
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 requirements for obtaining a research permit

Park Use Permits

1.0 Research Permits

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction on how to determine whether a park use permit or resource use permit (PUP) is required for proposed research activities.

Scope

This policy applies to all proposed research activities in parks, protected areas, conservancies and recreation areas. This policy does not apply to proposed research activities in ecological reserves.

Definitions

“**improvements**” refers to anything made, constructed, erected, built, altered, repaired, added to, on, or under the land, and attached to it or intended to become a part of it (e.g., floating camp/dock). It also includes any clearing, excavating, digging, drilling, tunnelling, filling, grading or ditching, in, on or under the land

“**cultural heritage resource**” means an object, a site or the location of a traditional societal practice that is of historical, cultural or archaeological significance to British Columbia, a community or an aboriginal people

“**natural resources**” means land, water, and atmosphere, their mineral, vegetable or other components, and includes the flora and fauna on and in them

“**park**” for the purpose of this procedure 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

“**research**” means activities that are intended to increase knowledge of a certain study area, including investigation of phenomena or matter using established methods of inquiry based on gathering observable, empirical and measurable evidence

¹ Definition taken from the *Forest Act*

Policy

1.1.1 Research Activities where No Permit Required

Where a researcher proposes to conduct activities within a park in a manner consistent with public use, a PUP will not be required. Activities that meet all the following criteria will be considered 'consistent with public use' and do not require a research park use permit:

- No improvements (permanent or semi-permanent) are made (i.e., no flagging tape or other equipment left in the field);
- No natural resources or cultural resources are removed, destroyed, damaged, disturbed, or exploited; and
- Research activities are not conducted as part of a business for a profit.

If the proposed activities meet these criteria, BC Parks will authorize the proposed research activities by letter of permission, which will include instructions for park access and term. Where the research is of interest to BC Parks a requirement for the researcher to submit a report summarizing the findings at the end of the research activities will be included as a condition in the letter.

1.1.2 Research Activities Requiring a Permit

Without limiting the generality of these statements, if the proposed research activities include any of the following, a research PUP is required:

- Destructive or invasive sampling [e.g. boring, removing plant materials (other than small samples of common plants), disturbing or removing soils, rocks, etc.]
- Any sampling of rare or endangered species (as defined by the BC Conservation Data Centre);
- Any improvements (permanent or semi-permanent); and
- Any animal trapping, including fish and invertebrates (other permits also apply and it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all permit requirements are met prior to conducting any research activities).

Related Guidance/Considerations

Link to the BC Conservation Data Centre:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cdc/>

APPROVED AMENDMENTS:

Effective Date:	Summary of Changes: