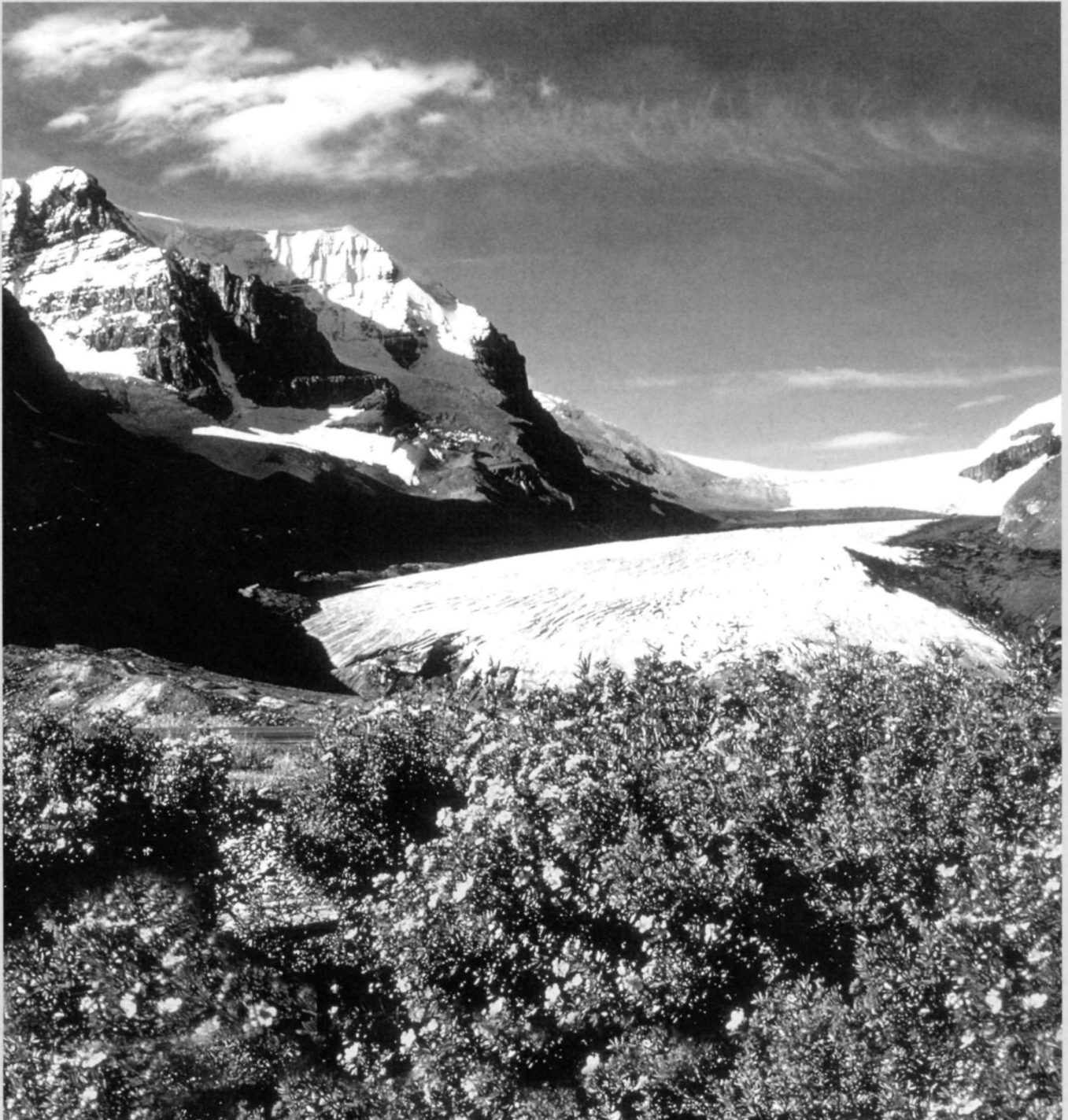


# JASPER NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN CONCEPT

*January 29, 1999*



Canadian Heritage  
Parks Canada

Patrimoine canadien  
Parcs Canada

Canada

# JASPER NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN CONCEPT

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# 1.0 Introduction

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Like its mountain park neighbours (Banff, Kootenay, and Yoho), Jasper is a park of many places. It is a place for nature. As part of the UNESCO Rocky Mountain World Heritage Site, it contributes to the protection of 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> of some of the most spectacular and ecologically important areas in the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

The park is also a place for people. A place where Canadians and their international visitors can learn about our country's environment, its history and its culture, while enjoying a diverse range of high-quality year-round opportunities.

Jasper National Park is a place that recognizes and celebrates the past through the protection and presentation of a rich variety of cultural resources. And, finally, it is a place that looks to the future. The *National Parks Act* dedicates national parks "to the people of Canada for their benefit, education and enjoyment...to be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for future generations."

The management plan is a key tool used to plan for and shape that future.

## Why a New Management Plan?

The *National Parks Act* requires each of Canada's 39 national parks to prepare a management plan and, in consultation with

Canadians, to update the plan every five years. Jasper's first management plan was tabled in parliament in 1988. A review of the plan, which began in 1993, was postponed pending the completion of the Banff-Bow Valley Study and the preparation of a new management plan for Banff National Park. That work is now complete, and the review of Jasper's management plan can proceed. The new plan for Jasper National Park will incorporate key principles and directions from the Banff plan.

## Public Consultation

Preparing a management plan is a complex and challenging task. It requires knowledge of many areas – the environment, history, culture, social science. It also requires the cooperation of the many people and organizations who have an interest in the park and its future. These people will play a central role in revising the plan for Jasper.

As part of its efforts to involve the public, Parks Canada has prepared this management plan concept. The concept describes the key issues facing the park, as well as proposed strategic direction and actions to address those issues. Your comments will help to refine this direction as Parks Canada drafts the final plan.

## **What's New?**

Several important changes have occurred since the completion of the park's first management plan. New issues have emerged. Governments have set new policies and drafted new legislation. Researchers have improved our understanding of the critical importance of protecting biodiversity. Tourism has increased rapidly, along with an interest in destinations that offer opportunities to learn about nature and history. The revised management plan for Jasper National Park must recognize these changes in setting the future direction for the park.

## **New Legislation and Policy**

- amendments to the *National Parks Act* (1988)
- *Canada's Green Plan* (1990)
- the *Biodiversity Convention* (1992)
- *Parks Canada: Guiding Principles and Operational Policies* (1994)
- *Banff National Park Management Plan* (1997)

## **Key Challenges**

- addressing the cumulative effects of use and development in the montane ecoregion
- focusing tourism on authentic, heritage experiences
- improving heritage presentation and outreach programs
- improving the presentation of cultural resources
- maintaining effective wildlife movement
- improving visitor services and facilities to meet changing needs
- ensuring transportation corridors contribute to the park experience
- managing growth in day-use and shoulder season use
- reintroducing natural processes (e.g. fire) to help maintain biodiversity
- restoring aquatic ecosystems from impacts associated with past fish stocking and alteration of stream flows
- reducing human-wildlife conflicts
- improving the integration of the park and the regional ecosystem
- building a strong community-wide commitment to environmental stewardship



## 2.0 The Vision for Jasper National Park

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### Core Vision

***Jasper National Park is a symbol of Canadian wilderness, worthy of its designation as a World Heritage Site. It is a place of great beauty, where nature is able to flourish and evolve in harmony with surrounding provincial lands. Canadians and people from around the globe understand and appreciate the ecological and cultural importance of this place to the region, the country and the world. All who reside in, and visit Jasper National Park show dedication and provide leadership and inspiration in how people can live in harmony with their environment.***

#### Key Elements

- Jasper National Park is an important cornerstone of Canadian identity, and represents an important Canadian obligation to world heritage.
- If Canadians are to pass on the valuable legacy of Jasper National Park to future generations, there must be limits to development.
- There is a need to reduce stress on park ecosystems and to restore natural processes.
- Every opportunity for visitors or residents to experience the natural and cultural values of the park will be appropriate and of the highest quality.
- Programs that promote understanding and support for the park, and the Canadian system of national parks and sites, will be developed for Canadians unable to experience the park first hand.
- Partnerships and integrated regional management are essential if Parks Canada is to be as effective as possible in the management of Jasper National Park.
- Public support for the management of the park is contingent on decision-making processes that are fair, consistent and transparent.
- There needs to be prescribed limits to growth for the community.

## 3.0 A Place for Nature

Jasper National Park lies at the heart of the Yellowhead Ecosystem. Straddling the continental divide and covering an area of 68,000 km<sup>2</sup>, this ecosystem extends west to McBride, east to Edson, north to the Kakwa in British Columbia, and south to the Kootenay Plains.

Many changes have occurred in the regional ecosystem since 1988. The number of visitors has increased and shoulder season use continues to grow. Logging and mining outside the parks have made previously remote areas more accessible. The continued suppression of forest fires has resulted in the gradual aging of forests and the loss of important wildlife habitat such as open forest, montane meadows and young forest stands.

### Human Use

With two million visitors annually, human use continues to affect the park and the surrounding area. But humans are an integral part of the ecosystem. While there are examples of people living in harmony with nature, there is also evidence of stress on the environment as a result of human activity. In Jasper, human use and associated development have fragmented wildlife habitat and created barriers to wildlife movement. Wildlife movement in the *Three Valley Confluence* is of particular concern. The *Three Valley Confluence* refers to the area around the community of Jasper and includes the confluence of the Athabasca, Miette, and Maligne Rivers.

### Ecosystem-Based Management

Parks Canada's policy stresses the importance of protecting ecological integrity "in acquiring, managing, and administering heritage places and programs. In every application of policy, this guiding principle is paramount." To achieve this goal, Parks Canada has adopted an approach of ecosystem-based management.

Ecosystem-based management recognizes that national parks cannot survive as islands. Species and ecological systems in national parks depend on the long-term sustainability of regional ecosystems.

A variety of federal, provincial, and municipal agencies, often with differing mandates, oversee resource protection, tourism, forestry, mining, energy development, and oil and gas extraction in the Yellowhead ecosystem. To achieve environmental and economic sustainability, cooperation is essential.

### Ecological Integrity

The overall ecological goal for Jasper National Park, or any national park, is to maintain, and where possible, restore ecological integrity. This includes maintaining natural biological diversity and maintaining or restoring the physical, or non-living, aspects of the natural environment such as air or water.

Natural processes, such as fire, flood, avalanche, predation, pollination, seed dispersal, and grazing affect biological diversity, or biodiversity. Managing biodiversity includes maintaining or restoring, viable, healthy components at different levels, as well as adequate rates and locations for the processes that produce these various levels.

The integrity of the physical environment can be ensured by maintaining or restoring air quality, water quality and flow regimes, protecting physical features from current human disturbance, and maintaining or restoring physical processes, such as fire, flooding, and other seasonal water level fluctuations. Human activities that have shaped the landscape, such as past fire suppression by park managers, will be recognized when considering management or restoration of these processes.

The main threats to ecological integrity in Jasper National Park are:

- habitat fragmentation and loss of habitat connectivity
- resource extraction and exploration outside the park
- loss and alteration of aquatic and wetland habitat
- blocked fish movement
- human-caused mortality of fish and other wildlife
- altered vegetation succession
- loss of montane habitat due to development and fire control
- blockage of wildlife movement along and across the Athabasca Valley;
- altered predator-prey relationships
- wildlife-human conflicts
- effects of human activities on water flows and water quality
- introduction of non-native plants and fish
- altered fire regimes

## A Vision for Ecological Integrity

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***As part of the Rocky Mountain World Heritage Site and a larger network of protected areas, Jasper National Park protects and maintains the native biological diversity of this portion of the Rocky Mountains. The park is a living example of the way in which ecological values are protected in a place where appropriate kinds and levels of human activity are welcome. The park supports and is supported by the natural ecosystems of the region around it. The park's ecosystems and their component native species and natural processes are free to function and evolve.***

***Human activities have interacted with natural ecological processes to shape park ecosystems for thousands of years, and continue to do so. Ecological knowledge and management activities are continually improved to more fully understand, appreciate, respect, and maintain the native diversity of the park and its regional ecosystem.***

***Research and communication improve the ecological understanding of managers, residents and visitors within the region so that collectively there is improved stewardship of the region's ecosystems.***

# Profile: Grizzly Bear Habitat Effectiveness

*One of many tools for park management*

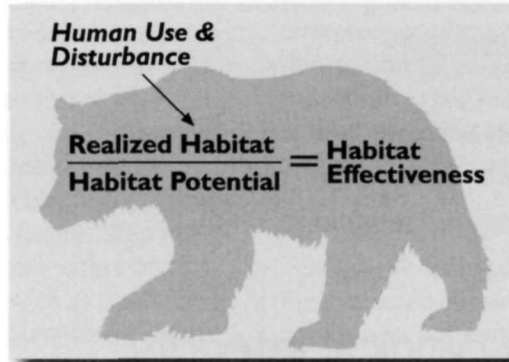
One method Parks Canada uses to examine the impact of human use on sensitive wildlife species is *habitat effectiveness* models. These models help determine an area's ability to support species such as the grizzly bear:

The presence of humans in a given area can reduce habitat effectiveness. For example, construction of roads or buildings can remove or compromise habitat. High numbers of people can cause bears to avoid an area.

To measure grizzly bear habitat effectiveness in Jasper, the park has been divided into 33 bear management units (BMU). Each BMU (see map on next page) is approximately the same size as the home range of a female grizzly bear. Each BMU is classified according to its ability to serve as useful habitat. Habitat effectiveness is a comparison between the *potential* of an area to support grizzly bears and the value of the area as bear habitat, after accounting for human disturbance (*realized habitat*).

Studies show that if habitat effectiveness is reduced by as little as 20 percent, the

grizzly bear will no longer use the area as part of its permanent home range. Jasper National Park's goal is to manage human activities in a way that ensures grizzly bear



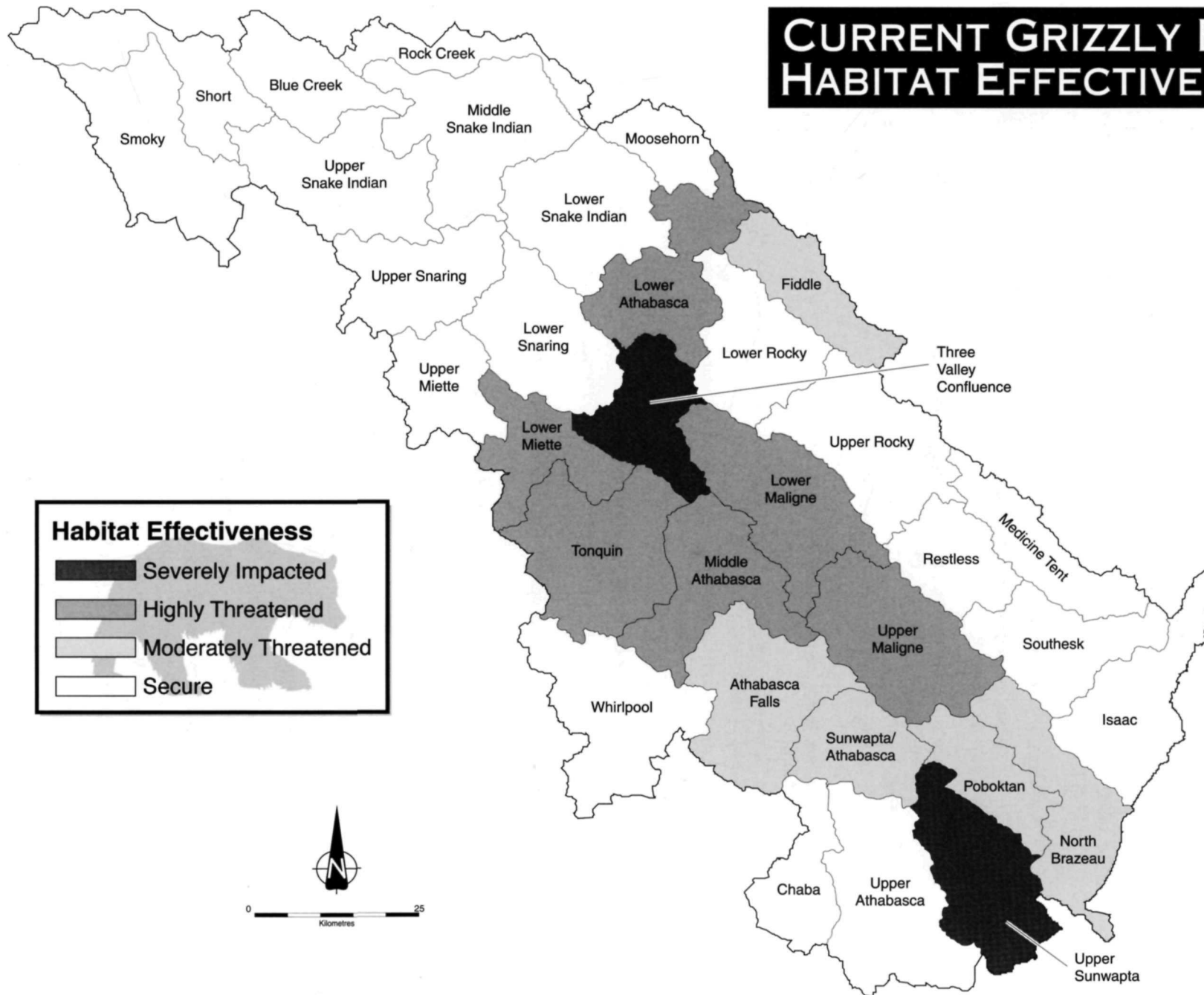
habitat effectiveness is at least 80% in all but three of the park's 33 BMUs. Currently, 25 of the park's 33 bear management units are at that level.

The three BMUs

where habitat effectiveness will not reach 80% (Three Valley Confluence, Tonquin, and Upper Sunwapta) simply contain too much development, or too many people, to effectively support permanent grizzly bear populations. Because grizzly bears still use these areas to move to other places with suitable habitat, Parks Canada's goal is to maintain links between areas of effective habitat.

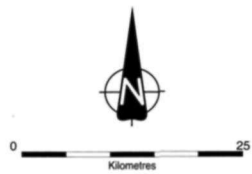
While habitat effectiveness is a useful tool in determining acceptable levels of human caused impact, it has limitations. In order to manage human use effectively, Parks Canada needs a range of indicators for the grizzly bear and other ecological components.

# CURRENT GRIZZLY BEAR HABITAT EFFECTIVENESS



**Habitat Effectiveness**

- Severely Impacted
- Highly Threatened
- Moderately Threatened
- Secure



# PROPOSED STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## **Biodiversity**

***The best way to protect the ecological integrity of the park is to maintain natural biological diversity. There are three levels of biological diversity – landscape, community, and species. Each requires special attention to ensure its continuing viability. In addition, the natural processes and physical environment that produce and support the diversity of life must be maintained.***

## **Landscape Biodiversity**

***This includes all ecosystems in an area, plant and animal communities, and the physical habitat.***

As a priority, restore and maintain the ecological integrity of the montane ecoregion. Covering only 7% of the park, the montane is crucial habitat for many species.

Maintain or restore wildlife movement corridors. Promoting effective movement of wide-ranging species, within and beyond the park, will contribute to their long-term viability.

Keep habitat fragmentation in the park, at different scales and for different species, to a minimum.

Work with other regional land use managers to protect the connectivity of habitat inside and outside the park.

Protect the diversity of habitat types (or landscape units) within ecoregions, in places and sizes that are effective for the species they support.

## **Community Biodiversity**

***This encompasses all the species living together in a particular habitat.***

Maintain or restore the composition, structure, and processes of terrestrial and aquatic communities.

Restore appropriate fire regimes; ensure other natural disturbance effects continue.

Where feasible, restore human disturbed sites.

Protect or restore rare, vulnerable, and representative biotic communities.

## **Species Biodiversity**

***This refers to the variety of plants and animals.***

Maintain, or where necessary, restore viable populations of all native species.

Maintain genetic diversity within the populations of a given species.

Protect, maintain, or restore rare, vulnerable, or threatened species.

Reduce the effects of human activities on wildlife populations.

Restore historical ungulate behaviour, populations, and distribution.

Where possible prevent the introduction of, eliminate, or control non-native species.

## **Physical Environment**

Reduce the adverse effects of human activity on the physical environment and, where feasible, restore natural processes or conditions.

Use the park as a benchmark to study the effects of global air pollutants on air and water quality.

Where possible, restore water flows and landforms that have been affected by transportation corridors and address threats from proposed developments.



# Proposed Actions

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## **Landscape Biodiversity**

- Minimize the adverse effects of human use and development on the montane ecoregion.
- Continue working with government agencies and the resource industry to maintain or restore regional connectivity for wide-ranging species, including the grizzly bear and caribou.
- Work with managers of adjacent land to prevent uncontrolled access to remote areas of the park.
- Pay special attention to bear management units (BMUs) where habitat effectiveness is highly threatened or severely impacted, or where there are concerns for connectivity.

## **Community Biodiversity**

- Define appropriate fire regimes in terms of desired fire cycles for various vegetation groups, ecoregions and site moisture classes. Restore fire activity to at least 50% of the long term fire cycle through prescribed fires, including limited suppression of lightning or accidental human caused fires as appropriate, and monitor the effects.
- Identify appropriate fire cycles for various types of vegetation, ecoregions, and site moisture classes.
- Monitor and manage forest insect populations and diseases; develop appropriate responses to population fluctuations.
- Cooperate with government agencies, businesses, universities and others to increase awareness of the ecological importance of natural disturbances, with special attention to forest insects and diseases.
- Rehabilitate the riparian willow and upland vegetation communities in the Maligne Lake outlet area.

## **Species Biodiversity**

- Develop and implement human-use management techniques to maintain or restore connectivity and habitat effectiveness for carnivores and woodland caribou.
- Evaluate wolf mortality in the park, identify critical linkage areas, and implement actions to reduce wolf mortality.
- Implement recommendations from the Elk Action Working Group to restore historical elk distribution and abundance and reduce elk-human conflicts in and around the community.
- Assess the effect of more road and rail traffic, as well as of the potential highway twinning, on wildlife mortality and connectivity.
- Identify lakes that can be used as benchmarks for the study of native fish species and that are unaffected by human disturbance, including angling.
- Prohibit fishing in water bodies that only contain species for which there is a zero possession limit (e.g. bull trout).
- Protect native fish during spawning by revising the open season for angling.
- In cooperation with other stakeholders, implement an Integrated Pest Management strategy to eliminate or control existing populations of non-native species and reduce long-term use of pesticides.

## **Physical Environment**

- Work with transportation corridor managers (railroad, highway, pipeline) to restore natural features and minimize the impact of transportation corridors and other structures on the volume and seasonal changes in water flow, water levels, and water sources.
- Ensure that in-stream flow needs for aquatic and riparian systems take precedence over withdrawals or diversions of surface and ground water.
- Take measures to reduce wood smoke in Whistler and Wapiti Campgrounds.
- Develop codes of practice to reduce vehicle, locomotive, and other fossil fuel emissions in the park.
- Encourage the use of lighting that is functional and does not detract from the natural environment.
- Adopt appropriate standards for effluent and the treatment of wastewater.

Cultural resources in Jasper National Park tell a 9000-year-old story of human life in this area. There are approximately 500 known archaeological sites, five national historic sites, one Heritage Railway Station, 38 Federal Heritage Buildings, and 120 buildings in the community of Jasper that have heritage value. In addition, there are thousands of historic artifacts, archaeological specimens, archival records and one Canadian Heritage River; the Athabasca.

Parks Canada defines a cultural resource as a human work or place with evidence of human activity or spiritual or cultural meaning that is of historical value. This definition is applied to a wide range of resources, sites, structures, engineering works, artifacts and associated records in the park. Cultural resources are valued both as individual elements and for their combined contribution to the significance of a site.

According to Parks Canada's *Guiding Principles and Operational Policies*, commemorative integrity exists when a historic place is not impaired or under threat, when the reasons for its significance are communicated to the public, and when its heritage value is respected.

Effective cultural resource management requires:

- an inventory of all resources;

- an evaluation of the resources' historic value;
- a reflection of its historic value in the conservation and presentation of a resource, and;
- continuous monitoring and review.

While much baseline inventory and evaluation work has been completed, many challenges remain. These include:

- increasing the profile of cultural resource management in decision-making;
- setting clear priorities for the cultural resource program;
- identifying ways to protect heritage structures;
- enhancing the presentation of cultural heritage;
- identifying ways to commemorate the park's national historic sites, and;
- establishing a stronger link between cultural and ecological resource management.

Parks Canada will work with individuals, non-profit organizations, and others who share an enthusiasm for cultural resources to find innovative and exciting ways to conserve and present the park's heritage resources. Visitors will have the opportunity to experience these cultural resources firsthand as long as access does not impair the integrity of the resource.

### Cultural Resource Management Principles

**Value** – Parks Canada will consider the value of a cultural resource in the context of the larger site and not in isolation (e.g. the Information Building and the Palisades Centre). Cultural resources will be managed to value the change of historic context over time and not for any one period.

**Public Benefit** — Parks Canada will maintain and protect cultural resources on an on-going basis, will ensure they are effectively presented to the public, and will encourage others to participate in their presentation.

**Understanding** — Parks Canada will improve its understanding of cultural resources through on-going research and will document and present that knowledge. When a resource cannot be preserved, its value will be clearly documented.

**Respect** — Any public use of a resource or modifications to a resource (e.g. Maligne Lake Chalet) will respect the values for which it is commemorated.

**Integrity** — Any presentation of cultural resources will be based on sound knowledge and will reflect differing contemporary views.

## PROPOSED STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Place a priority on protecting resources recognized for their national significance — the Jasper Information Centre, Jasper House, Henry House, Athabasca Pass and Yellowhead Pass national historic sites.

Adopt a thematic approach to the conservation, presentation and protection of the park's cultural heritage.

Improve the public's appreciation, understanding and respect for cultural heritage by involving them in the management, protection, and presentation of cultural resources.

Ensure a clear understanding of how human history has shaped today's landscape will contribute to decision-making.

Recognize and present the role of First Nations and Metis people in the area's history.

## Proposed Actions

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### **Inventory of Cultural Resources**

- Update the park's *Archaeological Resource Description and Analysis*. This update will include new research and analyses, and provide information in a revised, user-friendly format.
- Complete built heritage resource description and analysis reports for buildings that have not been assessed to date (e.g., backcountry warden cabins, OCAs, alpine huts, youth hostels).
- Work with First Nations, Metis, the Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society and other groups to identify additional significant cultural resources in the park.

### **Evaluation of Cultural Resources**

- Prepare commemorative integrity statements for Jasper House, Henry House, Athabasca Pass and Yellowhead Pass national historic sites.

### **Managing Cultural Resources**

- Adopt the following themes as the basis for evaluating, preserving, and presenting the cultural resources and improving their presentation to the public:
  - pre-contact human occupation and use;
  - fur trade exploration;
  - settlement;
  - transportation;
  - tourism and recreation, and;
  - managing a national park.
- Prepare a comprehensive rehabilitation and use strategy for the Jasper Information Centre National Historic Site.
- Where possible, support projects that enhance our knowledge of the park's cultural resources. Projects could include:
  - assessing the condition of priority buildings;
  - remote sensing of the Jasper House graveyard site, and;
  - compiling oral histories of the park.
- Set up a cooperative agreement with the Metis Nation of Alberta to maintain and present cultural resources related to Jasper's Metis history.
- Set up a cooperative agreement with the Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society to manage the park's archives and artifact collections and to present the themes associated with the park's history.
- Study the potential of the Pocahontas area as a day-use area. Evaluate the possibility of using the mine manager's house to orient westbound travelers and to interpret the area's history.

### **Monitoring Cultural Resources**

- Monitor the archaeological resources at Athabasca Pass, Henry House, and Yellowhead Pass. A monitoring program is already in place for Jasper House National Historic Site

## 5.0 A Place for People

Jasper National Park is a cornerstone of tourism in western Canada. Every year almost two million people visit the park. An additional one million people pass through the park on their way to other destinations. Millions more learn of Jasper's significance through books, films, articles, and photographs. These experiences foster a better understanding and appreciation for the natural and cultural heritage that Jasper National Park protects.

Visitors come to Jasper National Park from around the world. For some, Jasper's value lies in the opportunity to experience, first hand, the park's exceptional wilderness. For others, recreational opportunities such as mountain biking, climbing and skiing are the key to Jasper's attraction. Still others view the park simply as a welcome break from city life.

Parks Canada must plan for this range of visitors, and at the same time must protect the environment that attracted them in the first place. Heritage tourism offers an opportunity to do this. The environmental benefits of heritage tourism are rooted in the type of people who make up this market. While they often seek adventure, they also want to learn about nature, history, and culture, and appreciate that steps must be taken to protect their heritage.

Because there is every indication that tourism in Western Canada will remain strong, national parks must look for approaches like heritage tourism that support the protection of resources and at the same time allow visitors to enjoy a range of recreational and educational activities.

### **Managing Growth**

During the summer, many park facilities (e.g., parking lots, campgrounds, hotels, day use areas) reach capacity. This leads to crowding, conflict, and restricted access to facilities. Continual expansion of facilities and services to meet ever-increasing demand will create pressure on the environment. As a result,

Parks Canada will consider establishing limits to growth.

### **Day-Use**

Day-use is expected to increase significantly in the next decade. As neighbouring communities grow, so will the regional market. Limits to overnight capacity within the park will encourage the expansion of commercial accommodation in the surrounding area. This will mean an increase in the number of people who take day-trips to the park. Parks Canada needs practical and effective tools to manage this type of use.

### **Year-Round Use**

Jasper is marketed as a year-round destination. However, Parks Canada lacks a complete understanding of the implications for wildlife, and the larger ecosystem, of increased use during shoulder and winter seasons.

### **Changing Visitor Characteristics**

Visitor needs, expectations, modes of travel, and equipment have changed dramatically. International visitors arrive with varying ideas about the role of protected areas. The aging population has changing needs for services and facilities, including an interest in education and more services.

### **Infrastructure**

Many of the park's facilities, including roads, day-use areas, roadside exhibits, and trails, were built between 1930 and 1960. Most of these are now worn, outdated, or cannot meet existing demand. The park must determine priorities for upgrading these facilities.

### **Appropriate Activities**

Activities that promote appreciation for the park's natural and cultural heritage, and that respect ecological integrity, are most appropriate in a national park. Over time, new activities will emerge, and these will need to be assessed. Similarly, the appropriateness of existing activities may change due to



increasing levels of human use, or due to new knowledge about their impact on the environment and other users. As a result,

Parks Canada will implement a process for regularly assessing existing and new types of use.

To address these challenges the park will focus on:

- a *Heritage Tourism Strategy* that focuses the tourism industry on promoting and providing high quality, authentic learning and travel experiences based on the Park's key ecological and cultural values;
- education and awareness programs that engage people's curiosity, help people understand and appreciate the national park, build constituency support for protected areas, and contribute to broader park management objectives;
- visitor services and facilities that support appropriate park experiences, facilitate firsthand experience of the park, and help protect park resources;
- overnight accommodation that supports park experiences and contributes to managing growth, and;
- effective human use management tools that enable people to have quality park experiences while protecting the area's ecological integrity. One such tool will be a grizzly bear habitat effectiveness model.

## PROPOSED STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Provide opportunities for Canadians and international guests to enjoy high quality, authentic learning and travel experiences that are based on the park's key ecological and cultural values, and that reinforce a sense of Canadian identity.

Offer educational programs that engage people's curiosity, help people understand and appreciate the national park, build support for protected areas, contribute to achieving the park's objectives, and create appropriate expectations.

Concentrate communication activities in high use areas.

Provide a range of appropriate, safe, affordable opportunities that enable visitors with varying interests to enjoy the park.

Ensure the construction and use of facilities respects the park's objectives for environmental stewardship and heritage presentation.

Work with other national parks, neighbouring jurisdictions, and the tourism industry to market the park, provide visitor opportunities, and manage use.

Manage human use so visitors and residents can enjoy and learn about the park in a manner that protects its ecological integrity and cultural assets.

Place a priority on defining ecological and visitor experience thresholds in key visitor use areas and implementing appropriate frameworks for managing human use.

# Proposed Actions

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## **Heritage Tourism**

- Participate in the preparation and implementation of a Heritage Tourism Strategy.
- Encourage the tourism industry to adopt a code of ethics based upon the code adopted by the Tourism Industry Association of Canada.
- Strengthen training programs to enhance employees' understanding of the park and its mandate.
- Encourage employees to share their knowledge of the park's heritage with visitors
- Work with the tourism industry to:
  - prepare marketing strategies;
  - develop standards and accreditation programs for tour operators;
  - target appropriate markets and design heritage products and services that meet their needs, and;
  - strengthen the presentation and promotion of appropriate activities in the park
- Support the development of tourism products and programs based on the heritage of Canada's First Nations and Metis.
- Identify the impact of shoulder and winter season use on ecological and cultural integrity and adjust tourism activities to mitigate this impact.

## **Education and Awareness**

- Enhance the park's information, interpretive, and educational programs by:
  - reviewing and improving non-personal media in areas where visitor use is high;
  - providing leadership and cultivating a strong third-party delivery of heritage programmes in the park to create a "community of communicators";
  - pursuing appropriate opportunities for shared funding, partnerships, and sponsorships for the development and delivery of interpretive programs and products, and;
  - using interpretation strategically to achieve predetermined and measurable results.
- Create opportunities to present Parks Canada messages in the community of Jasper.
- Use new technology to improve the delivery and management of information and educational services.
- Improve the availability of information in the east area of the park in response to shifting day-use patterns.
- Coordinate communications with other national and provincial mountain parks and regional visitor information networks.
- Make the results of scientific research widely available.
- Promote an awareness of opportunities to experience and learn about the Rocky Mountain World Heritage Site.
- Target outreach activities at youth and urban audiences in British Columbia and Alberta.

## Visitor Services and Facilities

- Provide high quality visitor services to the maximum extent possible.
- Continue to provide a variety of day-use facilities and areas throughout the park.
- Base decisions about day-use facilities and areas on the changing needs of park visitors, public safety, educational opportunities, and the potential impact on heritage resources.
- Use of public services or facilities by any one group will be managed to ensure other users have equitable access (e.g. use of smaller campgrounds by large commercial tour groups).
- Marmot Basin is the cornerstone of winter tourism within the park. Future developments at Marmot Basin will be consistent with an approved long-range plan.
- Personal watercraft (e.g. Sea-doo's, Jet-skis) and commercially led skijoring trips will not be allowed in the park.
- Dogsledding is an appropriate activity for national parks. Given current and projected use patterns within Jasper National Park and the need to manage user conflicts and environmental effects, Parks Canada is seeking input on the appropriateness of dogsledding within the park including appropriate locations.
- Implement the *Jasper National Park Guidelines for River Use Management* (1998).
- The completed park management plan will provide direction on boat use on Pyramid Lake according to one of the following options:
  1. Partial closure of Pyramid Lake (by area or season).
  2. A limit on the size of gasoline motors.
  3. Only electric motors will be permitted.
  4. Total ban on all motors.
- Tracksetting in Zone II areas will be permitted where it currently exists subject to site-specific environmental and visitor experience considerations.
- Review the park cave management policy to better match management action with the necessary level of resource protection.
- Participate in the preparation of a backcountry management plan for the four contiguous mountain parks; recognize opportunities for multi-day trips in Jasper National Park that are not available elsewhere.
- Prohibit the use of helicopters and over-snow vehicles to transport visitors and their supplies to backcountry huts and lodges. Allow helicopters and over-snow vehicles to service these facilities.
- Continue to close the road from the Snake Indian Bridge to Celestine Lake. Maintain the Celestine Lake campground as a semi-primitive site. Snake Indian Bridge will be made inaccessible to vehicles.
- Permit horseback riding at current levels and locations with the following exception:
  - prohibit horses from Big Shovel Pass to Maligne Lake on the Skyline Trail and on the lower part of the Watchtower Trail.
- Manage overnight horse use on the existing practice of moving or "fly" camps.
- Allow mountain biking to continue on designated trails.

- Monitor mountain biking and horseback riding; adjust as necessary to protect ecological integrity or the visitor experience.
- Ensure patrons of the Miette Hotsprings Pool have access to information about opportunities in the area and the special features of the Fiddle Valley.

### **Frontcountry Overnight Accommodation (Outside the Community)**

- Apply the revised redevelopment guidelines to existing outlying commercial accommodation (OCA). An independent panel will recommend principles concerning the nature, rate, and scale of development for hostels, OCAs, and Jasper Park Lodge. Direction resulting from these recommendations will be included in the management plan.
- Maintain existing campgrounds; allow some expansion to balance the need for low-cost overnight accommodation.
- Ensure the operation and recapitalization of campgrounds reflect industry trends and the changing needs of campers (e.g., larger sites, more hook-ups, reservations).
- Remove Whistlers hostel and replace with a hostel in the community.

### **Human Use Management**

- Prepare a demand management strategy that addresses overall growth in the park.
- Apply the following principles for human use management:
  1. Human use management will be used to achieve the desired condition of each bear management unit (BMU) — see Chapter 3: A Place for Nature.
  2. Each BMU will have a habitat effectiveness and security area target.
  3. Wildlife movement corridors will remain effective.
  4. The principles of precaution and adaptive management will apply when the potential consequences of decisions are uncertain.
  5. Proposals to manage human use will be based on the best available information.
  6. A variety of techniques for managing human use will be applied.
  7. When necessary, visitors will be redirected to areas where the impact of their activity is acceptable.
  8. Proposals for human use management will consider the number and extent of disturbances, rather than specific numbers of people.
  9. Education will be the preferred method of solving conflicts between different types of users.
  10. Affordability will be considered when deciding on the range of opportunities allowed.
- Ensure wildlife can use the *Three Valley Confluence* to reach other areas of the park and the larger ecosystem; manage human use in this area more actively than elsewhere in the park.

- Improve decision-making and Parks Canada's understanding of visitor use through a database that:
  - focuses on research priorities – e.g., levels of use, visitor preferences and satisfaction, and choice modelling;
  - measures performance – e.g., the management of visitor activities and the provision of high quality opportunities;
  - is developed with the tourism industry, academic institutions, and other appropriate partners, and;
  - is linked to the park GIS.
- Use temporary closures or other restrictions only when absolutely necessary to ensure public safety, to protect sensitive natural or cultural resources, or to allow a site to recuperate.
- Inform the public about the reason for restrictions as quickly as possible.
- Close facilities or areas permanently only in consultation with the public and as part of the management plan review process.
- Prepare a comprehensive strategy to deal with wildlife-human conflicts. The strategy will provide for a communications plan, improved garbage and compost handling, and elk management in and around the community.
- Ensure a variety of people can enjoy Pyramid Bench and that the bench continues to function as an effective wildlife movement corridor.

# Area Concepts

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In addition to overall direction for Jasper National Park, the park management plan will describe strategic direction for certain popular areas in the park — the Maligne Valley, Mount Edith Cavell, and the Tonquin Valley.

## The Maligne Valley

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Since the exploring days of Mary Schaffer, and the outfitting days of Fred Brewster and Curly Phillips, people have come to the Maligne Valley to experience the wilderness of the Rocky Mountains. Its continuing popularity is a testament to the excellent opportunities it offers to see wildlife and enjoy the unspoiled wilderness scenery.

Many of the valley's unique features contributed to the park's designation as a World Heritage Site. These include Medicine Lake, Maligne Canyon, and one of the largest underground karst systems in North America.

The valley is also important to a variety of wildlife including the grizzly bear, caribou, and the harlequin duck.

Research indicates that wildlife and national icons such as Spirit Island will attract increasing numbers of national and international visitors. Managing this growth is critical to maintaining the special qualities of the Maligne Valley.

Because the Maligne Valley is an important winter range for caribou, the park will assess the effect of winter activities in the area on this sensitive species.

## PROPOSED STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Facilities and services will allow visitors to appreciate the special features and wilderness feeling of the Maligne Valley.

Visitors will understand the importance of the valley's geological features to the park's designation as a World Heritage Site.

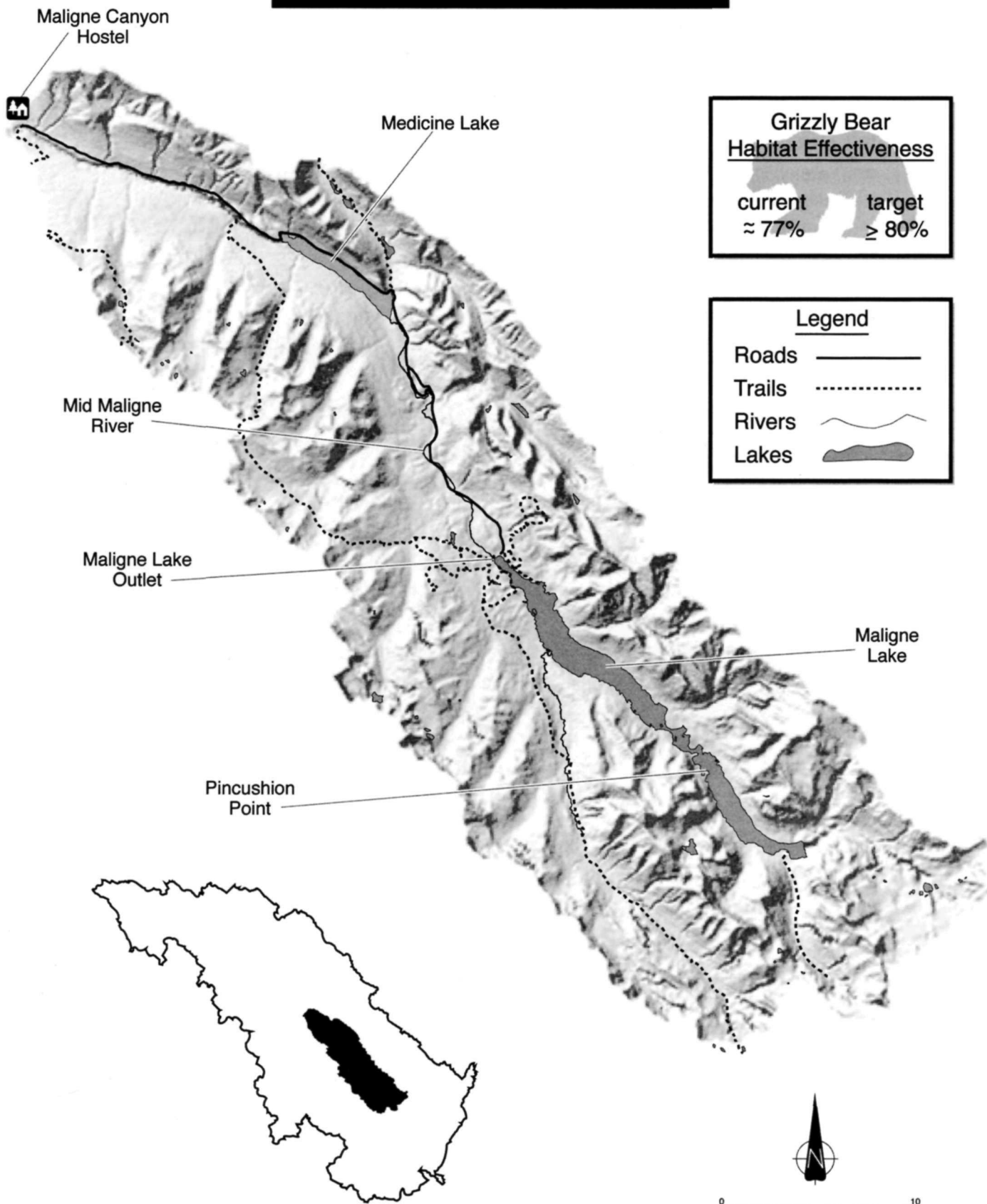
Interpretive messages will be communicated at key visitor nodes within the valley (e.g. Medicine Lake, Maligne Lake Outlet), while the Maligne Lake Chalet will be a focal point for interpretation. Congestion at these nodes, as well as along the road, will be minimized.

A variety of user groups will be able to appreciate the area without conflict.

Visitors will have opportunities to see wildlife (e.g., the harlequin duck, caribou) without threatening their continued viability.



# MALIGNE VALLEY



**Grizzly Bear  
Habitat Effectiveness**

current	target
≈ 77%	≥ 80%

**Legend**

Roads	—————
Trails	.....
Rivers	~~~~~
Lakes	■



# Proposed Actions

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- Establish criteria for managing the number and distribution of people in the area and the nature and type of activity allowed. Base criteria on visitor experience and ecological objectives – e.g., noise, wake, frequency, and levels of visitor use.
- There will be no new overnight commercial accommodation in the Maligne Valley.
- Permit adequate housing for on-site security and maintenance staff.
- Tracksetting in Zone II areas will be permitted where it currently exists subject to site-specific environmental and visitor experience considerations.
- Develop an integrated approach to communication at key visitor areas in the valley — e.g., Medicine Lake, Maligne Lake Outlet.
- Enlist the help of third parties in the communication programme.
- Create a focal point for interpretation at the Maligne Lake Chalet.
- Manage human use in a way that maintains and improves grizzly bear habitat.
- Implement the *River Use Guidelines* including:
  - closing the mid-Maligne River to all in-stream use;
  - rehabilitating the riparian willow and upland vegetation communities in the Maligne Lake Outlet Area, and;
  - improving interpretation.
- Until an assessment of the impact of human use on caribou is complete, maintain the current infrastructure capacity at Medicine and Maligne lakes.
- Assess the following options for the Maligne Canyon Hostel:
  1. Maintain status-quo (24 beds).
  2. Close the hostel and replace lost capacity in a proposed new hostel in the community.
- Keep the Maligne Lake Road open in winter for people who want to observe wildlife, sightsee, ski, or participate in other appropriate activities.

# Mount Edith Cavell

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Mount Edith Cavell is one of the most prominent landmarks in the Athabasca Valley. At Mount Edith Cavell visitors have unparalleled opportunities to discover three types of glaciers, a variety of moraine, primary plant colonization in the wake of the retreating Angel Glacier, and the sheer Gog quartzite north face of Mount Edith Cavell. The area is also important because of its caribou rutting range and rare plant communities.

Easy access, proximity to the community, and spectacular views make Mount Edith Cavell one of the most popular day-use areas in the park. This popularity offers an ideal opportunity to communicate with visitors. It also poses a threat to the area's important ecological features. Visitor satisfaction may also be compromised as a result of aging infrastructure and traffic congestion.

## PROPOSED STRATEGIC DIRECTION

A trip to Mount Edith Cavell will remain the premier opportunity for visitors who travel by vehicle to experience the park's montane, sub-alpine, and even alpine life zones.

The facilities and services at Mount Edith Cavell will reflect the park's status as a World Heritage Site.

Those who hike up to Cavell Meadows will find clearly defined, hardened trails that protect the area's rare plant communities.

A variety of high-quality opportunities, including interpretation by Parks Canada, will be provided for people to understand the area's ecological and geological diversity, glacial features and the role of Mount Edith Cavell to early explorers.

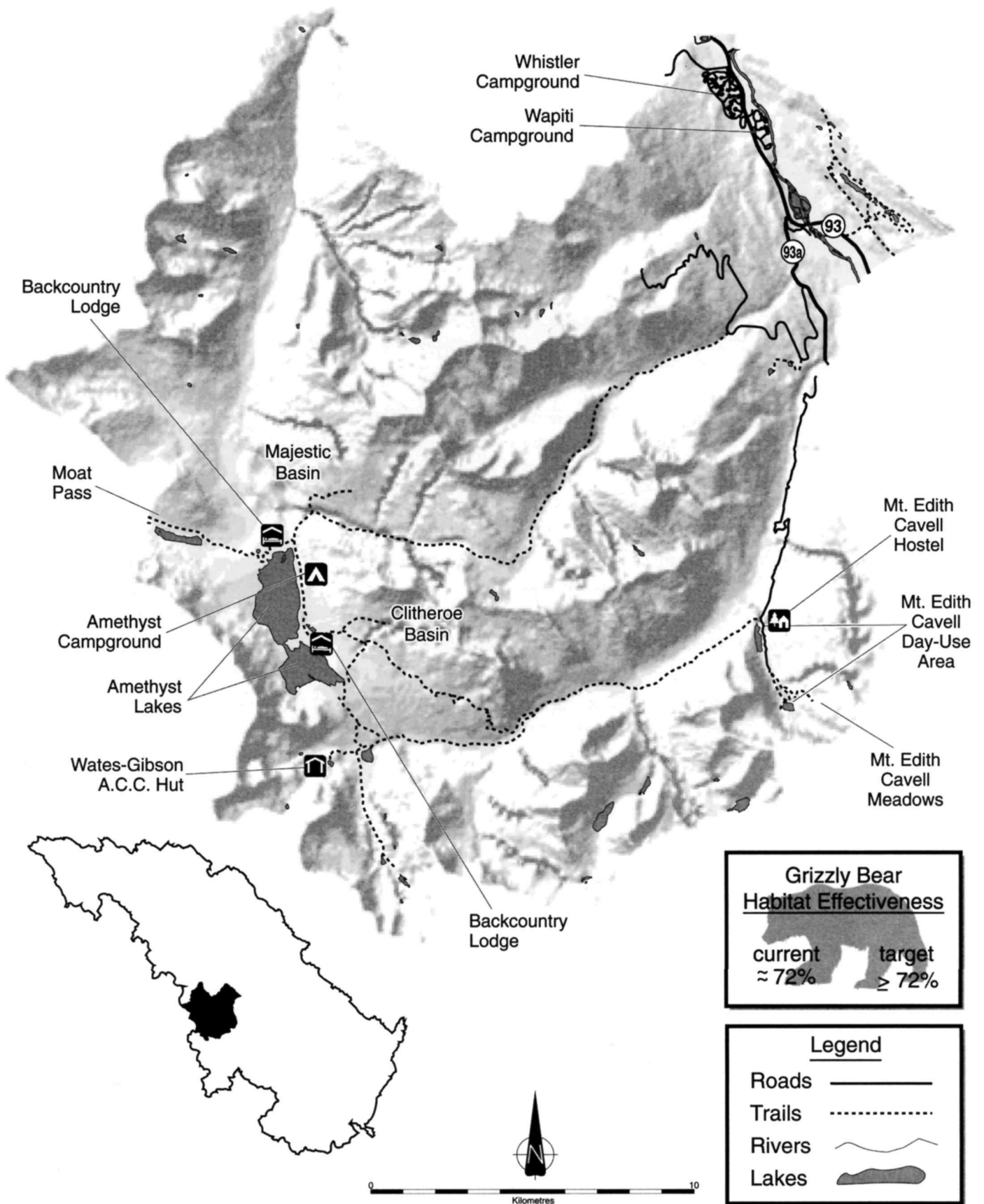
The number of visitors will not detract from the quality of the experience or from the ability to learn about the area's value.

## Proposed Actions

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- Define the area's ecological and visitor experience thresholds using factors such as crowding, infrastructure capacity, visitor satisfaction, and educational objectives.
- Alleviate congestion in the parking lot during peak periods. Possible tools include communication, public transit, quotas, or restrictions on private vehicles.
- Enhance understanding of the area through interpretation.
- Encourage people to take advantage of guided trips to enhance visitor experiences.
- Close the meadow as required to protect caribou rutting grounds in the fall and to reduce damage to vegetation from human use in the wet conditions of early spring.
- Use clearly defined, hardened trails in Cavell Meadows to help protect the area's rare plant communities.
- Re-route trails as necessary to protect rare plants.
- Maintain the current character, purpose, and capacity of the Edith Cavell hostel.

# TONQUIN VALLEY & MT. EDITH CAVELL



# Tonquin Valley

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The Tonquin Valley is one of the most popular backcountry destinations in Jasper National Park. It is also an important wildlife corridor between Alberta and British Columbia. Two species of concern, the grizzly bear and the caribou, use the area.

Traditionally, people traveled on horseback in this valley. The increasing popularity of hiking

during the past two decades has resulted in a number of conflicts associated with trail conditions, trampling, and grazing. Resolving such conflicts will be a key step in maintaining visitor satisfaction.

Facilities in the valley are currently under-used and little growth in backcountry travel is expected.

## PROPOSED STRATEGIC DIRECTION

**The Tonquin Valley will remain one of the premier backcountry destinations in Jasper National Park.**

**Horseback riders and hikers will continue to have access to the area.**

**Parks Canada will take measures to reduce conflicts and the ecological impact of horses.**

**Management of the area will be based on clearly defined targets for visitor satisfaction, forage utilization, and bare ground.**

**The Tonquin Valley will continue to support grizzly bears. Habitat effectiveness will not be reduced below the current level and connectivity corridors will be maintained between the Tonquin Valley and adjacent bear management units. Critical habitats for caribou (e.g. rutting grounds, calving areas) will be maintained.**

## Proposed Actions

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► Manage the use of horses in the Tonquin Valley. Parks Canada is considering the following:

1. Enhance the Status Quo.

This option would allow horses the same access to the valley but would require changes such as reducing the number of horses allowed, requiring trip scheduling, or altering grazing patterns.

2. Prohibit horses in the south end of the valley.

This would involve either closing the Amethyst Lake Packtrips operation or converting it to a lodge for hikers when the current license of occupation expires.

3. Build a by-pass for hikers.

This would mean building a separate trail along the centre of the valley and removing the Amethyst campground. The park would review the capacity of the Clitheroe, Surprise and Maccarib campgrounds.

- Maintain the capacity of overnight accommodation as follows:
 

Camping	44 sites
Wates/Gibson Hut	30 persons
Amethyst Lodge	25 persons
Tonquin Valley Lodge	25 persons
- Minimize human disturbance of caribou during rutting and calving.
- If the caribou monitoring program shows a declining trend in the population, then a rigorous assessment will be undertaken to determine what impacts are causing the decline. This assessment will address both biological and human use aspects.
- Prohibit the promotion or development of trails and campgrounds in the Moat, Tonquin, and Vista passes to protect these critical movement corridors for grizzly bears.
- Remove Meadow Creek campsite and rehabilitate the area to maintain the area's effectiveness as secure habitat and movement corridor for grizzly bears. Discontinue trail maintenance.
- Determine the impact of day trips by horseback in the Clitheroe and Majestic areas and the need for additional standards and monitoring.
- Evaluate special features (e.g., rare species and community types, critical habitat) in the Tonquin Valley to determine the appropriate management of visitor use.
- Inform the public of the trails that will be shared between horses and hikers, of trail conditions they may normally expect to encounter, and of appropriate trail etiquette.



## 6.0 Transportation

The transportation network in Jasper National Park serves two functions: it offers visitors unforgettable views and first-hand experiences of the park's mountain wilderness, and it is part of a national transportation network. To fulfill these two functions in a manner that is sensitive to a national park setting is a constant challenge.

Jasper's network of roads includes the Yellowhead Highway (16), the Icefields Parkway, Highway 93A and other secondary roads leading to Maligne Lake, Mt. Edith Cavell, Miette Hot Springs, and Pyramid Lake. The construction, use, and maintenance of these park roads is not without environmental impact. Both the railway and the Yellowhead Highway cut through prime wildlife habitat in the montane ecoregion and affect wildlife populations in these areas.

The presence of these facilities has also resulted in the introduction of non-native plants to the park, caused wildlife mortality, interrupted natural water flows, and affected the health of riparian areas. Increased use of the Yellowhead Highway may result in the construction of passing lanes and, ultimately, twinning of some sections.

Many of the park's roads and bridges are reaching the end of their design life. With increased traffic, and faster and heavier vehicles, Jasper National Park is setting priorities for upgrading and replacing the transportation infrastructure.

Air traffic, specifically scenic over-flights, can affect both the visitor experience and the environment. Strategies to address this issue include voluntary guidelines related to routes and minimum flying altitudes. The airstrip is now closed except for emergency and diversionary landings.

### PROPOSED STRATEGIC DIRECTION

**Park roads will allow visitors to experience the park first hand in a manner that is compatible with Parks Canada's commitment to ecological integrity.**

**Roads and related infrastructure will be used in a manner that extends their useful life.**

### Proposed Actions

- Implement measures to alleviate demand for parking in the Mt. Edith Cavell upper parking lot during peak use periods including consideration of a targeted communication strategy, public transit, traffic quotas, or private vehicle restrictions.
- Allow seasonal use of Highway 93A from the Whirlpool River bridge to Athabasca Falls by private vehicles. Use weight restrictions and reduced speed limits to increase the lifespan of this section of road. There will be no recapitalization of this road and maintenance will be kept to a minimum.

- Introduce seasonal weight restrictions where appropriate to reduce the impact of heavy vehicles on secondary roads, including Pyramid Lake Road and Highway 93A (Tekarra Loop and Athabasca Falls loop).
- Assess the effectiveness of closing Hwy 93A between Tekarra Lodge and Alpine Village in improving wildlife movement in the *Three Valley Confluence*.
- Prohibit vehicles that exceed the weight restrictions for the Old Fort Point Bridges from using the Old Fort Point Road, from Highway 93A to Old Fort Point.

## 7.0 A Place for Community

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In addition to the preparing a new park management plan for Jasper National Park, Parks Canada is also revising the Jasper community plan. The direction in the park management plan will guide the preparation of the new community plan.

The community of Jasper lies within the confluence of the Athabasca, Maligne and Miette valleys and is home to 4700 residents. Most of the nearly two million annual visitors to the park spend time within the *Three Valley Confluence*. As the community plays an important role in serving park visitors, the community presents an excellent platform to communicate the significance of Jasper National Park and its role within a system of national parks.

While important to visitors, the *Three Valley Confluence* area where the community of Jasper is located is vital to the ecological integrity of the park. It has high habitat value for a number of wildlife species and an important function for wildlife movement. It is important that planning for the future of the community considers these biological values. Managing growth, ensuring use and development are appropriate to a national park, and employing exemplary stewardship practices are cornerstones for sustainability.

On June 26, 1998, the Honourable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, and the Honourable Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State (Parks) announced a national framework and principles to guide community planning in Canada's National Parks.

### Objectives

- To ensure that commercial development reflects basic and essential services and is consistent with the legislative requirement to maintain ecological integrity.
- To provide an effective framework (planning and governance) for future commercial development in national parks.

### Framework

- boundaries for all park communities to be fixed in legislation;
- community plans to be prepared for all park communities, approved by the Minister and tabled in Parliament;
- the principles to guide community plans to be set out in legislation, e.g.
  - no net negative environmental impacts
  - appropriate use guidelines
  - responsible growth management strategy
  - leadership in environmental stewardship and heritage conservation.
- the commercial zones and maximum commercial floor space for each park community (from the community plan) to be set out in legislation requiring an Act of Parliament to amend them;
- no extension of the Banff model of local self-government to other park communities.

# PROPOSED STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## (Jasper Community Planning Framework)

It is intended that no expansion of the developed community footprint will occur.

New commercial development will be permitted to:

- 1) enable buildings currently inconsistent with the architectural motif to redevelop to meet architectural standards;
- 2) permit vacant commercial properties to develop;
- 3) facilitate the development of residential units within the commercial zones.

Based on consideration of these and other parameters the level of commercial development will be determined.

Revised procedures and regulations concerning *eligible residency* will be applied.

The existing housing shortfall will be addressed.

The Minister's principles will be incorporated into the new community plan.

### **Appropriate Development and Uses in a National Park Community**

- Guidelines defining appropriate national park businesses and services are being developed. New business license applications will be required to meet a rigorous test of appropriateness.
- The concept of "no net negative" environmental impact and strict enforcement of *eligible residency* will be employed in managing growth.

### **Protecting Heritage Character**

- The community plan will address conservation of priority heritage buildings representative of Jasper's distinctive community character.
- New development must be compatible in design and quality with the Jasper Architectural Motif. Incentives and other tools for the conservation and protection of historic buildings will be developed, including the possible implementation of lease amendments.
- Policies and regulations regarding the conservation and preservation of historic structures will be strengthened.

### **A Model Environmental Community**

- Jasper has a responsibility to demonstrate exemplary environmental stewardship. This will be achieved in the areas of improved energy efficiency, waste management and recycling, and resource conservation.

**The details of the Community plan are being discussed in a separate planning process.**

Jasper National Park belongs to the people of Canada. All citizens should have the opportunity to participate in key decisions that affect the park. The following are some of the key challenges facing Jasper National Park in meeting this expectation.

### **Public Involvement**

Over the years, Parks Canada has tried a variety of ways to obtain public input. To make the best use of the public's time, Parks Canada must ensure the consultation process is efficient and appropriate.

### **Integrated Decision-Making**

Decisions must consider the impact services and facilities will have on both the community and the park. For example, a commercial outdoor activity may be appropriate and require little or no development in the park. However, the need for staff housing may have an impact on the community.

### **Appropriate Development and Use**

Use and development within Jasper National Park will contribute to visitor understanding, appreciation and respect of the park environment. Decisions on appropriateness will be based on the consistent application of clear criteria. The development review process in the park and community will be open and transparent.

### **Regional Cooperation**

Parks Canada's success in maintaining ecological integrity requires cooperation with neighbouring land managers. Decisions about biodiversity and tourism must be integrated with those made in the region.

### **Lake Edith Cottage Subdivision**

The Lake Edith Cottage area is the only subdivision of its kind in Jasper National Park and was established in the early history of the park. Parks Canada's *Guiding Principles and Operational Policies* recognize this development as a resort subdivision along with similar facilities in Wood Buffalo, Prince Albert, and Riding Mountain national parks. Because the Lake Edith Subdivision is situated in the montane ecoregion, which provides critical winter range for a variety of wildlife, guidelines for the future management of this area are required.

### **Research and Decision-Making.**

Many of the key actions in this plan require the collection and analysis of information. This information will be clearly integrated into the decision-making process.

When making decisions, it is important to use all available information, to recognize when there is insufficient information to make a decision, and to ensure the public understands the information on which decisions are based.

# PROPOSED STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Decision-making in Jasper National Park will be based on the following principles:

Standards to protect ecological and commemorative integrity are defined, enforced, and reviewed.

Regulation and decision-making are responsive, open, participatory, consistent, and equitable.

There is individual and shared responsibility to provide for protection and preservation of heritage resources.

Proactive, adaptive, and precautionary management consider cumulative effects and limits to growth in recognition of the finite nature of the park.

Integrity and common sense underlie all decision-making.

Planning and decision-making are coordinated on a regional basis.

Partnerships are encouraged, subject to appropriate checks and balances.

There is a shared responsibility to achieve ecological, social, cultural, and economic sustainability.

## Proposed Actions

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- Report regularly to the public on the implementation of the park management plan and how it relates to the State of the Parks Report.
- Implement a development review process that:
  - respects the mandate described in the *National Parks Act* and Parks Canada policy;
  - sets high standards for environmental assessment;
  - improves consistency, and;
  - involves the public.
- Set up an annual process to examine proposed new activities and use, and changes in levels of use based on the following criteria:
  - impact on the park's resources
  - effects on culture and heritage
  - quality of experience
  - economic impact
  - public safety
  - equity and access
  - social effects/quality of life
  - education and awareness
  - level of use: frequency, timing, and quantity
  - physical setting
  - heritage tourism
  - environmental stewardship

- Apply appropriate development and business licensing criteria to commercial activities in the park that have an impact on the community (e.g., staff housing, equipment storage).
- Continue to participate in key coordinating committees established by other agencies in the regional ecosystem.
- Work with regional tourism partners to expand opportunities for heritage tourism within the region.
- Participate in environmental reviews of projects outside the park that may adversely affect the park's environment.
- Support research and management efforts associated with the Yellowstone to Yukon initiative that clearly contribute to the park's overall goals.
- With the towns of Hinton and Valemount, examine the potential impact on day-use in the park of more tourist services in those communities.
- Pursue the management of access to the park's backcountry with managers of adjacent land.
- Continue to encourage environmental management and stewardship programs in the region.
- Prepare planning and operational guidelines for the Lake Edith Cottage area to ensure use of the area remains consistent with its traditional role in the park.
- Set up a science advisory committee that includes community representatives.
- Identify and study key indicators; fill critical gaps in baseline information.



## 9.0 A Place for Environmental Stewardship

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Day-to-day activities in Jasper National Park have environmental consequences. Environmental stewardship ensures those consequences are kept to a minimum. As a World Heritage Site, Jasper National Park will meet the highest standard of environmental stewardship. Although Parks Canada has a responsibility for leadership, it shares the responsibility for implementing stewardship programs with the community, residents, visitors, and businesses.

A key step in improving Parks Canada's environmental stewardship is the development of an Environmental Management System (EMS). An EMS is a systematic approach to incorporating environmental considerations into every step of the decision-making process. It provides a system for tracking, managing, and improving environmental performance in fourteen different areas. These areas include: contaminated sites, fleet management, energy conservation, and solid waste management.

### PROPOSED STRATEGIC DIRECTION

**Jasper National Park will continually improve on environmental stewardship. Implementation of an environmental management system (EMS) will be a key step.**

**Jasper National Park will ensure that the services and products of businesses, and the activities of visitors and residents, contribute to the principles of environmental stewardship and sustainability. The park will encourage others in the region to do the same.**

**Landfilling activities will be assessed within a regional context to determine the most appropriate location and method of disposal of solid waste.**

### Proposed Actions

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- Demonstrate responsible environmental management.
- Reduce the amount of waste from construction and demolition.
- Implement a water conservation strategy for the community of Jasper.
- Examine sewage treatment at outlying facilities; draft guidelines and standards for acceptable sewage treatment.
- Adopt an environmentally appropriate method to treat sewage at Maligne Lake.
- Set appropriate standards for in-stream release of effluent.
- Develop communication products and information packages that support shared stewardship initiatives.
- Work with the community and businesses in the shared responsibility of environmental stewardship.

## 10.0 Park Zoning

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Parks Canada's zoning system classifies areas according to their need for protection. The suitability of areas for visitor activities is also a consideration in zoning decisions. The zoning system has five categories, which are described in *Parks Canada: Guiding Principles and Operational Policies*.

Although the zoning described in the 1988 park management plan remains primarily the same, some modifications are proposed due to changes to land use recommendations and due to the 1988 amendments to the *National Parks Act*. These *National Parks Act* amendments provide for the designation, by regulation, of wilderness areas in a park.

The following summarizes the proposed zoning, with emphasis on changes to the 1988 plan.

### Zone I - Special Preservation

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Zone I will continue to include the *Ancient Forest* near the Athabasca Glacier; *Surprise Valley* (part of the Maligne Karst System), *Devona Cave Archaeological Site*, and *Jasper House National Historic Site*. The delineation of the Surprise Valley has been increased to more accurately reflect the boundaries of that area.

### Zone II - Wilderness

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Most (98%) of the park will continue to be managed as Zone II. Areas proposed to be added to Zone II are:

- Celestine Lake to the Snake Indian Bridge (previously Zones III & IV).
- The area between Highway 93 and 93A from Athabasca Falls to the Athabasca/Whirlpool confluence (the river will remain Zone III).
- Maligne Lake from Pincushion Point south (previously Zone III).

### Zone III - Natural Environment

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The plan proposes to add the following areas to Zone III.

- Sleepy Hollow, near the community of Jasper (previously Zone V); this reflects changes to the community boundary.
- The trail from Highway 93 to Curator Lake (previously Zone II); no motorized access will be permitted.

See Zone II above for a description of other changes affecting Zone III.

### Zone IV - Outdoor Recreation

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No change.

### Zone V - Park Services

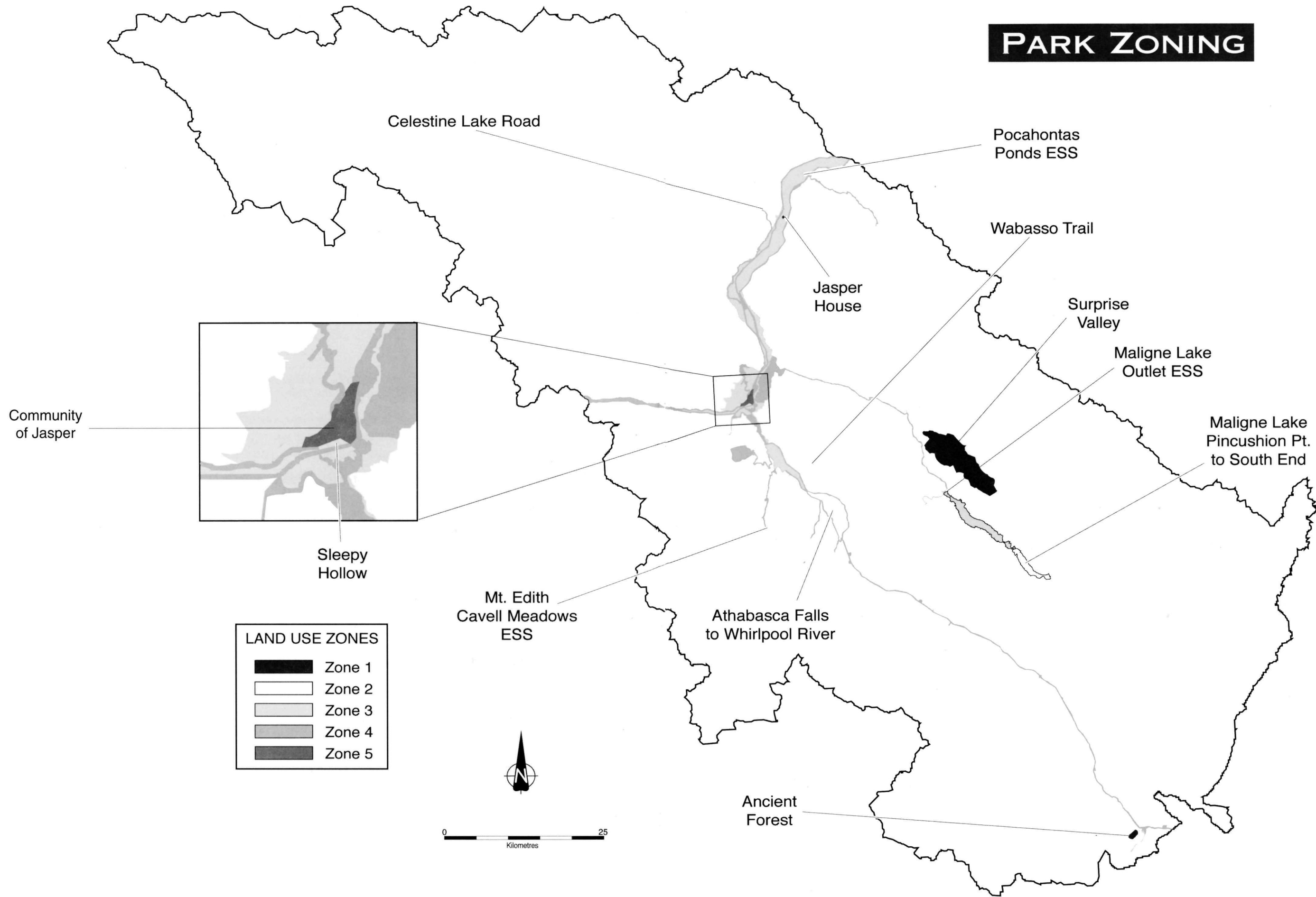
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See reference to Sleepy Hollow (Zone III above).

### Environmentally Sensitive Sites (ESS)

This designation applies to areas with significant and sensitive features that require special protection. Unlike Zone I areas, an ESS can accommodate more visitors without jeopardizing its heritage resources. *Edith Cavell Meadows* and *Pocahontas Ponds* will keep their ESS designation. This plan proposes to designate the *Maligne Lake Outlet* as an ESS, because of its importance as a "club site" for harlequin ducks.

# PARK ZONING



# EXHIBIT

1997-1998

1999-2000

2001-2002

2003-2004

2005-2006

Year	Value
1997-1998	100
1999-2000	100
2001-2002	100
2003-2004	100
2005-2006	100



Canadian Heritage  
Parks Canada

Patrimoine canadien  
Parcs Canada

Canada