
INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Environment

KAKWA PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVED

VICTORIA – The Province has approved a management plan for Kakwa Provincial Park and Protected Area.

The 171,000 hectare park, located approximately 70 km north of McBride, will be managed to protect and support vulnerable species, specifically focusing on grizzly bear, woodland caribou and bighorn sheep. Management for ecological integrity and wilderness preservation will be of highest priority, and is reflected by the park's predominant Wilderness Recreation Zoning.

Sustainable and compatible low-impact backcountry recreation will be permitted and will be managed on an ecosystem basis to protect conservation values.

Snowmobile use will continue to be permitted within an area zoned as Nature Recreation, between Dec. 1 and April 15 or 30 each winter. The park will be managed by BC Parks to provide for world-class wilderness snowmobiling, while ensuring impacts to conservation values and other wilderness users are minimized. New information regarding wildlife will be incorporated into the zoning as it becomes known. To view maps of winter protected area zoning and snowmobile zoning in the park, please go to www.env.gov.bc.ca/pac/winterzoning/.

BC Parks prepares management plans to guide how a protected area will be managed over the next 10 to 20 years. The plan sets out objectives and strategies for conservation, development, interpretation and operation of a protected area. A management plan relies on current information relating to such subjects as natural values, cultural values, and recreation opportunities within a protected area and resource activities occurring on surrounding lands. The planning process includes public consultation.

The Kakwa Provincial Park and Protected Area management plan can be viewed at www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/kakwa.html.

The B.C. government has invested more than \$20 million in parks infrastructure upgrades across the province over the last two years. British Columbia has more than 800 provincial parks and protected areas covering 13.8 per cent of the province. It is the largest provincial parks system in Canada.

In April, Kakwa Provincial Park and Alberta's Kakwa Wildland and Willmore Wilderness parks were designated as B.C.'s first Inter-Provincial Park.

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