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# Cultural Heritage Management

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- ***Cultural Property Export and Import Act (CAN)***  
Federal legislation that regulates the exporting of heritage features (archaeological, prehistorical, historical, cultural) from Canada; administered by the Queen's Privy Council for Canada.
- **BC Parks Permit Administration Manual**  
Outlines policy and procedures concerning the administration of park use, resource use, research, and ecological reserve permits.
- **BC Parks Management Planning Policy**  
Governs the formulation of provincial park and ecological reserve management plans and management direction statements.
- **Procedures for Avoiding Infringement of Aboriginal Rights, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, July 1995**  
The procedures address the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks' policy to avoid, mitigate, or justify infringement on aboriginal rights when carrying out its mandate responsibilities, in a manner that is timely and considerate of the rights of all British Columbians. These procedures stem from the Cabinet-approved *Crown Land Activities and Aboriginal Rights Policy Framework* (1996), which applies to all provincial ministries overseeing activities and decisions on Crown land.

## **Policy – Management for Representation**

*Representative and special examples of the province's cultural heritage will be protected in British Columbia's park and ecological reserve system.*

### ***Associated Policy***

#### **Value of Cultural Heritage Features**

- Cultural heritage features with the highest values or significance will have management priority.
- The commemorative integrity of a cultural heritage feature is paramount. Any activity that compromises these values is not appropriate in a park or ecological reserve.
- Where significant cultural landscapes are identified within parks and ecological reserves, they will be managed to perpetuate the essential elements of the landscape, if so approved in a management plan.

#### **Cultural Heritage Management Planning**

- BC Parks' management plans will guide which actions, if any, are required to maintain representative cultural heritage features.
- As part of the BC Parks' management planning program, separate cultural heritage management plans may be prepared to guide cultural heritage management actions.
- Wherever archaeological sites are found to occur within a park or ecological reserve, management actions will be directed towards preservation of the site intact and undisturbed.
- During the planning of management actions, BC Parks will consult with the BC Heritage Conservation Branch or appropriate heritage authorities.
- BC Parks will undertake management activities that support provincial, interprovincial, and international initiatives.
- BC Parks commits to the adherence of research protocol and standards developed by the BC Heritage Conservation Branch and other authorities.

## **Policy – Management of Inventory and Assessment**

*Cultural heritage features in British Columbia's park and ecological reserve system will be inventoried and assessed to define relative values and significance.*

### ***Associated Policy***

#### **Inventory**

- BC Parks will conduct cultural heritage inventory in parks and ecological reserves to determine the significance of the feature to its conservation goals.

#### **Assessment**

- An assessment of historic and architectural significant structures within parks and ecological reserves will determine one or more of the following management actions:
  - 1) adaptation,
  - 2) restoration,
  - 3) stabilization,
  - 4) natural deterioration,
  - 5) removal to another site, or
  - 6) demolition.

## **Policy – Relationship with First Nations**

*Cultural heritage that holds special significance to an aboriginal community will be managed in a cooperative manner.*

### ***Associated Policy***

#### **Sites of Special Heritage Significance**

- Aboriginal communities will be encouraged to identify and document sites of special heritage significance.
- Aboriginal communities will be encouraged to have an active role in establishing BC Parks' management actions on sites of special heritage significance.

#### **Confidentiality**

- Confidentiality concerns of aboriginal communities will be upheld by BC Parks.

## **Policy – Management of Knowledge**

*BC Parks will promote acquiring and sharing of knowledge to facilitate the effective conservation of cultural heritage features within British Columbia's park and ecological reserve system.*

### ***Associated Policy***

#### **Staff Training**

- BC Parks will train its staff to ensure that they have knowledge of sound cultural heritage management principles.

#### **Community/Partner Involvement**

- To facilitate the effective conservation and appreciation of cultural heritage features, BC Parks will promote learning and the sharing of historical knowledge.
- Recognizing that the effective conservation of cultural heritage features relies on a well-informed and involved public. BC Parks will assist academic, First Nations, public, and private groups and individuals by providing existing cultural heritage data related to parks and ecological reserves.
- BC Parks will encourage involvement with partners, academic, First Nations, private, and public, in such activities as inventory, monitoring, and research to assist in acquiring more knowledge.

#### **Sensitive Information**

- Data which is sensitive for conservation reasons will not be released in response to routine requests, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act*, s.18. Exceptions will be made only under specific circumstances (e.g., research necessary for conservation management purposes, impact assessments, etc.), and on the understanding that the information will not be released.