Wildland Recreation

Two Year Report

POTENTIAL PARK SITES

in

Central Kootenay Regional District

for

Len Dunsford

by

Robin Dalziel

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this technical report is to spark in the Regional District of Central Kootenay, an interest in the establishment of a Regional Parks System. A Regional Parks System would provide day use recreation opportunities in a natural environment, for the Central Kootenay Regional Population.

An initial step is to define a Regional Park. A Regional Park is a small to large area that "provides residents of a natural region with major natural areas and activity areas within a convenient distance for day use on a special trip or incidental stop basis".[1] In the natural area of a Regional Park a minimum of development is allowed to augment natural topographic features. In activity areas only as much development required to realize the recreational potential is allowed. The Park should be large enough to minimize disturbance from activities outside the Park. The average acreage recommended in this report is 150 to 200 acres.

The sites in this report were selected on the basis of:

(1) Geographical Location
(2) Present Recreation
(3) Potential Recreation
(4) Land Ownership

Geographical Location means that each park must be within an hour drive or 70 km. radius of a population center.

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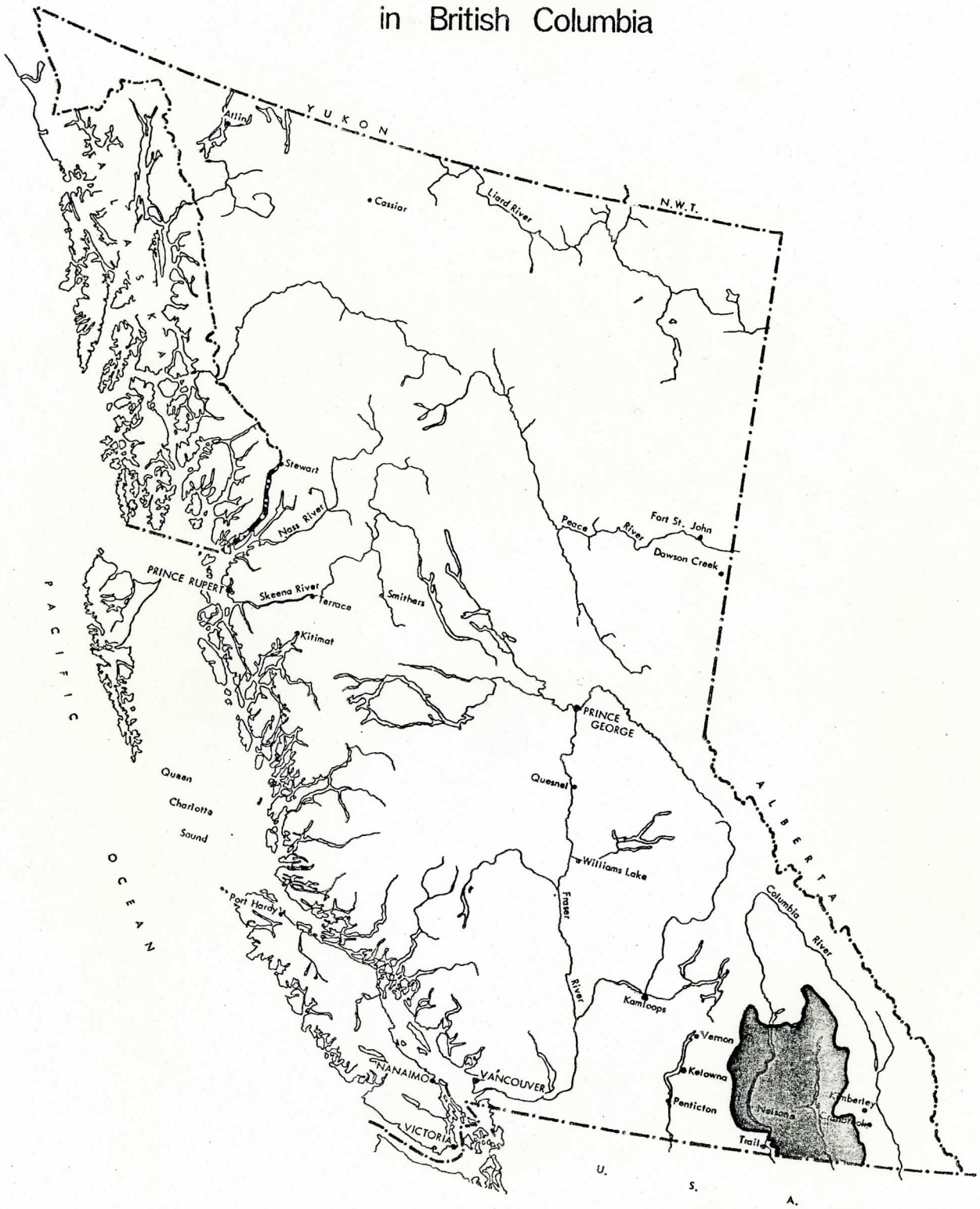
1. A REGIONAL PARKS PLAN FOR THE LOWER MAINLAND REGION, (New Westminster, 1966) Table I p. 17.

Present Recreation is existing use on the site without more development.

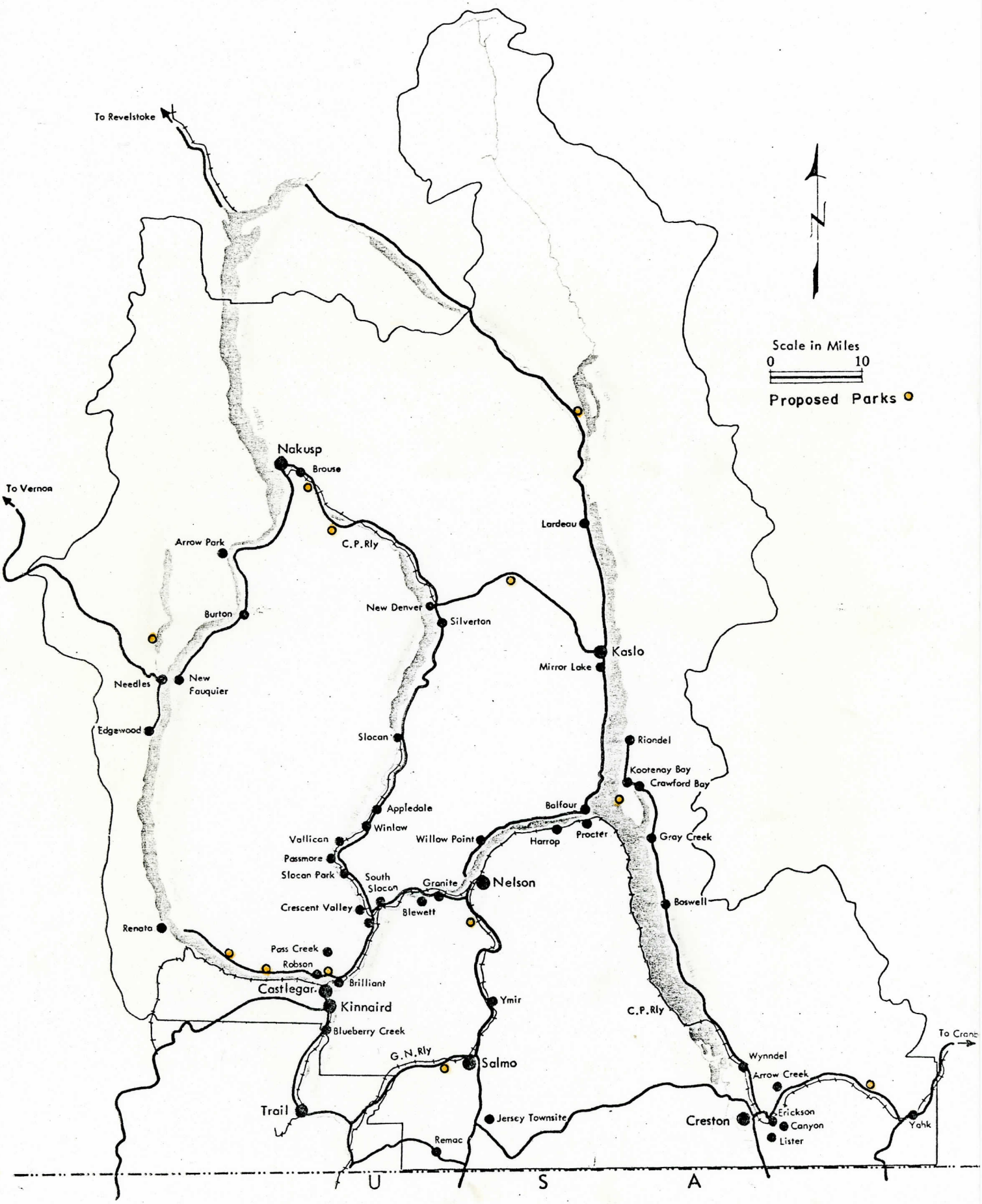
Potential Recreation is the use that can occur on the site with moderate development.

Land Ownership refers to whether the site is private or crown land. Private land can be purchased as budget allows. One way to acquire park land is to start with a small area and buy up surrounding land as it becomes available.

CENTRAL KOOTENAY REGION
in British Columbia



CENTRAL KOOTENAY REGION



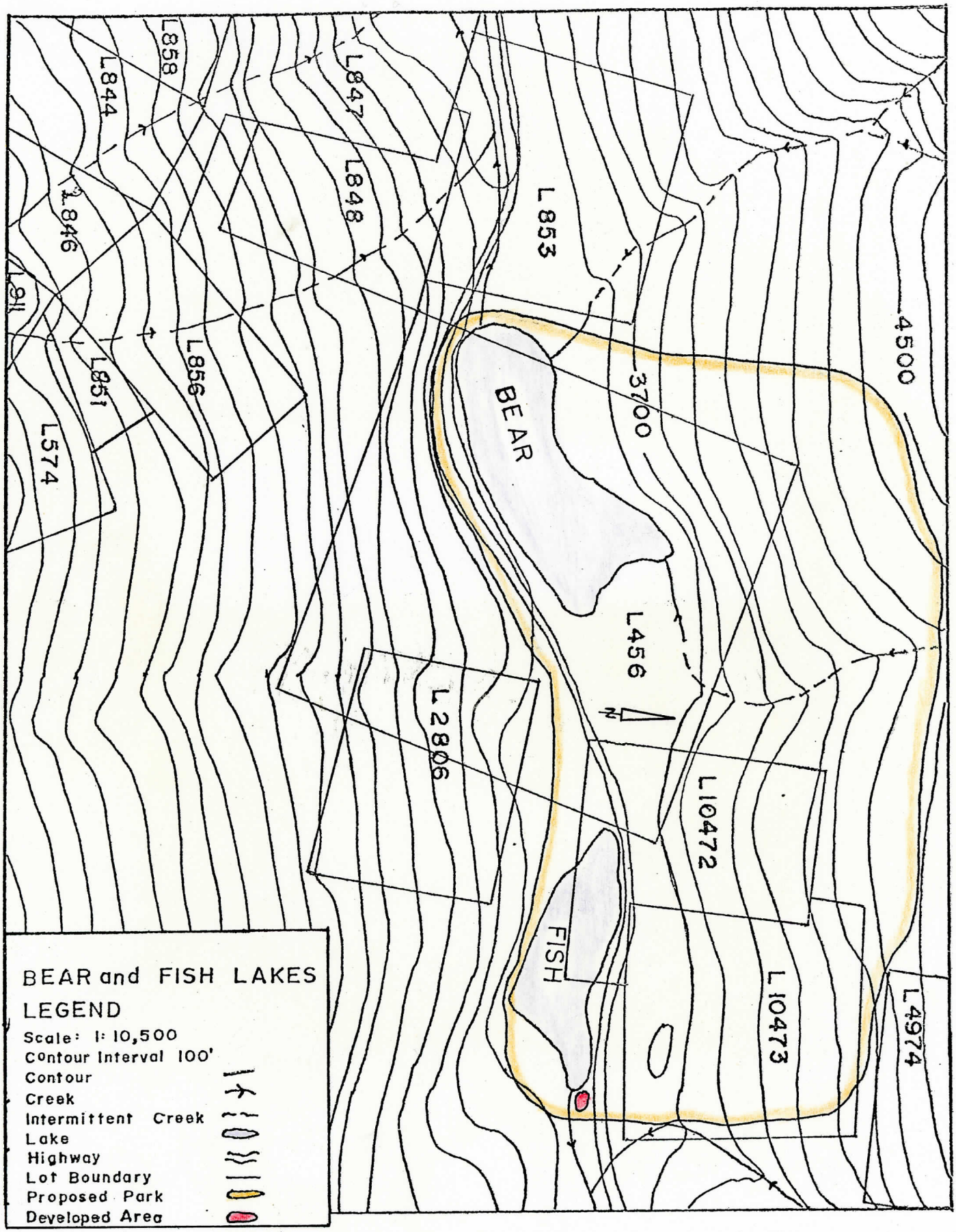
Geographic Location

Bear and Fish Lakes are two lakes side by side, 17 kilometres east of New Denver and 25 kilometres west of Kaslo at the summit of Highway 31A. Most of Bear lake is contained within mineral claim lot 456 and part of Fish lake is in lots 10472 and 10473.

Topographic Description

The site is in a steep valley with peaks over 2,500 metres on either side. The lakes are located in the Slocan range of the Selkirk mountains. The bedrock geology of the site is a mix of slate, argillite, limestone, quartzite and tuffaceous sediments. The area is within the old mining area of the Slocan valley. There are two ghost towns nearby, Retallack and Zincton. The primary ores produced here were lead, zinc, silver and gold.

View of Bear Lake looking west


L858
L844
L847
L848
L853
L846
L911
L856
L851
L574
4500
3700
BEAR
L456
N
L2806
L10472
FISH
L10473
L4974
BEAR and FISH LAKES
LEGEND
Scale: 1:10,500
Contour Interval 100'
Contour
Creek
Intermittent Creek
Lake
Highway
Lot Boundary
Proposed Park
Developed Area

Vegetation

The elevation of the site is between 1,000 metres and 1,300 metres. The site is in the Interior Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. Stands of Trembling Aspen (Populus tremuloides) are growing on alluvial material surrounding the lakes. The elevation changes from 1,000 metres to 2,500 metres as one proceeds from valley bottom to mountain top. This results in three distinct biogeoclimatic zones, being traversed; Interior Western Hemlock, Engelmann Spruce - Sub Alpine Fir, and at higher elevations Alpine.

The marsh between Bear and Fish Lakes

Waterfront Description

As the lakes are deep there are few places with shallow water for swimming. No natural beaches are present. The east end of Fish Lake is presently developed by the department of highways, as a picnic site. Fish lake has the best

potential for non-motorized boating as Bear lake is cluttered with logging debris. A marsh area west of Fish lake, about two acres in size, contains; Aspen (Populus tremuloides), Alder (Alnus tenuifolia), White Birch (Betula papyrifera), and a few Northern Black Cottonwood (Populus tricocarpa).

Current Development

The day use site on Fish lake has a small 5-8 car parking lot, five picnic tables and two pit toilets. The developed site is presently used as a stop over by summer travellers.

Potential Development

The site is excellent for a natural Regional Park. It is in a very scenic setting exhibiting a wide variety of flora. It is proposed that expansion of the day use site and parking lot may be required to accomodate the increase in regional use. Also a nine kilometre hiking trail from Bear lake to Whitewater mountain is recommended to allow the visitor to see the view and study the flors. The trail would pass through the various plant communities of Marsh, Interior Western Hemlock, Engelmann Spruce- Sub Alpine Fir, and Alpine. It would include a steep three kilometre section along Whatson Creek, then a six kilometre hike along the ridge to Whitewater mountain at an elevation of 2,756 metres. This peak gives an excellent panoramic view of the surrounding area. As the site is in an old mining area a tour through the Zincton mine west of Bear lake would increase the visitor opportunities in the area.

Implementation

Development can be started in Crown Land that borders the Lakes, but to achieve the full recreational potential of the site the purchase of mineral claims 456, 10472 and 10473 may be required. Studies should be undertaken to determine the ownership of the land and to determine

whether it has been purchased or not. The trails and facilities needed to augment the natural features of the site can be built by students sponsored by government grants.

Conclusion

This site has excellent potential as a Regional Park. It is within a days drive of New Denver and Kaslo. It has a variety of recreational opportunities, for example, fishing, swimming, boating and nature study. The site is located in a scenic valley that has opportunity for the appreciation of mining history.

The recommended acreage for this Regional Park is 150 acres.

Geographic Location

Box lake is located 5 kilometres south east of Nakusp on Highway 6. There is a 3 kilometre dirt road from the highway to the site. The proposed site boundaries include the eastern 2 acres of Land Lot 11413 and the eastern end of Box lake.

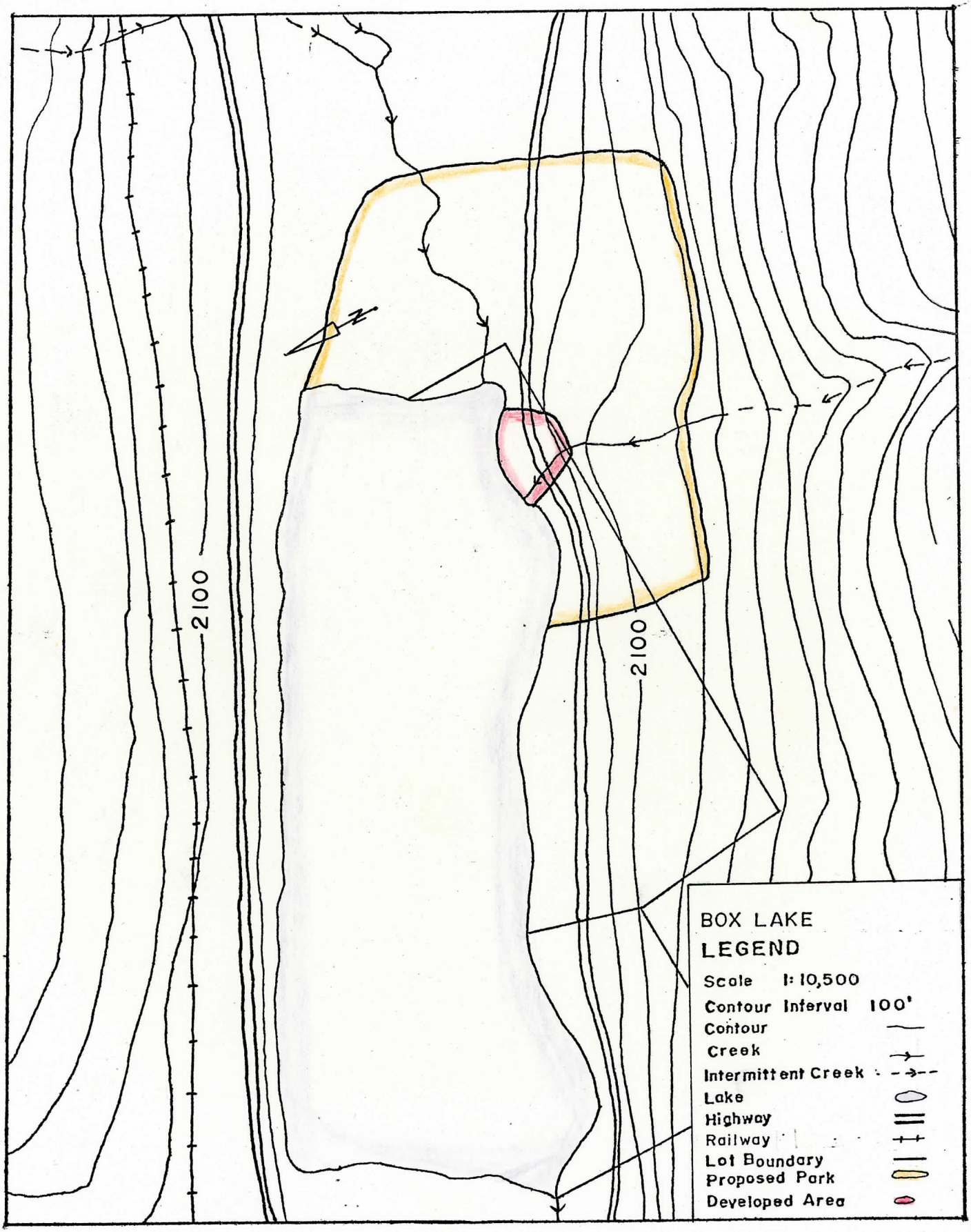
View of Box lake looking south-east

Topographic Description

The area has been glaciated and Nakusp creek has carved out banks of 25% slopes along the creek. There are no flat areas except for the marsh at the mouth of Nakusp creek.

Vegetation

The elevation of the site is between 500 metres and 600 metres. The site is in the Interior Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. There is a climax stand of Cedar


2100
2100
BOX LAKE
LEGEND
Scale 1: 10,500
Contour Interval 100'
Contour
Creek
Intermittent Creek
Lake
Highway
Railway
Lot Boundary
Proposed Park
Developed Area

(Thuja plicata) and Western Hemlock (Tsuga heterophyllia) in the marsh area. The understory contains mosses, ferns, lichens and devils club. On the dryer slopes the Hemlock forest is less dense. It also has less understory vegetation. Other tree species in the marsh include Birch (Betula papyrifera) and Aspen (Populus tremuloides). The ground in the marsh area is saturated.

Waterfront Description

The currently developed day use site includes a sandy beach at a slope of 10%. The site is developed by the British Columbia Forest Service as a recreation site. The soil excavated from the parking area and picnic area has been used to provide a shallow area for the swimmers. The marsh is unsuitable for beach development because of the high cost of hauling in gravel to form the beach. The shore line around the lake is stable. Drinking water is provided by a small stream flowing through the presently developed Forest Service site.

Current Development

The site is a picnic and camping area for the local residents. There is a parking area for ten cars, three sites for camping, three tables and two pit toilets. The Forest Service have also built a boat ramp and provided a safety line for the swimmers.

Proposed Development

The present parking area is unsuitable for heavy use therefore it is recommended that another parking area be built about 2 kilometres in from the highway then have a hiking trail to the picnic area. Keeping cars out of the day use area will provide more picnic and beach area. Changing the camping sites to picnic sites would provide

more room for the picnicers.

A short walking trail through the marsh and along the forested slopes is recommended to enable the visitor to experience the natural environment. Future trails to Box mountain and to Summit lake would increase the regional hiking potential in the area.

View of the camping area

Implementation

The British Columbia Forest Service will have to be contacted in detail to see if the large Cedars and Hemlocks in the marsh area are to be logged in the future as it would conflict with the use of the site as a Regional District park. The acquisition of the present Forest Service site in land lot 11413 is necessary as it contains the present developed site and the best land for a beach on the lake. The hiring of students through government work grants is

the most economical way of building the various trails. When building trails through the marsh great care must be taken to protect the environment.

Conclusion

As this site is within an hours drive of Nakusp and it has a variety of recreational opportunities such as swimming, fishing, boating, hiking and nature study, it has excellent features for a Regional Park.

The recommended acreage for this Regional Park is 150 acres.

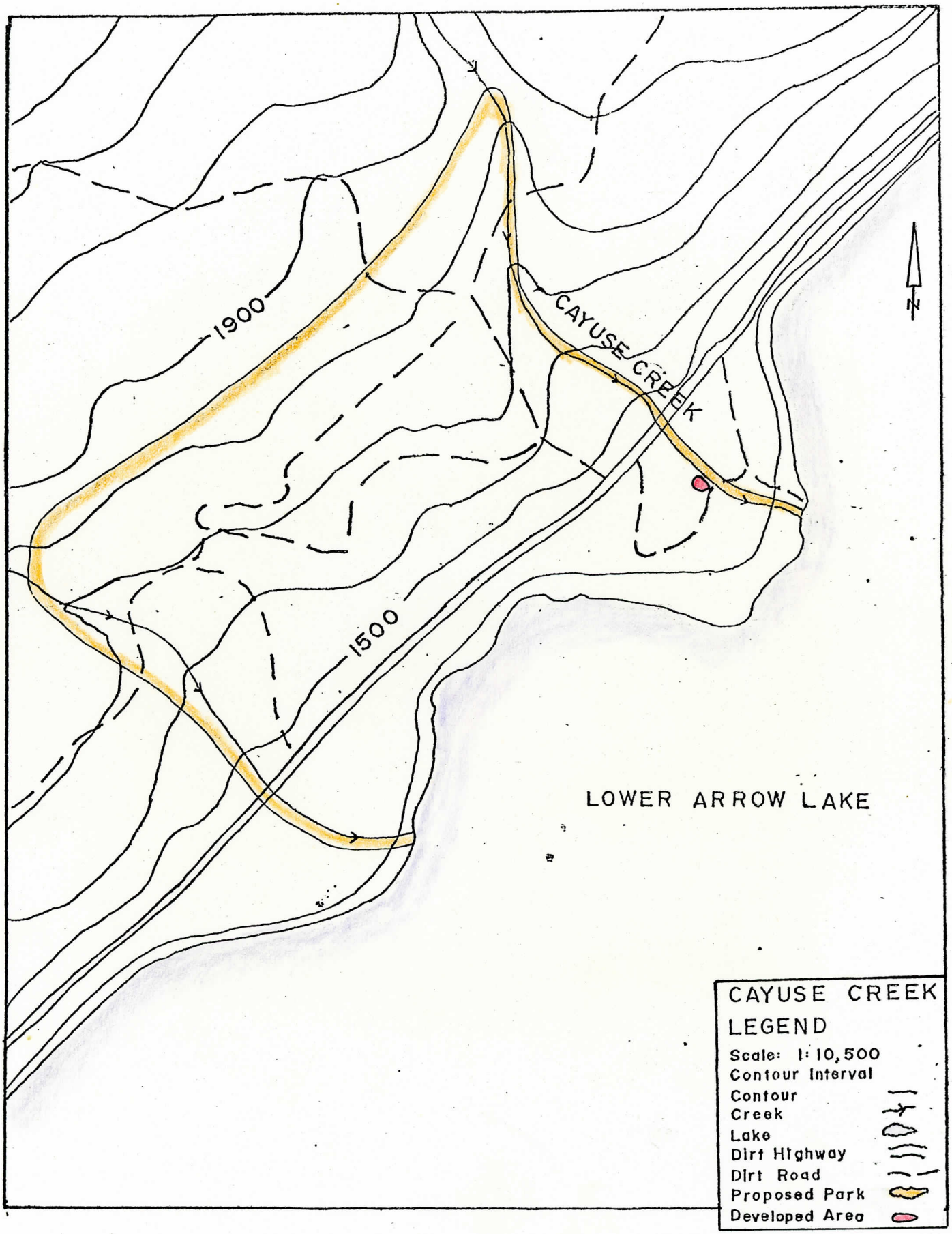
Geographic Location

Cayuse Creek is located 28 kilometres west of Castlegar on the north shore of the Lower Arrow Lake. The access is by 19 kilometres of paved road and 9 kilometres of good gravel road. The site is located in Tree Farm License 23, which is operated by Canadian Cellulose.

Topographic Description

The site contains many flat terraces formed by a glacier lake. The terraces are joined by a seris of very steep side hills at a slope of 70 - 80 %. Cayuse creek has cut out a deep canyon with many falls and pools.

Beach area at Cayuse creek


1900
1500
CAYUSE CREEK
N
LOWER ARROW LAKE
CAYUSE CREEK
LEGEND
Scale: 1:10,500
Contour Interval
Contour
Creek
Lake
Dirt Highway
Dirt Road
Proposed Park
Developed Area

Vegetation Description

The elevation of the site is between 400 metres and 500 metres. The site is in the Ponderosa Pine Bunchgrass biogeoclimatic zone, with Ponderosa Pine (Pinus ponderosa) being the major tree. Most of the sparse understory consists of Redstemmed Ceanothus. Deer and Elk use the lower terraces as a wintering ground.

Waterfront Description

The beach varies greatly with the fluctuations caused by the Hugh Keenlyside Dam. The beach is gently sloping with no sharp dropoffs. There is a large delta developing where Cayuse Creek enters the Lake.

Cayuse creek falls

Current Development

The access from the gravel road to the beach area is awkward for cars pulling trailers. There has been

no recreational development on the beach. There is a camping site, consisting of three sites with two tables and one pit toilet. It is located beside one of the larger water falls on the creek. This camping site is about half a kilometre from the lake shore. It has been developed by Canadian Cellulose with volunteer help from the local Boy Scouts.

Proposed Development

The site includes two main terraces. One near the lake shore, which can be developed for water orriented activities such as boating, picnicking and swimming, the other terrace can be an activity area. Some of these activities could include a large open field for baseball, soccer and other group sporting activities. A hiking trail should be built along the canyon because of its senic and interpretive values.

View of the upper terrace

Implementation

For the site to be a feasible Regional Park, the access from Castlegar must be improved as many people do not like to travel on gravel roads. This may happen if the department of highways builds a highway from Deer Park to Fauquier. Care must be taken when planning the development that the changes do not drastically affect the wintering habits of the deer and elk. All of the structures and facilities needed can be funded through Government work programs.

Conclusion

The site has all of the characteristics necessary for a Regional Park. It is located within an hour drive from Castlegar, it has good areas for active involvement by the visitor as well as providing areas of natural beauty for the visitor to enjoy.

The recommended acreage for this Regional Park is 200 acres.

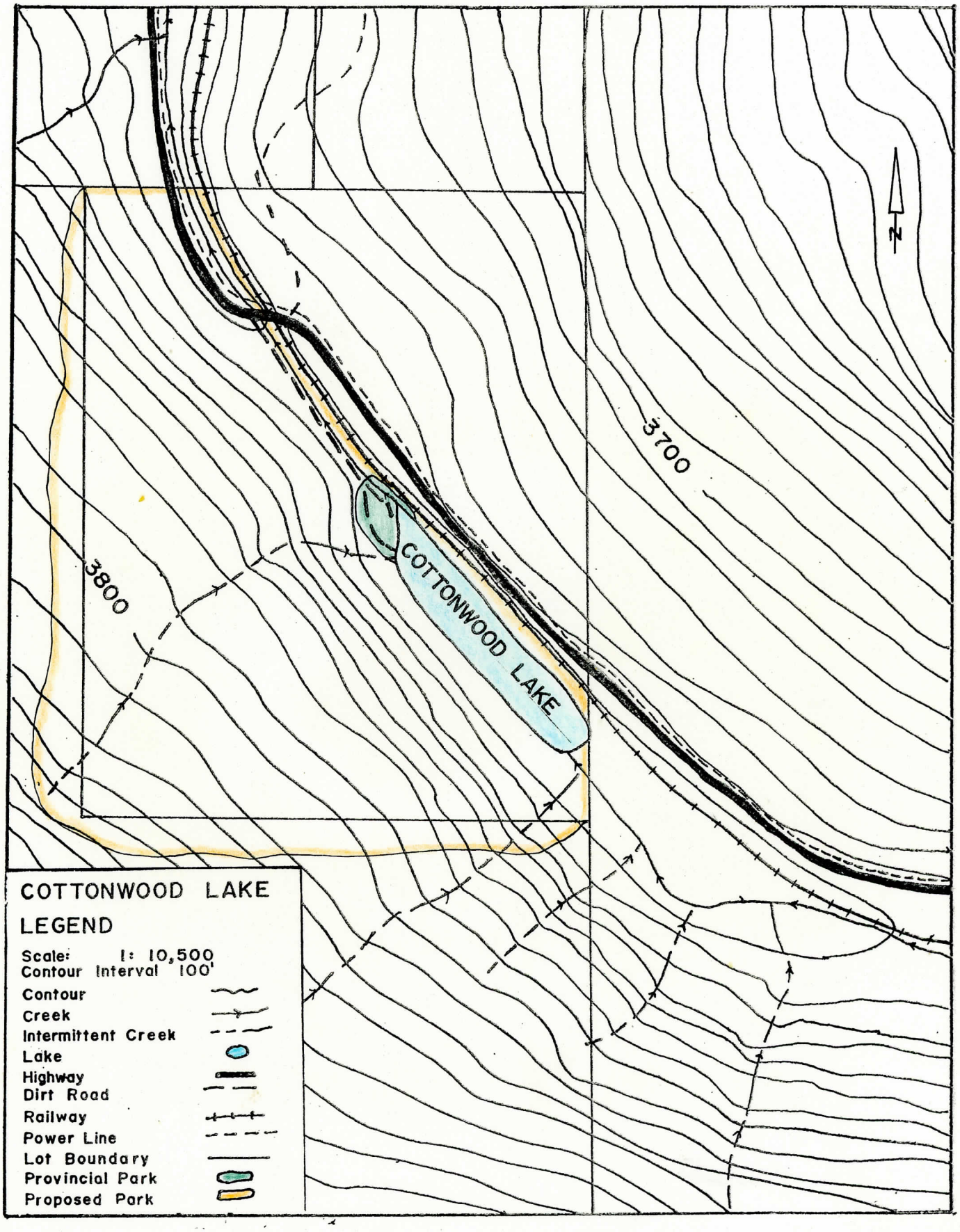
Geographic Location

Cottonwood lake is located 8 kilometres south of Nelson and 32 kilometres north of Salmo on Highway 6. Most of the proposed park site is contained in Lot 8221 west of the railway right of way and including more of the marsh to the South east end of the lake. There is a half a kilometre dirt road from the highway to the lake.

Cottonwood lake looking south

Topographic Description

Cottonwood lake was formed by a glacier as indicated by the U shaped valley and the rounded hills. With the area composed of rolling hills there are few naturally flat areas present. The sides of the lake are very steep with a slide path present on the west shore.


N
3700
3800
COTTONWOOD LAKE
COTTONWOOD LAKE
LEGEND
Scale: 1: 10,500
Contour Interval 100'
Contour
Creek
Intermittent Creek
Lake
Highway
Dirt Road
Railway
Power Line
Lot Boundary
Provincial Park
Proposed Park

Vegetation

The area around Cottonwood lake is a climax stand of Hemlock (Tsuga heterophyllia) and Cedar (Thuja plicata) in the Interior Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. The site is located in a North west to South east section of the valley and as a result receives very little sunshine in the bottom of the valley. The lack of sunshine and abundant water creates an excellent condition for a Cedar and Hemlock forest. There is a marsh of about 10 acres to the south end of the lake.

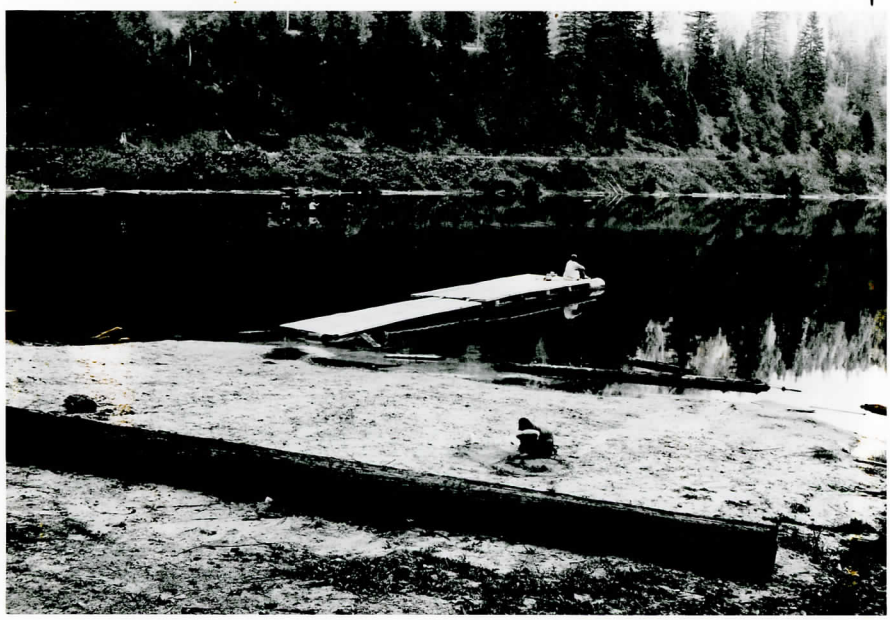
View of the north end of the lake

Waterfront Description

The beach drops rapidly from the shore. There are no natural beaches present on the lake. The lake is covered by a great amount of natural and logging debris.

Current Development

At present there is an 8 acre Provincial Class C Park at the North end of the lake. The Parks Branch have developed the site for picnicking, swimming, non-motorized boating, hiking and a childrens play area.



Present beach development

They have provided several picnic tables, two sets of swings, two pit toilets, and two parking areas for a total of 20 cars. They have also built a boat launching ramp and a raft used for fishing and swimming. They have brushed out a large area for children to use but it is located on a moderate 15 - 20 % side hill. The Parks Branch has also built a trail down to the south end of the lake along the west shore.

Proposed Development

The site has almost been developed to its fullest potential as there is very little room for expansion at the present site. A trail system back to Nelson or up to Toad Mountain would provide more hiking potential in the area and allow the visitor the chance to see the area. The trails would be 8 and 7 kilometres respectively. The marsh should be developed into a self interpreting feature area for the local schools. All activities such as, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, and boating in the summer, plus snowshoeing, cross country skiing and ice fishing in the winter should be encouraged for the local residents.

Implementation

As the site is almost fully developed all that is left to be done is to clear the lake of the debris, to allow the use of the lake for fishing and swimming. To increase the Regional Hiking potential the trails to Toad mountain and to Nelson should be built. The steepness of the side slopes limits trail development along the sides of the lake.

Conclusion

The site is within an hour drive of Nelson and Salmo. It supports day use activities such as swimming, hiking, fishing and nature study. The site is currently used by the residents of Nelson on a day use basis. This site would make an excellent Regional Park.

The recommended acreage for this Regional Park is 150 acres.

Geographic Location

The Erie creek site is located 1.5 kilometres west of Salmo and 20 kilometres east of Fruitvale. The boundaries include those of the present Provincial Erie Creek Class C Park, containing 70 acres. There is also a half a kilometre paved road into the site.

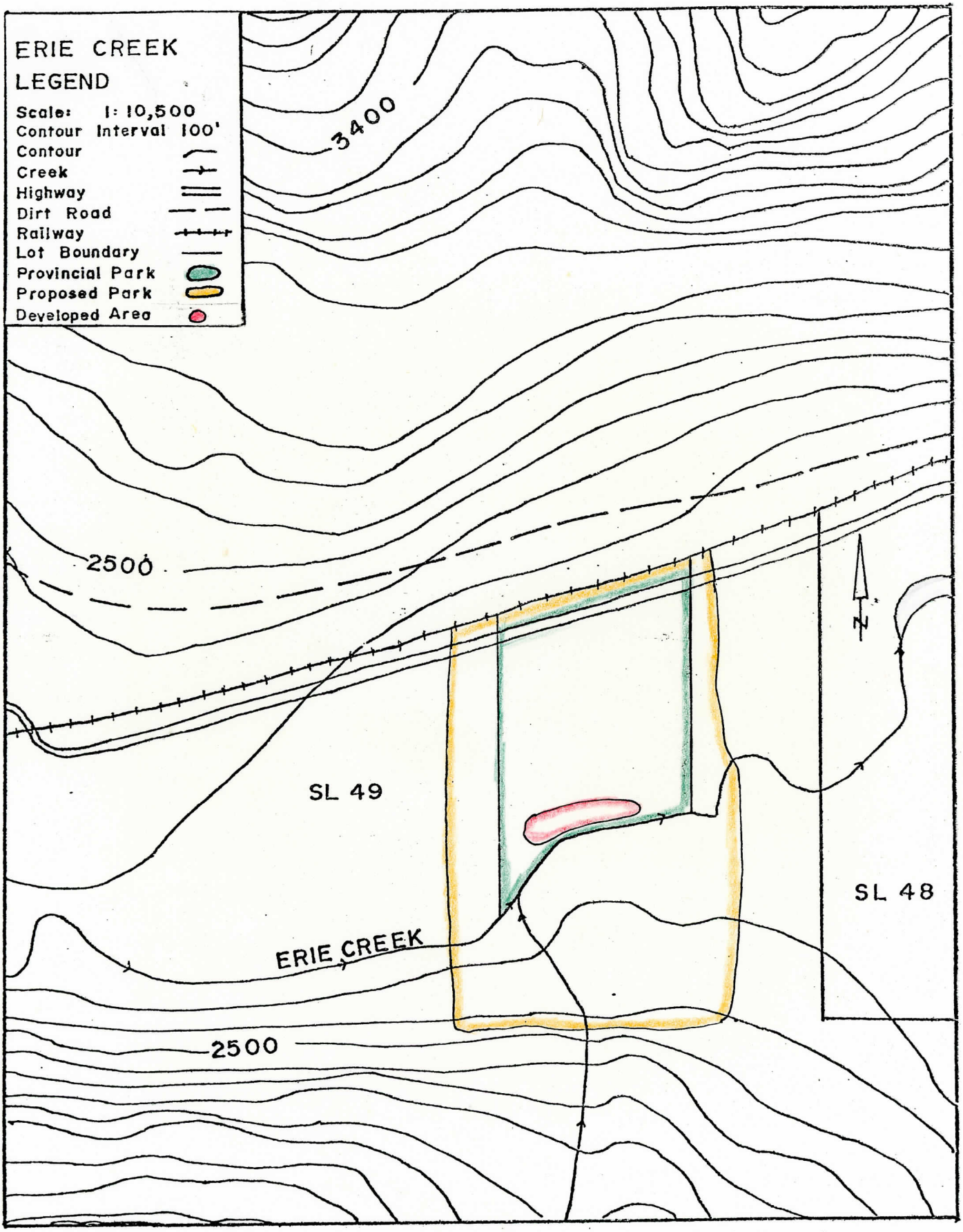
Topographic Description

The site is located next to Erie creek and is relatively flat. It is situated at the bottom of a large glaciated valley. There are no outstanding topographic features located close to the park.

Erie creek picnic ground

Vegetation

The site is located in the Interior Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. The major tree species along the


ERIE CREEK
LEGEND
Scale: 1: 10,500
Contour Interval 100'
Contour
Creek
Highway
Dirt Road
Railway
Lot Boundary
Provincial Park
Proposed Park
Developed Area
3400
2500
SL 49
SL 48
ERIE CREEK
2500
N

creek are Cedar (Thuja plicata) and Western Hemlock (Tsuga heterophllia). The land around the park is mostly marsh with very little dry land. The underbrush on the site is very dense. The hillsides to the north and south contain a dryer forest of Douglas fir (Pseudotsuga menzessi) and Lodgepole pine (Pinus contorta). The underbrush on these dryer slopes is more open than the valley bottom.

Waterfront Description

There is a creek front with a few sand bars in front of the picnic area.

Erie creek waterfront

Current Development

The Provincial Parks Branch has built a 30 car parking lot and has enough tables for each car and two pit toilets, to service the site. There was no trail

development. They have also built a half a kilometre paved road into the park from Highway 3.

Proposed Development

As the site is currently used as a picnic ground for the local residents and summer travellers the addition of a hiking trail should be built. This trail would be the only major recreational development possible without exceeding the land's environmental carrying capacity.

Erie creek parking lot

Implementation

This site is surrounded by a marsh as well as several private holdings which combine to limit the sites expansion, recreational development and potential.

Conclusion

The site is within an hour drive of Salmo and Fruitvale. The site is very pleasant and is providing day use opportunities for the local residents. The site provides a Picnic area and the opportunity to study nature. The recommended acreage is 150 acres.

Geographic Location

Howser is located on the Duncan Lake resevoir 32 kilometres north of Kaslo. The boundaries would include the present British Columbia Forest Service Recreation Site.

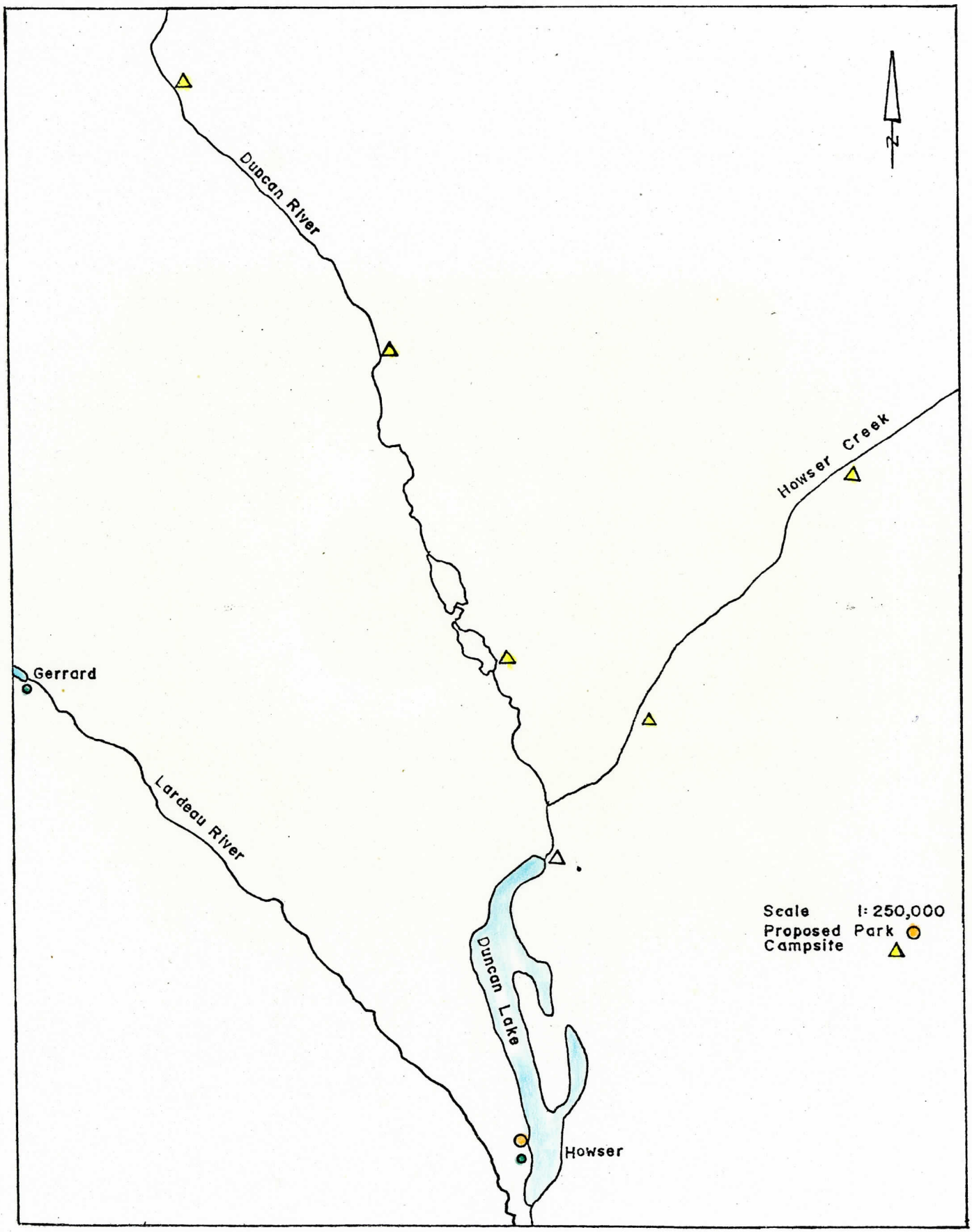
Duncan lake from the Duncan Dam

Topographic Description

The site is in a steep valley which contains the Duncan resevoir. The resevoir has covered all the flat land near the old lake. The beach slope is 15%. The valley was formed by glaciers.

Vegetation

The understory vegetation is thick on the site as a result of the low elevation of 600 metres and heavy rainfall. The forest is in the Interior Western Hemlock


Dubcan River
Howser Creek
Gerrard
Lardeau River
Duncan Lake
Howser
N
Scale 1: 250,000
Proposed Park
Campsite

biogeoclimatic zone. The major climas tree species are Cedar (Thuja plicata) and Western Hemlock (Tsuga heterophyllia).

Waterfront Description

The site contains no shallow areas for non swimmers. The slope of the beach is between 15 - 20 %. The water levels fluctuate greatly with the operation of the Duncan Dam.

Howser waterfront

Current Development

The current development is done by the British Columbia Forest Service. They have provide 5 tables, 2 pit toilets and camping sites. There has been no development to the beach area. The road to the site is in moderately good

condition for cars. They have also provided a boom for swimmers and a boat launching ramp.

Present development

Proposed Development

The site would need a lot of slope improvement to provide adequate parking and picnic facilities. The greatest potential for this site is as the head of a canoe or motor boat trip along one of the surrounding rivers. The best trip would be up the Duncan River for 19 kilometres. Camping sites would have to be provided along the rivers. The variety of rivers feeding into the Duncan Resevoir provides a variety of canoeing and boating oppotunities for the user.

Implementation

The most costly development would be the building of an adequate parking lot out of the steep side slopes. The amound of natural and man made debris on the lake may become a hazard if boating use increases as a result of making the site a Regional Park. The only major cost of the canoe and boat trips is the building of campsites to be used on the trip.

Conclusion

Howser is located within a one hour drive of Kaslo, and provides opportunities for fishing, swimming, hiking, picnicking, camping and long range water based camping trips. Since the Regional District of Central Kootenay has not developed any canoe routes this site should be developed for the recreational benifits to the whole region. Recommended acreage for this Regional Park is 150 acres.

Current water front access

Geographic Location

Kid creek is located 24 kilometres east of Creston and 5 kilometres east of Kitchener next to Highway 3. The boundaries are north of the highway between two access roads covering about 200 acres. It is in Sub lot 13 which is owned by two local residents.

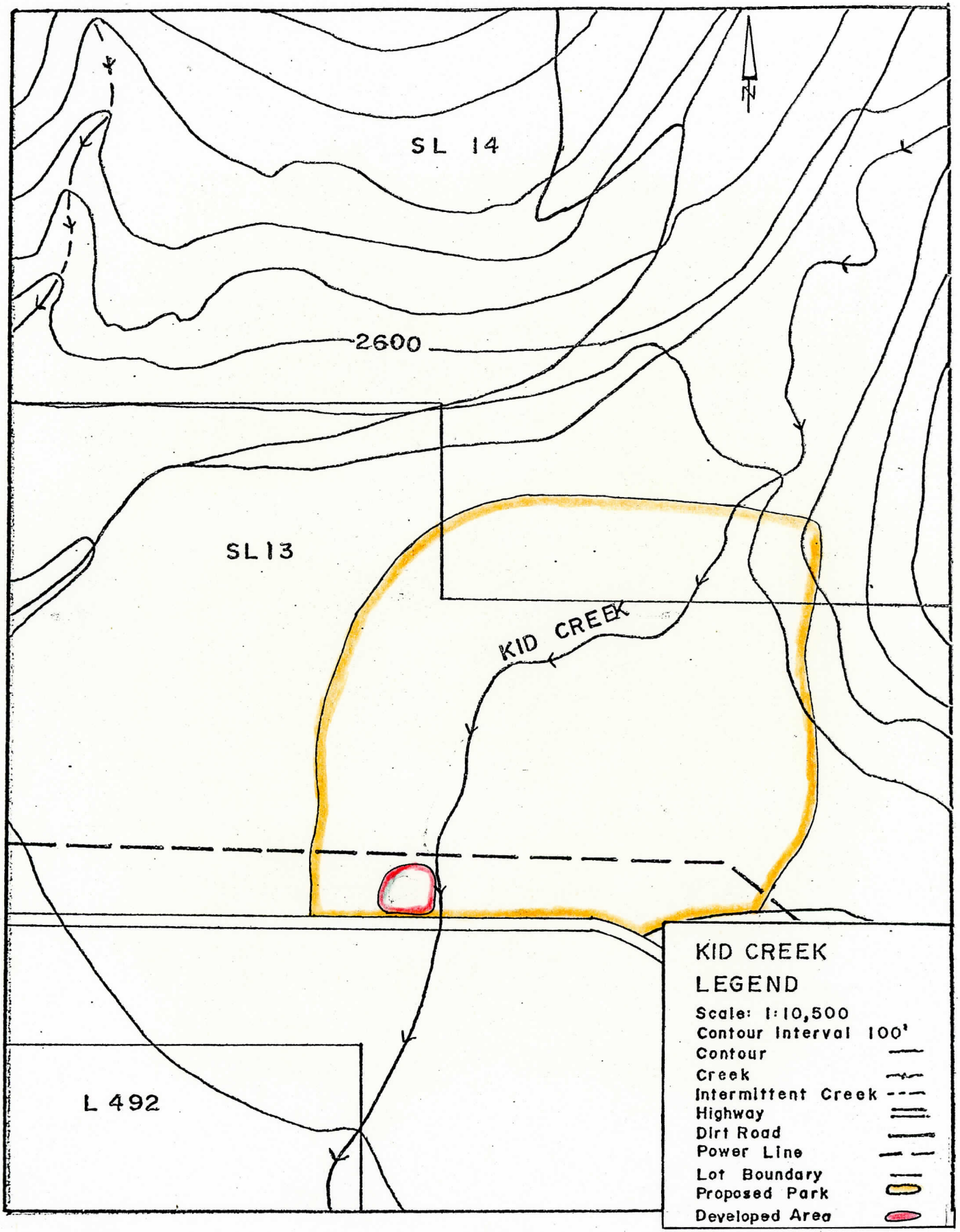
Topographic Description

The Kid creek site is very flat with a long gently sloping ridge extending North east from the site. The valley was created by a glacier. There are no outstanding topographical features on the site.

Kid creek parking lot

Vegetation

The site is located in the Ponderosa Pine Bunchgrass biogeoclimatic zone. It is very open with sparse under-


SL 14
2600
SL 13
KID CREEK
L 492
KID CREEK
LEGEND
Scale: 1:10,500
Contour Interval 100'
Contour
Creek
Intermittent Creek
Highway
Dirt Road
Power Line
Lot Boundary
Proposed Park
Developed Area

story vegetation. The major tree species is Ponderosa Pine (Pinus ponderosa). There is a gradual change to Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) on the north side of the park.

Waterfront Description

Kid creek is about 2.4 metres wide. It divides around an island in the middle of the proposed park. The creek provides the drinking water for the site.

Picnic and Day care facilities

Current Development

The current site is developed as a picnic area by the department of highways. There are 12 - 14 picnic tables, two pit toilets, a small shelter and a play pen for younger children. The site is a stopping place for people using Highway 3.

Proposed Development

As the site has very flat topography it is well suited for development as an activity orriented park. It can be easily cleared to build fields for baseball, soccer and other group sporting activities. Trails for just walking would be excellent as the trails would enable the visitor to examine his surroundings with greater ease.

Current development

Implementation

The main problem is to arrange the playing fields and any structures to be built around the Hydro Power line right of way. Labour for clearing fields can be funded through Government work initiative grants.

Conclusion

The site is within an hour drive of Creston. Offers excellent opportunities for activities such as picnicking, creek fishing, baseball, soccer, and other sportinc activities as well as some nature study. The site is already in a park like setting and requires minimal environmental change to accommodate the proposed developments. The recommended acreage is 200 acres.

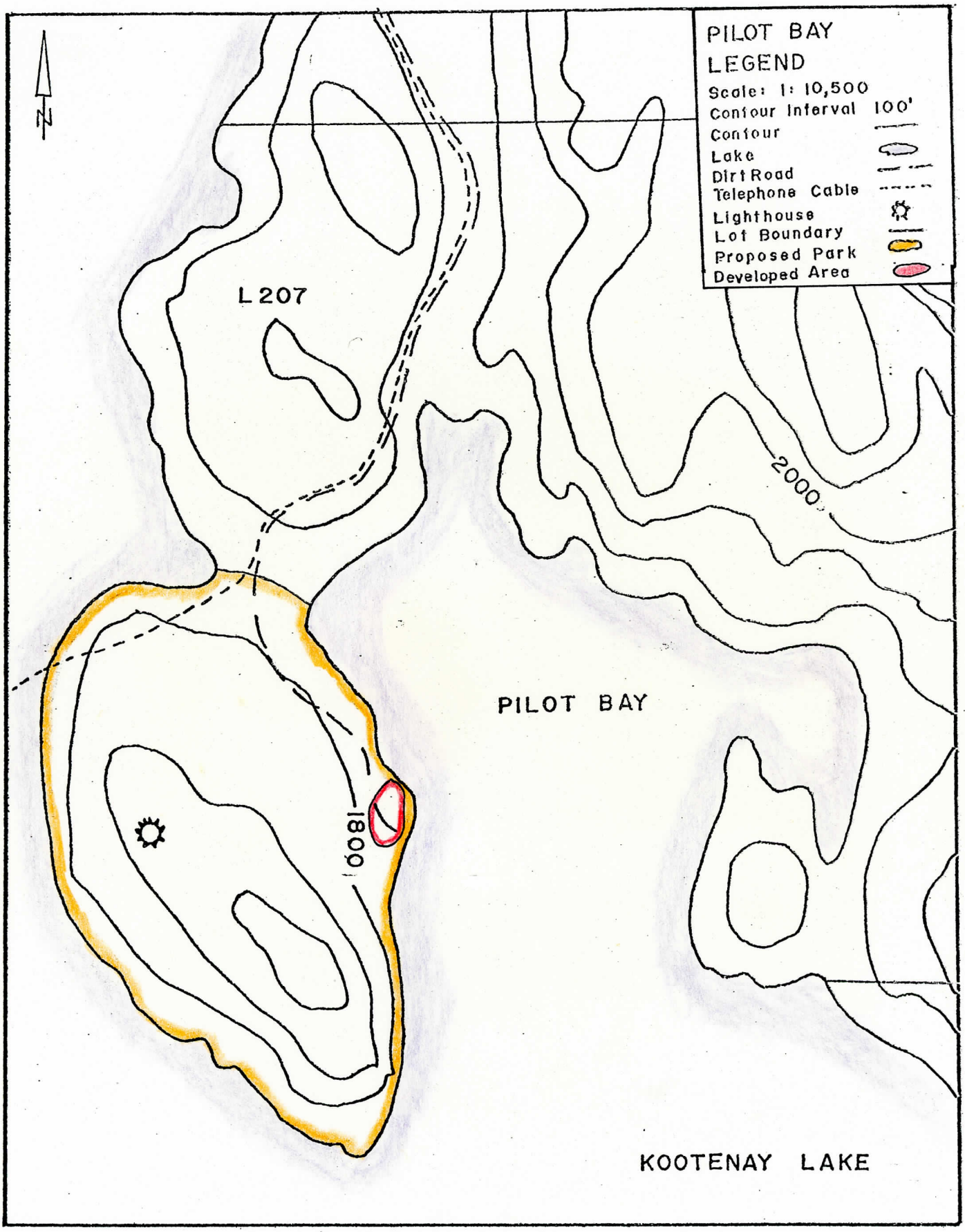
Geographic Location

Pilot bay is located at the halfway point on the east shore of Kootenay lake. It is 86 kilometres north of Creston and 30 kilometres east of Nelson just off of Highway 3A. Those coming from Nelson have to spend 40 minutes on a ferry crossing Kootenay Lake. There is a paved road for 3 kilometres then a 1½ kilometre gravel road to the site from the turnoff near the ferry terminus. The boundaries and acreage would be the same as the current Provincial Park acreage on the peninsula.

View south across the lake

Topographic Description

The slope varies from flat areas to steep vertical rock bluffs. The peninsula is about 160 acres and the neck is only 4 tenths of a kilometre wide.


PILOT BAY
LEGEND
Scale: 1: 10,500
Contour Interval 100'
Contour
Lake
Dirt Road
Telephone Cable
Lighthouse
Lot Boundary
Proposed Park
Developed Area
N
L 207
2000
1800
PILOT BAY
KOOTENAY LAKE

Vegetation

The peninsula is entirely within the Interior Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone, with Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) being the dominant tree. Hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla) and Cedar (Thuja plicata) are found in the more sheltered areas. The picnic areas are open with little underbrush. As one moves away from the shoreline the vegetation gets thicker as the site proceedes to a Cedar and Hemlock stand.

Present waterfront

Waterfront Description

The beach is gravelly and slopes gently to the water. As the swimming area is in a sheltered bay the beach is protected from most of the high swells that occur on Kootenay Lake.

Current Development

There is a dock for boaters and a few spots that have been used by local residents for picnics and camping sites. The Provincial Parks Branch owns the land but would probably set up a campground and other developments on the other side of Pilot bay where they are presently working.

Proposed picnic site.

Proposed Development

There are some flat areas that could be cleared for group activities. A walking trail around the peninsula and over the neck would provide the visitor with excellent opportunities to view Kootenay Lake and examine the physical nature of the peninsula. The road has to be developed and widened in a few places to allow for easier two way traffic.

Implementation

The major costs for the proposed park would be the road, activity areas and the provision of water for the picnic site. The walking trail around the edge of the peninsula can be built by students on government grants. Co-operation with the Parks Branch is necessary so that duplication of facilities is not done on the two sites.

Pilot Bay

Conclusion

The site is within an hour drive (excluding the ferry ride) from Nelson. It provides excellent opportunities for boating, swimming, picnicking and nature study. The site is beautiful in summer and winter. This is the best site for a Regional Park on Kootenay Lake. The recommended acreage for this Regional Park is 160 acres.

Geographic Location

Summit lake is located 13 kilometres South east of Nakusp and 24 kilometres North west of Rosebury on Highway 6. The boundaries include Land lots 11340 and 11341. The land is privately owned but is used by the Kiwanis club of Nakusp.

Topographic Description

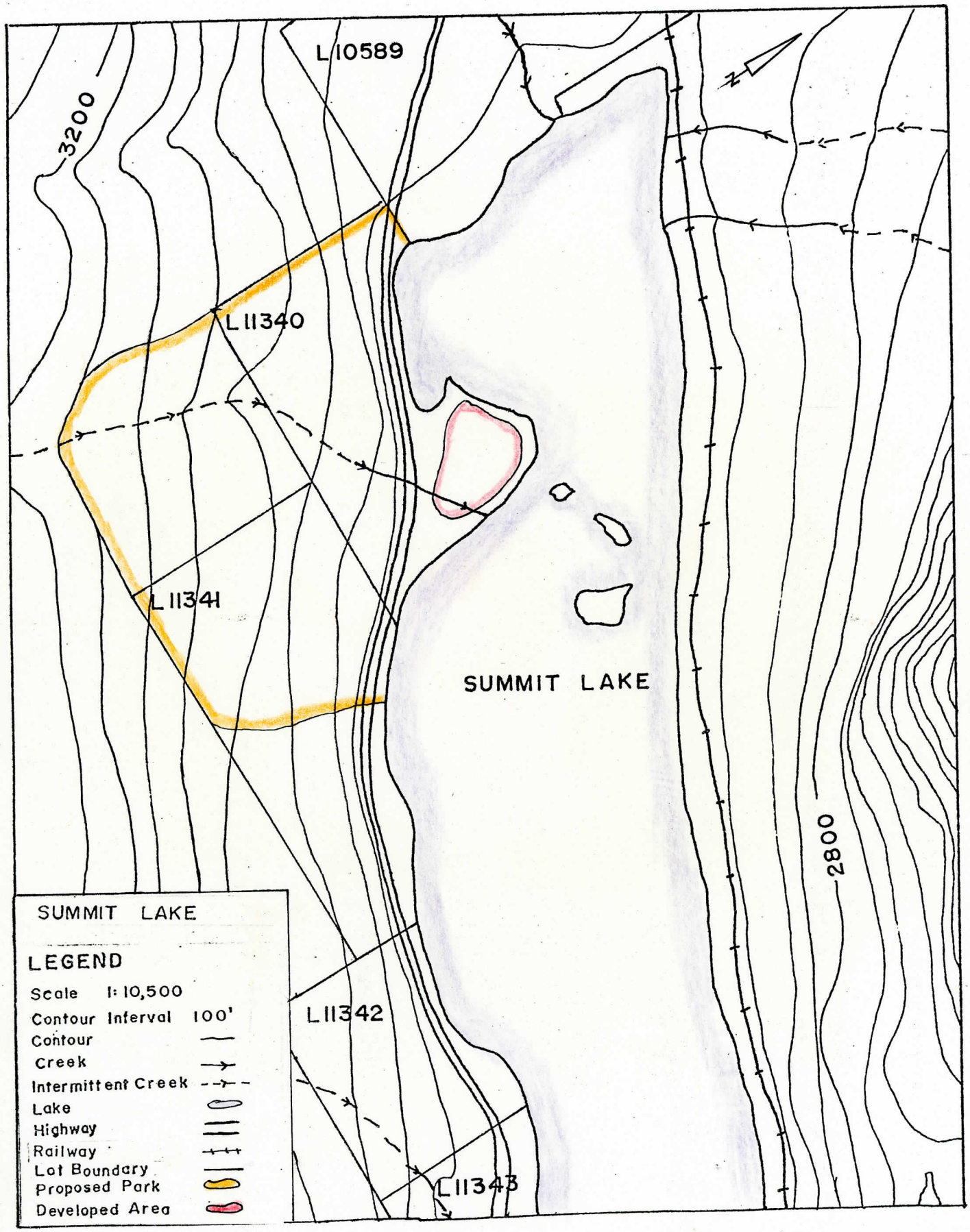
The lake is situated near the summit of the pass between the Upper Arrow and Slocan Lakes. Probably an arm of a major glacier left the Arrow Lakes Channel and cut out the rounded pass. The land around the site is gently rolling. The main portion of the site is on a peninsula. The land to the west of Highway 6 is moderately steep with slopes between 15 - 20 %.

Vegetation

The site is in the Interior Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. The vegetation on the peninsula is a mixture of deciduous and conifeous trees. Some of the main species are, Northern Black Cottonwood (Populus tricocarpa), Trembling Aspen (Populus tremuloides), Engelmann Spruce (Picea engelmannii), Western Hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla) and Cedar (Thuja plicata). The underbrush has been mostly cleared on the peninsula but is very dense on the surrounding hillsides.

Waterfront Description

Because of the way the valley was formed the beach is gently sloping under 5% in most places. This provides large areas for the nonswimmer and those beginning to swim. The lake is clear of hazards except for some submerged natural and logging debris at the South west end of the lake.


L10589
3200
L11340
L11341
SUMMIT LAKE
2800
L11342
L11343
SUMMIT LAKE
LEGEND
Scale 1:10,500
Contour Interval 100'
Contour
Creek
Intermittent Creek
Lake
Highway
Railway
Lot Boundary
Proposed Park
Developed Area

Current Development

The site has been developed by the Kiwanis club of Nakusp. They have provided a campsite as well as a day use - picnic area. They have built a raft for swimmers and four pit toilets, two for the picnicers and two for the campers. They have a 20 - 30 car parking area and a concession booth for special events. There is also a play pen provided for smaller children in the picnic area.

Summit Lake

Proposed Development

Repairing of the concession stand and the numerous tables on the site should be done first. Then fields for group activities such as soccer, baseball etc. should be cleared between the picnic and camping area. To help

develop regional, trails several long hiking trails could be started from Summit lake. Three suggestions are to Box lake (9 kilometres), Wilson lake (12 kilometres) and to Vingolf lakes (18-20 kilometres) to the South west.

Present facilities

Implementation

Development of cleared areas and restoration of all structures can be done by students under government grants. On longer trails the actual development and building of primitive campsites would be the hardest problem encountered. If there is to be logging on the hills around the lake the companies might be encouraged to provide trails for the public use.

Conclusion

The site is within an hour drive of Nakusp and Rosebury. It provides excellent opportunities for swimming, hiking, fishing, boating, and picnicking in the summer with ice fishing, skating and snow-mobiling taking place during the winter. The recommended acreage for this regional park is 200 acres.

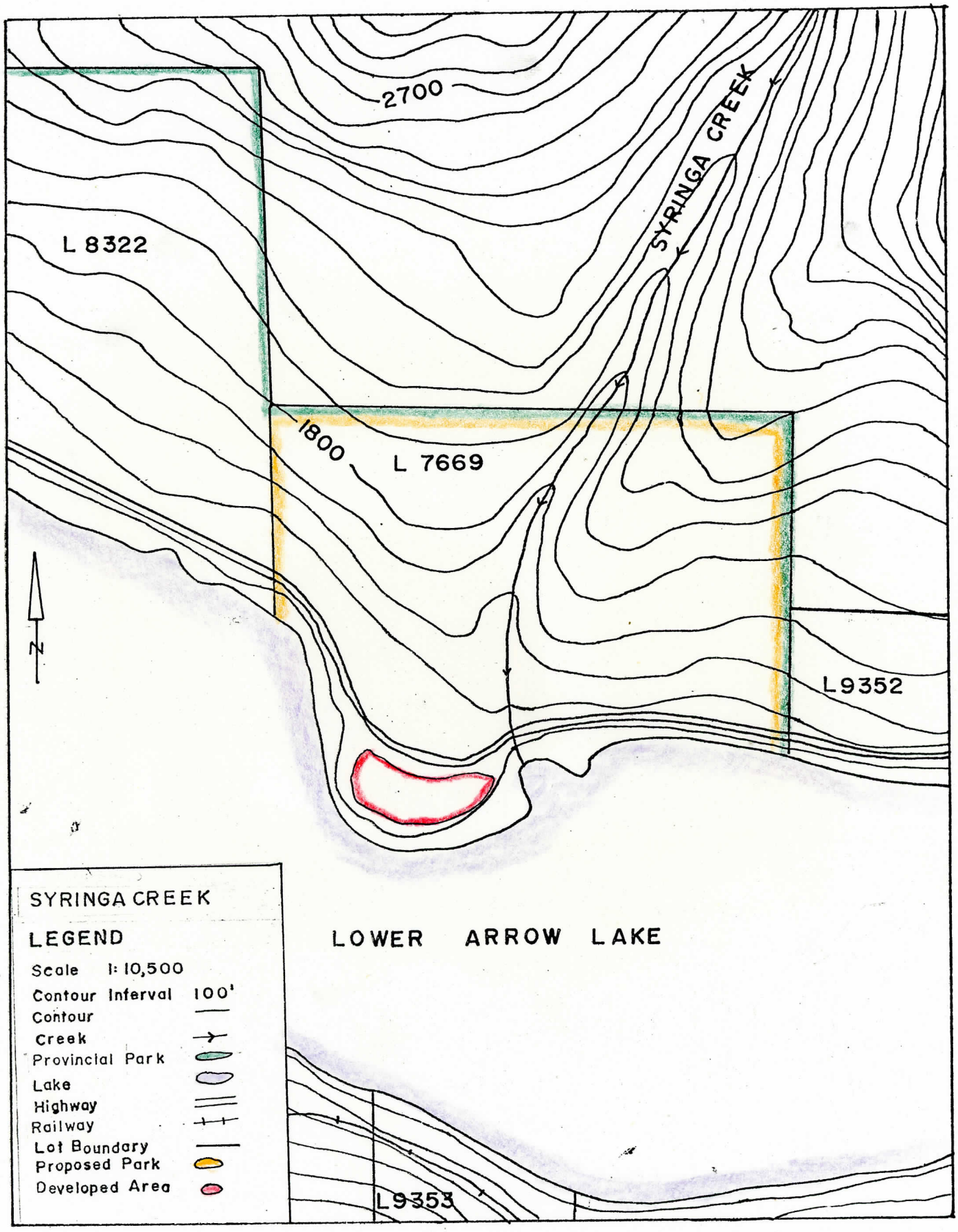
Geographic Location

Syringa Creek is located 19 kilometres west of Castlegar on the north shore of the Lower Arrow Lake on a secondary paved road. The boundaries would be the same as lot 7669 which is now owned by the British Columbia Parks Branch. The total acreage is 160 acres.

Present picnic area

Topograchic Description

The slopes are gentle to the south of the road on the peninsula. The hillsides to the north of the road are much steeper between 20 - 25 % slope. The creek valley is not as steep as the surrounding hillsides but proceedes into a steep canyon just outside of the park boundary.


2700
SYRINGA CREEK
L 8322
1800
L 7669
N
L9352
SYRINGA CREEK
LEGEND
Scale 1: 10,500
Contour Interval 100'
Contour
Creek
Provincial Park
Lake
Highway
Railway
Lot Boundary
Proposed Park
Developed Area
LOWER ARROW LAKE
L9353

Vegetation

The site is in the Ponderosa Pine Bunchgrass biogeoclimatic zone. There is moderately dense understory vegetation. The dry climate makes it easy to maintain cleared areas. As you proceed north from the site the vegetation gets denser on the higher slopes. The major tree specis changes from Ponderosa Pine (Pinus ponderosa) at lake level to Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) at higher elevations. The vegetation is the thickest along the creek.

Syringa creek waterfront

Waterfront Description

The waterfront and the beach areas are excellent but the Hugh Keenlyside Dam causes large fluctuations of the water levels during the year. An elevation difference of 18.3 metres in water level can create a difference of over

a third of a kilometre in the walk between the changing area and the water. The beach is gently sloping with no sharp dropoffs or underwater obstacles. During some parts of the year the beach becomes quite thick with drift wood and logs from the debris on the lake.

Present Parks Branch parking lot

Current Development

The site is presently developed by the British Columbia Parks Branch and is catering to the day user. They have provided 26 - 20 tables, a change house, four pit toilets and a large 50 car parking lot. They have provided a boom of logs for the swimmers which is not even close to the water when the water level is low. The boat launching ramps are paved and have large areas at the top for turning around. They have left a line of shrub begetation between the picnic area and the beach

to keep beach activities from interfering with the picnicer.

Proposed Development

The development would consist of expanding the picnic area to correspond with the size of the parking lot. A large open shelter could be built for barbeques. The beach are provides excellent opportunities for group sporting activities. A walking trail along Syringa creek would allow the user to examine his surroundings.

Implementation

The major cost is the expansion of the picnic site and building of the walking trail. A high yearly cost would be repairs needed because of vandals.

Conclusion

The site is within an hour drive of Castlegar and provides for picnicking, swimming, boating, group activities and nature study. The site is presently fulfilling the roll of a Regional Park as it is providing excellent day use facilities for the district. The recommended acreage for this Regional Park is 160 acres.

Geographic Location

Whatshan lake is located 6.5 kilometres north of the Monashee Highway. The turnoff is located 2 kilometres west of the ferry between Fauquier and Needles. It is a total distance of 56 kilometres from Nakusp. The current site is located on Land lot 8543 in the Vernon Land District.

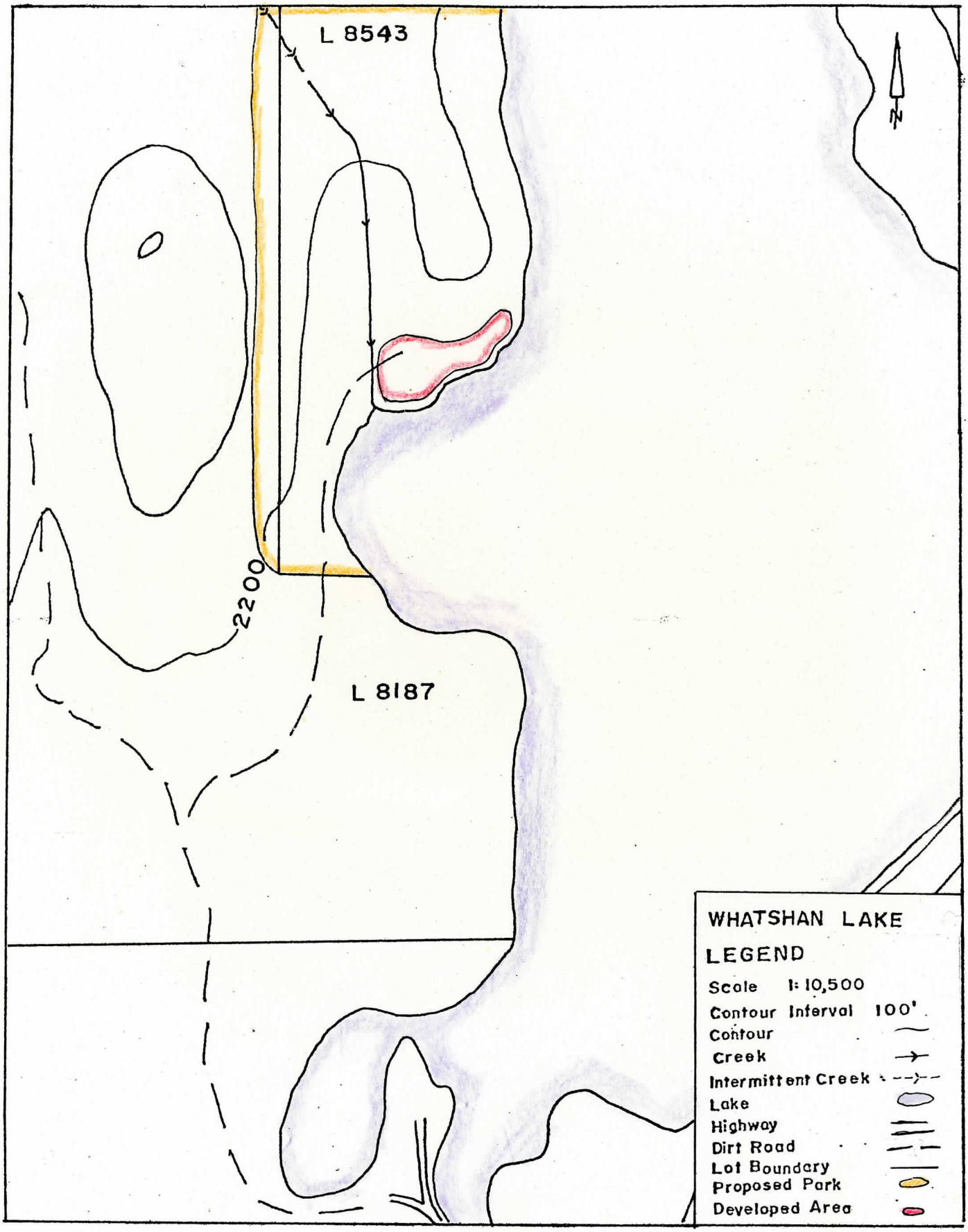
Present waterfront

Topographic Description

The area has been glaciated and is in a very rounded valley with no steep slopes. There is a small ridge between the lakeshore and a small creek flowing through the site.

Vegetation

The site is in the Interior Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. There is a great percentage of deciduous


L 8543
2200
L 8187
N
WHATSHAN LAKE
LEGEND
Scale 1: 10,500
Contour Interval 100'
Contour
Creek
Intermittent Creek
Lake
Highway
Dirt Road
Lot Boundary
Proposed Park
Developed Area

trees mixed with a few evergreens. The main tree species on the site were Birch (Betula papyrifera), Northern Black Cottonwood (Populus tricocarpa), Trembling Aspen (Populus tremuloides), Lodgepole Pine (Pinus contorta) and Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii). The underbrush consists of Red Osier Dogwood, Thimble berry, spirea etc. On higher slopes the understory vegetation is less dense.

Area of stumps left behind after logging

Waterfront Description

The site has a gently sloping beach for about 10 metres then the beach drops steeply into rubbish left from the clearing of the Whatshan Resevoir. The bay to the south of the site has been logged and the stumps left behind. There is a small creek providing drinking water, flowing through the site.

Current Development

The site has been developed by the Fauquier and Needles Recreation Commission. They have four picnic tables at the beach as well as a raft and swimmer safety line. They have also placed two picnic tables near the boat launching ramp. They have provided a playground area for the children with swings and an old stove. They have a concession booth, two change houses and two pit toilets.

Playground area

Proposed Development

As the site is developed for day usage by the local residents the only development necessary is the provision of walking and hiking trails. The walking trail could be built along the creek accross the ridge and back along the lake shore. Hiking trails could be built to Snowshoe lake or Monashee park 4 and 10 kilometres respectively.

Implementation

The debris and stumps left in the resevoir should be removed. The resevoir must maintain a high water level during the summer for the safety of swimmers and boaters on the lake. The high fluctuations between summer and winter could reflect the seasonal demands on the Whatshan power station. The structures on the site have to be fixed and the trails to be built would be the major cost in the development of the site. The work can be subsidized by students on summer work grants.

Conclusion

The site is within an hour drive of Nakusp, Beaton, Fauquier and Needles. It provides opportunity for swimming, picnicking, fishing, boating and nature study. It is currently used on a day use basis by the local residents. The site has excellent characteristics for a Regional Park. The recommended acreage for this Regional Park is 139 acres.

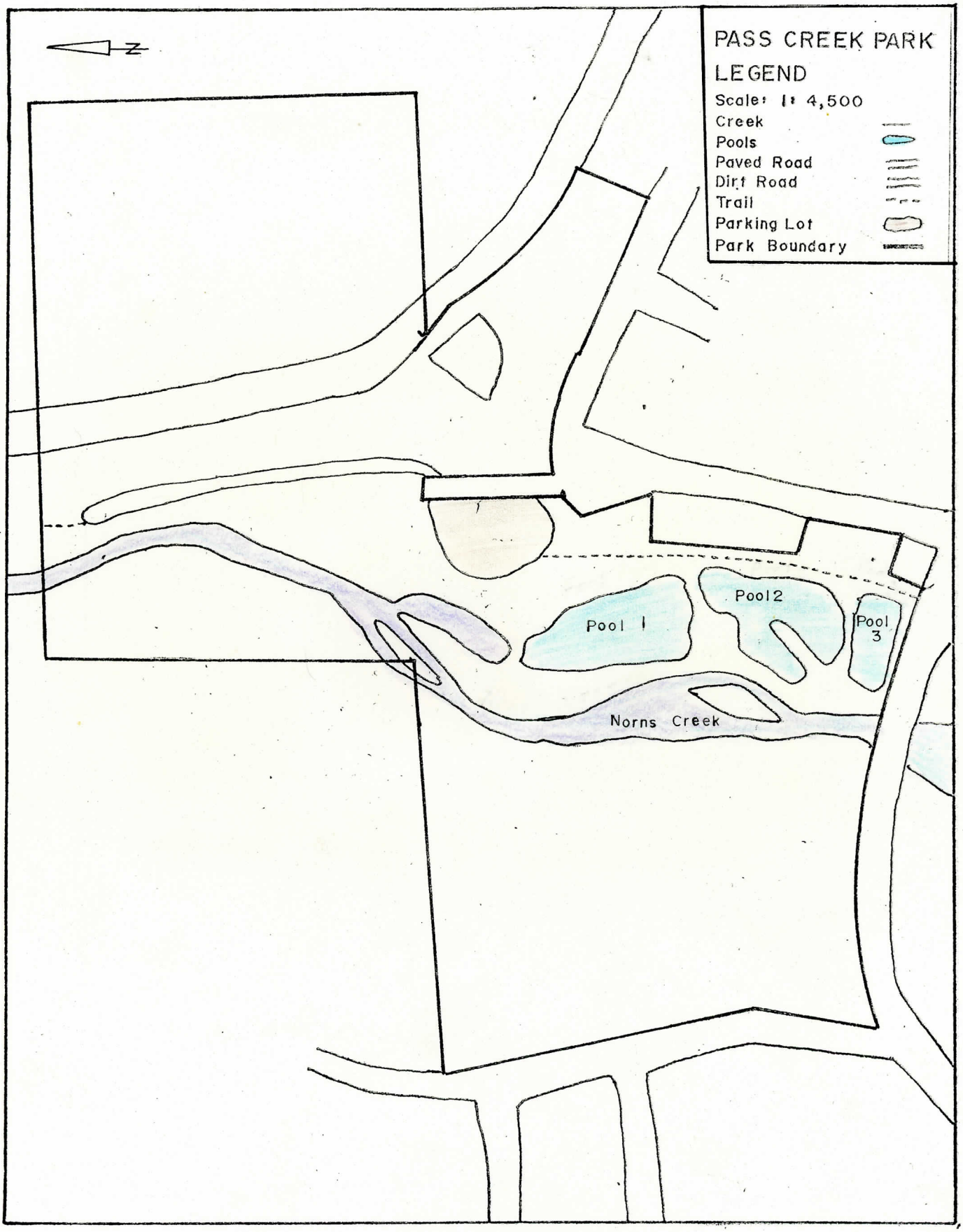
Introduction

Pass Creek Park is currently the only Regional Park in the Regional District of Central Kootenay. It is managed by Recreation Commission #1 of Castlegar. All development has been made possible through grants, voluntered labour and renting the park for special events. The park is largetly used by Castlegar and area residents.

Pass creek

Geographic Location

The park is located 1.5 kilometres east of the ferry that crosses the Columbia River between Castlegar and Robson. It is approximately 6 kilometres east of the turnoff at the north end of the bridge crossing the Kootenay river. The current acreage is 90 acres.


PASS CREEK PARK
LEGEND
Scale: 1: 4,500
Creek
Pools
Paved Road
Dirt Road
Trail
Parking Lot
Park Boundary
N
Pool 1
Pool2
Pool 3
Norns Creek

Topographic Description

The main body of the park is located on a level plain through which Norns (Pass) Creek flows. It includes a small terrace to the North east of the parking lot, then continues up the side of Sentinal Mountain. The mountain side is moderately steep at a 20 % slope. The short side hill joining the terrace to the level plain is very steep around 30 %.

Typical landscape around the park

Vegetation

The park is in the Interior Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. The lower sections of the park along the creek is an alluvial outwash plain covered with various deciduous and coniferous trees. Some of the main tree species are Northern Black Cottonwood (Populus tricocarpa), Trembling

Aspen (Populus tremuloides), Grand Fir (Abies grandes), Ponderosa Pine (Pinus ponderosa) and Lodgepole Pine (Pinus contorta). The vegetation on the hillsides is more dense than the level plains. There is a thick and tangled barrier between the creek and the picnic area formed by various deciduous shrubs such as ceanothus, snow berry, alder, willow etc.

View of the three pools

Waterfront Description

There is a diversion channel from Norns (Pass) creek that feeds into the three pools (Map pg. 61). Pool #1 is the largest and coldest of th pools. It contains a raft for the swimmers to use. Pool #2 is shallower with several shallow arms for diversity. There is a large proportion of shore line to pool area than in the other pools. Pool

View of pools looking north

Present facilities

#3 is used mainly by the children of the area as it is the warmest. It is also the last pool in the line and is the dirtiest and cloudiest of the pools. The third pool also has a raft for the swimmers. Some people do swim in the creek but it is not recommended.

Present parking lot

Current Development

The area has been developed for picnicking and swimming. They have a baseball diamond on the terrace to the North east of the parking lot, but it receives little use besides those groups organized by the recreation commission. They have a parking lot for 30 - 40 cars and several flat fields that are suitable for open group activities. There are 12 picnic tables and an area for barbeques. The two pit toilets are located a good distance from the swimming

area to prevent any effluent from reaching the pools. The toilets are in moderatly good condition.

Proposed Development

Due to the limited funds available through government grants etc., development has proceeded at the same speed as the funds were provided and used up as quickly as possible. Therefore all proposed development will probably occur over a long period of time and only in starts and jumps as the money becomes available.

Possible site for a nature walk

The two areas not being used at present are the flats on the west side of the creek and the section of the park on the side of Sentinal mountain. There is a current land fill project to fill in the marsh on the west side of the creek to create more dry land. A soccer field,

gymkana or flower garden have been some of the suggestions put forth for the use of this area. A hiking trail starting

Park land on the west side of the creek

in the park then proceeding to the summit of Sentinal mountain, through the section of the park on the mountain side would increase the hiking potential in the local area and increase the use in this sector of the park. A nature walk could be built through the alluvial complex then join the summit trail and provide the visitor with an opportunity to view nature. A foot trail along Norns (Pass) creek up to the falls would be and excellent addition to the park.

Implementation

The major constraint to the implementation of all proposed development is the inability of the Recreation

commission to set substancial monies aside on a regular basis for Park development. The two current major out lays of money each year is the land fill project and the repairing of damage caused by vandals. Some labour could be volunteered and students could be hired through Government grants to build the trails and the facilities needed in the park.

Conclusion

With some development of the park the site could be used by more people and attract people from other parts of the Regional District. The development of a system of trails and activity areas would create a good balance between the natural and activity areas in this Regional Park.

This report shows that there are 11 potential sites in the Regional District of Central Kootenay that are suitable for designation as Regional Parks, along with one current Regional Park. The Regional Parks system would meet the need of the region's residents for day-use outdoor recreation in a natural setting. Large Provincial Parks in the region such as Kokanee Glacier and Champion Lakes meet the requirement for large natural - wilderness areas. The smaller campground parks meet the need of the travelling public. At another level the Municipal Parks meet the need for activity areas within the urban centres. All of these complete the total system of Parks in the Central Kootenay Regional District.

It is hoped that this report will stimulate interest in Regional Parks by the Central Kootenay Regional District and to formulate a rational approach to develop the recreational opportunities in this Regional District.

REGIONAL PARKS ACT

CHAPTER 43

Regional Parks Act

[*Consolidated for convenience only, June 1, 1966.*]

Title.

1. This Act may be cited as the *Regional Parks Act*. 1965, c. 43, s. 1.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

"Minister" means the Minister of Recreation and Conservation;

"municipality" means either any area incorporated as a city, district, township, town, or village under any Act or the corporation into which the residents of an area have been incorporated as a municipality, including the City of Vancouver, and includes an improvement district incorporated under the *Water Act* or the *Municipal Act*;

"Regional Parks Board" means either a Regional Parks Board established under this Act or a Regional Board established under the *Municipal Act* and authorized to exercise powers under this Act;

"regional park district" means either a regional park district incorporated under this Act or a regional district incorporated under the *Municipal Act* and which has, as one of its functions, the acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of regional parks;

"regional park" means any area of land set aside and dedicated as a park under this Act or a municipal park transferred under section 8. 1965, c. 43, s. 2.

Regional park districts.

3. (1) Upon the receipt of a petition from the Councils or Trustees, or both, of two or more municipalities, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, upon the recommendation of the Minister, by Letters Patent, incorporate the area of land within the boundaries of the municipalities and the residents therein into a regional park district, and, except for sections 766 and 786, the provisions of Division (2) of Part XXIV of the *Municipal Act* apply mutatis mutandis, and

(*a*) wherever there is a reference therein to a regional district, the reference shall be deemed to be to a regional park district; and

(*b*) wherever there is a reference therein to a Regional Board, the reference shall be deemed to be to a Regional Parks Board.

(2) Upon the receipt of a petition from the Council or Trustees of a municipality and from a Regional Parks Board, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, upon the recommendation of the Minister, by supplementary Letters Patent, extend the regional park district to include that municipality. 1965, c. 43, s. 3.

Regional districts under *Municipal Act*.

4. Upon the recommendation of the Minister, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may

(*a*) include at the time of incorporation of a regional district under the *Municipal Act* the power to acquire, develop, operate, and maintain regional parks under this Act; or,

(*b*) by supplementary Letters Patent, add to the powers, duties, and obligations of a regional district incorporated under the *Municipal Act* the powers, duties, and obligations under this Act;

and in the event that a regional park district incorporated pursuant to section 3 is contained within the boundaries of a regional district, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may dissolve the regional park district and transfer any or all of the assets, rights, claims, obligations, and liabilities of the regional park district to the regional district, and the provisions of section 766 of the *Municipal Act* apply, mutatis mutandis, to this section. 1965, c. 43, s. 4.

Powers of district.

5. A regional park district may,

(*a*) with the approval of the Minister, acquire lands within or outside of the regional park district for use as a regional park, and the Regional Parks Board shall cause those lands to be dedicated for public use and enjoyment as a regional park;

(*b*) by by-law, make rules and regulations governing the management, maintenance, improvement, operation, control, and use of any real or personal property in a regional park;

(*c*) by by-law, close to the free use by the public the whole or any part of a regional park, at such times and for such periods as may be deemed advisable, and fix and charge fees for admission to or for the use of any of the facilities so closed;

(*d*) by by-law, lease or rent any real or personal property in a regional park to any person for the purpose of operating a concession or other commercial enterprise deemed by the Regional Parks Board to be necessary or desirable to the proper use and enjoyment of the regional park;

(*e*) on or in any property acquired or held by the regional park district, construct, maintain, operate, improve, and use buildings and other improvements and provide any accommodation facilities or equipment requisite for the proper use and enjoyment of the regional park. 1965, c. 43, s. 5; 1966, c. 41, s. 2.

Terms of leases and agreements.

6. (1) The term of any lease under section 5 shall not exceed twenty years, and no lease shall be entered into by a Regional Parks Board with a term in excess of five years without the approval of the Minister.

(2) A Regional Parks Board shall not enter into any agreement for the acquisition of land whereunder payment by the Regional Parks Board or regional park district is to be made during a period in excess of five years. 1965, c. 43, s. 6.

Extension of *Municipal Act*.

7. The powers contained in this Act are deemed to be an extension to and not in conflict with the general powers of a regional district under

the *Municipal Act*, except where specifically restricted by this Act in regard to the acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of a regional park. 1965, c. 43, s. 7.

Transfers by municipalities.

8. Notwithstanding any provision of the *Municipal Act*, subject to the approval of the Minister, a municipality forming part of a regional park district may transfer any municipal park or portion thereof to the jurisdiction of the Regional Parks Board for the purpose of development, operation, and maintenance as a regional park under such terms and conditions as have been mutually agreed upon. 1965, c. 43, s. 8.

Maximum payments.

9. Payments in any year to any member municipality under section 5, 6, or 8 shall not exceed in the aggregate fifty per centum of the requisition made upon that municipality in that year for purposes of this Act. 1965, c. 43, s. 9.

Maximum requisitions.

10. Except with the approval of the Minister, the maximum annual requisition as provided for under the *Municipal Act* upon any member municipality, for the purpose of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining regional parks, shall not exceed an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying one mill by the value of taxable land and seventy-five per centum of the value of taxable improvements for the purpose of levying school rates in the immediately preceding year, excluding all the property of the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority. 1965, c. 43, s. 10.

Restriction on borrowing.

11. Notwithstanding the *Municipal Act*, a Regional Parks Board shall not borrow money for capital purposes in connection with the acquisition or development of a regional park. 1965, c. 43, s. 11; 1966, c. 41, s. 3.

Expenditures for parks.

12. In each of the first five years after a Regional Parks Board is authorized to exercise the powers under this Act, at least sixty per centum of the annual revenue of the regional park district shall be expended or set aside for the purpose of the acquisition of real property for regional parks. 1965, c. 43, s. 12.

Grants.

13. The Minister may make grants for the purpose of acquiring or developing regional parks, or both, but no grant in any year shall exceed one-third of the total expenditures of the regional park district in that year for such purposes. 1965, c. 43, s. 13.

Approval of by-laws.

14. No by-law shall be adopted under this Act without the approval of the Minister. 1965, c. 43, s. 14.

Reduction of area of regional park district.

15. Upon the recommendation of the Minister, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, by supplementary Letters Patent, reduce the area of a regional park district incorporated under section 3 by the removal of a municipality if the municipality

(*a*) has given at least five years' notice in writing of its desire to withdraw to the Minister and to each member municipality; and

(*b*) confirms that desire by a further notice in writing to the Minister and to each member municipality within thirty days prior to the date of withdrawal;

and thereupon from and after the date of the supplementary Letters Patent the municipality ceases to be a member of the regional park district, and any indebtedness of the municipality to the regional park district remains and shall be fully discharged by the municipality as if the withdrawal had not taken place, and the municipality has no claim against or in respect of any property or other asset of the regional park district. 1965, c. 43, s. 15.

Regulations.

16. For the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act according to their true intent and of supplying any deficiency therein, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make such regulations as are considered necessary or advisable, and such regulations shall have the same force and effect as if enacted by this Act and shall be published in the Gazette. 1965, c. 43, s. 16.

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1968

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