

# Strathcona Provincial Park Master Plan Amendment Process Overview

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Ministry of Environment  
Parks and Protected Areas Division  
Vancouver Island Region

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## **Overview of Strathcona Provincial Park Master Plan Amendment Process**

The following provides an overview to understand the process BC Parks is currently undertaking with respect to the review of horse use in Strathcona Provincial Park through the Strathcona Provincial Park Master Plan amendment process and subsequent Park Use Permit application adjudication for Clayoquot Wilderness Resort. As part of the Master Plan amendment and Park Use Permit adjudication process, two documents have been produced over the last year to assist BC Parks in the decision making process. One report, titled *Strathcona Provincial Park Master Plan Amendment Horse Use in Strathcona Park*, dated November 14, 2008, was prepared for the Ministry of Environment, Environmental Stewardship Division by Harry Parsons, Bufo Incorporated. The second report, titled *Strathcona Provincial Park Level 2 Impact Assessment Horse Use in Bedwell*, dated October 30, 2008, was prepared for the Ministry of Environment, Environmental Stewardship Division by Forsite Consultants Ltd.

### **Strathcona Park Master Plan Amendment Process**

- A Master Plan Amendment process for horse use is currently under consideration by the Ministry.
- The results of the public involvement process are being reviewed and results considered in order to make a decision on the Master Plan Amendment. The report cited above (*Strathcona Provincial Park Master Plan Amendment Horse Use in Strathcona Park*) is one of the sources informing the Master Plan amendment process.
- Once a decision is made, the Master Plan for the park will be amended in order to ensure clarity around future horse use in Strathcona Provincial Park.

### **Clayoquot Wilderness Resort Park Use Permit Application**

- Once the Master Plan is amended, the Clayoquot Wilderness Resort Park Use Permit application will be reviewed against the master plan amendment direction.

**If the permit application is inconsistent with the amended Strathcona Provincial Park Master Plan:**

- The regional manager will advise the proponent of the situation.
- The regional manager will be guided by the Strathcona Provincial Park Master Plan amendment in further adjudication of the Park Use Permit application.

**If the permit application is consistent with the amended Strathcona Provincial Park Master Plan:**

If the permit application information received by the region to date is consistent with the amended Master Plan direction, the regional manager will advise the proponent of the following:

- That although the permit application may be consistent with the amended master plan direction, this does not automatically mean the permit is approved, just that the permit application can continue through the adjudication process.
- More detailed information may be required from the proponent to properly adjudicate the application.
- The impact assessment results contained with the report cited above (*Strathcona Provincial Park Level 2 Impact Assessment Horse Use in Bedwell*) will be reviewed in the context of the park use permit application. (See detailed Impact Assessment Process information below).
- More detailed information may be required from the proponent to properly adjudicate the application.
- Regional staff would then assess the more detailed information as part of the adjudication process.
- The park use permit will either be approved or denied depending on the results of the adjudication.

**BC Parks Impact Assessment Process**

The BC Parks Impact Assessment Process ensures that the stewardship of British Columbia's system of protected areas is included in all activities and practices that are conducted within these areas. Its purpose is to provide for the assessment of all potential impacts of proposed actions in provincial protected areas.

## **Level 1, Preliminary Screen Impact Assessment**

BC Parks undertakes a preliminary **screening** (pre-screening) of all reviewable actions (except management plans) as part of an application review. The pre-screening is based on information provided by the proponent in the application and assists BC Parks in:

- identifying the key issues and concerns
- 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 a more detailed assessment (Level 2).

## **Level 2, Detailed Screen Impact Assessment**

All actions not approved or rejected at the pre-screen level are 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.

Major, more complex proposed developments, i.e. ski resort, may require further detail, which would be documented through a Level 3 impact assessment report.

## **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.

Should a proposal be supported, a draft Park Use Permit would be developed, identifying any conditions that BC Parks deems necessary to minimize impacts and ensure long-term protection. There are no limits to the type or amount of conditions that BC Parks may include within a permit. The Permit would also define the length of term and annual fees payable to the Province. Any condition not adhered without prior consent by BC Parks, would place a Permittee in a non-compliance situation, which could potentially lead to cancellation of the permit.