

Peace Region

MANAGEMENT Plan

January 2009

**for Liard River Corridor
Provincial Park and
Protected Area and
Scatter River Old Growth
Provincial Park**



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Ministry of Environment

Environmental Stewardship
Division

Liard River Corridor Park and Protected Area and Scatter River Old Growth Park

Approvals Page

Forward

This management plan for Liard River Corridor Park and Protected Area and Scatter River Old Growth Park provides management direction until such time as a more detailed management plan may be required.

Approvals:

Regional Manager
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Relationship with First Nations

The Province of British Columbia is committed to a new government to government relationship with First Nations based on respect, recognition and accommodation. New approaches to consultation and accommodation are currently being developed in recognition of this dutyⁱ. Negotiated collaborative management agreements with First Nations are an example of such processes. The Park and/or Protected Area (PPA) Management Plan and subsequent management actions within the plan area will respect First Nations traditional harvesting, cultural activities, and other aboriginal rights and interests. Approval of the PPA Management Plan is without prejudice and is consistent with section .35 (1) of the Constitution Act, 1982ⁱⁱ, which recognizes and affirms aboriginal rights.

Some First Nations did not participate in the Land and Resource Management Planning that led to this PPA. However, collaboration with First Nation Governments is essential for the effective implementation of the PPA Management Plan. Treaty 8 First Nations have provided the following First Nation's Vision Statement for this PPA.

Liard River Corridor Provincial Park and Protected Area and Scatter River Old Growth Provincial Park falls within the traditional territory of the Slavey, Beaver, and Sekani cultures from the Fort Nelson, Prophet River, Blueberry River, Doig River, Halfway River, Saulteau, Moberly Lake and McLeod Lake First Nations.

BC Parks – Peace Regions vision is to build a locally driven, constructive and collaborative relationship which recognizes the early presence of aboriginal peoples, their knowledge and understanding of the land and its processes. We hope to share ideas, management concepts and concerns in order to provide mechanisms for continuing First Nation participation in planning, long and short-term management, and evaluation.

Principles

- BC Parks will promote an understanding and respect of cross-cultural differences.
- Ecological integrity is critically linked to social integrity and First Nations are an important component of the wilderness of Northeastern British Columbia.
- First Nations are key in identifying and evaluating cultural resources.
- First Nations traditional resource harvesting activities will continue in all parks, including protection for current ways in which these activities are carried out.

BC Parks – Peace Region believes that the management and planning of protected areas can be improved by incorporating First Nations' traditional ecological knowledge and cultural knowledge. To achieve this all parties must work to develop and maintain open and effective communication, including other local communities and the general public. All parties must trust the traditional, as well as the non-traditional (Western scientific management) approaches to resource management. The goal will be to gather, collate and integrate local traditional knowledge with other scientific data to identify, design, establish, monitor and manage parks.

TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS VISION STATEMENT

WELCOME to our homeland. The Beaver (Dunne-za, Dane-zaa), Cree, Sauteau, Slavey (Dene), and TseK' hene indigenous groups have occupied these lands since time immemorial.

Treaty 8 was signed in the spirit of Peace and Friendship June 21, 1899. British Columbia Treaty 8 Territory is hundreds of thousands of square kilometers in size and includes 8 groups: Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, Fort Nelson First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Prophet River First Nation, Sauteau First Nations and West Moberly First Nations. Our relationship to the land has and continues to be the spiritual basis for our mode of life. The land has always, and will continue to, provide shelter, food, clothing, and the economic resources for our livelihood. As a First Nation, we have an obligation to implement our inherent rights that are affirmed by the Constitution Act, 1982. This includes sustainability of our resources in order for us to hunt, trap, fish, and continue our mode of life. Prior to the arrival of the Europeans we were actively involved in the management of our territories: the lands understood us and we understood the land. Today, we continue to manage our Territory.

BC Treaty 8 First Nations were not involved in the initial development plans of this park in regards to its location and why the area was chosen. We would like neighbouring First Nations, outdoor enthusiasts and other visitors to our land who are enjoying the bounties of this park to acknowledge and respect that you are on Treaty 8 Territory. Please act as a steward of Treaty 8 Territory so that together we will maintain its natural beauty, and cultural resources. This maintenance will be respectful to our current use and for future generations. Please conduct yourself in a manner that respects cultural heritage resources and values. Treaty 8 Territory will always be the home of First Nations for as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the water flows.

Introduction

Purpose of the Management Plan

The purpose of the Management Plan (MP) is to provide strategic direction for Liard River Corridor Park, Liard River Corridor Protected Area, and the adjacent Scatter River Old Growth Park in northern British Columbia, established in 1999. The MP provides background information on the protected area attributes, land use, tenure, interests, role in the protected area system, existing commitments and issues. It then specifies priority objectives and actions for management of the park.

The implementation of the conservation and development strategies identified in this MP is subject to funding availability and agency priorities. Future detailed management plans may provide further direction. All proposed developments are also subject to the BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy. These parks and protected areas will be managed in accordance with the *Park Act*, the *Environment and Land Use Act*, and the policies of BC Parks.

Setting and Context

The Liard River Corridor Park and Protected Area (Figure 1) is an 889.89 km² area located along the most northerly progression of the Northern Rocky Mountains in northeastern British Columbia. It is adjacent to one of the most significant hot springs in Canada, the 10.82 km² Liard Hot Springs Provincial Park, located on the Alaska Highway, 317 km northwest of Fort Nelson. The Liard River Corridor encompasses the Liard River valley and uplands to the height of land as far east as the Scatter River. This includes the Grand Canyon of the Liard, a 30 km stretch of extensive rapids. Tributaries of the Liard River, including portions of the Deer, Grayling, Toad and Scatter Rivers and Canyon, and Moule, Sulpher, Brimstone, Crusty, Graybank and Chimney Creeks occur within the park. Several small lakes, including Nordquist and Aline Lakes, can also be found in the area.

The adjacent Scatter River Old Growth Park, an 11.78 km² area on the east end of the Liard River Corridor Park is included in this Management Direction Statement. The total area covered is therefore approximately 901.67 km².

The Liard River forms the southern boundary of the Mackenzie Mountains, separating the lower heights of the Liard Plateau from the higher elevations of the Rocky Mountains to the south. The river descends about 150m in elevation from west to east within the park. A mix of coniferous and deciduous vegetation types occurs in this area, partly as a result of frequent, large fires that have swept through the area. The predominant tree cover is coniferous, mainly black spruce with lodgepole pine and cottonwood common on well drained alluvial soils. Geothermal activity forms an important feature in the park. Features include Deer River Hot Springs, the upper and main springs, a waterfall that flows over tufa into the Deer River, and geothermal seepage areas located along the Liard River.

Providing representation of the Hyland Highland, Muskwa Plateau and Muskwa Foothills ecosections, Liard River Corridor Park (and related Scatter River Old Growth), protects notable vegetation values such as old-growth white spruce forests, and important habitat for large mammals such as moose, wood bison, grizzly bear and caribou. The area contains exceptional scenery and recreational opportunities.

With the exception of the Alaska Highway and the Liard River Crossing, this area is substantially unroaded and undeveloped. However, old seismic lines, the (undeveloped) Alaska Highway pipeline right-of-way reserve and various old industrial and fire suppression roads occur in the park.

The Liard River was the focus of a potential BC Hydro development for many years. However, in 1992 this section of the Liard was identified as an Area of Interest (AOI) to the Protected Areas Strategy, and was subsequently officially included in 1995 as the Grayling-Liard River AOI. The Fort Nelson Land and Resource Management Plan (1997) later established protected status for this area.

Other protected areas in the vicinity include Muncho Lake Provincial Park with its important ungulate winter range to the southeast, and Maxhamish Lake Protected Area to the northeast with its quality angling and recreation opportunities.

Protected Area Attributes

Conservation

The protected area represents features of the Hyland Highland, Muskwa Plateau, and Muskwa Foothills ecosections. The Liard River Corridor Park and adjacent Scatter River Old Growth Park protect portions of three biogeoclimatic zones and five subzones:

- Boreal White and Black Spruce (BWBSdk2, BWBSmw2, BWBSwk3) are found along the river valley and some limited portions of the higher elevation south of the Liard and north of the Toad River.
- Spruce-Willow-Birch (SWBmk) is found in small sections along the southern boundary.
- Alpine Tundra (AT) is found at the height of land on both the north and south sides of the Liard River

Endangered, Threatened and Vulnerable Species

- Herd of free-ranging wood bison (provincial red list)
- Northern long-eared Myotis near Ruthie Creek and Liard Hot springs (red list)
- several species of warblers (red and blue lists)
- bull trout (blue list)
- grizzly bear (blue list)
- certain shorebirds, sandhill cranes and Trumpeter swans (blue list)
- White malaxis, and Taimyr campion (blue list)

Old Growth Spruce Forests

- 1, 140 ha alluvial white spruce old growth at the confluence of the Liard and Scatter Rivers

Hotsprings Ecosystem

- contains Deer River Hot Springs located in the western portions of the corridor adjacent to the large, significant hot spring ecosystems at Liard Hot Springs Provincial Park and Grayling Hot Springs Ecological Reserve. Possible rare species of snail and dragonfly are said to be present around these hot springs; a study of these ecosystems is needed.

Sensitive Species and Habitats

- Stone's sheep habitat
- Elk habitat
- Caribou
- Moose
- Grizzly bear habitat
- fur bearers
- staging areas for waterfowl and migratory routes

Other Important Species found in the Area

- white-tailed deer
- mule deer
- black bear
- chum salmon

Recreation and Tourism

The Liard River Corridor, with its impressive hot springs and rapids, old-growth forests and high scenic values offers outstanding recreation opportunities. The area in general offers fishing, hiking, hot springs bathing, camping, horseback riding, canoeing, river boating, wildlife viewing, hunting, ATV use, and photography. The Grand Canyon of the Liard, a 30 km stretch of river with dangerous rapids, is an area of tremendous visual quality.

The adjacent Liard Hot Springs Provincial Park provides:

- a 53 unit campground with picnic tables, fire pits, toilets, water and garbage facilities,
- a 60 unit parking lot, picnic shelter, 22 tables and playground facilities,
- a boardwalk trail leading through the hot spring marshes to viewpoints overlooking the Hanging Gardens, and
- two bathing pools: Alpha and Beta.

In addition to access from Liard Hot Springs, backcountry visitors use the old road to Nordquist Lake and Elk Mountain. River boaters also use Liard River up as far as Sulpher Creek and some go up the Toad River.

Cultural Heritage

The Liard River Corridor overlaps with the traditional use territories of the Kaska Dene First Nations of McDonald River, Fireside and Lower Post; and the Slavey Cree and Beaver Cultures of Fort Liard and Fort Nelson. Moose was, and still is, a mainstay of the aboriginal people and they historically utilized the river corridors.

Hudson's Bay Company activity in the area is known to date back to 1835 according to the diary of Robert Campbell, a Hudson Bay Company factor at Fort Liard located near the Liard River Hot springs. Missionaries, trappers, prospectors and government surveyors historically used the Liard River as a travel corridor.

Recorded archaeological sites:

- IiSm-1 : lithic scatter/obsidian flakes on north side of Liard River
- IiSm-2 : historic cache near bridge
- IiSm-3 : circular cultural depressions in the vicinity of Beta pool in adjacent Liard Hot Springs Provincial Park
- IiSm-4 : historic, bridge features outside of Park area near Mould Creek
- IiSm-5: historic, habitation, log cabin at Liard River

Other records:

- Fossilized ammonites up to 30 cm in diameter have been reported between Chimney Creek and the Scatter River along the Liard River (RPAT, 1995)
- Two Fort Nelson Indian Band archeological sites are known to exist along the Liard River. These sites represent traditional camp locations and possible burial grounds. The Grand Canyon area is rated as high potential for archaeological sites.

Significance in the Protected Areas System

Representation: The Liard River Corridor contains a diversity of landscapes from high upland plateau and muskeg to the Grand Canyon of the Liard and old growth spruce forests.

The Liard River Corridor Park and Protected Area and Scatter River Old Growth Park represent the Hyland Highland, Muskwa Plateau and Muskwa Foothills ecosections, protecting significant habitat for moose, grizzly bear, Rocky Mountain elk, furbearers, northern long-eared bats, and ecosystems associated with succession from the series of large forest fires that have swept through the Liard River valley.

The following tables list provincial biogeoclimatic zone and ecosection representation for these areas.

PA Name	Ecosection Name	% of the total Ecosection area within the province that is protected	Number of protected areas in this Ecosection	Area of this Ecosection in this Provincial PA (ha)	% of the province-wide protected area in this Ecosection that is in this Provincial PA
Liard River Corridor - Multi Class	Hyland Highland	7.73	3	35,624	93.4338
Liard River Corridor - Multi Class	Muskwa Foothills	30.56	8	19,807	6.0338
Liard River Corridor - A Multi Class	Muskwa Plateau	3.41	8	33,558	38.5594
Scatter River Old Growth Park	Muskwa Plateau	3.41	8	1,178	1.3530

PA Name	BGC Code	% of the total BGC Code area within the province that is protected	Number of protected areas in this BGC Code	Area of this BGC Code in this Provincial PA (ha)	% of the province-wide protected area in this BGC Code that is in this Provincial PA
Liard River Corridor - Multi Class	AT unp	22.47	151	264	0.0070
Liard River Corridor - Multi Class	BWBSdk 2	4.20	8	49,798	86.1522
Liard River Corridor - Multi Class	BWBSmw 2	2.18	25	33,806	22.7508
Liard River Corridor - Multi Class	BWBSwk 3	3.92	3	186	3.4003
Liard River Corridor - Multi Class	SWB mk	22.44	21	291	0.0436
Liard River Corridor - Multi Class	WATER	12.72	451	4,643	1.5874
Scatter River Old Growth Park	BWBSmw 2	2.18	25	896	0.6031
Scatter River Old Growth Park	BWBSwk 3	3.92	3	0	0.0090
Scatter River Old Growth Park	WATER	12.72	451	281	0.0960

Special Features: Major old growth white spruce stands occur at Scatter River. The Liard River Corridor protects the mouths of three undeveloped watersheds: Grayling River, Scatter River and Sulpher Creek. The Deer River hot springs occur within the Corridor and are used occasionally by guide outfitters.

Conservation: The park is located in relatively close proximity to a number of other parks and protected areas. In conjunction with the Special Resource Development Zones of the Muskwa-Kechika, these linkages provide the means for effective ecosystem management.

Recreation, Use, Appreciation: The Corridor serves an important tourism and recreation role for regional residents and tourists traveling the Alaska Highway. The area provides a wide range of provincially significant recreation features and opportunities, including Liard Hot springs and the Grand Canyon of the Liard. Very few major linear parks have been protected in the province and the Liard Corridor establishes a large, distinct and relatively undeveloped corridor that could be maintained for long term protection (depending on activities within the protected area).

- The 2000 Annual Management Plan rates the area as follows:

Significance of Natural Values:	1 (very high)
Significance of Cultural Heritage Values:	1 (very high)
Significance of Recreation, Use & Appreciation Values:	1 (very high)

Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Access

Access to Liard River Corridor Park and Protected Areas is via the Alaska Highway or by riverboat up the Liard River. There are no designated roads entering the protected area; however the Liard River Corridor Muskwa-Kechika Access Management Area Route provides some access to the backcountry from Liard River Hot Springs Provincial Park. ATV and horse trails can be accessed at this point. On the south side of the Liard River, an old BC Hydro road crosses the Trout River and continues to the Grand Canyon of the Liard. This road provides horseback and foot access, but can be hazardous at the Trout River crossing. Scatter River area is only accessible by riverboat or helicopter.

Existing Tenures

Registry Number	Description
0343439	Foothills Pipelines Ltd.- Section 16 Reserve (Protected Area)
8004025	Environment - Notation for trapline cabin (Liard Park)
8004033	Forests - Section 16 Reserve (Liard Park)
8000623	Lands - Notation of Interest - Fort Nelson Indian Band Archeological Site 1 (Liard Park)
8000623	Lands - Notation of Interest - Fort Nelson Indian Band Archeological Site 2 (Liard Park)
8001118	Environment Canada - Reserve - scientific measure (Liard Park)
0324431	Parks- Notation for misc (Liard Park)
8002698C	Abandoned trapper cabin (Protected Area)
8001327	License of Occupation – Hunting and Fishing Camp (Park)
	Guide/Outfitter (All)
700534	Guide/Outfitter (Liard River and Scatter River Parks)
700406	Guide/Outfitter (Liard Park and Protected Area)
	Guide/Outfitter (Liard Park)
753T001	Trapline (Liard Park and Protected Area)
753T002	Trapline (Liard Park and Protected Area)
753T005	Trapline (Liard Park)

Registry Number	Description
754T003	Trapline (Liard Park and Protected Area)
754T004	Trapline (Liard Park)
751T007	Trapline (Liard Park and Protected Area)
753T003	Trapline (Liard and Scatter River Parks)
754T006	Trapline (Liard and Scatter River Parks)
751T010	Trapline (Liard Park)

Existing Land Use Activities and Facilities

- Trapper cabins and Guide outfitter camps
- Old airstrip near the Grand Canyon of the Liard and Elk Mountain
- A wide range of recreation activities: hunting and fishing throughout; both private and guided, riverboat use, ATV and snowmobile use, hiking and camping, horseback riding, photography and wildlife viewing.

Adjacent Patterns of Land Use

Liard River Corridor and Scatter River Old Growth are surrounded by several Fort Nelson Land and Resource Management Plan Resource Management Zones (RMZ's). Below is a brief description of each zone.

Caribou Range General Resource Development RMZ

- Significant timber resources at lower elevations along the east, south and western edges of this RMZ; future operating areas identified
- Oil and gas exploration and tenures; high potential for natural gas in this area
- Potential for industrial minerals and fluorite
- Trapping and guide/outfitting are the main activities in the area at present.

Dunedin General Resource Development RMZ

- Existing oil and gas tenures and infrastructure, mainly in the southeast.
- Timber within this zone contributes to the Timber Harvesting Land Base identified in the Fort Nelson Timber Supply Area Analysis.

Smith River Uplands General Resource Development RMZ

- Potential for forest management activities; development planning is occurring.
- Significant potential for industrial minerals, fluorite and barite; a site of past barite production with remaining reserves is present in this RMZ.
- Trapping is currently the primary activity in this area

8 Mile / Sulphur Special Management RMZ

- Significant industrial mineral potential; three developed prospects of barite with established reserves.
- Future prospects for oil and gas discovery are considered medium to high.
- Potential for development of timber resource along west side of the Toad River.

Alaska Highway Corridor Enhanced Resource Development RMZ

- The Alaska Highway Corridor RMZ is to be managed to enhance recreation and tourism resources; strategies will be applied to maintain visual quality.

Smith River Uplands General Resource Development RMZ

- Significant potential for industrial minerals, fluorite and barite prospects.
- Future prospects for natural gas and timber harvesting are medium to high.
- The area contains few roads and trapping is the primary activity in most areas.

Toad River Corridor Special Resource Management RMZ

- This zone is considered to have high potential for gravel and geothermal resources, medium to high potential for oil and gas and industrial minerals and medium potential for timber resources in the lower portion of the Toad River.
- This zone contains no roads and has high recreation and wildlife values.

River Corridors East General Resource Development RMZ

- Significant potential for oil and gas, timber harvesting and industrial minerals.
- The riparian areas and river valleys are extremely important to wildlife.
- Current use and future potential for water based recreational activities is high.

First Nations Interests

- The area falls within the traditional territory of the Kaska Dene of McDonald River, Fireside and Lower Post and the Slavey, Cree and Beaver cultures of the Fort Liard Indian Band and the Fort Nelson Indian Band.
- Two Fort Nelson Indian Band Archeological Sites are known to exist along the Liard River (traditional camp locations and possible burial grounds).

Other Agency Interests

- Energy and Mines – surrounding tenure sales and directional drilling options.
- Ministry of Forests on range, fire and pest management plans for the protected area.

Private and Public Stakeholder Interests

Other stakeholders with interests in the protected area include:

- Guide outfitters (see list of tenures)
- Trappers (see list of tenures)
- Angling guides
- Alaska Highway businesses

Protected Area Role Statements

The primary roles of Liard River Corridor Park and Protected Area are to protect Boreal White and Black Spruce forest ecosystems associated with succession due to large fires; to protect special features such as nationally significant hot springs and a provincially significant canyon. The primary role of Scatter River Old Growth Park is to protect alluvial white spruce old growth stands.

The secondary role of these protected areas is to protect important wildlife habitat and populations. The Liard Corridor provides an effective linkage between the nearby protected areas (Muncho Lake, Stone Mountain, Liard Hot springs, Northern Rocky Mountains) especially for large ranges of key ungulate species. The area is of considerable wildlife management interest related to the grizzly bear, moose, and wolf populations, as well as the herd of free-ranging wood bison.

A tertiary role of Liard River Corridor Park and Protected Area is to provide for recreation. Liard River Corridor is the largest linear protected area in the Peace-Liard region. It is a high profile park because of its location and proximity to the Liard River hot springs. It provides for Alaska Highway travel corridor tourism and recreation opportunities, and commercial and public backcountry wilderness destination recreation.

Management Commitments and Issues

Management Direction from Previous Planning

The Fort Nelson Land and Resource Management Plan and the Table discussions provided some direction and recommendations for Liard River Corridor. These statements include:

- Continue to allow historic activities such as trapping, grazing and guide outfitting. Grazing will be allowed subject to the management plan; new tenures can be issued as necessary to support commercial backcountry recreation opportunities subject to certain acceptable limits of use and other criteria.
- Exotics, such as llamas and ostriches, are not to be used as pack animals. If subsequent research indicates that exotics are compatible with the natural environment, this recommendation can be revisited and amended.

- Some types of motorized off-road recreational vehicles and boats may be restricted either by type of vehicle, time of year or areas designated for use. The specifics of this recommendation will be developed through the Protected Area Management Planning process, including public and First Nations consultation.
- There is a reserve in place for the Alaska Highway Pipeline that runs across the protected area. The pipeline will be allowed if there is no practical or feasible alternative.
- Consider allowing tourism operators to expand their holding and operations within existing Provincial Parks if such expansion is feasible.
- Operational plans for use of fire to improve wildlife habitat should be developed by MOE, with consideration for Red-listed species.
- Liard River Corridor Park and Scatter River Old Growth Park were identified as Not Appropriate for Directional Drilling for oil and gas resources.

The Fort Nelson Land and Resource Management Plan also states that:

- In areas of the adjacent Caribou RMZ, consider management of resource development that supports the intended objectives and acceptable uses of the protected area, including conservation and recreation. This would include:
 - encouraging low impact seismic,
 - re-vegetating disturbed areas, using local native plant species where possible,
 - for mineral exploration and development, road building into currently unroaded areas will be subject to review and approval through established procedures and all applicable legislation, and
 - minimizing and managing creation of new access in unroaded areas.

Management Issues

Theme	Issue
Development Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future industrial roads and access to adjacent areas may threaten wildlife and wilderness values. • Current boundaries are not conducive to ecological management or improving recreation opportunities. • Resource development in adjacent areas may impact the visual quality of the area. • Development of the pipeline reserve may impact protected area values by increasing access to humans and livestock, wildlife/vehicle collisions, etc. • Firewood use, livestock grazing and prescribed burning issues associated with expanding guide outfitter facilities need to be addressed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of commercial highway-oriented facilities and backcountry recreation opportunities could compromise ecological, wildlife and wilderness recreation values.

Management Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fossil collection is a problem due to lack of understanding/indifference concerning park regulations • Visitor information and management services along the Alaska Highway need to be coordinated between BC Parks, Public Works Canada and the Regional District. • Wildlife disturbances and bear-human interactions are a growing concern due to increased accessibility and use. • Fire management protocols need to be developed.
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Management Strategy

Priority Management Objectives and Strategies

Management Objectives	Priority Actions
Establish an understanding among private landowners, tenure-holders, First Nations, and other major stakeholders regarding park boundaries and status, protection of park values, appropriate uses, and management expectations and responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a consultation process and advisory committee, or similar mechanism, to assist communication, planning activities and ongoing management of the park. • Honour the commitments of the Fort Nelson Land & Resource Management Plan. • Define the boundaries on the ground. Determine if changes need to be made to optimize recreation potential and ecological integrity.
Protect the outstanding hot springs, river recreation, and heritage resources of Liard River Corridor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete inventory survey and assessment of recreation opportunities • Complete inventory survey and assessment of heritage and traditional use resources, and implement appropriate measures to prevent heritage sites disturbance and fossil collecting. • Designate the Grand Canyon of the Liard as a provincial heritage site. • Do not advertise the location of fossil beds. • Provide information about park regulations concerning collection of natural or cultural objects.
Protect important wildlife and fish populations and habitats, and reduce bear/human conflicts in the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete inventory surveys and assessments of wildlife, particularly important ungulate habitat, grizzly bear habitat, and bison habitat, and determine habitat enhancement needs. Focus on possible rare species that are present in Liard Hot Springs. • Follow the guidelines of the Peace Region Bear-People Conflict Prevention Plan

Management Objectives	Priority Actions
<p>Ensure that the type and level of recreation use, development, and access are compatible with the ecological, recreational and cultural values of the park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine appropriate development capacity and land use development potential in the vicinity of Liard Crossing in consultation with Liard Regional District. • Prepare a Park Management Plan in consultation with the major interests that addresses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) access controls and signing b) existing and potential commercial backcountry recreation opportunities, c) highway-oriented facilities development issues, d) waste management and other service issues, e) wildlife habitat enhancement and other relevant issues.
<p>Create a fire management plan that allows natural processes to occur when possible and minimizes the threat of human caused fires.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow wildfires to burn as long as they do not threaten lives, facilities or property. • Prescribed burning is only to be conducted by, or under the supervision of government staff.
<p>Support and manage commercial backcountry recreation operations in a manner consistent with park values and high environmental standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess potential additional commercial recreation opportunities in the park. • Review commercial recreation activities and requirements, formulate and discuss operating standards and codes of practice for commercial recreation in the park, and issue Park Use Permits. • Work with existing guide outfitters to address issues such as forage allocation, tree cutting for firewood and prescribed burning.
<p>Ensure that adjacent resource development, including forestry and oil and gas do not have a significant adverse impact on the park.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future access to Grayling River area for resource development should be considered from the west and not through Liard River Corridor Park. • Consult with Ministry of Forests regarding visual and other potential impacts of future adjacent timber harvesting. • Consult with industry concerning impacts on visual quality and ecological integrity from adjacent access and land use.

Consultation and Future Planning

BC Parks will undertake further consultation and planning as follows:

- Preparation of a Management Plan will be a high priority in the district expected to occur in the next 1-2 years, in conjunction with Grayling Hot springs and subject to funding.
- In the review of resource development plans or landscape level forest management plans in adjacent areas, input will be provided on necessary measures to maintain protected area values.
- Regular consultation will be maintained with First Nations regarding protected area inventory and management activities.

Zoning Plan

The park is zoned Special Features (Ecological) (SF) around Deer River Hot Springs, Nature Recreation (NR) along the potential pipeline route, Wilderness Recreation (WR) around the Grand Canyon of the Liard /Nordquist Lake area and Wilderness Conservation (WC) in remote sections of the park. See Figure 1 (Liard River Corridor) and Figure 2 (Scatter River Old Growth).

The acceptable uses are identified in Appendix I.

Appendix I

Acceptable Use Matrix

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptable Uses				Comments
	SF	WC	WR	NR	
Hunting	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Fishing	N	Y	Y	Y	
Trapping	N ₂	N ₂	N ₂	N ₂	Existing tenures are renewable and transferable, but additional tenures will not be issued. Park Use Permit required for all cabins.
Grazing	N	Y	Y	Y	Park Use Permit required. No New grazing permits allowed.
Horse use/Pack animals	N	Y	Y	Y	No exotic species permitted.
Guide Outfitting	N	Y	Y	Y	Permits from managing agency will be required.
Camping	N	Y	Y	Y	
Backcountry Huts	N	N	Y	Y	No new private cabins permitted.
Fish Stocking and Enhancement	N	N ₁	Y	Y	Only where authorized by Fish and Wildlife Branch.
Power line/Transmission lines and other r-o-way	N	N	N	Y	Allowed if there are no practical and feasible alternatives.
Road Access	N	N	Y	Y	Any improvement or expansion in road access to be determined in the Management Plan
Off-road Access (snowmobiles)	N	N	Y	Y	Limited to designated zones and/or trails.
Off-road Access (motorized)	N	N	Y	Y	Limited to designated trails and the AMA restrictions.
Water: Motorized activity	N	Y	Y	Y	
Aircraft Access	N	Y	Y	Y	For destination access purposes only (drop off)
Communication Sites	N	N	N	Y	Allowed for essential protected area management communication needs or if there are no practical alternatives.
Forest Insect / Disease Control	N ₁	N ₁	N ₁	N ₁	Mitigative actions permitted where there is a need to prevent unacceptable damage to values on adjacent land, significant recreation features or values etc.
Exotic Organism	N ₁	N ₁	Y	Y	

Activity/Use/Facility	Acceptable Uses				Comments
	SF	WC	WR	NR	
Control					
Scientific Research	Y	Y	Y	Y	Manipulative activities normally not allowed. Specimen collections only if results in information providing increased scientific knowledge for protection and/or understanding of protected area values. Permit required.
Removal of Wildlife for Transplants	N ₁	N ₁	N ₁	N ₁	
Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Directional Drilling – Oil & Gas	N	N	N	N	See LRMP.

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

M = may be allowed if compatible with protected area objectives

N₁ = allowed for expressed management purposes only

N = not allowed

N₂ = present and allowed to continue but not normally allowed

Province of British Columbia. *The New Relationship With First Nations and Aboriginal Peoples: Overview*. Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/newrelationship/new_relationship_overview.html (April 15, 2008).

ⁱⁱ Province of British Columbia. 1996. *Constitution Act*. RSBC1996, c.66. Queen's Printer, Victoria, BC. http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/C/96066_01.htm (October 26, 2006).