TERMS OF REFERENCE [redacted]

CLENDINNING PROVINCIAL PARK

Project Name: Clendinning Provincial Park Management Direction Statement

Originating Office: Environmental Stewardship, Lower Mainland Region, Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection

Purpose: To develop a Management Direction Statement (MDS) for Clendinning Provincial Park.

Project objectives are:

- To identify the role this protected area will play within the BC Protected Areas System, define the long-term vision for this protected area, and establish a zoning plan for effective management within the protected area.
- To identify management objectives and strategies for the protection of natural and cultural values and the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities.
- To involve First Nations, local communities and stakeholders in the development of this management direction, and in the development of long-term management strategies for this protected area.
- To determine the role of First Nations, public stakeholders, and other organizations in the ongoing implementation of the management direction and, as appropriate, in the delivery of management objectives in cooperation with Environmental Stewardship.

Scope of Study:

In 1996, as part of the Protected Areas Strategy, the government accepted the recommendations of the Lower Mainland Regional Public Advisory Committee to designate the Clendinning as a provincial park. Clendinning Provincial Park was established as a 30,330 hectare park on December 9, 1998.

For several previous years, a great deal of media attention was focused on an area that the Western Canada Wilderness committee refers to as the Randy Stoltman Wilderness Area. This area comprises approximately 260,000 hectares and includes the upper Elaho River, the Upper Lillooet River, and Clendinning Creek drainages. The area was never formally considered as a study area under the Protected Areas Strategy, however, Clendinning Park and the 19,996 hectare Upper Lillooet Park, designated in 1997, both lie within the Stoltman Wilderness Area.

A Management Direction Statement has been developed for Upper Lillooet Park. In addition, the Squamish Nation has developed a draft Land Use Plan for their Traditional Territory, which includes the Clendinning area. It is important to add a long-term direction for Clendinning Park, to clarify the role of this protected area within the Elaho and Squamish River systems, and the provincial system of protected areas. With input from First Nations and other stakeholders and the public, an MDS will provide the interim direction to ensure natural, cultural and recreational values are considered. A full management plan may be developed in the future, as time and/or new issues require.

Planning Issues:

Clendinning Park is a relatively isolated, pristine area that currently does not experience high levels of visitation or external pressures. However, a number of planning issues need to be addressed for the long-term future of Clendinning Park:

Adjacent Land Use

Adjacent development activities have potential to affect park values or to be affected by park activities. These include:

- Future forest management, within TFL 38, particularly in the upper Elaho, and Sims Creek drainages;
- Commercial and public recreation activities.

Conservation Management

The Clendinning watershed is the only protected area in the Elaho drainage. Its old-growth habitat and ecosystem offers protection and refuge for a wide variety of wildlife species that are dependant on large, undeveloped, undisturbed land bases. Issues to be considered include:

- Protection of coastal old-growth forest ecosystem
- Protection of sensitive riparian vegetation
- Protection of critical wildlife habitat, including moose, grizzly and black bear, goat, wolverine, and other species
- Presence of rare and sensitive plant communities

Cultural Values

Clendinning Park is located within the traditional territory of the Squamish First Nation. Natural, spiritual and cultural values are of significant value to the Squamish people and may exist within the park boundaries. The Squamish Nation has produced a Land Use Plan for their traditional territory, which identifies "Wild Spirit Places" including two that

are immediately adjacent to the park boundary. In addition, there may be non-native cultural values that should be protected. Therefore, in order to address the cultural issues:

- Additional knowledge and understanding of the cultural and archaeological values of the protected area is required.
- Strategies to ensure protection of the cultural values is required, and must be developed in conjunction with the Squamish Nation.

Recreation Management and Facilities

There is currently no developed access into Clendinning Park, and no developed facilities or recreational amenities. There may be significant backcountry recreation opportunities, but this must be considered within the context of protecting the park's natural attributes. Recreational use could create significant impacts on certain wildlife populations. The MDS must consider:

- Appropriateness of facilities or recreational developments;
- Management of impacts of recreation on a currently undisturbed ecosystem;
- Implications of access for outdoor recreation opportunities, including mechanized access, road access, and trails.

Public Knowledge

Due to the relative remoteness and subsequent low visitation to this protected area, there is a lack of public knowledge regarding its values and its role within the protected areas system. The MDS will address:

- Development of long-term public understanding and support for the direction and management of this protected area;
- Increase knowledge of protected area management strategies, goals and policies and ensure an adequate level of public information exists.

Public Involvement Process

Separate discussions will be held with the Squamish First Nation. Additional input will be sought from the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and other stakeholders at an information meeting in November of 2002. These discussions will be used to determine the need for additional meetings with various stakeholder groups, and the extent of public involvement required for the management planning process. As well, the discussions will seek to identify the issues of importance to the communities and stakeholders. Key stakeholders may include, but not be limited to:

- Squamish Nation
- Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD)
- International Forest Products (Interfor)
- Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC)
- Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) / BC Mountaineering Club (BCMC)
- BC Snowmobile Federation
- Squamish and Whistler Chambers of Commerce

Following the meetings and consultations in November and early December, a public process will be developed and implemented and will result in the completion of a draft management direction statement. The draft MDS will then be available for public review through local libraries and over the BC Parks Internet official web site.

Other Agency Involvement

Other agencies will have an opportunity to provide information and review a draft copy of the MDS.

First Nations Consultation and Involvement

Consultation and involvement of the Squamish Nation will be determined through preliminary discussions with the First Nation. Further information regarding traditional use and important cultural areas, as presented in their recent draft Land Use Plan, will be incorporated into the management of the park and be reflected in the management direction statement. The plan will be available directly to the Squamish Nation for their review and comment.

Project Team

The following staff will direct and coordinate the Management Direction Statement preparation:

Vicki Haberl	Special Projects Coordinator
Tom Bell	Planning Officer (Advisor)

As well, the following Environmental Stewardship staff will contribute to the plan:

Heather Gorrell	Squamish Area Supervisor
Steve Rochetta	Forest Ecosystems Specialist
Tom Blackbird	Ecosystem Specialist
John Tisdale	Recreation Officer

Other Environmental Stewardship, Lower Mainland Region and Headquarters Staff will also undertake review of the draft MDS and may provide expertise in developing portions of the plan.

Project Schedule	**Completion Date**
1. MDS Terms of Reference Approval	October 31, 2002
2. Initial consultations with Squamish First Nation	November, 2002
3. Initial stakeholder information meetings	November and December, 2002
4. Continued First Nation consultation on traditional use, values and management strategies within the protected area	Ongoing
5. Continued input on management issues from other stakeholders	January
6. Complete Draft MDS	March, 2003
7. Conduct public open house and/or meetings to review draft	March, 2003
8. Input/revisions on draft MDS	Completed by June, 2003
9. Submit MDS for approval	July, 2003

Approved:

Brian Clark
Regional Manager, Environmental Stewardship

Nov 13/02
Date