

Gardom Lake Management Plan

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Acknowledgments

A planning process takes funding, expertise, commitment, time, and much more. The following groups made the development of the Gardom Lake Management Plan possible:

- The Columbia Shuswap Regional District
- The Gardom Lake Planning Committee volunteers

Context & Purpose

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Gardom Lake Planning Committee

A Gardom Lake Planning Committee (GLPC) was formed and met for the first time in December 2014. The purpose of the Committee was to guide the Gardom Lake planning process.

The GLPC is composed of representatives from four orders of government (federal, provincial, local, first nations), organizations, recreation groups, and property owners. The Committee members agreed that there would be no Chairperson identified.

The following groups/organizations are represented on the Gardom Lake Planning Committee or receive ongoing communication throughout the planning process:

- Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD)
- Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO)
- Ministry of Environment (MOE)/BC Lakes Stewardship Society (BCLSS)
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI)
- Secwepemc - Splatshin
- Secwepemc - Neskonlith
- Secwepemc - Adams Lake Indian Band
- Secwepemc - Little Shuswap Indian Band
- Syilx - Okanagan Indian Band
- Gardom Lake Bible Camp
- North Okanagan Holding Society and Legion
- Friends of Gardom Lake (comm. with Shuswap Naturalists)
- Rancho Deep Creek Community Association
- Gardom Lake Community Park Society
- BC Fly Fishing Federation
- Salmon Arm Fish and Game Club/BC Wildlife Federation
- Agriculture sector

1.0 Gardom Lake & Surrounding Area

1.1 Landscape & Lake

Gardom Lake is approximately 75 hectares (ha) in size and sits at 545 m in elevation. The deepest part of the lake is approximately 21 m and the shoreline is approximately 4 km long. The Gardom Lake watershed is approximately 417 ha and is comprised largely of forested land and some private residential land on and near the lakeshore. (BCLSS 2012)

Gardom Lake is in the Interior Cedar-Hemlock Biogeoclimatic Zone. Forested areas of the ICH are dominated by western red cedar and western hemlock trees along with a combination of white spruce, grand fir, subalpine fir, western larch, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, and western white pine in the southern part of the range. The climate includes cool, wet winters and warm dry summers. (Selkirk College website 2014)

1.2 First Nations Rights

Secwepemc and Syilx people have lived in and around the Gardom Lake area for thousands of years, long before the arrival of European settlers. First Nations' title and rights are evolving through the courts and the treaty process, and exist throughout the planning area.

1.3 Legislation & Existing Plans

There are several pieces legislation and existing plans that pertain to the management of Gardom Lake and the development/management of the foreshore and surrounding watershed including the following:

- BC Land Act - Government of British Columbia
- BC Water Act (BC Water Sustainability Act) - Government of British Columbia
- Forest and Range Practices Act - Government of British Columbia
- Fisheries Act - Government of Canada
- [Ranchero/Deep Creek Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 750](#)

2.0 Vision for Gardom Lake

Collaboratively preserve and protect the values and ecological integrity of Gardom Lake and manage impacts that affect it.

3.0 Goals, Objectives & Actions

3.1 Water

Goal 1: Maintain or improve the water quality of Gardom Lake

Objective A: Identify negative impacts to the water quality of Gardom Lake

Action A1: Conduct standard water quality tests on Mallory Creek above where it flows into Gardom Lake

Action A2: In cooperation with the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, develop a map that shows septic system type, soil type, and distance from Gardom Lake for all shoreline residences

Objective B: Identify the optimal depth for the aerator to balance oxygenation and raising sediment from the bottom of the lake

Action B1: With guidance from the Ministry of Environment, raise the aerator from its present position for one year and compare deep water monitoring tests with past monitoring data

Action B2: With guidance from the Ministry of Environment, lower the aerator from its present position for one year and compare deep water monitoring tests with past monitoring data

Goal 2: Develop and implement a water quality monitoring plan for Gardom Lake

Objective A: Identify if there are any parameters that are missing from the Gardom Lake water quality baseline data

Action A1: BC Ministry of Environment and Interior Health Authority staff to identify water quality testing parameters, timing, location, and frequency of testing

Action A2: Work with BC Ministry of Environment, Columbia Shuswap Regional District and local stewardship groups to determine the best way to collaboratively collect water quality data and make those data available to everyone

Action A3: Conduct water quality testing as determined in actions 1 and 2

Goal 3: Establish baseline water quantity data for Gardom Lake

Objective A: Determine the water quantity and water quantity trends in Gardom Lake

Action 1: Determine a location and establish an official staff gauge at Gardom Lake and record lake levels on an ongoing basis

Action 2: Working with the Ministry of Environment, determine the inflow and outflow of Gardom Lake and then calculate the volume and water balance

Goal 4: Educate Gardom Lake residents and visitors about water quality and beneficial practices

Objective A: Provide educational opportunities to Gardom Lake residents regarding water quality and beneficial practices

Action A1: Advertise all educational opportunities for residents including but not limited to septic systems, yard maintenance, riparian health, household chemicals, and pets around water, on the CSRD and Friends of Gardom Lake websites

Action A2: Develop and deliver water quality educational workshops for the residents of Gardom Lake on topics including but not limited to those listed in action 1

Action A3: Provide educational materials including print materials, advertising, and signage for visitors to Gardom Lake on issues related to water quality

3.2 Environment

Goal 5

Goal 6

3.3 People

Goal 5 -

Goal 6 -

4.0 Funding & Management

4.1 Funding

Funding for the development of the Gardom Lake Management Plan was provided by the Columbia Shuswap Regional District.

4.2 Budget

5.0 Governance

5.1 Proposed Structure & Governance

6.0 Appendices

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