

BC Parks' Mandate

"As a public trust, our mission is to protect representative and special natural places within the Province's Protected Areas System for world-class conservation, outdoor recreation, education and scientific study."

Research activities are supported in provincial protected areas to improve management of protected area values and to inform land management outside of the protected areas system. Scientific information is a vital component of well-informed management decisions. Effective land management requires continuing research into ecosystem structure and function, human-use impacts and conservation techniques management.

BC Parks is responsible for the designation, management and conservation of a system of ecological reserves, provincial parks, other protected areas and recreation areas located throughout the province. These contain many of the best representative elements and special features of British Columbia's heritage.

BC Parks Approvals Required

All research activities, including inventory, monitoring and collections, within ecological reserves require a valid research permit. Research activities for lands and marine areas in parks, conservancies and protected areas require permission from BC Parks, and may require a park use permit. The ability to conduct research activities may be contingent upon other agencies granting other additional required permits, such as those overseen by the *Wildlife Act*.



Occasional Paper Series

The aim of the Occasional Paper Series is to promote interest and understanding of protected areas conservation, planning and management. These papers contribute scientific knowledge and assist in protected areas stewardship. To view, submit or find out more, visit BC Parks' website:
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/conserve/occ_paper/occ_series.html



Contact Information

For more information on park use permits, please visit:
BC Parks
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/permits/>

FrontCounter BC
<http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/Start/parks/>
Call FrontCounter BC toll free at: **1-877-855-3222**
Call from outside North America at: **++1-778-372-0729**
Locations: <http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/locations>

Visit www.bcparks.ca for more information!



BC Parks

Updated August 2015

Research Guidelines for Protected Areas of British Columbia

Conservation Program



This brochure is intended to assist anyone seeking permission to conduct research activities in terrestrial and marine protected areas and to explain the process to acquire an approved research permit.



BC Parks

Application Process

Who May Apply

Applications are welcome from independent researchers, professional and educational institutions, and private or public agencies. One researcher involved in the project must demonstrate the qualifications and experience to conduct or supervise the project.

When to Apply

Applications may be submitted at any time; however, you must apply at least 60 business days prior to beginning fieldwork.

How to Apply

Apply for research permits in parks, protected areas, conservancies and recreation areas by completing the *Research Park Use Permit Application* form, or for research in ecological reserves by completing the *Research and Education Ecological Reserve Application* form. Both these forms can be found on the FrontCounter BC website: <http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/Start/parks/>.

Research permits are provided at no cost.

General Conditions

All parks and protected areas regulations apply to researchers unless exempted in the research permit.

Special Conditions

There may be additional conditions specific to the research being conducted that are part of the permit.

Application Review

Research is permitted when:

- It benefits provincial parks and protected areas
- Impacts on the environment and conflicts with visitors are negligible
- There is strong support to conduct the research

Preference is given to research that:

- Directly relates to protected area management objectives
- Contributes to the knowledge and understanding of ecosystems and landscape management
- Improves public understanding of conservation issues involved in protected area management

To be accepted, an application must:

- Be submitted in writing, with sufficient time for the approval process to be completed
- Demonstrate the relevance of conducting the research in the protected area
- Demonstrate that the research is of scientific value and technically feasible
- Demonstrate the potentially positive effects of the research on the conservation and management of protected area values

The application will be reviewed as quickly as possible and the applicant will be notified of the decision.

Commitments

Ministry of Environment's Commitment

There are limited capabilities to support research but we are always looking for ways to make the research environment more attractive to researchers. We may be able to support researchers through the provision of temporary quarters, access to remote areas and technical assistance.

Researchers' Commitment

The terms of the permit will be followed.

Researchers will communicate often with parks and protected areas staff. It is very important to know when researchers are going into, and out of, research areas.

Reports must be submitted once research is complete.

Locations of sensitive natural and cultural features must not be included in maps, studies or reports for public distribution.

Research will respect the environment, species and habitats in the protected area.

Research that includes inventory will endeavour to follow the B.C. Government Resource Inventory Standards Committee (RISC) methods available from: <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/risc/index.html>

Potential Research Activities

Inventory

- Baseline inventory
- Species and ecosystems at risk
- Cultural values

Monitoring Programs

- Human/recreational impact monitoring
- Ecosystem health
- Trends in distribution of species and ecosystems

Marine Protected Areas

- Viability
- Restoration

Aquatic Management

- Riparian habitats
- Analysis of freshwater lake fishery

Fire and Natural Disturbance Processes

- Fire history and ecological effects
- Forest insect and disease disturbances

Grassland Management

- Management for grassland protection or restoration addressing fire, grazing and/or noxious weeds

Ecosystem Management

- Restoration activities

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

- Carbon cycles and sequestration
- Future conditions modeling