



# Pacific Rim

National Park Reserve of Canada

## Management Plan

2010





JUNE 2010

# PACIFIC RIM

NATIONAL PARK RESERVE  
OF CANADA

Management Plan

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## Foreword



Canada's national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas offer Canadians from coast-to-coast-to-coast unique opportunities to experience, and understand our wonderful country. They are places of learning, recreation and inspiration where Canadians can connect with our past, and appreciate the natural, cultural, and social forces that shaped Canada.

From our smallest national park to our most-visited national historic site to our largest national marine conservation area, each offers Canadians and visitors several experiential opportunities to enjoy Canada's historic and natural heritage. Valued by Canadians, these places of beauty, wonder and learning are part of our past, our present, and our future.

Our Government's goal is to ensure that Canadians form a lasting connection to this heritage and that our protected places are enjoyed in ways that leave them unimpaired for present and future generations.

We see a future in which these special places will further Canadians' appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of Canada, the economic wellbeing of communities, and the vitality of our society.

Our Government's vision is to build a culture of heritage conservation in Canada by offering Canadians exceptional opportunities to experience our natural and cultural heritage.

These values form the foundation of the new management plan for Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada. I offer my appreciation to the many thoughtful Canadians who helped to develop this plan, particularly to our dedicated team from Parks Canada, to First Nations, and to all those local organisations and individuals who have demonstrated their good will, hard work, spirit of cooperation, and extraordinary sense of stewardship.

In this same spirit of partnership and responsibility, I am pleased to approve the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada Management Plan.

**Jim Prentice**  
*Minister of the Environment*



## Recommendations

Recommended by:



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**Alan Latourelle**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
*Parks Canada*



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**Steve Langdon**  
*Field Unit Superintendent*  
*Coastal British Columbia, Parks Canada*



## Executive Summary



Walbran Beach, West Coast Trail. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

Canada's national parks represent the power of Canada's natural environment which has shaped not only the geography of this country, but also the course of its history and the experiences of the people who live and travel here. These parks are established to protect and present outstanding representative examples of natural landscapes and natural phenomena that occur in the country's 39 natural regions. They provide opportunities to connect with nature, people, and events that define Canada. Parks Canada is responsible for both protecting the ecosystems and cultural resources of these magnificent areas and managing them for visitors to understand, appreciate, and enjoy in a way that leaves them unimpaired for present and future generations.

This is the first management plan for Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (NPR). It will assist Parks Canada in its protection and presentation of the park as it will replace draft *Interim Management Guidelines* first developed in 1994 and last updated in 2003. Park management plans establish a long-term vision and provide a strategic framework for ensuring the maintenance or restoration of ecological integrity, and for providing quality visitor opportunities. Management plans are reviewed every five years, with input and involvement from First Nations, stakeholders, and the public.

Extending 125 km along the west coast of Vancouver Island from Tofino in the north to Port Renfrew in the south, Pacific Rim NPR is a coastal marine park covering three non-contiguous units: the Long Beach Unit

(LBU), the Broken Group Islands Unit (BGI), and the West Coast Trail Unit (WCT). Each provides distinct recreational experiences and opportunities, and appeal to different types of visitors. Pacific Rim NPR officially represents the coastal lowland forests of the Pacific Coast Mountain Region, and the near-shore waters of the Vancouver Island Shelf.

Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations territory stretches along Vancouver Island's west coast, from Brooks Peninsula in the north, to San Juan Point in the south, and east to the Vancouver Island Range. The "Nuu-chah-nulth", meaning "all along the mountains and sea", are the people who have lived along the west coast of Vancouver Island for millennia. Their history and traditions are deeply interwoven with the temperate rainforests, islands, beaches, and waterways of the west coast. Pacific Rim NPR has a goal to build relationships or create cooperative management regimes with nine of the 16 Nuu-chah-nulth Nations: Tla-o-qui-aht, Yu7lu7il7ath, Tseshaht, Hupacasath, Huu-ay-aht, Ditidaht and Pacheedaht First Nations, Toquaht Nation and the Uchucklesaht Tribe. The park management plan will be a tool for First Nations and Parks Canada cooperative management boards to provide recommendations and/or projects to the Superintendent on activities that are occurring in each of their traditional territories.

In early 2009, a multi-disciplinary team of Parks Canada staff began to develop this management plan. Using the 2009 *State of the Park Report* as the key reference document, the team worked in a collaborative fashion to meet Parks Canada's mandate of protecting heritage resources, facilitating opportunities for visitor experience, and providing public outreach education. Park staff met with First Nations and a wide range of regional community stakeholders to introduce the management plan process and to consult on its content. Through the Parks Canada website, people were also able to review draft material.

The park vision is an inspiring statement that conveys the special character of the park, and the future desired state. The foundation of the proposed park vision consists of three principles: People, Stories, and Legacy, which will guide the park's decision-making and future management direction.

In order to achieve the park vision, this management plan outlines key strategies and actions necessary to protect the park's natural and cultural resources and to provide services for visitors. Four integrated key strategies that pertain to the entire park are proposed.

#### **Working with First Nations Partners**

Parks Canada and First Nations will work collaboratively to achieve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources within Pacific Rim NPR. This key strategy will encourage continuous dialogue and relationship building with First Nations to establish partnering, develop appreciation, and share First Nations' culture and history, providing an enriched sense of place for visitors and local communities.

#### **Protecting and Restoring Cultural Resources and Ecological Integrity**

The west coast of Vancouver Island supports a naturally rich environment and equally vibrant cultural tradition. This coastal zone has been home to the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations for at least five thousand years. The area is also noted for its connections to the history of European contact, trade, and marine navigation, World War II, and contemporary Canadian life. This key strategy will enable Pacific Rim NPR to address the ongoing and planned conservation and protection work in the park focusing on cultural and natural resources. It will also propose means to address the significant number of species at risk that regularly occur in the park. Through enriching personal experiences, the park will promote active stewardship and foster a sense of belonging and appreciation of the park.

**Managing the Coastal Zone**

The main focus of this key strategy is to enable Pacific Rim NPR to work with First Nations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, coastal communities, organisations, and interested stakeholders on the issues related to marine management and conservation. The park will also strive towards similar trans-boundary cooperation in the coastal zone, thus working towards a regional marine management regime.

**Enhancing Community Relations and Visitor Experience**

This key strategy will set the direction for how Pacific Rim NPR will collaborate within a broad, diverse, and complex community environment. Social science research will provide an essential foundation to study and understand our communities and park visitors. The park looks forward to developing opportunities to allow visitors to create their own experiences in ways that are both personally meaningful and long-lasting. Much of what the park offers depends on high quality and innovative services and programs, safe and sound infrastructure, as well as passionate staff.

Differences of geography and access in the three units of Pacific Rim NPR pose a variety of challenges and may require different management approaches. Area management approaches provide the park with the option of managing the units with customised regimes. As there are no definitive management regimes developed for each unit, a limited selection of objectives for the park’s three units is described. The park will develop area management approaches in consultation with First Nations, and a range of stakeholders over the next five years.

Parks Canada uses a zoning system to protect and maintain ecological integrity, while identifying suitable visitor experience opportunities. The draft *Interim Management Guidelines* for Pacific Rim NPR outline terrestrial and marine zones that were originally defined in the 1970s. Information upon which these early zoning designations were founded is outdated, and they were not

reviewed through a consultation process. A comprehensive zoning plan is required to reflect the current knowledge of the ecological and cultural status of the area. Over the next five years, the park will address zoning designations in consultation with First Nations and a variety of stakeholders.

Implementation of the management plan is the responsibility of the Coastal British Columbia Field Unit Superintendent, and will be done through the Field Unit business plan. To measure and report on the park’s progress in achieving its vision, the key strategies provide targets that will be used in the park’s monitoring program. Updates on the implementation of the management plan will be available through annual reports and, every five years, through the *State of the Park Report*.



Dare Point, West Coast Trail. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch



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## 1.0 Introduction



The Interpretive Centre at Wickaninnish Beach, Long Beach Unit. *Parks Canada/J. McCulloch*

### 1.1 PARKS CANADA AND PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

Parks Canada is responsible for administering a nationwide system of national parks, national historic sites, and national marine conservation areas that showcase Canada's natural and historic places. These treasured natural and historic places are intended to be a living legacy, connecting hearts and minds to a stronger, deeper understanding of the very essence of Canada.

National parks are established to protect and present outstanding representative examples of natural landscapes and phenomena that divide Canada into 39 natural regions. Identified in the National Parks System Plan, these regions are located in every province and territory, and range from mountains

and plains, to boreal forests and tundra, to lakes and glaciers. National parks are intended to protect the habitats, wildlife, and ecosystem diversity of each representative natural region. Parks Canada is responsible for both protecting the ecosystems of these magnificent natural areas, and managing them for visitors to understand, appreciate, and enjoy. The legislative and policy basis for the protection of national parks is rooted in several key documents including *The Parks Canada Agency Act*, *Canada National Parks Act*, *Historic Sites and Monuments Act*, *Species at Risk Act*, and *Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies*.

Backed by the Insular Mountain Range of Vancouver Island and facing the open Pacific Ocean, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (NPR) protects and presents the rich natural

and cultural heritage of Canada's west coast. Pacific Rim NPR consists of three distinct units, the Long Beach Unit (LBU), Broken Group Islands Unit (BGI), and West Coast Trail Unit (WCT), each offering a range of unique visitor experiences. With significant areas of old growth, temperate rainforest, coastal dune systems, wetlands and foreshore habitats, the park demonstrates the interconnectedness between land, sea, and people. These natural wonders are interwoven with the long and dynamic history of the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations, and that of European explorers and settlers. An event associated with the park, the sinking of the S.S. Valencia in 1906, was designated as an event of national historic significance in 2008. The LBU is a core protected area of land and sea within the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Pacific Rim NPR was the first national park on the west coast when it was established in 1970. Being the first, it caused justifiable concern to the seven First Nations whose reserves the park surrounded. A national park reserve was established rather than a national park. A park reserve is a specific designation under the *Canada National Parks Act* acknowledging that in those parks designated as park reserves, First Nations in the area have a claim with respect to Aboriginal rights that has not been settled. Pending the settlement of any such rights through treaty or other negotiations, the park "reserve" status allows the area to be managed with the protection afforded all national parks under the *Canada National Parks Act*, while allowing traditional renewable resource harvesting by Aboriginal people to continue.

Parks Canada will meet legal requirements to consult First Nations concerning Pacific Rim NPR, and will implement modern treaties or other negotiated agreements that affect the park.

## 1.2 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

Pacific Rim NPR has been managed by draft *Interim Management Guidelines* first developed in 1994 and last updated in 2003. Management actions undertaken in past years have been consistent with these guidelines and have evolved with the park's changing needs. Pacific Rim NPR was officially scheduled as a national park reserve in 2001. A requirement under the *Canada National Parks Act* is to have a management plan to replace the *Interim Management Guidelines*.

A park management plan is a document that provides strategic, long-term direction for how the park will be managed. In early 2009, a multi-disciplinary management planning team composed of Parks Canada staff began to develop this plan. Using the 2009 *State of the Park Report* as the key reference document, the team worked in a collaborative fashion to develop this plan according to the *Parks Canada Guide to Management Planning*. Based on Parks Canada's mandate of protecting heritage resources, facilitating opportunities for visitor experience, and providing public outreach education in an integrated fashion, the plan outlines the park's key strategies and actions necessary to protect its natural and cultural resources and to provide services for visitors. This plan proposes the following key strategies:

1. Working with First Nations Partners,
2. Protecting and Restoring Cultural Heritage and Ecological Integrity,
3. Managing the Coastal Zone, and
4. Enhancing Community Relations and Visitor Experience.

Decisions related to land and water use, research, and heritage presentation programs will be informed by the plan's key strategies as a fundamental means for achieving protection, visitor education, and enjoyment objectives. Working with and consulting First Nation partners is a key aspect of the management plan. While working with Parks Canada, First Nations are not limited

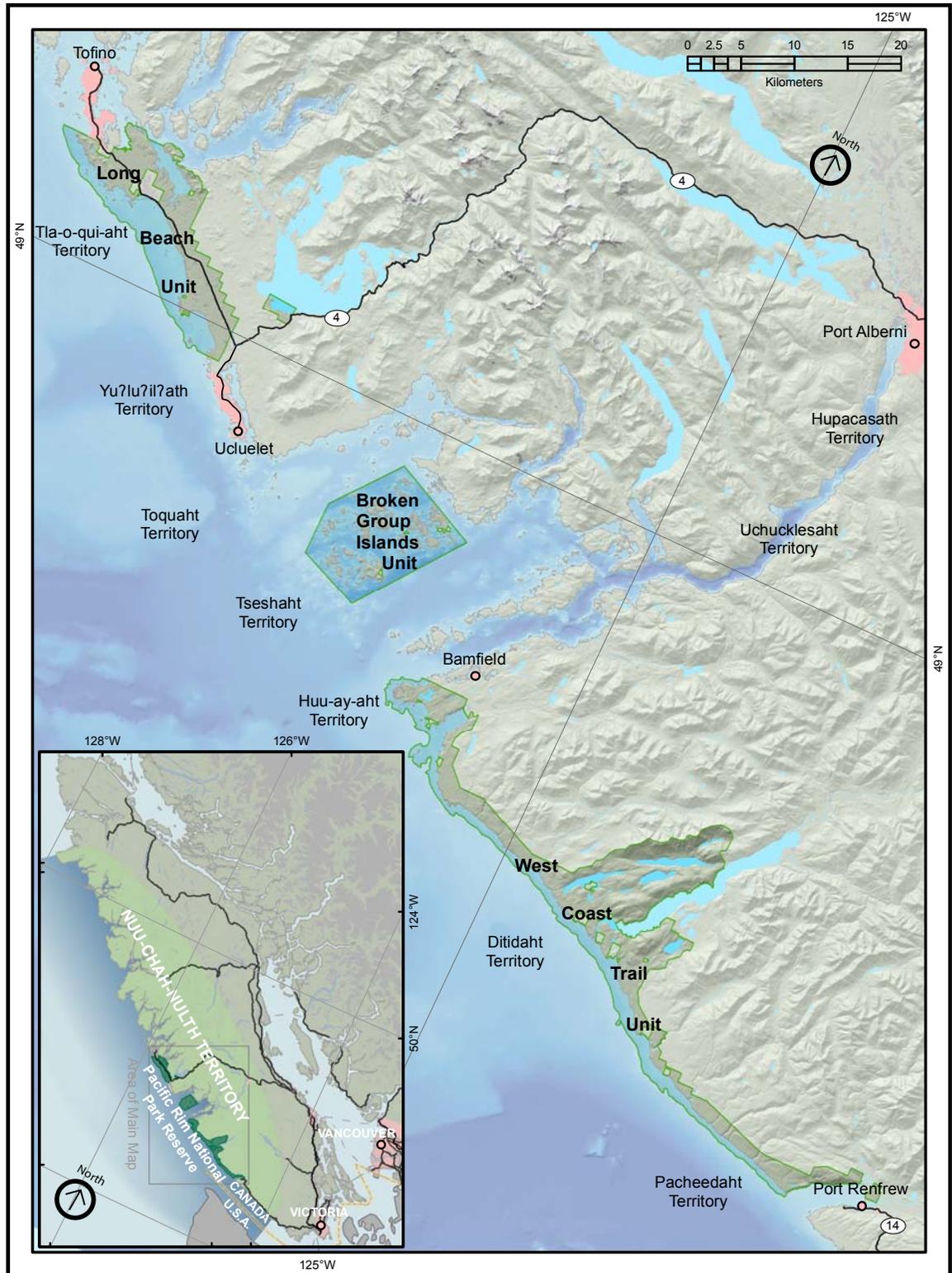


Figure 1: Map of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve within the traditional territory of the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations. Parks Canada

from negotiating Aboriginal title or rights settlements with the Government of Canada.

From the summer to the winter of 2009, Pacific Rim NPR staff met with First Nation partners and a range of regional community stakeholders to introduce the management plan process and to consult on its content and accommodate where appropriate. First Nations involvement was coordinated through a series of workshops and one-on-one meetings to review the draft content and to incorporate concerns or comments where appropriate in the management plan. The park used community events such as Canada Day, Ukee Days, and even the Olympic Torch Relay to discuss management interests with visitors. Community open houses were hosted by the planning team in Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet, Sooke, and Bamfield, where visitors were encouraged to review and comment on the plan's draft content. Information on management planning was posted on the Parks Canada website in order to reach audiences outside of the region.



Management plan open house, Port Alberni. Parks Canada/S. Bruce

plan actions to be realised within a five-year period will be identified in the business plan. From time to time, it may be necessary to reconsider the strategies and actions as new circumstances or changing national priorities and decisions arise.

Updates on the implementation of the management plan will be available through annual reports and, every five years, through the *State of the Park Report*. The five-year review of the management plan enables the Field Unit Superintendent to evaluate if the direction set by the current plan is valid or whether amendment is needed. First Nations, stakeholders, and the public will again be consulted in the review.

The park management plan will be a tool for First Nations and Parks Canada cooperative management boards to provide recommendations and/or projects to the Superintendent on activities that are occurring in each of their traditional territories.

### 1.3 MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the management plan is the responsibility of the Coastal British Columbia Field Unit Superintendent, and will be done through the Field Unit business plan. Management plans are developed and implemented in a manner that is fiscally responsible, using realistic expectations for implementation within the Field Unit's expected financial resources. Management

## 2.0 Importance of the Protected Heritage Place



Yu7lu7il7ath First Nation totem pole on the Nuu-chah-nulth Trail, Long Beach Unit. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

### 2.1 NATURAL HISTORY: THE MEETING PLACE OF LAND AND SEA

The national historic sites (NHS) and national parks that are operated and administered by Parks Canada on the Pacific coast include Fort Langley NHS, Gulf of Georgia Cannery NHS, Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse NHSs, Gulf Islands NPR, Gwaii Haanas NPR and Haida Heritage Site, and Pacific Rim NPR. These form a network of nationally significant places that celebrate and protect our coastal environment and maritime history in British Columbia.

When originally established in 1970, Pacific Rim NPR consisted only of the LBU and BGI. In 1973, the WCT was added to the park. The park was later scheduled under the *Canada National Parks Act* in 2001. Pacific Rim NPR

officially represents one of the 39 natural regions identified by the National Park System Plan: the coastal lowland forests of the Pacific Coast Mountain Region. The park's extensive marine component represents the near-shore waters of the Vancouver Island Shelf as described in the National Marine Conservation Areas System Plan.

The moderate, maritime climate of the region is known for its cool foggy summers. Mild yet dramatically wet winters feature dark clouds hanging low in the sky, intense windstorms, and pelting rain. An abundance of life is due to an average annual precipitation of 330 cm. The mild and wet climate also encourages bogs and temperate rainforests dominated by coniferous trees such as Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and western red-cedar.

Extending 125 km along the west coast of Vancouver Island from Tofino in the north to Port Renfrew in the south, Pacific Rim NPR is a coastal marine park covering three non-contiguous units: the LBU, the BGI, and the WCT. Each unit provides distinct recreational experiences and opportunities, appeals to different types of visitors, and may require customised park operations.

The LBU is the most accessible of the three units. Located at the north end of the park, it features the wide sweep of Wickaninnish Bay, with the longest beach and most extensive sand dunes on Vancouver Island's west coast. Visitors are able to enjoy the Interpretive Centre at Wickaninnish Beach with its interpretive exhibits and displays, or explore hidden coves and twisting trails.

The BGI is only accessible by boat. Tucked inside Barkley Sound, in the middle of the park, the area is a stunning maze of channels, sheltered bays, beaches, densely-forested islands, windswept rocks, and exposed islets. The islands are a boaters' paradise that can be explored as a day trip or on an overnight tour.

The WCT, at the south end of the park, is an historic 75 km route that runs along sandstone cliffs, across beaches, past waterfalls, caves, and sea stacks. The trail's origins date to trade and travel paths that later became a telegraph route and lifesaving trail for shipwrecked mariners. More recently, it has become an iconic multi-day hiking adventure for the experienced backpacker.

The marine component is a key aspect of the park. It extends from the high tide line to the 20 m isobath (commonly 0.4 to 3.3 km from the high water mark), making it one of the largest marine components in a national park. Just over 40% of the park's almost 51,000 ha is marine environment and over 50% of the 188 km long park boundary is coastline. This configuration and composition of marine and terrestrial environments is unique among Canada's national parks. The adjacent charts describe this unique characteristic.

## 2.2 THE STORY OF THE FIRST PEOPLE: THE NUU-CHAH-NULTH FIRST NATIONS

Historically, the ingenuity of the Nuu-chah-nulth people, and the local environment supported populations of 30,000 or more. Today, there are approximately 8,000 Nuu-chah-nulth people. The Nuu-chah-nulth Nations are composed of 16 individual First Nations. Pacific Rim NPR surrounds First Nations reserves as well as traditional territories of the Tla-o-qui-aht, Yu?lu?il?ath, Tseshaht, Hupacasath, Huu-ay-aht, Ditidaht, and Pacheedaht First Nations. The Toquaht Nation and Uchucklesaht Tribe are in close proximity and also work with the park.

The oral traditions of the Nuu-chah-nulth uphold that they have always been here: that they as a people sprung up from this land. Each nation has its own birthplace and creation story. Historically, the Nuu-chah-nulth were not united as one people but were divided into chiefly families, then into local groups, and later into Nations. Each Nation included several local groups, with each centred around a hereditary chief. Each Nation lived from the resources provided within the hereditary chief's traditional territory. Today, each Nuu-chah-nulth First Nation includes several chiefly families, and most include what were once considered several separate local groups.

Historically, the Nuu-chah-nulth people spoke many different language dialects. Today the Nuu-chah-nulth have four living language dialects: Northern, Central, Barkley, and Southern. The Nuu-chah-nulth people hold an underlying principle which is spoken in different ways but the concept is the same, "everything is one" or "everything is interconnected". This concept relates to many things, including the recognition that humans are closely intertwined in the "web of life", and must make decisions that are accountable to not just our species, but everything around and in the area.

The Nuu-chah-nulth people were great whalers, sealers, hunters, and artists. When European explorers arrived in the late

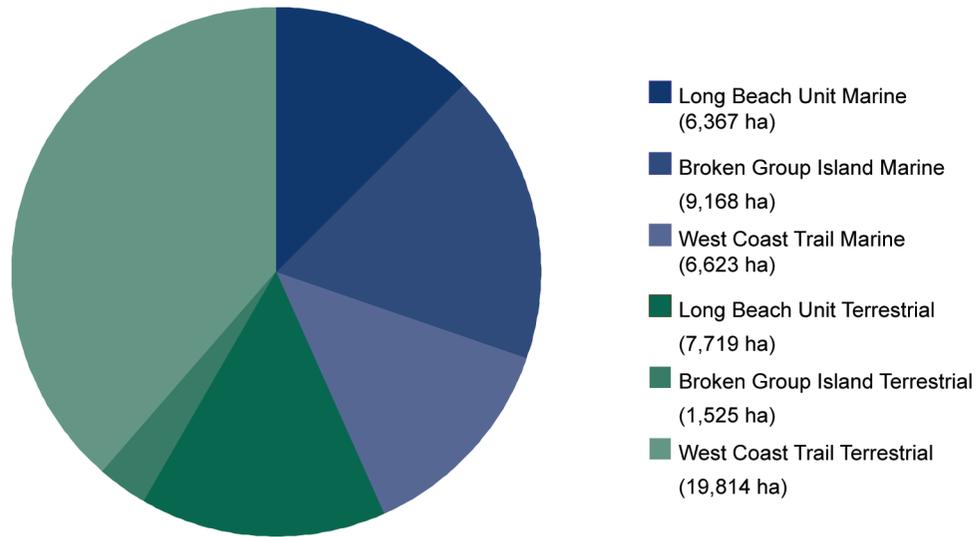


Figure 2: Marine and terrestrial areas (ha) according to the units of Pacific Rim NPR. Parks Canada

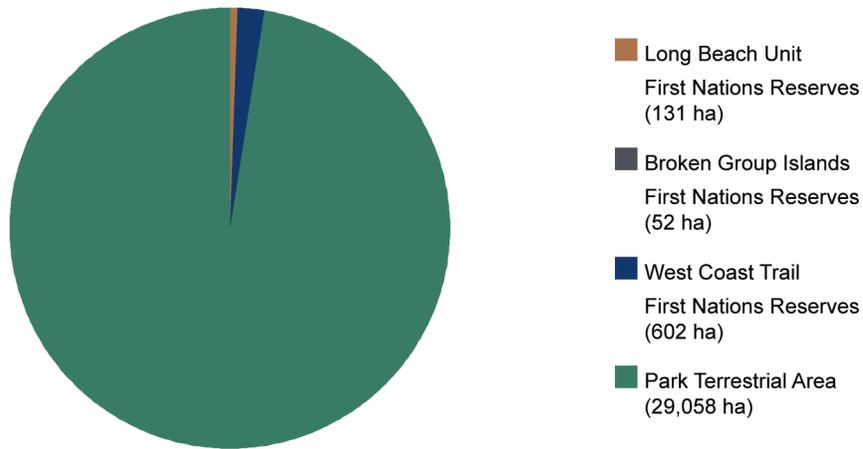


Figure 3: Terrestrial areas (ha) in Pacific Rim NPR. Parks Canada

eighteenth century and became aware of the region's natural riches, it resulted in trade relationships with the Nuu-chah-nulth people and further harvesting of rich resources such as sea otter pelts, whale products, timber, and fish. Although there have been profound changes in how Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations have used this landscape and where they have lived since explorers "discovered" British Columbia's shores, the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations have never ceased utilising the area for its vast resources.

The Nuu-chah-nulth people are respectful of the past, but at the same time participate fully in the activities and decisions that affect their respective traditional territories today and into the future.

### 2.3 RECENT HISTORY

#### European History

Prior to contact with European cultures, the First Nations of the Pacific Northwest maintained a diverse and vibrant culture in which trade and travel formed a strong component. Along the outer coast of Vancouver Island, European exploration and trade from the south began in 1774 with Juan José Pérez Hernández. In 1778, Captain James Cook's voyage included a visit to Nootka Sound, making him the first Englishman to set foot on Vancouver Island. During this time in the Pacific Northwest, Russian traders maintained a near monopoly on the trade of sea otter pelts to China; however, when the British discovered their value in the Asian market, the exploitation of this species exploded. When the British East India Company established a trading post on Nootka Island, the region came to the world's attention. Trade in pelts declined in the mid-1900s due to the near extinction of the sea otter. Sea otter populations are beginning to recover, but their absence from the marine ecosystem has cast an ecological shadow.

As global marine and navigational skills improved and as explorers improved their understanding of the coast, trading and exploration increased in the 1800s.

Remote trading posts were established on the coast followed by small centres of European settlement. In Pacific Rim NPR, the historical sites inventory includes remnants of numerous European settler cabins and homesteads scattered along the coastline. Communities that thrived in the early 1900s had at their core a group of skilled fishers. Regional history recounts stories of Norwegian and Japanese fishers, small boat fleets trolling for salmon, and lives dedicated to the dangerous work of ocean fishing in the wake of declining fish stocks. The pattern of crest and decline in natural resource use was repeated with other species. Active whaling of humpback and gray whales pushed these species close to extinction.



Tofino 1936 with Meares Island. BC Archives

On land, the coastal rainforest provided valuable timber of all kinds. Sawmills established in the mid-1800s were early examples of an industry that would grow significantly by the 1950s, and peak a few decades later. A large show of peaceful civil disobedience occurred in 1993 on the edge of Kennedy Lake, and stemmed from a public outcry over the proposed logging in Clayoquot Sound. The region now endeavours to balance resource extraction activities with eco-tourism and habitat protection. Others came to make their fortunes from minerals discovered in the area, including gold found in the sands of Florencia Bay. Though early mineral deposits proved unviable, there are contemporary efforts to renew mineral exploration in the region.

War has also left its mark on the region. With the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbour and the subsequent internment of Japanese Canadians, local Japanese families were uprooted. After the war, many of the displaced returned to west coast communities to re-establish themselves. The post World War II climate and the perceived threat of a Pacific invasion into Canada resulted in the government construction of the Tofino Air Base which is now The Tofino Ucluelet Airport. Similarly, the 1950s Cold War political climate saw the construction of a series of North American radar stations such as the former station at Radar Hill in the LBU. These were to serve as early warning alarms against possible attacks by Soviet long-range bombers. By 1960, such defences became obsolete, and were dismantled.

With the completion of the logging road from Port Alberni to the west coast in 1959, the Long Beach area attracted adventure seekers including surfers, conscientious objectors, and those looking to “drop out” of society. However, Long Beach soon became known as a beautiful location for family vacations. The national park reserve was established in 1970. Many more tourists began visiting the area once the road to Tofino and Ucluelet was paved in 1972. Originally planned with a focus on recreation, Pacific Rim NPR is now attuned to the demands of ecotourism. More than ever before, visitors want to understand, appreciate, and enjoy the local culture and ecosystems.

#### The Sinking of the S.S. Valencia

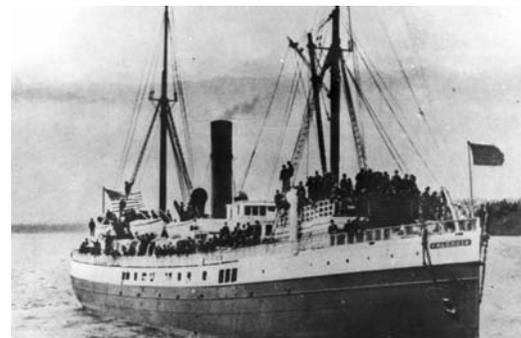
In the Pacific Northwest, the entrance of the Strait of Juan de Fuca was one of the most travelled but dangerous stretches of water to navigate. It came to be known as The Graveyard of the Pacific. From 1888 to 1890, the government erected a telegraph line to establish communications between the west coast villages, the newly established Cape Beale and Carmanah lighthouses, and distant communities. One of the most tragic shipwrecks was in 1906 with the loss of the passenger steamer the S.S. Valencia and 133 lives. In response to public outcry over the tragedy, the government built the Pachena



Trestle near Pachina Point, West Coast Lifesaving Trail. Dept. of Transport Marine Division Collection, Victoria

Lighthouse, established lifesaving stations, and improved the telegraph route to become a lifesaving trail for shipwreck victims and their rescuers. With improvements to technology and the advent of more frequent aircraft travel in the area, the number of shipwrecks decreased, and the lifesaving trail was gradually abandoned except as a backcountry adventure popular with wilderness hikers. In 1973, the former lifesaving trail became part of the newly-established Pacific Rim NPR as the West Coast Trail.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada advises the Minister of the Environment on the commemoration of places, persons, and events that represent nationally significant aspects of Canadian history. This dramatic era of Pacific Rim NPR’s maritime history recently gained national recognition. The sinking of the S.S. Valencia was named an event of national historic significance in 2008.



S.S. Valencia, 1905. BC Archives

## 2.4 INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION: CLAYOQUOT SOUND BIOSPHERE RESERVE

In addition to its national park mandate, Pacific Rim NPR's LBU is a part of a core protected area within the larger Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve that was recognised at the international level by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on January 21, 2000. Biosphere reserves are sites recognised under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme. They seek to integrate three main functions:

1. conservation of biodiversity and cultural diversity;
2. economic development that is socio-culturally and environmentally sustainable; and
3. logistic support for research, monitoring, environmental education, and training.

Biosphere reserves are under national sovereign jurisdiction, yet share their experience and ideas nationally, regionally, and internationally within the World Network of Biosphere reserves. As of 2009, there are 553 Biosphere reserve sites in 107 countries. The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust is a non-profit charitable organisation that is responsible for managing an endowment fund and developing guidelines for program funding from the income earned from the fund in order to maintain the spirit and intent of the Clayoquot Biosphere Reserve. Parks Canada along with representatives from local First Nations and communities volunteer on the Board of Directors.

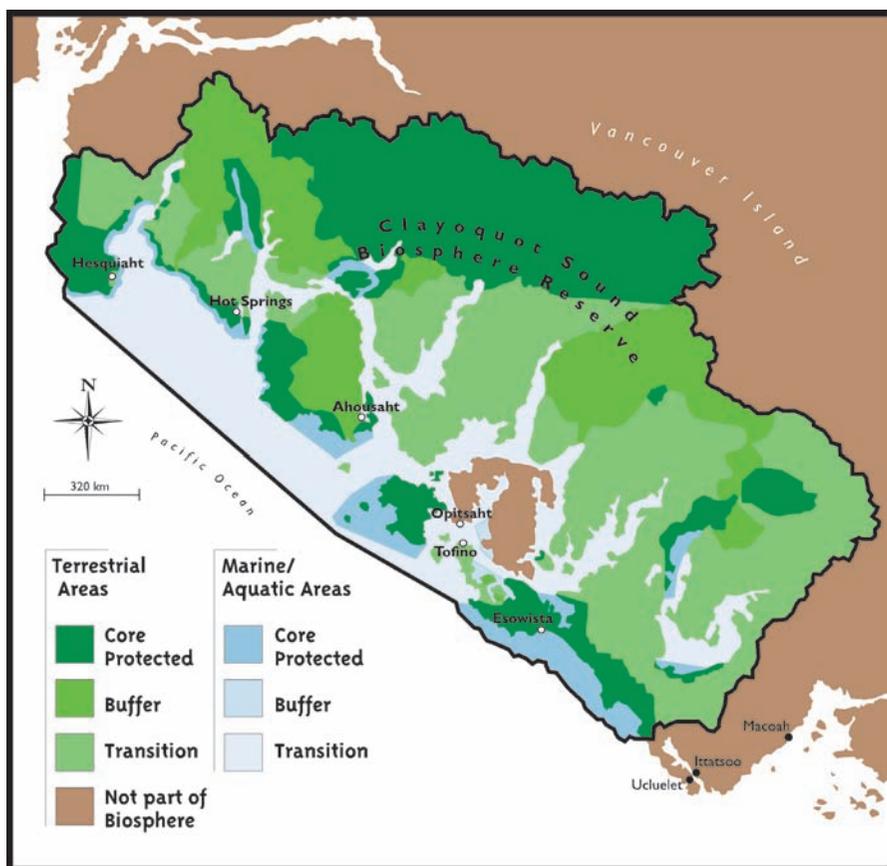


Figure 4: Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. *Clayoquot Biosphere Trust*

### 3.0 Planning Context and Current Situation



Clarke Island, Broken Group Islands Unit. *Parks Canada/J. McCulloch*

#### 3.1 DISCOVERING THE PARK AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

##### Long Beach Unit

*“What other beach in Canada can you drive to and still feel alone on as you stroll for hours, even in the summertime. Just you, the sound of the waves, the smell of the sea, and the tracks of bears and wolves. Nowhere in Canada, and probably in the world.” - Mathew Gibson*

The LBU, the best-known and most easily accessible of the three units of Pacific Rim NPR, is nestled between the communities of Ucluelet to the south, and Tofino to the north. It is accessible from Port Alberni via Highway 4 or by air flying into The Tofino Ucluelet Airport. The airport, located on non-park lands in the centre of the unit, covers 385 ha (more than 5% of the unit’s geographic area),

but is not administered by Parks Canada. In addition to reserves and treaty settlement lands, the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation assert Aboriginal rights and the Yu?lu?il?ath First Nation have treaty rights in the unit.

The LBU is primarily a day-use area. Its most famous feature is the expanse of sandy beaches of Wickaninnish Bay, stretching for 16 km. Facilities and services for visitors within this unit include:

- In partnership with the Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce, Parks Canada welcomes over 100,000 visitors annually to the Pacific Rim Visitor Centre, located at the end of Highway 4. In the peak of summer, 1,000 visitors per day is not uncommon at the Centre while winter visitation averages 80 visitors per day.

- In partnership with Tourism Tofino, Parks Canada is at the Cox Bay Information Centre for four days a week from late June to early September.
- The Interpretive Centre at Wickaninnish Beach offers films and exhibits about the park and surrounding region between mid-March and mid-October. Exhibits are currently being redesigned with significant input from the Nuuchahnulth cultural heritage working group. Project completion is scheduled for March 2011. In 2009, the Yu7lu7il7ath First Nation assumed operation of the centre's gift shop. Visitation is over 100,000 people annually.
- A variety of personal and non-personal interpretation services are offered in the LBU, with an increasing emphasis on First Nations cultural interpretation in recent years. In July and August, talks and walks are offered on topics including the rainforest, the seashore, and Nuuchahnulth culture.
- Six parking areas serve a total of 22 km of beaches.
- Nine day-use trails cover a total of 9 km.
- Public safety services are available in the park year-round, with surf-guards stationed at Long Beach through July and August.
- The Green Point Campground has 114 camping spots. Reservations are made through the Parks Canada Campground Reservation Services for this high-demand campground open mid-March to mid-October.
- Part of but not contiguous with the LBU is a small shoreline portion of Kennedy Lake. It consists of the locally-known Swim Beach and Secret Beach. Both are accessed by Highway 4 and have limited services and facilities (e.g. pit privies, garbage bins, and parking).
- Fees are collected for entry into the park, camping sites, and other services.



Long Beach. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

Annual visitation to the unit is approximately 750,000. Though operated as a seasonal park, approximately 25% of the LBU visitation, or 190,000 users, come to the park during what is considered the off-season when many park services are not offered. Visitation in the winter-season and shoulder-season is now heavily promoted by local communities and has grown over the decades. One notable change is the number of local surfing companies. They have grown in number over the years leading to an increase in year-round water-based recreational activities in the LBU.

Visitors are primarily Canadian (64%); and, of the Canadians, over 60% are from British Columbia. Many visitors live within a day's drive of the park (e.g. southern Vancouver Island, the Greater Vancouver Region and the Puget Sound area of Washington State). As illustrated in the 2006 Canadian census, general population demographics are changing. Approximately 40% of the greater Vancouver population is identified as immigrant. This is reflected in changes to visitors to the park.



Camping, Long Beach Unit. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

Infrastructure in the LBU includes the Interpretive Centre at Wickaninnish Beach, a campground, and various washroom facilities associated with the beach or with the 9 km of trails. Highway 4 covers 21.8 km within the park boundaries, while there are also paved secondary roads (12.98 km) and gravel roads (2.76 km).

In 2009, 26 business licenses were issued in the LBU. Licenses are issued for commercial operators conducting activities within park boundaries such as guided walks, surf schools, wildlife viewing and public transportation.

The important species at risk with known populations in and around the LBU include the seaside centipede lichen, marbled murrelet, western screech-owl, great blue heron, dromedary jumping slug, western toad, and red-legged frog. Several listed cetaceans use the marine zone of the LBU, and transient sea otters become a more and more frequent sighting in the summer. Peregrine falcons frequent the beaches during the fall and spring migration. A rare plant, the pink sand-verbena, will be re-introduced in the Wickaninnish sand-dunes.



Dromedary Jumping Slug. *K. Ovaska*

Visitor safety is often a challenge given the broad range of potential scenarios and the typical urban-based demographic of visitors to the LBU. The unit receives the majority of visitation in the park, and had more than 40% of the park's public safety incidents between 2004 and 2009. In 2009, there were 98 recorded public safety incidents in the LBU. Many visitors are not from the immediate

area, and the park's environment is very different from what they are familiar with. This means that visitors may not be aware of, or able to identify natural hazards in the LBU. The most common types of incidents include conflict with wildlife, surfing accidents, beach or day-use trail walking/hiking incidents, or automobile related incidents. A successful Bare Campsite Program has been in place for thirteen years to promote techniques and practices aimed at reducing wildlife-human conflict. Few visitors venture off the trails as travel through the thick rainforest undergrowth is challenging. Those who do travel off the trails or along undesignated trails risk becoming lost in the forest.



Nuu-chah-nulth Trail, Long Beach Unit. *Parks Canada/S. Bruce*

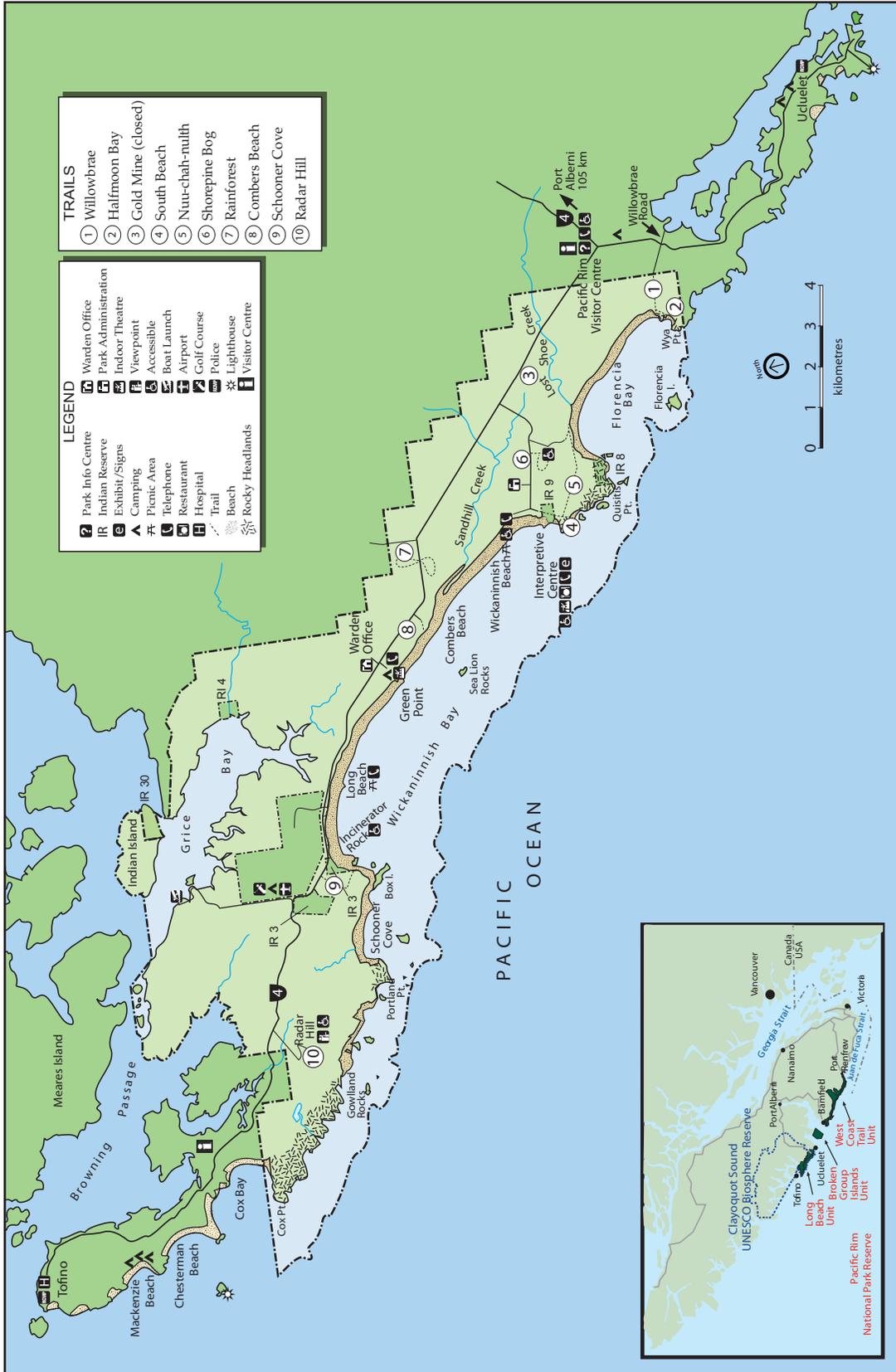


Figure 5: The Long Beach Unit. Parks Canada

**Broken Group Islands Unit**

*“The Broken Group Islands were essential to me, and ... I feel that national parks can contribute to the emotional and psychological health of this nation. People who go there can be enriched, they can be soothed, they can be healed ... They have incalculable, immeasurable value... One of the most essential things you can give to your kids is an appreciation for nature.” – Dan Vedova*

The BGI, in Barkley Sound, is a boater’s paradise. It is an outstanding example of a marine archipelago. The area comprises a stunning maze of channels, sheltered bays, beaches, densely forested islands, exposed reefs and bare, windswept rocks. The communities of Port Alberni, Ucluelet, and Bamfield provide access points to the islands for motorised mariners. These islands contain sites of spiritual and cultural significance. The BGI is within the claimed traditional territory and birthplace of the Tseshah First Nation, and Hupacasath First Nation has a reserve in the BGI.



Kayaking, Broken Group Islands. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

Within this unit, Parks Canada maintains seven designated, backcountry camping areas, used primarily by kayakers. Fees apply for overnight use in the high season. Park staff regularly patrol the unit by boat. In addition to providing orientation and emergency assistance to boaters and visitors, park staff fulfils resource management activities, law enforcement, and search and rescue responsibilities. In collaboration with the Tseshah First Nation, a house post and interpretation panels will be installed

on Benson Island in the summer of 2010. These panels are an opportunity for visitors to understand the historical and current links the Tseshah First Nation have with the Broken Group Islands.

Peak visitation period for the BGI is from mid-July through August when over 11,000 user-nights are recorded in camping areas. Day use is common amongst visitors travelling by kayak, sailboat and motor boat, both guided and unguided. Multiple access points into the BGI make gathering visitor statistics challenging. In total, 23 commercial operators hold business licences related to BGI activities such as scuba diving, wildlife watching, and kayaking.

Along the unit’s shorelines are several key locations of an important species at risk, the seaside centipede lichen. In the intertidal zone one can find the Olympia oyster, and at one point peregrine falcons nested on the cliffs of Effingham Island. Most of the species at risk found in the BGI occur in the marine environment. These include the northern abalone, several species of rockfish, marbled murrelet, humpback, killer and grey whales, as well as steller sea lions and harbour porpoises.

Visitors to the BGI are often already familiar with the area and have kayaking experience. It is a destination that requires preparation and a certain amount of skill to access and enjoy safely. Public safety incidents are largely related to the use of marine vessels. Between 2005 and 2009, an average of 13 incidents a year was recorded. Collisions with



Navigation in the Broken Group Islands. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

submerged rocks are considered an extreme hazard, and encounters with large carnivores (e.g. wolves, cougar, and bears) rate as possible hazards for visitors to this unit.

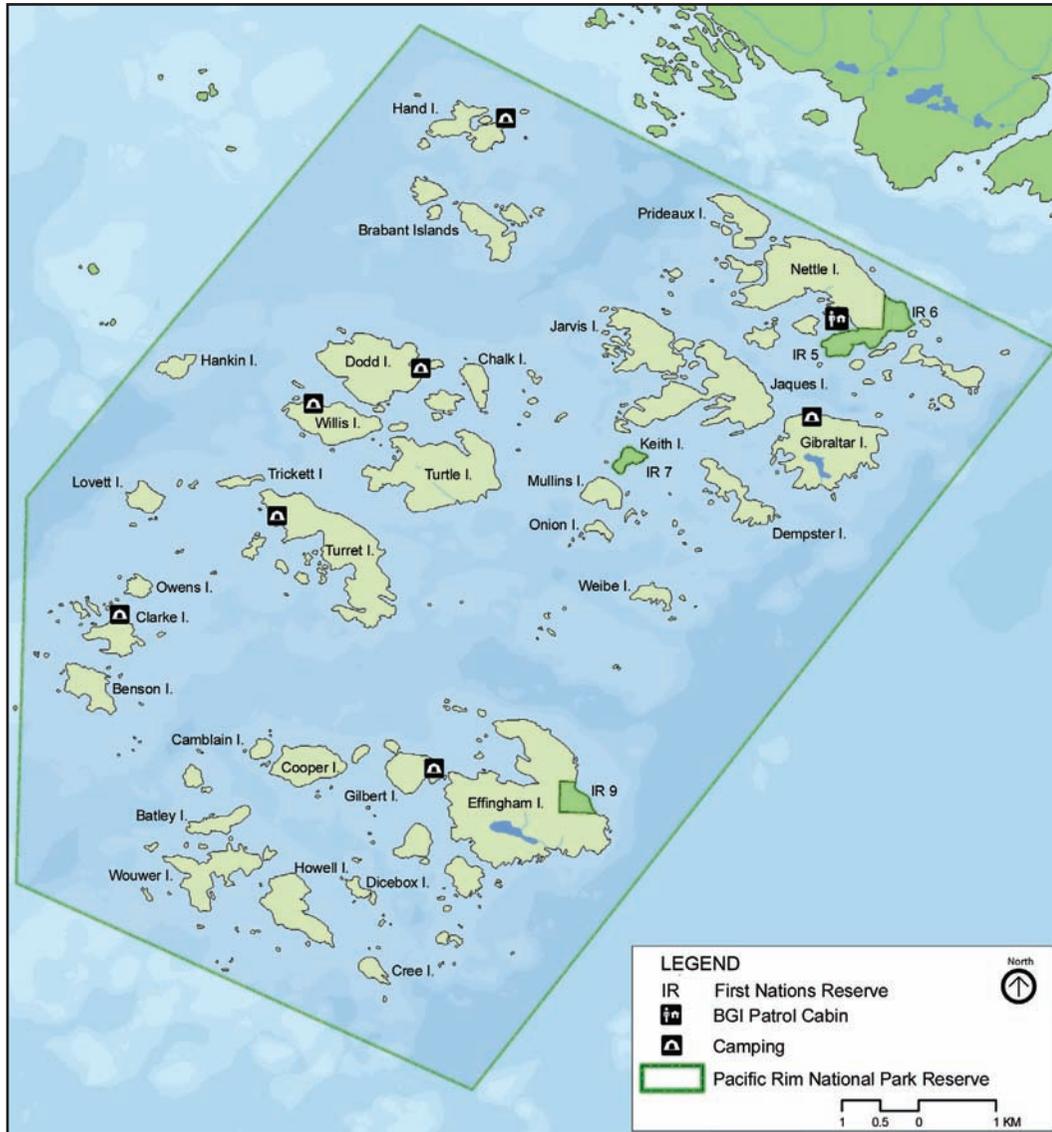


Figure 6: The Broken Group Islands Unit. *Parks Canada*

**West Coast Trail Unit**

*“I have always totally loved the stretch in between Cheewat River and Walbran Creek: it is just beach after beach after beach and each one of them is slightly different. Some of them are beautiful white sand packed thin, or a very, fine powdery sand ... right around Carmanah Light you get these amazing pebble beaches with different kinds of stones, like, every colour you could think of and they are perfectly polished from being tumbled, basically for thousands of years by the surf ... you really have that feeling like you are far away from everything. You have disappeared from civilization and you are on your own and doing your own journey.” - Sherella Wyton*

The 75 km long West Coast Trail is situated between Bamfield and Port Renfrew with the communities of Nitinat, Lake Cowichan, Jordan River, and Sooke in close proximity. The WCT is comprised of the Nitinat Triangle, Cape Beale Headlands, and the relatively narrow corridor through which the West Coast Trail itself passes in addition to the adjacent marine waters, out to the 20 metre isobath. A series of lakes commonly known as the Nitinat Triangle is also part of the WCT. The Cape Beale Headlands incorporates a large area of rainforest, a small lake, 9 km of unmanaged trails, as well as a number of beaches. The Ditidaht and Pacheedaht First Nations claim Aboriginal rights and the Huu-ay-aht First Nation have treaty rights. The West Coast Trail runs through reserves of all three of these First Nations.

The West Coast Trail is the primary focus of the unit. Its popularity as a beautiful hiking trail, coupled with the area’s natural and cultural heritage, has heightened the trail’s profile. It is open to overnight backpacking May 1 to September 30. The trail is closed to overnight use outside of these times. The average visitor spends six to seven days hiking the length of the trail, and a single fee is applied for the entire duration of one’s trip. For the busy season, June 15 to September 15, reservations may be made for a fee. Overnight users of the trail participate in a

mandatory orientation session that addresses safety, low-impact use, trail conditions, and the heritage of the area. Several hikes in the most northerly section of the WCT - the Cape Beale Headlands, near Bamfield - include temperate rainforest, swampy bogs, saltwater lagoons, and exposed crescent beaches.



Cable car, Cullite Creek on the West Coast Trail. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

Hikers are drawn to the West Coast Trail because of the unique experience it offers. They appreciate the varied scenery as well as the changing and challenging terrain. Infrastructure and services that are required to support the adventure include:

- two trailhead offices where permits are issued and orientation programs delivered,
- 108 wood bridges and four suspension bridges,
- approximately 17 km of boardwalk,
- five cable cars, and
- 100s of ladders.

In addition, two ferry operators shuttle hikers across two waterways along the trail. Only eight commercial business licences were issued for the West Coast Trail in the past year: seven for guided hikes and one for public transportation.

The Huu-ay-aht, Ditidaht, and Pacheedaht First Nations each have a service contract to maintain a 25 km portion of the trail that runs through their traditional territories. Their service contracts provide maintenance services, transportation services, and cultural interpretation along the trail.

The trail's fame grew in the 1980s to the point where park staff were concerned that the ecological integrity of the area and the visitor experience were being threatened. In 1992, a quota system was implemented to reduce the ecological impact and to increase the quality of the visitor experience in the unit. Two years later, a user fee was established to offset costs of the visitor service offer. Hiker numbers have slowly declined from 7,459 in 1993 to 4,237 in 2007, with a significant drop occurring between 1996 and 1997. Visitation was 5,703 in 2008 and 5,842 in 2009. Canadians were the primary users of the trail (77%) although a significant percentage of visitors came from elsewhere such as the United States (10%), Germany (5%), and other European countries (5%).

The park is undertaking a multi-year review of the West Coast Trail service offer. The purpose of this review is to:

1. identify the factors associated with the declining visitation with the current service offer; and
2. identify service offer modifications that could provide a more market-responsive and financially sustainable product offer.

This work is already leading to planned improvements to the trail's reservation system, an enhanced visitor safety and orientation program, and the repair or replacement of critical trail infrastructure by 2011. Upon completion of the study, it is

expected that the results will enable Pacific Rim NPR to provide more meaningful experiences associated with the West Coast Trail while ensuring that ecological integrity, public safety, and financial-sustainability objectives are also met.

Parts of the unit, including the Cape Beale Headland and the Nitinat Triangle, provide some of the best examples of the old-growth coastal forest with all the typical plants and animals found within that ecosystem. Found within the unit are several species at risk. These include the re-introduced population of pink sand-verbena at Cheewhat sand-dune, at least three breeding pairs of the northern goshawk recorded in the Nitinat triangle in 1995, and sightings of the western toad along the West Coast Trail. Large numbers of listed marine birds and mammals are also found in the waters off the coast of the trail.



Pink Sand-Verbena. S. Smith

A visit to the West Coast Trail requires preparation and experience with multi-day hiking and camping. Parks Canada recommends that users prepare and plan for the adventure because of the potential risks associated with the trail. Pacific Rim NPR has the largest number of backcountry rescues per year in the national park system. Between 2005 and 2009, an average of 59 public safety incidents was recorded in the unit.





### 3.2 PARK MANAGEMENT AND THE STATE OF THE PARK REPORT

This first management plan for Pacific Rim NPR draws heavily from the draft *Interim Management Guidelines* and the detailed assessment of the park that is presented in the 2009 *State of the Park Report*. The *State of the Park Report* describes the current condition of the park's opportunities and challenges, and highlights its recent successes.

#### Evolving Relationships with First Nations

Over the course of the past 15 years, Pacific Rim NPR has been building relationships with First Nations. First Nations relationships and involvement, including cooperative management, treaty implementation, and consultation, are a key priority for managing Pacific Rim NPR. Traditional harvesting and monitoring, marine management, visitor experience, park interpretation, and visitor information will all be influenced by First Nations relationships and involvement. A concerted effort has been made to create a welcoming environment for First Nation partners in anticipation of the successful completion of modern-day treaties and the advent of cooperative management.



Nuu-chah-nulth interpretation, Long Beach Unit. Parks Canada/S. Bruce

Currently, Parks Canada is engaged in several treaty negotiations at separate treaty tables with the following First Nations:

- the Maa-nulth First Nations, including the Huu-ay-aht First Nation, Yu?lu?il?ath First Nation, Toquaht Nation, and

Uchucklesaht Tribe with whom a treaty was ratified in 2009 and will be implemented April 1, 2011,

- the Hupacasath First Nation,
- the Ditidaht and Pacheedaht First Nations,
- the Nuu-chah-nulth which includes the Tseshaht First Nation, and
- the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation.

Many First Nations representatives and Parks Canada staff have been working collaboratively to develop and implement projects and partnership arrangements. Some of the successes include the development of the proposed Ha'uukmin Tribal Park near Pacific Rim NPR, the Esowista reserve expansion, studies of Nuu-chah-nulth traditional ecological knowledge, cultural awareness celebrations, a Central Region Nuu-chah-nulth Language Group partnership, collaboration with nine First Nations on the Interpretive Centre at Wickaninnish Beach re-design project, completion of the interpretation along the Nuu-chah-nulth Trail, and Timber Agreements to ensure the continued ecological integrity of First Nation reserves within the park boundary.

The immediate future will see the resolution of important issues. A key goal is to continue to build relationships with all nine First Nations partners, and to establish both formal boards and informal working groups that enable fair and equitable participation and collaboration in managing the park. Cooperative management boards are being established with the Huu-ay-aht, Yu?lu?il?ath, Tseshaht, and Ditidaht First Nations. The park is involved in other critical work such as the resolution of rights and title claims, and treaty implementation. This includes, but is not limited to, marine management, traditional harvesting, interpretation, and heritage and cultural resource management. With the implementation of the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement in 2011, four First Nations will have treaty rights. Although First Nations and Parks Canada may or may not always share a common vision, there is

hope that success can be achieved in working together by trusting existing relationships and showing respect for one another.



In the Spirit of Partnership Workshop, May 2009. Parks Canada/K. Haugen

#### Protecting and/or Restoring Ecological Integrity

The overall state of ecological integrity in the park areas and the range of issues faced by Pacific Rim NPR are similar to those of British Columbia's other coastal national parks. Ecosystem integrity in the park is one of many items that is assessed and reported back to Canadians through the *State of the Park Report*. Ecosystem integrity in the park is assessed according to six ecosystem-based indicators, including forest, lakes and wetlands, streams, shoreline, intertidal, and subtidal.

The forest ecosystem is dominated by old-growth stands of Sitka spruce, western red-cedar, and western hemlock and is home to invertebrates, amphibians, birds, and mammals. Lake and wetland ecosystems contain foraging sites for aquatic birds, forest mammals, and serve as sinks for carbon and sediment originating from the land. The stream ecosystem is important to coastal temperate rainforests as streams are the lifeline transporting nutrients between land and ocean ecosystems through water flow and migrating salmon. The shoreline ecosystem serves as a transparent boundary between terrestrial and marine ecosystems that supports shorebirds foraging along beaches and unique plant communities in the shifting sand dunes. The intertidal ecosystem represents a narrow band of sea bottom covered and uncovered daily by tides, and consists of many habitats

including rocky shores, eelgrass meadows, and soft sediments. Many animals, such as seastars, snails, crabs, clams and fish thrive here, and at low tide become available to birds and mammals that consume them and transport this energy to the land. The subtidal ecosystem is by far the most diverse, accommodating a myriad of life forms such as kelp, seaweed, invertebrates, fish, marine mammals, and birds.

A comprehensive description and analysis of the current status of the ecosystem-based indicators in Pacific Rim NPR is available in the 2009 *State of the Park Report Technical Compendium*. In summary, the status of each ecosystem indicator is rated as good, fair, poor or undetermined, and the trend for each rating is identified as improving, stable, declining or undetermined. The park features:

- a good and stable forest ecosystem;
- a good but tending towards less robust shoreline ecosystem;
- fair intertidal and stream ecosystems;
- a poor subtidal ecosystem; and
- further data is required to determine the status of the lakes and wetlands.

The poor status and the deteriorating trend in status of the subtidal ecosystem highlights a system strongly influenced by factors operating on local, regional, and global scales. While the park can address some of the local impacts, many changes affected by global trends, such as climate change, create a significant challenge to restoring the park's subtidal ecosystem. Ongoing monitoring will increase understanding and awareness of the extent of the impacts that may help effect social change and inform decisions related to the management of the marine portion of the park.

There are over 40 species at risk identified in or migrating through Pacific Rim NPR. Parks Canada is the lead agency responsible for the completion of recovery strategies for four species found in the park (dromedary jumping-slug, seaside centipede lichen, pink sand-verbena, and northern goshawk). At

the same time, Parks Canada participates in the recovery and management planning processes for many of the remaining species recorded within or around the park. Of these, over a dozen are regularly occurring, significant marine species. This creates a significant challenge to assess priorities for action, to develop a site-based ecosystem approach to action planning, and to engage First Nations and other partners in planning and implementing recovery actions. First Nations are interested in identifying opportunities for joint action on recovery of species at risk.



Northern Goshawk. Parks Canada

Improvements to the park's ecological integrity have resulted in many successes. The restoration of lower Lost Shoe Creek to improve salmon habitat, stream condition, and connectivity represents significant progress toward the long-term goal to restore old-growth riparian forest ecosystems. The eradication of invasive plants from a number of sites in the LBU is significantly

assisting the ultimate goal of eradication of the three key invasive species: English ivy, Scotch broom and American/European dune grass. A nationally threatened plant, the pink sand-verbena, has been successfully re-introduced to its last known location on the West Coast Trail, and planning is ongoing for its restoration to two more sites as per recommendations in its recovery strategy.



Volunteer day where the public and staff worked together to pull invasive dune grass. Parks Canada/S. Helms

The long and narrow configuration of the park with its large boundary-to-area ratio, and the extensive nature of the marine and terrestrial ecosystems of which it is part, creates a challenge in managing its ecological integrity in a self-contained unit. Many activities outside the park's marine and terrestrial boundaries have a significant impact on park ecosystems, while other ecological integrity issues were inherited from past land-use or industrial practices. The park's large marine component is currently scheduled under the *Canada National Parks Act*, but the fisheries are managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada under the *Fisheries Act* with some restrictions. It does not have formalised management practices in place for the marine ecosystem; however, park staff work closely with other federal departments and regional organisations to manage marine resources. Many First Nations and other stakeholders are concerned about the decline in the health of the marine environment, and are interested in addressing marine management and in identifying marine protected areas along the west coast of Vancouver Island.

### Cultural Resource Management

The primary goal of the cultural resource management program is the protection and long-term stewardship of cultural sites, objects, and archaeological resources found within Pacific Rim NPR. Cultural sites found in Pacific Rim NPR vary from pre-European contact Nuu-chah-nulth habitation and spiritual-use locations, to former homesteads, linesman cabins, military sites, and shipwrecks. The park's historic objects collection consists of over 400 items that pertain to Nuu-chah-nulth culture or the region's maritime history and early European settlement. To achieve the program's goals, the park strives to monitor and protect sites where possible in their original contexts, in addition to documenting and applying traditional Nuu-chah-nulth knowledge.

Overall, the status of the park's cultural resources is good, with the following specific observations:

- approximately 75% of archaeological sites have a good status;
- 75% of the historic objects have fair or good status; and
- 85% of the archaeological objects have a good status.

The establishment of good working relationships with First Nations, who are also full partners in site revisits in their traditional territories, has been a key success for the cultural resource management program. Other successes include establishing a process for stabilizing and restoring the R. Wells shipwreck drawings and the interpreting and maintaining cultural objects displayed at the Interpretive Centre at Wickaninnish Beach.

The ongoing assessment of the state of cultural resources and the protection of these resources continues to be a challenge. Many cultural sites are located in close proximity to the coastline where erosion and visitation pose potential threats. An assessment of landscape features, buildings, and structures should be undertaken through preparation of a cultural resource values statement. While active management steps are being taken to

mitigate impacts from human disturbance (e.g. using Superintendent's Orders and site monitoring to protect sacred burial caves), threats from natural disturbances are more difficult to gauge and to mitigate. The inventory and monitoring program for cultural objects requires ongoing attention and updating.



Wickaninnish Working Group. Parks Canada/K. Haugen

### Visitor Experience, Infrastructure, and Capacity

Visitors come to Pacific Rim NPR to enjoy a wide range of experiences: pounding surf, sandy beaches, watching the sun sink into the Pacific Ocean, quiet inlets, a rich intertidal area, towering rainforest, and abundant wildlife. Some visitors enjoy the comfortable, front-country opportunities, while others seek the more challenging, backcountry adventures, both on land and in the marine environment. Although the easily accessible, front-country LBU attracts the majority of the park's visitors, the BGI and WCT are distinct destinations in their own right. The BGI and WCT draw a combined visitation that is the highest backcountry use of any national park in Canada. In the years ahead, the park hopes to increase visitation by 3% per year through improvements to the service offer, assets, new product developments, special events, and interpretive programming.

Overall visitation, participation, return rates, and levels of satisfaction with visitor service and visitor experience are high (based on annual visitation counts and a 2001 visitor survey). There is no data to assess the status and trend of outreach education or stakeholder relations. Personal use fees

have increased revenues to support capital infrastructure and “Greening” initiatives in the park (e.g. picnic tables, privies, recycling bins). Successes in visitor services and interpretation include:

- redesigning interpretive exhibits in the Interpretive Centre at Wickaninnish Beach, is currently underway with the active involvement of the Nuu-chah-nulth cultural working group;
- moving the Pacific Rim Visitor Centre to a high-profile location, thereby significantly increasing Parks Canada’s opportunities to communicate with visitors and enhancing its working relationship with their co-tenants, the Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce;
- providing park information from the Tofino Visitor Centre in July and August; and
- initiating Nuu-chah-nulth interpretation by First Nations on the West Coast Trail.



Interpretation by First Nation Guardians, West Coast Trail. *Parks Canada/J. McCulloch*

Outreach to off-site audiences occurs on a regular basis. Participation in annual festivals such as the Whale Festival, Shorebird Festival, Ukee Days, Aboriginal Day, and Aboriginal School Days are a regular occurrence and an effective means of

reaching out to the local communities. Park staff regularly contribute stories and park updates to the local newspaper. Organisations such as Mountain Equipment Co-op and the Maritime Museum often request staff to speak on topics such as hiking the West Coast Trail and the sinking of the S.S. Valencia. Live, two-way videoconferencing technology has been used, allowing tenth-grade Ontario students and staff from Pacific Rim NPR to see and speak with each other. This curriculum-based program integrates digital media, interactive activities, and classroom-ready resources.



Community celebration, 2010 Winter Olympic Torch Relay, Long Beach. *Parks Canada/Koreski*

The park’s external relations role within the region is varied and active. Park staff are board representatives for Tourism Tofino, Tourism Ucluelet, Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce, Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Tourism Vancouver Island. At the regional level, staff are involved with several regional committees including the West Coast Aquatic Board, the Clayoquot Regional Board, the West Coast Forum, and the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District Committee. Staff involved in education programming work with community events such as the Whale Fest, and organisations such as the Rainforest Education Society and the Ucluelet Mini Aquarium.

Operating in three geographically separate units influenced by extreme weather and ocean effects presents logistical and financial challenges in providing visitor experience infrastructure. Some of the concerns include:

- Given the number of visitors each year, ongoing challenges exist with aging and outdated visitor facilities and other infrastructure. Visitor facilities and assets (e.g. campgrounds, trail infrastructure including bridges and boardwalks, picnic tables, washroom facilities, visitor centres) are in poor condition and continue to deteriorate;
- The service offer for the West Coast Trail is not financially sustainable given current visitation rates and high infrastructure costs; and
- The Cape Beale Headland and Nitinat Triangle portions of the WCT have minimal management and visitation, but are viewed as an economic opportunity for the communities of Bamfield and those of the Huu-ay-aht and Ditidaht First Nations.



Public safety, West Coast Trail. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

With the wide variety of habitat and activities in Pacific Rim NPR, hazards are inherent in both its built (e.g. infrastructure) and natural environments of the park. Risk is also inherent in the recreational pursuits people choose to engage in. The increase in urban visitors to the park, many of whom are unfamiliar with ocean environments, continues to present a challenge to public safety, particularly with the growing interest in off-season surfing and winter storm watching in the LBU. The *Public Safety and Disaster Response Plan* (Draft 2009) anticipates the foreseeable perils that may emerge from inherent hazards and risks that could affect a visitor's experience or safety. It sets out a process for demonstrating due diligence in pursuit of visitor safety and defines categories and levels of visitor safety services that staff believe is appropriate to minimise the frequency or severity of visitor safety incidents. The park has committed to providing safety services to visitors in the categories of: planning and risk management; education and awareness; preparedness; training; and emergency response.

## 4.0 Vision Statement



Cribs Beach, West Coast Trail. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

The park vision is meant to be an inspiring statement that conveys the special character of the park, the future desired state, and key principles for park management. The vision has been developed with direction and input from the Parks Canada mandate, *Interim Management Guidelines*, terms of reference for joint working groups, and public feedback.

Often described as the foundation of a management plan, the vision is a touchstone for the public and for those who manage the park. It guides management and planning teams as they address complex and controversial issues, and it provides a tool for overall evaluation. A vision is meant to be realistic, yet challenging. It remains constant over the long term (some 15 years), while management objectives and specific actions will evolve over that same time period.

The foundation of the proposed park vision consists of three principles that will guide the park's decision-making and future management direction:

- People: respectful cooperation;
- Stories: experience living history; and
- Legacy: protect nature and culture.

These principles do not stand alone, but rather are the foundation for managing the park:

- The park needs people working in the spirit of respectful cooperation to be good stewards for the park;
- Culture and stories abound, and will be shared to provide opportunities for enhanced understanding and appreciation;

- The legacy achieved with the assistance of people and the sharing of stories, is the long-term protection of the park and its natural and cultural resources.

When seen and understood collectively, these principles will ensure that the unique place that is Pacific Rim NPR will be maintained. The principles elaborate on how the cooperation and sharing among Parks Canada and its partners and stakeholders will connect the people who live in and around the park with those who visit - providing a deeper understanding and desire to sustain it.

The vision's poem highlights Pacific Rim NPR's special character and portrays the park's future. It allows all who read it to experience the park's landscape, its creatures, and its culture. A call to action is offered at the end; we can live this vision, we can love the park, and we must work together to let it renew.

As the morning fog slowly burns off  
 And the rising tide gently embraces the windswept beach  
 A pair of eagles take wing  
 Casting a mystic eye on the coastal realm

As salmon struggle up cold waters of the creek  
 Once again completing the great cycle of life  
 Waves erase footprints left on the wet sand  
 And fishers lower into the deep their lines

As a child says 'hello' to an ancient tree  
 Guarding a longhouse site from the primordial days  
 A welcome pole peers into the expanse of the sea  
 And boats glide through the island maze

As the sun rises out of the rainforest green  
 And languidly plunges beneath the ocean blue  
 We do what we can to protect this magnificent scene  
 For all to live it, to love it and to let it renew

## People respectful cooperation



In cooperation with the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations and with support of neighbouring communities, stakeholders and visitors, Parks Canada passionately strives for excellence as we achieve sustainable stewardship throughout the region. Together we are a strong team committed to protecting and presenting this place and all that call it home.

## Stories experience living history



From time immemorial, Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations have cared for and been sustained by this land, sea, and air. More recent maritime tragedies and the region's entrepreneurial spirit in fishing, forestry, and prospecting have added a new layer of stories to appreciate. Parks Canada inspires visitors to experience and personally connect to Pacific Rim National Park Reserve as they create their own unique stories.

## Legacy protect nature and culture



Parks Canada, Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations and stakeholders collaborate to restore the health and balance of coastal ecosystems and cultural sites. A vibrant and thriving network of protected areas along the country's mighty west coast is the living legacy left for Canadians to discover and personally enjoy.



## 5.0 Key Strategies



Sea lion, Toquart Bay, Broken Group Islands Unit. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

Pacific Rim NPR's vision is the foundation for devising key strategies that outline the broad direction for Parks Canada's core mandate elements of resource protection, visitor experience, and public outreach education. Key strategies are meant to highlight the interconnectedness of the three mandate elements. They also reflect the major approaches for managing the park while achieving desired results in the next five years. To make progress on the opportunities and challenges identified in the *State of the Park Report*, the following key strategies, complete with objectives, results-based targets and actions, will set management priorities. It is important to remember that this is the park's first management plan. As such, the plan's key strategies focus on current initiatives as well as identifying critical work that must be completed in order

to establish a solid foundation for the next management plan in 2015. The key strategies are:

1. Working with First Nations Partners;
2. Protecting and Restoring Cultural Resources and Ecological Integrity;
3. Managing the Coastal Zone; and
4. Enhancing Community Relations and Visitor Experience.

These key strategies provide a framework for decision-making on issues that span the entire park. Where groupings of resources, visitor opportunities and operational considerations lend themselves to a common management approach, the management plan provides area management approaches (see Section 6.o).

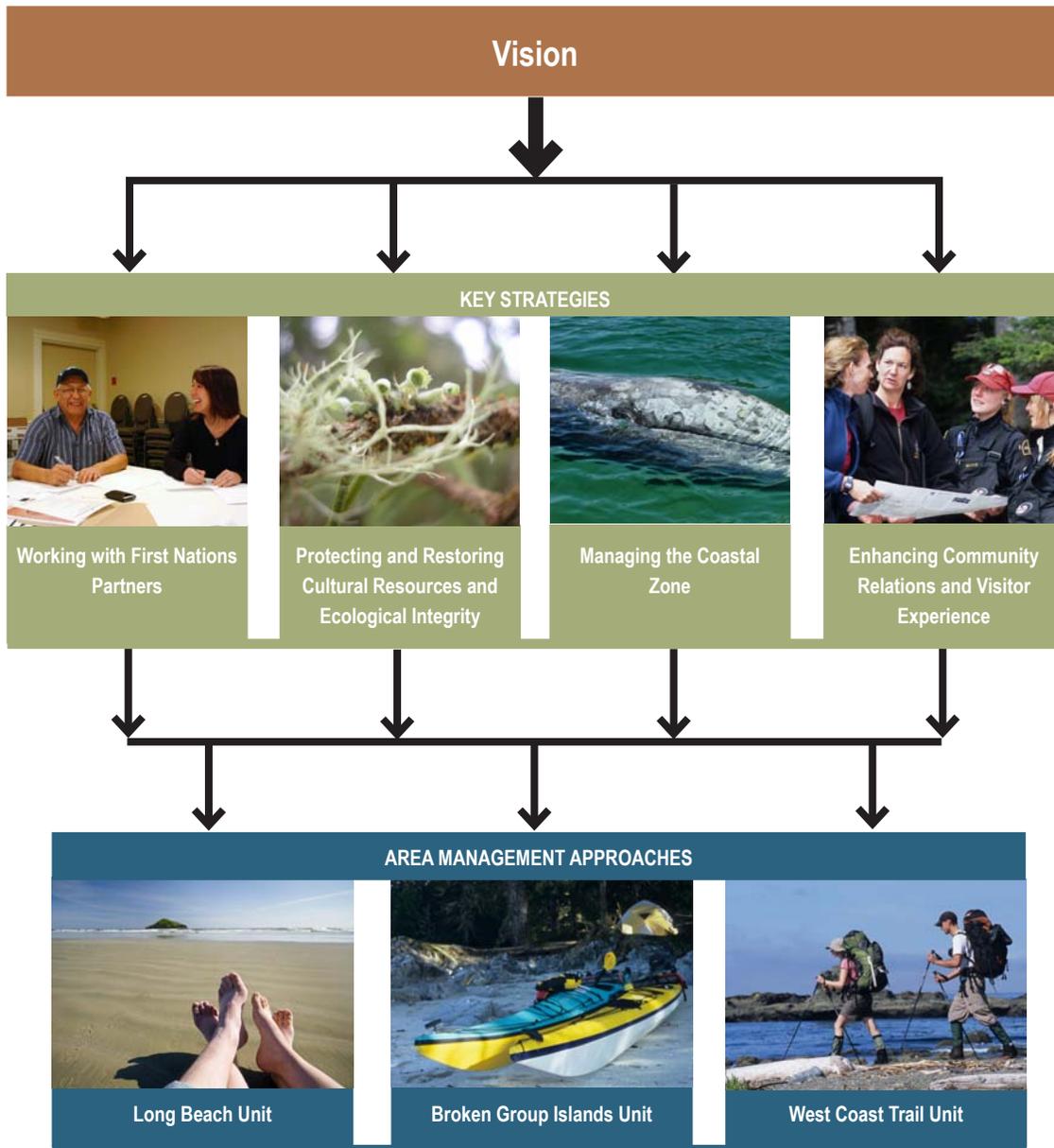


Figure 9: Description of how the core components of the management plan are linked. The Vision provides the foundation for the Key Strategies which also pertain to the Area Management Approaches. *Parks Canada/J. McCulloch, K. Haugen, S. Smith*

The above illustration describes the relationship and connection between the core components of the plan. It is important to note that no key strategy or area management approach takes priority over another. To assist in implementing the management plan, all key strategies and area management approaches contain objectives, measurable targets, and suggested strategic actions. Many

of these strategies highlight activities that are already ongoing in the park, while others indicate the types of actions to undertake in the next five years.

## 5.1 WORKING WITH FIRST NATIONS PARTNERS

### Strategy Statement

Pacific Rim NPR is located within the traditional territories of many Nuu-chah-nulth Nations. The cultural landscape of the area is enriched by First Nations' culture, traditions, and history. First Nations continue to look to the natural environment for their resources, and they actively protect the land and seascapes encompassing both material and immaterial elements such as food and other natural resources, ceremonial privileges and rites including songs, masks, dances, and stories.

Parks Canada and First Nations will work collaboratively to achieve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources within Pacific Rim NPR. Parks Canada and First Nations recognise that, though some goals may be diverse, we can achieve common objectives that will play a leading role in strengthening, enhancing, and sustaining Pacific Rim NPR and First Nations' traditional territories. Such a strategy will also encourage continuous dialogue and relationship building with First Nations to establish partnering, develop appreciation, and the sharing of First Nations' culture and history. This will provide an enriched sense of place for Pacific Rim NPR visitors and local communities.

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Formal, cooperative processes are established for Pacific Rim NPR in collaboration with partner First Nations.</b>
<b>Target 1.1</b>	<b>Structures are formally adopted by 2015.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consult with each of the local First Nations to determine their interests and involvement in establishing Cooperative Management Boards with the park. Work with each First Nation, and identify where each First Nation is at in respect to the Treaty process. Negotiate and prepare draft Memorandum of Understanding agreements and/or Terms of Reference. Begin consultation with First Nations on the agreements and/or Terms of Reference. Implement Agreements and/or Terms of References.</li> <li>2. Create a communication plan on the mechanisms of established Cooperative Management Boards.</li> </ol>
<b>Target 1.2</b>	<b>All Pacific Rim NPR staff and First Nations Cooperative Management Board members have taken cross-cultural awareness training by 2012.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide training to park staff on Treaty and Legal requirements that affect Pacific Rim NPR.</li> <li>2. Provide an orientation to board members on the functions and operations of First Nations governance, culture, history, and traditions.</li> <li>3. Provide an orientation to board members on the functions and operations of Parks Canada.</li> </ol>



Signing of the Huu-ay-aht and Parks Canada Terms of Reference. Parks Canada/K. Haugen

<b>Objective 2</b>		<b>Visitor experiences within the park related to authentic Aboriginal culture and heritage generate Aboriginal economic benefits and increased tourism.</b>
<b>Target 2.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Number and range of authentic experiences available to visitors are expanded.</b></li> <li>• <b>Visitor satisfaction with the range and quality of experiences is high.</b></li> <li>• <b>Regional economic benefits increase from an identified baseline.</b></li> <li>• <b>Number of visitors to the park is increased.</b></li> </ul>	
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consult with the local First Nations on their interests, involvement in and delivery of visitor experience activities, programs, products, and initiatives with the park.</li> <li>2. Consult with First Nations on cultural information that can be shared with the public.</li> <li>3. Provide business and/or tourism tools and expertise to the local First Nations in support of developing Aboriginal Tourism Initiatives.</li> <li>4. Incorporate First Nations content and/or activities into the Pacific Rim NPR trip planning cycle information.</li> </ol>	
<b>Target 2.2</b>		<b>An annual workshop between Parks Canada and First Nations.</b>
Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collaborate with First Nations to create a workshop to share information, projects, collaborate on joint ventures and review the accomplishments of the Pacific Rim NPR Management Plan.</li> </ol>	
<b>Objective 3</b>		<b>Resource conservation and management of cultural and natural resources is undertaken collaboratively by Pacific Rim NPR and First Nations.</b>
<b>Target 3.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increase in number of projects or initiatives that demonstrate collaboration.</b></li> <li>• <b>A greater range and number of formal management mechanisms are in place and supported by all groups and recognised as “collaborative”.</b></li> </ul>	
Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review resource conservation work plans with Cooperative Management Boards to receive advice and guidance, to provide opportunities for involvement and to consider Traditional Knowledge where applicable and deemed necessary by First Nations.</li> </ol>	



Nuu-cha-nulth stories along the West Coast Trail. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

## 5.2 PROTECTING AND RESTORING CULTURAL RESOURCES AND ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

### Strategy Statement

The west coast of Vancouver Island supports a naturally rich environment, which gives rise to a correspondingly vibrant cultural tradition. This dramatic and magnificent coastal zone has been home to the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations for at least five thousand years. To the present day, this region sustains a diversity of active and complex native and non-native cultures, lifestyles, and livelihoods. The area is also noted for its connections to the history of European contact, trade and marine navigation, World War II, and contemporary Canadian life.

Over the long-term, this strategy will enable Pacific Rim NPR to address the ongoing and planned conservation and protection work in the park focussing on cultural and natural resources. Along with the protection and active restoration of park ecosystems, this strategy is directed at the development of partnerships and cooperative resource management efforts with the local First Nations. Through enriching personal experiences, Pacific Rim NPR will promote active stewardship and foster the sense of belonging; it will foster an appreciation of the park, and its landscapes and seascapes as home to both humans and wildlife.

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>The cultural resources within Pacific Rim NPR are protected and maintained through an active cultural resource management program in collaboration with the local First Nations.</b>
<b>Target 1.1</b>	<b>First Nations are actively involved in managing with Parks Canada archaeological sites and cultural resources within the park.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a decision-making process and policy with each First Nation in relation to identified archaeological and cultural sites.</li> <li>2. Relevant First Nation representatives participate in assessments of cultural and archaeological sites.</li> <li>3. Exchange annual cultural site reports with First Nations partners.</li> </ol>
<b>Target 1.2</b>	<b>Cultural landscape and landscape features within the park have been assessed, documented, and are monitored by 2015.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete a cultural resource values statement for the park.</li> <li>2. Establish a set of monitoring targets for First Nation and Euro-Canadian cultural sites.</li> </ol>
<b>Target 1.3</b>	<b>Known cultural resources are appropriately protected and conserved in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collaborate with First Nations to identify priority cultural resources that should be the focus of conservation efforts.</li> <li>2. Identify, assess, and protect heritage sites prone to erosion from visitor use and natural conditions.</li> <li>3. Stabilise and improve objects in the heritage collection.</li> </ol>
<b>Target 1.4</b>	<b>The in-park collection of historical objects is identified, maintained, and some are made accessible to the public by 2012.</b>
Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepare a cultural resource conservation and monitoring plan.</li> </ol>

<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>The components of the coastal realm's land- and seascapes are maintained and restored through both targeted and ecosystem-based management including protection and active restoration in collaboration with local First Nations, governments, and other stakeholders.</b>
<b>Target 2.1</b>	<b>The state of ecological integrity in at least one of the park's ecosystems is improved.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Restore in-stream and riparian habitats in specific areas in collaboration with local First Nations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Central West Coast Forest Society, and other agencies.</li> <li>2. Restore coastal dune ecosystems and their natural sand dynamics in specific areas.</li> <li>3. Remove significant volumes of invasive plant species in specific areas.</li> <li>4. Maintain a viable and flexible Ecological Integrity Monitoring Program. Apply research and monitoring in concert with applicable Traditional Knowledge.</li> </ol>
<b>Target 2.2</b>	<b>Implement and/or assist in implementing recovery strategies for species at risk for which Parks Canada is the responsible agency as well as other species at risk on/in park lands and waters.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Restore habitat and re-introduce pink sand-verbena to key sand dune locations in consultation with the local First Nations.</li> <li>2. Educate the public about the seaside centipede lichen with the aim of reducing pressure on the species and its habitat.</li> <li>3. Develop and implement measures of population size assessment for four species at risk occurring in the park (seaside centipede lichen, pink sand-verbena, dromedary jumping-slug, and northern goshawk) for which Parks Canada is the lead federal responsible agency.</li> <li>4. Protect important or critical habitats to ensure that activities in species at risk habitat meet conservation goals and legal requirements under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i>.</li> <li>5. Monitor species at risk populations as part of the Ecological Integrity Monitoring and Reporting Plan.</li> <li>6. Deliver species at risk messaging and communications to partners and stakeholders.</li> </ol>
<b>Target 2.3</b>	<b>Harvesting protocol(s) are drafted in collaboration with and/or detailed input from the local First Nations.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Investigate experiences in drafting traditional harvest protocols by other parks.</li> <li>2. Discuss the need for sustainable resource harvest and traditional harvest protocol(s) with the local First Nations.</li> <li>3. Facilitate drafting of the harvest protocol(s) by the local First Nations in other mutually acceptable ways.</li> </ol>
<b>Target 2.4</b>	<b>The majority of wildlife populations remain viable.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue protection and, where applicable, monitoring of wildlife populations.</li> <li>2. Work with community groups directly involved in wildlife conservation in the park.</li> <li>3. Restore high-quality wildlife habitat.</li> <li>4. Reduce human-wildlife conflict through prevention, using proactive and reactive approaches.</li> </ol>

**Objective 3** The coastal areas of the park are protected and restored through collaboration and information sharing among communities and Parks Canada.

**Target 3.1** An ecological integrity outreach strategy for local and off-site (remote) community engagement is operational.

- Actions
1. Engage communities in a consultation process(es). Learn what purpose they see for the park. Assemble and analyse baseline data from internal and external sources on understanding and appreciation of the park and park-related issues by community audience(s).
  2. Use the baseline data to set specific community targets in the context of the community engagement strategy.
  3. Deliver public-orientated programs and events that improve ecological integrity, reduce human-wildlife conflict, and contribute to sustainable existence of humans and wildlife on the landscape.
  4. In cooperation with the local First Nations, deliver a strong First Nation component of the outreach strategy that would consider both Local and Traditional Ecological Knowledge.
  5. Develop formal and/or informal relationships with community groups and non-government organisations to promote environmental stewardship and responsible partnership.
  6. Actively engage the academic community in information exchange regarding the park and its physical and cultural landscapes, phenomena, and processes.

**Objective 4** Visitors can experience, understand, and support the restoration and protection of natural and cultural resources through learning-based experiences grounded in the park's restoration programs.

- Target 4.1**
- A baseline understanding of public awareness of ecological restoration and species reintroduction programs in the park is established.
  - Levels of occurrence reports and law enforcement incidents have been significantly reduced relative to the current levels.

- Actions
1. Design messages that encourage in visitors an understanding of park programs related to ecological and cultural conservation, public safety, and human-wildlife interaction as well as sustainable lifestyles. Feature these messages in marketing, pre-trip planning, on-site information, and interpretation products and programs. These are tailored to visitors' interests, expectations, and park capabilities.
  2. Use ecological restoration activities to support innovative learning. Provide opportunities, where appropriate, for visitors to have firsthand experience as observers and/or participants in activities related to protection, conservation, and restoration of natural and cultural resources.



Seaside-Centipede Lichen. S. Smith

### 5.3 MANAGING THE COASTAL ZONE

#### Strategy Statement

Pacific Rim NPR occupies a narrow coastal band of land and water within the traditional territories of many First Nations. By virtue of its position, the park offers a fundamental contribution to the conservation and presentation of representative landscapes and seascapes of the coastal realm. However, with the park's land-base and marine component, Parks Canada relies on strong partnerships with neighbours to address significant influences and pressures. The integrity of cultural and ecological resources and landscapes is critically dependent on our surroundings and the way they are managed.

The main focus of this strategy over the next five years is to enable Pacific Rim NPR to work with First Nations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, coastal communities, organisations, and interested stakeholders on the issues related to marine management and conservation. As a part of this strategy, Pacific Rim NPR will cultivate a commitment to stewardship in visitors, and in those who are not physically able to visit, by increasing their understanding of, respect for, and connection to the ocean through education and outreach. The park will also strive towards similar trans-boundary cooperation in the coastal zone, thus working towards a regional marine management regime.

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Marine resources in Pacific Rim NPR are managed in accordance with clear direction developed in collaboration with First Nations.</b>
<b>Target 1.1</b>	<b>As a first step, a marine management strategy is drafted for waters within the boundaries of Pacific Rim NPR by March 2015.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work collaboratively with First Nations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to determine the appropriate long-term management regime for the marine component of Pacific Rim NPR.</li> <li>2. Consult on and/or resolve issues pertaining to marine management through co-operative management with First Nations.</li> </ol>
<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>Integrated management of coastal zone resources occurs on a regional scale.</b>
<b>Target 2.1</b>	<b>A common vision for managing coastal resources on a regional scale outside of the national park boundaries is developed between Pacific Rim NPR, First Nations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, and local communities.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with First Nations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, and local communities to develop coastal zone strategies for the region.</li> <li>2. Actively participate in West Coast Aquatic Board or other bodies.</li> <li>3. Develop a network of contacts to work on marine issues.</li> </ol>
<b>Target 2.2</b>	<b>Trans-boundary working relationships in the coastal zone are established.</b>
Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partner with adjacent communities and agencies on best management practices. Partnerships will manifest in pursuing mutually-supported approaches to their development and implementation.</li> </ol>
<b>Target 2.3</b>	<b>Pacific Rim NPR, as a recovery team member, helps to complete three recovery strategies and/or action plans for key marine species by 2015.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement recommendations for marine species at risk from the <i>Species at Risk Site Analysis</i> (2009): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) "Work with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Environment Canada to develop and implement protection measures for Killer Whales, Marbled Murrelet and other marine species at risk utilizing park waters."</li> <li>b) "Engage partnerships (e.g. First Nations, West Coast Aquatic Board) to support marine zoning in the upcoming Park Management Plan that enables protection of critical habitat identified for species at risk."</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

**Objective 3**      **Protect, conserve and manage marine resources within selected areas in Nuu-chah-nulth territories and Pacific Rim NPR.**

**Target 3.1**      **Candidate areas for marine zoning are reviewed and recommendations put forward by 2015.**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Actions | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determine marine areas of high ecological significance through collaboration with local First Nations and considering Traditional Knowledge.</li> <li>2. Identify key areas for marine populations using data from other agencies, considering Local Ecological Knowledge from long-term residents and stakeholders.</li> <li>3. Pacific Rim NPR analyses and synthesises data pertaining to marine populations within the park.</li> <li>4. Pacific Rim NPR works with other interested parties to incorporate information for consideration in marine zoning.</li> <li>5. Communicate the just completed preliminary analysis of marine populations and their areas for zoning consideration.</li> </ol> |
|---------|--|

**Objective 4**      **Visitors and off-site audiences understand Pacific Rim NPR's role in marine ecosystem management and the value of ocean ecosystems.**

**Target 4.1**      **On average, 60% of visitors surveyed state that they learned about the complexity of marine ecosystems and, as a result, the need for integrated management of these ecosystems.**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Actions | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a communications strategy in consultation with local Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations and others that focuses on the marine environment.</li> <li>2. Invite visitors to explore and experience Pacific Rim NPR's marine component, and through new activities, support Parks Canada in managing marine ecosystems.</li> </ol> |
|---------|---|

**Target 4.2**      **The percentage of Canadians who consider that they learned about the complexity of marine ecosystems is increased.**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Actions | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Offer opportunities for off-site audiences to understand the coastal zone through new programming initiatives in urban areas based on a marine communications strategy that recognises off-site audiences, and customises messages and actions to meet their interests.</li> </ol> |
|---------|--|



Grey whale, Broken Group Islands. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

#### 5.4 ENHANCING COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

##### Strategy Statement

In collaboration with Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations and the local communities associated with Pacific Rim NPR, Parks Canada is proud to welcome people to experience the rugged west coast and its vibrant traditions. The living cultural traditions of the Nuu-chah-nulth are interwoven with the land and sea, as well as with the animals and plants that inhabit them. Local history and stories of more recent arrivals, such as seafarers, settlers, airmen, and others, have also greatly shaped the social landscape of the region.

This strategy will set the direction for how Pacific Rim NPR will collaborate within a broad, diverse and complex community environment. Social science research will provide an essential foundation to studying and understanding our communities and park visitors.

Under this strategy, Pacific Rim NPR will foster opportunities for collaboration with local communities, industries, and other stakeholders to achieve common goals for

protecting, managing, and experiencing the park. Some relationships may focus on short-term activities or events while others may be long-term; some relationships may be formal and others may be informal. Regardless, Parks Canada seeks opportunities for public engagement in the park's protection and in the presentation of its cultural and natural heritage. Relationships with local and regional partners are critical to the long-term success of the park.

Pacific Rim NPR also looks forward to developing opportunities to allow visitors to create their own experiences in ways that are both personally meaningful and long-lasting. The park offers opportunities for everything from simply enjoying being in the park and hanging out or playing on the beach, to more vigorous activities like multi-day hikes that facilitate visitors reconnecting with friends and family. Much of what is offered in the park depends on high quality and innovative services, programs, and passionate staff, as well as safe and sound facilities. The goal is to facilitate new and positive experiences, allowing visitors' individual memories to connect them to this place long after their visit.

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Pacific Rim NPR has an improved understanding of its neighbouring communities and stakeholders, so that it can attract current markets, consider new markets, and determine how best to engage interested stakeholders.</b>
<b>Target 1.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increased visitation from an established baseline, including a 3% per year increase in visitation over the life of the management plan.</b></li> <li>• <b>Increased engagement or perceived opportunities to influence park management decisions by stakeholders.</b></li> </ul>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and survey current stakeholders and local communities (e.g. Chambers of Commerce, tourism associations, Port Renfrew, Bamfield, Regional District representatives, and Port Alberni) to better understand markets.</li> <li>2. Determine how stakeholders want to be engaged and how Pacific Rim NPR can enhance regional initiatives.</li> <li>3. Identify what information has already been gathered by various groups. Add to databases and share information with user groups and others.</li> </ol>
<b>Target 1.2</b>	<b>A common strategy exists to manage stakeholder/external relations and participation in local events.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inventory and evaluate the park's participation in current community events.</li> <li>2. Conduct a "gap analysis" of other community events that the park is not attending to set priorities and to look for fresh outreach opportunities.</li> </ol>

**Objective 2** A range of appropriate visitor opportunities are facilitated by Pacific Rim NPR and the surrounding region that complement the park’s coastal realm.

<b>Target 2.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Number and variety of visitor experiences available increases from baseline.</b></li> <li>• <b>Visitors are satisfied with the availability and variety of experiences available.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Actions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain a stakeholder and business operators database.</li> <li>2. Encourage and, where appropriate, educate businesses on the need to provide correct and timely information about the park to visitors.</li> <li>3. Facilitate information delivery by businesses by providing them with timely information updates on the park and its specific programs (e.g. Prevent Net, Bare Campsite Policy, Wild Coast, interpretation, volunteer opportunities).</li> <li>4. Participate in regional committees and boards, seeking opportunities to further the Parks Canada program through collaborative ventures.</li> <li>5. Work with communities to provide regionally accurate information on public safety, visitor experience, and ecological integrity.</li> </ol>

**Objective 3** Visitors to Pacific Rim NPR enjoy and are satisfied with their visit to the park.

<b>Target 3.1</b>	<p><b>Social science work, seeking the following results related to visitor experience, has been completed by 2013:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>90% of surveyed park visitors enjoyed their visit;</b></li> <li>• <b>90% of surveyed park visitors are satisfied with their visit and on average, 50% of surveyed visitors are very satisfied with their visit;</b></li> <li>• <b>on average, 85% of surveyed visitors consider the place as meaningful to them; and</b></li> <li>• <b>80% of surveyed visitors feel that a trip to the recently updated Interpretive Centre at Wickaninnish Beach enhanced their visit.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Actions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete a Visitor Information Program survey by 2012 for all three park units.</li> <li>2. Invite visitors to explore and experience Pacific Rim NPR’s marine component, and through new activities, support Parks Canada in managing marine ecosystems.</li> <li>3. Establish and implement a sustainable visitor facility plan for each unit of the park.</li> <li>4. Regularly update the <i>Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada Public Safety and Disaster Response Plan</i> and implement feasible, optimal actions.</li> <li>5. Communicate safe and realistic expectations and appropriate activities to visitors at all stages of the visitor trip planning cycle.</li> </ol>



Visitor services, West Coast Trail. Parks Canada/J. McColloch

<b>Objective 4</b>	<b>Visitors develop a sense of connection to Pacific Rim NPR and an appreciation of the need for protection, conservation, and restoration of its cultural and natural resources.</b>
<b>Target 4.1</b>	<b>Social science work, seeking the following baseline results related to visitor experience, has been completed by 2013:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>60% or more of visitors consider that they learned about the natural and or cultural heritage of the place, and</b></li> <li>• <b>visitors identify preferred delivery methods and content for education opportunities.</b></li> </ul>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete a Visitor Information Program survey by 2012 for all three park units.</li> <li>2. Evaluate and modify the education opportunities offered to ensure maximum effectiveness based on social science work, visitor statistics, new media opportunities, and Parks Canada program needs.</li> <li>3. Develop, where appropriate, first hand experiences for visitors as observers or volunteers in activities related to protection, conservation, and restoration of natural and cultural resources.</li> <li>4. Develop opportunities for off-site audiences to enjoy the park through partnerships with urban organisations such as museums, aquariums or recreational organisations (e.g. hiking clubs).</li> <li>5. Work with Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations to develop and implement opportunities for visitors to learn about Nuu-chah-nulth culture.</li> <li>6. Include messages concerning the protection, conservation, and restoration of natural and cultural resources in park education programs.</li> </ol>
<b>Objective 5</b>	<b>Parks Canada optimises public safety, prevention, and response capabilities within Pacific Rim NPR by partnering with public safety organisations and through collaborative public safety planning, training and communications.</b>
<b>Target 5.1</b>	<b>The number of public safety incidents related to park facilities is reduced from the baseline.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct Visitor Risk Management planning.</li> <li>2. Apply improved environmental design of park facilities in order to address public safety/prevention issues.</li> <li>3. Maintain the through highway and secondary roads (e.g. roads to Radar Hill or to Grice Bay) in a safe condition.</li> <li>4. Regularly update the <i>Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada Public Safety and Disaster Response Plan</i> and implement feasible, optimal actions.</li> </ol>
<b>Target 5.2</b>	<b>Regional public safety issues are clearly understood by the park.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collaborate with public safety organisations and local communities to conduct visitor safety research within each unit of the park.</li> <li>2. Pacific Rim NPR maintains membership and actively participates in regional public safety committees.</li> <li>3. Develop a Visitor Risk Management plan.</li> </ol>
<b>Target 5.3</b>	<b>The park's public safety response capabilities are enhanced through collaboration.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pacific Rim NPR continues to be an active member of the West Coast Emergency Response Team</li> <li>2. Review and renew mutual aid agreements with other public safety organisations in local communities.</li> <li>3. Adopt public safety training standards that permit park staff to work seamlessly with search and rescue partner agencies.</li> <li>4. Collaborate with First Nations, local communities, and other stakeholders to develop and implement large-scale disaster planning.</li> </ol>

## 6.0 Area Management Approaches



Clarke Island, Broken Groups Islands Unit. *Parks Canada/J. McCulloch*

### 6.1 CURRENT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Differences of geography and access (e.g. via road, water, and trails) in the three units of Pacific Rim NPR pose a variety of challenges and may require customised management approaches in each unit. However, to date, no definitive management regime has been developed for each park unit. To develop detailed and specific area management approaches for each unit would be premature. The proposed key strategies described in this management plan are applicable to all three units of the park. A limited selection of objectives for the park's three units is described below as preliminary area management approaches. These are meant to see the park through the implementation period for this management plan in the areas

of visitor experience, providing appropriate infrastructure, and ensuring visitor safety.

### Long Beach Unit

*“Play in the sand; splash in the water; get dirty; get wet. The beach is the only place my mom doesn’t get mad about me doing that stuff. Of course I love the beach!” – Dixie Dykens*

The LBU will continue to be where most visitors experience and learn about Pacific Rim NPR. It is also one of the most actively-managed areas of the park, and it will continue to provide a front-country experience. For a detailed description of the unit, refer to section 3.0.



Long Beach. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Facilities, services, and learning experiences are provided in the LBU that afford the opportunity for targeted audiences to have safe and memorable visitor experiences.</b>	
<b>Targets</b>	1.1	<b>85% of visitors to this area are satisfied with its facilities and services.</b>
	1.2	<b>A baseline estimate for targeted audiences learning something about the park from their use of interpretive facilities and services in the area has been established.</b>
<b>Action</b>	1.	Evaluate the array of visitor facilities to establish a capital investment sustainability strategy.
<b>Targets</b>	1.3	<b>100% of the through highway within the park boundaries is maintained in good condition.</b>
	1.4	<b>There are no days of closure due to the condition of the highway.</b>
<b>Action</b>	1.	Maintain the through highway and secondary roads (e.g. roads to Radar Hill or to Grice Bay) in a safe condition.
<b>Target</b>	1.5	<b>The number of annual public safety incidents in the LBU is reduced to 1 incident per 16,000 visitors or fewer.</b>
<b>Action</b>	1.	Implement feasible, optimal actions proposed in the <i>Public Safety and Disaster Response Plan</i> .



Celebrating Canada Day on Long Beach. Parks Canada/ L. Ralston

**Broken Group Islands Unit**

*“I like the storms. I like the feel of the surge of the ocean. I love it when I’m paddling along and the waves are crashing on the rocks ... In the spring the water is so clear. It is such an incredible colour. You can see everything ... there’s so much wildlife out there in the spring; it just feels so fresh and new and alive and vibrant...” – Tracy Eeftink*

The intent of managing the BGI is to provide a backcountry experience where the primary activities entail the use of marine vessels. For a detailed description of the unit, refer to section 3.0.



Kayaking and camping in the Broken Group Islands. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Facilities, services, and learning experiences are provided in the BGI that afford opportunity for targeted audiences to have safe and memorable visitor experiences.</b>	
<b>Targets</b>	1.1	<b>85% of visitors to this area are satisfied with its facilities and services.</b>
	1.2	<b>A baseline estimate for targeted audiences learning something about the park from their use of interpretive facilities and services in the area has been established.</b>
	1.3	<b>There are an increased variety of visitor opportunities in the BGI.</b>
<b>Action</b>	1.	Develop a plan that assesses resource conservation (natural and cultural needs), current and potential visitor opportunities, as well as facilities and heritage presentation, and that provides management direction to address sensitivities, conflicts, and opportunities.
<b>Targets</b>	1.4	<b>The number of annual public safety incidents in the BGI is reduced to 1 incident per 560 visitors or fewer.</b>
<b>Action</b>	1.	Implement feasible, optimal actions proposed in the <i>Public Safety and Disaster Response Plan</i> .



Visitor services, Broken Group Islands. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

### West Coast Trail Unit

*“It has earned its reputation as being one of the premier trails, in terms of beauty and experience in Canada...and there’s a good reason for it...beyond the beauty and the sheer love of the hike itself – I mean it takes you through so many different habitats - and you have choices most of the way: do you want to walk on the sandstone shelf, do you want to walk on the beach, or do you want to walk in the rainforest...and there’s lots of little places to go as you explore. You can camp in one spot and hike up the river a little bit and explore some other areas... and there’s just so much variation on the one trail, from these huge river cliffs to these flat boggy areas...[to] big, white, sandy beaches to sandstone to lava rocks to rainforest, you have everything there.” – Danielle Bellefleur*

Management of the WCT will continue to provide a truly unique backcountry experience based on hiking and camping along the iconic trail. For a detailed description of the unit, please refer to section 3.0.



Hiking, West Coast Trail. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Facilities, services, and learning experiences are provided in the WCT that afford the opportunity for targeted audiences to have safe and memorable visitor experiences while improving the financial viability of this backcountry unit.</b>	
<b>Targets</b>	1.1	85% of visitors to this area are satisfied with its facilities and services.
	1.2	A baseline estimate for targeted audiences learning something about the park from their use of interpretive facilities and services in the area is established.
	1.3	WCT visitation has increased by 10% (measured against the 2007-08 operating season) over the life of the management plan to bring it back to previous visitation levels.
<b>Actions</b>	1.	Conduct social science with past, current and potential hikers (through the WCT service offer review) to identify key motivations, desires, needs and what might attract non-users to experience the West Coast Trail.
	2.	Identify service offer modifications with interested partners and stakeholders that could provide a more market-responsive and financially-sustainable product offer while maintaining ecological integrity and promoting visitor experience, awareness and support for Parks Canada’s objectives.
	3.	Implement modifications and assess effectiveness through tracking of cost and visitation, as well as through visitor surveys.
	4.	Enhance marketing of the West Coast Trail experience.
<b>Target</b>	1.4	<b>Net cost of operating the West Coast Trail decreases by 10% (measured against the 2007-08 operating season).</b>
<b>Actions</b>	1.	Maintain unique and characteristic facilities of the West Coast Trail (e.g. cable cars, ladders, suspension bridges).
	2.	Explore options for joint and, perhaps, multi-use trailhead facilities at the south end of the trail.
<b>Target</b>	1.5	<b>The number of annual public safety incidents in the West Coast Trail is reduced to 1 incident per 90 visitors or fewer.</b>
<b>Action</b>	1.	Implement feasible, optimal actions proposed in the <i>Public Safety and Disaster Response Plan</i> .

<b>Objective 2</b>	<b>Parks Canada consults with local First Nations, communities, stakeholders and visitors in developing a plan for the Cape Beale Headland and/or Nitinat Triangle.</b>	
<b>Targets</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>Key partners and timelines are identified for the development of a plan for the Cape Beale Headland and/or the Nitinat Triangle.</b>
	<b>2.2</b>	<b>Plans for the Cape Beale Headland and/or the Nitinat Triangle are initiated.</b>
<b>Actions</b>	1.	Consult with the Huu-ay-aht First Nation, the community of Bamfield, and others to determine what level of involvement they are interested in relative to a Cape Beale Headland Area Plan.
	2.	Consult with the Ditidaht First Nation and others to determine what level of involvement they are interested in relative to a Nitinat Triangle plan.
	3.	Undertake a feasibility study and identify social science work required to assess visitor opportunities to be used in the development of a plan for the Cape Beale Headlands and/or the Nitinat Triangle.



Logan Creek, West Coast Trail Unit. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

## 6.2 FUTURE MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Given the complexity of upcoming treaty resolutions and complementary planning processes by regional water and land managers, the park's management of specific areas will become more clearly defined in the years ahead.

- The park's three units span the traditional territories of several Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations. In the next two to three years, formalised cooperative management boards will be formed with First Nations partners. Each of these boards will provide recommendations on the management of areas in the park corresponding to traditional territorial boundaries, and these partnerships may result in additional, unique management regimes, and approaches.
- The West Coast Aquatic Board is a forum for coastal communities and other bodies affected by aquatic resource management to participate more fully with governments in all aspects of the integrated management of aquatic resources on the west coast of the island. Over the next two years, the board is implementing a multi-year, coastal planning process called the Tsawalk Partnership. It brings governments, industry, and communities together to develop a vision and strategy for the protection and future development of the region. The purpose of the plan is to establish the west coast of Vancouver Island as a sustainably managed coastal ecosystem. As Parks Canada is an active member of the West Coast Aquatic Board, it is critical that there be a coordinated approach between their process and the future management direction for Pacific Rim NPR.

Once larger, regional processes such as these are completed and gaps in information have been resolved, the park will develop specific and detailed area management approaches for the 2015 management plan. This will complement the proposed approach for zoning described in section 7.0. Using cooperative management boards and regional planning products as a means of informing

these area management approaches will provide a more comprehensive and integrated approach to park management.

In the next five years, Pacific Rim NPR will address area management approaches in consultation with First Nations partners, and a range of stakeholders:

**Year 1** Develop a clear process to identify and categorise areas based on park geography and ecological and visitor parameters that may require area management approaches. At the moment, the park operates within its traditional three units, but it is possible that thinking may shift, and new management areas could be identified. For instance, possible new area options could be introduced, such as marine/terrestrial areas or front-country/backcountry areas.

**Year 2** After exploring the main challenges for newly-defined areas, provide management direction for each at a strategic level. Zoning definitions may be used as a tool to complement management objectives, as these will be clearly defined at the same time. Preliminary area management approaches will be developed that identify resource protection, visitor experience, and public education objectives, targets and actions in order to achieve the park's vision and key strategies.

**Year 3** Consult with First Nations and stakeholders on the proposed area management approaches.

**Year 4** Continue consultations, and draft a final version of area management approaches.

**Year 5** Include the new area management approaches, with maps, in the 2015 park management plan.

## 7.0 Zoning and Wilderness Area Declarations



Long Beach Unit. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

### 7.1 PARKS CANADA'S ZONING SYSTEM

Parks Canada uses a zoning system to protect and maintain ecological integrity, while identifying suitable visitor experience opportunities. The zoning system classifies land and water areas according to their ecosystem and cultural values. Zoning is often used as a tool to assist park management in developing suitable activities for resource protection and research within the park.

There are a total of five zones in the terrestrial zoning system:

#### **Zone 1 Special Preservation**

These areas contain unique, threatened or endangered natural or cultural features, or are among the best examples of the features that represent a natural region. Preservation

is the key consideration. Motorised access is not permitted, and visitor access is strictly controlled.

#### **Zone 2 Wilderness**

The majority of national parks are classified as Zone 2, where there are extensive areas that are good representations of a natural region, and which will be conserved in a wilderness state. The perpetuation of park ecosystems with minimal interference is the key consideration. Firsthand opportunities are available for visitors to experience the park's ecosystems if only rudimentary services are required. Motorised access is not permitted.

### Zone 3 Natural Environment

Visitors may experience a park's natural and cultural heritage values through outdoor recreation activities requiring minimal services in Zone 3. While motorised access may be allowed, it will be controlled.

### Zone 4 Outdoor Recreation

A broad range of opportunities for understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the park's heritage values is permitted in Zone 4. Essential services and facilities have minimal impact on the ecological integrity of the park. Direct access by motorised vehicles is permitted only to the degree that the ecological integrity of the zone is impacted to the smallest extent possible.

### Zone 5 Park Services

Zone 5 applies to communities in existing national parks which contain a concentration of visitor services and support facilities. Major park operation and administrative functions may also be accommodated in this zone in order to maintain ecological integrity.

## 7.2 SENSITIVE SITE DESIGNATION

To complement the zoning system, some sites may be classified as environmentally or culturally sensitive sites (ESA or CSA), which would require special management considerations. These areas are often small, and their classification as an environmentally or culturally sensitive area can exist within any of the terrestrial or marine zones.

## 7.3 ZONING IN PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

At present, there is no established, approved, and geographically referenced zoning plan for Pacific Rim NPR. The draft *Interim Management Guidelines* outlines terrestrial and marine zones that were originally suggested in the 1970s. A summary of the zoning descriptions from the draft *Interim Management Guidelines* follows.

## 7.4 FUTURE ZONING DIRECTION

Information upon which early zoning designations were founded is outdated. Since the 1970s, important changes may have occurred in the distribution, quality, and quantity of some ecological features in the park, such as seabird colonies. Additionally, extensive sets of data on distribution of ecological and cultural resources, visitor use, and cultural significance, not available hitherto, have been collected in both the terrestrial and marine realms. This calls for drafting of a comprehensive zoning plan that would reflect the current knowledge of the ecological and cultural status of the area.

Over the next five years, Pacific Rim NPR will address zoning designations in consultation with First Nations partners and with the participation of interested stakeholders and the public. In a parallel process, Pacific Rim NPR will also be working closely with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the West Coast Aquatic Board to develop a mutually acceptable approach to the management of marine resources in the park. The park proposes the following, broad-stroke approach to finalising the zoning plan for Pacific Rim NPR by 2015:

**Year 1** Analyse and synthesise available information on distribution of ecological and cultural resources and human uses in terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Re-survey important ecological features (e.g. seabird colonies, rookeries) reported as existing in the park in 1970s. Develop a preliminary zoning plan for Pacific Rim NPR.

**Year 2** Consult with the local First Nations on the proposed zoning plan; for example, through the cooperative management boards, considering Traditional Knowledge and accommodating First Nations' input where feasible. Consider Local Ecological Knowledge and feedback from long-term residents and stakeholders where feasible. Inform other interested organisations and the public for additional information and input.

**Year 3** Continue consultations, and draft a zoning plan.

**Year 4** Reference and survey zones on the ground. Create digital maps of the zones for Pacific Rim NPR.

**Year 5** Include the zoning plan, with maps, in the 2015 park management plan.

**LONG BEACH UNIT**

Zone	Terrestrial	Marine
ESA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gowland Rocks</li> <li>• Sea-Lion Rocks</li> <li>• Florencia Islet and Surrounding Islets</li> <li>• White Island</li> <li>• Grice Bay Tidal Flats and Salt Marsh</li> </ul>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower Kootowis Creek</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grice Bay</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian Island; the peninsula between Grice Bay and the tidal flats of Browning Passage (including the McBey Islets); the shoreline and watershed of Grice Bay; the northwest coast of Long Beach, from Schooner Cove to Cox Point; and Sandhill Creek Area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All offshore waters in the LBU except Grice Bay and the waters surrounding the islands designated as ESAs</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lands south of the Tofino Ucluelet Airport and west of Highway No. 4; the Kennedy Lake Day Use Area; the Schooner Cove area; Long Beach</li> </ul>	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park roads open to public traffic as well as all campgrounds, picnic sites, viewpoints, parking areas, park operation and administration facilities, and visitor information centres</li> </ul>	
5		



Long Beach Unit. Parks Canada/J. McColloch

**BROKEN GROUP ISLANDS UNIT**

Zone	Terrestrial	Marine
ESA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jacques and Jarvis Islands Lagoon</li> <li>Sail Rock, Hankin Island and Faber Islets</li> </ul>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wouwer Island Complex</li> <li>Wouwer Island Tide Pool</li> <li>Wouwer Island Sea Lion Haulouts</li> <li>Wouwer Island Seabird Colonies</li> </ul>	
2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seabird Nesting Sites on Cree, Austin, Effingham, Gibraltar, Dempster, and Batley Islands</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of the islands in the BGI except for Registered Indian Reserves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of the waters in the BGI not otherwise designated</li> </ul>
4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The waters of Peacock, Coaster and Sechart channels, including the navigation route between Benson and Clarke Islands</li> </ul>
5		

**WEST COAST TRAIL UNIT**

Zone	Terrestrial	Marine
ESA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheewhat Sand Dunes and Salt Marsh</li> <li>Cribbs Beach, Dare Point and Carmanah Point Fossil Sites</li> <li>Kichha Lake and Surrounding Wetlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cape Beale, Deadman Cove, Crescent Beach and Swimming Beach Seabird Colonies</li> <li>Pachena Point and Carmanah Point Sea Lion Haulouts</li> </ul>
1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camper Bay Caves Harbour Seal Haulout</li> <li>Seabird Rocks, Lowton Point, Whyac and Gordon River Seabird Colonies</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of the WCT not otherwise designated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waters surrounding Cape Beale from Tapaltos Bay to Clutus Point</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The satellite parcel of land in the estuary of the San Juan River in Port Renfrew</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All marine waters not otherwise designated</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pachena Bay Trailhead facility, the Satellite Parcel of Land in Bamfield and the Lighthouse Sites along the West Coast Trail</li> </ul>	
5		



Carmanah Lighthouse, West Coast Trail. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

## 8.0 Administration and Operations



Patrol Cabin, Nettle Island, Broken Group Islands Unit. Parks Canada/J. McCulloch

With the organisation of Pacific Rim NPR in three non-contiguous geographic units over a long and narrow sliver of Canada’s west coast, the park offers a wide selection of visitor experiences. In order to facilitate such opportunities, the park requires an exceptional range of administration and operational facilities and equipment to manage and protect the park’s marine and terrestrial environments. The current visitor facilities and the service offer in the LBU and WCT are not financially sustainable. When their condition was last assessed in 2002, it was concluded that park assets continue to deteriorate with their ratings falling into the following categories: Good 3%, Fair 37%, Poor 57%, Closed 2%, and Not Rated 2%.

With limited funds for improvements, Pacific Rim NPR will need to be strategic in its service offer, taking into consideration social science information, asset condition and management needs, resource availability, and visitor use.

Out of necessity, such facilities and equipment have to be spread throughout the park’s three units. However, there are opportunities for Parks Canada to consider improving efficiency and ensuring that redundancy is kept to a minimum. To assist in managing the “three parks in one” offering, Pacific Rim NPR has a strategy for enhancing environmental stewardship.

### Environmental Stewardship: Environmental Management System

Pacific Rim NPR's strategy for monitoring in-house and operational environmental performance includes the 11 targets listed in the national Environmental Management System program ranging from solid waste reduction and recycling to contaminated site remediation. The park has succeeded in the completion of contaminated site remediation. Progress has also been made in the removal of invasive plant species, but more work is still required to see these projects through to completion. To augment and improve environmental stewardship, several additional actions can be taken to address impact of daily operations.

<b>Objective 1</b>	<b>Park and local infrastructure and services are developed and shared in efficient and environmentally responsible ways.</b>
<b>Target 1.1</b>	<b>Improved performance with respect to the federal Environmental Management System targets and priorities especially with respect to those targets set out in the sustainable development strategy.</b>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partner in joint stakeholder infrastructure projects where they complement the Parks Canada mandate.</li> <li>2. Consult with the Ditidaht First Nation and others to determine what level of involvement they are interested in relative to a Nitinat Triangle plan.</li> </ol>



Beach Art. Parks Canada/L. Ralston

## 9.0 Monitoring



Inspecting European Dunegrass. Parks Canada/H. Beaugrand

Parks Canada’s management planning cycle is an iterative process of engagement, assessment, decision-making, monitoring, and revision processes. On a seasonal basis, Pacific Rim NPR completes many routine tasks as part of its monitoring programme. Several key documents are the result of this process including the *State of the Park Report*, the management plan, the annual implementation report, and the five-year review.

### Visitor Experience Monitoring

To improve Pacific Rim NPR’s understanding and monitoring of visitor experience, expectations and satisfaction, the park will continue to undertake routine tasks, and will complete several noteworthy projects. Every year, the park collects comment cards from visitors that are systematically tracked

and accounted for. These cards provide a real-time view of the park and its services. In 2012, Pacific Rim NPR will complete a Visitor Information Program survey plus a Visitor Experience Assessment that will provide the park with much needed current visitor statistics. In the next year, the West Coast Trail service offer review will be completed, thereby informing the park of current visitation trends and the needs or expectations of users and future users.

### External Relations Monitoring

External Relations includes public education, and stakeholder and public engagement. Social Science research with partners and stakeholders is another component of the park’s monitoring regime to ensure that productive working relationships are maintained. As noted in the key strategy,

Working with First Nations Partners, an annual workshop of First Nations and Pacific Rim NPR staff is a recommended target. These events will be an opportunity to provide regular updates on new issues and management direction. Maintaining a database of stakeholder and business operators to track activities and success rates is a recommendation from the Enhancing Community Relations and Visitor Experience key strategy.

#### **State of the Park Report**

A *State of the Park Report* is the public means by which Pacific Rim NPR reports on the results of monitoring programs and on the status of management actions from the previous management plan. It is a fact-based document based upon the results of ongoing monitoring of natural and cultural resources, and visitor experience assessments. It provides a synopsis of the current condition of Pacific Rim NPR, and includes a report on the assessment performance in meeting established objectives for indicators associated with Parks Canada's mandate. The findings in these reports are important for evaluating the effectiveness of management actions. They can serve to identify deficiencies in current management approaches to be addressed in the management plan review. At the national level, the State of the Protected Heritage Areas Report summarises the results from all national parks across the country. Pacific Rim NPR's next *State of the Park Report* is due in 2013.

#### **Ecological Integrity Monitoring**

One aspect of State of the Park reporting, and a key element of the park's management planning cycle, is the Ecological Integrity Monitoring and Reporting Program completed in March 2008. The program guides ecological data gathering and information processing for all park ecosystems – marine, intertidal, shoreline, freshwater and forest, and informs the park management plan. The process provides critical data addressing three questions about the state of ecological health of the park: where the park is now, where it is headed, and does its active management program

work? The program's implementation is a necessary prerequisite for any successful management planning initiative, be it in ecological restoration or marine protection. Likewise, adaptive management, the flexible, self-updating management approach, adopted by Parks Canada, cannot work without a developed, coordinated and sustained condition and management effectiveness monitoring program.

The implementation of the Ecological Integrity Monitoring and Reporting Program is a process that is not a separate objective in the park management plan. However, it is the foundation for successful implementation of two strategies: Protecting and Restoring Ecological Integrity and Managing the Coastal Zone. And an important component of the other strategies, Working with First Nations Partners and Enhancing Community Relations and Visitor Experience. It is also critical for the achievement of the Agency's corporate goal to improve the park's state of ecological integrity by 2013. The program possesses internal flexibility to meet future changes that may arise in both the natural and the social landscapes encompassing the park. For this reason, the maintenance, resourcing and implementation of its Ecological Integrity Monitoring and Reporting Program is an important consideration in the management of the park.

## 10.0 Summary of Strategic Environmental Assessment



First Nation Guardians clear fallen trees from the West Coast Trail after a storm in December 2006. *Parks Canada/J. McCulloch*

A strategic environmental assessment was conducted for the Pacific Rim NPR management plan pursuant to the *Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan, and Program Proposals* (Canadian Environmental Agency/Privy Council Office 2004). Strategic environmental assessments of management plans provide an opportunity to identify the broad and unintended impacts of proposed management actions, and to assess the cumulative effects of multiple activities on the environment. The strategic environmental assessment also aids in the identification of future environmental assessment requirements under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* or northern environmental assessment regimes.

This strategic environmental assessment was initiated early in the management planning process to ensure that the environmental effects of the initiatives contained in the plan were fully considered.

Actions proposed in the management plan are strategic in nature, and often address information gaps (particularly with respect to social science research, area management approaches, and zoning). The park will address these information gaps in the next five years. Many proposals described in the management plan are conceptual, and it is not possible to fully evaluate the environmental effects of these initiatives at this time. In the next five years, significant improvements are expected with respect to First Nations partnership agreements, and information gaps are expected to be

addressed with respect to zoning plans, area management approaches, service offers for the BGI and West Coast Trail, and options for operational and administration facilities.

As more detailed information becomes available, projects will be assessed pursuant to the provisions of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Parks Canada is a Responsible Authority under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, and will not undertake any project subject to the Act before preparing an environmental assessment and making a determination to approve, not approve, or refer the project for additional environmental assessment review.

In several cases, the application of early “strategic options analyses” and strategic environmental assessments will positively affect Parks Canada’s performance in addressing its integrated mandate and delivering high quality projects and programs.

The park management plan also proposes a comprehensive, inter-agency, collaborative approach for addressing resource management issues. In the upcoming five years, efforts in this area will be focussed on collaboration with First Nations and issues pertaining to marine management. Enhanced levels of understanding, cross-cultural awareness, and cooperation between neighbouring agencies, communities, and individuals are anticipated.

Priority conservation issues (e.g. indicators, targets, and measures) have been identified in the *State of the Park Report*. These indicators and measures form part of the list of valued components in this strategic review. Additional screening criteria are derived from federal law (e.g. *Species at Risk Act*) and policy directives (e.g. *Parks Canada Sustainable Development Strategy, Environmental Management System* targets). Where little empirical data is available to assess either the scope of an action or the effect on valued components, or where there is uncertainty about impact prediction accuracy, park management

decision-making will be conservative to allow ecological integrity precedence over socio-economic, visitor use, or other considerations.

In summary, with appropriate planning, early options analysis, collaboration with partners and implementation of mitigation measures, the proposed actions in the Pacific Rim NPR management plan can be implemented with no significant adverse effects to the park’s natural and cultural resources. Furthermore, use of a greater ecosystem management approach, through inter-agency collaboration, increases the probability for success in maintaining and/or enhancing the ecological and cultural integrity of Pacific Rim NPR.

## APPENDIX A

## Summary of Actions

Pacific Rim NPR proposes more than 120 actions in this management plan. This section is not a comprehensive list, but rather gives an indication of where priorities lie in the first five years of the plan.

### WORKING WITH FIRST NATIONS PARTNERS

- Establish formal, cooperative processes in collaboration with partner First Nations.
- Explore visitor experiences within the park that are related to authentic Aboriginal culture and heritage that may generate Aboriginal economic benefits and increased tourism.
- Collaboratively undertake conservation and management of cultural and natural resources with First Nations.

### PROTECTING AND RESTORING CULTURAL RESOURCES AND ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

- Protect and maintain cultural resources through an active cultural resource management program in collaboration with First Nations.
- Restore and maintain the coastal realm through both targeted and ecosystem-based management in collaboration with local First Nations, governments, and other stakeholders.
- Provide learning-based experiences grounded in the park's restoration programs.
- Discuss sustainable resource harvest and traditional harvest protocol(s) with First Nations.
- Maintain public-orientated programs that improve ecological integrity, reduce human-wildlife conflict, and contribute to the sustainable existence of both humans and wildlife.

### MANAGING THE COASTAL ZONE

- Work collaboratively with First Nations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to determine the appropriate long-term management regime for the park's marine component.
- Work with First Nations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, and local communities to develop coastal zone strategies for the region.
- Implement recommendations for marine species at risk from the 2009 *Species at Risk Site Analysis*.

#### **ENHANCING COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE**

- Increase visitation to the park by 3% per year.
- Complete a Visitor Information Program survey by 2012 for all three park units.
- Develop opportunities for off-site audiences to enjoy the park through partnerships with urban organisations.
- Improve understanding of the park's neighbouring communities and stakeholders to attract current markets, consider new markets, and determine how best to engage interested stakeholders.
- Facilitate a range of appropriate visitor opportunities with the surrounding region that complement the park's coastal realm.
- Optimize public safety, prevention, and response capabilities by partnering with public safety organisations and through collaborative public safety planning, training, and communications.
- Maintain park infrastructure in a safe condition, and improve the environmental design of park facilities in order to address public safety/prevention issues.
- Communicate safe and realistic expectations and appropriate activities to visitors at all stages of the visitor trip planning cycle.

#### **AREA MANAGEMENT APPROACHES: LONG BEACH UNIT, BROKEN GROUP ISLANDS UNIT, AND WEST COAST TRAIL UNIT**

- Develop area management approaches once larger, regional planning processes are completed.
- Provide facilities, services, and learning experiences throughout the park for audiences to have safe and memorable visitor experiences.
- Consult with local First Nations, communities, stakeholders, and visitors in developing a plan for the Cape Beale Headland and/or Nitinat Triangle.
- Develop and share park and local infrastructure and services in efficient and environmentally responsible ways.
- Explore and evaluate options to construct an operations facility in the LBU, as well as a trailhead facility for the south end of the West Coast Trail.
- Complete the West Coast Trail service offer review to identify service offer modifications.
- Complete the redesign of the Interpretive Centre at Wickaninnish Beach.

#### **ZONING: LONG BEACH UNIT, BROKEN GROUP ISLANDS UNIT, AND WEST COAST TRAIL UNIT**

- Address zoning designations in consultation with First Nations, interested stakeholders and the public.
- Work closely with the Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the West Coast Aquatic Board to develop a mutually acceptable approach to the management of marine resources in the park.

APPENDIX B

## Acknowledgements

### First Nations

Many thanks to the Ditidaht, Hupacasath, Huu-ay-aht, Tla-o-qui-aht, and Yu?lu?il?ath First Nations for guidance, support, comments, and participation in writing the management plan.

### Wickaninnish Nuu-chah-nulth Working Group

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### Pacific Rim National Park Reserve Management Planning Team

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### Vision Poem

Yuri Zharikov, Monitoring Ecologist, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve

## APPENDIX C

**References****Parks Canada**

- 1953 Historic Sites and Monuments Act
- 1994 Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies
- 2002 Species at Risk Act
- 2004 Parks Canada National Park System Plan (3rd Edition)
- 2008 Parks Canada Guide to Management Planning
- 2009 Parks Canada Agency Corporate Plan 2009/10 – 2013/14
- 2009 Parks Canada Performance Management Framework 2010-2011

**Pacific Rim Nation Park Reserve of Canada**

- 2003 Pacific Rim Nation Park Reserve of Canada Interim Management Guidelines (Draft)
- 2005 Pacific Rim Nation Park Reserve of Canada Visitor Experience Action Plan (Draft)
- 2008 Ecological Integrity Monitoring and Reporting Program
- 2009 Pacific Rim Nation Park Reserve of Canada State of the Park Report
- 2009 Public Safety and Disaster Response Plan for 2010/11 to 2014/15 (Draft)
- 2009 Species at Risk Site Analysis

**Government of Canada**

- 2004 Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan, and Program Proposals (Canadian Environmental Agency/Privy Council Office)

## APPENDIX D

**Glossary****Action**

Actions are established in the management plan to ensure that the plan's implementation will either achieve or move toward the set targets, address identified issues, and ultimately help achieve the vision. The list of actions for an objective are not comprehensive, but give an indication of where effort will be directed in the implementation of the plan for a five-year period. Actions are what Parks Canada can control and undertake to influence the achievement of an objective.

**Area Management Approach**

An area management approach ensures the integrated delivery of the Parks Canada mandate in a specific geographic area. The area can be based on: the complexity of issues; the size of the heritage place; the logical grouping of resources; the special attachment to the area by local residents or visitors; or simply lends itself to a distinct management approach.

**Biosphere Reserve**

Biosphere Reserves are representative examples of landscapes, each with their characteristic plants, animals and human uses, which have been given an international designation under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), launched in November 1971 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Each biosphere reserve is made up of a protected "core" of undisturbed landscape (such as a national park), together with nearby areas showing some of the ways in which once-similar landscapes are being managed to meet human needs.

**Broader Regional Scale**

Parks Canada will work with anyone with a management stake or interest in the marine resources on the west coast of Vancouver Island from approximately Port Renfrew to Clayoquot Sound. This encompasses the broader regional scale from the mountains to the ocean (how far offshore to be determined).

**Commemorative Integrity**

A historic place may be said to possess commemorative integrity when the resources that symbolise or represent its importance are not impaired or under threat; when the reasons for its significance are effectively communicated to the public; and when the heritage value of the place is respected.

**Connection to Place**

This is a concept that reflects the relevance and importance of protected heritage places to Canadians. Connection to place, expresses the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual attachment Canadians and visitors feel toward natural and cultural heritage places. Parks Canada works to foster this sense of attachment through meaningful opportunities for enjoyment and learning provided on-site and through public outreach education. Respecting, understanding, and facilitating the relationship between heritage places and Canadians, including Aboriginal peoples, visitors, partners, and stakeholders, helps promote a shared sense of responsibility for heritage places and engage minds and hearts to support their protection and presentation now and for future generations.

**Consultation**

Public consultation refers to the two-way process of Parks Canada providing and seeking information and advice from the general public, governments, Aboriginal peoples, interest groups and others on the management of protected heritage places. Consultation is only one of the many aspects of the overall public engagement strategy.

**Cultural Resource**

A cultural resource is a human work, or a place that gives evidence of human activity or has spiritual or cultural meaning, and that has been determined to be of historic value. Cultural resources are distinguished from other resources in a park by virtue of their assigned historic value. This value derives from an association with an aspect or aspects of human history. Parks Canada may apply the term “cultural resource” to a wide range of resources in its custody, including, but not limited to, cultural landscapes and landscape features, archaeological sites, structures, engineering works, artefacts, and associated records.

**Cultural Resource Management**

Cultural resource management is an integrated and holistic approach to the management of cultural resources. It applies to all activities that affect cultural resources administered by Parks Canada, whether those activities pertain primarily to the care of cultural resources or to the promotion of public understanding, enjoyment, and appropriate use of them.

**Cultural Resources Values Statement**

A Cultural Resources Values Statement is a strategic document that identifies cultural resources and their values for heritage places located outside national historic sites and managed by the Parks Canada Agency, and sets out objectives to protect cultural resources and present their values.

**Culturally Sensitive Sites**

Culturally sensitive sites are sites that warrant special management, due to the sensitive nature of the cultural resources found there. Guidelines for the protection and use of these sites may be required.

**Ecological Integrity**

Ecological integrity means, with respect to a park, a condition that is determined to be characteristic of its natural region and likely to persist, including abiotic components and the composition and abundance of native species and biological communities, rates of change and supporting processes. Park ecosystems have integrity when they have their native components (including plants, animals, and other organisms) and processes (such as growth and reproduction) intact.

**Environmentally Sensitive Sites**

Sites that warrant special management, due to the sensitivity of the natural resources found there are environmentally sensitive sites. Guidelines for the protection and use of these sites may be required.

**First Nation**

First Nation is a term that came into common usage in the 1970s to replace the word “Indian”. Although the term “First Nation” is widely used, no legal definition of it exists. Among its uses, the term “First Nations peoples” refers to the Indian peoples in Canada, both Status and non-Status. Some Indian peoples have also adopted the term “First Nation” to replace the word “band” in the name of their community.

**Historic Value**

Historic value is a value or set of values assigned to a resource, whereby it is recognised as a cultural resource. These values can be physical and/or associative.

**Integrated Planning**

Integrated planning requires that solutions for all aspects of the Parks Canada mandate be carried out concurrently, and results in improvements to each aspect in a mutually supportive manner. Integration means looking at issues holistically; that is, planning for visitor experience and public education entails also planning for protection, just as making decisions about protection means also considering actions for visitor experience and public education.

**Isobath**

A line drawn on a map linking points at the same depth below the water surface is an isobath.

**Key Strategy**

A key strategy is the concrete expression of the vision statement that provides heritage place-wide direction. A key strategy must give a clear overview of how the protected heritage place will be managed and how the three mandate elements will be achieved in a mutually supportive manner.

**National Historic Site of Canada**

A national historic site is any place declared to be of national historic interest or significance by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada. These places help us remember, help us understand and help us feel that we belong. A national historic site may be a single structure or sometimes an entire town or a landscape. Some sites contain only the ruins of structures or archaeological evidence of human use in the past.

**National Park of Canada**

A national park is a natural area of land and/or sea, designated to: a) protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations; b) exclude exploitation or occupation inimical to the purposes of designation of the area; and c) provide a foundation for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities, all of which must be environmentally and culturally compatible.

In Canada, the word also means a national park as described in Schedule 1 of the *Canada National Parks Act*. It is an area which has been identified as a natural area of Canadian significance, which has been acquired by Canada and designated by Parliament as a national park, and over which Parks Canada has been given administration and control under the authority of the *Canada National Parks Act*. It is managed for the benefit, education and enjoyment of Canadians so as to leave it unimpaired for future generations.

**National Park Reserve (NPR)**

A national park reserve is named and described in Schedule 2 to the *Canada National Parks Act* or a national park reserve that is under the responsibility of the Parks Canada Agency and that is not described in Schedule 2 to the *Canada National Parks Act*.

**Objectives**

Objectives serve as a description of a condition sought through management and serve as criteria for necessary policies and actions. Clearly stated objectives are the key to effective management plans.

**Public Outreach Education**

The purpose of public outreach education is to reach Canadians at home, at leisure, at school and in their communities through effective and relevant learning opportunities designed to increase understanding and appreciation of the natural and historical heritage of Parks Canada places, and to encourage individuals and communities to support and become engaged in their protection and presentation.

**Restoration (ecological)**

Restoration is the process of restoring an area, a natural resource or an ecosystem to a specified state or condition; accomplished passively through natural processes or actively by human manipulation.

**Species at Risk**

Species at risk are those species that are extirpated, endangered or threatened or are species of special concern. “Extirpated species” means a species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists elsewhere in the wild. “Endangered species” means a species that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction. “Threatened species” means a species that is likely to become an endangered species if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction. “Species of special concern” means a species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

**Stakeholder(s)**

A stakeholder is someone or some organisation, other than a federal, provincial or territorial government or local Aboriginal group with an interest in a given undertaking.

**Stewardship**

Stewardship is an approach to the management of heritage resources in such a way that they can be passed on with integrity to future generations.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment**

A strategic environmental assessment is a systematic, comprehensive process of evaluating the environmental effects of a proposed policy, plan or program and its alternatives. It is necessary when there is a proposed policy, plan, or program that requires Cabinet or Ministerial approval, and when it may result in important environmental effects, either positive or negative.

**Targets**

Targets are an aim set by managers, to be achieved within a specified time frame. A target is written in conjunction with an objective, and facilitates measuring and reporting progress in achieving the objective.

**Use**

Use does not imply unlimited exploitation. Use of resources in Pacific Rim NPR will be determined between Parks Canada and local Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations to ensure long-term survival and health of representative species and habitats.

**Vision**

A vision is a passionate, inspirational, unique picture of the heritage place at its desired future. It must portray the integrated relationship between the mandate components, and it must be prepared with the involvement of the public, Aboriginal communities, stakeholders, and partners.

**Visitor**

A visitor is a person entering the heritage place (including the Visitor Centre) for recreational, educational or cultural purposes.

**Visitor Experience**

Visitor experience is the sum total of a visitor's personal interaction with heritage places and/or people that awakens their senses, affects their emotions, stimulates their mind, and leaves them with a sense of attachment to these places.

**Zoning**

The zoning system is an integrated approach by which the land and water areas within a park are classified according to ecosystem and cultural resource protection requirements, and their capability and suitability to provide opportunities for visitor experiences.

APPENDIX E

## Draft Zoning Maps

These three maps illustrate the zoning described in the park's draft *Interim Management Guidelines*. It is critical to note that the data used to identify these zones dates from 1972 and does not accurately reflect Parks Canada's current knowledge of park ecosystems and cultural resource management, nor do they reflect the current extent of reserves. More importantly, these zones were not subject to any consultation process with First Nations, stakeholders, and communities in the region. This management plan proposes to complete the park's first zoning study based on current research by the next plan review in 2015. A thorough consultation process will be an integral part of the process.

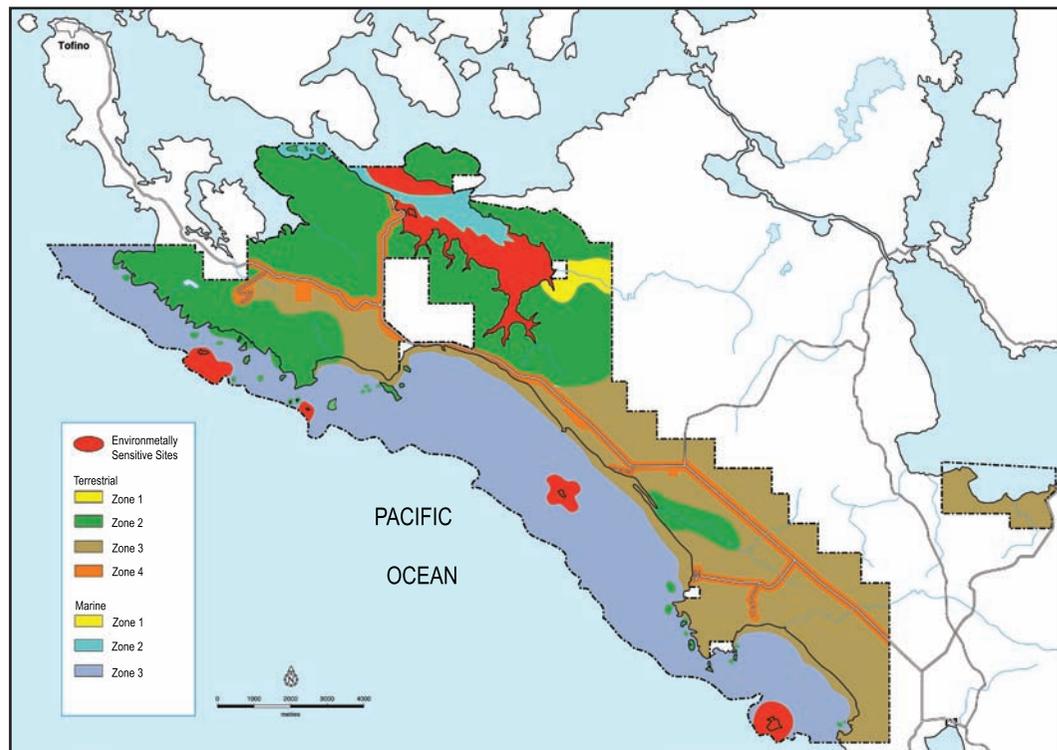


Figure 10: Long Beach Unit draft Zoning. Parks Canada, 1972

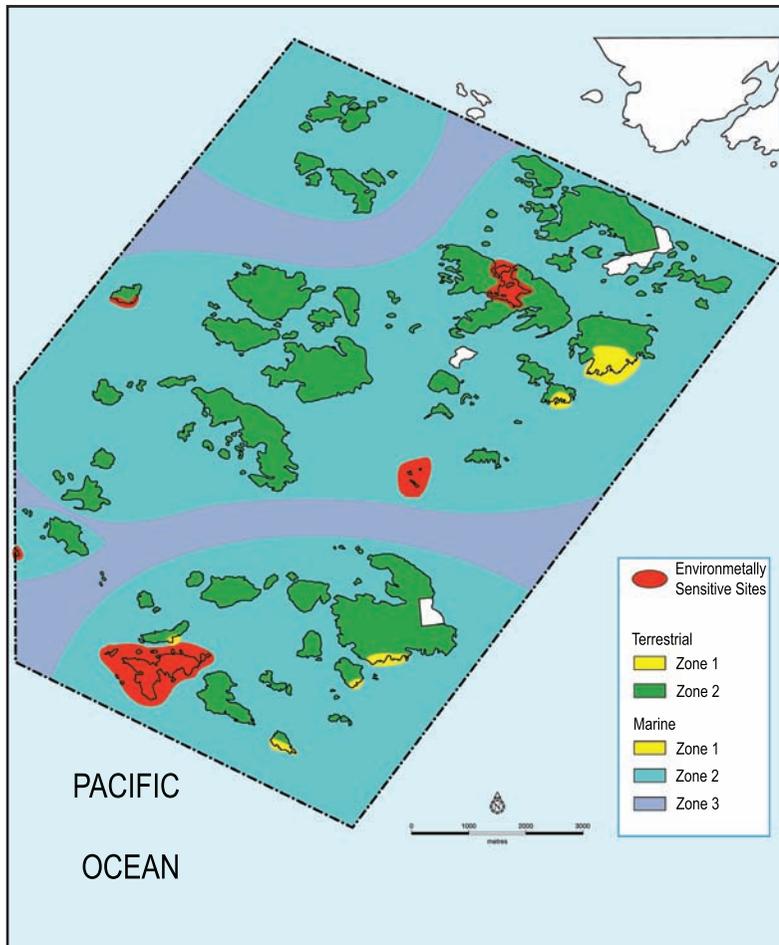


Figure 11: Broken Group Islands Unit draft Zoning. *Parks Canada, 1972*

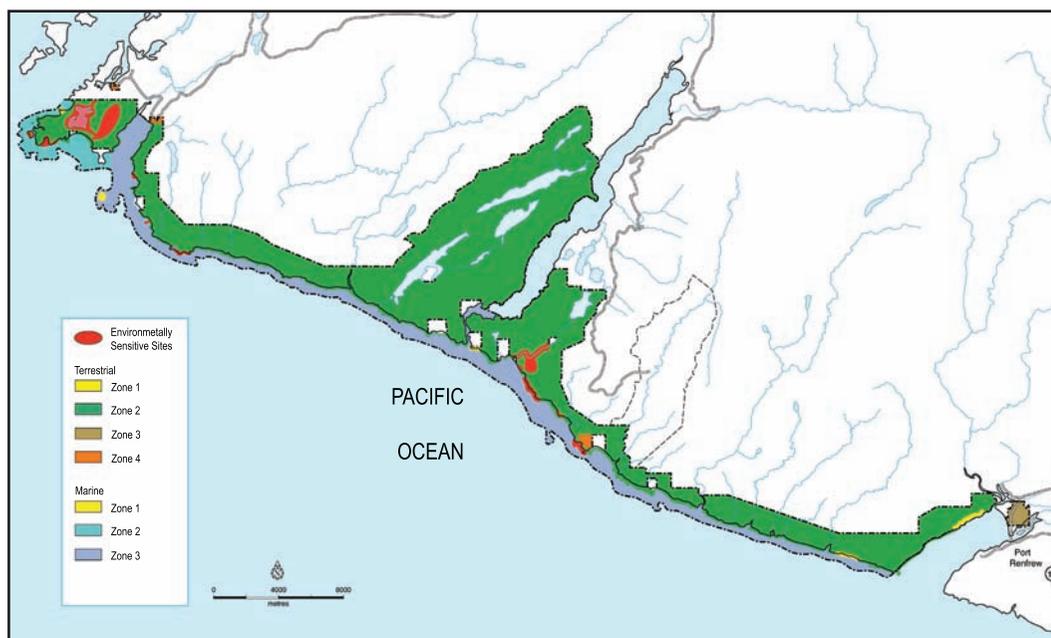


Figure 12: West Coast Trail draft Zoning. *Parks Canada, 1972*