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# Data Management

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# Data Management

## Introduction

With the amount of environmental and cultural data available for information and use by BC Parks' managers, it is imperative that the form in which such data are presented be available, accessible, manageable, and comprehensible.

In general, the acquisition of data sets is best accomplished through well coordinated, system-wide data collection initiatives. These collections need to satisfy a number of criteria, including issues of long-term data compatibility and integrity, "core" sets of data, and the cost effective collection of data in accordance with clearly defined protocol and standards.

## Legislation and Other Guidance

- The *Park Act* and *Ecological Reserve Act* and their regulations do not have specific references to data management.

## **Policy – Organization of Data**

*Research, monitoring, inventories, and observational information and data, organized and stored in an information management system, will be retrievable and comparable for British Columbia's park and ecological reserve system.*

### ***Associated Policy***

#### **Database Components**

- An integrated, standardized, and current database will be developed for each significant park and ecological reserve or group of protected areas to provide, along with research and environmental monitoring data, the baseline information required to protect and maintain protected area ecosystems and contribute to BC Parks' objectives.
- Current maps and inventories of significant natural and cultural heritage features found within parks and ecological reserves will be maintained as part of the protected area's database.
- Data collection may extend beyond park and ecological reserve boundaries, where such data can be shown to influence protected area values or conservation management activities.

#### **Standardization**

- Data banks will be of standard BC Parks' design, compatible with provincial data standards, and assembled within each administrative district.

#### **Cooperation**

- BC Parks will work with other agencies, conservation organizations, and universities involved in conservation, biology, and environmental monitoring to develop appropriate programs to collect, store, interpret, and share data.