
Impact Assessment

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Impact Assessment

Introduction

Impact assessment policy for BC Parks is provided in another policy document. It is referenced in this document as it applies to conservation management.

Legislation and Other Guidance

- ***Environmental Assessment Act (BC)***

The purposes of the act include providing an assessment process of the environmental, economic, social, cultural, heritage, and health effects of reviewable projects; administered by the Environmental Assessment Office. The *Park Act* is subject to the *Environmental Assessment Act* but most development projects will not meet the criteria that define reviewable projects under that act.

- **BC Parks Impact Assessment Process**

Provides policy and guidelines for the thorough assessment of actions to determine all impacts (environmental, social, and economic) of these actions.

- **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.

- **B.C. Archaeological Impact Assessment Guidelines**

Provides procedures for archaeological assessment and review and applies principally to development projects that are reviewable under British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Policy – Impact Assessment

All actions within parks and ecological reserves will be subject to an assessment of their potential impacts under the BC Parks Impact Assessment Process, including conservation management and scientific activities.

Associated Policy

Conservation Management Planning

- Conservation management planning documents (such as vegetation, wildlife, and fire management plans), species control programs or species restorations, research that requires sampling or manipulation, and similar actions, are all subject to evaluation and must show that appropriate compliance with the BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy has been met and that the required analyses have been undertaken.

Boundary Amendments

- Prior to any boundary changes/deletions to any protected area, an assessment is required to determine if any rare species, special habitats, or significant protected values will be affected.

Facility and Development Projects

- Prior to facility and/or developments in a protected area, the significance of natural and cultural heritage values, if any, will be fully considered, and development plans will be appropriately modified.
- The planning, construction, and operation of facilities and developments will include an assessment of the impact on natural and cultural heritage values.
- The protection of significant natural and cultural heritage values will take precedence over site development and visitor use considerations.
- If an archaeological site is discovered in the course of a construction project, work that might impact the site will cease, and an assessment of the site undertaken with the cooperative effort of the BC Heritage Conservation Branch.
- Any activity that compromises the commemorative integrity of a cultural heritage feature will not be permitted.