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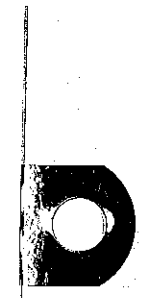
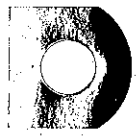

January 1983

Alberta
RECREATION AND PARKS

Approved by Rural Development Committee of Cabinet
M.O. prepared & to become part of implementation
June 1983

M.O.
3/10/83 — Followed by "Implementing Framework"
which catagorizes in general sense
& identifies planning standards or
principles therefor
This will be married to Design & Impl
standards with reference to
catagories, based on Framework
"conceptual framework for Dev. & Mgt
of Planning D & D."
P. Skydt.

FRAMEWORK & GUIDELINES

- Wilderness Areas
- Ecological Reserves
- Parks
- Recreation Areas

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BACKGROUND

The Department recently completed a review and revision of its classification framework and associated standards for facility development operation. This review was prompted by two factors:

1. A required need to improve the Department's effectiveness in projecting capital development and operating costs. In particular, there was a need to relate the scope and intent of recreation developments to specific facility and level of service standards. To do this, it was necessary to evaluate the role of the various elements (e.g., parks, recreation areas, ecological reserves, etc.) within the overall recreation/conservation system and to identify Department standards for facilities and levels of service in each of these elements.

2. A shift in program direction. Present economic conditions have limited the involvement of the Department in new developments shifting the emphasis in our capital budget to upgrading and re-development upgrading, and re-development projects. It will be necessary to establish the relationship of existing developments within the desired overall framework of Department programs, and to subsequently examine them for consistency with identified Department standards of development and service.

WHY A CLASSIFICATION FRAMEWORK?

A classification framework provides the basis for allocating and developing recreation and preservation opportunities in Alberta. It provides clarification to both Department planners and managers, as well as to the users (i.e., the public at large). Specifically, it:

1. Provides the Department with:

   a. a framework for program planning and development; and
   b. guidelines and standards which govern the planning, development, operation and maintenance of facilities, services and opportunities.

2. Permits the public to identify:

   a. the significance of the resource at any site;
   b. the type of recreation opportunity to be expected; and
   c. the level of service to be expected.

CLASSIFICATION FRAMEWORK

Embodied within the Department's existing legislation are four major land management categories, namely:

Wilderness Areas
Ecological Reserves
Parks
Recreation Areas

Table 1 depicts these four categories and highlights the important distinguishing features of each. Appendix A provides a more detailed review of the framework for these categories. Fundamentally, this classification is based on a recognition that the Department has a dual mandate:

1. To protect areas of natural or cultural significance for the recreational and educational use of present and future generations.

2. To provide a broad spectrum of outdoor recreation opportunities.

FRAMEWORK FOR WILDERNESS AREAS, ECOLOGICAL RESERVES, PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

	WILDERNESS AREAS	ECOLOGICAL RESERVES	PARKS	RECREATION AREAS
Legislation	Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act.	Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act.	Provincial Parks Act.	Provincial Parks Act & Recreation Development Act.
Purpose	To preserve provincially significant areas in their wild and primitive state while allowing for selected wilderness recreation activities.	To retain selected examples of the full range of Alberta's natural environmental diversity for the purposes of preservation and scientific research.	To protect provincially significant natural landscapes while providing for outdoor recreation activities.	To provide, in natural or man made settings, opportunities for a broad range of outdoor recreation activities.
Resource Significance	Provincially significant wilderness landscape.	Provincially significant environmental landscape.	Provincially significant outdoor recreation natural landscape.	Outdoor recreation landscape or attraction
Resource Protection	Total resource protection, natural processes only.	Total resource protection, natural processes may be simulated.	Resource protection for continued used and enjoyment.	Resource manipulation as required to maximize recreation.
Recreation	Narrow range, wilderness, non-facility only. Non-mechanized.	Narrow range, environmental education only. Non-mechanized.	Broad range, compatible with landscape protection. Non-mechanized.	Broadest possible range developable including mechanized.
Multiple Resource Use	Not permitted.	Restricted to simulation of natural processes.	Compatible with landscape protection and user experience.	Non-detrimental to recreation activities provided.
Heritage Appreciation	Important component. Non-facility self-experience.	Limited adjacent facilities and programs.	Important intent. Wide range of facilities and personalized programs.	Secondary intent. Non-facility. Non-personalized programs.

Provincially significant means: Landscapes judged as containing high quality unique or representative natural values that permit the delivery of programs that contribute to the appreciation of Alberta's natural heritage.

Recreation opportunities provided by the Department will range from highly protected, low use wilderness areas and ecological reserves to highly developed, intensively used recreation areas. The classification framework is a direct reflection of this range.

In addition to the four major categories, four sub-levels of development are recognized within the category of Recreation Areas:

Level I	representing highly developed recreation opportunities designed for high levels of use;
Level II	representing moderately developed recreation opportunities at a smaller scale than Level I, and designed for medium levels of use;
Level III	representing small scale recreation opportunities designed for low levels of use; and
Level IV	representing minimal service day use and overnight stops.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CLASSIFICATION FRAMEWORK AND RECREATION FACILITY AND SERVICE GUIDELINES

Facility standards and levels of service have been established for each of the four major categories and for each of the Recreation Area sub-levels (I, II, III, and IV). Table 2 highlights some of the major distinctions in facility development and service standards between the categories. Appendix B is a more detailed review of the guidelines for each category.

As discussed previously, the overall classification framework is based on a recognition of the need to provide a broad spectrum of recreation/conservation opportunities. These will range from highly protected, low use areas to highly developed, intensively used sites. The facility standards and levels of service established directly reflect the level, scope, and type of use outlined for each category.

GUIDELINES FOR WILDERNESS AREAS, ECOLOGICAL RESERVES, PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

	WILDERNESS AREAS	ECOLOGICAL RESERVES	PARKS	RECREATION AREAS			
				LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Intent	-to protect areas of natural beauty and primeval character from impairment by industrial development or occupation by man -to afford the opportunity for user isolation, challange, and solitude in a natural, undisturbed setting	-to prevent the loss of organisms within the province and preserve the genetic resources of plants and animals so that unaltered gene pools of maximum diversity provide a broad base for research and development. -to preserve a significant part of Alberta's natural heritage for nature appreciation and environmental education	-to maintain provincially significant natural landscapes of adequate size throughout the province to permit the user to experience recreation opportunities in a natural or near natural setting -to provide compatible ammenities and intensive recreation opportunities that encourage long stay destinations and contribute to travel & tourism -to contribute to the public understanding and appreciation of and respect for the natural and cultural heritage of Alberta through programs of interpretation and environmental education	-to develop high quality recreation facilities, services and infrastructure for a wide variety of intensive outdoor activities that encourage long term destination use. -to provide for a variety of dispersed recreation activities within a management unit established primarily for recreation purposes. -to provide opportunities that encourage and permit the development of specialized facilities -to facilitate the development of a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in urban settings.	-to provide medium scale campgrounds and associated facilities to accomodate visitors while accessing recreation opportunities. -to provide medium serviced recreation facilities in areas of high demand where resources are not capable of level I development	-to provide small scale facilities for recreation opportunities, possibly off site.	-to provide small scale day use and overnight rest stops
Picnicking	-no facilities	-no facilities	-variable - small -low serviced to large fully serviced -fires permitted -shelters	-100 units -fully serviced -fires permitted -shelters	-50-100 units -medium serviced -fires permitted -shelters	-20-50 units -low service -fires permitted -shelters	-less than 20 units -low service -no open fires -no shelters
Beaches & Swimming	-no facilities or improvements	-not permitted	-improved, fully serviced -no created water bodies	-highly developed -fully serviced -water bodies may be created for swimming	-developed -medium service	-access provided -undeveloped -no services	-not provided
Boating & Fishing	-non powerboating -no facilities -no fishing	-non power boating -no facilities -no fishing	-ramps, docks, launches, boat rentals, fishing	-fully serviced marinas	-ramps, docks, launches boat rentals	-single ramp or hand launches	-not provided
Dispersed Recreation	-no facilities -foot travel only	-no facilities -foot travel only	-medium to highly developed -non-mechanized trails and associated facilities	-highly developed trails and fully serviced facilities	-medium developed trails and associated facilities	-low developed trails and and associated facilities	-not provided
Sports	-not permitted	-not permitted	-medium level where comparative with resource and experience	-highly developed -may include ski hills, golf courses, etc.	-medium level may include rinks, ball diamonds, rodeo grounds	-low level may include ball fields, toboggan hills, and and horseshoe pits	-not provided
Camping	-primitive -non-facility	-not permitted	-variable - small -low service to large fully serviced designated sites or stalls -fires permitted -variable length of stop	-more than 150 units -fully serviced -designated stalls -fires permitted -variable stay	-50-150 units -medium serviced -designated sites -fires permitted -1-7 nights	-less than 50 units -low service -designated sites -fires permitted -1-4 nights	-less than 50 units -minimal service -undesignated sites -no open fires -one night stopovers
Group Use	-no facilities	-not permitted	-separate facilities -medium to fully serviced	-separate facilities -fully serviced	-separate facilities -medium service	-accomodated in camping and picnic areas	-accomodated in camping and picnic areas
Fixed Roof Accomodation	-not permitted	-not permitted	-primitive shelters, rental cabins, rustic motels	-fully serviced -hotels, motels and chalets	-private cottages and rental cabins	-primitive shelters	-not provided
Food Services	-not permitted	-not permitted	-restaurants and grocery stores	-restaurants, lounges -retail outlets	-mobile fast food and groceries	-not provided	-not provided
Visitor Services	-minimal information/ orientation services -minimal interpretation services -no environmental education -no recreation management services	-minimal information/ orientation services -variable interpretation services normally of low level -variable E.E. services normally of low level -no recreation management services	-variable levels of information/ orientation services -medium to high level of interpretation services -medium to high level of E.E. services -variable levels of recreation management services	-variable levels of information/ orientation services -variable levels of interpretation -variable levels of E.E. -high to medium level of recreation management services	-medium to low level of information/orientation services -low to minimal interpretation -low to minimal E.E. -medium to low level of recreation managment services	-low to minimal information/ orientation services -no interpretation -no environmental education minimal or no recreation management services	-minimal information/ orientation service -no interpretation -no environmental education -no recreation management
Patrol Services	-minimal standard	Minimal standard in undeveloped areas -medium to high standard in areas with interpretive facilities -emphasis on resource protection	-medium to high standard -emphasis on resource protection and public safety	-high standard	-medium to low standard	-low to minimal standard	-low to minimal standard
Resource Management	-minimal standard	-high standard	-medium to high standard depending upon resource significance and condition	-minimum to medium standard based on resource condition	-minimum to medium standard based on resource condition	-minimal standard	-minimal standard
Building Maintenance	-not applicable	-high standard for any interpretive structures -not applicable in actual reserve area	-medium to high based on use intensity	-high based on use intensity	-low to medium based on use intensity	-low standard	-low standard
Site maintenance	-not applicable	-not applicable	-medium to high standard based on use intensity	-high standard based on use intensity	-low to medium standard based on use intensity	-low standard	-low standard

These are norms that may be found in each category. All activities, however, will not necessarily be found in each area.
A level 1, 2 or 3 recreation area may include one or more nodes at a lower level of development.
Where the term variable is used the actual level will be determined by demand and facilities.

IMPLICATIONS

The classification framework and the development of directly related facility standards and level of services will have a significant effect on Department operations and budgeting, and on the public perception of Department facilities. Areas effected should include:

1. Financial Planning and Budgeting: the establishment of facility standards and levels of service standards will enable the Department to provide more defined budget expenditure figures. In particular, the application of facility and level of service standards should enable the Department to predict capital development and operating and manpower costs with greater accuracy.

2. Program Planning: clarification of the types of developments the Department provides will assist in setting capital development priorities (between classification categories) and in determining the direction of land acquisition programs.

3. Public Understanding: revision of the classification framework and establishment of standards should result in improved understanding of the various programs provided by the Department and the distinctions between them - in terms of facilities, recreation opportunities and levels of service provided.

Appendix A

Framework for Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Parks and Recreation Areas

The framework for Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Parks and Recreation Areas as summarized in Table 1 provides an overview of the differences between the four categories. The following section provides a more detailed review of these four categories as well as the rationale for the four sub-levels of Recreation Areas.

WILDERNESS AREAS

Purpose

To preserve provincially significant areas in their wild and primitive state while allowing for selected wilderness recreation activities.

Intent

To protect areas of natural beauty and primeval character from impairment by industrial development or occupation by man.

To afford the opportunity for user isolation, challenge and solitude in a natural, undisturbed setting.

Selection Criteria

Wilderness areas encompass undisturbed areas of significant scenic or landscape value. Landscape diversity and opportunity for user isolation is important. Buffer zones may be used to protect against outside influences.

Secondary areas will be selected to provide accessible wilderness recreation opportunities.

Resource Management Principles

Preservation and protection are the dominant management theme.

Physical disturbances of any kind, including the development of recreation facilities, are not permitted.

Consumptive and extractive activities of any kind are not permitted, including hunting, trapping and fishing.

Entry and travel is by foot only.

Dispersed and low levels of use within the natural carrying capacity of the landscape.

Planning

Management plans will direct the use and protection of wilderness areas.

The Wilderness Areas and Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee will receive and consider requests from the public and advise the Minister on:

- the establishment of, addition to, or withdrawal of lands from wilderness areas; and
- the making of regulations for the administration, management and operation of wilderness areas.

Recreation Activities

Wilderness areas cater to only a narrow range of non-facility, non-consumptive recreation activities. Only travel on foot is permitted. The opportunity for user isolation, challenge and self-experience is the primary focus of recreation activities.

Facility Development

Facility development is not permitted in wilderness areas.

ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

Purpose

To retain selected examples of the full range of Alberta's natural environmental diversity for the purposes of preservation and scientific research.

Intent

To prevent the loss of organisms within the province and preserve the genetic resources of plants and animals so that unaltered gene pools of maximum diversity provide a broad base for research and development.

To preserve a significant part of Alberta's natural heritage for nature appreciation and environmental education.

Selection Criteria

Ecological Reserves encompass areas with high intrinsic values. They should contain examples of representative or unique provincial ecosystems. A system of ecological reserves will be designated to ensure that the full range of natural environmental diversity in Alberta's seventeen biogeographical zones is represented.

The selection of ecological reserves will be guided by several factors, including:

- consideration of typical rather than unusual or special features;
- inclusion of the most comprehensive resource values and features to achieve the greatest economy of size and number of reserves;
- analysis and evaluation of the degree of existing protection and rate of land use changes; and
- analysis and evaluation of the degree of conflict with existing and potential land uses.

Ecological Reserves may be designated in association with Provincial Parks, Wilderness Areas, Wildlife Sanctuaries or where existing land use regulations or controls provide an added degree of protection and buffering from external influences.

Resource Management Principles

The fundamental management policy for ecological reserves is to ensure or create conditions which will permit ecological processes to operate with a minimum of direct or indirect modification by external events:

- natural processes will be allowed to shape the environment, however, they may be simulated where necessary, through the use of manipulative management treatment like grazing or selective removal of timber;
- dispositions, surface disturbance, and vehicle access not associated with scientific research or management are not permitted; and
- land management will be assigned to the Alberta Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Division, Public Lands Division, Alberta Recreation and Parks or the Special Areas Board depending on the features of the reserve and its proximity to and management expertise of the respective field operations of these agencies.

Planning

An interdepartmental co-ordinating committee will guide the planning of ecological reserves. Master plans will direct the protection, management, and use of ecological reserves.

The Wilderness Areas and Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee will receive and consider requests from the public and advise the Minister on:

- the establishment of, addition to or withdrawal of lands from ecological reserves; and
- the making of regulations for the administration, management, operation, and utilization of ecological reserves.

Recreation Activities

Ecological Reserves cater to only a very narrow range of non-facility, non-consumptive recreation activities. Environmental education related activities such as bird watching and plant identification are permitted.

Facility Development

Recreation facilities are not normally permitted in ecological reserves, however, on a sight specific basis visitor service facilities may be developed in conjunction with a Reserve to explain its purpose and resource values.

PARKS

Purpose

To protect provincially significant natural landscapes while providing for outdoor recreation activities.

Intent

To maintain provincially significant natural landscapes of adequate size throughout the province to permit the user to experience recreation opportunities in a natural or near natural setting.

To contribute to the public understanding and appreciation of and respect for the natural and cultural heritage of Alberta through programs of interpretation and environmental education.

To provide compatible ammenities and intensive recreation opportunities that encourage long stay destinations and contribute to travel and tourism in Alberta.

Selection Criteria

Park sites possess attractive natural landscapes and nature oriented recreational opportunities. Recreation oppportunities provided would include both intensive and dispersed activities appropriate to the users.

Heritage appreciation opportunities and conservation values such as outstanding examples of plant or animal communities, natural objects, conditions or phenomena are also important selection criteria.

Resource Management Principles

Protecting and maintaining the natural environment while providing for outdoor recreation and learning opportunities is fundamental to managing parks in addition to the conservation of significant natural and cultural features for their intrinsic value.

Non-recreational resource extraction will be considered only where applicable as a management technique to protect park values or where it does not diminish the recreation potential or opportunity.

Development will be planned and constructed in a manner to minimize disturbance to natural conditions while maximizing recreation opportunities. Most of the area of the park will be devoted to low levels of dispersed recreation. However, nodes of highly intensive recreation facility development will be provided where warranted.

Planning

Master plans will guide the development, management, and use of parks. Public participation will normally be a component of the planning process.

Recreation Activities

A broad range of activities will be provided consistent with landscape protection. Heritage appreciation activities are an important component. Mechanized activities, and hunting will not be permitted.

Facility Development

Parks may contain a combination of low and/or highly serviced developments.

RECREATION AREAS

Purpose

To provide, in natural or man-made settings, opportunities for a broad range of outdoor recreation activities.

Four levels of recreation areas are identified:

LEVEL I RECREATION AREA

Intent

To develop high quality recreation facilities, services and infrastructure for a wide variety of intensive outdoor recreation activities that encourage long term destination use.

To provide for a variety of dispersed recreation activities within a management unit established primarily for recreation purposes.

To provide opportunities that encourage and permit the development of specialized facilities.

To facilitate the development of a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in urban settings.

Selection Criteria

Major destination recreation areas will be high quality outdoor recreation resources in areas of high demand. Sufficient developable land must be available to accommodate concentrated recreation facilities or a suitable land base to provide a wide range of dispersed recreation opportunities.

Resource Management Principles

Resources will be managed and manipulated so as to maximize recreation opportunities. Non-recreation resource extraction will be permitted where it is not detrimental to the recreation activities being provided. Valuable site specific natural features will be protected.

Planning

Master plans will guide the development, management, and operation. Public participation will normally be a component of the planning process.

Recreation Activities

The broadest possible range of intensive recreation opportunities will be provided.

Facility Development

Fully serviced facilities will normally be developed to sustain high levels of use on a year-round basis.

LEVEL II RECREATION AREA

Intent

To provide medium scale campgrounds and associated facilities to accommodate visitors while accessing recreation opportunities.

To provide medium serviced recreation facilities in areas of high demand where resources are not capable of level I development.

Selection Criteria

Recreation resources must be of sufficient size and quality to sustain continued use by moderately large numbers of visitors.

Distribution throughout the province is important.

Resource Management Principles

Resource management will be directed towards maintenance of the recreation environment. Non-recreation resource extraction will be permitted where it is non-detrimental to recreation opportunities. Valuable site specific natural features will be protected.

Planning

Master plans will guide the development, management, and operation.

The opportunity for local public input will normally be provided.

Recreation Activities

A wide range of intensive recreation activities will be provided. Dispersed activities will be accommodated where resources permit.

Facility Development

Medium levels of facilities and services are required to sustain moderate intensities of use.

LEVEL III RECREATION AREA

Intent

To provide small scale facilities for recreation opportunities, possibly off site.

Selection Criteria

Minor destination areas are located where resource and land limitations preclude larger developments or where demand is generally low. Access nodes are selected as required to facilitate use of off site resources.

Resource Management Principals

Resource management will be directed toward the maintenance of the recreation environment. Non-recreation resource extraction will be permitted where it is non-detrimental to recreation.

Planning

Low key master plans will guide the development, management, and operation. Specific client groups may be consulted.

Recreation Activities

A wide range of nodal or dispersed outdoor recreation activities can be accommodated, however, individual sites will usually cater to a single activity.

Facility Development

Low levels of service will provide the necessary infrastructure to accommodate various activities.

LEVEL IV RECREATION AREA

Intent

To provide small scale day use and overnight rest stops.

Selection Criteria

Stopovers are strategically located along highways as warranted by demand. Easy and safe access is essential. Although "pleasant" sites are chosen where available, the resource base is not a selection criteria except as it pertains to development capability.

Resource Management Principles

Resources are managed and manipulated as required to improve carrying capacity and minimize maintenance.

Planning

Standard site and facility designs are used, master plans and public involvement are not required.

Recreation Activities

No recreation activities are facilitated.

Facility Development

Minimal levels of service for day use and overnight rest stops are provided.

Appendix B

Guidelines for Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Parks and Recreation Areas

The guidelines for Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Parks and Recreation Areas as summarized on Table 2 outlines the types of activities and the general levels of development and operation which would normally characterize the various types of recreation facility developed or funded by the Department. The following section briefly describes, for the various activities and operational services, the actual development or operational standards intended by such terms as "medium serviced camping" or "high standard patrol services". The descriptions provided are summarized from drafts of the Operating and Maintenance Standards Manual and the Planning Standards Manual which are presently being developed within the Department.

Picnicking

Low Service:

- Provides an open grassy area with tables, vault toilets, parking, garbage containers and a water supply.
- Playground equipment and firepits are options.

Medium Service:

- Provides one or more open grassed areas with tables, vault toilets, parking, centralized garbage, play area and play equipment.
- Open shelters, firepits and stoves are options.

Fully Serviced:

- One or more open, landscaped, grassed areas with tables, flush toilets, pressurized water supply, parking, centralized garbage, play areas and creative playgrounds and open shelters.
- Stoves or fire pits, wood, designated picnic sites, paving and a food concession are options.

Beaches and Swimming

Undeveloped:

- A natural shoreline which provides a firm, well-drained dry beach largely free of vegetation, accessed by a walking trail. A firm, shallow offshore area is desirable.
- Minor improvement such as clearing shrubby vegetation and removing large rocks are options.

Medium Service:

- A shoreline area with a firm wet beach suitable for wading and a dry beach of sand to fine gravel. Vault toilets, garbage containers, parking and a buoyed swimming area are provided.
- Minimal changing and 'wash-down' facilities are options.
- Beach improvement might include adding beach materials and minor grading.

Fully Serviced:

- A shoreline area with a sandy wet beach suitable for wading, a gradual profile to a depth suitable for swimming and a dry beach with a minimum of one foot depth of good quality sand. Vault toilets, garbage containers, parking, change houses, wash-down facility, playground equipment and a buoyed swimming area are provided.

- Showers, food services, recreation equipment rentals, and suitable water-oriented commercial attractions are options.
- Any improvements and maintenance required to produce and sustain an acceptable high-use beach are permitted.

Boating and Fishing

Hand Launch:

- A minimum of 2 metres of cleared, shelving shoreline within 20 metres of a parking area with cleared trail access as required.
- Fish cleaning facilities are an option.

Boat Ramp:

- Standard concrete pad design; a single ramp is 2 or 3 pads wide, access ramp has a maximum 10 percent slope. Parking for cars and trailers is provided along with a cleared beaching area for boats.
- Fish cleaning facilities are an option.

Fully Serviced:

- An area providing (in addition to ramps, launches, and docking areas) boat storage and commercial services, equipment rentals, food services, and toilets.
- Fish cleaning facilities are an option.

Dispersed Recreation

Low Development:

- Unsurfaced trails with minimum clearing and the minimum structures required for safety and environmental protection.
- Trail heads provide parking and garbage containers.
- Areas may be designated for mechanized recreation vehicle use but no developed trails are provided.

Medium Development:

- Trails surfaced with gravel or natural materials where appropriate, some minor structures, such as steps or footbridges may be constructed for ease and convenience.
- Trail head may provide vault toilets, warm-up shelters, and horse holding or loading facilities as required.
- Cross-country ski trails are groomed and may have warm-up/rest shelters.

Highly Developed:

- Trails constructed and surfaced as required. Bridges, steps, and boardwalks for the ease and convenience of the users may be built as desired. Warm-up shelters, rest stops, benches, and other facilities are provided appropriately along trails.
- Trailheads will provide vault toilets, water supply, warm-up shelters (where needed), and specialized facilities such as loading ramps.
- Cross-country skiing and snowmobile trails will be groomed.
- Food and equipment rental services are options.

Camping

Minimal Service:

- Vehicle circulation and parking is controlled with an adjacent common activity area shared by a number of parties.
- Services comprise tables, vault toilets, garbage containers and a water supply.

Low Service:

- Parking stalls are grouped in small clusters. Activity areas are adjacent to the parking but separated from each other. Individual clusters are separated from nearby clusters by buffer areas.
- Services comprise tables, vault toilets, centralized garbage, a water supply and a play area.
- Firepits or stoves and play equipment are options.

Medium Service:

- Each campsite normally has an individual parking stall and activity area. Campgrounds may be nature-oriented or recreation intensive. In nature-oriented campgrounds a minimum spacing of 20 metres (66 feet) is maintained. Recreation intensive campgrounds may be high density with a minimum spacing of 10 metres (33 feet). In some cases, clustered sites (as described above) are permitted.
- Services comprise stoves, tables, centralized garbage, firewood, vault toilets, water supply, play areas, and circulation trails.
- Playground equipment and trailer dump station are options.

Fully Serviced:

- Each campsite has an individual parking stall and activity area and is separated from adjacent campsites by a minimum buffer dependent on the expectations of the campers.
- Services consist of stoves, tables, centralized, mechanized garbage system, firewood, vault toilets, pressurized water supply, circulation trails, showers, play areas, creative playgrounds and trailer dump station
- Flush toilets, laundry facilities, grocery services, and electrical hook-ups are options.

Group Use

Medium Service:

- Designated camping or day use area with tables, stoves, firewood, vault toilets, water supply, centralized garbage, group fire ring, a central activity area, and open shelter.
- Shelter with cook stove is an option.

Fully Serviced:

- Designated camping or day use area with tables, stoves, firewood, flush toilets, pressurized water supply, mechanized garbage system, group fire ring, central activity area, playground equipment, and a shelter with a cook stove.

Fixed Roof Accommodation

Primitive Shelters:

- Unserviced, unfurnished backcountry cabins or lean-to shelters along overnight hiking trails or

- Centralized, low service dormitory (hostel) accommodation providing bunks, vault toilets, access to a water supply and road access.
- For hostels cooking facilities, lighting and heating are options.

Rental Cabins:

- Small individual rustic cabins providing bunks, tables, benches, electric light, cooking facilities, and sink, with access to water supply, and toilets.
- Heating, inside toilets, and running water are options.

Food Services

Fast Food and Groceries:

- A canteen offering fast food take-out service and a limited range of food supplies and convenience items from a mobile truck or fixed booth or other structure.

Restaurant/Lounge:

- A permanent building offering table service; may include full service dining rooms and licensed premises.

Visitor Services Standards

Information/ Orientation

Minimal Service:

- Basic information on management area location, facilities, and recreation opportunities.
- On site information on recreation opportunities, emergency management messages, rules and regulations, educational opportunities.

Low Service:

- Basic information on management area location, facilities, and recreation opportunities.
- On site information on recreation opportunities, emergency management messages, rules and regulations, educational opportunities.
- Information on significant area resources.
- Personal services available 7 hours per day, 5 days per week, peak season only.

Medium Service:

- Information on management area location, facilities, and recreation opportunities.
- On site information on recreation opportunities, emergency management messages, rules and regulations, educational opportunities.
- Information on significant area resources.
- Information and promotional material developed for specific target groups.
- Personal services available 14 hours per day weekends, 8 hours per day weekdays, peak season.
- Personal services available 7 hours per day, 5 days per week, off season.
- Required facilities include information centre and check station.

High Service:

- Detailed information on management area location, facilities and recreation opportunities.
- On site information on recreation opportunities, emergency management messages, rules and regulations, educational opportunities.
- Information on significant area resources.
- Information and promotional material developed for specific target groups and general public.

- Personal services available 14 hours per day, 7 days per week, peak season.
- Required facilities include information centre and check station.

Interpretation

Minimal Service:

- Interpret natural and cultural resources and management concerns to management area resources.
- Non personal services only.

Low Service:

- Interpret natural and cultural resources and management concerns relating to management area resources.
- On site and off site non personal interpretation.
- Personal services programs available, 12 programming hours per week, peak season only.
- Required facilities include outdoor program area, exhibits.

Medium Service:

- Interpret natural and cultural resources and management concerns relating to management area resources.
- Target group interpretation.
- On site and off site interpretation.
- Personal services programs available, 16 programming hours per week, peak season; 5 programming hours per week, shoulder season; special events and scheduled groups off season.
- Required facilities include amphitheatre, display area, exhibits.

High Service:

- Interpret natural and cultural resources and management concerns relating to management area resources.
- Target group interpretation.
- On site and off site interpretation.
- Personal services programming available, 30 programming hours per week, peak season; 5 hours per week shoulder season; special events and scheduled groups, off season.
- Required facilities include amphitheatre, display area, exhibits.

Environmental Education

Minimal Service:

- Basic management area resource information.
- Standard environmental education activities package.
- System directory of suitable management areas for environmental education group use.
- Personal services for orientation, information referrals and local liaison on request and as staff available.

Low Service:

- Information on management area resources, personnel, facilities and programs.
- Learning resources manual specific to management area.
- System directory.
- Personal services available and include local group liaison, orientation, promotion and distribution of L.R.M., referral service and program review.

Medium Service:

- Information on management area resources, facilities, staff, programs and services and management philosophy.
- Resource materials for environmental education program development specific to management area resources.
- Develop environmental education programs.
- Program and management area promotional literature.
- System directory.
- Personal services available through Regional Environmental Education specialist and park staff. Include orientation, consultation, workshops, liaison and program review.
- Required facilities include sheltered working areas, group camps.

High Service:

- Information on management area resources, facilities, staff, programs, services and management philosophy.
- Resource materials for environmental education program development specific to management area resources.
- Develop age group/grade specific environmental education programs.
- Program and management area promotional materials.
- System directory.
- Personal services available through management area staff and includes: orientation, information, consultation, workshops, promotional presentations, liaison, group monitoring and program review.
- Required facilities include amphitheatre, accommodation and classrooms.

Outdoor Recreation Management

Minimal Service:
- Promotion of recreation facilities and programs.
- Promotion of management compatible recreation activities.

Low Service:
- Promotion of recreation facilities and programs.
- Promotion of management compatible recreation activities.
- Instructor certification check.
- Co-ordination of recreation/education programs and facilities.
- Facility standards inspection.

Medium Service:
- Promotion of recreation facilities and programs.
- Information and orientation materials specific to recreation facilities and opportunities.
- Promote management compatible recreation activities.
- Personal services: co-ordinate recreation/education program delivery and facility use, facility standards inspection, instructor certification check, booking system for recreation facilities, promotion of recreation opportunities and development of recreation programs. Personal services developed and managed by regional staff.

High Service:
- Promotion of recreation facilities and programs.
- Information and orientation materials specific to recreation facilities and opportunities.
- Promote management compatible recreation activities.

- Personal services: co-ordinate recreation/education program delivery and facility use, facility standards inspection, instructor certification check, booking system for recreation facilities, promotion of recreation opportunities and development of recreation programs. Personal services developed and delivered by management area staff.

Patrol Standards

The level of patrol services provided reflects visitor use, resource protection/public safety needs and enforcement problems. The standard levels for patrol services are summarized below:

Minimal Standard:
- 8 hours per week patrol availability.
- 8 hours per day - 5 days per week - emergency response capability.

Low Standard:
- 8 hours per day minimum patrol coverage (these won't be consecutive hours).
- 24 hours per day - emergency response capability.
- All areas will be patrolled twice (2) daily.

Medium Standard:
- 12 hours per day - minimum patrol coverage (these won't be consecutive hours, e.g. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. - 12 p.m.).
- 24 hours per day - emergency response capability.
- All areas will be patrolled at least three (3) times daily.

High Standard:

- 18 hours per day - minimum patrol coverage.
- 24 hours per day - emergency response capability.
- All areas will be patrolled at least four (4) times daily.

Resource Management Standards

Resource Management Standards could be applied in response to resource management needs based upon resource significance, resource protection requirements and multiple resource use requirements. The criteria for each standard level is identified below:

Minimal Standard:

- Standard D planning and operational resource management programming will be provided in those areas which require only minor resource management activities. This would apply to areas in which it is desirable to maintain natural processes or in areas which would not be actively managed for resource purposes.

Low Standard:

- Standard C planning and operational resource management programming will be provided in those areas which require a low level of resource management activity. Resource management would be oriented towards maintaining the carrying capacity of local or regional recreational resources.

Medium Standard

- Standard B planning and operational resource management programming will be provided in those areas which require significant resource management activities. These resource management activities would be oriented towards maintaining recreational carrying capacity and ensuring public safety.

High Standard:

- Standard A planning and operational resource management programming will be provided in those areas which require extensive resource management activities. This would be applied in areas having provincially significant resources with high resource protection requirements.

Building Maintenance

Building maintenance includes the cleaning and routine maintenance of all public buildings including toilet buildings, comfort stations, visitor centers, administration buildings and amphitheatres.

Low Standard:

- Buildings will be serviced periodically throughout the week.

Medium Standard:

- Buildings will be serviced daily.

High Standard:

- Buildings will be serviced twice daily.

Site Maintenance

Site maintenance includes all cleaning of campsites and picnic areas and related furnishings such as tables and stoves.

Low Standard:

- Sites will be inspected and serviced weekly.

Medium Standard:

- Sites will be inspected and serviced twice weekly.

High Standard:

- Sites will be inspected and serviced daily.

12/10/83

re Classification of all Parks & Rec Areas

Bob. In this package distinction is made between
legislated Rec Areas (High cost)

legislated Parks (low cost)

deadline for comments: Oct 21st
TOD. Perraton in writing

I { Is this interpreted correctly as far as we are concerned

Has Dave { or solicited obtained feed back on accuracy of this from you?

This is the first attempt at actual classification

Hiske.

(Question: see below more general issue Who owns & administers K. Prov. Park has this formally been O.C.d?)

II
→ Paper should be evaluated from perspective of land acquisition procedural completeness & reply should be formulated
re Wilderness, Ecological Res. Status? (I understand NO EC. Res. have been identified. No group B, therefore - NO work) all covered by auth.?
Parks!
Rec. areas?

Classification & Framework

Brief Overview of Oct 83 package.

Rec. Value / Landscape Value	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Outstanding	C	C	C	A / B
High	C / D	C	C	A / B
Medium	D	E	E / F	
Low	D	E	F	F / G
Very Low	D	E	F / G	F / G

see page 15 of. Class. of Parks & Rec. Areas, Oct 83

Taken from O.&M. user stats { G. majority of users en route
F. destination

c. Prov. significant landscape, high recreational potential (can be D too e.g. Fish creek)

Landscape Value \ Recreation Value	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	VERY LOW
OUTSTANDING	Dinosaur Cypress Hills Kananaskis Lesser Slave	Dry Island Buffalo Jump	Notikewin Writing-on-Stone	White Goat Wildernes Siffleur Wilderness
HIGH	Bow Valley Whitney Lakes Dillberry Lake Fish Creek Miquelon Cross Lake Crimson Lake	Wm. A. Switzer Midlands Beauvais Vermilion		Ghost Wilderness
MEDIUM	Wyndham Carseland Hilliard's Bay Carson-Pegasus EVANS-THOMAS FORD/QUIRK	Police Outpost Winagami Churchill Pembina Big Knife Saskatoon Island Cold Lake ELBOW RIVER/FALLS BARRIER LAKE	Big Hill Springs	
LOW	Long Lake Park Lake Little Bow Pigeon Lake Gregoire Strathcona Kinbrook Island FRENCHMAN'S BAY	Red Lodge Willow Creek Little Fish Young's Point Chain Lakes Moose Lake Moonshine Lake Calling Lake Rochon Sands Thunder Lake Taber Hasse NORTH BUCK PLAMONDON FLOATING STONE LUNDBRECK FALLS ENGLISH BAY	Bragg Creek Gooseberry MOORE EAST TWIN LAKES OWL RIVER	Woolford
VERY LOW	Jarvis/Sylvan Wabamun Aspen Beach Tillebrook FRANCHERE BAY	Garner Lake Williamson BOSS HILL THE NARROWS BEAVER LAKE TRAVERS RESERVOIR	Queen Elizabeth DUNVEGAN BONNIE LAKE FORD LAKE EMERSON EASTBOURNE MCKENZIE CROSSING BIRCH BAY SUN HAVEN MURIEL LAKE LOWER MANN FALLEN TIMBER TAY RIVER MALLAIG BEACH JAMES RIVRE KINUSO BEACH MORRIN BRIDGE TOLMAN BRIDGE RAVEN CASTLE RIVER MISSAWAWI KEHEWIN BLERIOT FERRY	Ma-Me-O BIG VALLEY NOJACK SCANDIA CARMANGAY STONY MANATOKAN VEZEAU BEACH MEDICINE RIVER CHIN LAKES HORSESHOE CAMP CREMONA VINCENT LAKE DOGPOUND CREEK HOODOOS MOORE WEST BONNYVILLE BEACH CHIN COULEE LEA PARK ANGLING LAKE LESSER SLAVE RIVER ETHEL LAKE ASSINEAU RIVER BEAR TRAP LAKE PEACE RIVER HIGH PRAIRIE SILVER VALLEY CROOKED CREEK GRIMSHAW HOTCHKISS MITSUE LAKE YARROW CREEK

Conclusion: The Department should protect the shrublands and cooperate to the fullest in protection of the nesting areas. Neither of these responsibilities conflicts significantly with the primary use of the park which is as a regional destination camping and picnic grounds. Group E is the appropriate classification.

Recommendations:

Based on this analysis it is recommended that the following be accepted as the working classification by Management Group of units operated by the Department.

Group A:
- Ghost Wilderness Area
- Siffleur Wilderness Area
- White Goat Wilderness Area

Group B:
-

Group C:
- Beauvais Lake
- Crimson Lake
- Cross Lake
- Cypress Hills
- Dillberry Lake
- Dinosaur
- Dry Island Buffal Jump
- Kananaskis Country: Bow Valley Park
- Kananaskis Country: Kananaskis Park/Spray Valley
- Lesser Slave Lake
- Midland
- Miquelon Lake
- Notikewin
- Sir Winston Churchill
- Vermilion
- Whitney Lakes
- William A. Switzer
- Writing-on-Stone

Group D:

Aspen Beach
Carson-Pegasus
Fish Creek
Franchere Bay
Frenchman's Bay
Gregoire Lake
Hilliard's Bay
Jarvis/Sylvan
Kananaskis Country: Lower Kananaskis Valley/Canmore Corridor
Kananaskis Country: Elbow River-McLean Creek-Sibbald Flats
Kinbrook Island
Little Bow
Long Lake
Park Lake
Pigeon Lake
Strathcona Scinece
Tillebrook
Wabamun Lake
Wyndham-Carseland

Group E:

Beaver Lake
Big Hill Springs
Big Knife
Boss Hill (Buffalo Lake)
Calling Lake
Chain Lake
Cold Lake
English Bay
Floating Stone Lake
Garner Lake
Hasse Lake
Kananaskis Country: Sheep River/Highwood
Little Fish Lake
Lundbreck Falls
Moonshine Lake
Moose Lake
North Buck Lake
Pembina River
Plamondon
Police Outpost
Red Lodge
Rochon Sands
Saskatoon Island
Taber
The Narrows
Thunder Lake
Travers Reservoir
Williamson
Willow Creek
Winagami
Young's Point

Group F:

Angling Lake
Bear Trap Lake
Bleriot Ferry
Bonnie Lake
Bonnyville Beach
Castle River
Chin Coulee
Cremona
Dog Pound Creek
Dunvegan
Eastbourne
Emerson Bridge
Ethel Lake
Fallen Timber Creek
Fork Lake
Gooseberry Lake
Hotchkiss
James River
Kananaskis Country: Cataract Creek
Kehiwin (Long Lake)
Kinuso Beach
Lea Park
Lower Mann Lake
Mallaig Beach
Ma-Me-O Beach
Manatokan Lake
McKenzie Crossing
Missawawi Lake
Moore East
Moore West
Muriel Lake
Lesser Slave River
Owl River
Queen Elizabeth
Raven
Stony (Siler Lake)
Sun Haven
Tay River
Tolman Bridge
Twin Lakes
Vezeau Beach
Vincent Lake
Woolford
Yarrow Creek

Group G:

- Assineau River
- Big Valley
- Birch Bay
- Carmangay
- Chin Lakes
- Crooked Creek
- Grimshaw
- High Prairie
- Hoodoos
- Horseshoe Canyon
- Medicine River
- Mitsue Lake
- Morrin Bridge
- Nojack
- Peace River
- Scandia Crossing
- Silver Valley

CLASSIFICATION

METHODOLOGY

The sub-criteria noted in Appendix II of the Discussion Paper on Implementation were evaluated on individual factors as follows.

Landscape Value Co-efficient

1. Quality and significance of the natural landscape - termed 'Resource Value'.

   The factors evaluated were:

   i. Representative of natural landscapes.
   ii. Biological and physical diversity.
   iii. Special biophysical features.
   iv. Size of area.
   v. Degree of disturbance.

   Each area was rated on all factors (see Figure 1) on the basis of existing information. The weighted total as shown, provided the 'Resource Value' score.

2. Capability to deliver programs - two aspects were evaluated termed 'Heritage Appreciation Potential' and 'Dispersed Recreation Potential'.

   2a. Heritage appreciation was evaluated as shown in Figure 2 on the factors of:

   i. Market and existing use;
   ii. Relative significance of the natural resource; and
   iii. Relative significance of any cultural resources.

I. NATURAL RESOURCE SIGNIFICANT

(ASSESS PER NATURAL REGION SECTION) AREA: _____

REPRESENTATION:	absent = 0	upland	_____
-biophysical range	rare = 0.5	wetland	_____
	limited = 1	valley	_____
	moderate = 1.5	stream/flodplain	_____
DIVERSITY:	excellent = 4	biological habitats	_____
	good = 3		
	fair = 2	physical landscapes	_____
	poor = 1		
SPECIAL FEATURES:	many = 4		
-biophysical	moderate = 3	quantity	_____
-regional/provincial basis	limited = 2		
	rare = 1		
	none = 0		
	excellent = 4		
	good = 3	quality	_____
	mediocre = 2		
	poor = 1		
SIZE:	>1000 ha. = 8		
	600-1000 = 6		
	300-600 = 4		
	200-300 = 2		
	100-200 = 1		
	<100 = 0		_____
DEGREE OF DISTURBANCE:	none = 4		
-relative to important	minor = 3		
resource elements/features	moderate = 2		
	major - temporary = 1		
	- permanent = 0		_____

REMARKS: _____ TOTAL: _____

_____

_____

II. HERITAGE APPRECIATION EVALUATION

1. Market and Existing Use

A. Market and Access:

- Within two hours drive of Calgary and Edmonton	=	4
- More than two hours from Calgary/Edmonton but close to a major secondary population centre (20,000 +) and on a major tourist route	=	3
- On a major tourist route	=	2
- More than two hours drive from a secondary centre and off major tourist routes	=	1
Weighting Factor X 0.5	=	

B. Existing Use (Camper Party Nights)

- More than 10,000	=	4
- 5,000 to 10,000	=	3
- 2,400 to 5,000	=	2
- less than 2,500	=	1
Weighting Factor X 0.5	=	

2. Natural Resource Significance

$$\frac{\text{Resource Value x Systems Value}}{90} = \text{Score}$$

Weighting Factor X 1	=	
Maximum Score	=	10

3. Cultural Resource Significance

- National/international	=	4
- Provincial	=	3
- Regional	=	2
- Local	=	1
- None	=	0
Weighting Factor X 2	=	
TOTAL:		

REMARKS:

M. U. Gerdip

parking to be amended

Mother document: Classification Framework & guidelines

CLASSIFICATION OF PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

BY

MANAGEMENT GROUP

OCTOBER 1983

Alberta Recreation and Parks

INTRODUCTION

Current legislation identifies four major land categories: Wilderness Areas; Ecological Reserves; Parks; and, Recreation Areas. The Department of Recreation and Parks is responsible for administering these lands.

The Provincial Parks Act and the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act form the basis for developing a classification scheme. Foremost is the Department's mandate to protect areas and to provide outdoor recreation opportunities.

In order to effectively utilize these categories it is necessary to clearly define and distinguish one from another. Fundamentally the four categories recognize the fact that the Department has a dual mandate (to protect areas of natural and cultural significance and to provide a broad spectrum of outdoor recreation opportunities) and that the emphasis on either aspect of the mandate may differ substantially among the different areas managed by the Department.

In the Framework and Guidelines, Recreation Areas are further divided into four Categories to reflect the broad range of development which may occur in this Class.

The development of a classification system is required for the differential allocation of recreational opportunities and resources and their management. It will provide the Department with a framework and guidelines for program planning and development which will improve effectiveness in projecting capital development and operating costs.

The Framework and Guidelines for Classification is the policy which defines at the broadest level what kind of facilities and opportunities will be provided. As such it provides a basis for allocating and developing recreation and preservation opportunities in Alberta. Most importantly it provides a basic framework for sorting numerous areas with a diverse mix of relative emphasis on the preservation and recreation aspects of the Department's mandate into relatively homogeneous groups for Planning and Management.

ASSUMPTIONS

Any scheme developed for classification will have to incorporate basic assumptions. Assumptions must be made from the most general level down to more restrictive levels in order to make specific land management designations. Acceptance of the assumptions is a prerequisite to the classification development and its subsequent implementation. The assumptions presented here have taken their structure from existing legislation, Departmental mandate, and professional staff expertise.

In order to temper the personal prejudices of an evaluator, criteria must include objective as well as subjective elements. Objective data such as acreages, adjacent land uses, and distance from a major population center are quantifiable and usually easily explained and understood. A subjective judgement of the quality of the site as a recreation resource is also necessary, and to make that element easier to explain and understand, a number of distinct categories (such as topography, water, and environmental intrusions) may be outlined for assessment. Neither the objective on the subjective element in isolation provides a complete picture of the site and its potentials, but together they can provide a balanced assessment.

Purpose Assumptions

1. The Department will try to provide recreation and heritage opportunities in all natural regions of the province. Thus all provincial natural regions shall be represented in the Park system. As a corollary to this, the system will preserve and protect provincially significant features.

2. The system will distinguish between Parks and Recreation Areas based on the combination of intensive recreation opportunities and landscape values present in each area. Parks must have provincially significant natural landscapes but may have a wide range of recreation capability.

3. To compute significance of natural values within the overall system, the Natural Regions framework is used as basis for comparison.

4. This 'system value' reflects the number of opportunities to experience a particular landscape type in the system.
   a. The intrinsic quality of the landscape is an important component of 'sytem value'. Areas with little or no resource value have little 'systems value' even if there are no other opportunities provided within that landscape.
   b. It is more important to include an unrepresented landscape in the system than to add a landscape type that is already well-represented.

5. The 'replacement potential' reflects the impact of bringing into the system additional opportunities in the future.
   a. The relative importance of being a 'competitor' into the system is also in part dependent on the significance of the existing resource, therefore, the 'system value' is considered as a factor in evaluating the impact of additional sites in the future.

The classification scheme must reflect the broad spectrum of recretional opportunities and be compatible with the resources and the intent of the Department's mandate. Various criteria are analyzed, assessed and totalled for each current park and recreation area to determine its relative rating and placement in the classification scheme. Although existing use patterns are significant indicators, in the final analysis the classification system will reflect what an area should be and not what is currently is.

Based upon the above discussion, the following assumptions are inherent to the development of this classification scheme.

Value Assumptions

1. A need exists to provide a variety of concentrated outdoor recreational activities in natural and man-made environments.

2. A need exists to provide opportunities close to population centers and in areas capable of withstanding concentrated use.

3. A primary objective of the Department of Recreation and Parks is to provide opportunities for the public to be in direct contact with Alberta's natural heritage.

4. Existing resources and opportunities are more valuable for program planning, development, and implementation than those resources and opportunities which may, or may not, become available in the future.

6. The long-term aim is to optimize use of the system by gradually moving each individual site toward its optimum use rather than freezing present patterns.

7. The intensive recreation potential and landscape value of some parks can be increased substantially with feasible additional land acquisition.

8. Ecological Reserves and Wilderness Areas are single use conservation areas and therefore would be expected to combine significant landscape value with low to very low intensive recreation opportunities.

9. Parks are multi-use recreation and conservation sites. Therefore areas which rate high in both landscape and recreation values would normally be classed as parks.

10. Recreation areas primarily support recreation opportunities. However, significant natural features may occur in recreation areas. The presence of a few specific significant natural features may not qualify the area as a park. Parks should contain high quality, diverse and representative natural landscapes.
    a. Where they occur in Recreation Areas, such features can be protected and appropriately interpreted within Category I and II areas.
    b. In exceptional circumstances, provincially significant landscapes may occur in Category I Recreation Areas.

METHODOLOGY

Criteria

The Framework distinguishes the four classes on a number of criteria. Parks, Ecological Reserves and Wilderness Areas are distinguished from Recreation Areas by the existance of provincially significant natural landscapes and by the related potential to deliver programs of heritage appreciation, dispersed receation and scientific research. Research is emphasized in Ecological Reserves, primitive dispersed recreation in Wilderness Areas and active heritage appreciation programming in Parks. Parks may also deliver a broad range of other recreation activities. Recreation Areas are distinguished by the ability to deliver significant intensive recreation opportunities. Within this Class various Categories are distinguished on the basis of the range and scale of opportunities offered. For purposes of management and Redevelopment Standards these intents are reflected in a range of Management Groups from A to G as follows:

Group A:	Wilderness Areas
Group B:	Ecological Reserves
Group C:	Parks
Group D:	Recreation Areas, Category I
Group E:	Recreation Areas, Category II
Group F:	Recreation Areas, Category III
Group G:	Recreation Areas, Category IV

On the basis of these distinctions it is recommended that Classification be based on the combination of intensive recreation opportunities and landscape values (including capability to support heritage appreciation and dispersed recreation) present in each area. The two primary criteria should be rated on a set of sub-criteria. These would include:

1. the quality of the resource available;
2. the quantity or program capability of the resource.
3. the degree of need for the resource;
4. the possibilities of developing alternatives to the resource; and
5. the potential for improving the resource base by expansion.

In terms of Landscape Value these sub-criteria represent:

1. the intrinsic quality and significance of the natural landscape;
2. the capability of the area to deliver landscape related heritage appreciation and dispersed recreation programs;
3. the relative degree to which that particular set of opportunities is replicated in the existing system;
4. the relative degree to which those opportunities would be replicated by proposed sites in the reservation package; and
5. the availability of significant, additional and different, adjacent natural landscapes.

For Recreation Value the sub-criteria represent:

1. the variety of intensive recreation opportunities which could be developed at the site;
2. the amount of recreation which the site will sustain (capability);
3. the market accessibility of the site;
4. the relative importance of the site within its market; and
5. the availability of significant additional capable and suitable adjacent recreation attractions.

Each sub-criteria may be evaluated on a number of factors. The weighted sum of the values assigned to the sub-criteria is the Landscape Value or Recreation Value of the area.

Note that this approach rates each existing area on what it "should be" not what it "is". It assumes that the long-term aim would be to optimize use of the system by gradually moving each individual site towards its optimum use rather than emphasizing present patterns. This approach also gives consideration to the potential future shape of the overall system. The Market Regions, demand projections and future park and recreation areas identified in the Position Paper on Crown Land Reservations provides the basis for this factor.

Results

The factors comprising each of the sub-criteria have been identified and evaluated. The corresponding sub-criteria values were accordingly determined, weighted and summed to yield Landscape and Recreation values for each site. This analysis was applied to existing Parks and Recreation Areas. Landscape Values were not calculated in detail for the majority of the Recreation Areas since it is evident that they could not contain provincially or regionally significant natural landscapes due to their small size, heavy disturbance and lack of special features. Exceptions were made for certain relatively large sites in Kananaskis Country: Barrier Lake, Elbow River/Elbow Falls, Evans-Thomas and Ford Creek/Quirk Creek.

In evaluating existing parks, Jarvis Bay and Sylvan Lake were not rated separately but were considered as one complementary unit due to the nature of use at these two parks.

The following tables summarize the results of this analysis:

Table I: Landscape Values: Legislated Parks
Table II: Landscape Values: Selected Recreation Areas
Table III: Recreation Values: Legislated Parks
Table IV: Recreation Values: "Wayside" Recreation Areas
Table V: Recreation Values: Kananaskis Recreation Areas

TABLE I

LEGISLATED PARKS

RECREATION VALUE

Park	Resource Value (36)	System Value (30)	Heritage Appreciation Value (30)	Dispersed Recreation Potential (28)	Replacement Potential (15)	Expansion Potential (5)	Total Value (144)	
Dinosaur	33	30	28.5	28	15	5	139.5	
Cypress Hills	31	30	29	28	15	1	134	
Kananaskis	32	30	28	28	9	0	127	
Dry Island Buffalo Jump	27.5	30	26	22	15	3	123.5	OUTSTANDING
Notikewin	31.5	25	19.5	28	15	4	123	
Lesser Slave Lake	28	27	20	28	15	3	121	
Writing-on-Stone	24.5	27	23.5	22	13.5	5	115.5	
William A. Switzer	28.5	25	20	20	12.5	0	106	
Bow Valley	23	30	20	18	12.5	2	105.5	
Whitney Lakes	28	25	17.5	24	7.5	1	103	
Dillberry Lake	28	25	16.5	23	7.5	1	101	
Midland	21	25	20	18	12.5	1	97.5	HIGH
Fish Creek	16	27	18	20	13.5	0	94.5	
Beauvais Lake	25.5	20	14	20	8	2	89.5	
Miquelon Lakes	22	19	16	20	4	5	86	
Cross Lake	27.5	17	14	20	1	2	81.5	
Vermilion	23.5	17	9	22	8.5	1	81	
Crimson Lake	25	19	15	19	2	0	80	
Police Outpost	17	20	11	14	8	4	74	
Big Hill Springs	17.5	20	12	8	12.5	2	72	
Winagami	23	17	8	18	5	0	71	
Sir Winston Churchill	24	16	11	16	2	0	69	
Pembina River	17	19	13.5	12	6	1	68.5	
Big Knife	19	14	11	16	7	0	67	MEDIUM
Wyndham-Carseland	16.5	17	11	12	8.5	2	67	
Saskatoon Island	16.5	20	9	12	6	0	63.5	
Hilliard's Bay	22.5	7	9	24	0	0	62.5	
Carson-Pegasus	23.5	8	11	18	1	0	61.5	
Cold Lake	19.5	5	10.5	20	0	5	60	
Red Lodge	14	10	7.5	12	8.5	1	52	
Long Lake	21	1	6	20	1	2	51	
Willow Creek	16.5	17	9	0	7	0	49.5	
Little Fish Lake	12.5	17.5	6	0	10	3	49	

TABLE I

Young's Point	22.5	0	4.5	20	0	0	47	
Bragg Creek	16.5	11	7.5	10	1	0	46	
Park Lake	10	12	6	8	8	0	44	
Chain Lakes	9	14	7	10	4	0	44	
Little Bow	11.5	16.5	9	0	7	0	44	
Pigeon Lake	13	6	7.5	12	3	0	41.5	
Gregoire Lake	17	0	3	18	0	1	39	LOW
Moose Lake	20	1	2	12	0	0	35	
Moonshine Lake	19	0	1	14	0	0	34	
Calling Lake	16.5	0	1	14	0	2	33.5	
Rochon Sands	12.5	2.5	4.5	12	0	0	31.5	
Thunder Lake	14.5	0	5	12	0	0	31.5	
Strathcona Science	7	3	12	0	9	0	31	
Woolford	12	11	3	0	4	0	30	
Taber	10	9	5	0	4	0	28	
Kinbrook Island	7.5	6.5	8	0	6	0	28	
Gooseberry Lake	6	8	3	0	8.5	2	27.5	
Hasse Lake	10	0	4.5	12	0	0	26.5	
Jarvis/Sylvan	11	0	6	0	0	0	17	
Garner Lake	11.5	0	4.5	0	0	0	16	
Wabamun Lake	10	0	6	0	0	0	16	
Aspen Beach	8	0	6	0	0	0	14	VERY LOW
Tillebrook	3	2	4.5	0	0	1	10.5	
Williamson	7	0	3	0	0	0	10	
Queen Elizabeth	8.5	0	1	0	0	0	9.5	
Ma-Me-O Beach	3.5	0	4	0	0	0	7.5	

TABLE II
SELECTED RECREATION AREAS - LANDSCAPE VALUE

	Resource Value (36)	System Value (30)	Heritage Appreciation Value (30)	Dispersed Recreation Potential (28)	Replacement Potential (15)	Expansion Potential (5)	Total Value (144)
Barrier Lake	22	17	95	21	7	1	77.5
Evans-Thomas	19	14	12	24	6	2	77
Ford/Quirk	17.5	17	9	16	11	5	75.5
Elbow River/Falls	17	14	7.5	14	8	3	63.5
English Bay	16	3	10	12	3	5	49
Frenchman's Bay	13	0	6	20	0	5	44

TABLE III

LEGISLATED PARKS
RECREATION VALUE

Park	Program Diversity (35)	Market and Access (36)	Expansion Capability (10)	Intensive Recreation Capability (36)	System Value (36)	Total (153)	
Jarvis/Sylvan	34	34	0	28	35	131	
Aspen Beach	34	35	0	24	34	127	
Fish Creek	24	28	2	36	36	126	
Cypress Hills	35	16	0	33	36	120	
Miquelon Lake	28	28	5	28	21	110	
Crimson Lake	26	33	0	29	21	109	
Pigeon Lake	32	28	0	28	21	106	
Wabamun Lake	28	28	0	23	22	101	
Kananaskis	26	25	0	34	15	100	
Lesser Slave Lake	32	13	0	36	18	99	
Whitney Lakes	30	20	5	35	9	99	
Gregoire Lake	23	11	2	26	36	98	
Bow Valley	22	28	9	20	17	96	HIGH
Long Lake	26	24	9	18	25	93	
Hilliard's Bay	28	13	4	34	14	93	
Dillberry Lake	26	12	3	29	23	93	
Carson-Pegasus	16	22	0	20	34	92	
Park Lake	22	28	0	19	22	91	
Little Bow	18	27	0	18	28	91	
Strathcona Science	18	28	0	32	10	88	
Cross Lake	20	24	2	23	16	85	
Wyndham-Carseland	20	25	6	21	10	82	
Kinbrook Island	22	28	0	15	16	81	
Dinosaur	15	24	10	21	11	81	
Tillebrook	16	28	0	24	13	81	
Chain Lakes	14	24	0	25	14	77	
William A. Switzer	18	10	0	31	16	75	
Rochon Sands	14	32	6	18	5	75	
Sir Winston Churchill	18	22	0	25	10	75	
Beauvais Lake	16	25	0	17	15	73	
Vermilion	14	25	0	14	19	72	
Thunder Lake	20	25	0	19	8	72	
Hasse Lake	12	28	3	23	5	71	
Moose Lake	18	21	0	26	5	70	
Willow Creek	14	31	0	15	10	70	
Calling Lake	16	19	7	25	2	69	
Pembina River	16	28	0	14	10	68	
Cold Lake	22	12	2	27	3	66	MEDIUM
Red Lodge	14	33	0	14	4	65	
Young's Point	20	11	0	27	6	64	
Dry Island Buffalo Jump	10	35	0	15	2	62	

TABLE III

Big Knife	14	23	0	19	3	59	
Garner Lake	14	23	0	12	8	57	
Saskatoon Island	14	18	0	16	7	55	
Winagami Lake	10	10	0	26	9	55	
Williamson	12	11	0	6	14	53	
Police Outpost	12	13	0	19	9	53	
Taber	10	28	0	8	7	53	
Midland	14	25	0	8	6	53	
Moonshine Lake	14	16	0	15	7	52	
Little Fish Lake	10	24	0	15	2	51	
O'Brien	6	18	0	18	5	47	
Big Hill Springs	4	28	0	10	5	47	
Notikewin	10	3	0	31	2	46	
Bragg Creek	10	28	0	4	3	45	LOW
Gooseberry Lake	12	9	0	11	11	43	
Queen Elizabeth	10	9	0	17	7	43	
Writing-on-Stone	14	8	0	10	8	40	
Ma-Me-O Beach	2	31	0	1	3	37	VERY LOW
Woolford	8	14	0	10	2	34	

TABLE IV

Suggest cost O & M. Policing columns to reestablish validity of line

"WAYSIDE" RECREATION AREAS
RECREATION VALUE

Recreation Area	Program Diversity (35)	Market and Access (36)	Expansion Capability (10)	Intensive Recreation Capability (36)	System Value (36)	Total (153)		Use Pattern
Franchere Bay	22.5	21	6	18	14	81.5	HIGH	D
Frenchman's Bay	25	11	10	30	5	81		D
English Bay	27.5	12	9	18	4	70.5		D
Boss Hill	17.5	31	4	13	3	68.5		D
North Buck	15	23	2	16	12	68		D
Floating Stone	12.5	23	5	20	6	67.5		D
Plamondon	17.5	20	9	15	4	65.5	MEDIUM	D
Beaver Lake	17.5	22	0	14	10	63.5		D
The Narrows	7.5	32	4	12	5	60.5		D
Travers Reservoir	10	26	3	10	4	53		D
Lundbreck Falls	7.5	27	3	5	10	52.5		D
Bonnie Lake	17.5	23	0	6	3	49.5		D
Fork Lake	15	23	3	2	6	49		D
Emerson Bridge	10	23	9	5	1	48		D
Eastbourne	15	21	4	5	3	48		D
Birch Bay	10	35	0	2	1	48		W
Morrin Bridge	15	25	5	2	1	48		W
McKenzie Crossing	7.5	34	0	4	2	47.5		D
Dunvegan	10	15	5	13	4	47		D
Bleriot Ferry	10	25	2	8	2	47		D
Sun Haven	10	34	0	2	1	47		D
Moore East	12.5	11	5	13	5	46.5		D
Twin Lakes	7.5	7	5	18	9	46.5	LOW	D
Muriel Lake	12.5	21	5	3	4	45.5		D
Lower Mann	10	22	3	7	3	45		D
Fallen Timber	5	32	2	4	1	44		D
Tay River	5	32	0	5	2	44		D
Mallaig Beach	7.5	22	6	6	2	43.5		D
James River	5	31	4	2	1	43		D
Owl River	5	21	0	15	1	42		D
Kinuso Beach	17.5	11	4	6	3	41.5		D
Tolman Bridge	7.5	27	2	2	3	41.5		D
Raven	5	32	0	3	1	41		D
Castle River	5	26	2	5	3	41		D
Kehewin	10	21	0	5	4	40		D
Missawawi	10	23	0	4	2	39		D
Big Valley	2.5	32	0	2	1	37.5		W
Nojack	2.5	28	0	5	2	37.5		W
Scandia Crossing	7.5	23	0	6	1	37.5		W

TABLE IV

Carmangay	2.5	28	0	6	1	37.5		W
Siler Lake (Stony)	10	20	2	4	1	37		D
Manatokan	10	21	3	2	1	37		D
Vezeau Beach	12.5	20	0	2	1	35.5		D
Medicine River	0	34	0	0	1	35		W
Chin Lakes	2.5	28	0	3	1	34.5		W
Horseshoe Canyon	2.5	25	2	3	1	33.5		W
Cremona	2.5	25	0	3	1	31.5		D
Vincent Lake	5	23	0	2	1	31		D
Dogpound Creek	2.5	25	0	2	1	30.5		D
Hoodoos	2.5	25	0	2	1	30.5		W
Moore West	12.5	11	0	3	4	30.5	VERY LOW	D
Bonnyville Beach	7.5	20	0	1	1	29.5		D
Chin Coulee	7.5	11	3	3	1	25.5		D
Lea Park	7.5	12	0	5	1	25.5		D
Angling Lake	10	9	2	3	1	25		D
Lesser Slave River	5	12	2	3	1	23		D
Ethel Lake	7.5	10	0	2	2	21.5		D
Assineau River	5	11	0	4	1	21		W
Bear Trap Lake	5	9	0	6	1	21		D
Peace River	2.5	14	0	3	1	20.5		W
High Prairie	2.5	12	0	4	2	20.5		W
Silver Valley	2.5	13	0	3	2	20.5		W
Crooked Creek	2.5	9	0	6	2	19.5		W
Grimshaw	2.5	14	0	2	1	19.5		W
Hotchkiss	5	9	0	3	2	19		D
Mitsue Lake	2.5	13	0	2	1	18.5		W
Yarrow Creek	5	9	0	2	1	17		D

D - Destination or Mixed Use Dominant
W - Stopover Use Dominant

TABLE V

KANANASKIS COUNTRY RECREATION AREAS
RECREATION VALUE

"Recreation Area"	Program Diversity (35)	Market and Access (36)	Expansion Capability (10)	Intensive Recreation Capability (36)	System Value (36)	Total (153)	
Evans Thomas	24	31	5	34	12	106	
Sibbald Flat	18	31	0	32	8	89	HIGH
McLean Creek	14	31	0	30	9	84	
Ford Creek	16	31	0	28	8	83	
Elbow Falls	14	31	0	25	4	74	
Sandy McNabb	16	31	0	18	6	71	
Elbow River	14	31	0	15	6	66	
Blue Rock	10	30	0	15	6	61	
Gooseberry	10	31	0	14	5	60	MEDIUM
Cataract	16	25	0	12	6	59	
Barrier Lake	15	31	0	8	2	56	
Eau Claire	10	31	1	8	3	53	
Etherington	12	25	0	10	4	51	
North Fork	10	31	0	5	3	49	
Bragg West	12	31	0	4	2	49	
Highwood River	10	29	0	6	3	48	
Driftwood	12	31	0	2	2	47	
Mount Lorette Ponds	8	31	0	6	2	47	
Fisher Creek	10	31	0	4	2	47	
Porcupine Creek	5	31	2	6	2	47	
Quirk Creek	8	31	0	7	1	47	
Long Prairie	10	31	0	3	2	46	
Stony Creek	10	31	0	3	2	46	
Cat Creek	10	30	0	4	2	46	
Ghost Reservoir	10	31	2	3	1	45	
Sentinel	10	29	0	4	2	45	
Lac des Arcs	8	31	0	4	2	45	
Indian Graves	8	28	2	5	2	45	
Heart Creek	8	31	0	5	1	45	

TABLE V

Jumpingpound Creek	8	31	0	5	1	45	
Kananaskis River	8	31	2	3	2	44	
Moose Lake	6	31	0	5	2	44	
Spray	8	31	0	2	2	43	
Sheep River	8	30	0	3	2	43	
Wasootch Creek	6	31	0	4	2	43	
Pine Grove	6	31	0	4	2	43	
Spray Lakes	6	31	0	3	2	42	LOW
Galatea	6	31	0	3	2	42	
Three Sisters	6	31	0	3	2	42	
Lusk Creek	8	31	0	2	1	42	
Fir Creek	8	29	0	3	2	42	
Bow River	6	31	0	3	2	42	
Sibbald Viewpoint	6	31	0	3	2	42	
Picklejar	6	31	0	4	1	42	
Ribbon Falls	4	31	0	5	2	42	
Road Apple Equestrian	6	31	0	3	1	41	
Mist Creek	6	31	0	3	1	41	
Lineham Creek	6	31	0	3	1	41	
Sibbald Meadow Pond	6	31	0	3	1	41	
Pine Top	6	31	0	3	1	41	
Grotto Mountain	6	31	0	3	1	41	
Junction Creek	6	30	0	2	2	40	
Indian Oils	6	30	1	2	1	40	
Missing Link	6	31	0	2	1	40	
Karst	6	31	0	2	1	40	
Trout Ponds	6	31	0	2	1	40	
Lantern Creek	6	31	0	2	1	40	
Fitzsimmons Creek	8	29	0	2	1	40	
Eyrie Gap	8	29	0	2	1	40	
Ribbon Lake	4	31	0	3	2	40	
Crane Meadow	6	31	0	2	2	40	
Gap Lake	4	31	0	2	1	38	
Goat Range Viewpoint	4	31	0	1	1	37	
Mount Lipsett	2	31	0	3	1	37	
Bighorn Lookout	2	31	0	2	1	36	VERY LOW
Grassi Lake	2	31	0	2	1	36	
Rock Slide	2	31	0	1	1	35	
Old Camp	2	31	0	1	1	35	

Integration of the Recreation Value and Landscape Value coefficients is achieved through the development of a classification matrix, which illustrates the inter-relationships between the two coefficients and assists in classifying individual areas.

For the purposes of the matrix the actual Landscape Values are broken into five groups and Recreation Values into four.

No para. 10.

not page continues directly

Group C areas must have significant natural resources and landscapes, but may possess a great range of recreation opportunities. This is reflected accordingly in the matrix by the fact that for an area to be considered for this Group, it must achieve a High or Outstanding Landscape Value coefficient score. However, this class is only marginally affected by its Recreation Value coefficient. Groups D to G on the other hand are predominantly determined by the Recreation Value coefficient. Consequently, the matrix has been designed so that the four levels of Recreation Areas generally correspond to the four ratings for the Recreation Value Coefficient. Legislate conservation area shave not been evaluated in actual. Characteristically however Group A and B would be expected to combine significant Landscape Values with low to very low intensive recreation opportunities. They would therefore emerge in the upper right hand corner of the matrix. Whether these areas would be legislated as Wilderness Areas or Ecological Reserves depend on the precise nature of the values and the relative potential for public heritage appreciation, primitive backcountry recreation and scientific and research values respectively.

Table VI presents the classification matrix. Certain cells in the matrix offer a choice of class. This is to recognize the fact that some combinations of resources can support more than one possible program intent. Within these 'choice' cells the following decision rules are applied:

1. Group A/B

   If the primary intent is landscape preservation and wilderness recreation - Group A.

   If the primary intent is ecosystem or natural feature preservation and scientific research or education - Group B.

Rec. Value / Land-scape Value	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Outstanding	C	C	C	A / B
High	C / D	C	C	A / B
Medium	D	E	E / F	
Low	D	E	F	F / G
Very Low	D	E	F / G	F / G

2. Groups C/D

   Group C is the normal application due to the presence of a provincially significant landsape.

   Group D may be considered where the market demand justifies providing highly intensive recreation programs dnd management not normally compatible with Group C. This situation suggests significant conservation and heritage appreication programs will be provided in the Group D unit, as permitted in the Guidelines for Category I Recreation Areas.

3. Groups E/F

   Group F is the normal application due to the potential for a small-scale limited recreation program in a pleasant, but not provincially significant, natural landscape.

   Group E may be considered where there is asubstantial need to provide interpretation of a regionally significant special natural or cultural feature within the site. Low-key, non-personalized interpretation (i.e. self-guided trails) is permitted in the Guidelines for Category II Recretaion Areas.

4. Groups F/G

   If the dominant use is destination oriented then the site is classed in Group F.

   If the dominant useis as a highway stopover, rest area or viewpoint the site is classed in Group G.

The choice between F and G relates almost entirely to the former 'Wayside' Recreation Areas. For this reason a column has been adeed to Table IV indicate which use is dominant based on the Visitor Survey conducted by the Department in the summer of 1983.

Table VII illustrates the application of the Matrix to the results of Tables I to V. Only the Recreation Areas in Kananaskis which were rated for Landscape Value are included in this summary table. The 'Wayside' Recreation Areas which were not rated for Landscape Value has been placed in the Low or Very Low categories based on an intuitive comparison with similar Parks. A few Recreation Areas appear to have landscape values similar to Woolford, Little Fish Lake or Kinbrook Island. The vast majority, however appear to more closely resemble Williamson or Ma-Me-O Beach.

Recreation Value / Landscape Value	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	VERY LOW
OUTSTANDING	Dinosaur Cypress Hills Kananaskis Lesser Slave	Dry Island Buffalo Jump	Notikewin Writing-on-Stone	White Goat Wildernes Siffleur Wilderness
HIGH	Bow Valley Whitney Lakes Dillberry Lake Fish Creek Miquelon Cross Lake Crimson Lake	Wm. A. Switzer Midlands Beauvais Vermilion		Ghost Wilderness
MEDIUM	Wyndham Carseland Hilliard's Bay Carson-Pegasus EVANS-THOMAS FORD/QUIRK	Police Outpost Winagami Churchill Pembina Big Knife Saskatoon Island Cold Lake ELBOW RIVER/FALLS BARRIER LAKE	Big Hill Springs	
LOW	Long Lake Park Lake Little Bow Pigeon Lake Gregoire Strathcona Kinbrook Island FRENCHMAN'S BAY	Red Lodge Willow Creek Little Fish Young's Point Chain Lakes Moose Lake Moonshine Lake Calling Lake Rochon Sands Thunder Lake Taber Hasse NORTH BUCK PLAMONDON FLOATING STONE LUNDBRECK FALLS ENGLISH BAY	Bragg Creek Gooseberry MOORE EAST TWIN LAKES OWL RIVER	Woolford
VERY LOW	Jarvis/Sylvan Wabamun Aspen Beach Tillebrook FRANCHERE BAY	Garner Lake Williamson BOSS HILL THE NARROWS BEAVER LAKE TRAVERS RESERVOIR	Queen Elizabeth DUNVEGAN BONNIE LAKE FORD LAKE EMERSON EASTBOURNE MCKENZIE CROSSING BIRCH BAY SUN HAVEN MURIEL LAKE LOWER MANN FALLEN TIMBER TAY RIVER MALLAIG BEACH JAMES RIVRE KINUSO BEACH MORRIN BRIDGE TOLMAN BRIDGE RAVEN CASTLE RIVER MISSAWAWI KEHEWIN BLERIOT FERRY	Ma-Me-O BIG VALLEY NOJACK SCANDIA CARMANGAY STONY MANATOKAN VEZEAU BEACH MEDICINE RIVER CHIN LAKES HORSESHOE CAMP CREMONA VINCENT LAKE DOGPOUND CREEK HOODOOS MOORE WEST BONNYVILLE BEACH CHIN COULEE LEA PARK ANGLING LAKE LESSER SLAVE RIVER ETHEL LAKE ASSINEAU RIVER BEAR TRAP LAKE PEACE RIVER HIGH PRAIRIE SILVER VALLEY CROOKED CREEK GRIMSHAW HOTCHKISS MITSUE LAKE YARROW CREEK

lower case legislated Parks
higher case legislated Rec Areas

Discussion of Results

A. Consideration of Cells Providing Alternate Choices

i) Groups A/B

Only the three Wilderness Areas, White Goat, Siffleur and Ghost occur in these cells. The intent of these areas is to preserve landscapes and provide wilderness recreation. Therefore their appropriate classification is Group A. There are no Group B areas presently in the system.

ii) Group C/D

These areas all have provincially significant landscapes. Therefore Group C would be the normal class unless there are compelling reason to choose otherwise. Of these sites only Fish Creek Provincial Park appears to qualify on the basis of the development of facilities such as Sikome Lake and the highly urbanzed character of large portions of the Park. Of the other possibilities Miquelon Lake and Crimson Lake have high levels of intensive recreation use. These are however outdoor recreation programs of compatible type and servicing for Group C. High use levels and good quality intensive recreation resources, alone, do not disquality an area from Group C.

Fish Creek should be classed as Group D.

All others should be classed as Group C.

iii) Group E/F

Only Big Hill Springs occurs in this cell. The primary attraction at this park is the permanent stream of mineralized water which originates in Springs and flows through the Park. This supports an unusual assembly of plants along the stream and unusual mineral deposits along the stream course, such as the "fossilized" beaver dam. Enjoyment and exploration of these features is the primary intent of the Park. Since these features are of regional rather than provincial significance Group C is not appropriate for the site.

Big Hill Springs should be classed as Group E.

If the Park were expanded by purchase of private lands to include the actual Springs, it should be re-evaluated for provincial significance and possible reclassification to Group C.

iv.) Group F/G

Class is determined on the basis of purpose of use. Sites which are wayside stop-overs or viewpoints are Group G.

The Group G sites are Birch Bay, Moorin Bridge, Big Valley, Nojack, Scandia Crossing, Carmangay, Medicine River, Chin Lakes, Horseshoe Canyon, Hoodoos, Assineau River, Peace River, High Prairie, Silver Valley, Crooked Creek, Grimshaw and Mitsue Lake. All others are Group F.

These sites have been classed primarily on the basis of the 1982 Visitors Survey conducted by Operations and Maintenance Division. Some sites were not surveyd and some have very small numbrs of returned surveys. Therefore new information may require reclassification of a few sites in the future.

B. Kananaskis Country:

lands outside our Admin. have not been ranked

Kananaskis Country presents a special problem. The three Provincial Parks and sixty-eight Recreation Areas administered by the Department in this area are not independent, relatively self-contained units but part of a large integrated recreation complex. If Kananaskis Country is considered as a single unit and rated by this system it emerges in the Outstanding/High cell (Landscape Value N/35, Recreation Value n/30) and would be classed in Group C.

I

II An alternative providing greater definition is to classify areas and units within the Country as follows:

Kananaskis Provincial Park/Spray Lake:	Group C
*Lower Kananaskis Valley/Canmore Corridor:	Group D
Bow Valley Provincial Park	Group C
Elbow River-Sibbald Flats-McClean Creek:	Group D
Sheep-Highwood Area:	Group E
Cataract Creek Area:	Group F

(*) Includes Eau Claire, Evans-Thomas, Barrier Lake, Trans-Canada Campsites and numerous trails and access points.

III Finally, the individual sites have been rated. This produces the following classification:

Group C
- Kananaskis Provincial Park
- Bow Valley Provincial Park

Group D
- Evans-Thomas
- Sibbald Flat
- McLean Creek
- Ford Creek

Group E
- Elbow Falls
- Sandy McNabb
- Elbow River
- Blue Rock
- Gooseberry
- Cataract
- Barrier Lake
- Eau Claire
- Etherington

Group F
- Bragg Creek Provincial Park
- North Fork
- Bragg West
- Highwood River
- Driftwood
- Mount Lorette Ponds
- Fisher Creek
- Porcupine Creek
- Long Prairie
- Stony Creek
- Cat Creek
- Ghost Reservoir
- Sentinel
- Lac des Arcs
- Indian Graves
- Heart Creek
- Jumpingpound Creek
- Kananaskis River
- Moose Lake
- Spray
- Sheep River
- Wasootch Creek
- Pine Grove
- Spray Lakes
- Galatea
- Three Sisters
- Lusk Creek
- Fir Creek
- Bow River
- Sibbald Viewpoint
- Picklejar
- Ribbon Falls
- Road Apple Equestrian
- Mist Creek
- Lineham Creek
- Sibbald Meadow Pond
- Pine Top
- Grotto Mountain
- Junction Creek
- Indian Oils

Missing Link
Karst
Trout Ponds
Lantern Creek
Fitzsimmons Creek
Eyrie Gap

Group G
Loop Lake
Goat Range Viewpoint
Mount Lipsett
Bighorn Lookout
Grassi Lake
Rock Slide
Old Camp

This last classification is not felt to be particularly useful or meaningful. It is recommended that the ~~second~~ third choice be adopted and that individual sites within each area be managed as though they were facility nodes within a larger unit. Thus 'Wasootch Creek' within the Lower Kananaskis Area would be managed as a small facility node in a larger unit the same as Raven Rocks is managed within Fish Creek, ~~Porcupine~~ Provincial Park or Reesor Lake within Cypress Hills Provincial Park.

assumes community of understanding between Dep./Mgs

For O&M. Alt. III may be more conducive.

Paul suggests to go by each & every site

C. Other Considerations

To this point only the results of an essentially mechanical process have been considered. As with all models this one represents a simplication of reality. It assures certain relatively black and white values and it assumes that certain constant weightings of factors adequately represent the shifting relationships among those values in varying combinations. In the creation of categories for the Classification matrix every effort was made to place the divisions at points wehre natural discontinuities occurred in the results. It was assumed that such discontinuities represented significant qualitative changes in the character of the units being assessed. In some cases however only a smooth curve is apparent and division is essentially arbitrary.

In view of the above the results will be examined from a different perspective to determine if any errors in classification appear to have occurred. The significant decision points appear to be those between Group C and Group D or E.

Group C is distinguished by the presence of a provincially signficant "landscape". Individual significant features do not necessarily result in provincially significant landscapes. In order to produce this result the model emphasizes diversity and representation in the natural values. This approach also tends to favour the larger parks which are more likely to have a variety of landscape types. It is possible that some significant landscapes have been undervalued as a result of these assumptions. Consideration of the listing suggests the following parks as possibilities.

Police Outpost
Sir Winston Churchill
Pembina River
Big Hill Springs
Saskatoon Island

i) Police Outpost

The values in this park are representative landscapes of the Foothills ~~Parkland~~ Grassland and occurrences of rare plants in certain wetlands around Outpost Lake. The small size of the park is the major negative factor. Open grasslands require relatively large sweeps of undisturbed land, both to provide the emotional character of the landscape and to support a reasonable ecological diversity. The rare flora is significant but is the type of special feature which can readily be protected by careful management. Use patterns at the Park are almost entirely oriented to fishing and the lake is manipulated to support this activity. A "Park" program emphasizing the native landscape would have little relevance to the existing users.

Conclusion: Group E with protection of significant features but minimal "interpretive" programming is appropriate.

ii) Sir Winston Churchill

The park occupies an island which has been protected from fire for a long period of time. Consequently it supports an old growth spruce-balsam fir-birch mixedwood forest landscape. The small size of the park and the lack of other major landscape types prevented this park from attaining a higher classification. However this particular landscape type is relatively rare in the Mixedwood Boreal forest and normally occurs only in small stands on isolated islands, protected peninsulas or areas on the windward sides of lakes. In terms of its type, the forest on Sir Winston Churchill is, in fact, exceptionally extensive and diverse.

Use at the park is presently dominated by destination camping, beach and family picnicking. These are well-used interpretive trails and programming in place and the island has a network of accessible well-used walking trails through the natural interior.

Conclusion: The park's extensive, well used, high quality example of this landscape type is provincially significant. Present use patterns at the park utilize this landscape and heritage appreciation is an important component of the visitor's experience. This park should be classified in Group C rather than Group E.

iii) Pembina River

The park contains a small area of typical Boreal Mixedwood river valley stands. Its greatest significance however is the presence of pre-glacial river channels of the North Saskatchewan river system. Present park use is as a camping, ~~boating~~ and picnicking destination. There is no public awareness of the special natural history of the park.

Conclusion: The park contains ~~a~~ specialized natural history features of regional significance which should be used in the park program. However, these are secondary to the ~~to the~~ recreation program and require only very limited emphasis. Group E is the appropriate classification.

iv) Big Hill Springs

As discussed previously this is basically a regionally significant feature suitable for low-key interpretation. Group E is the appropriate classification. Future acquisition ~~of~~ the actual springs might require re-evaluation.

v) Saskatoon Island

The park contains examples of shrubland communities representative of the Peace River Parkland and adjacent nesting areas for Trumpeter Swans. The shrublands are regionally significant features which should be preserved. The nesting areas are a provincially significant habitat for ~~a~~ endangered species. The mandate for their protection lies primarily with Fish and Wildlife.

Conclusion: The Department should protect the shrublands and cooperate to the fullest in protection of the nesting areas. Neither of these responsibilities conflicts significantly with the primary use of the park which is as a regional destination camping and picnic grounds. Group E is the appropriate classification.

Recommendations:

Based on this analysis it is recommended that the following be accepted as the working classification by Management Group of units operated by the Department.

Group A:
- Ghost Wilderness Area
- Siffleur Wilderness Area
- White Goat Wilderness Area

Group B:
-

Group C:
- Beauvais Lake
- Crimson Lake
- Cross Lake
- Cypress Hills
- Dillberry Lake
- Dinosaur
- Dry Island Buffal Jump
- Kananaskis Country: Bow Valley Park
- Kananaskis Country: Kananaskis Park/Spray Valley
- Lesser Slave Lake
- Midland
- Miquelon Lake
- Notikewin
- Sir Winston Churchill
- Vermilion
- Whitney Lakes
- William A. Switzer
- Writing-on-Stone

Group D:

Aspen Beach
Carson-Pegasus
Fish Creek
Franchere Bay
Frenchman's Bay
Gregoire Lake
Hilliard's Bay
Jarvis/Sylvan
Kananaskis Country: Lower Kananaskis Valley/Canmore Corridor
Kananaskis Country: Elbow River-McLean Creek-Sibbald Flats
Kinbrook Island
Little Bow
Long Lake
Park Lake
Pigeon Lake
Strathcona Scinece
Tillebrook
Wabamun Lake
Wyndham-Carseland

Group E:

Beaver Lake
Big Hill Springs
Big Knife
Boss Hill (Buffalo Lake)
Calling Lake
Chain Lake
Cold Lake
English Bay
Floating Stone Lake
Garner Lake
Hasse Lake
Kananaskis Country: Sheep River/Highwood
Little Fish Lake
Lundbreck Falls
Moonshine Lake
Moose Lake
North Buck Lake
Pembina River
Plamondon
Police Outpost
Red Lodge
Rochon Sands
Saskatoon Island
Taber
The Narrows
Thunder Lake
Travers Reservoir
Williamson
Willow Creek
Winagami
Young's Point

Group F:

Angling Lake
Bear Trap Lake
Bleriot Ferry
Bonnie Lake
Bonnyville Beach
Castle River
Chin Coulee
Cremona
Dog Pound Creek
Dunvegan
Eastbourne
Emerson Bridge
Ethel Lake
Fallen Timber Creek
Fork Lake
Gooseberry Lake
Hotchkiss
James River
Kananaskis Country: Cataract Creek
Kehiwin (Long Lake)
Kinuso Beach
Lea Park
Lower Mann Lake
Mallaig Beach
Ma-Me-O Beach
Manatokan Lake
McKenzie Crossing
Missawawi Lake
Moore East
Moore West
Muriel Lake
Lesser Slave River
Owl River
Queen Elizabeth
Raven
Stony (Siler Lake)
Sun Haven
Tay River
Tolman Bridge
Twin Lakes
Vezeau Beach
Vincent Lake
Woolford
Yarrow Creek

Group G:

Assineau River
Big Valley
Birch Bay
Carmangay
Chin Lakes
Crooked Creek
Grimshaw
High Prairie
Hoodoos
Horseshoe Canyon
Medicine River
Mitsue Lake
Morrin Bridge
Nojack
Peace River
Scandia Crossing
Silver Valley

Alberta
RECREATION AND PARKS

REPORT
SUBMITTED TO
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 19, 1984

FROM: D. E. Cline

TITLE: Assistant Deputy Minister

DIVISION NAME: Design and Implementation

TITLE OF REPORT: Program Policies

RECOMMENDTION(S):

See Attachment

HISTORY:

See Attachment

DISCUSSION:

See Attachment

JUSTIFICATION:

See Attachment

ALTERNATIVES:

See Attachment

ENCLOSURES:

See Attachment

DECISION:

PROGRAM POLICIES

RECOMMENDATIONS(S):

1. The Design and Implementation Program Policies should receive approval in principle.
2. At such a time as Operation and Maintenance Policies receive approval in principle, the two documents should be amalgamated to form a concise package outlining:
   - i) Philosophical Principles
   - ii) Program Policies and Program Directions
   - iii) Operation and Maintenance Policies including Levels of Service
3. Approval of the modifications to the "Framework and Guidelines" matrix attached to correspond to legislation and Program Policy direction.

HISTORY:

1. Phase I of Planning Standards was developed and forwarded for Executive Committee review in February, 1983.
2. The "Framework and Guidelines" document was developed in the time period between initiation of the Planning Standards exercise and this date.
3. It was recognized that an information gap existed between the two documents. An additional stage of thought needed to be represented. This missing document needed to outline the Departmental policy regarding each of the activity groupings used in the "Planning Standards" and "Framework and Guidelines". It should include direction for the programming of the activities in the appropriate Management Groups consistent with the policy direction.
4. Design and Implementation Program Policies is the document developed to fill this need. It has been produced by the Technical Subcommittee to the Purpose Committee and reviewed and endorsed by the Purpose Committee.

DISCUSSION:

The Program Policies document is divided into two sections. The first outlines the general Philosophical Principles which guide the policy development. The second section includes, for each activity, the policy and program direction.

The Philosophical Principles form the background for the necessary priorization of those activities which the Department may program in its operating units. These principles allow the Department to make judgements regarding the relative appropriateness of specific activities. These judgements necessarily form the basis of the development of policies for each activity grouping.

The second part of the Program Policy document is the policies themselves and the resulting program directions. This level of policy development, structured by Management Group, is necessary to supply guidance through the Planning and Design processes associated with the reconstruction, redevelopment and new development work carried out by Design and Implementation Division. As structured, the Program Policies will guide the extent to which each activity will be accommodated within the future system of facilities designed, implemented and operated by the Department.

Operations and Maintenance Division is currently developing policies which are applicable to the operating and maintenance of Departmental facilities. These are currently under review by the Purpose Committee. Once these have been reviewed by Executive Committee, the salient portions of each document should be amalgamated to produce one volume containing Programming, Operating and Maintenance policies and directions.

JUSTIFICATION:

Program Policies are one component of the comprehensive documentation under development which will guide the day-to-day planning, design, implementation and operations activities of the Department. This documentation commences at the "Framework and Guidelines" level and is co-ordinated throughout Program and Operations and Maintenance Policy documents, and Planning, Design and Operating Standards including, Guidelines, Standard Plans, Standard Details and Specifications where appropriate for Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Horticulture and Engineering.

Program Policies are required to provide direction regarding programming of specific activities in each Management Group. Once this programming direction has been considered, the bulk of the planning and design documentation outlined above is employed to guide the provision of specific facilities meeting these programming requirements.

The move to the use of standards in the context of a new planning and design process requires that Program Policies be put in place to guide this decision making at the Project Management team level.

ALTERNATIVES:

There is no alternative which would allow efficient application of the Divisional Standards package on a day-to-day working level to be combined with the necessary guidance fitting programming requirements to the individual Management Groups intent and purpose.

ENCLOSURES:

1. Program Policies
2. Summary Sheet - illustrating the program policy for each activity in each Management Group.
3. Recommend list of changes to the matrix in the Framework and Guidelines to allow the matrix to correspond to both Legislation and Program Policies.

Alberta
RECREATION AND PARKS

IMPLICATIONS ADVICE

SUBMITTED TO
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 19, 1984

FROM **NAME:** D. E. Cline **RE:** Program Policies

TITLE: Assistant Deputy Minister

DIVISION NAME: Design and Implementation

BUDGET:

The Program Policies are one component of the comprehensive package which will structure development such that future capital budget considerations can be carried out with a new understanding of the dollar implications of particular development decisions.

LEGISLATIVE / REGULATIONS:

Not applicable at the present time. Individual program direction sections do outline specific areas where it may be advisable to put regulations in place in the future.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Not applicable as long as the use of Management Groups is confidential.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS:

Not applicable.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL RELATIONS:

Jurisdiction concerns regarding hunting were discussed at Purpose Committee

OTHER:

Not applicable.

ALBERTA RECREATION AND PARKS

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION DIVISION

PROGRAM POLICIES

MARCH 1984

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Introduction

This Discussion Paper introduces broad explicit policies for the major activities which may be programmed within the Alberta Recreation and Parks system. These policies provide a framework for the Planning and Development Standards of the organization and they reflect the initial direction given in the document entitled "Alberta Recreation and Parks Framework and Guidelines".

The activities for which policies are developed parallel the program groupings used in the "Framework and Guidelines": picnicking, beaches and swimming, etc., and the major classification groupings in the system. Classification grouping is according to "Management Groups" as adoption of this terminology postdates the "Framework and Guidelines" document.

This Discussion Paper presents broad policy statements for each activity. It also includes specific policy statements regarding the status of the activity in the individual management groups. The paper also indicates the direction which would be given to programming for that activity as a result of the program policy.

The policies are developed incorporating Management Group classification terminology. The following table lists the correspondence between Management Groups and the classification category terminology previously employed.

Management Group A	-	Wilderness Areas
Management Group B	-	Ecological Reserves
Management Group C	-	Parks
Management Group D	-	Category 1 Recreation Areas
Management Group E	-	Category 2 Recreation Areas
Management Group F	-	Category 3 Recreation Areas
Management Group G	-	Category 4 Recreation Areas

The Policies constitute value judgements within an overriding philosophical position which is peculiar to this Department and its programs. These principles reflect the reason for the existence of these programs and supporting legislation but, most significantly, they define the limits of that mandate. It is only by defining such limits that the Department can establish that, within the context of these programs, picnic grounds are a more appropriate use of resources than roller rinks or football stadiums.

Accordingly the Policies are prefaced by a discussion of the principles which underlie the value judgements made in the Policies. The Discussion Paper includes:

1. Those philosophical principles which form the basis for the Departmental policy for each recreation activity or support service included in the Policies.

2. For each activity or service:
   i. a definition;
   ii. a policy; and
   iii. the program direction which is consistent with that policy.

Philosophical Principles

The Park and Recreation Area programs of the Department operate under a dual mandate directed towards the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities and the protection and enjoyment of Alberta's natural heritage. The legislation is specific in stating that the purpose for its enactment is to provide direct benefits for all Albertans. The benefits expected are not precisely defined but implicitly they are those deriving from outdoor leisure activities and contact with the natural landscape. It is interpreted that the Department is intended to provide opportunities for relaxation, enjoyment, self-development and for the increase of human knowledge

and understanding of the natural environment. The system should provide direct benefits to Albertans in terms of physical and mental health and to society as a whole in terms of the promotion of positive attitudes towards the province and the community of Albertans, by encouraging family and other positive social activities and by promoting in Albertans a sense of pride and stewardship towards the natural heritage of the province. There is also a secondary commitment to promote the potential economic benefits which may result from tourism, recreational expenditures and the results of research and educational activities.

Preservation and outdoor recreation principles for the system are outlined below. Outdoor recreation principles are further grouped according to sub-program: recreation, heritage appreciation, conservation and tourism.

Preservation Program

Principle:

To identify and protect unique and representative physical, biological and ecological features of the Province for the appreciation, enjoyment and advancement of knowledge of present and future generations.

Guidelines:

a. To preserve rare, endangered, threatened, representative or otherwise valuable examples of significant Alberta heritage, in the form of plant communities, animal habitats or ranges, palaeontological, geological, geomorphic or hydrological sites, or other natural examples or phenomena, significant landscapes and areas of high scenic or aesthetic quality or character for the enjoyment and appreciation of all Albertans.

b. To preserve outstanding areas, significant or valuable as scientific bench mark areas, in terms of either the physical or biological sciences, so that their continued existence will contribute to the furtherance of human knowledge.

c. To support appropriate scientific research on the natural environment by encouraging and permitting research to investigate natural ecosystems, consistent with established management and protection guidelines.

d. To preserve ecologically viable units of wilderness, representative of the various eco-regions of the Province, and of sufficient size to permit the experience of wilderness travel.

e. To support the preservation objectives of other Government agencies.

Outdoor Recreation Programs

Principle:

To provide the people of Alberta and others the opportunity to pursue a variety of leisure activities and experiences which promote enjoyment of the outdoors and further understanding and appreciation of the province's natural heritage.

Sub-Programs:

1. Recreation

Principle:

To provide quality outdoor recreation experiences ranging from high intensity use to dispersed wilderness activities within environmental capabilities and constraints.

Guidelines:

a. To provide within the outdoor recreation system, a variety of recreation opportunities and natural environments capable of providing a balance of intensive and dispersed uses.

b. To distribute the units of the system throughout the Province based upon (i) the natural occurrence of significant sites capable of providing opportunities for recreation or heritage appreciation, (ii) ease of accessibility to centres of demand for recreational activities.

c. To meet the basic recreation needs and expectations of the people of Alberta throughout the Outdoor Recreation System.

d. To provide facilities and programs which will help enhance the visitor's recreational experience, skills and competence.

e. To provide a system which complements the recreation programs and activities provided through other Government agencies and the private sector.

2. Heritage Appreciation

Principle:

To foster an understanding of and a respect for Alberta's natural and cultural heritage.

Guidelines:

a. To instill in visitors a positive environmental and cultural ethic towards Alberta's heritage, supportive of preservation and conservation goals.

b. To inform the public about the recreational and educational opportunities and experiences available.

c. To enhance the capability of visitors to enjoy and appreciate the experiences available.

3. Conservation

Principle:

To conserve the recreation resource base and environment for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Guidelines:

a. To manage the resource base and associated recreational activities to maintain in perpetuity a desirable social and recreational environment.

b. To contribute to human knowledge and the understanding of the provincial heritage through scientific research related to recreational resource management.

4. Economics and Tourism

Principle:

To enable and support residents of Alberta and others to explore and experience the recreational and natural environments available in the province and to encourage the economic benefits which accrue through tourism and participation in recreation activities.

Guidelines:

a. To complement appropriate economic objectives and programs of the Government through support of the tourist and recreation service industries.

b. To contribute to the provision of a variety of recreational opportunities and services conducive to tourism throughout the province.

c. To promote a favourable image of the Department's programs and the attractions of Alberta to assist in marketing tourism.

Principles are used to priorize the programs offered in those facilities administered by the Department according to the ability of the programs to satisfy the system's preservation and outdoor

recreation objectives. These principles do not apply uniformly throughout every Management Group. Rather, specific Management Groups have intents which are designed to accommodate certain program areas. The following matrix illustrates where each Management Group has a primary or secondary function to meet program area objectives.

	Management Group						
Program	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Preservation	X	X	X	I	-	-	-
Recreation	I	-	X	X	X	X	I
Heritage Appreciation	X	X	X	I	I	-	-
Conservation	X	X	X	X	I	-	-
Tourism	I	-	X	X	I	I	X

X - primary function

I - secondary function

- - minor function

Format of the Policies

Policy:

All of the Policies have a similar structure. They are formatted with an introductory philosophical statement outlining the Departmental attitude toward the activity in the system. This is based on the relationship of the activity to those values outlined in the Principles. This general statement is followed by a series of statements which describe the Department's attitude regarding the activity in each of the administrative classification categories: Management Groups A through G. Those terms which are used to express the Departmental attitude are defined below in the section titled: Definition of Terms.

Program Direction:

The Policy is followed by a short section describing the type and level of action by the Department which is implied by adoption of the policy. Only those areas where action must necessarily result are addressed.

Definition of Terms:

The Policies are stated using one of the terms defined below:

Desirable: One of the core activities offered by the Department. It promotes the values and opportunities outlined in the Philosophical Principles. Facilities supporting the activity will be developed whenever possible. The activity may be restricted to one or more Management Groups.

Recognized: This is one of the activities which supplement Departmental goals and expand the range of recreation opportunities offered at a given location. It also promotes at least some of the values and opportunities outlined in the Philosophical Principles. Facilities supporting the activity may be developed except where the activity conflicts with provision of one of the core activities. The activity may be restricted to one or more Management Groups.

Permitted: The activity is allowed, but no support or infrastructure is provided.

Not Permitted: The activity is prohibited by legislation or regulation.

Not Applicable: The activity is not appropriate due to the size and nature of the developments in the specific classification category. If a policy does not mention one or more Management Groups, the activity is not applicable in those categories.

Policy Index

Each Policy is identified by a sheet number. The policies are grouped according to program. These programs where originally identified in the "Framework and Guidelines" document.

ACTIVITY	TOPIC	SHEET
Picnicking	Picnicking	1
Beaches and Swimming	Beaches and Swimming	2
Boating and Fishing	Boating	3
	Fishing	4
Dispersed Recreation	Foot Trail Use (Hiking and Walking)	5
	Foot Trail Use (Cross-Country Skiing)	6
	Equestrian Use	7
	Hunting	8
Sports	Bicycling	9
	All Terrain Vehicles	10
	Snowmobiling	11
	Field Games	12
	Court Games	13
	Intensive Winter Activities (Downhill Skiing)	14
	Special Events and Facilities	15
	Specialized Sports Facilities (Golf Courses)	16

ACTIVITY	TOPIC	SHEET
Sports (continued)	High Risk Sports	17
Camping	Auto-Access Camping	18
	Walk-in/Boat-in	19
Group Use	Group Use	20
Fixed Roof Accommodation	Backcountry Cabins	21
	Hostels/Dormitory Accommodation	22
	Service Agency Group Camps	23
	Primitive Rental Cabins	24
	Motels/Cabins	25
	Resort Complexes	26
	Private Cottages	27
Commercial Services	Food Services, Grocery and Convenience Goods Outlets	28
	Recreation Equipment Rental and Commercial Recreation Services	29

Activity Area: Picnicking

Topic: Picnicking

Definition:

Picnicking areas including serviced areas accessed from central parking areas, serviced boat-in sites, short-term roadside picnic areas and primitive picnicking in backcountry areas with no facility development.

Policy:

Picnicking is a desirable activity in the system:

- It is desirable in Management Groups C through G.
- It is permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

There is a commitment to facility development in Management Groups C through E. Dual use camping and picnicking facilities will normally be provided to accommodate this activity in Management Groups F and G. No special picnic facilities will be developed in Management Groups A and B.

Activity Area: Beaches and Swimming

Topic: Beaches and Swimming

Definition:

Developed and undeveloped beaches and swimming opportunities with associated facilities.

Policy:

Swimming and beach activities are desirable in the system where associated with natural water bodies or multi-use reservoirs and recognized in the system where associated with water bodies created exclusively for these purposes.

- In natural water bodies these activities are desirable in Management Groups C to F and they are permitted in Management Groups A, B, and G.
- In created water bodies these activities are recognized in Management Groups C and D and they are not permitted in Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

There is a commitment to facility development on natural water bodies in Management Groups C through E. Shoreline access will be provided when appropriate in Management Groups F and G. Waterbodies can be created for swimming in Management Groups C and D when they both contribute to the programming intent of the unit and are environmentally acceptable. When these criteria are met, the Department would encourage private sector development of these facilities. No facility development will take place in Management Groups A and B.

Activity Area: Boating and Fishing

Topic: Boating

Definition:

Motorized and non-motorized boating including sailing, canoeing, and kayaking.

Policy:

Boating is a recognized activity in the system.

- It is recognized in Management Groups C through G.
- Non-motorized boating is permitted in Management Groups A and B.
- Motorized boating is not permitted in Management Groups A and permitted on designated routes in Management Group B.

Program Direction:

Boating opportunities may be provided wherever an adequate resource exists in Management Groups C through G. Regulations may be necessary to segregate users and reduce conflicts. Where appropriate, routes for motorized boating will be designated in Management Group B units.

Activity Area: Boating and Fishing

Topic: Fishing

Definition:

Fishing either from boats or from shore access locations.

Policy:

Fishing is a desirable activity in the system.

- It is desirable in natural water bodies and multi-use reservoirs in Management Groups C through G.
- It is not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

Fishing opportunities may be provided wherever an adequate resource exists in Management Groups C through G. Waterbodies may be manipulated or enhanced for fishing in Management Group C when this both contributes to the programming intent of the unit and is environmentally acceptable. Management in Groups D and G will be directed to maximize recreational fishing opportunities.

Activity Area: Dispersed Recreation

Topic: Foot Trail Use - Hiking and Walking

Definition:

Including hiking which is defined as vigorous walking for pleasure on generally lengthy (not less than 2 km), sometimes challenging trails. May be day use or overnight. Casual walking is on short, easy trails provided for that purpose (not more than 2 km in length).

Policy:

Walking and hiking are desirable activities in the system.

- Walking and hiking are desirable in Management Groups C through G.
- Walking and hiking are permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

The policy allows for the development of both short walking trails and extended hiking opportunities in the system consistent with both recreation and heritage appreciation objectives. Hiking opportunities will be emphasized in Management Groups A and C. Walking opportunities will be emphasized in Management Groups C and E. Although hiking is encouraged in Management Group A, trails are not developed and maintained. Unsurfaced primitive trails may be provided in Management Group B to facilitate public use and enjoyment. Walking and hiking trails may be developed in Management Groups C through E.

Activity Area: Dispersed Recreation

Topic: Foot Trail Use - Cross Country Skiing

Definition:

Cross country ski use either on developed (and possibly groomed) cross country ski trails or informally employing existing resources.

Policy:

Cross country skiing is a desirable activity in the system.

- It is desirable in Management Groups C through F.
- It is permitted in Management Groups A, B and G.

Program Direction:

Normally, the Department will develop cross country skiing staging areas in Management Group C through F where demand warrants and a viable winter program can be supplied. Trails may be groomed in Management Groups C and D to meet high demand levels. No facility development will take place in Management Groups A and B.

Activity Area: Dispersed Recreation

Topic: Equestrian Use

Definition:

Equestrian use either on developed equestrian trails or informally employing existing resources.

Policy:

Equestrian use is a recognized activity in the system.

- It is recognized in Management Groups C through G.
- It is not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

The Department will develop equestrian staging areas in Management Groups D through F to assist and support programs of other government agencies on adjoining lands. Trails may be developed within Management Groups C and D where the land base is adequate and demand warrents.

Activity Area: Dispersed Recreation

Topic: Hunting

Definition:

Recreational hunting of mammals and/or game birds as recognized under the Wildlife Act.

Policy:

Hunting is a recognized recreational activity in the system.

- It is legitimate in Management Groups D through F.
- It is not permitted in Management Group B and C as a recreational activity.
- It is not permitted in Management Group A.

Program Direction:

Hunting may be permitted in Groups D and E outside of developed facility zones where it does not conflict with other activities. Management Groups D through F areas which are too small to permit on-site hunting due to proximity to facility developments may be used for staging areas for off-site hunting using existing facilities. Hunting may be permitted as a management tool in Management Groups B and C to achieve the environmental conservation objectives for that area.

Activity Area: Sports

Topic: Bicycling

Definition:

Bicycle use either on developed bicycle or multi-use trails or informally employing existing resources.

Policy:

Bicyling is a recognized activity in the system.

- It is recognized in Management Groups C through G.
- It is not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

Normally, bicycling will be accommodated on existing roads and trails. It may be promoted in Management Groups C and D with single use or multiple use trails. Single use trails would only be considered in highly urbanized situations (e.g., Fish Creek).

Activity Area: Sports

Topic: All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's)

Definition:

All terrain vehicle use either off road or on existing roads.

Policy:

All terrain vehicle use is a recognized activity in the system.

- It is recognized in Management Groups D through G except where regulated under Section 11, Provincial Parks Amendment Act.
- It is not permitted in Management Groups A, B, and C.

Program Direction:

Management Groups D through F may be used as staging areas for off-site ATV use. A Group D area may be developed specifically to accommodate this use where special provision for the activity can be made on a suitable land base where demand warrents.

Activity Area: Sports

Topic: Snowmobiling

Definition:

Snowmobile use either off-road or on existing roads.

Policy:

Snowmobiling is an recognized activity in the system.

- It is recognized in Management Group D through G except where regulated under Section 11, Provincial Parks Amendment Act.
- It is not permitted in Management Groups A, B, and C.

Program Direction:

Opportunities may be provided in Management Groups D and E on designated routes. Management Groups D through F may have staging areas developed for off-site snowmobile activities. User conflicts will be minimized either by segregating users in large areas or, for smaller sites, by posting some management units for snowmobiling and others for cross country skiing.

Activity Area: Sports

Topic: Field Games

Definition:

Including both informal field games (such as baseball and soccer) requiring minor facilities and organized sports and games (such as track and field facilities) requiring specialized developments .

Policy:

Informal field games are desirable activities in the system. Organized sports and games requiring specially developed facilities are recognized activities in the system.

- Informal field sports are desirable in Management Groups C through F and are permitted in Group G.
- Field games are not permitted in Management Groups A and B.
- Specialized facilities are recognized in Management Group C and D.

Program Direction:

Open play fields will be provided in Management Groups C through F. Specialized facilities may be provided in Management Groups C and D when demand warrents and either private or public funding is available.

Activity Area: Sports

Topic: Court Games

Definition:

Including both informal court games such as horseshoes, badminton, and volleyball and formal court games (such as tennis and squash) requiring specialized facilities .

Policy:

Informal court games are desirable activities in the system. Formal court games are recognized activities in the system.

- Informal court games are desirable in Management Groups C through F and permitted in Group G.
- Court games are not permitted in Management Groups A and B.
- Formalized court facilities are recognized in Group D.

Program Direction:

Minimal facilities for volleyball, horseshoes, etc., may be provided in Management Groups C through F. No facilities will be provided in Management Group G. Highly developed courts for tennis, handball, etc., may be considered in Management Groups C and D when demand warrents and either private or public funding is available.

Activity Area: Sports

Topic: Intensive Winter Activities (Downhill Skiing)

Definition:

An activity such as downhill skiing requiring intensive use of a facility or a portion of a facility designed to expand the range of winter recreation opportunities at a site.

Policy:

Downhill skiing is a recognized activity in the system.

- It is recognized in Management Groups C and D.
- It is not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

Opportunities may be provided in Management Group D by a private developer/operator when demand warrents and either private or public funding is available. Opportunities may be provided in Management Group C with the same stipulations if this is the only viable regional resource.

Activity Area: Sports

Topic: Special Events

Definition:

Including both one time or infrequent events which are accommodated in existing facilities such as cross-country ski meets and regularily occuring events on lands (such as rodeos) leased for the purpose from the Department.

Policy:

Special events are recognized in the system.

- They are recognized in Management Groups C through G.
- They are not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

Special events which do not require special facilities will be permitted in Management Groups C through G in existing facilities when they do not conflict with the normal programmed uses for the facilities and resources. Short term displacement of existing users may be considered.

Special facilities developed on a long term lease by public or private groups are permitted in Management Groups D through E when the facilities do not impact a large land base, they are available to other groups and they do not conflict with other park programming. In Management Group C, the facilities must contribute to the programming intent of the unit and be environmentally acceptable.

Activity Area: Sports

Topic: Specialized Sports Facilities (Golf Courses)

Definition:

Major capital intensive facilities such as golf courses which might be provided as part of a major joint public-private sector resort development.

Policy:

Special sports facilities are recognized in the system.

- They are recognized in Management Groups C, D and E.
- They are not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

Specialized facilities may be considered in Management Groups C, D, and E when demand warrents and either private or public funding is available. Highly developed facilities may be constructed in Management Group D on lands leased for the purpose. Low level course develops are considered in Management Groups C and E when the area offers the only regional resource and the private sector cannot provide opportunities elsewhere.

Activity Area: Sports

Topic: High Risk Sports

Definition:

Activities such as hang-gliding, ultralite aircraft use, hot air ballooning, para-sailing and rock climbing which require specialized equipment and involve a significant physical risk to the participant.

Policy:

High risk sports are recognized in the system.

- They are recognized in Management Groups C and D.
- They are not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

These activities are recognized in Management Groups C and D in designated areas. Times when particular activities may take place may be regulated.

Activity Area: Camping

Topic: Auto Access Camping

Definition:

All types of camping offered by the Department which are, regardless of level of service, directly automobile accessible for the user.

Policy:

Auto access camping is a desirable activity in the system.

- It is desirable in Management Groups C through G.
- It is not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

A variety of auto access camping opportunities will be provided consistent with the intent of appropriate Management Groups.

Activity Area: Camping

Topic: Walk-in/Boat-in

Definition:

A designated tenting campground with foot access from a central parking area or boat landing area or via an extended hiking trail.

Policy:

Walk-in camping in proximity to parking lots and backcountry camping accessed by boat or extended hiking trails are desirable activities in the system.

- They are desirable in Management Group C.
- They are recognized in Management Groups D through F.
- They are permitted in Management Group A.
- They are not permitted in Management Group B.

Program Direction:

These activities may be provided in Management Groups C through F. Opportunities are available in Management Group A without facility development. Camping is not permitted in Management Group B.

Activity Area: Group Use

Topic: Group Use

Definition:

Camping or day use activities by organized groups on either a reserved or non-reserved basis.

Policy:

Group use is a recognized activity in the system.

- It is recognized in Management Groups C through G.
- It is permitted in Management Group A.
- It is not permitted in Management Group B.

Program Direction:

Specialized group use areas will normally be provided in Management Groups C through E. Groups will be accommodated in existing facilities in Management Groups F and G. Opportunities are available in Management Group A without facility development.

Activity Area: Fixed Roof Accommodation

Topic: Backcountry Cabins

Definition:

Semi-furnished, unserviced cabins supplying backcountry accommodation accessed by trail or boat on an unreserved basis.

Policy:

Backcountry cabins for general hike-in use is a recognized form of accommodation in the system.

- They are recognized in Management Groups C and F.
- They are not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

Backcountry cabin accommodation may be provided in Management Group C and, to support recreation corridors, in Management Group F. This specialized facility is only appropriate in a limited range of locations. Privatization of this type of accommodation would be considered.

Activity Area: Fixed Roof Accommodation

Topic: Hostels/Dormitory Accommodation

Definition:

Rudimentary accommodation supplying bunks, a central eating area and a group meeting room with possibly house parent accommodation in the structure.

Policy:

Hostels and dormitory accommodation are recognized forms of accommodation in the system.

- They are recognized in Management Group C.
- They are recognized in Management Groups D through F where the units are staging areas for dispersed recreation.
- They are not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

Hostels will not be constructed by the Department. This type of accommodation may be permitted in Management Group C through F when constructed and operated by a service agency on lands leased from the Department. Hostel/Dormitory accommodation for visitors may be developed by the Department, if service agencies are not able or willing, to support specialized park programs in those areas with a major commitment to intensive use programs such as Environmental Education. The type of accommodation must be appropriate to the programming objectives for heritage appreciation and expanded access to the recreation opportunities of the area.

Activity Area: Fixed Roof Accommodation

Topic: Service Agency Group Camps

Definition:

Group camps developed by a non-profit agency on leased lands with fixed roof accommodation (lodges or cabins) available to support appropriate department programs.

Policy:

Leasing of lands for service agency group camps is a recognized use of lands in the system.

- It is recognized in Management Groups C through E.
- It is not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

Leases may be granted in Management Groups C through E when they both contribute to the programming intent of the unit and are environmentally acceptable. The facility must be available for the use of other public groups when not used by the lessee. The lessee's facilities must be open to a broad segment of the population and compatable with public program needs.

Activity Area: Fixed Roof Accommodation

Topic: Primitive Rental Cabins

Definition:

Small, semi-serviced, minimally furnished cabins available for overnight use to parties not equipped or desiring to camp. Users supply their own bedding, cooking pots, dishes and utensils.

Policy:

Primitive rental cabins are a recognized form of accommodation in the system.

- They are acceptable in Management Groups C through E.
- They are not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

The Department may construct and operate primitive rental cabins in Management Groups C through E. These facilities extend the season of use and increase the accessibility of the resources to users who are not campers. This type of facility could be constructed and/or operated privately on lands leased for this purpose.

Activity Area: Fixed Roof Accommodation

Topic: Motels/Cabins

Definition:

Accommodation operated by a private individual or firm on lands leased from the Department for that purpose.

Policy:

Motels are a recognized form of accommodation in the system.

- They are recognized in Management Groups C and D.
- They are not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

Lands may be made available to be leased for privately constructed and operated motel or cabin developments in Management Groups C and D where they support destination-oriented facilities in the development, extend the season of use, are aesthetically integrated into their surroundings, and do not unfairly compete with established private enterprise in the area. As an alternative, the department may construct this type of development and lease the operation.

Activity Area: Fixed Roof Accommodation

Topic: Resort Complexes

Definition:

Major developments which include accommodation and possibly highly developed associated recreation facilities such as tennis courts, golf courses, entertainment lounges, indoor pools, etc.

Policy:

Resort complexes are a recognized form of accommodation and recreation in the system.

- They are recognized in Management Groups C and D.
- They are not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

Privately constructed and operated resort complexes may be approved in Management Groups C and D on lands leased for this purpose where they are designed and constructed to support on-site or off-site recreation programming and they are aesthetically integrated into their surroundings. In Management Group C, the development must both contribute to the programming intent of the unit and be environmentally acceptable.

Activity Area: Fixed Roof Accommodation

Topic: Private Cottages

Definition:

Privately owned cottages on leased lots in Alberta Recreation and Parks administered land holdings.

Policy:

Exclusive use of lands in the system is not permitted. Since private cottages provide exclusive use, they are not a compatable land use in the system.

Program Direction:

It is the Department's long term direction to eliminate private cottage developments, thoughout the system. Existing private cottage subdivisions, will be permitted to remain until there is a public recreation requirement for the land. Where necessary, to reduce conflicts for recreation land use, existing cottage developments may be consolidated.

Activity Area: Commercial Services

Topic: Food Services, Grocery and Convenience Goods Outlets

Definition:

Retail outlets offering food services, groceries, convenience goods and/or recreation supplies.

Policy:

Food services, snack bars, restaurants, grocery and convenience goods outlets are desirable services in the system.

- They are desirable in Management Groups C through E.
- They are not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

Private developers/operators may provide these services in Management Groups C through E where demand makes the enterprise feasible and this does not conflict with established private development in the vicinity. Where sufficient demand has not previously been demonstrated, the Department will only consider approval of mobile services. In Management Group C, the development must both contribute to the programming intent of the unit and be environmentally acceptable.

Activity Area: Commercial Services

Topic: Recreation Equipment Rental and Commercial Recreation Services

Definition:

Including both facilities renting one or more forms of recreation equipment and a private operator or social agency offering instruction in a recreation activity (i.e., canoeing) or selling a recreation activity as a service (e.g., hot air ballooning).

Policy:

Rentals for recreation equipment and supplying commercial recreation services are recognized services in the system.

- They are recognized in Management Group C, D, and E.
- They are not permitted in Management Groups A and B.

Program Direction:

These services will be permitted where feasible and where this does not conflict with established private operators in the vicinity. Major infrastructure may be considered if costs are fully borne by a private developer. In Management Group C, the development must both contribute to the programming intent of the unit and be environmentally acceptable.

SUMMARY CHART ILLUSTRATING
THE PROGRAM POLICY DIRECTIONS
FOR EACH MANAGEMENT GROUP CLASS

ACTIVITY GROUP	POLICY TOPIC AREA	MANAGEMENT GROUP						
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Picnicking	Picnicking	P	P	D	D	D	D	D
Beaches and Swimming	Beaches and Swimming	P	P	D	D	D	D	P
Boating and Fishing	Boating	P/NP[1]	P[1]	R	R	R	R	R
	Fishing	NP	NP	D	D	D	D	D
Dispersed Recreation	Foot Trails - Hiking and Walking	P	P	D	D	D	D	D
	Foot Trails - Cross-Country Skiing	P	P	D	D	D	D	P
	Equestrian Use	NP	NP	R	R	R	R	R
	Hunting	NP	NP	NP	R	R	R	-
Sports	Bicycling	NP	NP	R	R	R	R	R
	All Terrain Vehicles	NP	NP	NP	R	R	R	R
	Snowmobiling	NP	NP	NP	R	R	R	R
	Field Games	NP	NP	D/R[2]	D/R[2]	D	D	P
	Court Games	NP	NP	D	D/R[2]	D	D	P
	Downhill Skiing	NP	NP	R	R	-	-	-
	Special Events	NP	NP	R	R	R	R	R
	Golf Courses	NP	NP	R	R	R	-	-
	High Risk Sports	NP	NP	R	R	-	-	-
Camping	Auto Access	NP	NP	D	D	D	D	D
	Walk-in/Boat-in	P	NP	D	R	R	R	-
Group Use	Group Use	P	NP	R	R	R	R	R
Fixed Roof Accommodation	Backcountry Cabins	NP	NP	R	-	-	R	-
	Hostels/Dormitory Accommodation	NP	NP	R	R	R	R	-
	Service Agency Group Camps	NP	NP	R	R	R	-	-
	Primitive Rental Cabins	NP	NP	R	R	R	-	-
	Motels/Cabins	NP	NP	R	R	-	-	-
	Resort Complexes	NP	NP	R	R	-	-	-
	Private Cottages	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Commerical Services	Food Services	NP	NP	D	D	D	-	-
	Recreation Rentals/Services	NP	NP	R	R	R	-	-

[1]Motorized boating is not permitted in Management Group A and permitted on designated routes in Management Group B.

[2]Highly developed field and court games are recognized activities for these management groups.

D - desirable
R - recognized
P - permitted
NP - not permitted
\- - not applicable

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Modifications to "Guidelines for Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Parks and Recreation Areas" required to allow the matrix to correspond to both the existing legislation and Program Policies.

Management Group	Activity	Existing Wording	Recommended Wording	Explanation
Ecological Reserves	Beaches & Swimming	- not permitted	- no facilities	The activity is permitted in legislation and policy
Ecological Reserves	Boating & Fishing	- non power boating	- boating permitted without facilities	The legislation only restricts power boating to designated routes.
		- no facilities	- power boating restricted to designated routes	
		- no fishing	- no fishing	
Parks	Fixed Roof Accommodation	- primitive shelters, rental cabins, cottages, rustic motels	- variety of service levels from primitive shelters to resorts as appropriate	Program Policies allow resort development in Parks where appropriate.
All	Food Services		new title - Commercial Services	Also incorporates rental concessions etc.
Parks	Commercial Services	- restaurants and grocery stores	- restaurants, grocery stores, recreation rentals and facilities	expands scope
Category I R.A.	Commercial Services	- restaurants, lounges - retail outlets	- restaurants, lounges, retail outlets, recreation rentals and facilities	expands scope
Category II R.A.	Commercial Services	- mobile fast food and groceries	- mobile fast food and groceries, recreation rentals	expands scope

MODIFICATIONS

GUIDELINES FOR WILDERNESS AREAS, ECOLOGICAL RESERVES, PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

	WILDERNESS AREAS	ECOLOGICAL RESERVES	PARKS	RECREATION AREAS			
				CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3	CATEGORY 4
int	-to protect areas of natural beauty and primeval character from impairment by industrial development or occupation by man -to afford the opportunity for user isolation, challenge, and solitude in a natural, undisturbed setting	-to prevent the loss of organisms within the province and preserve the genetic resources of plants and animals so that unaltered gene pools of maximum diversity provide a broad base for research and development. -to preserve a significant part of Alberta's natural heritage for nature appreciation and environmental education	-to maintain provincially significant natural landscapes of adequate size throughout the province to permit the user to experience recreation opportunities in a natural or near natural setting -to provide compatible ammenities and intensive recreation opportunities that encourage long stay destinations and contribute to travel & tourism -to contribute to the public understanding and appreciation of and respect for the natural and cultural heritage of Alberta through programs of interpretation and environmental education	-to develop high quality recreation facilities, services and infrastructure for a wide variety of intensive outdoor activities that encourage long term destination use. -to provide for a variety of dispersed recreation activities within a management unit established primarily for recreation purposes. -to provide opportunities that encourage and permit the development of specialized facilities -to facilitate the development of a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in urban settings.	-to provide medium scale campgrounds and associated facilities to accomodate visitors while accessing recreation opportunities. -to provide medium serviced recreation facilities in areas of high demand where resources are not capable of category 1 development	-to provide small scale facilities for recreation opportunities, possibly off site.	to provide small scale day use and overnight rest stops
nicking	-no facilities	-no facilities	-variable - small -low serviced to large fully serviced -fires permitted -shelters	-100 units -fully serviced -fires permitted -shelters	-50-100 units -medium serviced -fires permitted -shelters	-20-50 units -low service -fires permitted -shelters	-less than 20 units -low service -fires permitted -shelters
aches & imming	-no facilities or improvements	-not permitted	-improved, fully serviced -no created water bodies	-highly developed -fully serviced -water bodies may be created for swimming	-developed -medium service	-access provided -undeveloped -no services	-not provided
ating & hing	-non powerboating -no facilities -no fishing	-non power boating -no facilities -no fishing	-ramps, docks, launches, boat rentals, fishing	-fully serviced marinas	-ramps, docks, launches boat rentals	-single ramp or hand launches	-not provided
ispersed creation	-no facilities -foot travel only	-no facilities -foot travel only	-medium to highly developed -non-mechanized trails and associated facilities	-highly developed trails (mechanized & non-mechanized) and fully serviced facilities	-medium developed trails (mechanized & non-mechanized) and associated facilities	-low developed trails (mechanized & non-mechanized) and associated facilities	-not provided
orts	-not permitted	-not permitted	-medium level where comparable with resource and experience -no snowmobiles/A.T.V.'s	-highly developed -may include ski hills, golf courses, snowmobiles/A.T.V.s	-medium level may include rinks, ball diamonds, rodeo grounds	-low level may include ball fields, toboggan hills, and horseshoe pits	-not provided
mping	-primitive -non-facility	-not permitted	-variable - small -low service to large fully serviced designated sites or stalls -fires permitted -variable length of stay	-more than 150 units -fully serviced -designated stalls -fires permitted -variable stay	-50-150 units -medium serviced -designated sites -fires permitted -1-7 nights	-less than 50 units -low service -undesignated sites -fires permitted -1-4 nights	less than 50 units -minimal service -undesignated sites -fires permitted -one night stopovers
oup Use	-no facilities	-not permitted	-separate facilities -medium to fully serviced	-separate facilities -fully serviced	-separate facilities -medium service	-accomodated in camping and picnic areas	accomodated in camping and picnic areas
ed Roof ccomodation	-not permitted	-not permitted	-primitive shelters, rental cabins, cottages, rustic motels	-fully serviced -hotels, motels, cottages, chalets	-private and rental cottages cabins	-primitive shelters	not provided
od rvices	-not permitted	-not permitted	-restaurants and grocery stores	-restaurants, lounges -retail outlets	-mobile fast food and groceries	-not provided	-not provided
sitor rvices	-minimal information/ orientation services -minimal interpretation services -no environmental education -no recreation management services	-minimal information/ orientation services -variable interpretation services normally of low level -variable E.E. services normally of low level -no recreation management services	-variable levels of information/ orientation services -medium to high level of interpretation services -medium to high level of E.E. services -variable levels of recreation management services	-variable levels of information/ orientation services -variable levels of interpretation -variable levels of E.E. -high to medium level of recreation management services	-medium to low level of information/orientation services -low to minimal interpretation -low to minimal E.E. -medium to low level of recreation managment services	-low to minimal information/ orientation services -no interpretation -no environmental education minimal or no recreation management services	-minimal information/ orientation service -no interpretation -no environmental education -no recreation management
trol Services	-minimal standard	Minimal standard in undeveloped areas -medium to high standard in areas with interpretive facilities -emphasis on resource protection	-medium to high standard -emphasis on resource protection and public safety	-high standard	-medium to low standard	-low to minimal standard	-low to minimal standard
esource anagement	-minimal standard	-high standard	-medium to high standard depending upon resource significance and condition	-minimum to medium standard based on resource condition	-minimum to medium standard based on resource condition	-minimal standard	-minimal standard
uilding aintenance	-not applicable	-high standard for any interpretive structures -not applicable in actual reserve area	-medium to high based on use intensity	-high based on use intensity	-low to medium based on use intensity	-low standard	-low standard
ite aintenance	-not applicable	-not applicable	-medium to high standard based on use intensity	-high standard based on use intensity	-low to medium standard based on use intensity	-low standard	-low standard

These are norms that may be found in each category. All activities, however, will not necessarily be found in each area.
A level 1, 2 or 3 recreation area may include one or more nodes at a lower level of development.
Where the term variable is used the actual level will be determined by demand and facilities.

Volume I - Introduction and Standard Volume References Index

Introduction .....

Management Group A .....
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- Intent .....
- Development Guidelines .....
- Operation Guidelines .....

Management Group B .....
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- Intent .....
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Management Group F .....
Purpose .....
Intent .....
Development Guidelines .....
Operation Guidelines .....

Management Group G .....
Purpose .....
Intent .....
Development Guidelines .....
Operation Guidelines .....

Appendix 1 Management Group Classification of Alberta Recreation and Parks Developments

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Recreation and Parks develops and manages a variety of facilities in the Province of Alberta meeting both conservation and recreation mandates. Due to the variety of functions which these developments are designed to serve, to meet the varied needs of the people of Alberta, the Department has classified these developments into seven Management Groups.

Management Group A is managed within the intent of the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act. It is dedicated to a preservation function and is comprised of lands which: i) are suitable for scientific research associated with studies of natural ecosystems, ii) are representative examples of natural ecosystems that have been modified by man and that offer an opportunity to study the recovery of the ecosystem from the modifications, iv) contain rare or endangered native plants animals that should be preserved, or v) contain unique or rare examples of natural biological or physical features. Operating and management standards are developed to be consistent with these intents.

Management Group B is managed within the intent of the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act. These areas are dedicated to dispersed non-mechanized recreation. Operating and management standards are designed to reflect these purposes.

Management Group C is developed and operated within the requirements and intent of the Provincial Parks Act. These areas are designed to maintain provincially significant natural landscapes of adequate size throughout the province to permit the user to experience recreation opportunities in a natural or near natural setting. They also contribute to public understanding, appreciation and respect for the natural and cultural heritage of Alberta and provide compatible amenities and intensive recreation opportunities that encourage long stay destination travel and contribute to travel and tourism in Alberta.

Management Groups D through G are developed and managed to provide a broad range of outdoor recreation activities in natural or man-made settings. Each group has a slightly different focus and function and is directed at slightly different recreation user markets.

Each of the preceding seven management groups has a different intent and each is designed to serve a different function. Towards these ends Planning, Design and Operation standards have been developed which incorporate this need for flexibility in both development and management.

This document outlines the Purpose, Intent and Guidelines under which each of the development groups will be developed and managed. As well, the document references the Planning Standards, Design Guidelines and Operations Standards appropriate to each development group.

Planning Standards are used to guide planning for new developments, redevelopment and reconstruction. Planning Standards are quantifiable parameters which define consistent levels of service or development for similar activities across the system. This definition of level of service guides the type, quality, quantity and accessibility of facilities provided to support the outdoor recreation activities taking place in all developments administered by the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Planning Standards outlined the facility package to be provided and operated to support a particular activity. A consistent package is outlined for each activity but, at the same time, these facility packages have enough inherent flexibility to allow variation of levels of service accounting for:

i) the development category;
ii) the market served by the development;
iii) the intensity of recreation use; and
iv) the scale of development.

Design Guidelines expand on Planning Standards, outline facilities and developments in a spatial context and lead the user through the series of manuals, plans, details and specifications employed in the development of working drawings for facility construction.

Operating Standards are developed to guide operation and maintenance of facilities after the completion of construction. The Operation Standards Manual develops standards and levels of service which vary depending on Management Group and use levels for all of the operating and maintenance functions of Alberta Recreation and Parks administered developments.

The following document is divided into seven sections, one for each group. Each section outlines the Purpose of that group and the Intent for the individual units included in the group. This is followed by a series of Development Guidelines for developments taking place in that category. The Guidelines are organized by Program: Picnicking, Camping, Support Services, etc. For each Program, the Guidelines may outline level of service, size range or development intensity. These guidelines are expanded into Program Policies which direct the inclusion of the particular program in the development group being considered. The Program Policies, the principles under which development is planned, determine what Planning Standards Activities are appropriate in the development group. A list of the appropriate Planning Standards Activities with page references for the Planning Standards and Design Guidelines Manuals completes each program description. This is followed by the Operating Guidelines for the group. Operating Guidelines include Operating Policies followed by a list of the appropriate Operating Standards with page reference for the Operation Standards Manual.

Management Group F

Purpose: To provide, in natural or man-made settings, opportunities for a broad range of outdoor recreation activities.

Intent: To provide small scale facilities for recreation opportunities, possibly off-site.

Development Guidelines

Program: Picnicking

Guideline: 20 to 50 units, low service, fires permitted, shelters

Program Policy:
- Dual use picnic/camping areas normally provided
- Walk-in picnic areas may be provided where site constraints otherwise inhibit access to the recreation resource
- Primitive opportunities may be provided only to service a recreation corridor

Standard Activity Index	Planning Standard	Design Guidelines
110 Walk-in Picnicking	V. II p. 33	V. III p. 68
120 Rest Stop Picnicking	V. II p. 37	V. III p. 69
130 Primitive Picnicking	V. II p. 39	V. III p. 70

Program: Boating and Fishing

Guideline: Single ramp or hand launches

Program Policy:
- Access for motorized boating and sailing opportunities will normally be provided wherever an adequate resource exists
- Non-motorized boating will be permitted
- Fishing activities will normally be facilitated wherever an adequate resource exists
- Fisheries may be managed to operate on a sustained yield basis
- Waterbodies may be manipulated
- Stocking may be considered where there are no unacceptable environmental consequences
- Put and take fisheries may be provided where economically feasible

Standard Activity Index	Planning Standard	Design Guidelines
310 Motorized Boating	V. II p. 51	V. III p. 81
321 Sailing	V. II p. 55	V. III p. 84
322 Canoeing/Kayaking	V. II p. 57	V. III p. 85
330 Boat Fishing	V. II p. 63	V. III p. 86
340 Shore Fishing	V. II p. 66	V. III p. 88

Program: Camping

Guideline: Less than 50 units, low service, designated sites, fires permitted, 1-4 nights

Program Policy:
- Small recreation campgrounds are normally provided
- Highway stopover campgrounds may be provided where the market is limited
- Primitive campsites may be provided only to service a recreation corridor

Standard Activity Index	Planning Standard	Design Guidelines
615 Small Recreation Campground	V. II p. 143	V. III p. 96
616 Highway Stopover	V. II p. 150	V. III p. 98
631 Hike-in	V. II p. 172	V. III p. 109
632 Primitive Boat-in	V. II p. 174	V. III p. 111

Operation Guidelines

Program:	Building Maintenance
Guideline:	Building maintenance services will be provided in all Management Group F areas in response to visitor use patterns and the specific maintenance requirements of buildings found in these areas
Program Policy:	The frequency of building maintenance in Management Group F areas during the operating season(s) will normally range from a minimum of once weekly (Standard D) in areas experiencing low vistation, to a maximum of daily (Standard B) in areas experiencing heavy visitation

Operations and Maintenance Standards Manual Reference

10.0 Building Maintenance	Vault Toilet Buildings V. XIV p. 61
	Picnic Shelters V. XIV p. 73

Program: Garbage Management

Guideline: Garbage collection services will be provided in all Management Group F areas

Program Policy: The frequency of garbage collection in Management Group F areas during the operating season(s) will range from a minimum of once weekly (Standard D) in areas experiencing low visitation, to a maximum of three times per week (Standard B) in areas experiencing heavy visitation

Operations and Maintenance Standards Manual Reference

9.0 Garbage Management Standards	Garbage Can Stands V. XIV p. 97
	Mechanized Containers V. XIV p. 99
	Fish Cleaning Stands V. SIV p. 103

Program: Site Maintenance

Guideline: Site maintenance services will be provided in campgrounds and day use facilities in Management Group F areas

Program Policy: The frequency of site maintenance in Management Group F areas in the operating season(s) will normally range from a minimum of once weekly (Standard D) in areas experiencing low visitation, to a maximum of three times per week (Standard B) in areas experiencing heavy visitation

Operations and Maintenance Standards Manual Reference

11.0 Site Maintenance Standards V. XIV p. 211

Program: Boat Launch Maintenance

Guideline: Boat launch areas in all Management Group F areas will be maintained at levels appropriate to the use of these facilities

Program Policy: The frequency of boat launch servicing in Management Group F areas during the operating season(s) will normally range from a minimum of once weekly (Standard D) in areas experiencing low visitation, to a maximum of three times per week (Standard B) in areas experiencing heavy visitation

Operations and Maintenance Standards Manual Reference

13.0 Boat Launch Maintenance Standards V. XIV p. 223

Appendix 1 Management Group Classification of Alberta Recreation and Parks Developments

Management Group 'F'

(Small Destination Recreation Sites and Access Points)

Big Hill Springs	+
Little Fish Lake	+
O'Brien	+
Taber	+
Bragg Creek	+
Gooseberry Lake	+
Queen Elizabeth	+
Bragg Creek West	*
North Fork	*
Bonnie Lake	
Fork Lake	
Highwood River	*
Emerson Bridge	
McKenzie Crossing	
Mt. Lorette Ponds	*
Driftwood	*
Fisher Creek	*
Porcupine Creek	*
Quirk Creek	*
Bleriot Ferry	
Eastbourne	
Birch Bay	
Dunvegan	
Sun Haven	
Moore Lake East	
Twin Lakes	
Long Prairie	*
Stony Creek	*
Cat Creek	*
Muriel Lake	
Ghost Reservoir	*
Sentinel	*
Lac des Arcs	*

Indian Graves	*
Heart Creek	*
Jumpinpound Creek	*
Lower Mann Lake	
Moose Lake	*
Mallaig Beach	
Tay River	
Fallen Timber Creek	
Spray	*
Sheep River	*
Wasootch Creek	*
Pine Grove	*
James River Bridge	
Spray Lakes	*
Galatea	*
Three Sisters	*
Lusk Creek	*
Fir Creek	*
Bow River	*
Sibbald Viewpoint	*
Picklejar Creek	*
Ribbon Falls	*
Owl River	
Tolman Bridge	
Roadapple	*
Mist Creek	*
Lineham	*
Sibbald Meadow	*
Pine Top	*
Grotto Mountain	*
Raven	
Castle River	
Junction Creek	*
Indian Oils	*
Missing Link	*
Karst	*
Trout Ponds	*

Lantern Creek	*
Fitzsimmons Creek	*
Eyrie Gap	*
Ribbon Lake	*
Crane Meadow	*
Kehiwin Lake	
Mississawi Lake	

+ Established as a Provincial Park

* Node within Kananaskis Country