



Approved: Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister

Effective Date: July 22, 2015

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.

Scope

This policy applies to park use permits and resource use permits within parks, protected areas, conservancies and recreation areas. Ecological reserve permits and permits for operation of campgrounds 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

“permit” means a park use permit or resource use permit issued under the *Park Act*

“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

This policy should be followed by BC Parks staff when setting term lengths for park use permits that are issued under section 20 or 30 of the *Park Act*.

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. Standard term lengths are determined by permit type.

1.1.2 Commercial Recreation

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, will have standard terms of 10 years.

Permits may have a shorter, interim term to allow for preparatory works or to develop plans and assessments (e.g. to meet the requirements of the Fixed-Roof Accommodation Policy (2006)), or to allow for flexibility in meeting other government commitments or management concerns.

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 a term of at least 10 years.
- Facilities with significant financial investment (fixed roof accommodation) will have a standard maximum term of 30 years.
- Existing large ski resorts with fifty year renewable terms may be granted terms beyond the standard maximum of 30 years.

1.1.3 Land Use/Occupancy

General

Permits for general land use, including trapping, grazing, and use of privately or provincially owned structures, will have a standard term of 10 years. Exceptions to this standard are listed below. 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, with the following exceptions:

- Grazing- where the permit also authorizes structures the length of term may be longer than 10 years.
- Restoration and habitat enhancement- term to be set based on expected length of the project.
- Provincially or privately owned structures- may vary as required to be consistent with authorizations issued under other legislation, or to be consistent with agreements negotiated at time park was established, or other factors.
- General land use where a shorter, interim term is more appropriate to allow for preparatory works or to develop plans and assessments.

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 term length of 30 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 term of 10 years.

1.1.4 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 should be granted within a range of dates to account for weather conditions and scheduling.

1.1.5 Research Permits

Terms for general research permits should be granted that are appropriate for the activity being requested (no standard term), but should not exceed what is reasonable for the proposed research project to be completed. For general research permits, activities that are long-term in nature, such as monitoring projects, may require a term of 10 years or longer depending on the purpose of the research project (e.g. long-term monitoring of snowpack or temperature). General research projects that are for academic or educational research, or for inventory purposes, should not require longer terms.

Term lengths set out in BC Parks Research Permit Policy should be followed for investigative research activities.

Related Guidance/Considerations

Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/fixed_roof/docs/fixed_roof_policy_july_06.pdf

BC Parks Commercial Filming Policy

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/permits/pdfs/commercial_filming_permits.pdf

BC Parks Research Permit Policy

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/permits/pdfs/requirement_for_obtaining_research_permits.pdf

APPROVED AMENDMENTS:

Effective Date:	Summary of Changes:
July 22, 2015	Revisions to approval processes and adjusting language to reflect 'standard' rather than 'maximum' term lengths for activities

Latest Amendment Date: 2015-July-22