

Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Area F

Pulpit Rock Access Regional Park Purpose and Operations Statement





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PULPIT ROCK ACCESS REGIONAL PARK PURPOSE AND OPERATIONS STATEMENT

Introduction and Background

This Purpose and Operations Statement (POS) will guide the management of Pulpit Rock Access Regional Park into the foreseeable future.

Pulpit Rock Access Regional Park was established in 2008 through subdivision from the adjacent parcel, for the purpose of ensuring access to the Pulpit Rock Trail Network (Map 3). The 0.09 ha (0.23 ac) park is vacant with the exception of a 70m portion of heavily used public recreation trail. The trailhead and first 35m of trail is on Johnstone Road right-of-way, and is managed by the RDCK through an access permit issued by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. The majority (1.7km) of the Pulpit Rock Trail Network is on Crown land.

*Park Legal: Lot A, District Lot 393, Plan NEP88612
Owner: Regional District of Central Kootenay*

The Pulpit Rock Trail Network is a Provincially established¹ public recreational trail that is used extensively in the non-snow months by both locals and tourists. It is easily accessible from the City of Nelson and offers a short but steep 1.8km walk to a rock bluff overlooking the city and surrounding area. The trailhead is along Johnstone Road on the north side of the West Arm of Kootenay Lake, adjacent to the City of Nelson.

The park was established to ensure access to the Pulpit Rock Trail Network. The former location of the initial portions of the trail were on private land, where the landowner informally granted access to the public. A subsequent landowner refused public access in 2008 and the trail was closed for a period of time in order to establish more permanent access. This resulted in the establishment of the Friends of Pulpit Rock Society, with the RDCK Director at the time, Al Dawson, jointly organizing the purchase of what is now the Pulpit Rock Access Regional Park.



The Pulpit Rock Trail has been used historically since the 1800s both for mining access and for public recreational use. The trail was developed more extensively in the 1980s when the Chamber of Commerce organized the construction of a new gentler route, from the old steep goat trail that was previously used².

¹ Recreation maintenance and development activities may occur only at recreation sites and trails established under Section 56 or at trails and recreation facilities authorized under Section 57 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.

² www.pulpitrocknelson.com

This POS provides the direction for the priority management and development of Pulpit Rock Access Regional Park. Implementation of this POS is of an operational nature, with follow-through on an as-needed basis and dependent on the availability of financial and staffing capacity.

Pulpit Rock Trail Network

Although the park only consists of a small percentage of the overall trail network, it is important to note that it provides the only legal gateway to the Pulpit Rock Trail Network, consisting of the following trails (see Map 3):

1. Pulpit Rock Lookout: a 1.8 km trail which is the primary destination of most hikers.
2. The Flagpole: consists of two additional trails (original and newer trails), one 0.9km and the other 1.1 km from the Pulpit Lookout.
3. CBC microwave tower (height of land): a 3.3km trail up from The Flagpole.
4. Birch Grove Trail: a 0.9 km spur that links the Pulpit Lookout to the power line right-of-way and the CBC road. To minimize trespass incidents, this trail is not shown on the trailhead map. NOTE: the Birch Grove trail is important for providing Search and Rescue personal with access to the CBC road. This non-gazetted road is a 4-wheel drive road generally unplowed and vehicle accessible in snow free conditions. The Birch Grove Trail has been used to evacuate injured people from the Pulpit Lookout via stretcher to the CBC Road.

Pulpit Rock Trail Network infrastructure includes a parking area, bike rack, information kiosk, new trail through the RDCK park, and well established trail network on Crown lands.

Friends of Pulpit Rock Society

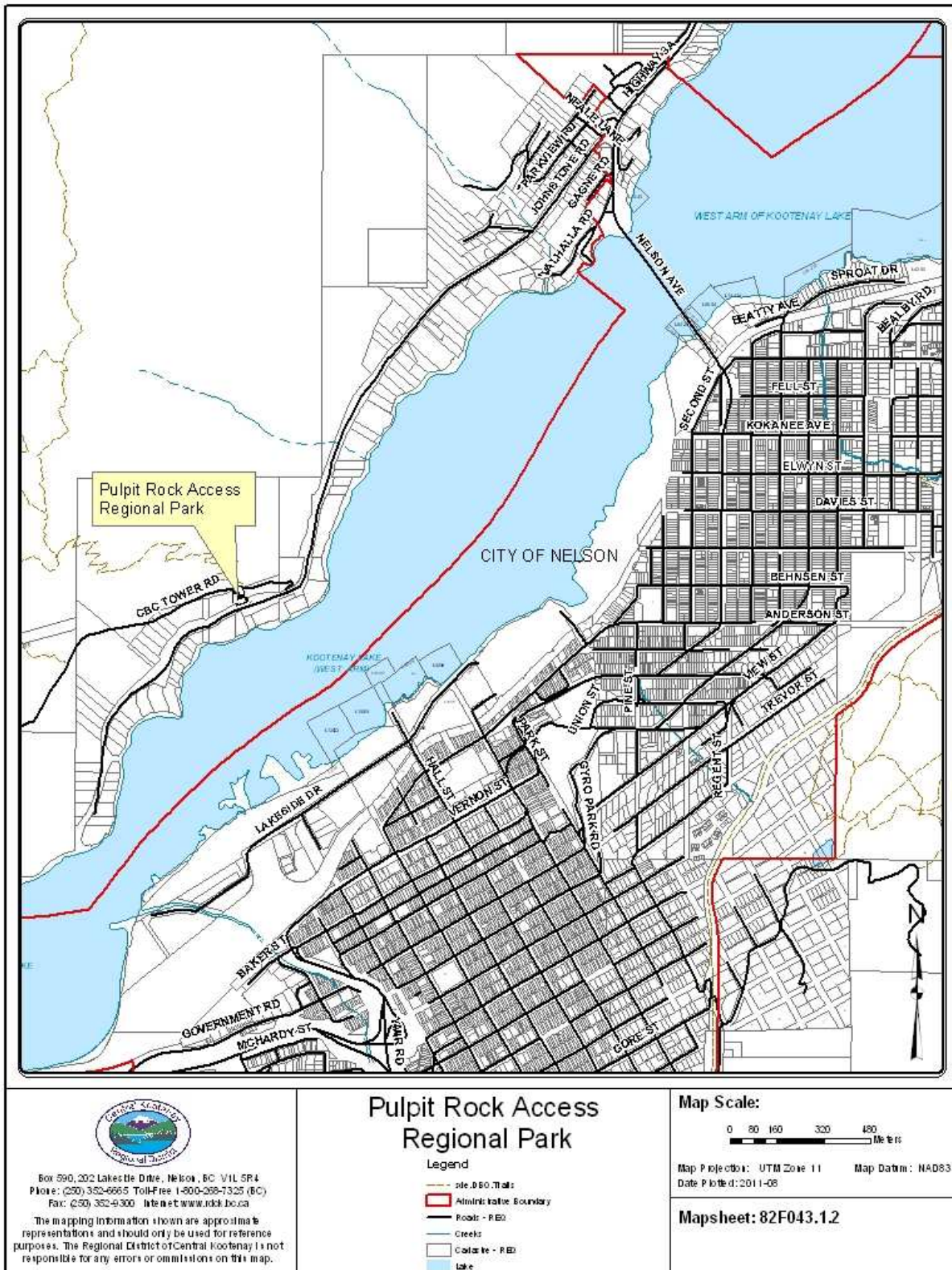
FPRS is a provincially registered non-profit society, formed in 2008 to ensure permanent public access to Pulpit Rock and higher on Mt. Nelson (Elephant Mtn). The Society is not appointed by the RDCK Board, however the Area F Director in 2008, Al Dawson, was instrumental in facilitating their cause. The Society has successfully raised more than \$70,000 through grants and private donations, which have been used for land acquisition and trail infrastructure development. FPRS has also worked with Selkirk College and the Forest Service Wildfire Initial Attack crews for trail assessment, maintenance and upgrading. The Society has also developed multi-year plans for further trail upgrades and development and is actively exploring grant options. As an established and successful non-profit society, FPRS seeks to obtain matching funding using the Pulpit Rock Trust Fund and government allowances as multipliers. FPRS seeks to formalize a Stewardship Agreement with RDCK, through which the Society anticipates an even stronger trail system on Mt. Nelson, at minimal cost to the RDCK.

In the future, the FPRS plans to explore other granting agencies to fund capital projects e.g. The Mountain Equipment Coop Environmental Grant, Nelson Credit Union grants. With matching seed money from various levels of government and the Pulpit Rock Trust Fund, direct costs can be shared and minimized.

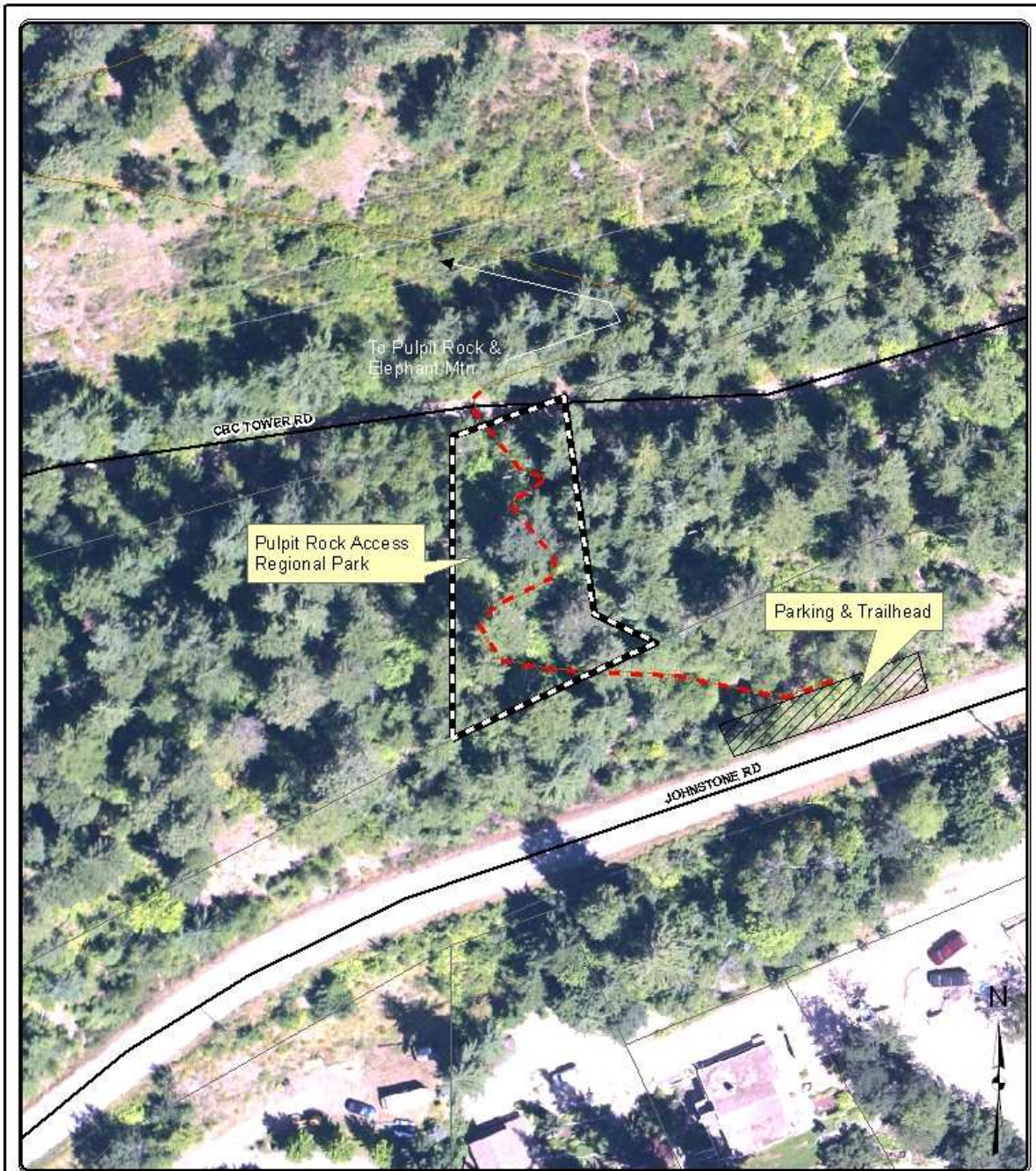
Park Purpose

Pulpit Rock Access Regional Park serves as a local day use recreation area for locals and tourists alike. It's primary purpose is to establish access to the Pulpit Rock Trail Network from Johnstone Road.

Map 1: Park Location



Map 2 Site Plan



Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4
 Phone: (250) 352-6665 Toll-Free 1-800-268-7325 (BC)
 Fax: (250) 352-9300 Internet: www.rdkc.bc.ca

The mapping information shown are approximate representations and should only be used for reference purposes. The Regional District of Central Kootenay is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map.

Pulpit Rock Access Regional Park

- Legend
- Site BBO Trails
 - Administrative Boundary
 - Roads - P.E.D.
 - Creeks
 - Cottage - P.E.D.
 - Lake

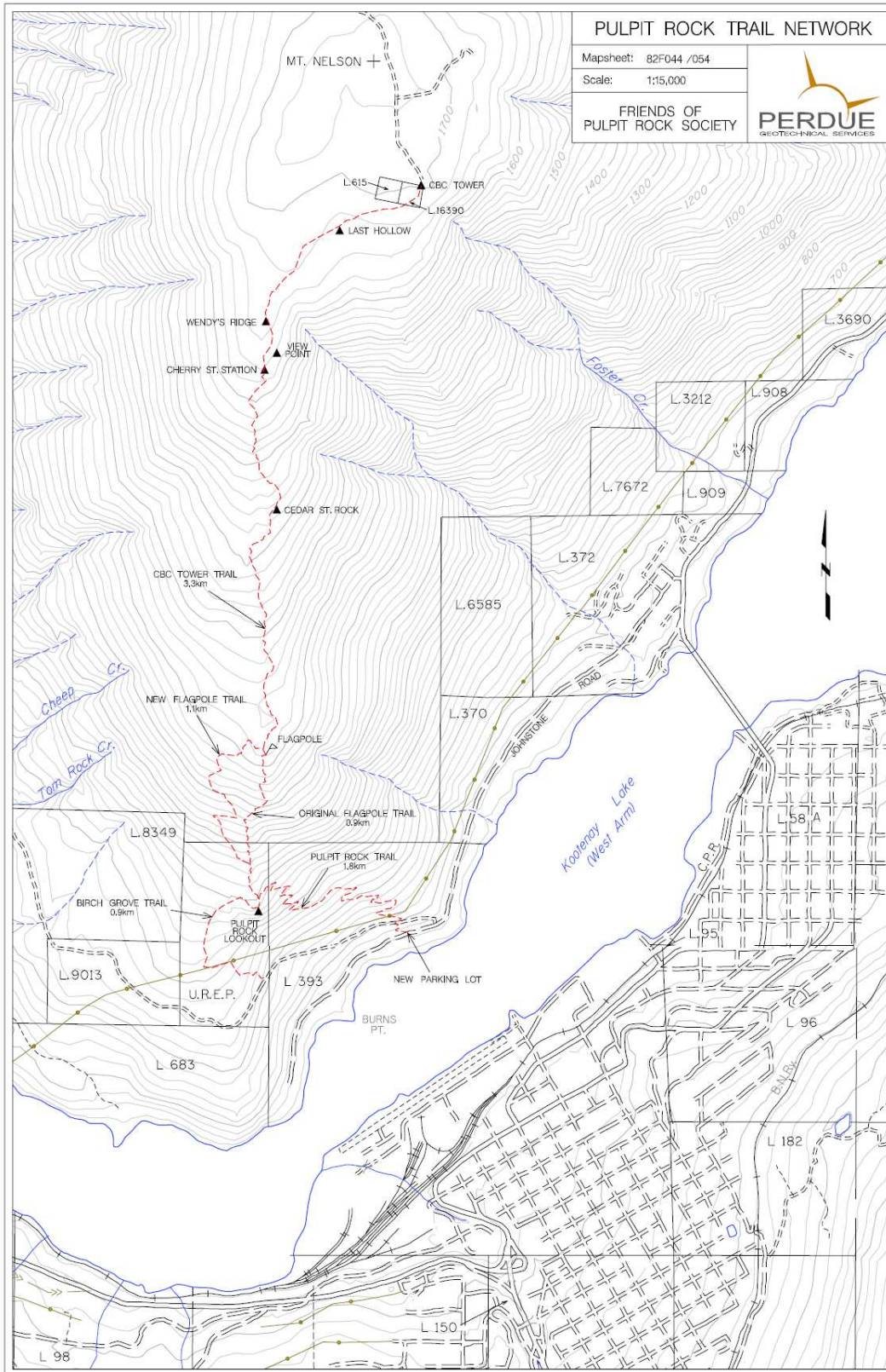
Map Scale:



Map Projection: UTM Zone 11 Map Datum: NAD83
 Date Printed: 2011-08

Mapsheet: 82F043.12

Map 3: Pulpit Rock Trail Network



Trail entering Crown land from the CBC road



Trailhead Kiosk



Portion within the Park



Parking area from Johnstone Road



Bike rack @ parking area



Start of the trail from parking area



Community Significance

Natural Features

- The park is in its natural state, primarily treed hillside, with the majority of human use concentrated along the public recreation trail.

Recreational Features

- Heavily used day-use location (up to 300 people per day), for both local residents and tourists. An important local tourist attraction and activity. Activities include hiking, nature appreciation, paragliding, and access to rock climbing.
- Recreational infrastructure includes a parking area and trailhead outside the park on road right-of-way, and a well-established and maintained recreational trail. Majority of public use occurs in the summer months, but use does include all seasons.
- The Nelson, Salmo, and Electoral Areas E, F, & G Regional Parks, and the volunteer Friends of Pulpit Rock Society is responsible for managing the park and all park facilities.

First Nations

The park is within the asserted traditional First Nation territories of the Lower Kootenay Band, Ktunaxa Nation Council, and Okanagan Nation Alliance.

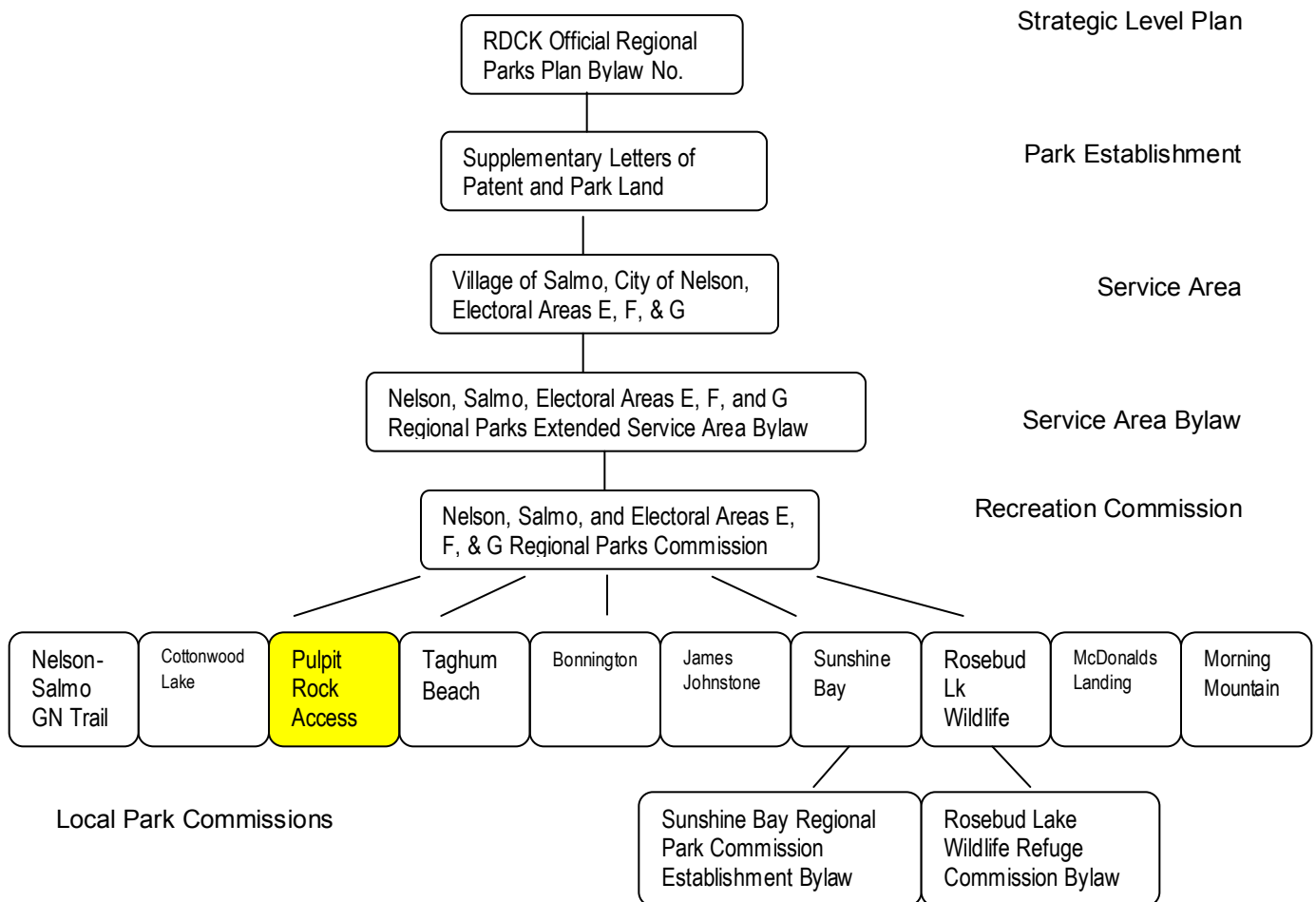
Zoning

This POS uses zoning to assist in the planning and management of the park. The entire park is zoned Limited Recreation, with the objective of maintaining the natural environment, while at the same time providing a non-motorized public access trail from Johnstone Road to the highly used Pulpit Rock Trail Network. Appendix 1 describes the RDCK Regional Parks zoning framework.

Operations and Governance

Park operations is an important component in ensuring that the daily experience of park users is enjoyable and safe. Park operations responsibilities include seeing that park regulations are understood and enforced, facilities are maintained and repaired when required, and the day use areas kept clean and accessible. Park management is undertaken jointly by RDCK staff and Nelson, Salmo, and Electoral Areas E, F, & G Regional Parks Commission. The Regional Parks Commission makes recommendations to the RDCK Board. The RDCK Board is the decision making authority for the park budget, policy, and regulations.

Figure 1: Pulpit Rock Access Regional Park Governance Structure



Facilities and Activities

RDCK Regional Park rules and regulations are stated in the RDCK Regional Park Regulation Bylaw No. 2173.

ACTIVITY	Zone	Comments
	Limited Recreation	
Camping	N	
Day-Use	Y	
Dogs	Y	Leash only to the CBC Road
Horses	N	
Motorized Use	N	
Swimming	n/a	
Fishing	n/a	
Boating	n/a	
Fire Mgmt	Y	
Grazing	N	
Hunting	N	
Noxious Weed Control	Y	
Bicycles	N	
Skiing	N	
FACILITY		
Administrative Buildings and Compounds	N	
Boat Launch	n/a	
Roads & Parking Lots	N	Permitted on road right-of-way only
Trails	Y	
Playground	N	
Day-Use Facilities	Y	
Toilets	N	
Picnic Shelter	N	
Fire Pits	N	

Management Priorities

This section outlines the immediate park priorities that are to be undertaken over the next five to ten years. It is understood that project proposals may come forward which are not anticipated, based on immediate management issues. These projects may be considered on a case by case basis by the General Manager of Community Services, General Manager of Development Services, the Nelson, Salmo, and Electoral Areas E, F, & G Regional Parks Commission, and the RDCK Board.

The RDCK will be responsible for funding capital works at the park, and intends to prioritize projects listed below. The ability to do any of the projects presented is contingent on revenue and the resources available.

It is important to note that there needs to be a co-management system in place to address the priorities within the entire Pulpit Rock Trail Network. The RDCK and Friends of Pulpit Rock Society will work with Provincial agencies to address issues and priorities within the Trail Network.

Management priorities include the following:

- Primary management interest is to ensure public safety by identifying potential hazardous features and areas that may pose a liability risk to the RDCK. Includes but is not limited to illegal and/or unsafe structures, natural hazards, illegal activities, hazard trees, public parking along the road, winter use. Public parking is especially concerning from the perspective of public safety due to congestion, proximity to Johnstone Road, and blind hills/corners.
- Enforcing park rules and regulations, pursuant to RDCK Park Regulation Bylaw 2173
- Maintaining park infrastructure. To date, trail construction and maintenance has been done by Provincial fire crews and Selkirk College students
- Enhancing park infrastructure based primarily on ensuring public safety, and secondarily on enhancing the user experience.
- Fostering both public and commercial activities compatible with park values
- Managing commercial activities through a Park Use Permit process
- Gathering an inventory of natural species, and any potential impacts to those species
- Protecting and maintaining key park natural and recreational values (e.g. sensitive natural features/areas, sensitive archaeological areas, focusing development away from sensitive features)
- Developing and maintaining a stewardship agreement with the Friends of Pulpit Rock Society to address the mutual agreement of duties and conditions

Projected Cost Analysis

Pulpit Rock Access Regional Park possesses a varying amount of development necessary for safe and satisfactory visitor experiences. Currently the park requires only minor maintenance, however a number of park improvements have been proposed, such as an expanded parking area and trail upgrades. As a minimum standard, RDCK provides administrative support to the Friends of Pulpit Rock Society. Depending on immediate management issues and assessment of risk to RDCK, development costs could range from \$0-30,000. Pulpit Rock Access Regional Park was purchased in 2008 for \$55,000.

Pulpit Rock Trail Network has seen a rapid increase in public use in the past 10 years. Given its growing popularity, the Friends of Pulpit Rock Society and other local volunteers have slowly built additional park infrastructure to meet demand. It is anticipated that there will be on-going maintenance and development costs associated with the growing usage of this park.

Pulpit Rock Access Regional Park costs should be prioritized at 1) ensuring public safety, 2) maintaining park infrastructure, and 3) enhancing the user experience. Operating costs will include infrastructure maintenance, trail maintenance, hazard tree removal, and identification and mitigation of any public safety hazards. Although yearly costs can vary widely, and likely subsidized by grants, a range of \$3,000 to \$4,000 can be expected for yearly facility operations, excluding improvement and professional (e.g. tree faller, biologist, etc.) costs.

Future development costs for Pulpit Rock Access Park and the larger Trail Network will vary depending on the types of facilities desired by local residents.

Tax revenues are the current source of base funding for regional parks. It was established under the premise of no new tax increases for local residents. Other sources may be used at some point to enhance facilities or services for specific purposes (e.g. day use fees, donations, corporate sponsorship). These sources would have to be studied and recommended by the Nelson, Salmo, and Electoral Areas E, F, & G Regional Parks and be approved by the RDCK Regional Board on a case by case basis.

Maintenance Costs

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Supplies	Yearly	750
Hazard Tree removal	Yearly	0-3,000
Facility repair contingency	Yearly	0-1,500

Operations & Development Costs

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Projects (signage, day use facilities, tree planting, major trail upgrades, parking, rock cleanup)	Yearly, Based on resources available	0-30,000

Administration Costs

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Office support	Yearly	RDCK Staff time=250-500
Planning	Yearly	RDCK Staff time=500-1000
Supplies	Yearly	100
Society fees, room rentals, etc.	Yearly	150

Other Costs

	Period	Projected Cost (\$)
Ecological Assessment/Inventory Overview	Once, incomplete	Staff time=250-500
Noxious Weed Inventory Overview	Once, incomplete	Staff time=250-500
Website upgrade	As needed, per upgrade	300
Website hosting	Yearly	150
Trail registry box	Once, incomplete	200
Trail user survey	Once, incomplete	500
Insurance	Yearly	1,200

Consultation and Future Planning

The RDCK Community Services Department and Development Services Department is jointly accountable for the planning, administration, and management of the park through the application of regulations and policies.

Revisions or updating of this POS will be coordinated by RDCK, with involvement of other agencies, including but not limited to the Provincial and Federal Governments, Friends of Pulpit Rock Society, Nelson, Salmo, and Electoral Areas E, F, & G Regional Parks Commission, First Nations, commercial interests, and other stakeholders as required.

Appendix 1: Regional Park Zoning

	Intensive Recreation	Limited Recreation	Special Feature	Natural Environment
Objective	Provide for a variety of accessible, facility oriented outdoor recreation opportunities	Protect scenic values and to provide for recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment	Protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility, and heritage values	Protect undisturbed natural environment, providing limited recreation opportunities
Use Level	Relatively high density and long duration types of use	Relatively low use, but higher levels associated with nodes of activity or access	Generally low	Very low use to provide for solitary experiences and protect natural features. Uses may be limited and/or controlled
Access	All weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high	Motorized and non-motorized	Variable, may require special permission	Non-motorized
Location	Contiguous with all weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas	Removed from all-weather roads, but easily accessible on a day-use basis	Determined by location of special resources. May be surrounded by or next to any other zone	Removed from easy access
Boundary Definition	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas	Boundaries consider limits of activity and facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features	Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of special resources	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features
Recreation Opportunities	Full spectrum of outdoor recreation activities	Limited due to access constraints	Limited to protect special resources	Non-motorized only
Facilities	May be intensely developed for user convenience, e.g. campgrounds, boat launches, parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience, e.g. walk-in campsites, docks, small accessory buildings	Interpretive facilities only	Minimal or no facility development
Impacts on Natural Environment	Includes natural resource features in a primarily natural state, but where human presence may be readily visible. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas	Area where human presence is not normally visible. Facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities visually compatible with natural setting.	None	Natural area with little evidence of human presence. Facilities visually compatible with natural setting.
Management Guidelines	Oriented to maintaining a high quality recreation experience.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and high quality recreation experience.	High level of management protection with on-going monitoring. Oriented to maintaining special resources.	Oriented to protecting the natural environment. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels.
Examples of Zoning	Robson Wharf, Bonnington, Pass Creek	Rosebud Lake, Winlaw Nature Park, Roseberry Parklands, Pulpit Rock Access,	Historic Ainsworth Wharf, Brilliant Bridge, Sandon	Portion of Sunshine Bay