

KETTLE RIVER RECREATION AREA

Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

The recreation area's **primary purpose** is to provide a range of outdoor recreation opportunities for Highway 33 and 3 travellers and Rock Creek area residents.

Kettle River Recreation Area, 179 hectares in size, is situated on Highway 33, five kilometres north of Rock Creek. The recreation area consists of an open, mature ponderosa and lodgepole pine forest straddling the Kettle River. The former Kettle Valley Railway right-of-way, part of the Trans Canada Trail, crosses the river and passes through the recreation area, but is not part of the protected area.

The recreation area is a popular overnight and day use destination. Facilities include 87 campsites, a group campground and a day use area on the edge of the river near the old railway bridge. Activities include camping, walking, hiking, mountain biking, swimming, rafting/floating, fishing, picnicking and nature study. The recreation area is an important access point to the rail right-of-way for day trips and for extensive trips to Myra Canyon and the Okanagan valley.

The recreation area's **secondary purpose** is to protect the dry forest and a stretch of the Kettle River.

Located in the Northern Okanagan Highland Ecosession, the recreation area is one of the smaller contributors to this under-represented ecosession. The protected area only adds a small amount to the under-represented IDFxh1 subzone/variant. No CDC species at risk sites have been recorded. The area is an important winter range for deer and there is a high incidence of tree cavity nesting birds throughout the protected area.

A **tertiary purpose** of the recreation area is to protect its archaeological and historic values. There is evidence of First Nation interest and old mining activity as well as the adjacent Kettle Valley Railway values.

Known Management Issues	Response
The Kettle Valley Railway right-of-way and bridge are Crown-owned but not presently part of the recreation area. These features require continued maintenance and generate a great deal of recreational use that requires management by Environmental Stewardship Division staff.	The right-of-way within the recreation area has been recommended for addition to the recreation area by the Kootenay Inter-Agency Management Committee as part of the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan protected area goal 2 review. The recommendation also includes upgrading the existing recreation area to Class A park status.
Lack of overnight/long-term parking for Kettle Valley Railway right-of-way users.	Provision will be made for a secure parking area for the rail right-of-way users when funding permits. The Environmental Stewardship Division will work with the Trans Canada Trail committee and local interests to ensure that the parking facilities fit into the overall plans for the Trans Canada Trail.
The park is part of a fire-maintained ecosystem in which fire has been actively controlled for many years resulting in in-growth.	Undertake under-story burns and other appropriate control measures to control the infill growth.
The adjacent private land owner has concerns with park and KVR users accessing and crossing his farm lands.	Work with the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and the Trans Canada Trail Committee to develop and implement strategies to resolve these concerns.

Zoning

The northern half of the recreation area west of the river is zoned Intensive Recreation to provide camping and river and upland-oriented day use recreation opportunities (approximately 73 hectares or 41% of the park). The remainder of the recreation area (approximately 106 hectares or 59% of the park) is zoned Natural Environment to protect its natural values and provide low-intensity recreation opportunities in a natural setting.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection Northern Okanagan Highland – contributes only 0.53% to this under-represented ecosection. Major contributors are Graystokes Protected Area (36.04%), Myra-Bellevue Protected Area (19.48%), Silver Star (14.45%) and Okanagan Mountain (13.29%).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant IDFxh1 – contributes only about 1% of the representation for this BGC unit in the protected areas system, but about 30% of the representation of this ecosystem in the ecosection

Special Feature

Rare/Endangered Values

Scientific/Research Opportunities

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination Popular destination campground; regionally important access point to KVR right-of-way (Trans Canada Trail)
- travel corridor Important role - only provincial park campground along Highway 33, close proximity to Rock Creek and Highway 3 travellers
- local recreation Day use destination for river-oriented activities (e.g. swimming), and use of the KVR

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

- First Nation interests; railway and mining history

Special Feature

- Railway bridge (when KVR right-of-way added to recreation area)

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

Vulnerability

Relationship to Other Strategies

PAS – Kootenay Inter-agency Management Committee recommends upgrading to Class A park status and addition of rail right-of-way to park

Area: 179 hectares

Date of establishment: July 6, 1972