

MANAGEMENT PLAN

May 2008



for Francis Point
Provincial Park
and Ecological Reserve



Ministry of Environment,
Environmental Stewardship
Division

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Francis Point Provincial Park and
Ecological Reserve

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by
Lower Mainland Region
Environmental Stewardship Division



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Francis Point Provincial Park and
Ecological Reserve

Management Plan

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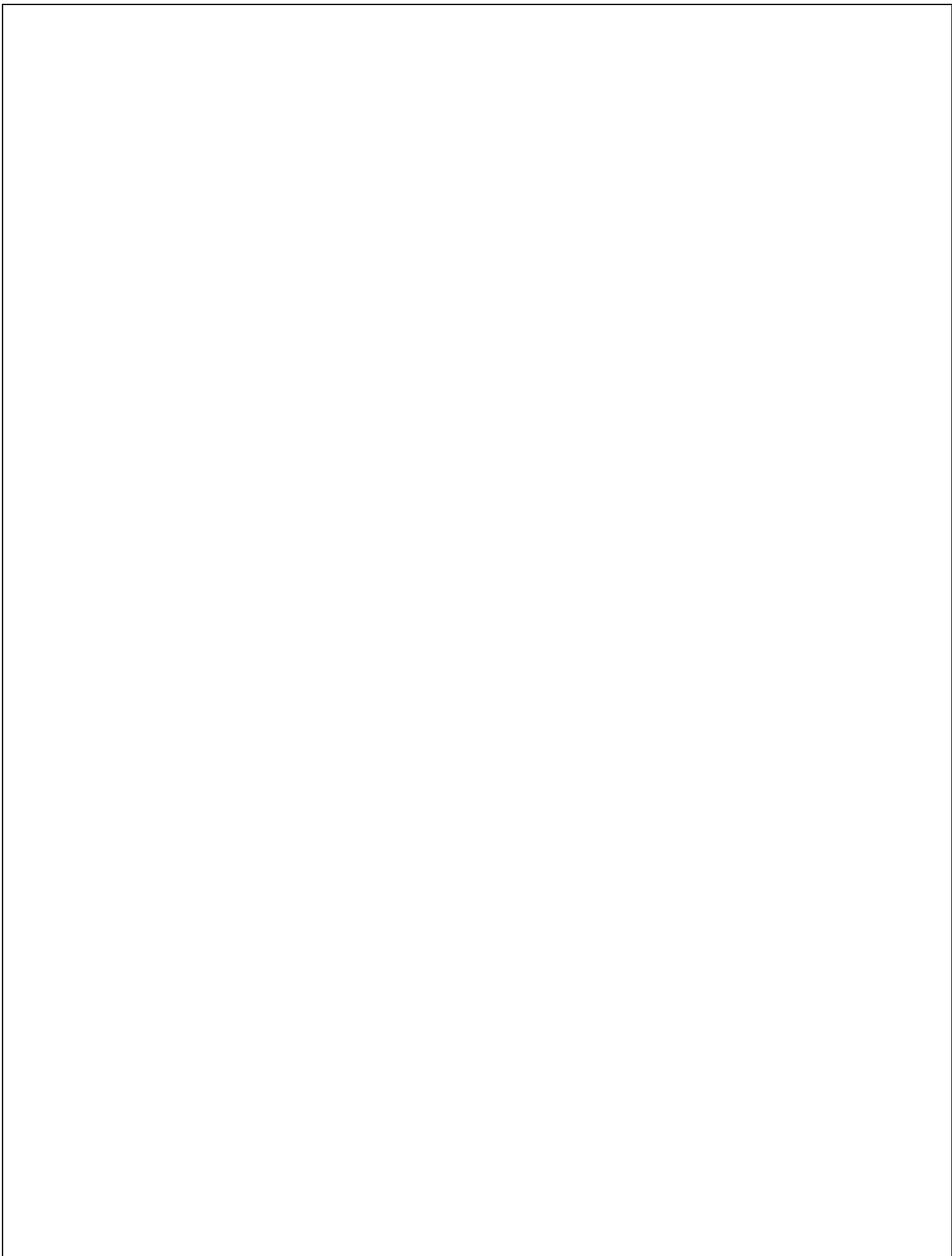


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Staff of the Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District and staff from BC Parks Headquarters provided useful comments and suggestions.

BC Parks would like to thank those who took the time to attend the public open house and make submissions or comments to assist in the development of this plan.

Note to Readers:

For the purposes of this plan, Francis Point Provincial Park and Francis Point Ecological Reserve are collectively referred to in the plan as protected areas. As well The Nature Trust of British Columbia and the Nature Conservancy of Canada may be referred to as TNT and NCC respectively.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Management Planning Process

BC Parks prepares a management plan to guide a protected area's management over the next ten to twenty years¹. The plan sets out objectives and strategies for conservation, recreation, development, interpretation and operation of a protected area. A management plan relies on current information relating to such subjects as natural and cultural attributes, and recreation opportunities within a protected area together with land management activities on surrounding lands.

The process for preparing a management plan involves a careful analysis of the overall goals of the protected area, use patterns, management objectives, and possible sources of conflict among protected area policies. Through the planning process, various options for managing the protected area are developed and assessed. In choosing the most appropriate option, the intent is to ensure the management decision protects the values of the protected area and that human use within and adjacent to the protected area does not result in unacceptable impacts.

A management plan not only establishes long-term management direction for a protected area, but also gives direction for immediate issues. As a result, a management plan contains numerous statements describing management strategies to be undertaken. As BC Parks is unable to carry out all strategy items at the same time, the management plan must also set priorities.

Management plans are prepared with a high degree of public involvement. The general public and public interest groups have opportunities to review management planning documents and provide comments to BC Parks through a variety of means including public meetings. Similarly, BC Parks consults with First Nations, other levels of government and other provincial government agencies in the development and review of management plans. In certain instances, public advisory committees help prepare the management plan and often function as a partner with BC Parks in implementing the plan and monitoring progress.

For Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve, the management planning process has relied on a variety of background information:

- The Francis Point Provincial Park and Ecological Reserve Background Report, the preparation of which included consultation with various government agency staff including Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) staff, knowledgeable individuals and review of various studies and reports related to the site;
- Francis Point Provincial Park Traditional Use Assessment and Site Protection Plan, which included consultation and recommendations from the *shishálh* (Sechelt Band);

¹ While management plans are initially developed to guide the management of a protected area for a five to ten year period, a number of factors will influence how long the plan will be valid. Should this management plan still provide appropriate management direction for Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve after ten years, and still be appropriate with respect to the goals and vision of this protected area, the plan may still be deemed appropriate until such a time that updating or re-writing is required.

- Agreements between land owners (The Nature Trust of British Columbia (TNT), and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)) and the Province of BC, which provide management direction for the Park and Ecological Reserve;
- Input from an advisory group meeting October 13, 2001 in Pender Harbour to discuss issues, solutions and directions to manage the Park and Ecological Reserve;
- BC Parks principles, policies and guidelines; and
- Public review of a draft of this document (available through local libraries, BC Parks web site, and a public meeting on November 19, 2001 in Pender Harbour) from which comments received were considered in finalizing management direction.

1.2 Background Summary

Francis Point Provincial Park and Ecological Reserve, acquired in 2001, are relatively undisturbed examples of the Very Dry Maritime Subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone (CWH xm1). The CWH xm1 is one of British Columbia's most under-represented biogeoclimatic variants with only 1.9% of the variant's landbase represented in protected areas.

Located approximately 35 km north-west of Sechelt in Pender Harbour on British Columbia's Sunshine Coast, Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve are situated on the south-west portion of Beaver Island, known as Francis Peninsula (Figure 1). Francis Point Park is 72.80 ha and Francis Point Ecological Reserve is 9.22 ha. The Park is bounded on the north and east by residential properties and on the west and south by Malaspina Strait. Access to the Park is on Francis Peninsula Road from Highway 101 near Madeira Park. The park can be accessed by following Francis Peninsula Road to its terminus on the park's northern boundary or by turning off at either Merrill or Rondeview Roads to access the Park along its eastern boundary. There is no road access within the Park or Ecological Reserve (Figure 2).

The topography of the site is varied, ranging from sea level to approximately 100 meters in elevation at two hills on the north and south sections of the Park. The hills are separated by a low area in the middle of the site adjacent to Middle Bay. The vegetation in the protected areas is primarily an open canopy coniferous-dominated forest. About 20% of the site is not forested because of extreme dry conditions and rocky substrates. The open areas support scattered shrubs, and a carpet of mosses, lichens, wildflowers and grasses. The approximately four kilometers of undeveloped shoreline includes rocky bluffs and several small coves with pocket beaches characterized by low rock tables at or near sea level.

The Park contains two red-listed and one blue-listed plant associations. Red and blue-listed plant (forest) associations occur in all parks within the CWH xm and the CDF mm subzones where old growth or mature forest stands are present. In this respect, Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve are comparable with other protected areas or parts of them (e.g. Bowan Island and East Redonda Ecological Reserves, and Desolation Sound, Copeland Islands, Jediah Island, Read Island, Simson, Thurston Bay, John Dean, Goldstream, and Gowlland-Tod Provincial Parks). Although there are no tracked occurrences on record with the BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC), a survey conducted in August 2001 noted the presence of the blue-listed dune bentgrass. An unusual grass-moss/lichen community was also identified during the August 2001 survey, which forms the most sensitive part of the rock outcrop

vegetation. Special mention is made of this community as it contains a combination of uncommon grasses that is not found elsewhere in the site series (e.g. CWH xm1- 02).

Wildlife in the Park and Ecological Reserve is typical of a coastal forested site along the Sunshine Coast. The largest habitat type in the Park and Ecological Reserve is the mature second growth forest (primarily coniferous) with a number of old growth elements (e.g. veteran old growth trees and snags) which provide habitat to a number of species including primary and secondary cavity nesters, insectivorous birds, small mammals and bats. Previous surveys indicate the potential for approximately 35 land bird species and 45 marine bird species that could be observed on the site and along the shoreline. The most common mammal sign noted is for Columbian black-tailed deer, Douglas squirrels and river otters. Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve will become increasingly more important for species dependent on old growth and older second growth forested habitats as the surrounding area grows and develops.

The Park and Ecological Reserve are within the *shishálh* traditional territory. From a traditional use assessment conducted in the summer of 2001, it was concluded that traditional aboriginal use of the Park and Ecological Reserve area was of a very specialized and strategic nature (e.g. transient camp and lookout). The one recorded archaeological site located within the Park is a midden at the head of Middle Bay which is limited in size and reasonably well protected by natural obstacles.

This is a new Park and Ecological Reserve that was previously under private ownership. Prior to 2001, the property was owned by the McQuarrie family for 90 years. The property was largely undeveloped and forested. There is evidence of logging in the first part of the twentieth century in the central and northern portions of the park.

There are no recreational facilities in the Park or Ecological Reserve. Despite the lack of facilities and that “no trespassing” signs were posted when the lands were under private ownership, people have enjoyed hiking along undeveloped trails. The public continues to access the trails from the road ends at the Park Boundary and to some extent from the water, primarily at Middle Bay. There is to be no access to the Ecological Reserve without a permit from BC Parks.

1.3 Relationship to Other Planning Processes

The Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve property has been under private land ownership since 1911. The McQuarrie family owned the property for 90 years. The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) working with the local Francis Point Marine Park Society (FPMPS) raised funds to purchase the property from the McQuarrie family and were able to secure a significant donation from the U.S. based Paul G. Allen Forest Protection Foundation. With additional funds acquired through the Private Forest Biodiversity Program, a partnership between Forest Renewal BC and The Nature Trust of British Columbia (TNT), together with a contribution from the Sunshine Coast Regional District, the property was acquired by TNT and NCC in 2001. Francis Point Park is owned by TNT with a 99 year renewable lease to BC Parks and Francis Point Ecological Reserve is owned by NCC with a 99 year renewable lease to BC Parks. The intent of the land agreements is that the properties owned by TNT and NCC are managed by BC Parks to conserve the biodiversity values of the site and representation of the CWH xm1. Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve are scheduled for designation in 2002.

Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve and adjacent lands on Francis Peninsula are located in the Sunshine Coast Regional District within electoral area A. Land use is subject to the Egmont/Pender Harbour Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw No. 337. Land use and zoning adjacent to the Park and Ecological Reserve is residential. Much of the land along the Park boundary remains in a relatively undisturbed state, including a continuum of forested land between the north-east corner of the Park and a small Regional District special feature park known locally as “Trout Lake”. There is also a regional park allocation as part of the proposed subdivision of Lot 2 of District Lot 2792 (see Figure 2) that would provide a buffer along the Park and Ecological Reserve at the head of the Lagoon. Opportunities may exist to encourage appropriate natural buffer areas along the Francis Point Park boundary as the adjacent area develops in the future.

An overall land use plan (e.g. LRMP) may be prepared for the Sunshine Coast region in the future but is not expected to impact or affect the management of the Francis Point protected areas.

One of the original intentions of the Francis Point Marine Park Society in conserving the Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve property was to also conserve the adjacent subtidal marine resources. At this time only a 100 meter foreshore area will be included within the protected areas. Analysis and decisions on larger marine protected areas are not included in this plan and will need to be considered within a broader Marine Protected Areas Strategy.

2.0 Protected Area Attributes

2.1 Provincial and Regional Context

The Pender Harbour area on the Sunshine Coast within which Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve are located is characterized by an intricate shoreline of bays, islets and islands, providing sheltered conditions for year round recreational activities. The abundance of water and land resources in the area provides a diversity of recreation opportunities to both local and seasonal residents and tourists. However, the amount of privately held shoreline property has resulted in very few large coastal parcels that can provide examples of the indigenous plant communities in a relatively undisturbed state. In addition, the amount of privately held shoreline property has limited the opportunities for public access to the water.

Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve is a coastal forested landscape ranging from sea level to approximately 100 meters in elevation at two hills on the north and south sections of the Park. The terrain varies from level, to gently/moderately undulating, to steep slopes and abrupt drop-offs. The south and west side of the protected area is a varied shoreline that bounds Malaspina Strait.

The Francis Point protected areas offer opportunities to protect relatively undisturbed examples of the Sunshine Coast coastline and to provide a regionally and provincially unique hiking and viewing opportunity. These opportunities complement the conservation and recreation values found in adjacent provincial and regional parks.

The roles of the Park and Ecological Reserve described below, together with the following Vision Statement for the Park and Ecological Reserve, guide the management activities outlined within the management plan. These roles are consistent with the broader Protected Area Strategy Goals and the BC Parks System Goals as described in Appendix I.

2.2 Roles of Francis Point Provincial Park and Ecological Reserve

Conservation Role

The conservation role of the Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve is to ensure the ongoing representation of a relatively undisturbed example of the CWH xm1, including several rare-listed plants and forest communities and the unusual and highly sensitive non-forested grass-moss/lichen community.

Occurring within the Very Dry Maritime Subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone (CWH xm1), Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve contributes to representation of the CWH xm1 in the province. Table 1 outlines the CWH xm1 that is currently represented in protected areas and the contribution of Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve.

Table 1. Francis Point Provincial Park and Ecological Reserve Contribution to CWH xm1 Representation.

Biogeoclimatic variant	Total CWH xm1 in province (ha)	% CWH xm1 protected in province	Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve % contribution
CWH xm1	437,945	1.94%	0.02%

Other important conservation values include:

An unusual grass-moss/lichen community that forms the most sensitive part of the rock outcrop vegetation. This includes the blue-listed dune bentgrass and a rare native subspecies of red fescue;

- An above normal species richness of vascular plants for the size of the Park and Ecological Reserve;
- Little evidence of invasive non-native plant species;
 - Two red-listed (endangered or threatened) and one blue-listed (vulnerable) plant associations. Red-listed:
 - CWH xm1- 01 Western Hemlock - Douglas-fir - Oregon Beaked Moss; and
 - CWH xm1- 02 Douglas-fir - Lodgepole Pine - Rhacomitrium.
 - Blue-listed:
 - CWH xm1- 05 Western Redcedar - Swordfern
- A site that will become increasingly more important for wildlife species dependent on old growth and older second growth forested habitats as development increases in the Pender Harbour area; and
- Over four kilometres of a relatively undisturbed and varied foreshore and intertidal area.

Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Role

The outdoor recreation role of Francis Point Park is as a day use area focused on limited low impact recreation activities in a coastal forest and marine foreshore setting, including nature appreciation, hiking and walking, and landscape viewing.

The Park contributes to the collective recreational values in the Pender Harbour area, including:

- Public access to the marine foreshore;
- An opportunity to experience a rare undisturbed coastal forest site in this area of the Sunshine Coast; and
- Significant viewsapes both from and to the water.

Cultural Heritage Role

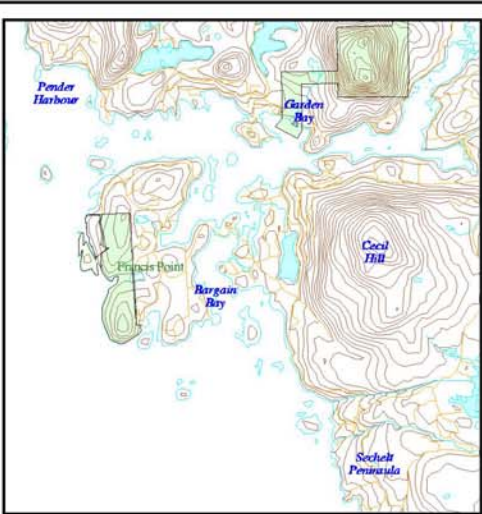
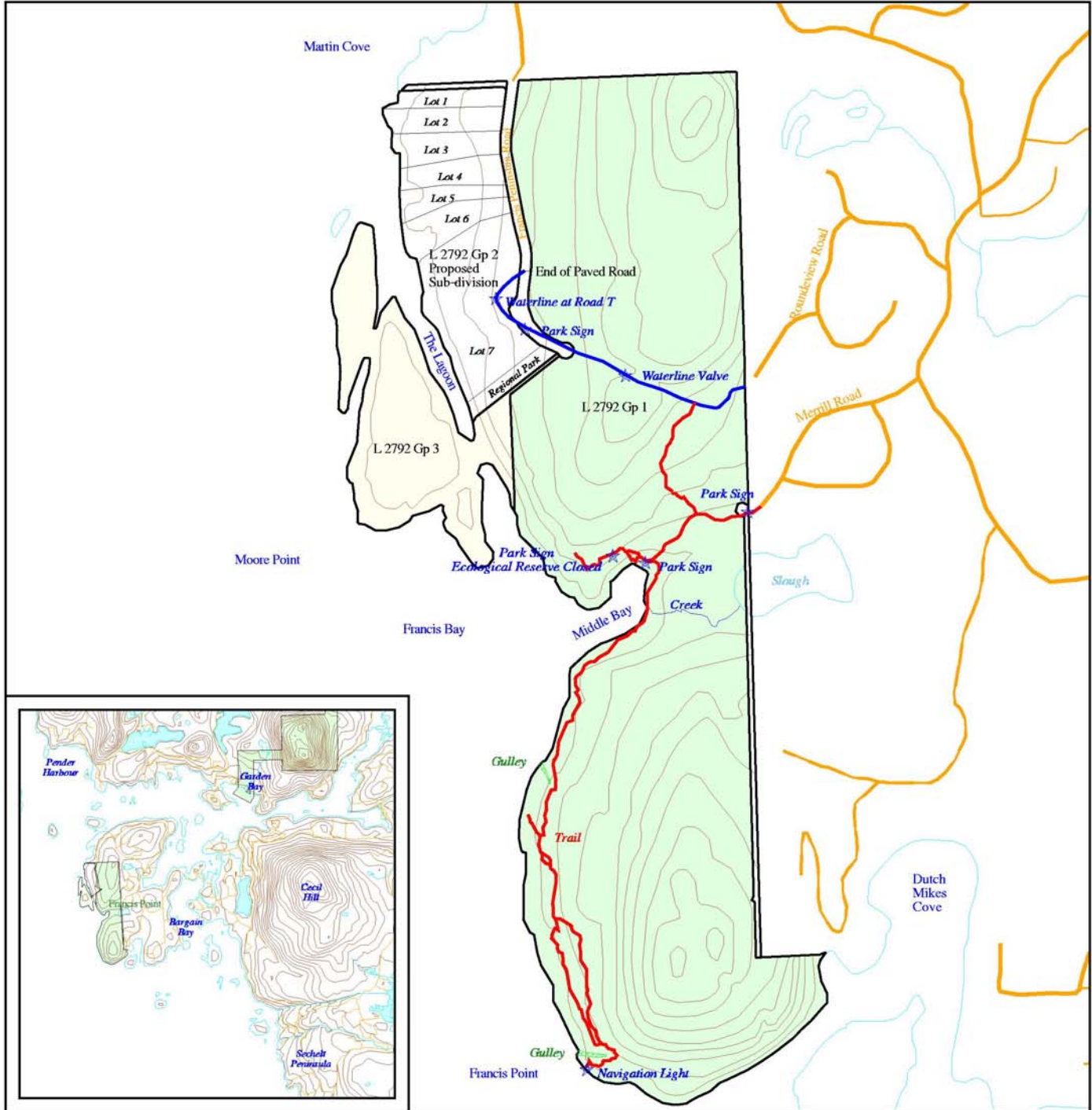
The cultural heritage role at Francis Point protected areas is limited due to few heritage sites located within the areas. However, the adjacent land areas were extensively used by First Nations and were important in the first European settlements along the Sunshine Coast. The protected areas can provide an opportunity to interpret cultural heritage in a setting which closely resembles a relatively undisturbed example of the historic Sunshine Coast ecosystem and landscape.

2.3 Relationship with First Nations

The Francis Point protected areas are located within the traditional territory of the Sechelt First Nation. The protected areas are fee simple private lands which are managed as a provincial park and an ecological reserve. Traditional and contemporary First Nation activities which could occur within the protected areas would be the same as those activities which could occur on any private lands. Management within other adjacent provincial parks would be different and would allow for a greater opportunity to practice traditional activities for present and future generations of the First Nation's people.

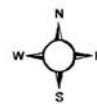
BC Parks and The Nature Trust of British Columbia would welcome the opportunity to work with the Sechelt First Nation to ensure protection of cultural resources and for the provision of culture based tours within the park area. BC Parks and the Sechelt Indian Band have completed a Traditional Use Assessment and Site Protection Plan which supports these opportunities and which can be used to provide guidance in the management of cultural resources.

Francis Point Provincial Park and Ecological Reserve
 Figure 2: Park Map



-  Trail
-  Waterline
-  Transportation Network
-  Water Features
-  Contour Lines (10m interval)
-  Ecological Reserve
-  Parks and Protected Areas

Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District



Scale 1:10000



Projection
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 Produced: September 19/01



2.4 Management Issues

The overarching issue for Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve is determining appropriate recreational use in the Park that will not compromise the biodiversity values on the property. Conservation is the primary focus of the Park and Ecological Reserve. From the land agreements between BC Parks and the land owners (i.e. TNT and NCC) and from an ecological assessment conducted in August 2001, there are a number of constraints for this protected area.

Under land agreements between BC Parks, TNT and NCC management direction is for:

- A day use public park with a wildlife habitat and enhancement purpose;
- Recreational, educational and scientific uses appropriate to this purpose; and,
- No road access to be constructed into the Park.

From the ecological assessment:

- Under no circumstances should areas occupied by the rare-listed plant communities be utilized for park facilities (e.g. buildings, picnic and campgrounds, playgrounds and roadways); and,
- Trail and public recreation access must not be allowed in the Ecological Reserve.

From the conservation focus of the Park and the context provided by the constraints, Table 2 identifies the interrelated issues that require management action.

Table 2. Management Issues and Needs.

Theme	Issue
Ecological Mapping and Sensitivity Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rare-listed forest communities and sensitive moss/lichen grass community need to be identified and mapped to help in the location of recreation facilities, determine appropriate management options, and provide a baseline for monitoring.
Park Access and Facility Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking options must be planned and managed to avoid potential safety and congestion concerns at the road ends. • The access points to the Park must be determined in order to plan and manage trails that will minimize impacts to the Park’s natural values. • Existing and potential new trails need to be evaluated for their impacts, proximity to highly sensitive plant communities, safety concerns, viewscape considerations, and visitor experience. There is a need to provide access without compromising the conservation values of the Park. • The design of the trail to Middle Bay from the primary access point requires review to assess the feasibility for wheelchair access with minimal impact to the Parks’s natural values. • Marine access points to the Park need to be identified and managed to minimize impacts to the foreshore and inter-tidal zone. • The type and location of other facilities necessary to support appropriate recreational activities needs to be determined.

Theme	Issue
Invasive Species Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few individuals of particularly invasive weedy species have been found and should be removed to avoid a larger long-term problem. • A regular monitoring program to identify and remove new invasive non-native plants is required to maintain the relatively pristine example of the native plant communities in the Park and Ecological Reserve. • The planning, design and management of trail access should consider measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive non-native plants.
Park Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type, amount and distribution method of Park information must be identified. This will be a crucial issue in a park with high conservation values which could be significantly impacted by overuse.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine what additional baseline information is required to support regular monitoring programs. • Determine what ongoing monitoring programs are required to identify potential impacts or changes to the Park's natural and cultural resources.

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Vision Statement

The purpose of the vision statement is to identify the role and function of the Park and Ecological Reserve well into the future, beyond the life of the management plan. The long-term vision assists in ensuring the shorter term management strategies are consistent with meeting this vision.

Francis Point Provincial Park and Ecological Reserve contribute significantly to the conservation values on regional, provincial, national, and international levels. The Park contributes significantly to recreation values on a regional and provincial level. Public and commercial activities are in harmony with natural values and are sustainable.

The ecological reserve protects a special area that is a typical and undisturbed example of the Very Dry Maritime Subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. Recreation is prohibited within the reserve but opportunities for scientific study and research are permitted to enhance scientific knowledge of the CWH xml variant zone. Francis Point Park protects similar conservation values as the ecological reserve as well as a forest area with significant old growth values. The natural values in the park and ecological reserve remain free of significant invasive non-native plant species.

Francis Point Park offers sustainable recreation opportunities for hiking, nature appreciation and landscape viewing within a unique relatively undisturbed coastal forest. These opportunities continue in a manner that is carefully monitored and managed and which sees no significant increased impacts upon the park's natural values.

3.2 Natural and Cultural Values Management

The management of natural and cultural attributes in Francis Point Provincial Park and Ecological Reserve will be based upon the *Park Act*, *Ecological Reserves Act*, *Park and Recreation Area Regulations*, ministry policies, the land agreements between the property owners (i.e. TNT and NCC) and BC Parks, and the role of the Park and Ecological Reserve in the overall system of provincial parks and protected areas in British Columbia.

BC Parks conservation and recreation management goals will be met by protecting natural, cultural and outdoor recreation values, monitoring conditions and visitor use and working co-operatively with others.

Vegetation

Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve occurs within the Very Dry Maritime Subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone (CWH xm1). This protected area represents a relatively undisturbed example of the CWH xm1 variant, including several rare-listed forest communities and an unusual and highly sensitive non-forested grass-moss/lichen community. Only 1.9% of the CWH xm1 variant is represented in protected areas. Detailed plant lists and description of the vegetation on the site is contained in the Background Report and the Ecological Assessment completed in August 2001.

The vegetation cover on the site is primarily an open canopy coniferous-dominated forest and open moss covered rocks. Figure 3 illustrates the distribution of the different forest cover types within Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve. The forest cover mapping indicates that a number of the age classes on the property are over 100 years with a number in the 141 – 250 year range. There is evidence of past logging in the mid and northern sections of the Park. Hand loggers removed some of the large diameter Douglas-fir early in the twentieth century and the stand was again partially disturbed in the 1940's. The forest stands are primarily mature second growth, with some portions approaching old-growth. In the mid section of the Park there is an excellent legacy of old-growth characteristics derived from the original stand of veteran trees present.

The results of several plant surveys indicate an above normal species richness of vascular plants for the size of the Park and Ecological Reserve. There are several plant communities on the site ranging from open areas supporting scattered shrubs, mosses, lichens, grasses and wildflowers on very dry exposed rocky substrates, dry forested sites treed with Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine and arbutus, mesic to moist areas treed with Douglas-fir, western red cedar and western hemlock to a wetland and some riparian vegetation along a small creek draining from the wetland to Middle Bay. The extent of each of these plant communities in the Park and Ecological Reserve has not been mapped.

The Park contains two red-listed (endangered or threatened) and one blue-listed (vulnerable) plant associations.

Red-listed:

- CWH xm1- 01 Western Hemlock - Douglas-fir - Oregon Beaked Moss; and
- CWH xm1- 02 Douglas-fir - Lodgepole Pine - Rhacomitrium.

Blue-listed:

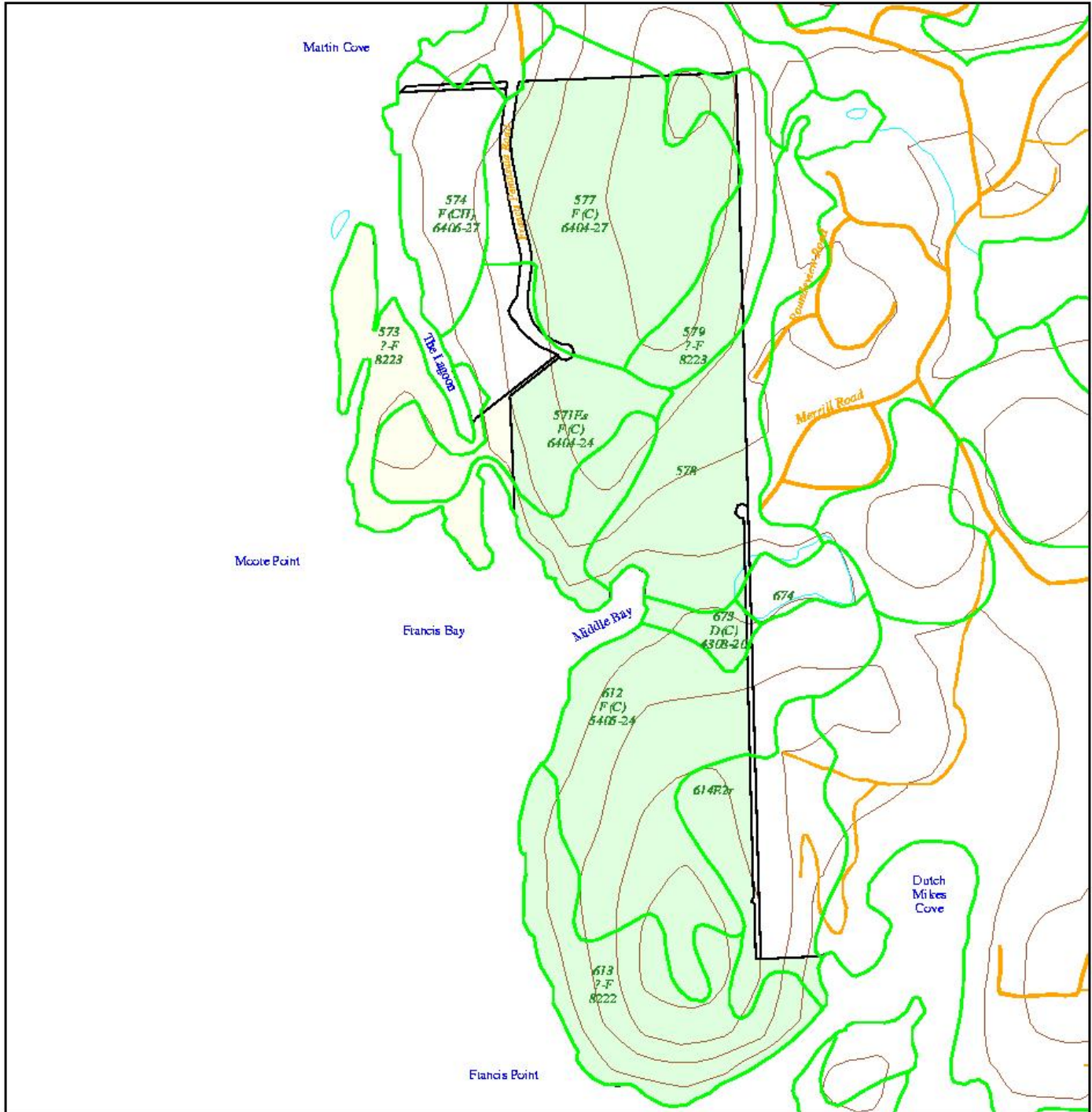
- CWH xm1- 05 Western Redcedar - Swordfern

The ecological assessment conducted in August 2001 noted the presence of the blue-listed dune bentgrass. Special mention was also made of the grass-moss/lichen component of the CWH xm1- 02 site series, as it contains a combination of uncommon grasses that is not found elsewhere in the site series. These grasses are the blue-listed dune bentgrass and a native rare subspecies of red fescue. Two more co-dominant grasses in this community, poverty oatgrass and western witchgrass are also rather uncommon in such abundance. This unusual grass-moss/lichen community forms the most sensitive part of the rock outcrop vegetation and on the basis of the August 2001 survey; it is recommended that this rare combination be considered a non-forested community.

Vegetation – Objectives and Strategies	
Objectives	Strategies
To protect the highly sensitive and rare-listed plants and plant communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map the extent of highly sensitive and rare-listed plant communities to facilitate location of trails, other Park facilities and to provide a baseline for monitoring.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Park facilities including buildings, picnic and campgrounds, playgrounds or roadways are to be developed in the rare-listed plant communities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New trails that cross the open, moss and lichen covered rock outcrop areas should be kept to a minimum. Existing trails should be relocated away from slanting rock surfaces and away from areas where trail proliferation is likely or already occurring.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No trails will be located in the Ecological Reserve.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor use of trails through or adjacent to highly sensitive plant communities to determine any degradation and implement corrective measures as appropriate (e.g. fences, seasonal trail closures, signs).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a fire management plan. Chemical retardants should be used as a last resort within the Park and Ecological Reserve.
To prevent and control the establishment of non-native vegetation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Park information about the effects of the introduction of non-native vegetation and preventative measures that the public can take (e.g. staying on the trails).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a thorough control program for specific aggressive non-native plants (e.g. Himalayan blackberry, broom).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid the creation of disturbed or exposed mineral soil, from development of trails, parking area and other facilities, and any maintenance activities associated with the water line.

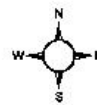
Vegetation – Objectives and Strategies	
Objectives	Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any exposed soil areas should be rehabilitated, possibly by revegetating with native species in a timely manner. A disturbed site should be monitored carefully to ensure natural regeneration has occurred and to prevent any invasive species from becoming established.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic animals using the Park, including walking dogs or riding horses.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop opportunities to involve local supporters in regular monitoring and control of invasive species.
To maintain plant communities for their value and contribution to visual values and recreation attractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the design and construction of facilities limit the amount of vegetation impacted (e.g. trees near a parking area) to protect the visual values of the forest.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid scars in the vegetation from trail development that can be seen from other vantage points in the Park or from the water.

Francis Point Provincial Park and Ecological Reserve
 Figure 3: Forest Cover Map



Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District

-  Forest Cover Areas
-  Transportation Network
-  Water Features
-  Contour Lines (20m interval)
-  Ecological Reserve
-  Parks and Protected Areas



Scale 1:10000



Projection
 Albers Equal Area Conic
 Datum NAD83
 Produced: November 05/01



Wildlife

The Park and Ecological Reserve's small size and location within a semi-urban area, make it unviable to sustain populations of many wildlife species. However, this protected area does contribute to the habitat requirements of species associated with older second growth and old growth coastal forests. Little is known about the wildlife that utilize the Park, as no site specific wildlife surveys have been conducted on the property.

Wildlife – Objectives and Strategies	
Objectives	Strategies
To identify and maintain the diversity of wildlife species within the Park and Ecological Reserve by protecting sensitive or important habitats and minimizing impacts of recreational activities on wildlife populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct surveys for possible occurrences of rare-listed species including bats (e.g. Keen's long-eared myotis) reptiles and amphibians. Depending on the survey results, develop a management strategy to protect any rare or endangered species.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop opportunities to involve local supporters to conduct regular bird counts or other wildlife inventories.

Water

A significant feature of the Park and Ecological Reserve is the four kilometers of undisturbed shoreline along Malaspina Strait. Data on the subtidal flora and fauna around the tip of Moore Point and off the southern tip of Francis Point collected over the past 20 years of SCUBA dives indicates varied substrates with species typical of the marine ecosystems in this area.

Freshwater in the Park infiltrates into the ground, as well as following natural drainage patterns. Most surface water drains toward Malaspina Strait. There is a wetland that straddles the eastern boundary of the Park and drains by a small creek to Middle Bay. Future development of the property adjacent to the Park where most of the wetland is located may affect the wetland and thus the surface water, soil moisture regime and the vegetation downstream in the Park.

Water Management – Objectives and Strategies	
Objectives	Strategies
To identify and maintain the diversity of marine intertidal and subtidal species along the 100m foreshore by protecting sensitive habitats and minimizing impacts of activities on the marine resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to collect marine flora and fauna information along the foreshore and conduct an assessment of their relative sensitivity.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In cooperation with other agencies implement a no take policy within the Park and Ecological Reserve foreshore for shellfish.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with other agencies including Fisheries and Oceans Canada to ensure marine resource values are considered and managed for within the 100m foreshore zone.
To protect surface and ground water resources to support the vegetation and wildlife communities near the wetlands area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with SCRD and other agencies to ensure the surface and groundwater regimes are not impacted from future development near the adjacent wetland.

Landscape Setting or Feature Values

Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve is a coastal forested landscape ranging from sea level to approximately 100 meters in elevation at two hills on the north and south sections of the Park. The terrain varies from level, to gently/moderately undulating, to steep slopes and abrupt drop-offs. The south and west side of the protected area is a varied shoreline that bounds Malaspina Strait.

Scientific Research

The natural resources of the Park and Ecological Reserve provide an opportunity for scientific research activities related to rare-listed and unique examples of plants and plant communities.

Scientific Research – Objectives and Strategies	
Objectives	Strategies
To support and encourage scientific research that is compatible with the conservation focus of the Park and Ecological Reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support appropriate research activities that minimize disturbance to the site and limit sampling of Park and Ecological Reserve natural and cultural resources.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research activities will be conducted according to the limits on recreation activity within the park and ecological reserve (e.g. no overnight camping).

3.3 Recreation Values Management

People currently use the undeveloped trails in the Park to access the water at Middle Bay from the Merrill Road entrance. Once at Middle Bay visitors tend to wander along the foreshore of the Bay, paddle, swim or snorkel during warmer weather or sit quietly enjoying the experience of the coastal forest at the waters edge and views across Malaspina Strait. Currently dogs are allowed in the Park as long as they remain on a leash. Most visitors looking for more of a hiking experience continue from Middle Bay south on undeveloped trails along the bluffs to the navigation light at the southern tip of Francis Point.

Access Management

There will be no access to the Ecological Reserve without a permit from BC Parks.

Land access to Francis Point Park is currently from three road ends at the Park boundary. The Park is accessed at the north end by following Francis Peninsula Road to its terminus or by turning off Francis Peninsula Road at either Merrill or Rondevue Roads to their road ends along the eastern Park boundary. At present, Merrill Road serves as the primary access point to the Park. Currently the only accommodation for parking is along the road edges near the three road ends. Parking is limited at all three sites and there are no turnaround facilities. As Park visitations increase, the minimal parking available will result in increased congestion and safety concerns.

Merrill Road has a potential parking location at the end of the road in a highway right of way. Use of this location would require permission from the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, the clearing of about 14 midsize trees, and the import of fill material. The parking area could then accommodate approximately 10 cars.

Francis Peninsula Road has some opportunities for a parking area and a trail connection to Middle Bay. However, prior legal agreements restrict the development of parking or a developed trail access into the park at this location.

There is no road access within the Park or Ecological Reserve. The Park and Ecological Reserve can potentially be accessed by small craft at a number of small bays. Signs around the Ecological Reserve at both potential land and water access points note that there is no visitor access without a permit from BC Parks.

Access Management – Objectives and Strategies	
Objectives	Strategies
To manage access to the Park with the least disruption to adjacent land owners, the least impact to Park vegetation and the most positive introduction to the Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with SCR D, MOT H and adjacent landowners to establish the most appropriate long-term primary access point (parking and trailheads) to the Park. This will be at the Francis Peninsula Road or the Merrill Road entrance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the Rondevi ew Road access as local pedestrian access only.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with and encourage SCR D, MOT H and adjacent land owners to limit both future road development close to the perimeter of the Park and the creation of additional access points to the Park as the adjacent lands are developed.
To allow appropriate marine access that minimizes disruption to the foreshore and intertidal area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage access to the Park by small craft (e.g. kayaks, canoes and small runabouts) to occur at Middle Bay.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor levels of impacts from use via marine access. Take management actions where necessary.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marine access allowed to the Ecological Reserve without a permit from BC Parks.

Public Recreation Opportunities and Facilities

Hiking and Walking

Despite the fact that “no trespassing” signs were posted when the lands were under private ownership, people have enjoyed hiking along undeveloped trails in the Park. The public continues to access the trails from both the road ends at the Park Boundary and to some extent from the water, primarily at Middle Bay. The most frequently used trail is from the Merrill Road end to Middle Bay. Signs around the Ecological Reserve note that there is no visitor access without a permit from BC Parks.

To date low human impact has left most of the shallow-soiled, coastal bluff vegetation intact. However the coastal bluff vegetation is starting to show signs of deterioration as more people use the undeveloped trail network from Middle Bay to the southern tip of the Park. The challenge to maintaining the plant communities in the Park, particularly the intact coverage of the sensitive grass-moss/lichen community on the rocky outcrops will be managing access by people and domestic animals.

All trails developed in the Park should be located so as not to damage sensitive areas or vegetation. Prior to trail construction, impact assessments must be completed to ensure all aspects of environmental impacts are considered and mitigated. Trails must be built to

appropriate BC Parks standards to accommodate the intended use and minimize erosion
Figure 4 shows the location of proposed trails.

Hiking Opportunities – Objectives and Strategies	
Objectives	Strategies
To encourage a range of walking and hiking opportunities within the Park that avoids disruption of sensitive plant communities and wildlife, incorporates safety, and allows visitors exposure to the varied natural features and viewscales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail access will be developed to Middle Bay from the parking lot and primary access point to the Park and from Middle Bay south to Francis Point. In addition consideration should be given to developing a trail from Francis Point up to the height of land at Francis Hill and back along the eastern section of the Park to Middle Bay.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No trail access will be developed in the Ecological Reserve. Visitor access is not allowed into the Ecological Reserve without a permit from BC Parks.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular monitoring of visitor use of the trails and impacts to the natural resources will be implemented. Management action will taken as required.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a secondary trail up to a viewpoint on the bluff north of Middle Bay. Conduct an environmental assessment to determine potential impacts to the bluff vegetation from trail access to this area and incorporate design considerations to provide safe access and to minimize visitors leaving the trail. The viewpoint may require a viewing structure (eg platform) to control potential impacts.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory and assess the potential for additional trails in the Park, including a trail in the northern portion. More information about the vegetation and wildlife habitat in this area is required to determine the environmental acceptability for creating trail access.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider development of the trail from the parking lot to Middle Bay to wheelchair accessible standards.
To provide minimal facilities to support the walking and hiking activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a parking area that minimizes the loss of any trees within the Park and is designed to blend into the Park edge.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a trailhead area that provides for an aesthetic visitor experience with signage introducing visitors to the Park, and that identifies both appropriate and prohibited activities.

Viewscales

Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve offers spectacular viewscales both to the site from the water and from the site across Malaspina Strait, which is a busy navigation channel. From the water, the varied shoreline and upland topography with forested cover and open bluffs provide important coastal viewscales for the high volume of marine traffic. From the upland, the shoreline of the Park and Ecological Reserve offer west and southwesterly exposure with panoramic views across Malaspina Strait towards Texada and Vancouver

Islands. Much of the interior parts of the Park have an open forest canopy with limited understorey vegetation, resulting in an aesthetically pleasing park-like setting.

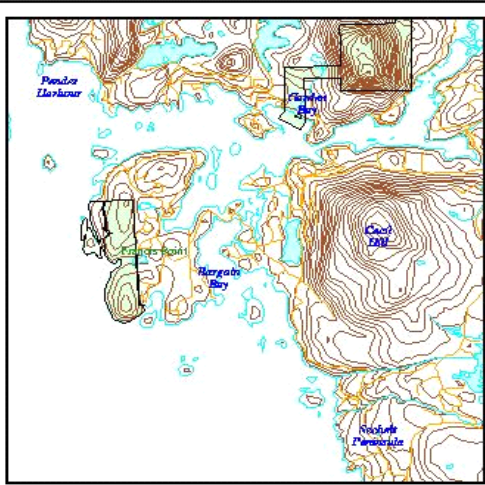
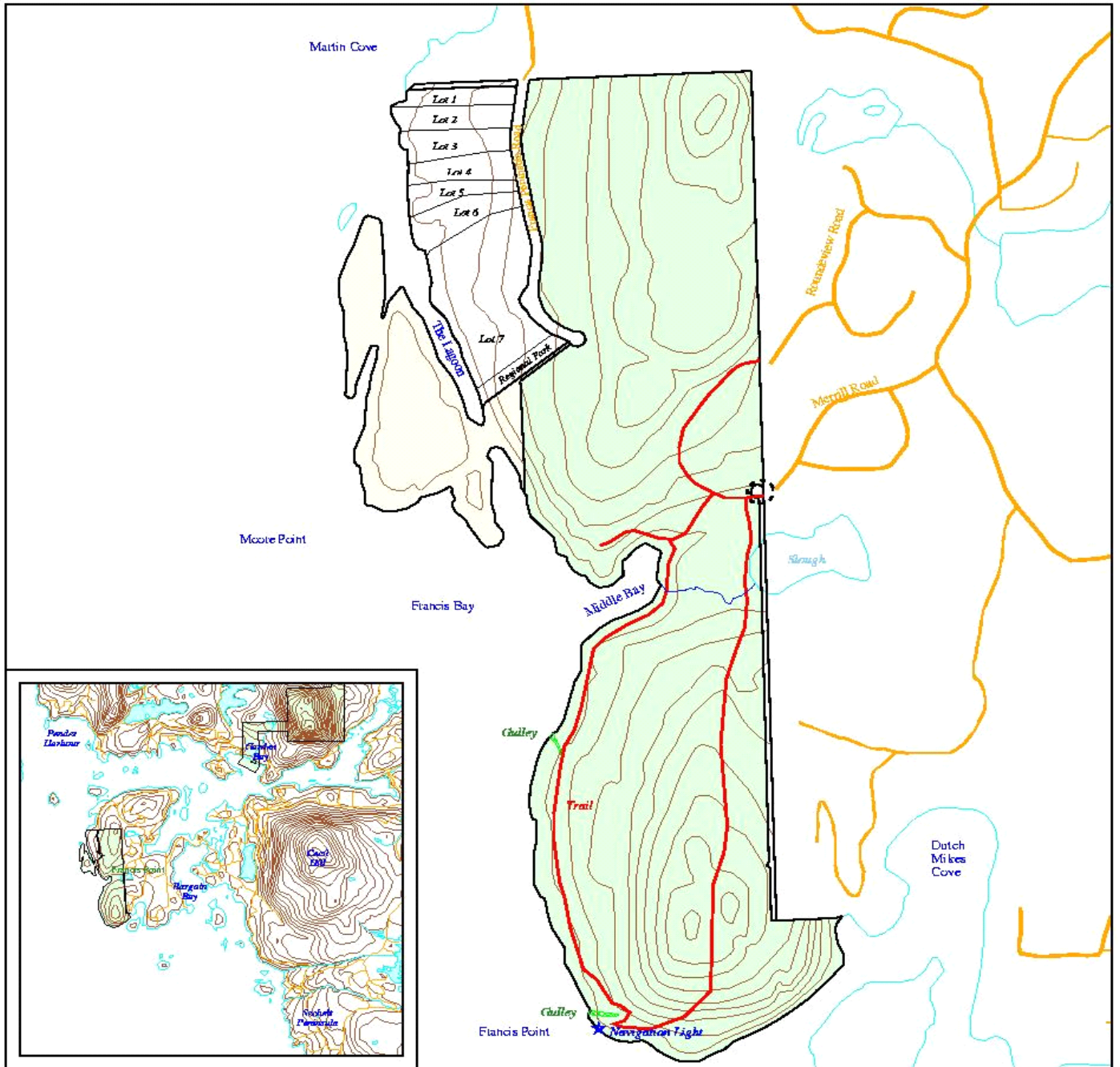
Viewscape Opportunities – Objectives and Strategies	
Objectives	Strategies
To protect the viewing opportunities from within the Park and Ecological Reserve and the viewsapes to the protected area from Malaspina Strait.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with agencies from adjacent lands (e.g. Ministry of Forests and SCRDC) to incorporate visual management considerations in future land developments for protection of visual values from the Park and Ecological Reserve
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that any proposed trail development or facilities constructed in the Park are aesthetically pleasing, blend with the natural environment, and protect visual values from the water and other adjacent properties.

Commercial Recreation Opportunities

Commercial recreation opportunities exist within Francis Point Park but will need to be conducted carefully to minimize potential impacts upon the natural values. Commercial operations can provide a diversity of opportunities and enhanced experiences for park visitors. This is particularly relevant for inexperienced visitors.

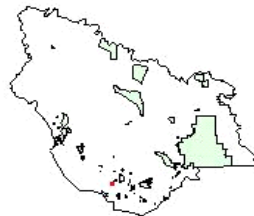
Commercial Recreation Opportunities – Objectives and Strategies	
Objectives	Strategies
To allow for commercial recreation opportunities that enhance the recreational experience for Park visitors while minimising environmental and social impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review potential new commercial recreation activities in the Park and consider approval for those proposals that meet the objectives and vision of the Park and of this plan, are considered low impact through the British Columbia Parks Division Impact Assessment process, and maintain the atmosphere of the Park.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure any approved commercial activities are authorized through a Park Use Permit and conform to the activity matrix shown in Table 4.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the number of commercial operators or the level of commercial activity is found to be impacting the natural values of the Park, BC Parks will evaluate and implement as necessary limits upon commercial activity. This may include exclusive Park use permit opportunities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial filming activity will be prohibited within this park due to the limitation on organized group activities and the sensitivity of the soils and vegetation to impacts from sustained activity.

Francis Point Provincial Park and Ecological Reserve
 Figure 4: Proposed Development Map



-  **Proposed Trails**
-  **Transportation Network**
-  **Water Features**
-  **Contour Lines (10m interval)**
-  **Potential Parking Location in this Vicinity**
-  **Ecological Reserve**
-  **Parks and Protected Areas**

Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District



Scale 1:10000



Projection
 Albers Equal Area Conic
 Datum NAD83
 Produced: November 19/01



Management Services

Park Office and Service Yard

The park administrative office and service yard will be located at the Sechelt Field Office of the Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District in Porpoise Bay Provincial Park.

Site and Facility Design Standards

All sites and facilities developed for public use will meet the design standards of the British Columbia Parks Division. Factors to be considered include visual aesthetics, safety, durability and operational efficiency.

Safety and Health

Every normal precaution will be taken to ensure the safety and health of visitors to the park. In the event of hazardous conditions or emergencies, appropriate strategies will be taken as defined in the Emergency Procedures Manual for the Park.

Volunteer Stewardship and Partnerships

The communities and residents of the Sunshine Coast have strongly supported the protected areas and would like to continue to be involved in their management. BC Parks in cooperation with TNT and NCC will work actively with the communities to foster support for the protected areas, to co-ordinate or assist with volunteer projects, to develop fund raising opportunities, and to encourage other opportunities for volunteer stewardship and partnerships.

Visitor Information

This is a new Park with a conservation focus intended for low-key day use activities. During the first summer of operation (2001), between 200 and 240 people visited the Park during the month of August. Until trails are developed and an adequate parking area established, limited information will be made available to help control increases in the numbers of visitors to the protected area.

Interpretive Themes

Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve is adjacent to a semi-urban area in Pender Harbour on the Sunshine Coast. This protected area is thus readily accessible to local and seasonal residents and to the many tourists that frequent the Egmont/Pender Harbour area of the Sunshine Coast. Information about the Park should focus on the Park's natural values, on education about how to conduct oneself in the Park and on an appreciation for the protected area's sensitivity to disturbance from human use.

The key themes include information about the uniqueness of the Park in terms of:

- Natural conservation values (rare-listed and sensitive plants and plant communities), and
- Example of a relatively undisturbed forested coastal site.

Management Messages

Management messages will focus on Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve's role in conserving a relatively undisturbed forested coastal site representative of the Very Dry Maritime subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. These messages must emphasize the importance of low impact recreational activities that do not disturb the sensitive vegetation communities. Information should:

- Clearly identify what activities can take place within the Park;
- Identify the length and types of trails; and
- Make reference to the limited facilities available onsite and to prepare to visit the site accordingly.

Park Promotion

The goal of the information program should be to inform the public on the uniqueness of the Park without promoting use. From the experience during the first year that the Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve were acquired, there will be increasing numbers of visitors even without promotion about the Park through BC Parks information sources including the web site, maps and Park brochures. To initiate the process of getting the key management messages to visitors that come to the Park from word of mouth, it is suggested that a brochure be prepared and delivered to the community and commercial interests (e.g. bed and breakfasts and tourist lodges). This brochure could be prepared with the support of a local community group.

Signage

- Signage will be placed along Francis Peninsula Road to direct the public to the Park's primary access point and parking lot.
- Signage from Highway 101 directing the public to the Park will not be installed until trail improvements, parking lot and other in-park facilities are in place.
- Signage at the trailhead at the parking lot will provide information on the Park and how to use it appropriately.
- Signage within the Park will be limited to necessary regulatory and interpretive signs to protect the natural experience of the Park.

3.4 Land Uses and Interests Management

The management of Francis Point Park and Ecological Reserve, which is privately owned land and leased to BC Parks will be influenced and directed by the land agreements that were conditional to the purchase and lease of the properties.

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

The Park is located in a semi-urban area of Pender Harbour with approximately half of the perimeter bounded by land designated as residential use. With the population of the Egmont/Pender Harbour area expected to double in the next 25 years, there will be challenges to maintain the conservation values of the Park and Ecological Reserve.

Opportunities will be explored with the SCRД and adjacent property owners to encourage appropriate buffers and management direction along the Park boundaries as the adjacent areas develop.

Existing Alienations and Encumbrances

There are no existing tenures, alienations or encumbrances within the park and ecological reserve. There are legal agreements between the Province of British Columbia and the landowners (TNT and NCC) which direct and influence the management of the protected areas.

The intent of the covenants and lease agreements between BC Parks and the landowners (TNT and NCC) is that the Park and Ecological Reserve be managed by BC Parks to conserve the biodiversity values of the site and representation of the Very Dry Maritime Subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH xm1) ecosystem variant.

Existing Alienations and Encumbrances – Objectives and Strategies	
Objectives	Strategies
To allow for recreational, educational and scientific uses appropriate with the wildlife habitat and environmental enhancement purpose of the Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local groups and park visitors to facilitate day use activities in the Park that are compatible with the conservation focus of the Park (i.e. hiking and walking, viewing and nature appreciation)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess current conditions and monitor levels of recreational use to limit impact to the Park’s resources. Take management actions where necessary.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess, monitor and take management action as necessary to ensure that any future servicing or maintenance of the water line right-of-way through the Park is undertaken in such a manner as to minimize impacts to Park values.

3.5 Protected Areas Zoning

BC Parks uses a zoning system to assist in the management of Francis Point Provincial Park. Zoning is used in park planning to develop general management guidelines for areas of a park on a geographical and ecological basis. Each zone reflects a general level of management with respect to natural, cultural and recreational values. Francis Point Provincial Park is divided into one zone, the **Special Feature Zone**.

Special Feature Zone

Describe each zone in the protected area. Provide the management objectives, in general terms, for each zone, and provide a rationale for why the area is zoned that way (pristine remote areas or sensitive habitat for a wilderness conservation zone, for example). Give the hectares contained within each zone and the percentage of the total area in the protected area governed by each zone.

Provincial Objective

To protect the natural values of the CWH xm1 biogeoclimatic zone found within Francis Point Provincial Park while allowing limited day use recreation opportunities.

This zone was chosen for the following reasons:

- Facility development within this area will be restricted to parking, trailheads, trails, signage and associated facilities.
- The primary management direction will be the protection of natural or conservation values of the park.
- The area is relatively small and must be managed as a single unit.

Park Specific Zone Description

This zone includes the landbase found within the Park and is 72.80 hectares in size.

Appropriate Uses

Legend for the Matrix of Appropriate Activities and Facilities

Y	Appropriate
N	Not appropriate
N¹	Not appropriate except for expressed management purposes as identified in the Management Plan
N²	Not appropriate, but if the specific activity or facility existed at the time of establishment of the protected area, it is normally appropriate for it to continue
M	May be appropriate
N/A	Not applicable

Table 3: Appropriate Activities and Facilities Matrix for Francis Point Provincial Park.

Activity	Provincial Park Special Feature Zone	Comments
Boating (power)	M	
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	N1	Allowed for protection of key natural values.
Filming (commercial)	N	Closed due to potential for soils and vegetation impacts.
Fire Management (prescribed fire management)	Y	Subject to fire management plan.
Fire Management (prevention)	Y	Subject to fire management plan.
Fire Management (suppression)	Y	Subject to fire management plan.
Fishing	Y	Foreshore area; Will remain open to finfish subject to regulations.
Forest Insect/Disease Control	N1	Allowed for protection of key natural values.
Guide Outfitting	N/A	
Hiking/Backpacking/Walking	Y	According to development plan, Figure 4.
Horse/Non-Exotic Pack Animal Use	N	Closed due to fragility of park vegetation and soils.
Hunting	N	Already closed due to close proximity of residential areas.
Mechanized Off-road Access (non-motorized – i.e., mountain biking)	N	Closed due to fragility of park vegetation and soils.
Noxious Weed Control	Y	
Off-road Access (non-mechanical – dog sleds, horse sleds)	N	Closed due to fragility of park vegetation and soils.
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	M	
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	M	
Trapping	N	

Table 4: Appropriate Activities and Facilities Matrix for Francis Point Ecological Reserve.

Activity/Facility	Ecological Reserve	Comments
Fire Management (prescribed fire management)	Y	Subject to fire management plan.
Fire Management (prevention)	Y	Subject to fire management plan.
Fire Management (suppression)	Y	Subject to fire management plan.
Forest Insect/Disease Control	N1	Allowed for protection of key natural values.
Noxious Weed Control	N	
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	M	
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	M	

Appendices

Appendix I: BC Parks Conservation and Recreation Goals

Protected Areas Strategy Goals for Protected Areas

Goal 1: Representativeness

To protect viable, representative examples of the natural diversity of the province, representative of the major terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems, the characteristic habitats, hydrology and landforms, and the characteristic backcountry recreational and cultural heritage values of each ecosection.

Goal 2: Special Features

To protect the special natural, cultural heritage and recreational features of the province, including rare and endangered species and critical habitats, outstanding or unique botanical, zoological, geological and paleontological features, outstanding or fragile cultural heritage features, and outstanding outdoor recreational features such as trails.

BC Parks Conservation Goals

Goal 1: Landscapes

To conserve B.C.'s natural diversity by protecting viable, representative examples of our 59 different landscapes.

Goal 2: Special Features

To protect B.C.'s key natural and cultural features. These have been identified as physical, biological or cultural elements and evaluated as to abundance, significance and value in terms of conservation, education and recreation.

BC Parks Recreation Goals

Goal 1: Tourism Travel Routes

To provide parks and services which enhance tourism travel routes.

Goal 2: Outdoor Recreation Holiday Destinations

To provide park attractions which serve as or improve key destinations for outdoor recreation holidays.

Goal 3: Backcountry

To provide outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities throughout the province.

Goal 4: Local Recreation

To ensure access to local outdoor recreation opportunities for all residents of this province.

Appendix II: BC Parks Zoning Framework

Protected Areas Zone Descriptions			
	Intensive Recreation	Nature Recreation	Special Feature
Objective	To provide for a variety of readily-accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.	To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.	To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.
Use Level	Relatively high density and long duration types of use.	Relatively low use but higher levels associated with nodes of activity or access.	Generally low.
Means of Access	All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see "Impacts" below).	Motorized (powerboats, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles) and non-motorized (foot, horse, canoe, bicycles). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pick-up points will be permitted.	Various; may require special access permit.
Location	Contiguous with all-weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas.	Removed from all-weather roads but easily accessible on a day-use basis. Accessible by mechanized means such as boat or plane.	Determined by location of special resources; may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones.
Size of Zone	Small, usually less than 2,000 hectares.	Can range from small to large.	Small, usually less than 2000 hectares.
Boundary Definition	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas.	Boundaries should consider limits of activity and facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features.	Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of cultural resources (adequate to afford protection).
Recreation Opportunities	Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, power-boating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, snow play, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialized activities.	Walk-in or boat-in camping, power-boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heliskiing, helihiking and specialized activities.	Sightseeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.
Facilities	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic or play areas, trail accommodation or interpretative buildings, boat launches, administrative buildings, service compounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, woodlots; parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Permitted: trails, walk-in or boat-in campsites, shelters, accommodation buildings, facilities for motorized access (docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.)	Interpretative facilities only; resources are to be protected.
Impacts on Natural Environment	Includes natural resource features and phenomena in a primarily natural state, but where human presence may be readily visible as both recreation facilities and people using the zone. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas.	Area where human presence on the land is not normally visible. Facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	None: resources to be maintained unimpaired.
Management Guidelines	Oriented to maintaining a high-quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while unobtrusive to park visitors.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and high-quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation modes. Designation of transportation may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g., horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).	High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high-quality recreational and interpretative experience. 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.
Examples of Zoning	Campground in Rath Trevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski area in E.C. Manning Park.	Core area in Cathedral Park; North beach in Naikoon Park.	Botanical Beach tidepools in Juan de Fuca Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mt. Assiniboine Park.

Protected Areas Management Planning Zone Descriptions

	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
Objective	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities, depending on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites.	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities, depending on a pristine environment where no motorized activities will be allowed.
Use Level	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment.
Means of Access	Non-mechanized & non-motorized. May permit low-frequency air access to designated sites; foot, canoe and horse access may be permitted.	Non-mechanized & non-motorized: foot, canoe and horse access may be permitted.
Location	Remote, not easily visited on a day-use basis.	Remote, not easily visited on a day-use basis.
Size of Zone	Large, greater than 5,000 hectares.	Large, greater than 5,000 hectares.
Boundary Definition	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Boundaries will encompass areas of visitor interest for specific activities supported by air access.	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features.
Recreation Opportunities	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (e.g., caving, climbing).	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialized activities (e.g., caving, climbing).
Facilities	Minimal facility development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment e.g., trails, primitive campsites. Some basic facilities at access points, e.g., dock, primitive shelter.	None.
Impacts on Natural Environment	Natural area generally free of evidence of human beings. Evidence of human presence is confined to specific facility sites. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	Natural area generally free of evidence of human beings.
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.	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.
Examples of Zoning	Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park; Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park.	Upper Murray River watershed within Monkman Park; Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy Area.

BC Parks Appropriate Activities and Facilities Matrix:

Activity/Facility	Appropriate in Intensive Recreation Zone (Provincial)	Appropriate in Nature Recreation Zone (Provincial)	Appropriate in Wilderness Recreation Zone (Provincial)	Appropriate in Wilderness Conservation Zone (Provincial)
Activity				
Aircraft Access	Y	Y	Y	N
Angle Guiding	Y	Y	Y	Y
Beach Activities (e.g., swimming)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Boating (power)	Y	Y	N	N
Boating (non-power)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Camping – backcountry	Y	Y	Y	Y
Camping – auto or boat accessible	Y	N	N	N
Commercial Recreation (facility-based)	Y	Y	Y	M
Commercial Recreation (no facilities)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	Y	N ¹	N	N
Exotic Pack Animal Use	N	N	N	N
Filming (commercial)	M	M	M	M
Fire Management (prescribed fire management)	Y	N	M	N
Fire Management (prevention)	Y	N ¹	N ¹	N ¹
Fire Management (suppression)	Y	Y	N ¹	N ¹
Fishing	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	M	M	N	N
Forest Insect/Disease Control	Y	M	N	N
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N	N ^{1,2}	N ^{1,2}	N
Guide Outfitting	N	Y	Y	N
Heli-hiking	Y	Y	N	N
Hiking/Backpacking/Walking	Y	Y	Y	Y
Horse/Non-Exotic Pack Animal Use	Y	Y	Y	M
Hunting	N	Y	Y	N
Mechanized Off-road Access (non-motorized – i.e., mountain biking)	Y	Y	N	N
Motorized Off-road Access (not snowmobiles – i.e., 4x4, motorcycles)	N	M	N	N
Noxious Weed Control	Y	Y	N ¹	N
Off-road Access (non-mechanical – dog sleds, horse sleds)	M	Y	M	M

Activity/Facility	Appropriate in Intensive Recreation Zone (Provincial)	Appropriate in Nature Recreation Zone (Provincial)	Appropriate in Wilderness Recreation Zone (Provincial)	Appropriate in Wilderness Conservation Zone (Provincial)
Recreational Gold Panning/Rock Hounding	N	N	N	N
Rockclimbing	Y	Y	Y	Y
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	N	N ¹	M	N
Scientific Research (specimen collection)	M	M	M	M
Skiing (downhill & cross-country – groomed runs or trails)	Y	N	N	N
Skiing (helicopter or cat-assisted)	Y	Y	N	N
Skiing (self propelled, not groomed)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Snowmobiling	Y	Y	N	N
Trapping	N	N ²	N ²	N ²
Facility				
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	Y	N	N	N
Backcountry Huts and Shelters	N	Y	M	N
Boat Launches	Y	Y	N	N
Campgrounds and Picnic Areas (vehicle access and serviced)	Y	N	N	N
Camp sites (other)	N	Y	M	N
Communication Sites	N ²	N ²	N ²	N ²
Fixed Roof Accommodation	Y	Y	M	N
Interpretation and Information Buildings	Y	N	N	N
Roads and Parking Lots	Y	N	N	N
Ski Hills and Snowplay Areas	Y	N	N	N
Trails (hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, horse)	Y	Y	Y	N
Utility Corridors (power/transmission lines and other rights-of-way)	N ²	N ²	N ²	N ²
Water Control Structures	N ^{1,2}	N ²	N ²	N ²

Legend for the Matrix of Appropriate Activities and Facilities

Y	appropriate
N	Not appropriate
N¹	Not appropriate except for expressed management purposes as identified in the Management Plan
N²	Not appropriate, but if the specific activity or facility existed at the time of establishment of the protected area, it is normally appropriate for it to continue
M	May be appropriate
N/A	Not applicable

