

Message to Visitors

Help us protect your parkland. Enjoy your visit to Wells Gray Provincial Park but please leave it as you have found it so that future visitors may enjoy the park as you have.

Be extremely careful with fire. If you place aluminum foil under your campstove or hibachi, it will help protect our tables. Primus-type stoves must be used for all cooking in the back-country areas. Open fires are permitted only in designated areas.

Please do not litter. The park's lakes and streams are the source of drinking water. Even biodegradable soaps will pollute water; so will food scraps, fish guts and dirty dishes. Help protect the delicate balance of the water system by washing yourself, your clothes and dishes at least 30 metres from lakes or streams. Fish should be cleaned in deep water. You will need a British Columbia angling licence if you plan on fishing.

In the interest of safety, firearms are prohibited except during a valid hunting season. Please consult British Columbia Hunting Regulations for dates.

Flowers, shrubs, trees and even rocks are part of the park's natural heritage. Please do not damage or remove them.

Motor vehicles, including licenced motorcycles, ATVs and similar vehicles, are restricted to vehicle roads and parking areas.

Snowmobiles and like vehicles are prohibited except with special permission.

Please keep to your campsite. Great damage can be done to the park by careless vehicle parking or tent location.

Keep pets on a leash and under control at all times and do not take them to beach areas. Dogs are prohibited at Murtle Lake.

How to Get to the Park

The main entrance to Wells Gray Provincial Park is located at Spahats Creek, 10 kilometres north of Hwy 5 (the Yellowhead Highway) via the Clearwater Valley Road which is paved for about the first 30 kilometres. The turn-off from the highway is near the community of Clearwater, 120 kilometres northeast of Kamloops. From the park entrance at Spahats Creek, a paved road leads 37 kilometres to Helmcken Falls. From here it is 24 kilometres by gravel road to Clearwater Lake.

Mahood Lake, in the southwest corner of the park, is accessible by 88 kilometres of secondary road from 100 Mile House on Hwy 97 (the Cariboo Highway). It is not possible to drive through the park from Mahood Lake to Clearwater Lake. Other routes such as Hwy 24 must be used to gain access to Hwy 5 and, subsequently, the Clearwater Valley Road.

Blue River, 232 kilometres northeast of Kamloops on Hwy 5, is the start of 24 kilometres of gravel road and 2.5 kilometres of trail that provide access to the east end of Murtle Lake.

At the junction of Hwy 5 and the Clearwater Valley Road is a visitor centre with displays of local human and natural history, a gift shop and a Travel Info Centre. Centre staff have detailed topographic maps of Wells Gray Provincial Park for sale and they can provide current information about road, trail, campground and weather conditions throughout the Wells Gray and Clearwater area.

Park Fees

Open year-round, for all-season use. Campgrounds open from May to September. Fees are collected at Mahood Lake, Clearwater Lake/Falls Creek and Pyramid. If required, contact the park facility operator to confirm opening/closing dates, as they are subject to change.

For More Information

BC Parks

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>



Ministry of Water, Land
and Air Protection



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PROVINCIAL PARK



Welcome to Wells Gray Provincial Park. With 540,000 hectares in the Cariboo Mountains, this park has something to offer every outdoor interest: lush alpine meadows, excellent birding and wildlife viewing opportunities; hiking for every ability, ranging from a few minutes on a level trail to many days with a map and compass; boating, canoeing and kayaking. Guiding businesses offer horseback riding, canoeing, river-rafting, fishing and hiking; and the history enthusiast can learn about the early homesteaders, trappers, and prospectors, or about the natural forces that produced Wells Gray's many volcanoes, waterfalls, mineral springs and glaciers.

Thompson

Conservation

Wells Gray Provincial Park offers a variety of topographical features. Extinct volcanoes, lava beds, mineral springs and glaciers are just a few of the wondrous natural attractions at the park. A number of spectacular waterfalls also exist, including the famous Spahats, Dawson and Helmcken Falls. Dense forest cover characterizes the lower elevations, with excellent examples of Douglas-fir, western red cedar and hemlock. Wildlife abound with larger animals, such as the grizzly bear, and smaller animals including beaver, wolverine and timber wolf. A wide variety of waterfowl, although not numerous, can also be found in the park.

Flowers, trees and shrubs are part of the park's natural heritage. Please do not damage or remove them.

History

Established November 28, 1939, the park was named for the Honourable Arthur Wellsley Gray, Minister of Lands for British Columbia from 1933 to 1941. As a result of the Kamloops Land and Resources Management Plan, several land additions have been incorporated into Wells Gray Park. These include the Clearwater River Corridor Addition of 3,100 hectares and the Trophy Mountain Addition of 6,934 hectares, both designated in April 1996.

Trails and Routes

There are a number of constructed and maintained trails in the park that are marked and are generally not difficult to follow. In addition, there are routes which have developed through historic use and are not maintained. Some skill in wilderness route finding may be required in order to traverse these less well-defined paths. Distances, elevation changes and hiking times are approximate.

Warning

Persons contemplating a visit to Wells Gray Provincial Park are warned that it is a wilderness area without supplies or equipment of any kind. Supplies and gasoline should be checked prior to entering the park.

Visitors who intend to hike, climb or venture far from developed campgrounds and high-used areas should be properly equipped. A pair of strong, waterproof boots is a necessity. Warm clothing and a sleeping bag are musts for campers, particularly wilderness campers.

Only experienced mountaineers, properly roped and equipped with ice axes, climbing boots, crampons, prussic, and emergency overnight equipment, should attempt mountain climbing or venture onto glaciers and snowfields.

For more information on trails and routes, contact the Wells Gray Information Centre or the BC Parks website.

Aircraft Operation

Aircraft entry to Wells Gray Provincial Park is restricted in accordance with Canada Air Pilot Water Aerodrome Supplement Area Restrictions and Air Navigation Order, Series V, No. 70. Some landings may be permitted by letter of authority. Details can be obtained from the Park Facility Officer.

Facilities



There are four campgrounds: Pyramid (50 units) 8 kilometres north of the Hemp Creek entrance; Clearwater Lake (39 units) and Falls Creek (41 units) 32 kilometres north of the Hemp Creek entrance; and Mahood Lake (32 units, including 5 double units) at the west end of Mahood Lake, 88 kilometres east of 100 Mile House. Water, toilets and firewood are located near each site.



Wilderness camping areas are located at various sites on Azure, Clearwater, Mahood and Murtle lakes.



Picnic areas are located at Helmcken Falls, at Clearwater Lake and at various sites along park roads.



There is an extensive trail system leading to many of the park's scenic attractions.



Boat launching ramps are located at Mahood Lake and Clearwater Lake.



Most of the lakes and waterways have good stocks of various fish species. The most productive locations include the Canim River, Mahood Lake, Murtle Lake and the Murtle River. Please consult British Columbia fishing regulations for details.



The major lakes are extremely popular for boating and canoeing. Power boats are prohibited on Murtle Lake.



Power boating is popular on Mahood, Azure and Clearwater lakes. Use caution when navigating the channel between Azure and Clearwater lakes and stay well away from the outlet of Clearwater Lake. The falls are dangerous.



Winter activities include cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Trails are marked and limited grooming is carried out.



Viewing areas are located at Spahats Falls, Helmcken Falls, Clearwater Lake and at Green Mountain where there is a viewing tower.

A variety of commercial facilities and recreational services are available in and near Wells Gray Park including; canoe rentals and guided horseback, hiking, skiing, whitewater rafting, boating and fishing trips as well as a full range of accommodation and meal service.

For Clearwater/Blue River area information contact:

Wells Gray Information Centre, Box 1988, RR1, Clearwater, BC V0E 1N0 • Telephone: (250) 674-2646

For 100 Mile House/Mahood Lake area information contact:

100 Mile House Information Centre, Box 2312, 100 Mile House, BC V0K 2E0 • Telephone: (250)395-5353

Maps and Guides

A contour map (with a scale of 1:125,000 approximately) of Wells Gray Provincial Park (PS-WG3) is available from: MAPS BC, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X5

Detailed handouts describing Trophy Mountain, Wells Gray Corridor, Murtle Lake and Clearwater/Azure are available from the Wells Gray Information Centre. Books written by Roland Neave (*Exploring Wells Gray Park*) and by Trevor Goward and Cathie Hickson (*Nature Wells Gray*) are also available at the Centre.

Wildlife Caution

All wild animals are potentially dangerous and may be encountered at any time. Be careful when near wildlife. Bears are particularly unpredictable. They are extremely powerful animals that can cause serious injury or death. While the risk of attack is low, you can heighten your safety by following some simple advice:

- ▶ Animals that lose their fear of man and become used to eating human food and garbage are especially dangerous. Female bears with cubs are very dangerous. Never approach or feed bears or other animals.
- ▶ Securely store food by hanging it from a tree at least 4 metres above the ground and 2 metres from the trunk. Always use storage facilities where provided or store all food in your vehicle, never in your tent.
- ▶ Do not cook or store food in your tent and keep your campsite clean.
- ▶ Do not burn or bury non-combustible refuse since this attracts animals. Pack it out where facilities are not available.
- ▶ Be alert for bear scats, tracks or trails and do not hike or camp where these are common. Make lots of noise when hiking where bear signs are found.
- ▶ Stay calm if approached by a bear. Do not provoke an attack by making loud noises, throwing things or running. Move slowly away if possible.

More information about bears and other wild animals is available from the website listed on the back cover of this publication.

Contact park staff for further information about the park, about other parks in the vicinity, or on any other matter. If at any time park staff are not available, refer to the information posted on the notice boards.



Ray Mineral Springs