

BC Parks Impact Assessment Process

Part 1 Policy



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Introduction

BC Parks¹ is responsible for the management and conservation of a system of parks² and ecological reserves located throughout the province. Included in its mandate is the legislated requirement for BC Parks to protect values within these areas from environmental and social **impacts**³ that are not necessary to preserve or maintain recreation values, and to protect representative ecosystems, rare, endangered and unique species and natural phenomena. In addition to these legislated mandates, BC Parks policy outlines the need to balance conservation and recreation objectives. Of primary concern is the long-term protection and management of natural, cultural heritage, and recreation use and appreciation values in protected areas. To ensure that the stewardship of British Columbia's parks and ecological reserves is included in all activities and practices that are conducted within these areas, **impact assessments** are required.

Legislation and other guidance that affect the impact assessment policy are described in this document. The BC Parks Impact Assessment Policy will be subject to the *Park Act*, the *Ecological Reserve Act*, and will conform as much as possible to the principles outlined in the *BC Environmental Assessment Act*. Because most projects or **actions** undertaken in protected areas do not meet the criteria that define reviewable projects under the *BC Environmental Assessment Act*, a separate BC Parks impact assessment policy and process has been developed.⁴

Familiarity with the *BC Environmental Assessment Act* would nonetheless be of benefit. The BC Environmental Assessment Office publishes the Guide to the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Process, which provides a complete description of assessment process and reporting requirements. Of particular interest to **proponents** and BC Parks reviewers is information on project review and contents of the assessment report.

¹ BC Parks refers to the Parks Division, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.

² Throughout this document, provincial parks and recreation areas under the *Park Act*; and protected areas under the *Environment and Land Use Act* are referred to collectively as parks.

³ For words in bold-type face, definitions are provided in Appendix 1.

⁴ A reviewable project under the *British Columbia Environmental Assessment Act* is a new or modified project or activity that exceeds the size thresholds as stated in the Act's *Reviewable Projects Regulation*.

The BC Parks Impact Assessment Process does not override or replace existing policies and/or standards. It is a tool to assist with decision-making.

Documents included under the BC Parks Impact Assessment Process series are:

BC Parks Impact Assessment Process - Policies

BC Parks Impact Assessment Process - Users Guide

BC Parks Impact Assessment Process - Management Plan Screen.

Legislation and Other Guidance for BC Parks Impact Assessment Process

Park Act (BC)

In accordance with the *Park Act*:

- provincial parks are dedicated to the preservation of natural environments for inspiration, use and enjoyment [Section 5(3)];
- BC Parks has jurisdiction over, and must manage and administer, all matters concerning provincial parks and recreation areas [Section 3(1)];
- BC Parks is required to protect the natural resources from impacts that are not necessary to preserve or maintain recreational values (Section 9);
- the *Park Act* is subject to the *BC Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Environment and Land Use Act*, the *Waste Management Act*, and the *Heritage Conservation Act* (Section 2);
- the Minister or agent may issue a Park Use Permit under the *Act* authorizing a person or persons to proceed with any action for which a permit is required (Section 20).

Park Amendment Act, 1997 (BC)

In accordance with the *Park Amendment Act*:

- existing grazing and hay cutting tenures in new protected areas described in Schedule D and E are to be managed by the Ministry of Forests under the *Range Act* (Section 7).

Park Amendment Act, 1998 (BC)

This *Park Act* amendment provides an improved process for describing legal boundaries of protected areas through an official plan.

Ecological Reserve Act (BC)

In accordance with the *Ecological Reserve Act*:

- ecological reserves are for scientific research, representation of ecosystems, examples of recovery of human-modified ecosystems, preservation of rare and endangered species and of unique, and rare natural phenomena (Section 2);
- regulations can be made regarding anything necessary to protect the ecological reserve (Section 7).

Environment and Land Use Act (BC)

The *Environment and Land Use Act* establishes and enables the Environment and Land Use Committee which ensures that all aspects of preservation and maintenance of the natural environment are fully considered in land administration.

Environmental Assessment Act (BC)

The primary purpose of the *BC Environmental Assessment Act* is to provide a process to assess the environmental, economic, social, cultural, heritage, and health effects of reviewable projects. The *Park Act* is subject to the *Environmental Assessment Act*, but most projects or actions occurring in parks will not meet the criteria that define reviewable projects under that act. The Guide to the British Columbia Assessment Process describes the requirements of the act and provides assistance in understanding the provincial environmental assessment process.

Forest Act (BC) and Forest Practices Code of BC Act

The *Forest Act* outlines the system of forest tenure used in BC and the concepts of forest management adopted by Government. The *Forest Practices Code of BC Act* provides the legal basis for standards and regulations. It establishes enforcement and penalty provisions, a mechanism for appeals, independent audits, and a Forest Practices Board.

Fish Protection Act (BC) and BC Fish Strategy

The BC Fish Strategy outlines how the provincial government will protect fish and fish habitat. The first and fundamental priority of the strategy is to protect fish by ensuring healthy fish bearing streams and plentiful stocks. The *Fish Protection Act* provides the legislative framework to support the strategy.

Heritage Conservation Act (BC)

The purpose of the *Heritage Conservation Act* is to encourage and facilitate the protection and conservation of heritage properties in British Columbia. These include historic or archaeological sites, resources, or artefacts, historic records, sites of sacred or spiritual value, crafts or works of art, historic trails or travel routes. Archaeological sites are protected by virtue of being of particular historic or archaeological value (Section 13) or through order-in-council designation as provincial heritage sites (Section 9). Protected sites may not be altered in any manner without a permit pursuant to Section 12 or 14.

Waste Management Act (BC)

The *Waste Management Act* is the main legislation for waste management in the province, including: regulating confinement, storage, disposal and transportation of special wastes; approving discharges not requiring a permit; regulating spill prevention and reporting activities; issuing pollution abatement orders; and overseeing the implementation of regional solid and liquid waste management plans.

Wildlife Act (BC)

The *Wildlife Act* guides the management of wildlife in the province to maintain the diversity and abundance of native species and habitats throughout British Columbia, to provide a variety of opportunities for the use and enjoyment of wildlife, and to reach a balance between meeting the needs of wildlife and the needs of people.

Fisheries Act (Federal)

The federal *Fisheries Act* guides the harvest, management and protection of fisheries, marine resources, and waters under federal jurisdiction. Direction is provided for the protection of fish habitat and pollution prevention, especially with regard to degradation or alteration of water quality that would be harmful to fish or fish habitat. Plans and specifications may be required for proposed work or activity that is likely to effect fish or fish habitat.

Oceans Act (Federal) and Marine Protected Areas Strategy

Part I of the act provides for the development and implementation of a national strategy for the management of estuarine, coastal, and marine ecosystems. Marine Protected Areas can be designated for the conservation and protection of marine resources and habitats, and can be established for numerous reasons. For example, they may be created to conserve and protect: commercial and non-commercial fishery resources, including marine mammals, and their habitats; endangered or threatened species and their habitats; unique habitats; areas of high biodiversity or biological productivity; or, any other marine resource or habitat as necessary to fulfill the mandate of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

BC Protected Areas Strategy

The BC Protected Areas Strategy presents government policy on protected areas and will be used by land use planning processes to recommend land allocations to Cabinet. The goal is to represent 12% of the provincial land and water base in a system of protected areas by the year 2000. The Protected Areas Strategy has two goals: (1) to protect viable representative examples of the province's diversity (natural, cultural heritage and recreational) in each

ecosection and (2) to ensure that special natural, cultural heritage and recreational features of the province are protected.

Resource and Recreation Use Guidelines for Protected Areas

A component of the Protected Areas Strategy is the Resource and Recreation Use Guidelines for Protected Areas which provides fundamental principles regarding management of protected areas and direction on the compatibility of selected activities, services and uses in protected areas.

BC Land and Resource Management Planning

Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) is an integrated, sub-regional, consensus building process that produces a Land and Resource Management Plan for review and approval by government. The plan establishes direction for land use and specifies broad resource management objectives and strategies, including recommendations for protected area designations.

BC Parks Policy

The 1991 document *Striking the Balance* outlines the general policy direction for BC Parks and includes goals and principles aimed at balancing conservation and recreation objectives. The conservation goals are identified as representativeness and special features, while the recreation goals are tourism travel routes, outdoor recreation holiday destinations, backcountry, and local recreation.

BC Parks Conservation Program Policies

The Conservation Program Policies provide policy direction to guide the conservation management of the natural and cultural heritage values in parks and ecological reserves.

BC Parks Management Planning Policies (Draft)

The policies for management planning governs the formulation of protected area management plans and management direction statements including protected area zoning. Zoning provides a mechanism for management direction based on ecological and geographical units within the protected area.

BC Parks Risk Management/Risk Assessment Policy and Workbook

The risk management manual provides guidelines for an organized approach to understanding, identifying, and controlling the potential for, and effect of, harm/damage in order to minimize losses. Risk management is generally applied to the entire protected area encompasses the overall protection of park values, not, as impact assessment does, the assessment of specific, proposed actions. Impact assessment is a risk management tool.

BC Parks Permit Administration Manual (Draft)

Policy and procedures concerning the administration of park use, resource use, research, and ecological reserve permits are outlined in the Permit Administration Manual. It includes the permit application forms that are used in the impact assessment process.

BC Parks Levels of Management

Levels of Management is a source of information on the identified values of protected areas within the Protected Areas Strategy. This data will be of use for the impact assessment process when no management plan or management direction statement exists.

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks Procedures for Avoiding Infringement of Aboriginal Rights, 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.

BC Archaeological Impact Assessment Guidelines

The BC Archaeological Impact Guidelines are the procedures for archaeological resource assessment and review, and applies principally to development projects which are reviewable under the *BC Environmental Assessment Act*. However, with minor modifications, they may also be applied to all other developments. They are produced by the Archaeology Branch, Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture.

Purpose of the Impact Assessment Policy

The impact assessment policy and process is intended to:

- provide for the thorough assessment of all potential environmental, social and economic impacts of proposed actions in parks and ecological reserves;
- ensure provincially consistent standards are followed for impact assessment;
- provide a process and format for standardized and documented decision making;
- provide an open and accountable impact assessment process; and
- provide for participation in the impact assessment review by the proponent, other agencies, the public and First Nations, where required.

Principles of the Impact Assessment Policy

The following principles provide the foundation for this policy and its application.

1. All management decisions result in some impact.
2. Impact assessment is a tool which will assist decision-makers to make the best decisions.
3. Determining whether impacts are within acceptable limits provides challenges for managers and decision-makers.
4. Predicting impacts and determining the **significance** of impacts should be as objective and quantifiable as possible.
5. Determining whether impacts are acceptable is based on values and, therefore, always entails some level of subjectivity or compromise.
6. Legislation, the Protected Areas Strategy and BC Parks Policy, including management plans, provide the primary direction for determining values.
7. For many decisions, public involvement is essential in:
 - determining values and their relative significance,
 - understanding the trade-offs or compromises that will result from the management decision or action, and
 - building support for the decision.

Application of Policy

Reviewable actions within parks and ecological reserves will be subject to an assessment of their potential impacts.

This policy will apply to all **reviewable** actions that are proposed within parks and ecological reserves. For purposes of this policy, the proponent is considered to be any individual, company, permittee or BC Parks manager responsible for proposing an action. BC Parks may be considered the proponent subject to the policy requirements outlined below.

An action is defined as any proposed project, activity or management decision that has the potential to cause an impact on the natural, cultural heritage and/or recreational **environment** and includes protected area management planning⁵, recreational development projects, proposed new opportunities (facilities, services, activities), and non-conforming uses but does not include policy or strategic planning. Actions include, but are not limited to the following:

- new activities, including projects entirely or partly funded, assisted, conducted, regulated or approved by BC Parks (e.g., approval of a new recreational activity or research project, issuance of a commercial guide permit);
- substantial changes in continuing actions, such as considerable changes in operations, areas of use, or in methodology or equipment (e.g., changes to park zoning, use of new equipment for **routine** maintenance);
- specific projects such as construction or management activities located in a park (e.g., public/private venture projects, expansion or development of facilities, conservation management projects, special projects, and locally funded projects); and
- management plans.

Only those actions listed as “**non-reviewable**” in Appendix 2 of this document will be exempted from the impact assessment process.

⁵ Management plans are assessed using a separate screening process than that used for specific actions. Procedures for conducting an assessment on a management plan are outlined in the document *BC Parks Impact Assessment Process - Management Plan Screen*.

The impact assessment process will be initiated by:

1. submission of an application (generally a permit application, i.e., park use, resource use, ecological reserve permits) by a proponent other than BC Parks to undertake an action within a park or ecological reserve;
2. submission of a **terms of reference** and project statement for BC Parks proponents;
3. when a park management plan is being prepared; or
4. any circumstance under which BC Parks feels an impact assessment is warranted prior to making a decision on an action.

Non-Reviewable Actions

Proposed actions that will only have insignificant impacts will be excluded from the BC Parks Impact Assessment Process.

An impact assessment is not required for actions that have been determined to have only insignificant impacts. These are listed in Appendix 2.

Actions considered non-reviewable meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. past experience and/or assessment through this or other processes has determined that the effects of these actions are insignificant;
2. existing BC Parks policies and/or standards are in place to address potential impacts at the planning or design stage and therefore significant impacts are not anticipated;
3. the action is deemed essential for the day-to-day operations of the park for ensuring public safety, or for responding to emergency situations;
4. common sense dictates that an action is of such a minor scale or extent that the likelihood of any significant impact is negligible.

Process

The BC Parks Impact Assessment Process will follow a consistent and standardized process.

The BC Parks Impact Assessment Process will be applied to both specific actions and to protected area management plans. Separate procedure manuals have been developed to assist in completing both types of assessments. The assessment process for specific actions is outlined in the following flowchart (Figure 1).

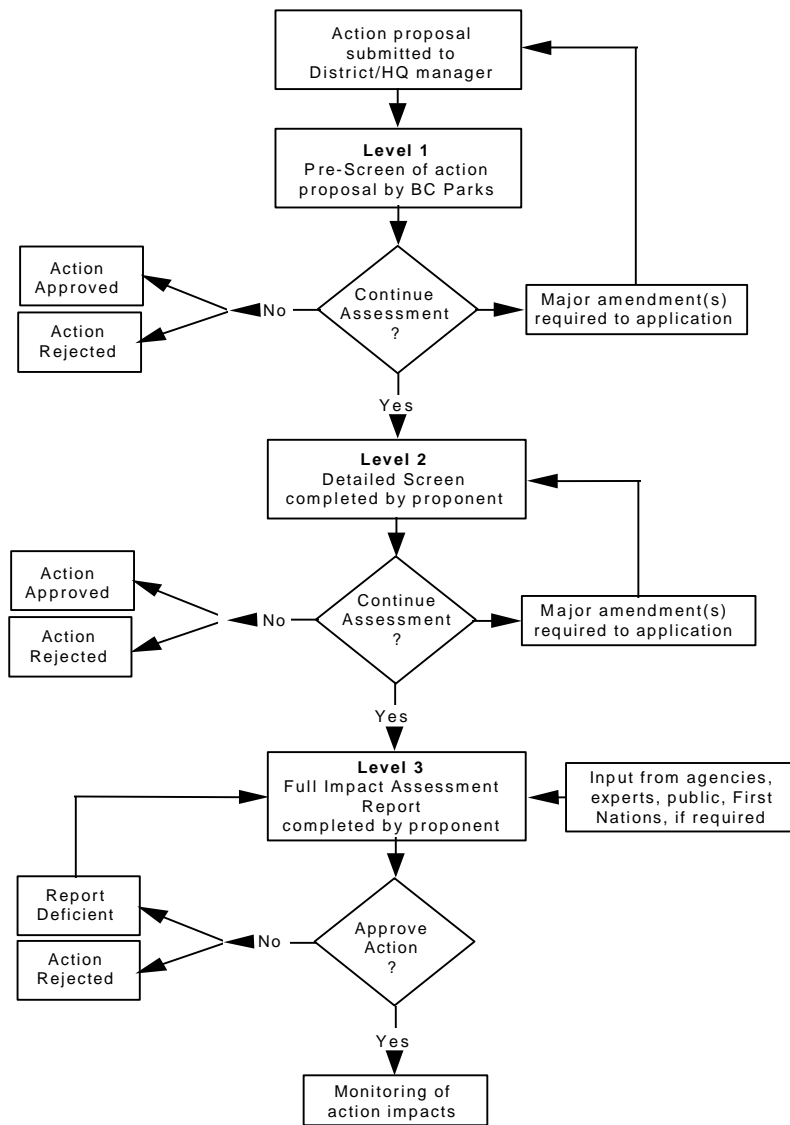


Figure 1. BC Parks Impact Assessment Process for specific actions

Action-Specific Impact Assessment Process

The action-specific impact assessment process consists of three assessment levels:

- preliminary screen;
- detailed screen; and
- full impact assessment report.

The level of evaluation for a proposed action will depend on the nature and scale of the action and the potential significance of issues and concerns identified by government, First Nations and the public. All actions will be subject to at least a Level 1, preliminary screen.

Level 1, Preliminary Screen Impact Assessment

BC Parks will undertake a preliminary **screening** (pre-screening) of all reviewable actions (except management plans) as part of the application review. The pre-screening will be based on information provided by the proponent in the application. This level of assessment is designed to expedite the approval of actions with predictable and mitigable impacts, without sacrificing environmental controls.

This preliminary stage of screening will assist BC Parks in:

- identifying the key issues and concerns regarding the proposed;
- ensuring the action complies with relevant legislation and policy;
- identifying predictable effects; and
- making a decision whether to approve the action, reject the action, or undertake more detailed assessment of specific action components.

Proposed actions that do not conform to existing regulatory or policy requirements will be rejected at this stage if the action design or specifications can not be amended to conform to these requirements.

Level 2, Detailed Screen Impact Assessment

All actions not approved or rejected at the pre-screen level will be subject to a more detailed screening of their potential environmental, social and economic impacts including cumulative impacts. This process provides a rigorous framework that helps in decreasing the subjectivity of impact predictions and

assists in the review of proposed actions by addressing the potential significance of these projections. The proponent is responsible for completing the detailed screen.

Level 3, Full Impact Assessment Report

For those proposed actions for which the effects are unknown or are potentially significant, or there is significant public concern, the action will be subject to further scrutiny beyond the screening stage before a decision can be made. The proponent will be responsible for preparing a detailed Full Impact Assessment Report. Contents for this report are outlined in the procedures manual and will be refined on a project-by-project basis in discussion with BC Parks and the proponent.

Management Plan Screen

The Management Plan Screen is used to conduct preliminary assessments of management plans to ensure that proposed zoning is in keeping with the values and objectives of the park, and that proposed management strategies within each zone meet the objectives of the zone. It acts as a decision record during plan development and does not consider the specific effects of actions proposed within the plan.

Assessment of a management plan at this level does not preclude the requirements for further assessment of specific proposed actions at a later date. Actions which are likely to require an impact assessment at a later date are identified through the management plan screening process.

Review

A formal review of the proposed action will be completed in a timely manner.

For most proposed actions, review of the impact assessment will occur within the district for which the action is proposed. The review will be the responsibility of the district manager or designated staff and will be subject to audit by the Manager, Conservation Services. For any **major action**, the decision will be made by the Director, Parks and Ecological Reserves Management.

For proposed actions that span more than one district or are province-wide the responsibility for the review will follow the policy stated in the Permit Administration Manual.

BC Parks may involve other experts, agencies, First Nations, various public groups and the general public in the review, particularly for those actions requiring a full impact assessment report.

Public Participation

BC Parks will provide opportunities for agency, First Nations and public input into the impact assessment process and will ensure public support for its management decisions.

The importance of public participation in the impact assessment process is clearly recognized by BC Parks. BC Parks will ensure appropriate notification and communication with all interested parties. BC Parks will ensure that the proposed action does not infringe upon First Nations' traditional activities and aboriginal rights.

The level of public participation will be based on a number of factors, including the potential significance of impacts and anticipated public interest in the proposed action. Actions that have already received public review through management planning or other processes may require only limited public participation in the impact assessment process.

As a minimum, for all actions that reach Level 3 of the process (Full Impact Assessment Report) there will be notification and an appropriate comment period.

BC Parks may also undertake informal discussions with specific interest groups or individuals if there is a reasonable likelihood for public concern.

Assessment Outcome

All proposed actions will be assessed according to standard impact assessment procedures, and a final decision will be provided by BC Parks.

After review of the proposed action, BC Parks will make one of the following decisions:

1. approval as proposed;
2. approval of amended action if a viable **alternative** is available and only if the alternative action was considered in the assessment, and the amendments are **minor**;
3. major amendment(s) are required to the application;
4. more detailed evaluation required (only applies to preliminary and detailed screens); or
5. rejection of the action.

Costs

The proponent will be responsible for all costs required for the impact assessment process beyond a Level 1, Preliminary Screen Impact Assessment.

The proponent will bear all costs incurred by the impact assessment process beyond Level 1, with the exception of BC Parks staff time and expenses. This will include preparation and revision of the Detailed Screen Impact Assessment, the Full Impact Assessment Report, collection of additional information if required, and ongoing **monitoring** of the action.

Appendix 1. Glossary of Terms

Action (Reviewable)

Any proposed project, activity, or management decision that has the potential to cause an impact on the natural, cultural heritage and/or recreational environment and includes protected area management planning, recreational development projects, proposed new opportunities (facilities, services, activities), and non-conforming uses but does not include policy or strategic planning. Actions include, but are not limited to the following:

- new activities, including projects entirely or partly funded, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by BC Parks (e.g., approval of a new recreational activity or research project, issuance of a commercial guide permit);
- substantive⁶ changes in continuing actions, such as substantial changes in operations, areas of use, or in methodology/equipment (e.g., changes to park zoning, use of new products and equipment for routine maintenance);
- approval of specific projects, such as construction or management activities located in a park (e.g., public/private venture projects, expansion or development of facilities, conservation management projects, special projects, land acquisition, and locally funded projects); and
- new management plans.

Unless specified, all references to actions refer to reviewable actions.

Alternative

An alternative to an action refers to a functionally different way of achieving the same end (although the costs or timing may be different). For example, an alternative to a vegetation restoration program may be to allow the area to revegetate naturally over a much greater time-frame (i.e., no action).

An alternative approach, refers to a method of similar character or function which can be used to achieve a similar result, e.g., selecting a new location for a proposed facility or expanding an existing facility rather than building a new one.

⁶ The definition of substantive should be interpreted in favour of a conservative, precautionary approach.

Environment

Environment, under this policy, refers to natural, recreational, and cultural heritage environments, and includes social, economic, and human health conditions.

Impacts

Impacts include all human-induced changes to natural landscapes, processes or features, to cultural heritage features, or to recreational uses or opportunities that can be attributed to the proposed the action. Impacts considered under this policy include: environmental; cultural heritage; social; economic; and health impacts. Consideration must be given to all impacts of the action.

Direct impacts are caused by an action and occur at the same time and place as the action. For e.g., for new trail construction, direct impacts may include vegetation removal, soil disturbance, surfacing of the trail, people in the area.

Indirect impacts are also caused by an action; although occurring later in time or farther removed from the action, they are still reasonably foreseeable. For e.g., for new trail construction, indirect impacts may include trampling of vegetation where users go off the trail.

Combined impacts are the impacts due to the various components of the project . For e.g., for new trail construction, combined impacts may include bridge construction, signage, associated parking lot.

Cumulative impacts result from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. For e.g., for new trail construction, cumulative impacts may involve other trails in the area, nearby resort, nearby forest activities.

Residual impacts are impacts that remain significant after mitigation measures have been applied, i.e., “ what can not be fixed”. For e.g., for new trail construction, even if the trail is designed to BC Parks standards there still may be some potential for erosion and sediment runoff into a nearby stream, this would be a residual impact.

Impact Assessment

The process of identifying impacts on protected area values that may be associated with actions, as they are defined in this policy; evaluating the significance of those impacts; and determining and implementing mitigating measures.

Major⁷ Action

An action that is predicted to cause significant impacts, e.g., development of a road-accessible full-service campground in a pristine area; prescribed burning over a large area.

Minor⁷

Of a very small scale, degree or spatial extent, and unlikely to result in any significant impacts.

Monitoring

A continuing assessment of conditions at and surrounding the area in which an action has taken place. Monitoring helps determine if impacts have occurred as predicted, and if mitigation measures are as effective as predicted.

Non-Reviewable Actions

Actions that are not subject to the impact assessment process. In general, an action is excluded from the process if the action is known to result in only insignificant impacts. Actions appearing in the non-reviewable list are generally known to meet this criteria because of past experience, existing policies and/or standards or common sense (i.e., routine actions). This list may be reviewed and amended at the discretion of the Director, Parks and Ecological Reserves Management.

Proponent

Individual, company, permittee or BC Parks manager (i.e., district manager or headquarters program manager) responsible for proposing the action.

Routine

Commonly applied procedures that have been established as appropriate and acceptable under protected area legislation, policy and standards for the purposes of general protected area operations.

⁷ The definition of major and minor should be interpreted in favour of a conservative, precautionary approach.

Screening

A relatively quick and simple systematic approach to documenting the effects of a proposed action and determining the need to eliminate or minimize (mitigate) these effects; to modify the proposed action; or to recommend further assessment. It is the most flexible type of assessment, accommodating both simple actions as well as larger actions.

Significance

A measure of how adverse or beneficial an impact may be on a valued environmental or social component. Significance is typically based on an evaluation of various "impact attributes". These include: (a) the importance of the value; (b) the distribution of the impact in time and space (scope, duration and frequency); (c) the magnitude of change; and (d) the reliability or confidence with which the impact has been predicted or measured. The determination of significance is based on the best available data and on the professional judgement and expertise of the assessor.

In addition, a significant impact will be considered to be one where the anticipated future conditions resulting from the action differ from those conditions otherwise expected from "normal change" (i.e., ecological change not influenced by human caused disturbance), and where this raises serious concerns among BC Parks staff and the public.

Terms of Reference

Presents the nature and scope of the impact assessment report to be undertaken by the proponent and are determined by BC Parks in consultation with the proponent. Terms of reference will include a clear statement of the matters to be dealt with in the report, an outline of the procedures to be followed and an anticipated timeframe.

Values

Any part of the natural, cultural heritage or recreational aspects of the environment that have regional, provincial, national, or international profiles. In the context of impact assessment, the selection of values helps focus the assessment on only those components, features or opportunities that are most important in decision making regarding the fate of a proposed action.

Appendix 2. Non-Reviewable Actions List

In general, an action is considered non-reviewable if it is known that the action does not result in any significant environmental, social or economic impacts. Actions included on the non-reviewable list are generally known to meet this criteria based on past experience, policies and/or standards or common sense. All BC Parks standards and guidelines are applicable to the actions on this list and must be met. This list may be reviewed and amended at the discretion of the Director, Parks and Ecological Reserves Management.

Administrative Services

- minor⁸ amendments to existing permits
- changes or amendments to an approved action when such changes would not result in adverse impacts
- new application for existing permitted minor⁸ recreational activity where cumulative impacts are not a concern, e.g., guided hiking
- minor⁸ revisions to existing regulations that do not generally affect the park or ecological reserve environment

Planning Services

- changes or amendments to an approved protected area management plan when such changes would not result in adverse impacts
- minor⁸ boundary changes
- land acquisition within established protected area boundaries

Conservation Services

- data and information gathering that does not involve any physical changes or disturbances to the environment or its features, e.g., small-scale and site specific species inventories, mapping
- temporary closures of public access areas to protect humans and/or protected area values
- removal of individuals of non-threatened/non-endangered species which pose a danger to visitors, and/or threaten protected area values, when such removal is included in an approved conservation management plan
- wildlife, vegetation, fire and other conservation management plans (specific actions in such plans may require an impact assessment when implemented)

⁸ The definition of minor should be interpreted in favour of a conservative, precautionary approach.

Recreation Services

- routine⁹ actions normally conducted to operate and maintain the protected area, e.g., maintaining law and order, routine patrols by BC Parks staff
- routine⁹ repair and maintenance of facilities and equipment to maintain existing operations and activities, including maintenance of day-use areas such as lawn care and landscaping
- routine⁹ maintenance for public safety, e.g., clearing debris from trails, danger tree removal (unless large scale or of significance, including cumulative)
- routine⁹ movement, handling and distribution of materials including hazardous material/waste that when moved, handled or distributed are under applicable regulations
- data and information gathering that does not involve any physical changes or disturbances to the environment or its features, e.g., Visitor Satisfaction Surveys
- recreation management plan (specific actions in such plans may require an impact assessment when implemented)

Extension Services

- minor⁹ changes in interpretative and education programs
- minor⁹ changes to park information, e.g., brochures, website, signage

⁹ The definition of routine and minor should be interpreted in favour of a conservative, precautionary approach.