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Kootenae House

National Historic Site of Canada

Management Statement

2017



Approval

Approved by:



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March 16, 2017

Date

Introduction and Overview

The Parks Canada Agency manages one of the finest and most extensive systems of protected natural and historic areas in the world. The Agency's mandate is to protect and present these places for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. This management statement outlines Parks Canada's management approach and objectives for Kootenae House National Historic Site.

Kootenae House National Historic Site was designated in 1934 to commemorate the site of the first fur trading post on the Columbia River, established by David Thompson in 1807. The post served as the Northwest Company base of explorations in the Columbia River basin and led to the development of relations between traders and local Indigenous Peoples. The site is near Invermere, British Columbia, on an elevated terrace above Toby Creek overlooking the Columbia River valley. The designated place encompasses less than one hectare within a five hectare parcel of land administered by Parks Canada. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque is mounted on a stone cairn at the site. There are no other above-ground cultural resources remaining at the site. The sub-surface structural remains of the 1807 post, the remains of Indigenous campsites, and other archaeological resources have been confirmed on the site. There is an interpretive exhibit on the site, presented in English, French, and Ktunaxa languages, that describes its cultural significance, its relationship to other historic sites in the region, and the travels of David Thompson in the Columbia River basin. The small size of the site, the lack of visible historical remains, and its somewhat isolated location, results in limited visitation.

Management Approach

Parks Canada will continue to manage Kootenae House National Historic Site as an un-staffed protected area that provides basic non-personal interpretation to a small number of visitors. Opportunities to reach a larger number of Canadians with key messages will be sought through linkages with related national historic sites such as Rocky Mountain House and Howse Pass, through the development of digital media products, and potentially through collaboration with local Indigenous groups and others.

Management Objectives

Collaboration With Others: The history and significance of Kootenae House are communicated effectively through the collaborative efforts of Parks Canada and other interested parties in the region.

Resource Conservation: The cultural and natural resources on the site, including in-situ archaeological resources and habitat for species at risk, are protected and are not under threat.

Site Maintenance: Periodic site visits conducted by Parks Canada staff ensure that the property is maintained in good condition to support the modest level of visitor use and the protection of in-situ resources.

Public Understanding and Appreciation: Key messages reflect accurately the cultural significance of the site and are delivered through on-site exhibits, through connections to other related sites, and through digital media.

Links: [Kootenae House National Historic Site](#)

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