter landings only for management purposes or by special permit, and only if they have extremely low impacts and provide significant benefits to the protected areas system.
- Allow commercial non-motorized winter recreation opportunities that use existing facilities if they do not pose unacceptable impacts on natural or cultural heritage values.
- Work with and explore partnerships with the Iskut First Nation, other agencies, commercial operators and NGOs in managing access along the BCR railroad grade.
- Work with the Tahltan Band Council and the Iskut First Nation to protect Denkladia Mountain by considering limiting access to the area.
- Evaluate areas of concentrated horse use (e.g. guide-outfitter camps) and develop strategies to minimize impacts of horse use if required.
- Conduct surveys of Stone's sheep in the Marion Wildlife Inventory Zone and establish long-term vegetation monitoring plots to monitor habitat quality at the recent Hyland Post burn, and determine the effects of the burn on lamb recruitment and population numbers.
- Consider conducting a prescribed burn near Hyland Post, to fulfil management objectives of the original prescribed burn, subject to consultation with the Tahltan Nation and affected stakeholders.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations to minimize and mitigate impacts of potential industrial activity and access in the Klappan drainage on protected area values.

10.2.14 Dawson/Tomias Management Area

The Dawson/Tomias Management Area contains most of the higher elevation area between the Spatsizi River to the west and the Stikine River to the south, east and north. The management area includes important caribou calving, summer, rutting and winter habitat, mountain goat and moose habitat, and limited Stone's sheep habitat. Outdoor recreation use of the Dawson/Tomias Management Area is lower than in western sections of Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park because of more difficult access and fewer facilities. Much of the use is by commercial operators providing hunting, hiking and horse travel trips. Horses are often used to access hunting areas. Facilities in this area include several non-permanent guide-outfitter camps and some routes mostly used for horse travel. The Dawson/Tomias Management Area is zoned Wilderness Recreation.

Management Objectives

- *To maintain wildlife populations and their habitat especially Stone's sheep, caribou, mountain goat and grizzly bear.*
- *To maintain the wilderness setting with few facilities.*

Key Considerations and Strategies

- New structures will not be considered in this management area.
- New trails and routes may be established only after conducting an impact assessment following the BC Parks Impact Assessment Process.
- Allow helicopter landings only for management purposes or by special permit, and only if they have extremely low impacts and provide significant benefits to the protected areas system.
- Consider commercial non-motorized winter recreation opportunities that use existing facilities if they do not pose unacceptable impacts on natural and cultural heritage values.
- Protect important cultural heritage values in this area.
- Evaluate areas of concentrated horse use (e.g. guide-outfitter camps) and develop strategies to minimize impacts of horse use if required.

10.2.15 Stikine Headwaters Management Area

The Stikine Headwaters Management Area contains the upper reaches of both the Stikine and Spatsizi rivers. It covers much of the lower elevation area in Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park and all of the major lakes in the park. The management area contains mostly summer habitat for caribou, mountain goat, Stone's sheep, moose and grizzly bear and some significant moose and caribou winter range at the lower reaches of the Stikine and Spatsizi rivers within the management area. The lakes are home to most of the major facilities in the Stikine Country Protected Areas System, including the camps at Bug Lake, Cold Fish Lake, Laslui Lake and Buckinghorse Lake. The management area also contains the most scenic parts of the Stikine River and Spatsizi River canoe routes.

The main outdoor recreation activities in this management area are hiking, hunting, angling guiding, horse travel, and canoeing, with some motorboat and raft use. Cold Fish Lake Camp is a focus of land-based public outdoor recreation use, and a park host is present for four months of the year. The guide-outfitter camps provide a centre for commercial activity, which is mostly hunting and angling guiding, with some hiking, horseback riding and skiing trips.

Because of the above factors, the backcountry development pressures now and in the future are likely to be greater in this management area than in any other part of the Stikine Country Protected Areas System. The Stikine Headwaters Management Area is zoned Wilderness Recreation except for the main camps at Cold Fish Lake, Laslui Lake, Bug Lake, and Buckinghorse Lake, which are zoned Natural Environment.

Management Objectives

- *To maintain wildlife populations and wildlife habitat especially birthing habitat and moose and caribou winter range.*
- *To maintain the wilderness setting while allowing public and commercial recreation activity.*

- To maintain Cold Fish Lake Camp for its traditional and historic value and with a priority for public outdoor recreation use.

Key Considerations and Strategies

- Consider new facilities (trails, routes and structures) and additions to existing camps in selected locations subject to an impact assessment following BC Parks Impact Assessment Process. Strictly control the size, design and location of any new facilities. New shelters will be in the form of small, rustic backcountry shelters such as tent frames and small cabins. Additions to existing commercial recreation camps will only be considered in conjunction with new approved commercial recreation activities.
- Designate some lakes to remain free from any facility development to maintain their relatively undisturbed wilderness character.
- Work with the Tahltan Nation to implement a cultural heritage signage and interpretation program at Cold Fish Lake camp.
- Allow maintenance of and upgrades to Cold Fish Lake camp, subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process.
- Consider a range of opportunities that would result in self-sustaining maintenance of the Cold Fish Camp facilities, which retain traditional and historic values and provide for continued public use. Opportunities may include:
 - increased user fees;
 - public/private sponsorship; and,
 - operation of the facilities by the Tahltan Nation, NGOs and/or other public groups or partnerships.
- Any proposals would be considered in conjunction with the Nature Trust of British Columbia, the Tahltan Nation, and the proposed Stikine Country Protected Areas Advisory Committee.
- Continue to maintain the deactivated status of the Cold Fish Lake airstrip.
- Maintain the BC Parks motorboat at Cold Fish Lake for safety and management purposes and park host use only.
- Maintain the non-motorized use restriction on the Spatsizi River upstream of Hyland Post from breakup to September 1. One exception is provided to allow the guide-outfitter access to Bear Camp for maintenance purposes.
- Manage aircraft access to Happy Lake, the unnamed lake west of Tuaton Mountain and the unnamed lake west of Buckinghorse Lake.
- Encourage non-motorized boat users to travel at times when the chance of meeting motorboat users is minimal and provide them with information about motorized use.
- Allow motorboat use to continue on Buckinghorse, Bug, Cold Fish, Ella, Hotlesklwa, Lashui and Tuaton lakes, consistent with historic levels of use.
- Consider commercial non-motorized winter recreation opportunities where they do not pose unacceptable impacts on the natural and cultural heritage values.
- Work with and explore partnerships with the Iskut First Nation, other agencies, commercial operators and NGOs in managing access along the BCR railroad grade.
- Evaluate areas of concentrated horse use (e.g. guide-outfitter camps) and develop strategies to minimize impacts of horse use if required.
- Restore the Fountain Rapids campground area and designate formal camping areas to prevent further site damage if required.

- Discourage firewood collection at Fountain Rapids and provide visitors with information about collecting firewood prior to arriving at Fountain Rapids.
- Rehabilitate and improve the Fountain Rapids portage trail to avoid unacceptable impacts on wet areas.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations to minimize and mitigate potential impact of industrial activity and access near the Stikine Headwaters Management Area on protected area values, especially wildlife.
- Monitor river user experience and site impacts, and establish controls on river use, if needed, to maintain visitor satisfaction. Possible controls include numbers of groups, group size, trip timing and number of trips/day.

10.2.16 Metsantan Management Area

The Metsantan Management Area covers the Metsantan Addition to Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park. This management area contains the Caribou Hide and Metsantan village sites. The Tahltan Nation considers these areas to have extremely high cultural heritage significance to their people and thus they are zoned Special Feature. The remainder of the Metsantan Management Area is zoned Wilderness Recreation.

Outdoor recreation use of this management area is low which is appropriate for this sensitive cultural heritage site. Protection of the remaining buildings at the Metsantan village site is important to the Tahltan people.

Management Objectives

- *To protect the high cultural heritage values at the Caribou Hide and Metsantan village sites and to recognize other sites throughout the management area.*

Key Considerations and Strategies

- Work with the Tahltan Band Council and Iskut First Nation to develop a policy for the Metsantan site with respect to protection and possible rehabilitation of the traditional village site.
- New facilities (structures, trails and routes) will be considered for cultural and interpretive purposes only, after conducting an impact assessment following the BC Parks Impact Assessment Process.
- Allow helicopter landings only for management purposes or by special permit, and only if they have extremely low impacts and provide significant benefits to the protected areas system. Manage aircraft access to Metsantan Lake.
- Protect cultural heritage values by maintaining a strict limit on the number of floatplane landings on Metsantan Lake.
- Work with other agencies and the Tahltan Band Council and Iskut First Nation by participating in planning and management of access from the Omineca Mining Road to minimize and mitigate impacts of that access on cultural heritage values in the Metsantan Management Area.
- Work with the Tahltan Band Council and Iskut First Nation to develop an access management plan for the Metsantan village site.

- Work with other agencies and the Tahltan Band Council and Iskut First Nation to minimize and mitigate impacts of potential industrial activity and access in the vicinity of Metsantan Management Area on protected area values.
- Establish an Initial Attack Zone for fire suppression in the Metsantan Management Area.

10.2.17 Chapea Management Area

The Chapea Management Area is located on the east side of Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park and includes most of the Chapea Creek drainage. This management area contains some high value caribou habitat in the Edozadelly Mountain area; outdoor recreation use is extremely low as it is remote and contains no facilities or trails. The Chapea Management Area is zoned Wilderness Recreation.

Management Objectives

- *To maintain caribou and their summer and rutting habitat.*
- *To maintain the wilderness setting with no facilities.*

Key Considerations and Strategies

- New structures will not be considered in this management area.
- New trails and routes may be established only after conducting an impact assessment following BC Parks Impact Assessment Process.
- Allow helicopter landings only for management purposes or by special permit, and only if they have extremely low impacts and provide significant benefits to the protected areas system.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations to minimize and mitigate the effects of potential industrial activity and access in the area to the east of Chapea Management Area on protected area values.

10.2.18 Tatlatui Management Area

The Tatlatui Management Area includes all of Tatlatui Provincial Park and contains mostly spring, summer and fall habitat for caribou, moose, mountain goat and grizzly bear, and a rainbow trout only fish system in all waters of the park. The angling guides and guide-outfitters based on several lakes in Tatlatui Provincial Park are the park's primary users. These guides have permanent camps at five locations in the park: two locations on the Firesteel River, and on Kitchener, Stalk and Tatlatui lakes. In addition, a public use cabin exists on Kitchener Lake.

Most of the recreation use in this park is commercial and related to hunting and angling because of the park's remote location from access points. Angling guiding is concentrated on the Firesteel River, leading to some pressures on the wilderness values in this management area.

The Tatlatui Management Area is zoned Wilderness Recreation except for camps at Tatlatui Lake, Kitchener Lake, Stalk Lake and the Firesteel River (two sites) which are zoned Natural Environment.

Management Objectives

- *To maintain wildlife populations and their habitat.*

- To maintain the wilderness quality of visits to this remote area with few facilities.
- To manage aircraft access levels and patterns to maintain the wilderness experience of users.

Key Considerations and Strategies

- New trails and routes may be established only after conducting an impact assessment following BC Parks Impact Assessment Process.
- Consider allowing an additional structure in Tatlatui Provincial Park to support guiding hunting activities only, subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process, BC Parks Design Guidelines, consultation with affected users, and no significant impacts on other existing operations in the park. Other new structures will not be considered in this management area.
- Allow motorboat use to continue on Kitchener, Stalk, and Tatlatui lakes, and on the Firesteel River consistent with historic levels of use.
- Manage aircraft access to Hoy Lake and the unnamed lake southwest of Kitchener Lake.
- Encourage affected stakeholders to develop an acceptable strategy for dealing with current user issues in Tatlatui Provincial Park.
- Consider commercial non-motorized winter recreation opportunities that use existing facilities where they do not pose unacceptable impacts on natural and cultural heritage values.
- Allow no more than three angling guides to conduct angling guiding activities. No new angling guides will be allowed in this management area.
- Establish a working group consisting of government staff, First Nations, angling guides, anglers, and other stakeholders to develop specific guidelines for angling and angling guide management in Tatlatui Provincial Park. Consider defining an angling zone for each waterbody or adjoining waterbodies, classifying waterbodies (or angling zones) into angling experience categories, and assigning rod-days by experience category, or other approaches for managing guided angling use.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations by participating in the planning and management of access from the Omineca Mining Road, to minimize and mitigate impacts of that access on Tatlatui Provincial Park.
- Work with other agencies and First Nations to minimize and mitigate impact of potential industrial activity and access in the area surrounding the park on protected area values.
- Assess and confirm reported mountain pine beetle outbreaks and develop a strategy for managing these mountain pine beetle outbreaks if necessary.
- Conduct ground investigations to confirm sightings of pikas and melanistic chipmunks and, if required, determine their extent and range.
- Focus outdoor recreation activities in the eastern portion of the park where grizzly habitat values and use are lower to minimize potential interactions between bears and humans.

Table 5. Key values and management direction for Management Areas in the Skagit County Protected Areas.

Table 5. Key values and management direction for Management Areas in the Skikine County Protected Areas.					
Natural and cultural heritage values	Existing facilities and recreation				
	Management direction	New facilities	Zone	values	
VOLCANIC PLATEAU	• Mount Edziza Range	• Domination Telegraph Trail	• Wilderness Recreation	Structures:	• Maintain the ban on helicopter landings on cinder cones and implement a ban on helicopter landings on calcite deposits at hot springs
MOUNT EDZIZA VOLCANO	• Mount Edziza Trail	• Wilderness Recreation	• No	Structures:	• Restric access up Eve Cone to the marked trail
MOUNT EDZIZA VOLCANO	• Trapline cabin on Mess Lake	• Feature	• No	Trails/Routes:	• Build designated trails at hot springs if necessary
MOUNT EDZIZA VOLCANO	• Cinder cones	• Guided-outfitter camp on	• Mess Lake	Hot springs	• Maintain the ban on wheeled aircraft landings
MOUNT EDZIZA VOLCANO	• Hot springs	• around cinder cones and calcite deposits	• No	Trails/Routes:	• Develop and provide park visitors with information on the cultural importance of obsidian deposits to the Thalain people, the fragile nature of lichen crust communities on cones and vegetation at risk at hot springs and in the alpine springs)
MOUNT EDZIZA VOLCANO	• Pipe Organ Mountain	• calcite deposits	• No	Structures:	• Develop and provide park visitors with information on the cultural importance of obsidian deposits to the Thalain people, the fragile nature of lichen crust communities on cones and vegetation at risk at hot springs and in the alpine springs)
MOUNT EDZIZA VOLCANO	• most of the Stoney's sheep herd and most of the Stoney's goat range in Mount Edziza Park	• most of the Stoney's sheep herd and most of the Stoney's goat range in Mount Edziza Park	• herds' summer range	herds' summer range in Mount Edziza caribou	• most of Mount Edziza caribou herd's winter range
BUCKLEY LAKE	• Canyon features along Skikine River and Mess Creek including dry gullies	• Mount Edziza caribou herd's winter range	• mule deer habitat	• mule deer habitat	• mule deer habitat
BUCKLEY LAKE	• Mount Edziza Trail	• Wilderness Recreation	Structures:	• Conduct a study on winter range use of caribou using radio-collarled caribou	• Conduct a study on winter range use of caribou using radio-collarled caribou
BUCKLEY LAKE	• Krasilnikov Telegraph Creek Trail	• Recreational	Trails/Routes:	• Map plants at risk and dry steppe plant communities along the Skikine River, Krasilnikov River and Mess Creek and protect them from human disturbance	• Map plants at risk and dry steppe plant communities along the Skikine River, Krasilnikov River and Mess Creek and protect them from human disturbance
BUCKLEY LAKE	• 2 triple-line campsite and Buckley Lake gullie-outfitter camp at Buckley Creek	• Recreational	Trails/Routes:	• Investigate the current population structure of trout in Buckley Lake and monitor angling pressure	• Investigate the current population structure of trout in Buckley Lake and monitor angling pressure
BUCKLEY LAKE	• non-permanent structures only east of Mess Creek	• Recreational	Trails/Routes:	• Further stocking of Buckley Lake will not be allowed	• Further stocking of Buckley Lake will not be allowed
BUCKLEY LAKE	• non-permanent structures only east of Mess Creek	• Recreational	Trails/Routes:	• Subject to BC Parks and Assessment Process	• Subject to BC Parks and Assessment Process
BUCKLEY LAKE	• 2 triple-line campsite and Buckley Lake gullie-outfitter camp at Buckley Creek	• Recreational	Trails/Routes:	• Subject to BC Parks and Assessment Process	• Subject to BC Parks and Assessment Process
BUCKLEY LAKE	• old village site near Mess Creek	• Recreational	Trails/Routes:	• Buckley Lake area	• Buckley Lake area
BUCKLEY LAKE	• some old cabins in the Buckley Lake area	• Recreational	Trails/Routes:	• some old cabins in the Buckley Lake area	• some old cabins in the Buckley Lake area

Table 5. Key values and management direction for Management Areas in the Stikine Country Protected Areas.

Natural and cultural heritage values	Existing facilities and recreational values	Management Direction		
		Zone	New Facilities	Other direction
KLASTLINE				
• mule deer habitat • some caribou winter range • canyon features along the Klastline River	• Klastline/Telegraph Creek Trail	• Wilderness Recreation	Structures: • small rustic backcountry shelters • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process ¹ Trails/Routes: • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process	• Follow Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP guidelines regarding snowmobile use, motorized use and cabin construction • Map mule deer winter range • Develop snowmobile use guidelines along Klastline Trail with the Tahltan Band Council and the Iskut First Nation • Review bridge placement options over Klastline River with the Tahltan Band Council and the Iskut First Nation
KAKIDDI LAKES				
• Rainbow trout only fish system	• Mount Edziza Trail • Mowdade Lake campsite	• Wilderness Recreation	Structures: • small, rustic backcountry shelters • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process ¹ Trails/Routes: • subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process	• Work with other agencies, the First Nations and the mining industry to monitor, minimize and mitigate impacts on water quality, quantity and flow and other protected area values if a mining road is developed or if mining activities occur adjacent to the park • Monitor angling pressure and water quality of the Kakiddi Lakes chain before and after development if a road is required • Evaluate the potential of the Kakiddi Lakes chain as a canoe route

Stikine Country Protected Areas Management Plan – November 2003

Table 5. Key values and management direction for Management Areas in the Stikine Country Protected Areas.

Natural and cultural heritage values	Existing facilities and recreational values	Management Direction		
		Zone	New Facilities	Other direction
MOUNT EDZIZA PROTECTED AREA				
• Rainbow trout only fish system		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilderness Recreation Natural Environment around potential mining road if developed 	<p>Structures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> small, rustic backcountry shelters subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process¹ <p>Trails/Routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with other agencies, First Nations and the mining industry to monitor, minimize and mitigate impacts on water quality, quantity and flow and other protected area values if a mining road is developed or if other mining activities occur, and to follow LRMP recommendations for road development in the proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area Monitor angling pressure on Kakidi Lakes chain before and after development if a road is required Install a gate on any road through the proposed Mount Edziza Protected Area and deactivate once use associated with mining is finished Evaluate the need to develop a portage trail to supply canoe access to Nuttluke Lake if road construction occurs
STIKINE GRAND CANYON				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grand Canyon of the Stikine River Stikine Canyon mountain goat population rare steppe plant communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mountain goat/canyon viewing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilderness Recreation Special Feature around the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River itself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilderness Recreation Zone only <p>Structures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> small, rustic backcountry shelters subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process¹ <p>Trails/Routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> subject to BC Parks Impact Assessment Process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue no flying zone below the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River from May 15 to July 15 Continue other flight avoidance specifications for mountain goats in the Grand Canyon Closely monitor effects of sightseeing flights on mountain goats Initially, develop one trail or route to the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River, and a pull out for the trail on the Telegraph Creek Road Consider restrictions on hunting of mountain goats in viewing areas of the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River in consultation with affected user groups Follow Cassiar Iskut-Stikine LRMP direction Map and protect dry steppe plant communities