

Recreation Guidelines 2021

Please follow these Recreation Guidelines to help conserve the diverse ecosystems and sustain the wild spaces that are important to us all.

Respect the Environment

- Crown land camping is permitted only in the designated sites and undeveloped camping areas identified on the map and in the Koocanusa Recreation Strategy.
- Motorized recreation is limited to the roads and trails identified on the map and in the Koocanusa Recreation Strategy.
- Soil disturbance by motorized vehicles is prohibited.
- Use designated boat launches.
- Obey all closures and access restrictions.
- Keep all gates closed. Removing or damaging fences is unlawful.
- Do not disturb or harass wildlife or livestock.
- Reduce the spread of invasive species by ensuring vehicles, trailers, boats and personal gear are cleaned before and after visiting the area. Visit bcinvasives.ca.
- Obey all campfire bans, restrictions and regulations. Visit bcwildfire.ca.

Report all unauthorized activity to 1-877-952-RAPP (7277).

Report wildfires: 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on your cell phone.

KOOCANUSA Recreation Guidelines and Map



Enjoy Koocanusa today. Conserve it for tomorrow.
koocanusarecreation.ca

Respect History

- Do not excavate or disturb archaeological resources.
- If you find an artifact, report it to the Ktunaxa Nation Council at 250-489-2464.



Campfire Safety:

- No larger than ½ metre x ½ metre.
- Keep a shovel and/or 8 litres of water nearby.
- Make sure your campfire is completely out and the ashes are cool to the touch.
- Do not light in windy conditions.
- Never leave a campfire unattended.
- It is unlawful to cut live trees.



Leave No Trace

- Take your garbage with you. Pack out what you pack in.
- Dump sewage and grey water at designated sani-dumps.
- Do not construct trails, structures or enclosures.

Respect Others

- Do not trespass on private or Indian Reserve lands.
- Maintain a peaceful, clean camping environment.
- Keep noise to a minimum.
- Observe quiet time from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- Keep your pets quiet and under control at all times.

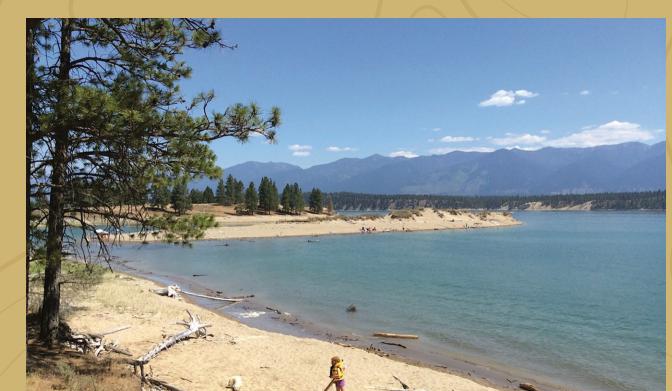
See map on reverse for information about designated roads, trails, designated sites and undeveloped camping areas, boat launches and garbage facilities.



A Special Place

The History

The Koocanusa area is situated within the homelands of the Ktunaxa People. For more than 10,000 years Ktunaxa people have lived in this area and used it for many cultural purposes including hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering.



The Natural Environment

The Koocanusa area is home to many fish and wildlife species that rely on the area's grasslands, wetlands, streams, and lakes for their survival. This area also provides vital winter range for elk and deer. Please be aware many local species such as badgers, turtles and long-billed curlews are at-risk and vulnerable to human actions. Invasive plants and animals can negatively impact important habitat in the Koocanusa area.



The River

The Kootenay River is part of the Columbia River system. Beginning in Kootenay National Park, the Kootenay River flows south through the Rocky Mountain Trench into the United States, then flows back into Canada at Creston and joins the Columbia River at Castlegar. Construction of Libby Dam in Montana created the 144-km-long Koocanusa Reservoir, which stretches north

to Wardner, B.C. About 67 kilometres of the reservoir is in Canada. In creating the reservoir numerous ranches, homesteads and communities were flooded. Today, water levels in the reservoir fluctuate an average of 25 metres annually but can fluctuate by up to 52 metres. Koocanusa Reservoir gets its name from the Kootenay River, Canada and the U.S.A. (koo-can-usa).

KOOCANUSA
Recreation
koocanusarecreation.ca

 BRITISH COLUMBIA  Columbia Basin trust

 KTUNAXA NATION

 Regional District of East Kootenay

The Koocanusa Recreation Steering Committee strives to support and manage Crown land recreation access and use in a way that maintains the ecological integrity, cultural values, recreation experience, and economic value of the Koocanusa area for current and future users.

July 2021 version

 PRINTED IN CANADA

Photo credits: Ktunaxa Nation, Fort Steele Archives, Kumshew Rafting Adventures, iStock.com, Mark Dzikowski, A. Glass, R. Klafta, Province of B.C., J. Zukowski and D. Schwen / Creative Commons.

Welcome to Koocanusa / Hu sukitkuqnatā?ni kin walkit?

Each year, more than 100,000 people visit the Koocanusa area. On a typical summer weekend, tens of thousands of people are recreating in the region.

This map shows:

- Motorized and non-motorized trails.
- Designated boat launches.
- Designated sites and undeveloped camping areas.
- Restricted access areas.
- Garbage and sani-dump services.
- Parks and protected areas.

Crown Land

Private Land

Motor Vehicle Closed Area*

Parks and Protected Areas

Yaqit ?a-knuq̓it̓it̓

(Tobacco Plains)

Koocanusa Recreation Management Area

Designated Camping Site

Private Camping Site

Undeveloped Camping Area**

Boat Launch

Sani-Dump

Garbage Facility

Parking Areas

Road

Gravel Road (4WD)

Non-Motorized Singletrack

Motorized Singletrack

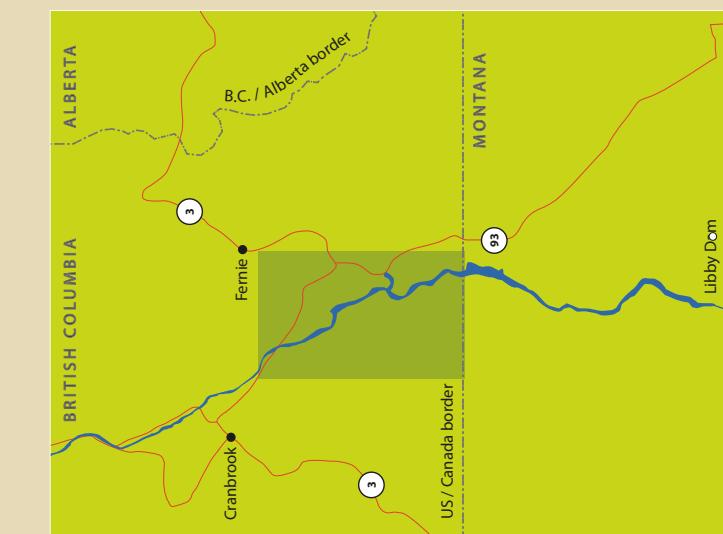
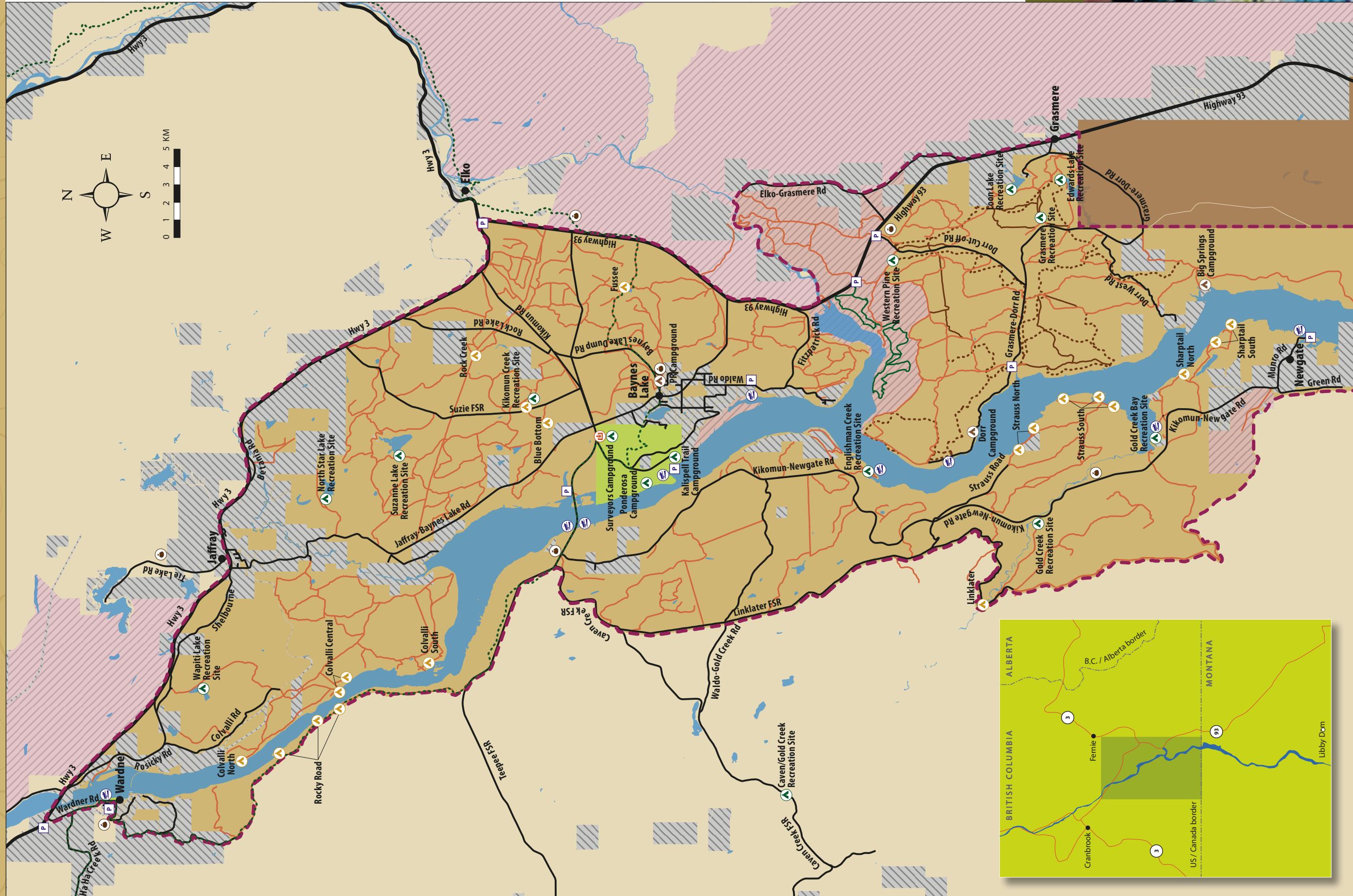
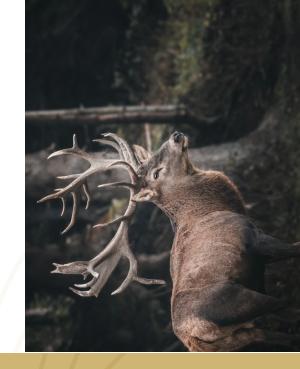
Motorized Doubletrack

The Great (Trans-Canada) Trail

* Motor Vehicle Closed Areas, formerly referred to as AMAS, are designated areas where vehicle use is managed under the Wildlife Act to reduce damage to fish and wildlife habitat and/or to protect fish and wildlife populations. For more information visit: www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/eco/acessmaps.htm

** Recreation users at undeveloped camping areas must be self-contained and are permitted to camp for a period of up to 14 days. Access roads into these camping areas are unmaintained and may be impassable at any time.

For detailed recreation and trail maps visit
www.koocanusarecreation.ca/maps



Koocanusa Recreation Strategy

The 2021 Koocanusa Recreation Strategy is available for viewing and download at www.koocanusarecreation.ca. The Strategy identifies:

- Sensitive areas where recreation use and access should be managed to prevent impacts to important values;
- Undeveloped camping areas which provide opportunities for rustic and dispersed camping on Crown land;
- A network of over 500 kilometres of roads for recreation use and access;
- Recreation trails for motorized and non-motorized users; and,
- Day-use areas that facilitate access to recreation trails and features.

The Strategy represents over five years of hard work and dedication from the Koocanusa Recreation Steering Committee, the Public Advisory Group, and the hundreds of local residents, recreation users, and other stakeholders who contributed to the consultation process.

Since 2014, over \$1 million has been invested to improve enforcement, enhance signage and communications, improve waste management, complete recreation inventories, conduct assessments, and begin implementing management strategies in the Grasmere area, including establishment of parking areas, camping areas, and designated recreation trails.

Koocanusa Recreation Management Area

There is a Provincial Recreation Order in place for the Koocanusa Recreation Management Area. Crown land camping is permitted only in the designated sites and undeveloped camping areas, and motorized recreation is limited to the roads and trails identified on the maps and in the Grasmere Recreation Strategy.

Inquiries about the BC Government's Recreation Order can be emailed to:
Koocanusa.Rec.Order@gov.bc.ca.

Visit www.koocanusarecreation.ca to stay informed.
PLEASE take your garbage with you.
PACK OUT what you pack in.

