



May 2017

## **Protected Areas Framework for British Columbia's South Okanagan**

### **Issue:**

- Moving forward with planning discussions on enhanced protection measures for the South Okanagan.

### **Background:**

- In October 2003, Canada and BC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) related to the establishment of national park reserves and national marine conservation area reserves in BC. Commitments in the MOU included an initiative to explore the feasibility of establishing a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan to represent the Parks Canada's Dry Interior Plateau natural region.
- In January, 2011, Cabinet directed that the Province would not proceed further with the feasibility study regarding the establishment of the proposed national park reserve in the South Okanagan at this time.
- In August 2015, the Province released an Intentions Paper for public input proposing an alternative framework for enhanced protection measures in the South Okanagan which included the concept of a provincial conservancy referred to as Area 2 (Testalinden/Mt. Kobau). While Area 1 (South Kilpoola and Chopaka) and Area 3 (White Lake basin) were identified for possible national park reserve.
- In late spring 2016, BC Parks released a consultation summary report. The public responses totaled over 3000 submissions however only a small percentage were specific to the questions asked. Despite the paper being clear that the 2010 national park proposal was not up for reconsideration, a large number of respondents used the Intentions Paper as a venue to voice support or opposition to that proposal.
- As for issues or interests related to the Intentions Paper proposal, no new interests were raised that were not already known by the province. The feedback indicated the public are very interested and passionate about issues of environmental protection, First Nations cultural values, tourism and recreation opportunities in the South Okanagan.
- On January 27, 2017, the Province announced that planning discussions to achieve the objectives outlined in the Province's earlier Intentions Paper are moving forward with the support and participation of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band and Osoyoos Indian Band. The Province also announced that it would reach out to Parks Canada to engage in these discussions to consider two areas for possible inclusion in a South Okanagan National Park Reserve.



May 2017

- In February 2017, the Parks Canada / BC Steering Committee met after a long break to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest. This meeting marked the official re-engagement of Parks Canada in future discussions on the proposed South Okanagan protection options put forward by the Province in the Intentions Paper which would include a mix of provincial and federal designations.
- A follow up Parks Canada/BC Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2017 which may involve further dialogue regarding concept area boundaries/configurations.

**Key Stakeholders:**

- The Grasslands Park Review Coalition;
- The South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Network (SOSNPN), and;
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS).

**Decision Required:**

- No decision is required at this time.



## Legislation, Planning and Land Acquisition

### Topic:

- Legislation, Planning and Land Acquisition

### Background:

- Between 1911 and the late 1980s, approximately 6% of the province was dedicated to protected areas. Land use planning initiatives starting in the 1990s and the *Protected Areas Strategy* set a goal of protecting 12% of the province by 2000. Further protection recommendations coming from land use plans, agreements with First Nations and private land acquisitions have resulted in a protected areas system managed by BC Parks of 14.4% of the province or approximately 14 million hectares.
- There are 1,033 parks, conservancies, ecological reserves, recreation areas and protected areas across British Columbia. They range in size from less than 1 hectare (Memory Island Park) to almost 1 million hectares (Tweedsmuir Park).
- British Columbia has more land dedicated to protected area status than any other province or territory in Canada.

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Area (ha)</u>
Class A Parks	628	10,515,994
Class B Parks	2	3,778
Class C Parks	13	484
Recreation Areas	2	5,929
Conservancies	156	2,998,504
Designations under the <i>Environment and Land Use Act</i>	84	384,733
Ecological Reserves	148	160,456
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>14,069,881</b>

### Summary of Legislation

- The Ministry uses a number of different provincial statutes to administer and manage the diverse parks and protected areas system.
- ***Park Act***  
This key protected areas statute provides for the establishment and management of provincial parks, conservancies and recreation areas. Parks and conservancies are established by order in council under the *Park Act* or by inclusion in the schedules of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*. Recreation areas are established by order in council under the *Park Act*.



May 2017

- ***Ecological Reserve Act***

The *Ecological Reserve Act* is one of the key pieces of protected area legislation. The Act provides for the establishment and administration of ecological reserves in the Province. New ecological reserves are created by order-in-council under the *Ecological Reserve Act* or through inclusion in the schedules of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*. BC Parks administers the Act and the ecological reserves.
- ***Protected Areas of British Columbia Act***

The *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* represents a step in improving the legislative framework for the stewardship of the provincial protected areas system. The Act consolidates in its schedules most of the parks, conservancies and ecological reserves for the purposes of the *Park Act* and the *Ecological Reserve Act*. The Act ensures that the boundaries of these protected areas cannot be altered except by an act of the Legislature, unlike protected areas established by orders in council.
- ***Environment and Land Use Act***

This legislation is under the authority of the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The Act empowers a Land Use Committee of Cabinet to ensure that all aspects of the preservation and maintenance of the natural environment are fully considered in the administration of land use and resource development. BC Parks frequently uses this Act to establish protected areas where another designation tool, such as a park, conservancy or ecological reserve, is not acceptable.
- ***Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act*** [ss. 5(b), and 6 and 9 only, insofar as they relate to the portfolio of the Minister of Environment.]

Section 5(b) describes one of the functions of the Ministry as being to encourage outdoor recreation, establish parks and conserve the natural scenic and historic features of British Columbia. Section 6 provides the Minister with the authority, for the purposes of the Act, to enter into agreements (subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council) with the government of Canada, the government of another province, or with any other person or a municipality. (This section is shared with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.) Section 9 gives authority to the minister to dispose of, acquire and manage land for ministry purposes.
- ***Ministry of Environment Act*** [s. 5 only]

Section 5 gives the Minister authority to acquire property. This provision is often used in land acquisition initiatives.
- ***Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act*** [s. 9.6 only]

This Act establishes special accounts, which are accounts in the general fund of the consolidated revenue fund where the authorization to expend money from the account is located in an Act other than a Supply Act. Section 9.6 concerns the Park Enhancement Fund, a special account into which money may be paid from sources as specified in this section (e.g., from the sale of informational material as authorized by the *Park Act*), and from which amounts may be paid by the minister (specified purposes in respect of protected areas).



May 2017

s.12,s.13

### **Land Acquisition Program**

- BC Parks may acquire private land and/or accept land donations to enhance the parks and protected areas system. BC Parks may partner with private individuals, corporations and the non-profit sector to acquire these lands. Key stakeholders/partners often include non-government organizations such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited, Marine Parks Forever Society and The Nature Trust of BC, local governments and forest companies.
- The Ministry does not have an appropriated land acquisition budget at this time.



## Planning Program

### Land Use Planning and Other Systems Planning

- South Okanagan: In August 2015, the Province released an *Intentions Paper* for public input proposing a framework for enhanced protection measures in the South Okanagan which included a mix of provincial and federal designations. A *Consultation Summary* based on the feedback received on the *Intentions Paper* was released publicly in May 2016 and the Minister also met with Okanagan Nation Alliance member bands (including the Osoyoos Indian Band, Lower Similkameen Indian Band, and the Penticton Indian Band) in September 2016. On January 27, 2017, the Province announced that planning discussions to achieve the objectives outlined in the Province’s earlier Intentions Paper are moving forward with the support and participation of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band and Osoyoos Indian Band. The Province also announced that it would reach out to Parks Canada to engage in these discussions to consider two areas for possible inclusion in a South Okanagan National Park Reserve. The Province and Parks Canada met in February 2017 to initiate discussions.

### Boundary Adjustments

- On occasion, the need arises to modify park and protected area boundaries. Boundary adjustments most often require changes to legislation.
- There are three categories of boundary adjustments:
  - **Category 1:** “Administrative housekeeping” adjustments undertaken where there have been errors in the initial legal description of the boundary or an area was captured that clearly was not intended to be captured at the designation stage;
  - **Category 2:** Adjustments intended to alleviate a human health and safety concern; and



May 2017

- **Category 3:** Adjustments where a proponent (private or public) is interested in a boundary adjustment to allow for a development or activity not allowed by authorization under the protected area legislation.
- Since 2000, the Provincial government has had a policy in place outlining how requests under Category 3 above are reviewed. This Cabinet-approved policy is the Provincial Protected Area Boundary Adjustment Policy, Process and Guidelines.
- There are three active Category 3 Boundary Adjustment Projects:  
**s.12,s.13,s.16**

#### Management Planning

- Management plans are required for all provincial protected areas. Management plans are the key tool used to guide decisions on appropriate recreational activities, facility development and conservation of natural and cultural resources in these areas.
- The development of management plans is usually led by BC Parks. In many cases, First Nations and/or other partners collaborate with BC Parks in the development of the management plan. These plans are usually approved at the Executive Director level.
- There are currently 1,033 provincial protected areas. Management direction has been approved for 735 (71%) of these areas. There are currently over 50 active management plan projects in the province.

#### **Contact information:**

Jim Standen  
Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service  
250-387-1288



May 2017

## Federal and Provincial Parks Engagement

### Issue:

- Intergovernmental Relations

### Background:

- In October 2003, Canada and BC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) respecting the establishment of national park reserves and national marine conservation area reserves in BC. Commitments in the MOU included:
  - Explore the feasibility of establishing a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan to represent the Parks Canada's Dry Interior Plateau natural region.
  - Explore the feasibility of establishing a new national marine conservation area reserve for the waters of the Southern Strait of Georgia surrounding the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.
  - Canada preparing an interim management plan in order to help determine the conditions under which the Gwaii Haanas marine area in Haida Gwaii that was agreed to in 1988 could be established as a national marine conservation area reserve.
- In January, 2011, Cabinet directed that the Province would not proceed further with the feasibility study respecting the establishment of the proposed national park reserve in the South Okanagan at this time. In August 2015, the Province released an Intentions Paper for public input proposing an alternative framework for enhanced protection measures in the South Okanagan which included a mix of provincial and federal protections. In late spring 2016, BC Parks released a consultation summary report. The public responses totaled over 3,000 submissions, but only a small percentage was specific to the questions asked. Despite the paper being clear that the 2010 national park proposal was not up for reconsideration, a large number of respondents used the Intentions Paper as a venue to voice support or opposition to that proposal. As for issues or interests related to the Intentions Paper proposal, no new interests were raised that were not already known by the Province. The feedback shows the public is very interested and passionate about issues of environmental protection, First Nations cultural values, tourism and recreation opportunities in the South Okanagan.
- On January 27, 2017, the Province announced that planning discussions to achieve the objectives outlined in the Province's earlier Intentions Paper are moving forward with the support and participation of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band and Osoyoos Indian Band. The Province also announced that it would reach out to Parks Canada to engage in these discussions to consider two areas for possible inclusion in a South Okanagan National Park Reserve.



May 2017

- In February 2017, the Parks Canada / BC Steering Committee met after a long break to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest. This meeting marked the official re-engagement of Parks Canada in future discussions on the proposed South Okanagan protection options put forward by the Province in the Intentions Paper which would include a mix of provincial and federal designations.
- The determination of the feasibility of the proposed national marine conservation area reserve in the Southern Strait of Georgia is ongoing with current efforts focused on joint federal/provincial engagement with the 19 First Nations with interests in the area.
- The establishment of the national marine conservation area reserve in Haida Gwaii was successfully completed in 2010.
- BC is also involved with Environment and Climate Change Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the establishment of marine protected areas under Canada's *Oceans Act* and *Canada Wildlife Act*. These areas include the Scott Islands national Marine Wildlife Area off the northern tip of Vancouver Island and the Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound Glass Sponge Reefs MPA which received its federal designation in February 2017.
- BC Parks is directly involved in the Canadian Parks Council which is a coalition of federal, provincial and territorial park agencies working together to better park management across Canada. The Council has developed a number of initiatives such as best practices for working with aboriginal people, managing for climate change, leadership direction and determining the economic value of parks. Currently, the Canadian Park Council continues to work in collaboration on the "Parks for All" vision established at the Canadian Parks Summit in April 2016, the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative to achieving Canada's 2020 Biodiversity Goals aimed at protecting at least 17% of terrestrial areas and 10% of marine areas, and connecting Canadians to nature through parks to help improve human health and well-being.
- BC Parks actively participates in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System and represents the Province on the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is Canada's national river conservation program. This is a commemorative program with no associated regulatory mechanisms. It promotes, protects and enhances Canada's river heritage, and ensures that Canada's leading rivers are sustainably managed. BC Parks is the lead agency in managing the Cowichan River and Fraser River under the governance and best practices of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.



May 2017

- BC Parks participates in and contributes to the activities of the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA), a non-profit organization which has representatives from all federal/provincial/territorial protected area agencies across Canada. CCEA, with the assistance of Environment and Climate Change Canada, maintains the Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System (CARTS), which is the authoritative source for protected area data for national and international reporting purposes. CCEA is currently focussed on proposing minimal protection requirements for reporting in CARTS and ultimately jurisdictions' contributions to the achievement of Canada Target 1 of Canada's 2020 Biodiversity Goals. Over the next year, the Province will be completing a review of the existing BC Parks system with respect to the current IUCN management categories that are reported in CARTS.
- **Stakeholders:**  
BC Parks also engages with a variety of regional, national, and international park agencies and organizations. These include:
  - Regional districts who have park management programs
  - The National Association of State Park Directors
  - Healthy Parks, Healthy People initiatives and partners in Australia, the U.S. and Africa.

## **SOUTH OKANAGAN NATIONAL PARK RESERVE**

- Planning discussions to achieve the objectives outlined in the Province's proposal to protect lands in the South Okanagan are moving forward with the support and participation of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band and Osoyoos Indian Band, which are the three Okanagan Nation communities most affected by the proposal.
- The Province's proposal was presented in an intentions paper issued in August 2015, seeking public feedback on how land may be protected in the South Okanagan.
- The plan addresses three distinct areas in the region:
  - Area 1 - Portions of the area west of Osoyoos towards the Similkameen River, and south of Highway 3 to the U.S. border including the Osoyoos Desert Centre, the lands around Spotted Lake, and portions of the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area sites of East and West Chopaka and South Kilpoola.
  - Area 2 - Portions of the area west of Oliver towards Cawston, and north of Highway 3 to the southerly extent of the White Lake Grasslands Protected Area.

- Area 3 - Portions of the White Lake basin area south of Okanagan Falls and including areas in the vicinity of Vaseux Lake.
- The plan describes objectives for these three distinct areas. Area 2, will be targeted for protection as a conservancy under provincial legislation, the *Park Act*.
- The remaining two areas, Area 1 and Area 3, will be the subject of discussion among the Province, the three Okanagan Nation communities and Parks Canada for possible inclusion in a South Okanagan National Park Reserve (NPR).
- If these areas do not prove feasible as a NPR then the Province is prepared to open discussions with the three Okanagan Nation communities, to protect these areas using the tools under the *Park Act*.
- The Province will continue to work closely with the three Okanagan Nation communities in a government-to-government process to further develop details of the plan, and will seek to engage with the federal government, along with the three Okanagan Nation communities, around the potential for NPR designation specific to areas 1 and 3.

**Background:**

- On January 27, 2017, the Province announced the proposal for South Okanagan land protection is moving forward with the support from the three Okanagan Nation communities most affected by the proposal.
- On August 13, 2015, an intentions paper proposing how land might be protected in the South Okanagan was released for public feedback. British Columbians had until October 31st to provide input.

- The intentions paper proposed a land protection framework for three distinct areas in the region based on five key principles:
  - Additional protection will be beneficial;
  - Management is shared with First Nations;
  - Existing users are recognized;
  - Respect for private land holders; and
  - Tourism is actively promoted.
- The proposal is for Parks Canada to consider two areas (Areas 1 and 3) for inclusion in a national park reserve and one area (Area 2) to be protected as a conservancy under the provincial *Park Act*.
- The release of the intentions paper generated 3,460 responses. The comments varied in detail and presentation and, while some respondents directly followed the seven question format outlined in the intentions paper, the majority of submissions used the release of the intentions paper as a platform to reinforce perspectives on the question of whether the South Okanagan was a suitable candidate for a national park reserve.
- The summary report of comments received was posted to the BC Parks website on May 19, 2016. [www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/pdfs/consultation-summary-so-ip.pdf](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/pdfs/consultation-summary-so-ip.pdf)
- On April 8, 2015, the South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Network issued a news release about a poll which showed support for a national park has increased significantly over the past five years by local individuals, as well as activity groups such as hunters and snowmobilers.
- The poll, conducted by McAllister Opinion Research in March 2015, found 69% of area residents favour a national park, while 21% oppose. This is up from the last poll in 2010 that found 63% of residents supported the park while 26% opposed.
- This poll also found 79% of ranching and farming households and 67% of households that participated in activities like ATVing and snowmobiling supported a national park proposal.
- The poll consisted of 501 phone interviews from the ridings of Boundary-Similkameen and Penticton, as well as the Regional District of the South Okanagan-Similkameen.
- In Nov. 2014, Minister Polak followed up on a commitment made in July 2014 and met with First Nations. This was followed by meetings with area stakeholders on land use objectives for the area including environmental protection, tourism development and outdoor recreation.
- A subsequent meeting in April 2015 with First Nations continued to explore aboriginal interests in the area and identify opportunities for First Nations and the province to work more closely together regarding land management in the future. Discussions with member bands of the Okanagan Nation, including the Osoyoos Indian Band, Lower Similkameen Indian Band and the Penticton Indian Band, have continued and will continue as the intentions paper process moves forward.
- Since 2012, several regional and municipal governments, chambers of commerce, tourism organizations and local businesses have passed resolutions or have written to or met with the Minister of Environment requesting that the Government of B.C. re-engage in discussions on the national park reserve.
- The Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) completed a report in early 2013 recommending that the ONA support a continued process towards a national park reserve and that they seek the provincial government's re-engagement in further discussions with the federal government on the proposed national park reserve.

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY  
INFORMATION NOTE**

August 11, 2017  
File: 280-20  
CLIFF/tracking: 311212

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

**ISSUE:** Proposed National Park Reserve in the South Okanagan

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2002, members of the local community and First Nations representing the interests of the Okanagan Nation (Syilx) approached Parks Canada with a proposal to establish a National Park Reserve (NPR) in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen region. In October 2003, Canada and BC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to study the feasibility of establishing three new federal protected areas in BC. One of the projects identified in the MOU was the potential NPR in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen.

The feasibility study began in 2004. The feasibility study included two rounds of broad public consultations in 2004 and 2006, community forums in 2007 and extensive consultations with affected stakeholders. After a period of opposition to the feasibility study and to the NPR proposal, the Okanagan Nation decided in 2010 to resume participation in the feasibility study and to work with Parks Canada in examining the NPR proposal's potential effects on their interests.

In 2010, senior officials representing BC and Canada agreed that the feasibility study, with the exception of First Nations consultation, was substantially complete, and that the proposed NPR in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen was feasible. However, in January 2011, Cabinet directed that the Province would not support establishment of the NPR at this time.

The land area (approximately 28,400 hectares) of the NPR concept in 2010 was comprised of the South Okanagan Grasslands Component and Northern Component (Attachment 1). The Southern Component identified an open forest and grassland landscape that straddled between the Okanagan and Similkameen river valleys towards the international border. The Northern Component focused on federally-owned lands and migratory bird sanctuary at Vaseux Lake.

Despite the Province withdrawing support for the feasibility study, Parks Canada continued to provide funding and resources to the Okanagan Nation to explore a joint approach to proposed protection in the South Okanagan. In December 2012, the Okanagan Nation released "Building a Syilx Vision for Protection: Assessing Feasibility of a Syilx/Parks Canada Protected Area". For several years following the release of the Syilx report, significant media attention and continued lobbying by stakeholders occurred.

In response, the BC government in coordination with the local MLA, Linda Larson, held a series of meetings with local stakeholders and member bands of the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) to identify common interests in enhanced land protection and tourism development in the South Okanagan. Following these meetings, in August 2015, the Ministry of Environment released an Intentions Paper identifying a proposed land protection framework for the South Okanagan for public consultation.

The Intentions Paper proposed two concept areas as potential NPR sites, totalling approximately 16,326 hectares, and one area as a potential provincial conservancy consisting of approximately

17,728 hectares (Attachment 2). Included in Area 1 were key landscape features such as Spotted Lake and the Osoyoos Desert Centre, sites not originally included by Parks Canada as part of the South Okanagan Grasslands Component. Area 3 (focused on the White Lake Basin) was also only partially considered by Parks Canada for NPR designation. The 3 Area model proposed boundaries were designed to be highly conceptual and in some locations enveloped private land.

The public comment period on the Intentions Paper ended on October 31, 2015 and a consultation summary was released in May 2016. Ministry staff reviewed over 3,400 responses to the Intentions Paper. A common theme throughout the public comments indicated a strong desire for increased protection within the South Okanagan, with some respondents supporting a larger NPR, while other feedback pointed to the outcomes and recommendations of the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan as sufficient means to achieve protection (i.e., existing protected areas).

On January 27, 2017, the Province issued a News Release indicating that it was moving forward on discussions to implement recommendations of the Intentions Paper, including continuing to work closely with three Okanagan Nation communities (Osoyoos Indian Band, Lower Similkameen Indian Band and the Penticton Indian Band) and seeking to re-engage with the federal government. The federal Minister responded that Parks Canada was looking forward to discussing the potential for a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The South Okanagan Grasslands Component as identified by Parks Canada as part of the 2010 Feasibility Study outcome consists of a mosaic of land ownership and administration (Attachment 3). Within the approximately 28,400 hectare area, there are existing protected areas (33%) managed by BC Parks, multi-use Crown lands (30%) under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and private lands (37%).

The private land component consists of a variety of holdings. Some private lots are small acreages, while others are associated with large home ranches, notably the Elkins, Pendergraft and Thompson ranches. The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and The Nature Trust of BC (TNT BC) also own and maintain several large tracts of land, specifically in the area of Kilpoola Lake adjacent to the South Okanagan Grasslands Protected Area.

Securement of private land as part of a NPR was to be considered on a willing seller-willing buyer basis. No private lands were identified or suggested for expropriation. Despite the clear language conveyed by both Parks Canada and the BC government throughout discussions on enhanced protection in the South Okanagan, there is a general concern amongst many property owners about the perceived loss of private land due to expropriation or alienation. NCC and TNT BC have indicated that their lands should be removed from any conceptual boundaries of the NPR or other park designation.

The South Okanagan is overlaid extensively by range tenures and mineral tenures (Attachments 4 and 5), and the land area outside of existing parks/protected areas and private lands forms part of the timber harvesting land base. A No Registration Reserve (NRR) is currently in place over the South Okanagan Grasslands Component (2010 NPR concept area). The NRR was established in 2007 at the request of Parks Canada and restricts any new mineral claims or staking. Hunting and fishing is a supported activity in all areas of Crown land (including existing provincial protected areas within the concept area), subject to regulations under the *Wildlife Act*. Motorized use within existing protected areas is restricted and limited only to access designated parking areas or locations.

Enhanced protection in the South Okanagan, specifically focussing on the establishment of a NPR is a divisive issue within the local community. Although public opinion polls over the last decade have indicated substantial support for a NPR, there is a vocal contingent, situated primarily in nearby communities such as Oliver, Keremeos and Osoyoos, that is opposed to the concept of a NPR in the South Okanagan. Online and print media (i.e., letters to the editor) have been the platform for many differing views on the subject of the NPR. Similarly, over a five year period, in advance of the release of the Intentions Paper in August 2015, BC Parks responded to approximately 600 incoming letters regarding the NPR dialogue in the South Okanagan.

**NEXT STEPS**

s.13

**Attachments:**

- Attachment 1: Map (Full Context of NPR Concept Area 2010)
- Attachment 2: Map (3 Area Model)
- Attachment 3: Map (Overview with Private Land)
- Attachment 4: Map (South Okanagan Grasslands Component and Land Use)
- Attachment 5: Map (North Okanagan Component and Land Use)
- Attachment 6: South Okanagan Timeline

**Contact:**

*Jim Standen  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
BC Parks and  
Conservation Officer  
Service  
(250) 387-1288*

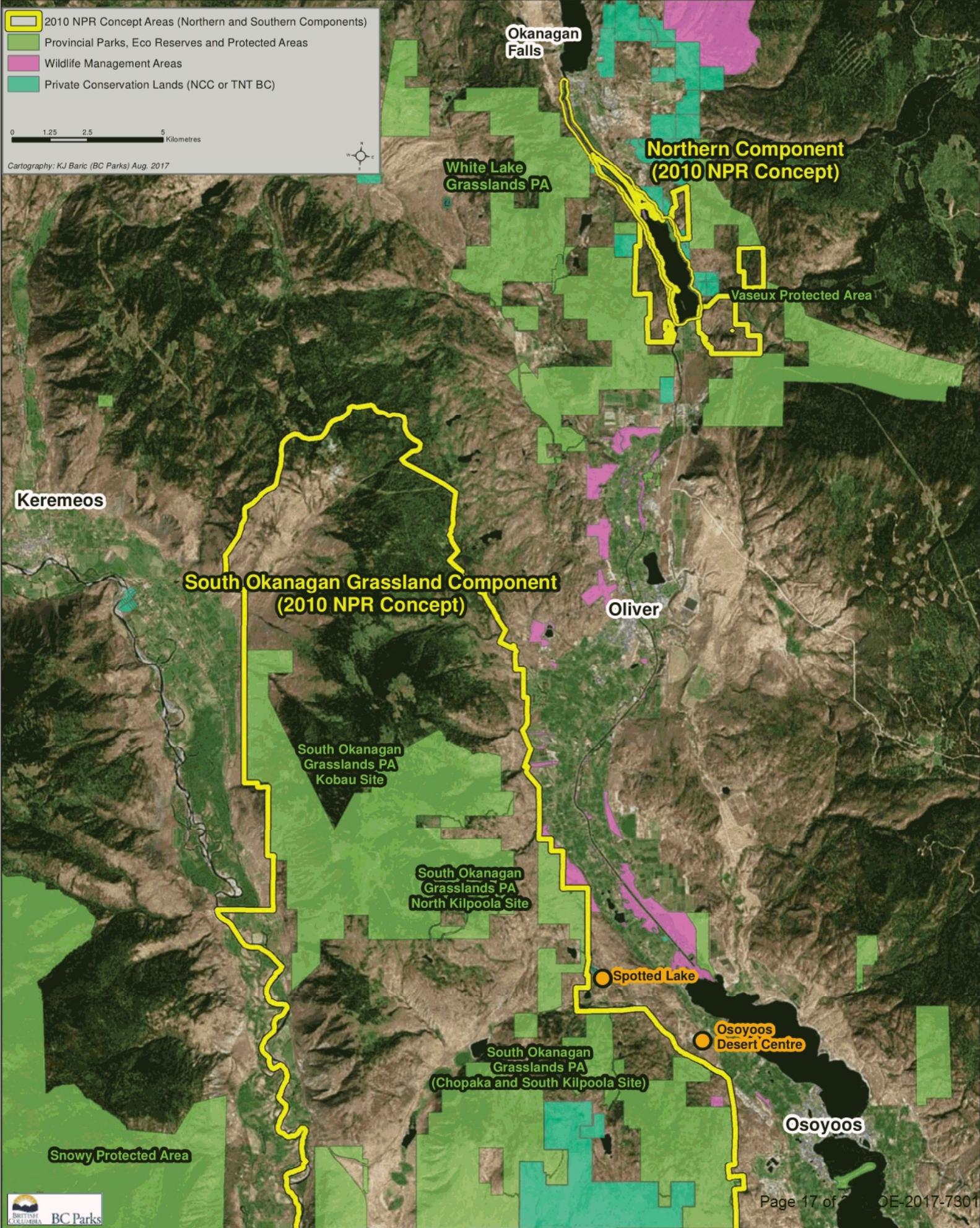
**Alternate Contact:**

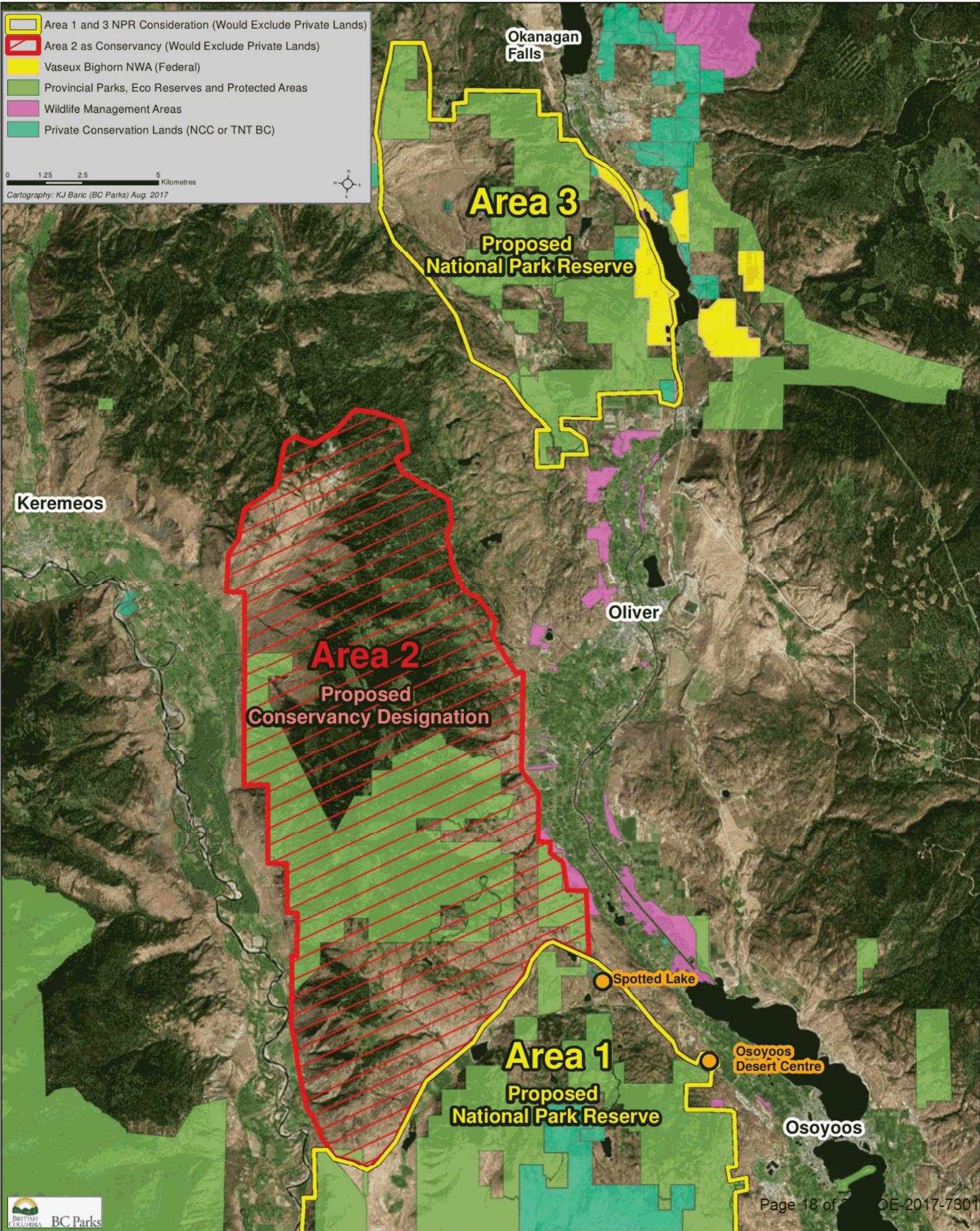
*Ken Morrison  
Manager  
Planning & Land Admin.  
Provincial Services Br.  
(778) 698-4264*

**Prepared by:**

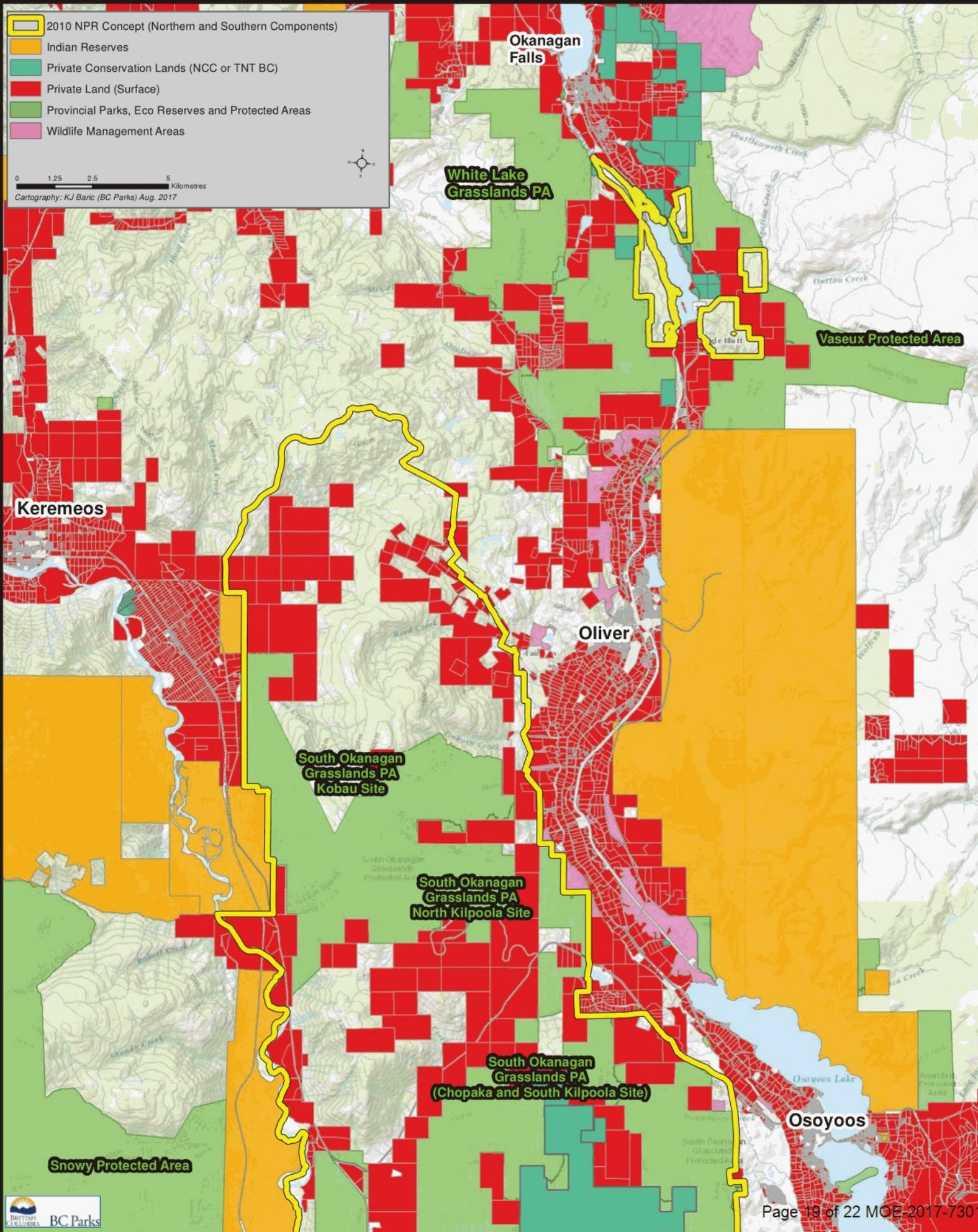
*Keith J. Baric  
Planning Section Head  
Okanagan  
Kootenay-Okanagan Region  
(250) 490-8260*

<b>Approved</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Date</b>
DM	CS for MZ	Aug. 11/17
DMO		
ADM	JS	Aug. 11/17
Exec. Dir. (Prov Service Branch)	KM	Aug. 11/17
Mgr. (Planning)	KM	Aug. 4/17
Reg. Dir.	JT	Aug. 3/17
Author	KJB	Aug. 3/17

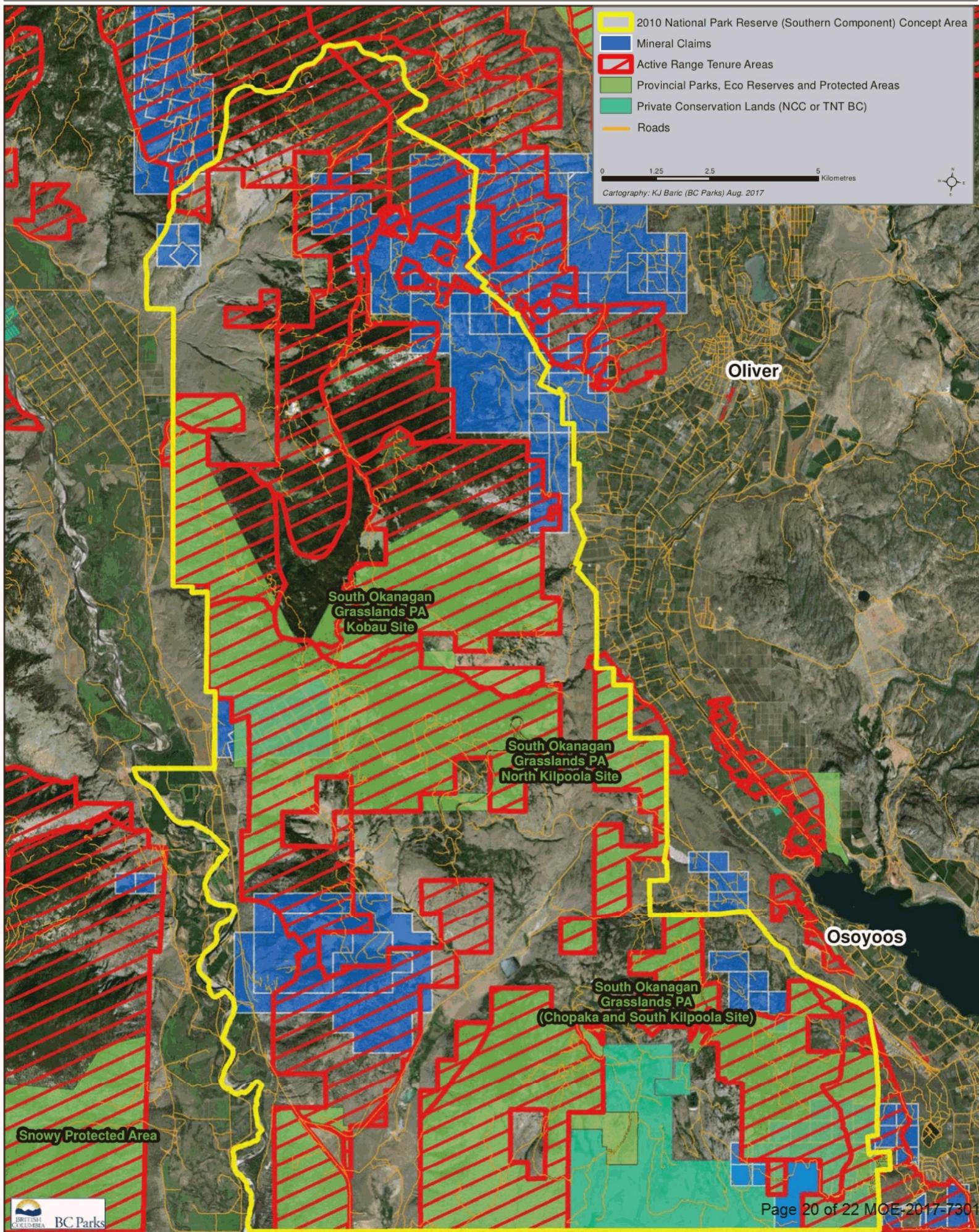


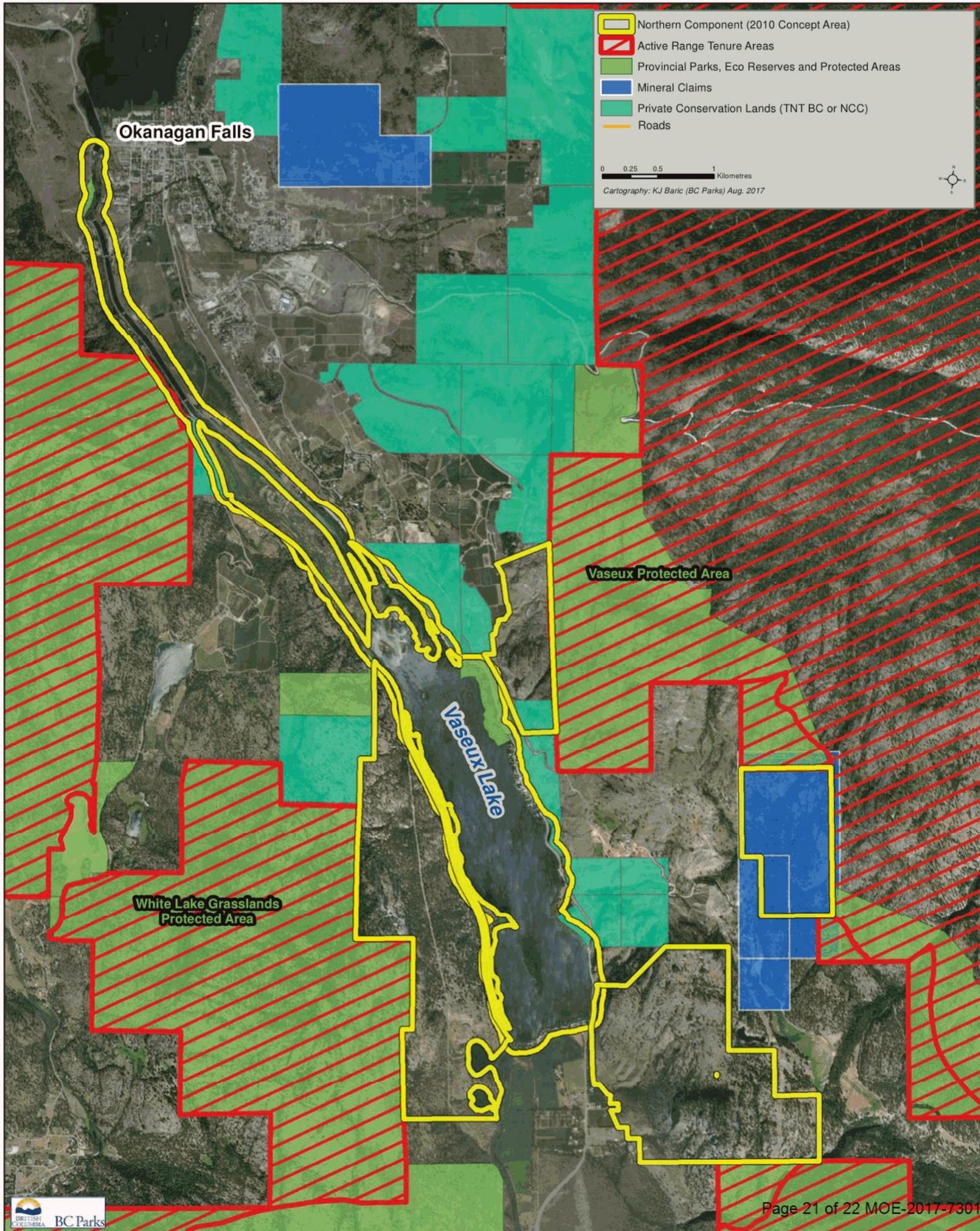


**Attachment 3: National Park Reserve (2010 Concept Area) and Land Ownership Context**



Attachment 4: National Park Reserve (2010 Concept Area) and Range/Mineral Tenure





**Attachment 6**  
**South Okanagan Timeline**

s.13