
Approved:	<i>original approved by Christine Houghton, Director, Visitor Services Branch, BC Parks, Ministry of Environment</i>
Effective Date:	28-June-2011
Relationship to Previous Policy:	This policy replaces all previous policy regarding permit term lengths

Park Use Permits

Permit Term Length

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction on standard and maximum term lengths for park use permits and resource use permits (PUPs).

Scope

This policy applies to park use permits and resource use permits (PUPs) within parks, protected areas, conservancies and recreation areas. Ecological reserve permits and permits for operation of campgrounds and BC Parks' facilities are not addressed by this policy.

Definitions

“exclusive” means the number of permitting opportunities for a specific activity or use within a protected area is limited to a specific number of operators defined by BC Parks

“non-exclusive” means that the number of permitting opportunities for a specific activity or use within a protected area is not restricted to a specific number of operators

“park” for the purpose of this policy means Crown land established or continued as a park, protected area, recreation area, or conservancy under the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, or the *Environment and Land Use Act*, and does not include ecological reserves

“park use permit” means a licence, issued under the *Park Act*, authorizing an activity or a course of behaviour or conduct, or the occupancy, use, development, exploitation or extraction of a natural resource on or in a park

“resource use permit” means a licence, issued under the *Park Act*, authorizing an activity or a course of behaviour or conduct, or the occupancy, use, development, exploitation, or extraction of a natural resource on or in recreation area

“term” means a fixed and definite period of time during which a permit is issued or the period of time between the start of the commencement date and the end of the expiration date

Policy

1.1.1 Terms Required

Park use permits and resource use permits (PUPs) must not be issued without a finite term length. Terms must be defined in years, months or days with a predetermined expiry date. There is no legal requirement to set a standard (minimum) term length, but to ensure consistency and to provide efficiency when issuing permits, standard term lengths should be adhered to for each type

of PUP. PUPs may be issued for terms which are shorter than the standard terms outlined below in order to address park management issues, or may be modified to ensure consistency with government-approved land use plans. Maximum and standard term lengths are determined by permit type.

Permits that are required to be issued pursuant to Section 30 of the *Park Act* for parks listed in Schedule D may be issued directly by the Regional Manager for the term remaining on the existing license, permit or lease.

Any permit being issued for greater than thirty years requires written authorization by the BC Parks Assistant Deputy Minister.

1.1.2 Interim Permits

An interim permit may be issued to a proponent to allow for preparatory works or to develop plans and assessments (e.g. to meet the requirements of the Fixed-Roof Accommodation Policy (2006)). They may also be issued in cases where park management plans are undergoing review or development, in order to ensure that PUPs are not in conflict with objectives for the park once they are finalized. Interim park use permits will be issued for a **maximum of one year**.

1.1.3 Commercial Recreation

Any commercial recreation permit being issued for greater than ten years requires written authorization by BC Parks Director of Regional Operations.

Commercial Recreation with No or Minimal Facilities

Commercial recreation permits (i.e. guided adventure tourism) for non-exclusive use, or for exclusive use with no or minimal facilities, shall have standard and maximum terms of ten years.

Commercial Recreation with Facilities

If a commercial recreation permit includes exclusive rights to facilities, the term may be longer than 10 years, depending on the level of financial investment in the facilities, as per the Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy (2006).

- Facilities associated with lower levels of investment (cabins, huts, yurts or shelters) will have standard and maximum term of ten years.
- Facilities with significant financial investment (fixed roof accommodation) will have a maximum term of 30 years, standard term of 20 years.
- Existing large ski resorts with fifty year renewable terms may be granted terms beyond the maximum of 30 years (requires approval of Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Parks).

1.1.4 Land Use/Occupancy

General

Term lengths for general land use occupancy permits will vary depending on the type of permit. Standards and criteria for common land use occupancy permit types are outlined below. For all other types of land use occupancy permits a standard term of 10 years is recommended and maximum term length will be 10 years.

- Grazing- terms variable (no standard term), but should be set giving consideration to approved land use plans, terms of pre-existing tenures, etc. Maximum term length of 10 years.

- Restoration and habitat enhancement- term to be set based on expected length of the project, with standard term of five years.
- Trapping and trapline- standard and maximum 10 years.
- Provincially owned structures- standard 10 years, but may vary as required to be consistent with permits under other legislation (e.g. coordinate with expiry of guide outfitter territory). Maximum term 10 years.
- Privately owned structures- standard 10 years, but may vary as required to be consistent with agreements negotiated at time park was established, or other factors. Maximum term 10 years.
- Aquiculture and mariculture - standard and maximum of 10 years.

Industrial/Municipal Land Use Occupancy Industrial/municipal land use occupancy permits that authorize long-term uses, including but not limited to utility right of ways (pipelines, transmission lines), communications sites, water storage/dams, and access roads will have a standard and maximum term length of thirty years. Land use occupancy permits that are granted for the purpose of access/use/maintenance of established long-term monitoring sites (e.g. meteorological and hydrological stations) should also be granted for a term of 30 years to reflect long-term use of these sites.

Industrial/municipal Land Use Occupancy permits for all other uses (e.g. quarrying, log sorts) will have a standard and maximum term of 10 years.

1.1.5 Commercial Filming

Terms for commercial filming PUPs will be determined so a reasonable amount of time is granted to conduct the requested filming activities. A specific number of filming days will be granted within a range of dates to account for weather conditions and scheduling.

Research Permits

Terms should be granted that are appropriate for the activity being requested (no standard term). The maximum term for a research PUP is ten years.

Any research permit being issued for greater than ten years requires written authorization by the BC Parks Director of Regional Operations.

Related Guidance/Considerations

Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/fixed_roof/docs/fixed_roof_policy_july_o6.pdf

BC Parks Commercial Filming Policy

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/permits/film/>

APPROVED AMENDMENTS:

Effective Date:	Summary of Changes:

