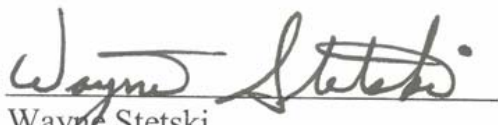


BURGES AND JAMES GADSDEN PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

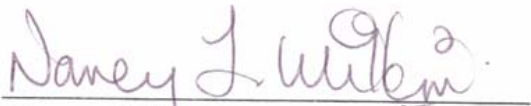
February 2003

Approved by:



Wayne Stetski
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: February 20/03



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 31/03

BURGES AND JAMES GADSDEN PROVINCIAL PARK

Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary role** of Burges and James Gadsden Provincial Park is to protect a small portion of an internationally significant wetland. The Columbia Wetlands stretch for over 180 kilometres and are the longest contiguous wetland in North America. It supports over 250 species of birds. The majority of the Columbia Wetlands is protected under the *Wildlife Act* through a wildlife management area (WMA) designation. The small park portion of the wetland lies in the northern section of the WMA in the upper Columbia Valley near Golden. The park and its environs contain numerous rare and endangered species.

The land encompassing the park was donated by the Burges and James Gadsden family in 1964. In the early 1970's, Ducks Unlimited Canada constructed a dyke system in the park to increase waterfowl habitat. Despite periodic maintenance and controversy surrounding tree removal to retain the dyke's integrity, the area remains relatively undisturbed.

Secondary Role

The **secondary role** of the park is to provide non-intrusive recreation opportunities. Low impact activities include wildlife viewing and nature appreciation. Burges and James Gadsden Provincial Park has been used in the past by local schools, residents, and tour operators as an outdoor classroom for natural history.

Known Management Issues	Response
The area lacks public access (i.e. crossing of CPR right of way and neighbouring private land).	Negotiate with local land owners to allow for public access corridor.
Ongoing dyke maintenance requires periodic removal of trees/vegetation to retain structural integrity.	Ducks Unlimited coordinates with Park's staff and local interest groups to minimize impacts on surrounding habitat.
Non-native species (Canada thistle) competing with native flora.	Monitoring and mechanical treatment when appropriate.

Zoning

The entire park is zoned Natural Environment (401 ha).

Conservation

Representation
-ecosection

- East Kootenay Trench (EKT). This ecosection is very under-represented (0.68%) in the PA system. Burges and James Gadsden provides 13% of the province wide PA representation of this ecosection. The park is the 3rd highest in representation of the protected EKT ecosection in the province. Other major contributors are Kikomun (24%) and Premier Lake (27%).

-biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

- The park protects remnant IDFdm2. Province wide PA representation is minimal in IDFdm2 (0.93%). Burges and James Gadsden contributes significantly to IDFdm2 (13%). Other major contributors are Kikomun (23%) and Premier Lake (28%).

Special Feature

- Significant protected wetland habitat along the shores of the Columbia River. Over 250 species of birds have been recorded in the Columbia Wetlands. The area represents one of the few remaining intact portions of the Pacific flyway - a critical migratory path for thousands of species of birds.

Rare/Endangered Values

- No inventory has been conducted. The park's adjacency to the Columbia Wetlands WMA creates a high probability that the following species may/can occur: grizzly bear (b), painted turtle (b), northern leopard frog (r), great blue heron (b), American bittern (b), yellow breasted chat (r), Nutall's sunflower (r), beaked spike-rush (b).

Scientific/ Research Opportunities

- A site suitable for integrated wetland management.

Recreation

Representation		
-backcountry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.
-destination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supports the recreational opportunities within the Columbia Wetlands - a major tourist attraction while travelling through the upper Columbia Valley.
-travel corridor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Situated along Hwy 93/95, but vehicle access into the park is not available. Signage is restricted to one 4x8 sign with both BC Parks and Ducks Unlimited logos.
-local recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bird watching (the Columbia Wetlands are internationally known amongst professional birders), nature appreciation, and paddling.
Special Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Columbia Wetlands are unmatched in the province in supporting such a diversity of wildlife and bird species.
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wetland walking tours for schools and tourists. The park has long been a proposed site for an visitor/interpretation centre for the Columbia Wetlands.

Cultural Heritage

Representation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not yet assessed.
Special Feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	None identified.

Other Management Considerations

Other designations	<input type="checkbox"/>	None identified.
Relationship to other PAs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Complements the 26,200 hectare Columbia Wetlands WMA. 1 of 5

provincial parks between the outlet of Columbia Lake and the lower reaches of Kinbasket Lake (Columbia reservoir) - a distance of 150 km.

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Ducks Unlimited maintains dyke system within park.

Partnerships

None identified.

Vulnerability

Loss of wildlife diversity because of unrestricted boating regulations.

Adjacent private land may be developed, fragmenting wetland complex.

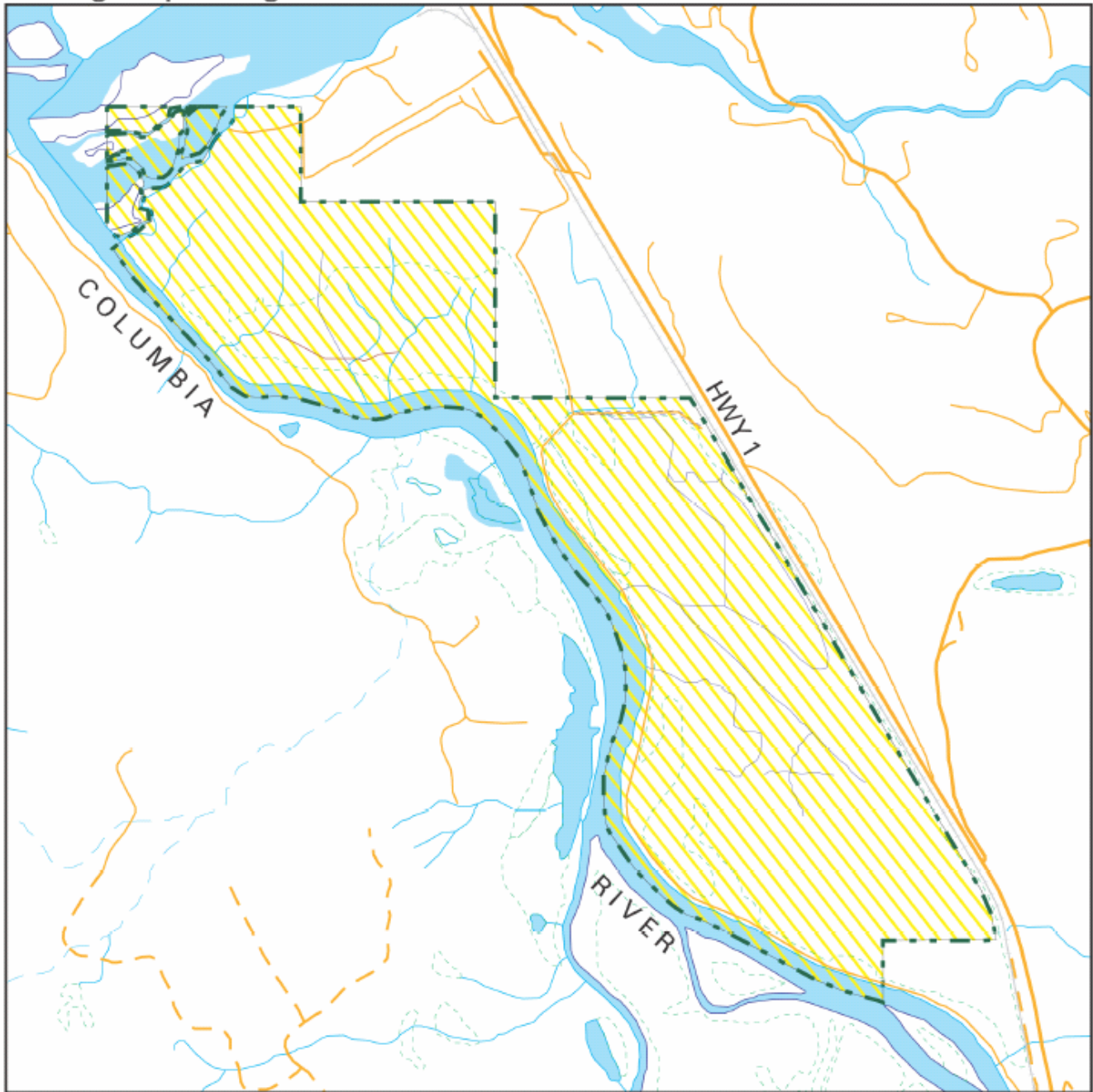
Relationship to other Strategies

North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI).

Area: 401 hectares


Date of Establishment: June 24, 1965

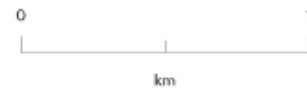
Zoning Map - Burges and James Gadsden Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



 Natural Environment
 Protected Area Boundary



Produced in Feb 2003 for
Ministry of Water, Land and Air
Protection by MSRM, Decision
Support Services

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