

Skeena District

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION STATEMENT

September, 2000

for Burnt Cabin Bog Ecological
Reserve



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Division

This management direction statement was developed through direction received from the Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan.



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MEMORANDUM

**BULKLEY GOAL 2 PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
STATEMENTS - BINDER APPROVALS PAGE**

Forward

This binder contains five management direction statements developed by BC Parks. The Provincial Government designated these protected areas under *Bill 17, Protected Areas Act of British Columbia* which received Royal Assent on June 29th 2000. The five management direction statements provide strategic direction for these protected areas. Protected areas' roles, strategies and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, implemented through operations plans, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

- Burnt Cabin Ecological Reserve
- Call Lake Park
- Netazul Meadows Park
- Nilkitwa Lake Park
- Rainbow Alley Park

Approved by:

Handwritten signature of Hugh Markides in black ink.

Hugh Markides
District Manager
Skeena District

Date: Aug. 24, 2000

Handwritten signature of Denis O'Gorman in black ink.

Denis O'Gorman
Assistant Deputy Minister
Parks Division

Date: 00 09 01

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Figure 1

Burnt Cabin Bog Ecological Reserve Locator Map

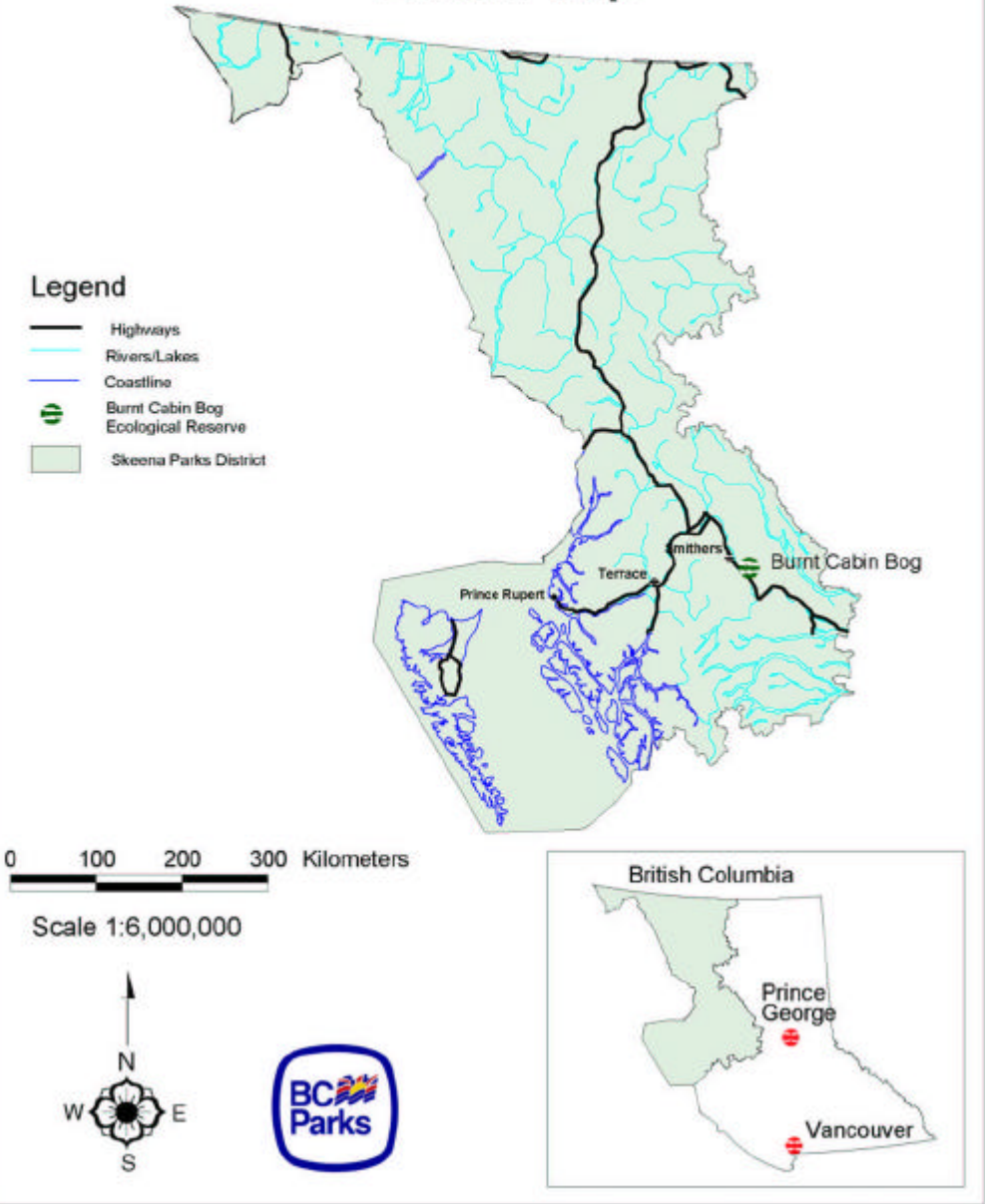
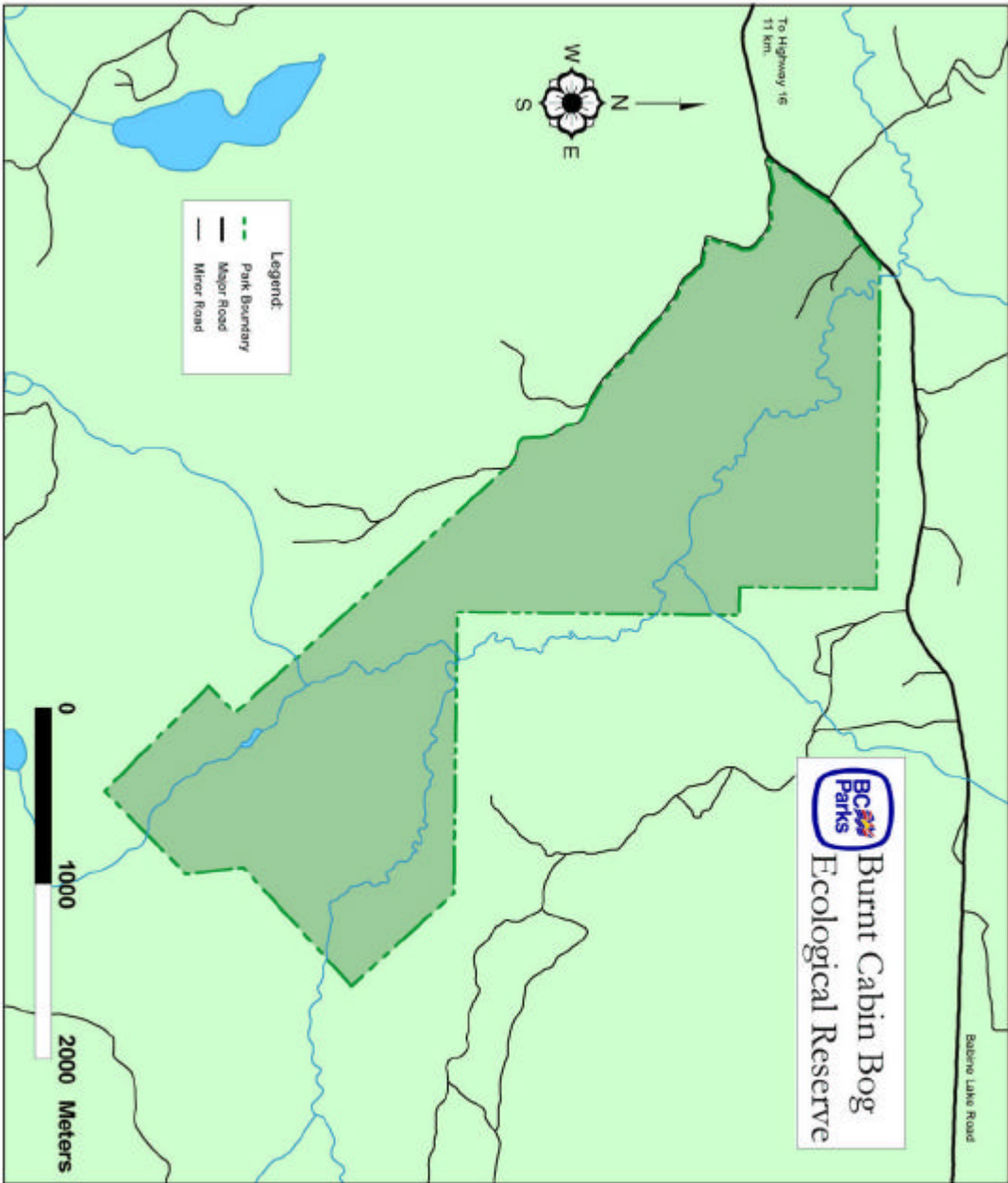


Figure 2



Introduction

Purpose

This management direction statement (MDS) provides management for Burnt Cabin Bog Ecological Reserve. It identifies key strategies that will be ranked according to priority and completed as funding permits. Implementation of strategies identified in the MDS will be dependent on available funding and agency priorities. In addition, any development associated with these strategies is subject to BC Parks' Impact Assessment Policy.

Setting and Context

The Provincial Government designated Burnt Cabin Bog Ecological Reserve under Bill 17, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* which received Royal Assent June 29th 2000. Burnt Cabin Bog Ecological Reserve covers 659 ha of the Bulkley River Valley, roughly 10 km east of Smithers where the Old Babine Lake Road crosses Canyon Creek (area population ~12,000; Ecological reserve Map). The large wetland complex lies within the asserted traditional territory of the Wet'suwet'en and Ned'u'ten (Lake Babine Nation).

Black spruce, willow, scrub birch, and sedges characterise the vegetation of Burnt Cabin Bog, although more productive hybrid white spruce, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir occur on sites with better drainage. As well as its conservation role, the ecological reserve may attract naturalists. Nearby, Tyhee Lake Park provides lakeshore recreation and full-facility camping opportunities and Babine Mountains Park provides backcountry recreation activities.

Protected Area Attributes

Conservation

- Bulkley Basin Ecoregion; SBSmc2 (moist cold sub-boreal spruce subzone, Babine variant)
- an extensive black spruce, willow, and scrub birch peatland: mostly stream and basin fens (willow, scrub birch, and sedge fens), spruce riparian swamps, and some black spruce-Labrador tea basin bog
- several rare relict plant species, established after glaciation
- representation of rare mesic meadow plant community (Aster-peavine-meadowrue)
- good variety of willows and sedges
- summer and winter habitat for moose, mule deer and beaver

Other Values of Importance

- nature appreciation and study
- cultural features not identified to BC Parks

Significance in the Protected Areas System

- protects wetland complex in the under-represented SBSmc2 of the Bulkley Basin Ecosession
- protects provincially unique ecosystem (moor bog) and associated rare plant species

Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

Old Babine Lake Road reaches the northern boundary of the ecological reserve, forest service roads border the western edge and extend to the southern boundary. No trails exist within the protected area.

Existing Tenures

- Lots 637 and 1262 are located in northwest corner of protected area—the lots and the road access to them are “save and excepted” from the protected area
- one trapping license includes the ecological reserve

Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities

- none

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

- forest development (cutblocks; fall and burn for beetle control) planned to the southwest and southeast of the protected area (Bulkley-Cassiar Forest District Small Business Forest Enterprise System Deep Creek Chart Area)
- woodlot licenses (WL-102 and WL-1512) lie immediately south of the protected area boundary
- private lots (L1048, L637, L1262) abut the east and north sides of the ecological reserve; rural residences
- livestock graze north of ecological reserve

First Nations Interests

- asserted traditional territory of the Wet’suwet’en and/or Lake Babine Nation
- Aboriginal Rights will be honoured and protected subject to conservation and safety concerns
- Wet’suwet’en staff have indicated the plan is acceptable to the Wet’suwet’en Chiefs following a review of the draft plan and a meeting with BC Parks staff
- Lake Babine Nation has expressed concern on the process of designation and ongoing consultation

Other Agency Interests

- BC Environment has an interest in wildlife
- Ministry of Forests (Bulkley-Cassiar Range section) manage livestock grazing to the north of the protected area
- Ministry of Forests has an interest in surrounding forest land

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

- Bulkley Valley Naturalists, Sierra Club
- local residents: Smithers, Telkwa communities
- educational and research institutions
- trapline holders
- ecological reserve neighbours, woodlot licensees

Role of Burnt Cabin Bog Ecological Reserve

Burnt Cabin Bog Ecological Reserve serves primarily a conservation role within the British Columbia protected areas system. The reserve protects a provincially unique low moor bog with many rare plants that established after glaciation and remain as relicts. The bog is biologically and physically exceptional within the region.

Burnt Cabin Bog also serves an education role through nature appreciation opportunities and a research role focused on low moor bog ecosystem.

Management Commitments and Issues

Direction from Previous Planning

The Bulkley Valley LRMP recommended Burnt Cabin Bog for protection in 1996 and gave management direction to “*establish the boundaries of the Burnt Cabin Bog area and protect the area from grazing*”.

Management Issues

The following management issues require attention:

Theme	Issue
Protecting ecological values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• inventory of natural features is incomplete• livestock grazing may introduce non-native plant species• adjacent road-building and forest development activities may impact drainage• drainage activities on neighbouring private land may impact bog
Protecting cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• significance of cultural features is unknown
First Nations Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• interest in ensuring aboriginal rights are respected• Lake Babine Nation concern on the process of designation and ongoing consultation

Management Strategy

The following table describes management strategies to deal with outstanding issues raised. In addition, Appendix I contains a list of acceptable activities, uses and facilities appropriate within this ecological reserve.

Priority Management Objectives	Priority Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the ecological reserve's natural values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory fauna and flora, particularly rare plants; prepare Ecology Information Summary; pursue opportunities for community involvement (e.g. BV Naturalists) Consider, in the future, acquiring adjacent Crown lands that are part of the wetland complex to add to the ecological reserve Minimise non-native plant proliferation; monitor proliferation; remove invasive plants immediately; work with community groups or individuals to designate guardians; work with Ministry of Forests to fence boundaries if necessary Determine impacts of surrounding land use activities to drainage regime; work with Ministry of Forests and neighbours to minimise any impacts; liaise with neighbours to maintain the bog's biophysical attributes Consider signage to promote awareness of rare plant species and to discourage invasion by non-native species Consider implementing Conservation Stewardship (particularly in relation to invasive plants) or Park Watch programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the ecological reserve's cultural heritage values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate and collate existing information on cultural heritage values; prepare Cultural Features Information Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Nation Values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal Rights may be exercised subject to safety and conservation concerns Meet with the Lake Babine Nation to discuss issues including the designation process Meet with the Wet'suwet'en as issues require Follow ministry guidelines on consultation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information to the public about the ecological reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider developing interpretative signs describing bog features, rare plants and the problems of invasive non-native plants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological Reserve operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No development is planned

Consultation and Future Planning

Management of this protected area should be straightforward. BC Parks will consult with Wet'suwet'en and Ned'u'ten people, local stakeholders and adjacent resource users as necessary.

Preliminary Zoning

The entire protected area is designated as an ecological reserve providing the highest level of protection available. Access will be limited to non-motorised means.

**Appendix I. Burnt Cabin Bog Ecological Reserve– Table
of Acceptable Activities, Uses and Facilities**

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptable Uses
Aboriginal Rights	Y
Hunting	N
Fishing	N
Trapping	Y
Grazing (domestic livestock)	N
Recreational gold panning/rock hounding	N
Utility corridors	N
Communication sites	N
Horse use/pack animals	N
Guide outfitting (hunting)	N
Guide outfitting (fishing)	N
Guide outfitting (nature tours)	M
Guide outfitting (river rafting)	N
Cat-assisted skiing	N
Ski hills	N
Commercial recreation (facility-based)	N
Commercial recreation (non- facility-based)	N
Backcountry huts	N
Water control structures	N
Fish stocking and enhancement	N
Road access	N
Off-road access (snowmobiling)	N
Off-road access (motorised)	N
Off-road access (mechanical activities)	N
Motorised water access	N
Aircraft access	N
Fire management (suppression)	Y
Fire management (prescribed fire management)	M
Fire management (prevention)	N
Forest insect/disease control	M
Noxious weed control	Y
Exotic insect/disease control	N1
Scientific research (specimen collection)	Y
Scientific research (manipulative activities)	M

Y = allowed subject to conditions identified in the management direction statement or management plan

M = may be permitted if compatible with protected area objectives

N = not allowed

N1 = allowed for expressed management purposes only

N2 = present and allowed to continue, but not normally allowed