BACKGROUND REPORT

FOR

CATHEDRAL PROVINCIAL PARK MASTER PLAN
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A. Introduction

Cathedral Provincial Park is considered by many outdoor enthusiasts to be one of the more appealing and hospitable destinations for wilderness recreation in British Columbia. The Park presents a unique combination of convenient accessibility and pleasant, easy hiking through an inter-connecting series of scenic lake settings, alpine meadows and spectacular mountain formations.

Public interest and concerns to protect the natural attractions and beauty of the Cathedral Lakes led to the establishment of the Park in 1968. The original park boundaries encompassed 7,372 hectares and focussed on the Cathedral Lakes and surrounding peaks in the Lakeview Creek drainage and the head waters of the Wall Creek drainage. Public criticism that the Park was too confined led to a review of the boundaries by the Environment and Land Use Secretariat. In 1975 the Park was expanded by addition of 25,900 hectares to establish the Ashnola River and its major tributary, Ewart Creek, as the natural westerly, northerly and easterly boundaries, and the 49th parallel as the southerly boundary. Further addition of forfeited mineral claims along the Ashnola River in 1976 brought the park area to its present 33,454 hectares.

The Park is situated in the Okanagan Ranges of the Southern Interior, 30 kilometres southwest of Keremeos. The Ashnola River forest development road provides good two wheel drive access to the three trail entry points into the Park. The majority of visitors employ the four-wheel drive service operated by Cathedral Lakes Resort for transportation to a convenient access point at Quiniscoe Lake leading into the core features of the Park. The alternatives are long and steep hikes up either the high trail in the Lakeview Creek drainage (16
kilometres and 1300 metres elevation change) or the Wall Creek trail over Red Mountain (20 kilometres and 1100 metres). A third route into the core area involves a two day backpack trip from the east side of the Park along the Ewart Creek trail and over the Centennial trail in the Mountain Goat Creek drainage.

Purpose of the Background Report

The Background Report is intended to be read in conjunction with the Park Master Plan. It provides relevant information for understanding the basis for the Master Plan statements of park objectives and management policies. Included in the Background Report are descriptions of natural and cultural resources, existing land tenures and uses, and market analysis of recreation opportunities and demands in the Park. The Park's resource values are assessed in relation to provincial park recreation and conservation objectives. Background information for understanding the major issues addressed in the Master Plan is also presented.

The Background Report gives perspective on the nature of the Park and its values and is not intended to be a resource atlas, with comprehensive species lists or scientifically detailed descriptions. Reference to information sources are provided in the text of the report and in the appended bibliography.
B. Natural and Cultural Resources

1. Natural Resources

   a. Climate

   There is no specific weather data available for the Park, however, park staff observations suggest a typical pattern of clear, warm weather from late May to mid-June; cool, wet conditions in late June and early July; and dry, warm weather from mid-July through to mid-September. During the usual prolonged summer hotspell daytime temperatures rise over 30°C, but, because of the high elevation, nightly temperatures drop drastically, often close to the freezing point. Rainy weather, often in the form of thunder storms, can be expected in the spring, summer and autumn months. It is not uncommon at these high elevations to have snow storms occurring in the summer season.

   The Park lies in a relatively light snow zone. Snow accumulations vary from 30-40 cms in the valley bottom to 80-100 cms in the subalpine and alpine. It is common in winter to find the exposed ridges blown free of snow, with drifts on leeward slopes and gullies. The lakes and subalpine areas are free of ice and snow by mid-July. By the end of August only a few snow patches remain on the north slopes. Snow begins to fall and accumulate in the core area in early October.

   b. Physiography

   The Park lies within the Okanagan Range of the Cascade Mountains. This small range of mountains, extending along the 49th parallel between the Pasayten and Similkameen Rivers, is considered to be a transitional landform between the interior plateaus of British Columbia and the rugged Cascade Ranges to the south in Washington State.
The Park contains the highest and most dramatic peaks in the Okanagan Ranges - Haystack Mountain, 2,603 metres, Lakeview Mountain, 2,628 metres, and Grimface Mountain, 2,625 metres. The jagged peaks of Grimface Mountain and Denture Ridge are believed to have been elevated above the Cordilleran ice sheet, while the domed shaped summits of Lakeview Mountain, Boxcar Mountain, Mt. Quiniscoe and the other lower peaks and ridges of the Park were overridden by the grinding glacial ice mass. The valleys of the Park were also scoured by glacial action leaving truncated spurs and series of elevated valleys and terraces.

Intense periods of alpine glaciation, following the retreat of the continental ice sheets, further sharpened the serrated cliffs and spires and carved the impressive series of cirqued basins along the north sides of the peaks and ridges. The lake basins in Lakeview and Mountain Goat Creeks and on Haystack Mountain are the result of overdeepening by glacial scouring, and damming by morainal deposits.

c. Geology

Paul Zenope Melcon, in his exhaustive 1975 thesis "Tors and Weathering on McKeen Ridge, Cathedral Provincial Park", provides detailed geologic information about the Park. The report is highly technical and correlates with other geologic studies, especially the work of H.M.A. Rice (1947: Geology and Mineral Deposits of the Princeton area). Melcon's report should be consulted for a detailed technical description of the Park's geologic history.

The primary geologic formations within the Park are exposed granitic plutons. There are also limited sedimentary and volcanic formations. This contrasts with the predominant sedimentary and metamorphic composition of the
Cascade Mountains to the south and the widespread volcanics of the British Columbia Interior. The formations show evidence that geologic forces in the Park have been relatively weak compared to the processes which created the folded and metamorphized complexes to the east, the Cascade Mountains to the south and the Coast Mountains to the south and west.

The earliest geologic formations within the Park are the exposed sediments of the Permian age (approximately 250 million years ago) which trend eastward in a narrow band across the lower portion of Lakeview Creek and into the Ashnola Valley. These formations, consisting of chert, argillite, limestone and andesite lavas, represent deposition in the Permian sea that once covered most of the interior of British Columbia.

Lava remnants originating from the Upper Triassic (approximately 140 million years ago) are the next oldest geologic formations in the Park. These formations consist of a succession of andesite lava flows produced during a period of subsidence. The dark gray lava beds exposed in a 250 metre section on the north side of Ladyslipper Lake are the source of most of the talus material on the slopes above Ladyslipper Lake.

The earlier formations of the Permian and upper Triassic were intruded by granitic batholiths in the Jurassic (approximately 160 million years ago) period. These batholiths are massive structures of very deep-seated rock which produce typically steep sided, round topped mountains.

Thrust faulting occurred throughout the Cascade Mountains approximately 75 million years ago in the mid-Cretaceous period. Subsequent erosion exposed the Jurassic batholiths as evidenced by the various textured and colored granodiorites and the coarse-grained quartz monzonite rocks throughout the Park and particularly along the ridges and peaks. Erosion by wind and water of quartz monzonite created the Stone City formations along the
Park's Cathedral Ridge trail. Another Park attraction, the Giant's Cleft, was formed by rapid weathering of a basalt dyke which cut vertically through the quartz monzonite. Glacier scouring accentuated the vertical jointing of the granite leaving sheer faces as exemplified by Smokey the Bear and the cathedral-like formations of Grimface Mountain.

The most recent lava flow, occurring in the Miocene period (approximately 15 million years ago) forms the distinctive rim around the upper Ladyslipper cirque. The contorted basalt columns of the Devil's Woodpile reflects uneven rates of cooling within the flow. The lava formation also covers portions of Mt. Quiniscoe and Red Mountain.

d. Soils

The soils of the Ashnola area were mapped in association with vegetation by Dr. A. McLean (Plant Communities of the Similkameen Valley, British Columbia, and their relationship to soils, 1969).

Soil conditions in the Park reflect a complex array of parent materials and deposition processes. On the lower slopes above the Ashnola and along Ewart and Lakeview Creeks there are variable deposits of regosol and chernozemic soils. The predominant soils of the Park, orthic humo-ferric podzols, coincide with subalpine forest associations and are characteristically coarse textured and acidic. At timberline, soil conditions (sombric humo ferric podzols) are strongly acidic comprising glacial till, volcanic ash and wind deposited materials. The soils of the alpine are orthic sombric brunisols which are developed from volcanic ash, colluvium and shallow glacial till deposits.

For park planning purposes, a primary consideration is soil capability for recreation use and development. For the most part, the soil conditions in the subalpine tend to be well drained and suitable for trail and park facility construction. However, organic soils in meadow environments along creek courses
and margins of lakes in the subalpine, and on the extensive seepage slopes are highly susceptible to mucking and erosion damage from trampling, and pose problems for trail development. The shallow soils at timberline and in the alpine are very sensitive to surface disruptions. The lower slopes of the Park are susceptible to erosion because of slope steepness.

e. Water

The Park's drainage pattern comprises a series of creek systems which radiate west, north and east of the central mountain core, and drop through hanging valleys to join the Ashnola River. The primary drainages from west to east are Wall Creek, Cathedral Fork, Lakeview Creek, Mountain Goat and Ewart Creeks. The creeks are all swift flowing and icy cold.

The Ashnola River forms a major tributary of the Similkameen River. It is a relatively small river averaging 6 meters in width, with clear, cool mountain fed waters. During runoff in May through June, the Ashnola and its tributary streams flow with spectacular volume and force.

All of the lakes in the Park are situated in the upper subalpine reaches. The lakes are typically small, averaging from 500 to 700 meters in length, and vary in depth from shallow tarns to deep narrow depressions.

Quiniscoe, Pyramid, Lake of the Woods, Glacier, Ladyslipper, Scout and Goat Lakes at the headquarters of Lakeview Creek form the major grouping of lakes in the Park. The Haystack Lakes and Mountain Goat Lakes are small lake units on the east side of the Park. Orthodox Lake at the top of the Wall Creek drainage is the only lake on the west slopes of the Park.

Water in all of the lakes is clear and cold. Lake and creek water is used for drinking purposes at Park campsites. There are very few sources of potable water in the alpine regions of the Park. Cathedral Lakes Resort pipes in water from a spring on the south side of Quiniscoe Lake. There are no
reports of giardia or other water borne diseases in the Park. Concentrated cattle use of the Red Mountain and Twin Buttes areas poses concern for water quality.

f. Vegetation

As defined by V.J. Krajina's Ecological Classification of Western North America, the Park is broadly separated into the Interior Douglas fir, Subalpine Engelmann spruce-alpine fir and Alpine Tundra biogeoclimatic zones. Plant communities in the Park comprise the drier climatic associations of these zones. Microclimatic factors of elevation, terrain and aspect have major influence on species distribution. Forest fires have also been a prevalent element in creating the diverse mosaic of vegetation in the Park.

The Interior Douglas fir zone extends up the Ashnola Valley onto the lower slopes of the Park to about the 1,200 metre level. Representing a relatively small portion of the park, this biotic zone is characterized by open park-like stands of Douglas fir with grass and sparse understory of junipers. The driest associations of this zone occur in the sage brush covered slopes above the Ashnola River. There is a gradual transition into the subalpine through mixed stands of Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and spruce.

The subalpine forest zone covers the major portion of the Park, ranging from 1,200 metres to 2,100 metres. Recurring fires have kept most of this forest zone in various successional stages with Lodgepole pine forming the dominant seral component, occurring in pure stands or in mixture with Douglas fir and aspen in the lower levels and with spruce and subalpine fir in the mid to upper levels. Climax stands of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir are found in pockets where fire did not reach and along the upper slopes where there is
extensive surface seepage. Near timberline, the spruce-pine forests give way to alpine larch stands which extend through the windswept rocky slopes to mix with scraggly lodgepole and white bark pines at the upper limits of tree growth. The Alpine larch, which occurs sporadically in the Southern Kootenays and the Cascade Mountains, forms the most recreationally appealing forest landscape in the Park. In the autumn months from the end of September through mid October, the larches turn a golden-yellow creating a spectacular recreation setting.

Indicative of dry climatic conditions, the subalpine forests are generally semi-open with low dispersed underbrush. Grouseberry (vaccinium scoparium) is a ubiquitous ground cover forming a green lacy carpet under lodgepole pine. Kinnikinnick and Soopollallie are the common shrub species growing on dry slopes. Labrador tea occurs where soil conditions are wet under the forest canopy.

Subalpine meadows characterized by wet hummocky ground, scrub birch and low lying willows occur extensively along the upper creek drainages and over open seepage areas. The Red Mountain meadows and the marshy meadows bordering Mountain Goat and Haystack Mountain Creek are the larger areas of subalpine meadowland in the Park and are a major attraction for park visitors.

The best wildflower areas of the Park are found along the timberline fringe of the subalpine zone, particularly in small pockets of shaded meadow alongside spruce stands and at the bottom edge of open mountain slopes. In these areas, lupines in mixture with Indian paintbrushes and Arnica provide colorful flower displays. The subalpine and alpine meadowlands form the primary summer habitat for ungulates in the Park.

The Park's alpine zone takes in the broad sweep of open tundra above the Cathedral Lakes core which arcs from Red Mountain to Lakeview Mountain and extends back over upper Wall Creek, Haystack Mountain and the Twin Buttes. The dry, windswept conditions of the Okanagan Ranges are most apparent in the alpine
zone where rock and tundra dominate. Plants in this zone tend to be slender, short, compact and long rooted. Various colored lichen species grow tenaciously on the exposed rock faces. Moss campions are the cushion like plants that have developed special adaptive measures to survive the exposed conditions of the boulder fields and frost heaved soils. Generally plant specimens of the boulder fields and talus slopes are sparsely distributed, however, in protected areas such as ridge saddles, dryas and pussytoes species grow in thick patches. Below the rock faces and talus slopes, sedges and grasses form expansive areas of tussock and turf fields.

An annotated plant list prepared by Bill and Dorothy van Dieren in 1986 for the Provincial Museum recorded 237 plant species in the Park. Many of the species found in the Park are rare in British Columbia. The B.C. Museum Publication "The Rare Vascular Plants of British Columbia" includes 22 species found in the Cathedral Lakes Park area.

Over 20 plant weed species have been introduced to the Park. Cattle grazing, horse use and the 1985 filming of the "Clan of the Cave Bear" are suspected sources of these plant introductions.

g. Fish

There are five lakes within the Park which support viable sport fisheries - Lake of the Woods, Pyramid, Quiniscoe, Ladyslipper and Haystack Lakes. Present stocks of cutthroat or rainbow trout originate from introductions in 1932 and 1938. The lakes were also stocked periodically during the subsequent years.

A 1979 fisheries report by Chris Bull, Fisheries Biologist, determined that the nature and diversity of the fishery in the core recreation area of the Park relates well to public demand. The more than adequate spawning habitats at Pyramid and Lake of the Woods creates an abundance of small cutthroat trout, providing a fishery which complements the aspirations of casual fishermen.
Quiniscoe Lake provides opportunity to catch larger fish (cutthroat), and for the patient, dedicated fisherman, the large cutthroats of Ladyslipper offer an attractive challenge. The core area fishery is adequately supporting present catch levels and could absorb increased use.

The Haystack Lakes rainbow trout fishery is receiving very low levels of use, but would likely tolerate increased pressures. More information is needed about this fishery.

Small creek fisheries (Wall, Ewart, Lakeview) are insignificant and are not considered a recreational opportunity.

The Ashnola River has a relatively productive creek fishery, supporting good numbers of small rainbow trout. Fisheries staff wish to maintain the Ashnola as a natural fishery, and do not consider supplementary stocking desirable. Present recreation use patterns on the creek are compatible with these fishery objectives.

**h. Wildlife**

The Park is situated within the very important Ashnola wildlife management unit 8.3. Sheep are the primary species of interest in the unit with the Ashnola herd representing 10% of the North American California Bighorn sheep population. Mule deer and mountain goats are also important in the unit. The Park has primary value as summer range for mule deer and sheep, and is summer and winter range for mountain goat. The important winter ranges for sheep and deer in the Ashnola drainage are situated outside of the Park, along the southern facing slopes of the Ashnola, on the slopes of Crater Mountain, and south and west facing slopes of Ewart Creek.

The extreme north east corner of the Park covers part of a key lambing area on the south slope of Crater Mountain. Knowledge of sheep distribution and
movement through the remainder of the Park is limited. The Park is primarily used by ewes and lambs which summer in the upper Lakeview drainage, along Lakeview Mountain, and at times along the cirques and slopes of Cathedral ridge and on the south slopes of Haystack Mountain. There are reports of ram sightings in the top end of Ewart Creek. Park use and existing facilities do not appear to impinge on sheep habitat.

Mule deer habitat is associated with timberline and subalpine meadows in the Twin Buttes, Haystack Lakes, Red Mountain meadows, and the top ends of Ewart and Wall Creeks. Deer are not commonly seen in the core area of the Park.

Mountain goats, which are regularly seen on Cathedral Ridge, are the primary viewing species in the Park. The goats on Cathedral ridge have become habituated to people and do not seem to be disturbed when viewed from a distance. Goats winter in the Park along Cathedral Ridge and on the south side of Haystack Mountain.

Black bears are relatively common in the lower elevations of the Ashnola, but there is very little bear use of the subalpine and alpine zones of the Park. The Park lies within the international management area for the border grizzly population. The very small numbers of grizzlies in the management area tend to concentrate to the west in the Cascade Wilderness of Washington State. There is very little likelihood of any grizzly use of the Park because of the habitat limitations.

There has been recent increased sightings of moose in the Ashnola, and there is some evidence of moose using the Park. With the good potential moose habitat in the Mountain Goat Creek-Haystack Lakes Creek and Wall-Cathedral Forks drainages, it is expected that moose will become an established ungulate species in the Park.
Smaller animals and bird life in the Park typically represent the species found in the mountains of the dry southern interior. Common mammal species include hoary marmot, golden mantled and columbian ground squirrels, pika, snowshoe hare, red squirrel and chipmunk. Canada Jay, Clark's nutcracker, Franklyn and Blue grouse, ptarmigan, Harrier, chicadee, kinglet, and White Crown sparrow are the most commonly observed bird species in the Park.

Wildlife Branch management objectives for unit 8.3 are to provide dispersed, quality hunts oriented to backcountry use and low harvest rates (limited entry for sheep and goats, and trophy 4 point buck restrictions). The Park forms an important part of this hunting unit, includes part of a viable guide and outfitting area, and provides opportunity for wilderness backpack hunts.

i. Outdoor Recreation Features

The following information is condensed from a Park's Division (R. Norrish) recreational features assessment conducted in the Park in 1986.

Cathedral Park contains an impressive array of outdoor recreation features set in a wilderness recreation context. The main focus for significant recreation features is the "Core Area" of the Park, centered around Quiniscoe and Ladyslipper Lakes. Here the recreation features range from the spectacular rock formations, such as "Stone City", "Smokey the Bear" and the "Giant Cleft" found in the eastern extension of Cathedral Ridge, to the intimate lake environment at Lake-of-the-Woods. The recreation activities associated with the core area include organized camping, hiking, angling, canoeing (Quiniscoe Lake), mountaineering, viewing and nature study.

Lakeview Mountain, the Boxcar and Haystack Lakes also have extensive high quality recreation feature units based on alpine-subalpine environments. Similar values are inherent to the Orthodox Mountain area at the U.S. - Canada
MAP 5 - RECREATION FEATURES
border. Recreation activities in this part of the Park include dispersed camping, hiking, viewing, horseback riding, angling, hunting and nature study.

The Ashnola River corridor comprises the other major concentration of recreation features which attract park visitors. Small waterbodies, mixed forest and grassland vegetation and large mammals and upland birds are the main recreation features here. Organized camping, angling, hunting, horseback riding, hiking, picnicking, and nature study are all recreation activities available within the river corridor.

j. Visual Resources

The scenic beauty of Cathedral Park forms a primary purpose for park visits. The visual qualities of the Park are associated with panoramic vistas, alpine and subalpine meadows, the variety of lake basins, spectacular geologic formations, alpine larch stands and the fire patterned diversity of various aged and species compositions of subalpine forest. Logging activities in the Ashnola drainage are sufficiently distant from the Park Core to have minimal visual impact.

2. Cultural Resources

There is very little known about the early human history of Cathedral Park. From evidence of extensively used occupation sites along the Ashnola River, it is thought that the Ashnola drainage was an important food source. Archaeological sites have been found at scattered locations throughout the higher elevations of the Ashnola. It is reasonable to speculate that the Park area was extensively used for hunting of mountain sheep, deer and goat, but this remains to be established through assessments of known and probably many yet to be discovered sites.
The old established trails in the Park were constructed from the 1930's through to the mid 1960's for horse use. Mr. Herb Clark is credited as the pioneer of the Cathedral Lakes and many of the old trails can be attributed to his use of the area.

3. Resource Analysis

This section considers the significance of the Park's resources relative to the conservation and recreation objectives of the Provincial Park system.

a) Conservation Significance

i. Landscape Representation

As part of the Okanagan Ranges, the Park provides important biogeoclimatic representation of the leeward, dry interior conditions of the Cascade Mountains. The dry, windswept alpine tundra of the Park contains plant associations and species that are rare within the province and unique within the Park system. The complex geology of the Okanagan Ranges, as represented by the landform features of the Park, contribute a valuable landscape component to the Park system.

ii. Cultural

There is no evidence that the Park has special significant archaeological or historical value.

b) Recreation Significance

Within the Park system, the Park offers special circumstances for backcountry recreation. The easily traversed terrain, scenic vistas, and many natural features offer key attractions for hikers, photographers, fishermen and naturalists. Coupled with these recreational attractions, the Park provides
opportunity to experience backcountry recreation activities in a relatively safe environment resulting from a generally dependable climatic regime, a general absence of bears, and a comparatively stable and hazard free terrain. With provision of convenient access, these factors create a park which has tremendous appeal for recreationists wishing to experience wilderness without the usual risks associated with wilderness camping and travel.

The primary recreation features of the Park are concentrated around the lakes and alpine at the top end of Lakeview Creek, providing a destination attraction for hikers, but restrictive opportunities for horse use or extended backpacking trips. The confined nature of this "Recreational Core" of the Park will set limitations on both social and physical carrying capacities, and will limit use to designated trails and facility bases.

Other wilderness recreational feature areas in the Park - the Haystack Lakes, Red Mountain Meadows, Twin Buttes and Wall Creek offer potential for limited dispersed backcountry use. Sensitive environmental factors, isolation and access difficulties will dictate low carrying capacities for these areas.

The Ashnola River provides an attractive setting for informal vehicle based camping and activities associated with the river and surrounding forested landscapes.
C. Tenures, Occupancy Rights, and Jurisdictions

1. Leases and Use Permits

a. P.U.P. - Grazing

P.U.P. 767 - Jim and Alec Terbasket; authorizes the grazing of 55 head of cattle in the Red Mountain area and 50 head in the Twin Buttes area from July 1 to October 15.

P.U.P. 768 - W.J. Copeland; authorizes the grazing of 52 head in the Wall Creek-Cathedral Forks area from July 1 to October 1, 1986.

Grazing rights, covered under these two P.U.P.'s predate park establishment. The Parks Division has a legal obligation to recognize the rights of the individuals who held grazing interests in the Park area at the time of park establishment. The grazing rights in the Park are not transferable beyond the immediate family, and upon relinquishment of the grazing interests, the Parks Division will be in a position to close the respective areas to grazing.

Grazing, a non-conforming use of Class "A" park land, is detrimental to the recreation and conservation values of the Park. As reflected by public input into the Master Plan, there is major objection to grazing from park users. Cattle concentrate in the open subalpine meadows which are prime recreation feature areas. Trampling and grazing impacts are evident throughout the meadow areas and along the Park trails. Cattle remove substantial shrubby browse that would otherwise be available to wildlife.

b. P.U.P. 720 - Canadian Outward Bound Mountain School; authorizes the use of the Park for teaching of cross-country skiing, mountaineering, hiking, camping and backpacking courses.

The Outward Bound School has operated in the Park under Park Use Permit since 1976. The School avoids potential conflicts with other park
visitors by limiting its use of the core area to the spring months and switching to the less used areas of Park, particularly Wall and Ewart Creeks for summer use. The activities tend to be dispersed and have very low impacts on the park environment.

c. **P.U.P. 1556** - Clarence D. Schneider; for the purpose of commercial big game guiding, and use and maintenance of a cabin located near the south boundary of L2863s.

The 1986 permit authorized:

i. Two deer hunts, September 13 to October 18, one week duration each within the area bounded by Ewart Creek to Haystack Lakes.

ii. One sheep hunt, August 25 to September 2, within the area bounded by Ewart Creek to Haystack Lakes.

iii. Cougar hunting, December 1 to March 31, in a zone two kilometres wide along that portion of the Park adjacent to the Ashnola River and the area adjacent to the Jeep road on Lakeview Creek up to Sheep's camp.

iv. One year extension, on trial basis, to hunt deer from October 11, 1986 to October 18, 1986 in the Twin Buttes and Red Mountain Meadows. On this late season hunt the client hunters are accommodated at the Cathedral Lake Resort, and day hunts are made onto Lakeview Mountain and into Red Mountain meadows. The permit extension authorized clearing of a horse route to Lakeview Mountain, by-passing the Core Area, and designated use of specific trail access to Red Mountain meadows to minimize horse impacts.

The Provincial Park Wildlife Management Policy recognizes hunter guiding and outfitting as a legitimate park activity to be encouraged subject to specific park objectives. Under this policy, Cathedral Park provides opportunity for commercial guided hunts.
Cathedral Park is part of a viable guiding territory in the Ashnola drainage. The Snowy Alpine Country is the Guide's main hunting area with mountain sheep and mule deer the primary species hunted. The Park forms an important mid to late season adjunct for quality wilderness hunts for mule deer and mountain sheep. Horse use restrictions, potential conflicts with other park users, environmental factors including wildlife capabilities place practical limits on operating areas, seasons and levels of use, and, consequently, there is little opportunity to expand present guiding rights in the Park.

The issuance of extended guiding rights in the Red Mountain and Lakeview Mountain areas has led to considerable public criticism relating to horse use impacts. Assessment by Parks staff has shown very little impact on Park trails and meadow areas, nevertheless, level of public criticism will have to be taken into account in the review of this Permit.

d. **P.U.P. 1183** - Central City Homes (1976) Ltd. - authorizes use of the access road to Quiniscoe Lake for transport of Cathedral Resort Guests, park visitors and equipment and supplies.

The transportation service for lodge guests and park visitors provides easy access to the core area attractions of the Park. The alternative is a long steep hike up from the Ashnola River. Families with young children and people, who because of age or lack of fitness could not otherwise visit the park, are able to use the transportation service to access the core area attractions. As a major advantage, visitors use the transportation service to save two days of hiking time and energy for enjoying the maximum of their visit within the core area.

The access road was constructed by the Resort owners prior to park establishment. It has been gradually improved and is now considered in good 4 wheel drive condition. The road surface is durable, well drained and is not susceptible to erosion after the early spring run off period. The Parks
Division cannot deny the present access rights to the Resort, however, it can control road standards, season of use, and types of vehicles permitted.

Before the transportation service was available, the Park received low use levels by horse riders and few experienced backpackers. By the mid 1970's the transportation service had dramatically changed the character and use of the core area. As a provincial wilderness park, Cathedral receives heavy use by proportionally high numbers of family groups and older aged visitors.

P.U.P. 756 - J.A. Carmata; authorizes trapline and cabin use.

The trapline is confined to the east side of the Park. In recent years the trapper has harvested very few fur bearing animals in the Park. He is authorized under P.U.P. to use the cabin on Lot 2863. Under Provincial Park policy, trapping is considered an inappropriate activity in Class "A" Parks.

2) Fee simple land inholdings

a) D.L. 2200"S", S.D.Y.D.


Strategically located on the south side of the Ashnola River. This lot is the start of the jeep road to Quiniscoe Lake. Cathedral Lakes Resort uses the lot as a staging grounds and parking area for their customers.

c) "D.L. 3235"S", S.D.Y.D. - owned by Cathedral Lakes Resort Ltd.

Strategically located lot a the northeast end of Quiniscoe Lake. The Cathedral Lake Resort lodge is located here.

i) History

Cathedral Lakes Resort had its beginnings in 1934 when a local citizen, Mr. Herb Clark, purchased Lot 3235"S" at the north end of Quiniscoe Lake. Mr. Clark built two cabins on this property which provided accommodation for guests using his guide service.

In 1964 Cathedral Lakes Resort Limited was formed with Herb Clark, Tom Fleet, Karl Gehringer and Helmut Gehringer as partners in the business. The
resort expanded to four guest cabins. A jeep road was constructed in 1966-67 providing access from the Ashnola River Valley to Quiniscoe Lake.

By 1975 Cathedral Lakes Resort Limited expanded their lodge facilities to a two story building with basement. Today, the lodge has a large dining room, kitchen and lounge on the main floor. There are seven guest rooms upstairs. All rooms are equipped with hot and cold running water with shared showers and toilets. The four cabins have running water and wood burning stoves. Guests in the cabins use the shower and toilet facilities in the lodge.

Cathedral Lakes Resort Limited was acquired in 1982 by Mr. Hans Berger of Central City Homes (1976) Limited in Kelowna. Because of difficult financial times, Mr. Berger launched a program in 1983 to finance the acquisition of the resort's land and assets through the issue of non-interest bearing Perpetual Participation Bonds at $10,000 each. The bonds allowed the purchaser privileges as a member of the Cathedral Lakes Wilderness Society. One hundred eighty-nine bonds were to be issued. This latest financial initiative appears to have failed as the resort was recently put up for sale.

ii) The relationship of the resort with Cathedral Park.

Since Cathedral Park was established in 1966, a strong, sometimes uneasy relationship has existed between the Park and the resort. This relationship is based on the strategic geographical location of the resort's land holdings, the resort's influence on park operations and park use, and the resort's impact on the environment and wilderness character of the Park.

Central City Holmes 1976 Limited owns Lot 3235"S" situated on Quiniscoe Lake. This 14 hectare lot covers lands along more than 50% of Quiniscoe Lake's northern shoreline. In addition, the lot extends back from the lake 350 meters. Thus, such recreation facilities as a trail around Quiniscoe Lake must cross private lands.
The resort is ideally situated as a staging point for relatively easy access to Cathedral Ridge, Pyramid Lake and Ladyslipper Lake. Finally, the jeep access road terminates within Lot 3235"S" at the lodge.

The operation of Cathedral Park by the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division is considerably affected by Cathedral Lake Resorts Limited. Access to Quiniscoe Lake from the Ashnola Valley is via a jeep road constructed prior to the creation of the Park. This is a public road which Cathedral Lakes Resorts uses under the authority of a park use permit. At the same time, the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division uses the road for operations requirements such as transporting personnel, carrying in supplies and hauling firewood. Therefore, close cooperation between the resort and the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division is mandatory to ensure the effective use of the road (eg. timing of vehicle travel; number of vehicles, etc.) and its proper maintenance.

For several years the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division has used the resort's cabin and lodge facilities for accommodating and feeding park ranger staff. Added to this, the resort functions as another set of eyes and ears in the Park, particularly when search and rescue and related emergency situations develop requiring prompt action. A helipad exists adjacent to Lot 3235"S" at the outlet of Quiniscoe Lake offering an alternative transportation method for park management and emergency service situations. Thus, the resort performs an important communications function often complementing Provincial park management programs.

Public use of Cathedral Park is strongly influenced by the presence of Cathedral Lakes Resort. The clientele of the resort are characteristically 50 years of age or older and, by most standards, reasonably wealthy. (The cost of staying at the Lodge for three days is $305/person). They are people drawn to the Park largely because the lodge facilities allow them a comfortable stay in a wilderness setting. The lodge's guests prefer to undertake activities which
allow them to visit park features and return to the lodge the same day. The close proximity of many of the Park's outstanding recreation features to the lodge makes such day long trips feasible. The setting of the resort on Quiniscoe Lake, is, in itself, extremely attractive. Thus, while the private lodge facilities provide a reasonable amount of comfort, it is the attractions in the Park which allow the resort's clientele to have a special outdoors experience.

The general public entering Cathedral Park largely use the transportation service provided by the resort. This has the benefit for park users of quickly taking them to the interior of the Park. It has the disadvantage of concentrating park users in the core area of the Park thus modifying the wilderness atmosphere of the area.

Cathedral Lakes Resort has expressed interest in expanding their operations in two new directions. First, the resort sees an opportunity to use horses for guided trail use during the summer and fall seasons. Second, the resort is assessing the potential for winter lodge operation.

Many people who visit Cathedral Park come to experience wilderness. The lodge affects such values in a variety of ways. The buildings are an obvious out-of-character element in the natural environment surrounding Quiniscoe Lake. Similarly, the use of mechanised vehicles and electric generators also affect the wilderness aspect of Cathedral Park.

Up to this point in time, Cathedral Lakes Resort has cooperated extensively with the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division in maintaining their facilities so they are not heavily obtrusive on park values. A great challenge, however, is the future direction this resort may take in terms of its method of operation, size of plant and services available to the public should it be sold to new interests.
As fee simple land, the Resort property on Quiniscoe Lake is considered a park inholding. The Parks Division has no direct jurisdiction over this property and the Regional District has no bylaws to control use and development of the Resort lands. However, through authority over the access road, the Parks Division can indirectly prevent subdivision of the Quiniscoe Lake property. The Ministry of Transportation and Highways would not be in a position to permit subdivision or strata title ownership of the Quiniscoe Lake property because of the complications with access through the park, existing heavy public use of Quiniscoe Lake, and the potential conflicts with the park and health concerns. Sanitation and terrain constraints pose serious difficulties for lodge expansion.

3. Forest Tenures

N/A

4. Mineral Tenures

None exist in the Park. Five claims however break continuity in boundaries on west side of the Park:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claim</th>
<th>Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
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<td>22830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q22</td>
<td>22848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q24</td>
<td>22850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Water Rights

The Resort pipes its water from a spring on the south side of Quiniscoe Lake. This water use which has minimal impact on the Park should be authorized through Park Use Permit. The Resort in co-ordination with Parks is investigating the feasibility of hydro-generation as an alternative to the diesel generator.

6. Rights-of-way

Ahnola Forest Service road right-of-way - Plan 1-13/2A (file #0229776) gazetted February 10, 1964. This road is excluded from the Park and is maintained by the Ministry of Forests.

Public road #18 r/w (through Lot 2863"S") is excluded from the Park and is maintained by Ministry of Transportation and Highways. It serves as the access to the Ewart Creek trail head.

7. Trespasses

N/A

8. Statutory Jurisdictions

N/A

9. Special Regulations

N/A
D. Recreation Opportunities

Existing and potential recreation opportunities in Cathedral Park relate to the three major access modes used within as well as adjacent to the Park. Access modes are largely dictated by the landscape, resulting in one group of opportunities primarily vehicle-based and aligned to the Ashnola River corridor, a second group oriented to the transportation system offered along the restricted road access and centred upon the core Cathedral Lakes area features and the third grouping of opportunities oriented to trail access and utilizing the more isolated areas of the Park.

This diversity of access modes and landscape types results in a wide range of opportunities including:

1. Camping:

   **Vehicle-based:** small, informally-developed sites along the Ashnola River.

   **Destination backcountry:** small sites ranging in degree of servicing and security as offered at Quiniscoe Lake through to secluded, poorly defined sites and limited services offered at Lake of the Woods, and Pyramid Lake.

   **Wilderness** - destination nodes at Haystack Lakes, Twin Buttes, Wall Creek and Red Mountain meadows.

2. Fishing:

   **Vehicle-based:** opportunities for small rainbows at pools and riffles along the Ashnola River.

   **Destination backcountry:** - family opportunities for small, abundant trout at Pyramid Lake and Lake of the Woods.

   - larger, more challenging trout at Quiniscoe Lake

   - large and difficult to catch trout at Ladyslipper Lake
Wilderness: small trout at Haystack Lakes

3. Nature Appreciation (viewing, photography)

Vehicle-based: wildlife viewing in the Ashnola Valley, particularly in the spring, can be rewarding; variety of ecological units in the valley ranging from grasslands to subalpine forests.

Destination backcountry:
- panoramic mountain scenery
- flower meadows - July
- larch forests - September, October
- landform features - Smokey the Bear, Giant's Cleft, Devil's Wood Pile, Stone City
- diverse lake settings
  - turquoise colors - Ladyslipper
  - alpine settings - Glacier, Ladyslipper
  - forested settings - Quiniscoe, Lake of the Woods
- wildlife - mountain goats, ptarmigan, marmots

Wilderness: Haystack Lakes, Red Mountain Meadows, Twin Buttes, Wall Creek

4. Hiking:

Vehicle-based: trails and routes along the Ashnola river and on the open slopes above.

Destination backcountry: trail and route alternatives catering to a variety of experience and ability levels.

short day hikes --
- Quiniscoe lake loop, waterfalls
- Scout Lake
- Lake of the Woods
5. Hunting:

**Vehicle-based:** the Ashnola valley slopes provide fair to good hunting prospects for grouse and mule deer.

**Destination backcountry:** because of the concentrated use, and the attraction of wildlife observation, hunting is not considered a viable opportunity within the core area.

**Wilderness:** backpack hunts for mule deer; guided horse-based hunts on the east side of the Park for mule deer and mountain sheep.

6. Mountaineering:

Rock climbing on granite faces of Cathedral Ridge.
7. Horse use - limited opportunities on east side of the Park in Mountain Goat Creek drainage.

8. Winter use - limited potential for ski touring in subalpine-alpine regions of the Park.

- limited potential for cross country skiing associated with winter operation of Cathedral Lakes Resort.

**Existing Facilities**

Evolving visitor use patterns have largely determined priorities for development and management of the Park. Development has been directed toward both facilitating visitor use and controlling use impacts primarily in the Cathedral Lakes core area, and secondarily along the Ashnola River corridor. Occasional and superficial levels of maintenance have been carried out on the less used wilderness areas of the Park whenever staff time and funding have permitted. Existing park facilities and present conditions for each of the major use areas are as follows: (refer to numbers on map, page 40)

**Ashnola River Corridor:**

1. Park Entrance - information shelter and vehicle pull-off

2. Boundary Picnic site - small parking lot, toilet, 2 tables

3. Lakeview trailhead - serves as the main access facility base for the core area

   - parking lot, walk-in campground, 2 toilets, 6 tables, fire rings, information shelter, foot bridge

   - 1 km access road from the Ashnola road requires annual maintenance

4. Riverside sites - informal undesignated sites with no facilities
5. Buckhorn campsite - 10 unit auto based campsites, 2 toilets, type 2 tables, fire rings, information shelter
   - present development has led to vehicle impacts and poor campsite alignment along the river

6. Ewart Creek trailhead - serves as the access base for the east side of the Park and the Snowy Alpine area
   - used by horse riding groups and hikers
   - information shelter, parking, toilet
   - needs improvements to better serve users

7. Wall Creek trailhead - serves as the access base for the west side of the Park
   - information shelter; present bridge crossing does not provide convenient access to the trail
   - insufficient parking and sanitation facilities

Core Area:

Campsites:

8. Quiniscoe Lake
   - situated at the road end; serves as the primary campsite in the core area
   - 12 developed sites, 12 tables, 12 fire rings, 2 pit toilets
   - existing development does not provide for use demands

9. Pyramid Lake
   - 20 minute walk-in site from road end
   - 10+ informal sites, 2 pit toilets
   - impacts from indiscriminate use
10. Lake of the Woods
   - 15 minute walk-in site from road end
   - 10+ informal sites at north and south ends, 2 pit toilets
   - impacts from indiscriminate use

**Trails:**

**Short day hikes -**

11. Quiniscoe to Pyramid - wet areas
12. Quiniscoe Lake - Lake of the Woods - relatively good condition
13. Quiniscoe Lake - Glacier Lake - poorly marked
14. Scout Lake - some wet sections
15. Quiniscoe Lake loop - sketchy trail on the south side
   - hazardous and unsuitable for inexperienced hikers
16. Quiniscoe Falls - heavy erosion; poorly defined trail surface
17. Pyramid Lake - Glacier Lake - some eroded sections
   - poorly marked

**Medium day hikes -**

18. Ladyslipper Lake - poorly marked at top end
19. Diamond trail - poorly marked

**Long day hikes -**

20. Cathedral Ridge (Rim trail) - via Scout Lake, Glacier, or Ladyslipper
   - poorly defined from Smokey the Bear to the Giant's Cleft
21. Goat Lake - lower wet portions
22. Lakeview Mountain - some wet sections
   - corduroy deteriorating
**Wilderness Areas**

- there are no designated campsites in the wilderness areas of the Park

**Trails:**

23. Wall Creek to Red Mountain Meadows and Quiniscoe Lake
   - forms part of the Centennial trail
   - slumping sections on lower portions and the top end of the Red Mountain meadows

24. Upper Wall Creek
   - sketchy trail
   - not maintained

25. Ewart Creek - good condition

26. Mountain Goat Creek to Lakeview Mountain
   - forms part of the Centennial trail
   - sections of wet marshy ground

27. Haystack Lakes
   - sketchy trail; not maintained; sections of wet marshy ground

**E. Market Analysis**

1. **Existing Use**

   Complete data upon which to base a proper use analysis for Cathedral Park is lacking. Information gathered over the years from visual counts, trail registers and discussions with Park and Lodge staff shows that there are four main "focal areas" for use -- the Ashnola Corridor, the Core Area, the Cathedral Lodge Resort and the wilderness areas. There has been a slow but noticeable increase in use over the last three to five years.
Estimated annual attendance (by party)

Core Area (including Lodge)  1200
Backcountry (including Outward Bound)  150
Ashnola Corridor (including day-use)  3500

Two use trends in the Core Area of the Park have occurred since 1980. Firstly, the number of visitors during the "shoulder season" (June to mid-July and September) has declined. The composition of visitors during this season is strongly weighed towards first-time users. Secondly, use during the "peak-season" (mid-July to mid August) has risen. It would appear that having experienced the Park and possibly the vagaries of its weather, repeat visitors show a strong penchant for returning when the weather is more settled. This trend is probably encouraged by the fact that the District Office emphasizes the advantages of the "peak-season" when responding to enquiries. In 1986, over half (64.3%) of the people using the Core and backcountry areas of the Park were there in August, with a much lower percentage (26.1%) entering this area in July.

It appears that the Core and Wilderness Areas also receive an appreciable amount of use from organized groups averaging 16 people per group. Types vary from the Outward Bound School and regular school groups through to adult religious "retreats".

A survey conducted in the Core Area in 1986 showed that three B.C. Tourism Regions encompass the origin of almost all users at the present time. Those are: Southwestern B.C. (37%), Okanagan/Similkameen (34%) and Vancouver Island (12%). Of these, almost half (46.6%) have visited the Park before, most in the last two years.
The Ashnola Corridor provides a destination area for visitors from the Okanagan and Vancouver areas who are looking for backroad camping and recreation opportunities in a "non-structured" setting. Use in this area is increasing probably due to "word-of-mouth" advertising and better accessibility.

Cathedral Lakes Resort defines its customers as older (retired or near-retired) upper to upper-middle class from the Lower Mainland area.

2. Promotion and Information

Parks Division promotion for Cathedral has largely been through word-of-mouth, augmented by distribution of Regional and Park-specific brochures and articles in local papers. As well, information concerning the Park and its facilities is available at a kiosk on the Ashnola road.

Cathedral Lakes Resort has advertised their activities (and thus indirectly, the Park) in such media as the Financial Post newspaper and Beautiful B.C. and Western Living magazines. Of these, the article in Beautiful B.C. provided them with their best "return". They, too, depend on return clients and word-of-mouth promotion as their mainstay along with local advertising in Kelowna and Vancouver newspapers. (H. Berger pers. comm.).

3. Park Product

The Core Area occupies a rather unique position in the market-place. Compared to other high-elevation areas, it receives little precipitation, ensuring a late-June through end-September operating season in all but exceptional years. As well, the short mosquito season and near absence of large carnivores (especially bears) is also rather unique to a "backcountry" area. The presence of the Lodge operation offers "security" for novice backpackers as well as providing a popular, convenient and fast method of transport into and out of the Core Area.
The Ashnola Corridor provides opportunities for river-side recreation in sites with limited facilities. These are in marked contrast with the well-constructed and groomed sites offered at other Provincial Parks easily accessible to rubber-tired traffic.

4. Satisfaction Analysis

The "user survey" carried out in the Park in 1986 showed that almost half of the users (47%) had visited previously -- most in the last two years. This would seem to indicate an "attractive and successful" product, especially when coupled with the information that the primary reason most people have for visiting the Park was to hike (62%) and sightsee (27%) -- two activities which present Park management and publicity encourages. There has been some indication at Quiniscoe Lake, however, both through survey results and observations by Park staff that continued increases in the number of users (especially on long weekends) will result in a decrease in the satisfaction levels of the visitors to the point where negative publicity and an associated decline in use could result. Although not accurately recorded, this "threshold" appears to rest at about thirty camping units.

Almost everyone (72%) presently using the Core Area of the Park enters and exits by means of the transport service. Of those that do choose to both hike in and out (24.6%) an overwhelming majority use the Lakeview Creek Trail. Wall Creek and Ewart Creek Trails are almost exclusively used by groups (eg. Outward Bound).

It appears that very few people come to the Park primarily to fish. Of those that do partake of this activity, however, there appears to be a high satisfaction level expressed about the experience and the results.

It is worth noting that the respondents who offered written comments were over-whelmingly opposed to allowing horses within the Park. Reasons given
included deterioration of the existing trails and problems associated with horse droppings. Another very common remark was that the transportation service should continue in order to provide Park access to the old, the young and those incapable of hiking to the Lakes. Over half (56%) of those surveyed indicated that they would not come to Cathedral if the only access mode was by hiking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>User Survey Comparison (1979 vs. 1986)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary reason for visiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hiking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>riding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sightseeing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other</td>
</tr>
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Would you come to Cathedral if the only access was by hiking?

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>1986</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>44.0%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>39.3%</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
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Trails are maintained at an adequate standard

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<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>undecided</td>
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<td>3.5</td>
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</table>
The existing trail system should be expanded to cover additional areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>agree</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disagree</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>35.7</td>
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</table>

Trails are clearly marked

<table>
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<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>65.0%</td>
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<td>5.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>disagree</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
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</table>

Existing camping areas are too crowded

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>18.2%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>disagree</td>
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Campsites should be individually designed

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<tbody>
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Firewood should be provided at all campsites

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<td>29.2%</td>
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All fires should be prohibited

<table>
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<td>13.6%</td>
<td>12.7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>63.6%</td>
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Horse use should be permitted within the park

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</table>

Horse use should be restricted from the "core area"

<table>
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<th>87.6%</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Demand/Supply Analysis**

Present users (and the most likely source-areas for further use) are concentrated in the Lower Mainland and Okanagan/Similkameen areas of the province and would appear to have the potential of being reached inexpensively with any form of promotional or informational material. A good portion of July and almost all of September appear opportune times to encourage more use -- perhaps by emphasizing the fact (especially to first-time users) that weather conditions can be highly unpredictable either earlier or later in the season. Care must be exercised, however, that the very experience which brings people to this park is not lost -- namely one of relative solitude in a "wilderness" setting. This is especially true at Quiniscoe Lake (the main focus of the Core Area) where twenty-five to thirty camping sites should be considered maximum development. It would appear that groups comprise a large portion of the market-share.
From surveys conducted in the Park in 1979 and a subsequent survey in 1986, it is possible to create a "composite image" of a Cathedral Park visitor. The "visitor" probably comes from southwestern B.C., heard about the Park from a friend or relative, probably is there with a group of four others and intends to hike and sightsee. As well, the "visitor" will be 40 years of age or older, will have entered the Park by the transport system and intends to leave in the same manner. The "visitor" will be staying in a tent for three or four nights. Although this is probably the "visitor's" first visit, other members of the group probably hiked in Cathedral last year. The "visitor" will have some definite opinions: the trails are well maintained and are clearly marked, fires should be allowed at the campsites, horses should be totally banned from the "core area" and the camping areas are not too crowded.

It should also be pointed out that the ratio of males to females using the Park slightly favours females -- possibly a reflection on the access mode and the perceived "safety" of this backcountry park. At the same time, most users of the Park regard themselves as "intermediate" or "experienced" as far as their familiarity with backcountry camping is concerned.

It appears that a demand exists for two other recreational types of opportunities within Cathedral Park -- mountaineering and ski touring. Both of these are minor, and considering the overall make-up of the Park and conditions within and around it, it is felt that neither one of these activities should be actively encouraged or promoted to potential visitors.
F. Master Plan Issues

Since Cathedral Park's establishment in 1968, recreation use and development has evolved in line with the original intent to maintain the Park's natural qualities for public enjoyment and recreation. In 1975 an Interim Policy Statement was prepared to provide guidelines for development and management of the Park. A number of management concerns or issues were identified in this Policy Statement. Many of these issues remain and revolve around the basic problems of balancing park development and use with the maintenance of the Park's resource values and wilderness atmosphere, and of minimizing friction between potentially conflicting recreation interests. With user demands ever increasing in the Park, it is imperative that the issues be dealt with in the near future and in context with an overall Park Master Plan. There are 11 issues to be addressed in the Master Plan:

1. Park Role Statement

Developing a clear statement of the Park's concept and purpose may not be easy. A variety of interests, some of which are conflicting, will have to be taken into account. The meaning of "wilderness" as it relates to perceptions of the different user groups, will be especially difficult to define for the core area of the Park. The lodge setting, 4 wheel public transport to the core area, and the formalized campground facilities at Quinsico Lake do not conform with provincial zoning policies and criteria for wilderness. However, for the majority of the Park visitors, as reflected in visitor surveys, the core area offers sufficient sense of remoteness and wildness to qualify as wilderness.

2. Visitor Use Parameters

Definition of the Park role will help establish carrying capacities and development and management plans for the Park. Potentially the core area of the Park has a relatively high physical carrying capacity, however, it is the
more intangible social factors associated with the quality of the park experience that will form the basis for setting limits on numbers of visitors in the core area at one time. Park planners and managers will require a sensitive appreciation of visitor needs and attitudes in determining appropriate development levels and standards as well as the controls and regulations that will have to be imposed on visitor activities to protect the park environment and to ensure a quality experience for park visitors as a whole.

3. Relationship with Lodge

Present management of Cathedral Lakes Resort as a "wilderness lodge" is compatible with objectives of the Park. Lodge operations are dependent upon use of the Park for recreational opportunities. Particular attention will be given to management requirements and the design of facilities to minimize potential conflict between Lodge guests and general park visitors.

There is the risk that economic constraints may force the owners to sell or significantly change the scale and type of operation. The resort property is held under fee simple title, leaving the Parks Division with little effective control over use and development of the site. The property is so strategically situated that significant change in the lodge management could have major impact on public use of the Park. The uncertainties will complicate the Master Planning process. As an example, alternative options will have to be identified for provision of public transport to Quiniscoe Lake as contingency should the Resort decide to discontinue its four wheel drive vehicle access service for park visitors.

4. Commercial Use

There is demand for expanded guiding and outfitting activities in the Park. Decisions arrived through the Master Planning process will have to relate these demands to the objectives of the Park, the compatibility with other park user interests, and the possible environmental impacts.
5. Winter Use

The Park has poor potential for extensive cross country skiing and skiing touring. There is some limited opportunity between Quiniscoe Lake, Lake of the Woods and Scout Lake for cross country skiing. Resort managers recognize these limitations and have been promoting the concept of a winter retreat for peace and relaxation, with some opportunities for cross country skiing. They also see a potential for catering to the winter conference market.

Difficult access conditions created by ice build up on the lower section of the Lakeview Creek road frustrated an earlier attempt to establish winter use of the Lodge. The Lodge is now proposing helicopter access from Penticton. The winter use proposal includes track setting along some of the trails in the core area for cross country skiing.

Winter use of the Lodge does not pose obvious conflict with other recreation interests. However, utilization of summer hiking trails for cross country skiing may not be feasible and modification of these trails and/or construction of separate winter trails would create unacceptable impacts within the confined operating area. The impact of lodge activities on wintering wildlife populations must also be examined.

The Master Plan will define conditions for permitting winter use of the Park by the Lodge. The conditions will likely be set on a trial basis.

6. Relationship with Pasayten Wilderness and Snowy Alpine

There is potential to connect trail routes over the top ends of Wall and Ewart Creeks and up the Cathedral Forks drainage to the Cathedral Lakes in the Pasayten Wilderness. This would considerably enhance the recreation diversity of the Park. U.S. National Forest Service staff, however, have concerns about possible impacts of increased use from Canada into this already heavily visited area.
The Ministry of Forests manages the Snowy Alpine area, east of Cathedral Park, as defacto wilderness. The area encompasses the superb alpine country between Ewart Creek and the Similkameen River. The long established trails and rolling alpine country is well suited for horse use. The area also features a large population of California Bighorn sheep. The Master Planning process must be closely coordinated with long term development and management plans for Snowy Alpine to ensure maximum advantage is taken of the potential to establish complimentary recreation opportunities.

7. Management of the Ashnola River Corridor

The Ashnola River Valley is a popular destination for camping and fishing. Established campsites along the lower section of the River are maintained by the Ministry of Forests, and those upriver from the Park entrance are managed by the Parks Division. The Forest Recreation sites provide more rustic conditions than the Park sites, which by provincial standards offer limited facilities and services.

It is felt that the majority of recreationists in the Ashnola Valley enjoy the present informal nature of camping provided at these sites. At the same time, there is an apparent need to secure better control over visitor impacts, particularly from inappropriate use of motor vehicles. Through the Master Plan, the Parks Division will define its role and the appropriate scale of park development and management services in the Ashnola Valley in context with established use patterns.

8. Resource Management

Management policies and directions will be set for wildlife, fisheries and vegetation resources in relation to specific park objectives and peripheral
land use requirements. There will have to be close liaison with Fish and Wildlife and Ministry of Forests. Park management objectives may be compromised by outside recource management programs.

9. Grazing

Grazing is a non-conforming use of the Park's resources that predates Park creation. Existing permit holders have been pressuring for expanded grazing rights in the Park. The Master Plan will provide clear direction for maintaining or changing present grazing use.

10. Hunting

Hunting in the core area of the Park is a potential safety problem and as well poses conflict between the values and expectaions of hunters and non-hunters. Present hunting regulations will be evaluated in relation to these concerns and on the basis of the Park's wildlife capability to sustain harvest.

11. Horse Use

Historically horses formed the primary mode of access into the Cathedrals. Since opening of vehicle access to the alpine, hikers have become the overwhelming user group in the Park. The results of the visitor use questionnaire reveal that the majority of park users are strongly opposed to horse use in the Park, particularly in the core area. Horse users, as represented by the Horse Council of B.C. would like to retain rights to use the Park. The Guide and Outfitter in the area has also indicated interest in summer trail riding trips in the Park.
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