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CLARK UNVEILS 23 NEW PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS FOR LOWER MAINLAND

VANCOUVER ~ Premier Glen Clark today unveiled 23 new parks and protected areas in the Lower Mainland ~ areas that represent some of British Columbia's most magnificent natural features.

The 136,000 hectares of newly preserved land brings the total amount of protected area in the province's most populous region to 14 per cent ~ successfully completing the Protected Areas Strategy for the Lower Mainland.

"We are making historic progress towards our goal of doubling parks and protected areas in this province," Clark said. "This government has been, and will continue to be committed to preserving our natural heritage in B.C. We are proving to the world that the environment and the economy can not only sustain each other, but both thrive in the process.

I am proud to continue the legacy begun in 1992 when British Columbia embarked on the largest protected areas expansion initiative in Canadian history," Clark said. "Since that time, we have announced over 225 new parks, bringing the total protected area to almost nine million hectares ~ 9.3 per cent of the province."

Some of the most significant of the newly protected areas include:

- **Brackendale Eagle Reserve** - an important wintering site for bald eagles, with the world's largest concentration of these magnificent birds;
- **Upper Lillooet** (19,870 hectares) - providing excellent backcountry recreation opportunities in an area known for its grizzly bear population and Douglas fir stands;
- **Mehatl River** (23,670 hectares) - a large, pristine watershed adjacent to the Stein Valley, with spotted owl habitat, and superb hiking and mountaineering opportunities;
- **Chilliwack Lake/Greendrop** (8,905 hectares) - exceptional and accessible recreational opportunities, with spotted owl habitat and old-growth Douglas fir stands;
- **Elaho/Clendenning** (29,800 hectares) - containing expansive, largely untouched watersheds, old-growth forests of Douglas fir and Western red cedar, healthy wildlife populations, and offering extensive wilderness recreation opportunities. Along with the Upper Lillooet lands, this area makes up part of what is sometimes referred to as the Randy Stoltmann Wilderness Area; and
- **Bishop River** (19,940 hectares) - an untouched wilderness area home to a large population of grizzly bears.

The newly protected areas include 50,000 hectares of spotted owl habitat, and government will be announcing further management plans for spotted owl habitat in the next few weeks.

The announcement of the 23 new parks and protected areas follows a year and a half of extensive discussion and debate by the Lower Mainland Regional Public Advisory Committee which reached consensus and presented government with its recommendations in August of this year. The committee includes representatives of conservation groups, outdoor recreation, tourism, the forest industry, mining, fish and wildlife, labor and government agencies.

"I thank and commend all the members of the advisory committee for the extremely difficult task they faced and complete," Clark said. "Through co-operation and goodwill we have met our commitment to complete the Lower Mainland Protected Areas Strategy, as well as defining a plan to ensure jobs are protected for the long term."

The premier outlined the mitigation strategy that will ensure resource workers, the forest industry and resource-dependent communities will continue to thrive. The strategy includes:

- Approved funding of \$5 million from Forest Renewal BC for forest workers in the region to undertake training, watershed restoration, timber supply enhancement and research projects.
- The intention to begin a Sea to Sky land and resource management plan which will focus on resource development zones of varying intensity. This LRMP will be followed by similar planning processes for the Chilliwack and Sunshine Coast forest districts.
- Ensuring that any area of working forest outside protected areas will be designated as Forest Land Reserve as a consequence of LRMP processes.

Environment, Lands and Parks Minister Paul Ramsey and Forests Minister David Zirnhelt joined the premier at the announcement.

Ramsey noted the importance of protecting wilderness and natural areas in the province's most populated area. "With rapidly increasing pressures from urban growth in the Lower Mainland, the need to preserve wilderness habitat and recreational values becomes critical," he said. "The livability of this region depends on a healthy, natural environment, and we can leave no greater gift to future generations."

Zirnhelt stressed that today's decision demonstrates that land-use decisions can respect and sustain environmental values while also protecting job security and community stability.

"This showcases the benefits that can result when industry and labor come together with the environmental community and propose to government a solution to difficult land-use issues," he said.

"In British Columbia, we're proving that environmental and economic sustainability is possible," Clark said. "We're not just trying - we're succeeding in keeping our province green and our economy growing, and we're securing a prosperous future for our children."

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Communications Director
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Trish Webb (250) 387-1718
Press Secretary
Office of the Premier

BACKGROUND

Completing The Lower Mainland Protected Areas Strategy

October 1996

Introduction

In June 1995, the provincial government announced plans to resolve the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) in the Lower Mainland. To encourage public participation and consultation in this process, the government established a Regional Public Advisory Committee (RPAC) to provide recommendations on completing the Lower Mainland PAS. The region covers more than four million hectares and stretches from Manning Provincial Park in the east to Bute Inlet in the west.

The Lower Mainland PAS was designed to protect key natural areas in the region and provide for recreational opportunities, while securing a stable future for those who depend on resource industries for their livelihood.

British Columbia is committed to protecting 12 per cent of the province by the year 2000 and doubling parks and protected areas through the Protected Areas Strategy. This will achieve two important goals. It will protect areas representing the natural diversity of this province: the major land, marine and freshwater ecosystems; the characteristic habitats, hydrology and landforms; and the characteristic backcountry recreational and cultural heritage values of each ecosection. The second goal is to protect the natural, cultural heritage and recreational features of the province, including rare and endangered species and critical habitats, outstanding cultural heritage features, and outstanding outdoor recreational features.

Previous provincial park announcements under the Lower Mainland Nature Legacy, such as Pinecone-Burke, Tetrahedron, Indian Arm and Stawamus Chief, boosted the amount of existing and new provincial park lands in the Lower Mainland region to 10.6 per cent. As part of the process beginning in 1995, an additional 104,000 hectares was identified as the amount of Crown land available to complete the PAS.

Resolution of the protected areas system for the Lower Mainland will contribute significantly to achieving a sustainable environment and economy. Along with the implementation of the Forest Practices Code and the finalization over the next few weeks of a plan to guide forest harvesting in spotted owl habitat, it will resolve a number of long-standing issues and will provide certainty for many interests in the Lower Mainland. This decision will allow communities and industries to plan for their future with greater certainty.

The Process

The Regional Public Advisory Committee (RPAC) included the forest industry, conservation groups, outdoor recreation, tourism, mining, fish and wildlife, labour and government agencies. As well, two representatives from the Lower Mainland Municipal Association were appointed to the committee as observers. First Nations received information throughout the process in order to address their issues and exchange information.

RPAC MEMBERS

B.C. and Yukon Chamber of Mines: Jack Patterson
B.C. Chamber of Commerce: Karl Gustafson
B.C. Wildlife Federation: Jack Carradice
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (B.C. chapter): Bryan Evans
Coast Forest and Lumber Association: Ric Slaco
Federation of B.C. Naturalists: Elaine Golds
IWA - Canada: Warren Ulley
Land Use Coordination Office (Province of British Columbia): Yvette Wells
Outdoor Recreation Council: Don Griffiths
Truck Loggers Association: Rick Jeffries
Vancouver Coast and Mountains Tourism Association: Doug Banner
Southwest Wildlands Alliance: Kevin Scott

Observers:

Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.: Mike Feller
Lower Mainland Municipal Association (2): Corrine Lonsdale/Bernie Cross

The committee began by reviewing the list of government approved study areas for the region. The list included key spotted owl habitat which also had PAS value. A number of committee members also submitted proposals for new protected areas. The suggested areas were assessed using a variety of methods such as the selection criteria established in the 1993 document "A Protected Areas Strategy for British Columbia" as well as using available technical information and relying on the knowledge of the participants.

On August 14, 1996, after many months of discussion, the RPAC submitted its final report to government, recommending 23 new protected areas and an additional future process to be undertaken in the Fraser Lowland, which would bring the regional total to approximately 14 per cent.

As well, RPAC submitted numerous recommendations to mitigate the impacts of the new protected areas. These included a new land and resource management planning (LRMP) process for Squamish, a funding envelope from Forest Renewal BC for affected workers, minimizing impacts to forest operations by careful boundary setting and Forest Land Reserve designation for crown lands outside protected areas subsequent to LRMP processes throughout the Lower Mainland region.

GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON NEW PROTECTED AREAS

The provincial government has acted on the recommendations of the Regional Public Advisory Committee. Twenty-three new parks and protected areas, totalling more than 136,000 hectares, have been created in the Lower Mainland region. As well, a local group will work towards determining the location of land in the Fraser Lowland (up to 1,000 hectares) that will contribute to protecting wildlife habitat.

Under the PAS for the Lower Mainland region, the following areas are being protected by the provincial government (all sizes are approximate):

Goal 1 Sites (Representation of ecosystems)

- 1. Bishop River: 19,940 ha.** Untouched wilderness area; grizzly bear habitat; protection of underrepresented Northern Pacific Ranges ecoregion.
- 2. Callaghan Lake: 2,550 ha.** Old growth forests; excellent backcountry recreation opportunities; close proximity to the resort community of Whistler.
- 3. Caren Range: 2,830 ha.** Some of the oldest yellow cedar and western hemlock trees in western Canada; marbled murrelet habitat; Roosevelt elk; hiking, biking and skiing opportunities.
- 4. Chilliwack Lake/Greendrop: 8,905 ha.** Contains small pockets of old growth Douglas fir and Western red cedar; spotted owl habitat; excellent area for outdoor recreation.
- 5. Confederation and Haslam Lakes: 3,215 ha.** Complete watershed; extensive recreation values; close proximity to Powell River.
- 6. Elaho/Clendenning: 29,800 ha.** Contains expansive, largely untouched watersheds; old growth including low elevation stands of Douglas fir and Western red cedar; significant wildlife populations; extensive wilderness recreation opportunities.
- 7. Liumchen: 2,295 ha.** Spotted owl habitat; adds to International Ridge Provincial Park; hiking, mountain biking; old growth values.
- 8. Mehatl River: 23,670 ha.** Large, unlogged watershed; adds to Stein Valley Park; spotted owl habitat; excellent hiking and mountaineering opportunities.
- 9. Sockeye Creek: 6,130 ha.** Intact watersheds; adds to Birkenhead Provincial Park; stands of Western red cedar; spotted owl habitat.
- 10. Tantalus: 10,040 ha.** Spectacular waterfalls; spotted owl habitat; dominating viewscape from Sea to Sky Highway; premier area for mountaineering.
- 11. Upper Lillooet: 19,870 ha.** Record size white pine; significant stands of low elevation Douglas fir; grizzly bear population; excellent backcountry recreation opportunities.

Goal 2 Sites (Natural features and site specific recreation)

- 12. Brackendale Eagle Reserve:** Significant wintering site for bald eagles; spotted owl habitat; aboriginal burial grounds and culturally modified trees.
- 13. Curme Islands - Desolation Sound: 5 ha.** Four small islands which form an addition to Desolation Sound Marine Park; popular camping location for small boaters; valuable intertidal area.
- 14. Duck Lake: 750 ha.** Important nesting habitat for migratory and non-migratory birds; hiking, fishing and bird watching.
- 15. Homathko Estuary: 440 ha.** Important wetland area for migratory birds and fish.
- 16. Mount Elphinstone: 140 ha.** Three protected areas containing rare mushrooms which need to be scientifically classified; old growth values; hiking, biking and skiing opportunities.

17. Mount Richardson: 880 ha. Old growth values; hiking, biking, skiing, kayaking, canoeing and camping opportunities.

18. Mystic Lakes: 750 ha. A scenic cluster of lakes adjoining Golden Ears Provincial Park; old growth values.

19. Nahatlatch Lakes: 1,695 ha. High recreation potential, especially canoeing, swimming and camping.

20. Rendezvous Island: 115 ha. Excellent recreation opportunities; good camping and water supply for boaters.

21. South Texada Island: 1,125 ha. Undisturbed old growth forest; excellent coastline for small boats; good hiking.

22. Triangle Lake: 80 ha. Pristine, pure, rare sphagnum bog of high educational and scientific value.

23. Yale Garry Oak: 4 ha. Contains rare stands of Garry oak trees.

Future Process

* **Fraser Lowland: up to 1,000 ha.** For the Fraser Lowland region, one or more protected areas totalling approximately 1,000 hectares could be established in locations identified by a local working group. Extremely important wetland area for birds and waterfowl; valuable wetland for bird and fish habitat; excellent bird-watching opportunities.

Lower Mainland Protected Areas Strategy Summary Statistics (all sizes are approximate)

Total amount of protected areas as of June 1995, including Lower Mainland Nature Legacy parks: 444,000 hectares or 10.6 %

New protected areas added in October 1996: 136,800 hectares

Total amount of protected area as of October 1996: 580,800 hectares or 14%

Implementation - Establishing and Designating New Protected Areas

Line agency staff will resolve any existing use conflicts within protected areas to prepare them for formal designation. Several mechanisms will be used to designate these areas, primarily the *Park Act* and the *Environment and Land Use Act*. Further revision to proposed boundaries is required so that they may be legally described. Careful attention will be paid to ensure the spirit and intent of the original proposals are maintained and that the total amount of protected area remains at 14 per cent for the Lower Mainland region.

A MITIGATION STRATEGY FOR THE LOWER MAINLAND

The government believes environmental stewardship and a strong economy go hand in hand. Along with protecting and restoring the quality and integrity of our environment, we must also ensure a secure future for forest workers, communities and companies.

Protecting Forest Workers

To meet the needs of communities and sustain resource jobs, the government has accepted the mitigation strategy proposed by RPAC:

- Forest Renewal BC has approved a \$5 million funding envelope for forest workers in the Lower Mainland. A variety of projects will be considered for funding, including those concerned with training, enhancing timber supply and watershed restoration.
- Impacts to forest operations will be minimized by careful boundary setting.
- The government will work cooperatively with industry to ensure there is no disruption in the short-term timber supply while ensuring the requirements of the Forest Practices Code continue to be met.
- Any areas of working forest outside the protected areas will be designated as Forest Land Reserve subsequent to LRMP processes throughout the region, which will provide a secure land base for forestry activities.

A New Sea to Sky LRMP

Land and resource management planning (LRMP) is an important way of providing a fair and consistent opportunity for community members, special interest groups, local governments and First Nations to participate with provincial government ministries in deciding how Crown lands will be managed.

The government intends to begin a Sea to Sky LRMP (the Squamish Forest District) in 1997. Since the process of determining protected areas for this region is already complete, the Sea to Sky LRMP will focus on identifying resource development zones - of varying intensity - to address concerns of resource users and the conservation community, in addition to growth management and recreation issues. The Sea to Sky LRMP will be followed by an LRMP in the Chilliwack Forest District and an LRMP for the Sunshine Coast Forest District. These plans will identify the following land-use zones: - enhanced resource development (high intensity)

- general resource management
- special resource management (low intensity)
- agricultural land
- settlement land.

With the completion of the Lower Mainland Protected Areas Strategy, study areas and areas of interest will no longer be relevant. Therefore, commercial forest areas on previously reserved lands will be available for forest development, subject to the requirements of the Forest Practices Code and an approved Spotted Owl Management Plan which is expected within the next few weeks.

For more information:

Land Use Coordination Office, Victoria
Phone: (250) 387-0338

BC Lands, Burnaby
Phone: (604) 660-5500

Questions or Comments? lucoinfo@gems3.gov.bc.ca
Last Updated: 10/31/96

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release Land Use Coordination Office
August 27, 1996

PROVINCE RECEIVES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROTECTED AREAS IN THE LOWER MAINLAND

VICTORIA Recommendations for new protected areas and measures to offset job impacts are included in a public advisory committee's final report to develop the Protected Areas Strategy in the Lower Mainland.

The recommendations from the Lower Mainland Regional Public Advisory Committee call for 24 new protected areas, totalling approximately 138,000 hectares. This would be added to the approximate 444,000 hectares of existing parks and protected areas in the region.

"The government's target for the Lower Mainland was 13 per cent and, after a great deal of co-operative effort, the committee has recommended 14 per cent," said Environment, Lands and Parks Minister Paul Ramsey. "We need to carefully examine all the implications of these recommendations, including the future environmental needs of an area experiencing pressures from urban growth. The decisions we will make will impact the future generations of this province, and nowhere more strongly than in the Lower Mainland."

"Government's final decision on Lower Mainland protected areas must take all interests into account and provide a secure future for the region by addressing forest sector job issues," said Forests Minister David Zirnhelt. "Jobs are a key issue in B.C. and our government's goal is to add 21,000 forest sector jobs over the next five years."

Along with identifying and proposing new protected areas, the committee reached agreement on a proposed mitigation strategy to offset potential job impacts. It includes:

- designation of the land base outside of protected areas as forest land reserve to provide a secure land base for forestry activities;
- a request to Forest Renewal BC to approve, for forest workers in the Lower Mainland, a funding envelope that will consider projects directed towards training, watershed restoration, enhancing timber supply and research;
- proposed land and resource management plans to be initiated in the Sea to Sky corridor and the Chilliwack and Sunshine Coast forest districts. These plans would address ways to reduce the potential job impacts of the protected area designations.

"Balancing land use, while facilitating job creation and investment in the province, and at the same time preserving British Columbia's natural habitats is the main objective," said Employment and Investment Minister Dan Miller. "Although this process has been inclusive of a broad range of stakeholders, we would like to hear from the people of the region before decisions are made."

The province established the advisory committee in June 1995 to provide recommendations to government for completion of the Protected Areas Strategy in the Lower Mainland region, which covers four million hectares and stretches from Manning Provincial Park in the east to Bute Inlet in the west. The committee included the forest industry, conservation groups, outdoor recreation,

tourism, mining, fish and wildlife, labor and government agencies. As well, two representatives from the Lower Mainland Municipal Association were appointed to the committee as observers. First Nations received information on the process in an attempt to address their issues and exchange information.

Copies of the report and the full package of detailed maps of the proposed protected areas can be viewed at the following provincial government offices:

- BC Parks Vancouver District Office, North Vancouver
- BC Environment Lower Mainland Regional Headquarters, Surrey
- BC Lands Lower Mainland Regional Office, Burnaby
- Ministry of Forests Sunshine Coast District Office, Powell River
- Ministry of Forests Sechelt Field Office, Sechelt
- Ministry of Forests Squamish District Office, Squamish
- Ministry of Forests Chilliwack District Office, Rosedale
- Land Use Coordination Office, Victoria.

Comments on the RPAC report can be sent to:

Land Use Coordination Office
2nd Floor - 836 Yates Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Fax: (250) 953-3481

Map and summary attached.

Contact: Jim Durham 387-0338
Director, Communications
Land Use Coordination Office

SUMMARY

Public Advisory Committee Report for Finalizing the Protected Areas Strategy in the Lower Mainland

August 1996

Introduction

In June 1995, the provincial government announced its commitment to achieve land-use certainty in the Lower Mainland with plans to first resolve protected areas and secondly spotted owl habitat management, while at the same time securing jobs. A target of 13 per cent was set to complete the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) for this region, defined as the area which includes the Chilliwack, Squamish and Sunshine Coast forest districts. The Lower Mainland PAS was designed to protect key natural areas in the region and provide for recreational opportunities while securing a certain and stable future for those who depend on the regional forest industry for their livelihood.

At present, provincial park lands in the Lower Mainland region total 10.6 per cent. An additional 104,000 ha was identified by government as the amount of Crown land potentially available to complete the PAS. These new protected areas were to be proposed by a public process known as the Regional Public Advisory Committee (RPAC).

The Regional Public Advisory Committee

The RPAC was made up of representatives from a wide range of sectors. As well, two representatives from the Lower Mainland Municipal Association were appointed as observers. First Nations were also asked to participate to address their issues and exchange information.

RPAC Members	
B.C. and Yukon Chamber of Mines B.C. Chamber of Commerce B.C. Wild B.C. Wildlife Federation Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (B.C. Chapter) Coast Forest Lumber Association Federation of B.C. Naturalists	IWA Canada Land Use Coordination Office (Province of British Columbia) Outdoor Recreational Council Truck Loggers Association Vancouver Coast Mountains Tourism Association

Observers:

Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C.

Lower Mainland Municipal Association: District of Chilliwack / District of Squamish

The Process

The process began with the committee reviewing lists of areas of interest provided by the public, government approved study areas for the region, critical spotted owl habitat and a series of maps produced by committee members. The suggested areas were assessed using the selection criteria

established in the 1993 document *A Protected Areas Strategy For British Columbia*, related technical information and the knowledge of the participants. This work was followed up with a biophysical impact analysis and a socio-economic analysis to assist with protected area decision-making in the region. Finally, the committee members negotiated a single map option for eventual presentation to government.

RPAC's Final Report Highlights

On August 14, the RPAC reached consensus and delivered to government a signed off final report which recommends 24 new protected areas and a series of mitigative measures to offset potential impacts. Highlights of the proposed mitigation strategy include:

- designation of the land base outside of protected areas as forest land reserve under the *Forest Land Reserve Act* in a manner that does not interfere with logical planning and administration of development approvals for agricultural and settlement developments.
- proposed land and resource management plans (LRMPs) to be initiated in the Sea to Sky corridor and the Chilliwack and Sunshine Coast forest districts. These plans would address ways to reduce the potential impacts realized as a result of the protected areas designations and identify the following land-use zones:
 - enhanced resource development (high intensity)
 - general resource management
 - special resource management (low intensity)
 - agricultural land
 - settlement land.
- Forest Renewal BC will be asked to approve and designate a funding envelope, that complies with FRBC guidelines, specifically for the retraining and creation of employment opportunities for any affected forest worker.

The committee has proposed the following new protected areas (all sizes are approximate):

GOAL 1 SITES [Representation of ecosystems]

1 Bishop River: 20,000 ha. Untouched wilderness area; grizzly bear habitat; protection of underrepresented Northern Pacific Ranges Ecosection.

2 Callaghan Lake: 2,600 ha. Old growth forests; excellent backcountry recreation opportunities; close proximity to the resort community of Whistler.

3 Caren Range: 2,825 ha. Some of the oldest yellow cedar and western hemlock trees in western Canada; marbled murrelet habitat; Roosevelt elk; hiking, biking and skiing opportunities.

4 Chilliwack Lake/Greendrop: 9,500 ha. Contains small pockets of old growth Douglas fir and western redcedar; part of a spotted owl conservation area; excellent area for outdoor recreation.

5 Confederation and Haslam Lakes: 2,615 ha. Complete watershed; extensive recreation values; close proximity to Powell River.

6 Elaho/Clendenning: 30,500 ha. Contains expansive, largely untouched watersheds; old growth

including low elevation stands of Douglas fir and western redcedar; significant wildlife populations; extensive wilderness recreation opportunities.

7 Liumchen: 2,080 ha. Part of a spotted owl conservation area; adds viability to International Ridge Provincial Park; hiking, mountain biking; old growth values.

8 Mehatl River: 24,260 ha. Large, unlogged watershed; adds viability to Stein Valley Park; part of an active centre for spotted owls; excellent hiking and mountaineering opportunities.

9 Sockeye Creek: 6,140 ha. Intact watersheds; adds viability to Birkenhead Provincial Park; stands of western redcedar; part of a spotted owl conservation area.

10 Tantalus: 10,230 ha. Spectacular waterfalls; part of a spotted owl conservation area; dominating viewscape from Sea to Sky Highway; premier area for mountaineering.

11 Upper Lillooet: 19,800 ha. Record size white pine; significant stands of low elevation Douglas fir; grizzly bear population; excellent backcountry recreation opportunities.

GOAL 2 SITES [Natural features and site specific recreation]

12 Brackendale Eagle Reserve: 550 ha. Significant wintering site for bald eagles; part of a spotted owl conservation area; aboriginal burial grounds and culturally modified trees.

13 Curme Islands - Desolation Sound: 20 ha. Four small islands which would form an addition to Desolation Sound Marine Park; popular camping location for small boaters; valuable intertidal area.

14 Duck Lake: 770 ha. Important nesting habitat for migratory and non-migratory birds; hiking, fishing and bird watching.

15 Homathko Estuary: 460 ha. Important wetland area for migratory birds and fish; First Nation heritage sites.

16 Mount Elphinstone: 150 ha. Three protected areas which contain rare mushrooms which need to be scientifically classified; old growth values; hiking, biking and skiing opportunities.

17 Mount Richardson: 1,070 ha. Old growth values; Sechelt First Nation pictographs; hiking, biking, skiing, kayaking, canoeing and camping opportunities.

18 Mystic Lakes: 250 ha. A scenic cluster of lakes adjoining Golden Ears Provincial Park; old growth values.

19 Nahatlatch Lakes: 1,900 ha. High recreation potential, especially boating, swimming and camping.

20 Rendezvous Island: 120 ha. Excellent recreation opportunities; good camping and water supply for boaters.

21 South Texada Island: 1,000 ha. Undisturbed old growth forest; excellent coastline for small boats; good hiking.

22 Triangle Lake: 85 ha. Pristine, pure, rare sphagnum bog of high educational and scientific value.

23 Yale Garry Oak: 5 ha. Contains rare stands of Garry oak trees.

FUTURE PROCESS

24 Fraser Lowlands: up to 1,000 ha. For the Fraser Lowlands region, one or more protected areas totalling approximately 1,000 ha could be established in the locations identified by a local working group to be made up of representatives from environmental and recreation groups, industry, labor, First Nations, local landowners, local, regional and provincial governments. Extremely important wetland area for birds and waterfowl; valuable wetland for bird and fish habitat; excellent bird watching opportunities.

RECOMMENDED PRIVATE LAND ACQUISITION AREAS

A - Anvil Island (two sites)

B - Burns Bog

C - Desolation Sound

D - Nelson Island

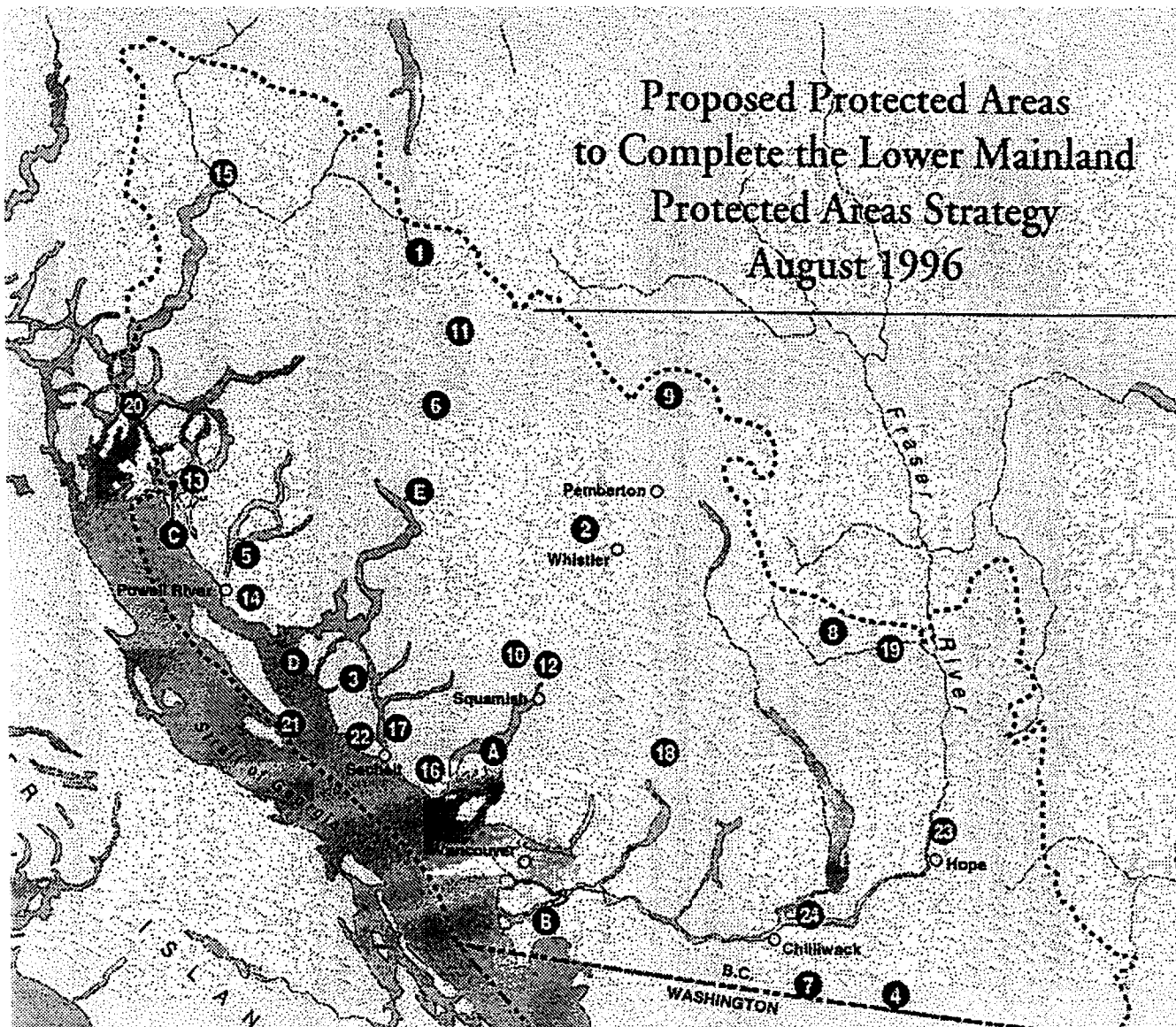
E - Princess Louisa Inlet

Next Steps

On August 14, 1996, the Lower Mainland RPAC submitted its final report to the Land Use Coordination Office. In reviewing the report, it was noted that the package of protected areas exceeds the 13 per cent target by more than 33,000 hectares. Government staff are now undertaking a thorough review of the report and the public is being given the opportunity to comment on it. LUCO will prepare an analysis of the report for cabinet consideration and advise government on the implications. The report and any public comments received on it will be carefully considered by cabinet members in the fall, prior to any decisions being made on how to proceed.

A decision on Lower Mainland protected areas will resolve an issue which has created uncertainty for resource users for many years. It will recognize the well understood values of the area and the clearly articulated desire on the part of many people to resolve these issues. Resolution of protected areas for the Lower Mainland region will allow communities and industries to plan with greater certainty.

Proposed Protected Areas
to Complete the Lower Mainland
Protected Areas Strategy
August 1996



For more information:

Copies of the RPAC's report and the full package of detailed maps of the proposed protected areas can be viewed at the following provincial government offices:

BC Parks
Vancouver District Office
1610 Mount Seymour Rd.
North Vancouver

BC Environment
Lower Mainland Regional Headquarters
10334 - 152 A St.
Surrey

BC Lands
Lower Mainland Regional Office
Room 401, 4603 Kingsway
Burnaby

Ministry of Forests
Sunshine Coast District Office
7077 Duncan St.
Powell River

Ministry of Forests
Sechelt Field Office
1975 Field Rd.
Sechelt

Ministry of Forests
Squamish District Office
42000 Loggers Lane
Squamish

Ministry of Forests
Chilliwack District Office
9850 S. McGrath Rd.
Rosedale

Land Use Coordination Office
2nd Floor - 836 Yates St.
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