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# Backcountry Visitor Use Operational Guidelines

## for Jasper National Park

Effective, April 2021



## Authorization

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

The first Backcountry Guidelines for Jasper National Park were written in 1990 and updated in 2008. Since those guidelines were written, both visitation patterns in Jasper's backcountry and its management have changed significantly. Therefore, updated guidelines are required.

The Park Management Plan outlines the current management objectives for Jasper's wilderness area. This document provides guidelines for the operational management of the visitor and commercial offers in Jasper's backcountry and wilderness areas, based on the objectives set out in the management plan.

## 1.2. Who is this document for?

These guidelines are aimed at:

- Visitor Experience and Asset Management staff for decision making regarding backcountry use and service levels.
- Information Centre staff providing information to visitors regarding opportunities in Jasper's backcountry.
- Visitor Experience and External Relations staff tasked with producing print and web material for visitors planning backcountry trips.
- Realty and Integrated Land-Use Planning and Policy staff conducting reviews of Guided Business Licenses.
- Providing guidelines for environmental protection and for compliance.

## 1.3. Implementation and responsibilities

The Visitor Experience Manager is accountable for the maintenance and updating of this document. Changes will be presented to the Trail Steering Committee for approval.

## 2. Backcountry Management Objectives

Connecting with the wilder side of Jasper National Park is as easy as finding the nearest trailhead. The large tracts of unspoiled wilderness rich with wildlife, diverse terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and natural processes are authentic features of Jasper National Park and occupy 97% of the Park's area. Visitor use in these areas is closely managed to afford a more primitive visitor experience accessed through non-motorized means.

The values intrinsic in wilderness - solitude, quiet, dark skies and awe-inspiring viewsapes unspoiled by development, are managed to ensure both the experience and the wilderness values are maintained. With nearly 1,000 kilometres of maintained trails and 83 campgrounds spread over this large area, diverse functions must work together to contribute to the maintenance of wilderness values and experiences.

A clear menu of opportunities and services directs wilderness travellers to their first or next adventure, with access to knowledgeable guides and outfitters. Introductory day hikes are offered on trails like the Bald Hills or Wilcox Pass, or an overnight trek to Jacques Lake. Some of Jasper's signature trips—the Skyline trail, Brazeau Loop and Tonquin Valley—beckon the more adventurous. Few visitors undertake the longer excursions on the north and south boundary trails, classic remote wilderness hikes that evoke the natural rhythm of living outdoors.

Traditions and innovation coexist in Jasper's wilderness. Historic log lodges, park operations cabins and campsites retain their rustic charm, and operating and environmental practices demonstrate the highest standards of care. State of the art access to information and way-finding complement older and honoured traditions of leave-no-trace and self-sufficiency. Wilderness experiences are inspiring and motivating. Sharing the landscape with grizzly bears and mountain caribou, visitors experience authentic wilderness in a landscape that enjoys ecological integrity.

### 2.1. What does this document cover?

Based on the objectives listed above, these guidelines will provide operational direction on the following aspects of Jasper National Park's wilderness:

- The visitor offer and range of opportunities provided by Parks Canada and its partners.
- Sustainable levels of service.

As such, the delivery of the following items in Jasper National Park's wilderness areas will be covered:

- *Trail management*: official trails, trail classifications, maintenance levels, signage standards, etc.
- *Backcountry camping offer*: types of campgrounds, group sizes, and standards for food storage and human waste, etc.

#### **Backcountry versus Wilderness**

Wilderness and backcountry are not interchangeable terms (see Appendix 1), but they tend to overlap, since all of Jasper National Park's wilderness is in the backcountry. However, not all backcountry is wilderness.

For the purposes of this document, *backcountry* is the portion of Jasper National Park that correspond with Zones I and II, and those portions of Zone III that are outside of the Three Valley Confluence around the town of Jasper. *Wilderness* is equal to the extent of Zone II – Wilderness.

These guidelines will refer to Jasper's backcountry, which includes its wilderness.

- *Activities:* permitted activities in wilderness areas.
- *Permits and passes:* camping permit, reservation system, quotas, etc.
- *Third party offers:* guides qualifications, business licences, huts and lodges.
- *Information:* information centers, printed media, website, kiosks.

The relationship of this document to other planning documents is shown in Appendix 2. A list of supporting documents is provided in Appendix 3.

## 2.2. Area covered

This document covers the visitor opportunities in the wilderness area defined in the Park Management Plan, as well as areas of Zone 1 – Special Preservation, Zone 2 – Wilderness and parts of Zone 3 – Natural Environment within the other planning areas. Activities in Zone 4 – Outdoor Recreation and Zone 5 – Park Services are not covered in this document. Jasper's zoning system is described in the Jasper National Park Management Plan.

## 3. Backcountry access

### 3.1. Road access

#### 3.1.1. Roads closed in winter

The following access roads are closed to motorized use in winter. Public non-motorized use is allowed year-round.

- Cavell road.
- Highway 93A south of Whirlpool group campground.
- Moab Lake road.
- Geraldine Lakes road to Geraldine Lakes trailhead.
- Toe of the Glacier road.
- Pyramid Beach road.
- Celestine road from Boulder Creek gate.
- Lac Beauvert road (Old Fort Point to Lac Beauvert). This road is plowed for emergency access to Jasper Park Lodge.
- Miette Hot Springs road. This road is plowed for maintenance access to the hot springs.

The Visitor Services Team Leader maintains a document with the current dates that roads open and close.

#### 3.1.2. Restricted access roads

At present, there are a number of gated access roads in the park. They are maintained by Parks Canada for park management and utility line access purposes only. Public non-motorized access is allowed year-round.

- Brule picnic area old railroad bed (access to Athabasca River boat launch at Brule picnic area and utility corridors).
- Devona road to Canadian National Railroad (CNR) Devona Siding (access to CNR, utility corridors, Devona Cabin and Jasper House National Historic Site).

- Wynd (Caledonia) road (CNR access).
- Cabin Lake road (access to Cabin Lake dam).
- Geikie Siding road (CNR and utility access; trailhead for Dorothy-Christine and Elysium Pass trails).
- Decoigne Station west to Miette River crossing and east to gravel pit east of the old Golden-Cutt trailhead (access to utility corridors).
- Sunwapta station explosive storage (Parks Canada staff access).
- Bald Hills Lookout road (the first 300 m is required as a road to service the water storage system).
- Old Icefields Parkway between Parker Ridge and Nigel Creek via Camp Parker (in Banff National Park but managed by Jasper National Park staff).

### 3.1.3. Former roads

The following former road surfaces are managed as trails:

- Signal Mountain fire road.
- Pyramid Mountain road.
- The Palisade Lookout.
- Snake Indian Bridge to Snake Indian Falls and Celestine Lake/Devona Lookout.
- Beaver Lake road.

### 3.1.4. Abandoned roads

The following old road/trail is no longer maintained due to whitebark pine growing on the abandoned road surface:

- Geraldine Lookout past the Geraldine Lake trailhead.

## 3.2. Trailhead kiosks

All trailheads have a trailhead kiosk with trail and general safety information, and room for warning and closure notices. The notice boards are **not** meant for general advertisements. Any notices placed in the kiosks are the responsibility of the park function who placed them. Notices must be removed promptly when they expire.

Content on the main trailhead panel is different for day-use and backcountry trails. The *Jasper National Park Trailhead Kiosk Matrix* lists all trailhead kiosks in the park and their content types.

Content in the trailhead kiosks contain the following five elements as per national guidelines:

- Trail name and Parks Canada identifier.
- Orientation map.
- Trail attributes.
- Visitor safety information.
- Space for temporary messages.

Some trailheads may contain an interpretive message if space allows.

Visitor Experience is responsible for permanent signage in the trailhead kiosks.

### 3.3. River access

Parks Canada and the commercial rafting companies maintain several access points to rivers in the park. Table 1 lists the current official river access points. Private users can enter gated access points on foot to launch small watercraft, but they are not able to get a key from Parks Canada to open the gate.

The access point in the Middle Maligne River is not listed since that section of the river is closed to all use. For a list of docks on lakes refer to Section 3.4 below.

**Table 1 List of current river access points in the park**

River	Access point	Privy	Picnic	Motorized access	Foot access	Gated	Commercial rafting <sup>1</sup>
Athabasca	Hwy 93A below Athabasca Falls	✓			✓	✓	✓
Athabasca	Hwy 93 across from Meeting of the Waters			✓			✓
Athabasca	Wabasso	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Athabasca	Five Mile bridge	✓		✓			✓
Athabasca	Old Fort Point	✓		✓			✓
Athabasca	Sixth Bridge				✓	✓	
Athabasca	Twelve Mile bridge			✓			
Athabasca	Brule tunnel				✓	✓	
Sunwapta	Upper access	✓			✓	✓	✓
Sunwapta	Sunwapta Falls	✓			✓	✓	✓
Whirlpool	Beside Moab Lake corral (unmaintained route only)				✓		
Whirlpool	Whirlpool group campground	✓			✓	✓	
Whirlpool	Meeting of the Waters	✓	✓	✓			

### 3.4. Lake docks and ramps

Parks Canada currently maintains access docks or ramps on the lakes listed below.

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<sup>1</sup> These access points are used and maintained by commercial rafting companies. Do not block access.

- All docks are open to the public unless noted otherwise. The ramps are only for storage of commercial rental boats, not for private storage.
- Users are **prohibited**<sup>2</sup> to store watercraft overnight on ramps or docks, or anywhere along lakes or rivers.
- Except for boats authorised by Parks Canada and owned by the operators of backcountry lodges near Amethyst Lake and for park management purposes, boats will not be moored or stored on bodies of water in the backcountry. Parks Canada staff will consider boats left unattended in the backcountry abandoned and subject to seizure/removal.
- Commercial boat rental companies have permission from Parks Canada to store rowboats and canoes at several lakes in the park.

Lake	Dock type	Comments
Pyramid Lake (at Pyramid Lake Resort)	Floating dock and	Maintained by Pyramid Lake Resort for their guests.
Pyramid Lake (near Pyramid Lake Resort)	Ramp	Public use. PCA maintained
Pyramid Lake (by 3rd beach)	Beach	Vehicle access to beach. Public use. PCA maintained.
Lake Annette	Floating dock	Public use. PCA maintained.
Lake Edith	Floating dock	Public use. PCA maintained.
Lake Edith (back of lake)	Beach	Vehicle access to beach. Public use. No currently maintained and no privy
Fifth Lake	Floating dock	Public use. PCA maintained.
Leech Lake	Floating dock	Public use. PCA maintained.
Maligne Lake (Bald Hills parking lot)	Two floating docks	Boat launch. Public use. PCA maintained.
Maligne Lake (warden station)	Floating dock	Closed to public use; for use by Parks Staff only. PCA maintained.
Maligne Lake (boat house)	Floating dock	Maligne Tours (MLT) rental canoes for their clients and maintained by MLT.
Maligne Lake (by restaurant)	Floating dock	Maligne Tours dock for their clients and maintained by MLT.
Maligne Lake – Hidden Cove	Floating dock	Access to campground. Maintained by PCA
Maligne Lake – Fisherman's Bay	Floating dock	Access to campground. Maintained by PCA

<sup>2</sup> Under the General Regulations in the *Canada National Parks Act* – Section 24(2), no person shall moor a watercraft at a wharf or other location designated pursuant to subsection (1) without a mooring permit issued by the superintendent or obtained in the manner described in subsection 5(7).

Maligne Lake – Coronet Creek	Floating dock	Access to campground. Maintained by PCA.
Maligne Lake – Spirit Island	Floating dock	Access to Spirit Island, maintained by Maligne Tours.
Patricia Lake	Ramp	Storage for rental boats only. Maintained by PCA.
Pyramid Lake (past Pyramid island)	Ramp	Storage for rental boats only. Maintained by PCA.
Cabin Lake	Ramp	Storage for rental boats only. Maintained by PCA.
Moab Lake	Ramp	Storage for rental boats only. Maintained by PCA.
Beaver Lake	Ramp	Storage for rental boats only. Maintained by PCA.
Talbot Lake	Ramp	Storage for rental boats only. Maintained by PCA.
Amethyst Lake (Tonquin Valley Adventures)	Ramp and dock	Ramp for storage of boats owned/maintained by Tonquin Valley Adventures only. Dock accessible with permission from lodge owners.
Amethyst Lake (Tonquin Valley Backcountry Lodge)	Ramp	Storage for boats owned/maintained by Tonquin Valley Backcountry Lodge only.

### 3.5. Warnings and closures

#### 3.5.1. Warnings

Warning signs may be posted in areas where a potential hazard exists to backcountry visitors or park resources. Warnings do not constitute a legal closure. Areas posted with warning signs will be monitored by Resource Conservation or Visitor Safety staff and when the hazard no longer exists, the signs will be removed by the function that installed them.

Resource Conservation/Visitor Safety staff are responsible for implementing all area warnings. Warning notices will be posted at Information Centres, the immediate area to which the warning applies and at trailhead kiosks.

#### 3.5.2. Closures

Area closures will be implemented by the Superintendent when there is potential danger to park resources or backcountry visitors. Examples are dangerous wildlife, wildlife conservation, fire, flooding, etc.

Authority for area closures in the backcountry is contained in the *Canada National Parks General Regulations*, Section 36(1). Areas can *only* be legally closed through a signed and dated Superintendent's order. Closures that are not backed up by a current Superintendent's order cannot be legally enforced.

Signed and dated orders must be posted at Information Centres, the immediate closure area periphery and at trailhead kiosks of trails leading into the area closure. Resource Conservation staff are responsible for implementing and removing all area closures.

Guidelines contained in documents such as the *Jasper National Park Bear Management Plan* and the *Jasper National Park Preliminary Fire Plan* will be followed in the case of closures under those applications. For programs that require closures aimed at maintaining or improving ecological integrity, specific management plans will be developed outlining area closures.

The *Jasper Field Unit protocol to address visitor safety issues on trails* describes under what circumstances individual trails are closed.

### 3.5.3. Prohibitions

Prohibitions, such as the prohibition of dogs in caribou habitat or the use of bicycles on trails, are issued under Section 7(1) of the *National Parks General Regulations*. Like area closures, they need to be backed up by a signed and dated Superintendent's order. However, notices only need to be posted at Information Centres, warden stations and on the website. They do **not** need to be posted at trailhead kiosks of trails leading into the area to which the prohibition applies. Visitor-friendly wording suffices at those locations. Resource Conservation staff are responsible for implementing and removing all prohibition notices.

## 4. Backcountry facilities

### 4.1. Trails and trail structures

Trails and trail structures are maintained in accordance with the national *Trail Principles* and the national *Trail Standards* currently being developed. Refer to the *Jasper National Park Trail Maintenance Priority Matrix* for a list of official trails and operational trails that commercial horse groups are allowed to use.

#### 4.1.1. Maintenance priorities

Priority for trail maintenance is based on use and location. The tables below describe the five different levels of maintenance priority for each type of trail. These priorities are in line with the maintenance priority for our backcountry campgrounds. Maintenance levels for trails are listed in the *Jasper National Park Trail Maintenance Priority Matrix*, for backcountry campgrounds in the *Jasper National Park Campground Inventory*.



#### 4.1.1.1. Day use trails

Priority levels		Description
1	Highest	Main trunk trails, heavily used trails or trails that take visitors to major attraction. Closure has major impact on many visitors. Sweep <sup>3</sup> every spring, possibly once more during summer. Maintain/repair immediately when issues are reported. <i>Other trail work stops when something happens on these trails.</i> Examples: Pyramid Island, Athabasca Falls, Path of the Glacier, Toe of the Glacier.
2	High	Medium-high use trails. Closure has some impact on moderate number of visitors. Sweep every spring. Perform minor maintenance (e.g. fallen trees) within days. Perform major repairs as soon as possible when needed. Examples: Valley of the Five Lakes, Three Valley Confluence connector trails, Sunwapta Falls.
3	Medium	Sweep every spring. Closure has some impact on lower number of visitors. For minor maintenance (eg clearing fallen trees) attempt to fix in 1-2 weeks. When major maintenance/repair is required, create plan for repairs in same season. Examples: Dorothy-Christine, majority of Pyramid Bench trails.
4	Low	Not swept or cleared regularly. Attempt to maintain/repair in same season if possible. Example Palisades Lookout, Signal Mt. Lookout.
5	Lowest	Only maintained if resources allow. Trail may not be maintained for several years. Or maintained by others, such as Wildland trails.

#### 4.1.1.2. Overnight trails

Priority levels		Description
1	Highest	Main overnight trails and access trails to introductory campgrounds. Closure has major impact on many overnight users, and it results in many permits having to be rebooked. Sweep <sup>4</sup> every spring, possibly once more during summer. Check all campgrounds, food lockers and toilets during sweep. Maintain/repair major issues such critical bridges and campground issues as soon as possible when needed. Change toilet barrels or dig new privies immediately when reported full. Examples: Skyline, Tonquin, Maligne Lake, Brazeau.
2	High	Medium-high use overnight trails. Some are also popular day-use trails. Closure has some impact on moderate number of backcountry users, and in some cases, moderate number of day users too. Sweep every spring. Perform minor maintenance (e.g., fallen trees) within 1-2 weeks. Change toilet barrels or dig new privies within a week when reported full. Perform major repairs during the same summer when needed. Examples: Big Bend, Jacques Lake, Fryatt.

<sup>3</sup> Sweeping means check for and clear deadfall, and record any safety concerns and issues requiring maintenance or repairs.

<sup>4</sup> Sweeping means check for and clear deadfall, and record any safety concerns and issues requiring maintenance or repairs.

3	Medium	Closure impacts moderate number of visitors, but impact is relatively large due to length of trip/trail. For minor maintenance (eg clearing fallen trees) attempt to fix in 2-3 weeks. Change toilet barrels or dig new privies in 1-2 weeks when reported full. When major maintenance/repair is required, create plan for repairs in same season. Examples: Poboktan trail, Fiddle River from Utopia Pass to Utopia campground.
4	Low	Not swept or cleared regularly. Change toilet barrels or dig new privies within 2-3 weeks when reported full. Attempt to maintain/repair issues in same season if possible. Example, Geraldine past first Lake, Fiddle River past Utopia.
5	Lowest	Only maintained if resources allow. Trail may not be maintained for several years. E.g., North and South Boundary, Athabasca Pass after Whirlpool Campground.

#### 4.1.1.3. Winter trails

Priority levels		Description
1	Highest	Main ski hubs. Closure impacts high number of winter users. Sweep in fall before first snow for deadfall and shrubs growing on trail. Remove any deadfall immediately. Examples: Whirlpool Winter Hub.
2	High	Medium-high use trails. Closure has some impact on moderate number of winter users. Sweep in fall before first snow. Perform minor maintenance (e.g., fallen trees) within days. Perform major repairs as soon as possible when needed. Examples: Three Valley Confluence Connector trails, Pyramid Fire Road.
3	Medium	Sweep in fall before first snow. Remove any deadfall and growth on trails. Remove deadfall within a week if reported. Example: Summit Lakes.
4	Low	Not swept or cleared regularly. Attempt to maintain/repair major issues in same season if possible. Examples: Trapper Creek trail, Big Bend, Bald Hills.
5	Lowest	Only maintained if resources allow. Trail may not be maintained for several years.

#### 4.1.1.4. Backcountry bridges

Priority levels		Description
1	Critical	Critical bridges on heavily used backcountry trails, or take visitor to major attraction. Bridge closure shuts off access to the rest of the trail and has major impact on many backcountry users, which would need to be rebooked onto other trails. Sweep every spring. Maintain/repair immediately when needed. Examples: Brazeau Lake and Brazeau River bridge on Brazeau loop. Sunwapta Falls bridge.

2	High	Medium-high use bridge. Closure will cut off access during periods of high water, esp. for hikers. It has some impact on moderate number of visitors. Sweep every spring. Perform major repairs as soon as possible when needed. Examples: Cavell Lake and Circus Creek.
3	Medium	Bridge is important for hikers, but there may be a reroute available, or the trail is very low use. E.g., Mural Creek, Wates-Gibson trail bridge.
4	Low	Bridge may be important to hikers, but since the trail is very low use, it may not be replaced immediately, if at all. Examples: Chown Creek, Southesk River.
5	Lowest	Bridge may not be replaced if it goes out. Currently: Blue Creek, Gendarme, Carcajou Creeks on North Boundary Trail.

#### 4.1.1.5. Backcountry campgrounds

Priority for backcountry campground maintenance is based on use and location. Generally, all campgrounds along a trail have a similar level of maintenance. These priorities are in line with the maintenance priorities for backcountry trails. See the *Jasper National Park Backcountry Campground Inventory* for details.

Priority level		Annual user nights	Description
1	Highest	>800	Main backcountry campgrounds. <b>Closure has major impact on many overnight users, and it results in</b> many permits having to be rebooked. Damage to campground can lead to safety issues (e.g., food storage, eating areas, fire rings) and to high levels of illegal camping in the area, possibly resulting in major environmental degradation. Sweep <sup>5</sup> every spring, ideally once more during summer. Check cleanliness of lockers and capacity of toilets during sweep. <b>Maintain/repair major issues as soon as possible</b> when needed. <b>Change toilet barrels or dig new privies immediately when reported full.</b> <i>Examples:</i> Snowbowl, Tekarra, Maligne Lake campgrounds, Amethyst, Brazeau Lake, Four Point.
2	High	500-800	Medium to high use backcountry campgrounds. Closure has clear impact on moderate number of backcountry users. Damage to campground may lead to safety issues (e.g., food storage, eating areas, fire rings) and/or some illegal camping in the area, resulting in some environmental degradation. Sweep every spring. Perform <b>minor maintenance (e.g., fallen trees) within 1-2 weeks.</b> <b>Change toilet barrels or dig new privies as soon as possible when reported full.</b> Perform <b>major repairs during the same summer</b> when needed. <i>Examples:</i> Jacques Lake, Brussels, Boulder Creek, Utopia.

<sup>5</sup> Sweeping means check for and clear deadfall and hazardous trees; record any safety concerns and issues requiring maintenance or repairs.

3	Medium	100-500	Closure impacts moderate number of visitors, but impact is relatively large due to length of trip/trail. Sweep every spring/early summer. For <b>minor maintenance (e.g., clearing fallen trees) attempt to fix in 2-3 weeks</b> . Change toilet barrels or dig new privies within 1 week when reported full. When major maintenance/repair is required, create plan for repairs in same season. <i>Examples:</i> Poboktan, Waterfalls, Geraldine Lake.
4	Low	< 200, remote trail	Not swept or cleared regularly. Change toilet barrels or dig new privies within 2-3 weeks when reported full. Attempt to maintain/repair issues in same season if possible. <i>Examples:</i> Whitehorse, Slide Creek.
5	Lowest	<100, remote trail	Only maintained if resources allow. Campgrounds may not be maintained for several years. <i>Examples:</i> North and South Boundary campgrounds, Athabasca Pass campgrounds past Whirlpool Campground.

## 4.2. Signage

On-trail signage will be provided in accordance to the *National Trail Standards* and the wilderness character of the area. See the separate *Jasper National Park Trail and Backcountry Sign Design Guidelines* document for further details.

- Rock cairns can be used in combination with signage in alpine areas only.
- Rock cairns (*Inuksuks*) for decorative purposes are **prohibited** in the park.
- Marker paint may be used by Trail Crew to mark routes or trails in rocky areas.
- Flagging tape is not permitted for the permanent marking of trails. For temporary flagging of reroutes, trail projects, etc. **only bio-degradable flagging tape** should be used.

## 4.3. Park boundary markers

Park boundaries are marked with yellow and black signs where trails or routes cross the boundary. In some areas, the boundary is marked with a 4 m-wide cutline. They must follow the surveyed boundary to be legal. Signs must meet national standards. *Note:* The National Brand team has suggested using green and white for new boundary markers. Markers are yellow in the Mountain Parks to improve visibility.

In alpine areas there are boundary signs on metal posts that mark the official boundary line along the height of land. These are generally areas where trophy hunting takes place. Therefore, in those areas it is essential that signs delineate the park boundary not only at trail junctions, but along the surrounding boundary line. They require periodic checking and maintenance.

Marked alpine areas include:

- North Boundary: Babala Basin, Korlei Pass, Side Pass, Vega area, Hardscrabble Pass, Bess Pass.
- Miette (Centre) Pass, Grant Pass, Colonel Pass, Moose Pass.
- Fiddle area: Fiddle Pass, High Pass, Low Pass.
- South Boundary area: Rocky Pass.

## 5. Backcountry camping and accommodation

### 5.1. Backcountry campgrounds

#### 5.1.1. Levels of service at backcountry campgrounds

Jasper National Park offers three levels of designated backcountry campgrounds: *introductory*, *rustic*, and *remote*.

- *Introductory campgrounds* are aimed at beginners, have the most facilities and are easily accessible from the trailhead. Examples: Hidden Cove, Whirlpool.
- *Rustic campgrounds* are the average backcountry campground with basic facilities. Examples: Skyline, Tonquin campgrounds.
- *Remote campgrounds* have very few or no facilities and are geared towards expert campers. Examples: North Boundary campgrounds.

Within each level of service for the purpose of campground design and maintenance priorities there are two types of locations for backcountry campgrounds:

- *Destination campgrounds* are located in scenic locations which offer natural attractions that encourage for visitors to linger for a day or two.
- *Stop-over campgrounds* are generally only used for stop-overs on longer trails that lead to scenic destinations.

Two additional types of campgrounds are briefly mentioned below:

- *Unmaintained campgrounds*. These areas are no longer maintained, but some facilities may still be present. Examples: Maligne Pass campgrounds.
- *Decommissioned campgrounds*. All facilities have been removed and the area has been returned to a natural state. Examples: Merlin Pass campgrounds.

Each type of campground is described in detail in the *Backcountry Campground Classification for Jasper National Park*.

Facility standards for each type of campground are described in the *Jasper National Park Backcountry Campground Design Guidelines*.

The *Jasper National Park Backcountry Campground Inventory* contains a complete list of backcountry campgrounds, their service levels and facilities.

#### 5.1.1.1. Introductory campgrounds

These are *destination campgrounds* that are aimed at a wide variety of users, including novices and families. They are easy to reach and offer a wide range of well-maintained facilities.

##### **Access trail**

- Campground is less than 10 km from trailhead, preferably less than 6 km.
- Type 1 or 2 trail, or well-maintained Type 3 trail.<sup>6</sup>
- Trail is easy or moderate.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Trail types and difficulties are described in the national [Trail Classification](#).

<sup>7</sup> Backcountry campground types including facility standards are described in the *Backcountry Campground Classification for Jasper National Park*, located in: [G:\Common\Backcountry](#)

- Excellent sightlines along the entire trail.
- All water crossings are bridged.
- No obstacles; hazards are well-marked.
- Well-marked with frequent confidence and distance markers. Directions are clearly indicated at all trail junctions.
- If along a biking trail, trail width and quality is generally appropriate for a bike trailer.

#### **Campground facilities**

- Food lockers to store food.
- Picnic tables.
- If fires are allowed, generally one fire pit per campground (currently most campgrounds have more than one); or stove in shelter (Hidden Cove). Benches are provided around firepit.
- May have a grey water drain.
- Toilets are barrel type or green throne.
- Tent pads for all tents, well-defined and well-drained.
- Water source nearby.
- All facilities are fully signed. Area attractions are explained on welcome or interpretive signage.
- A shelter may be present.
- If accessed by water, a dock is present.

#### **Location**

- Scenic location.
- Natural attractions nearby, such as a river, lake or short walks.

##### **5.1.1.2. *Rustic campgrounds***

These are campgrounds that are aimed at users with some backcountry experience who want to venture further from the trailhead. The trails are maintained but may contain obstacles. Facilities are simple but well-maintained. They can be destination or stop-over campgrounds.

#### **Access trail**

- Campground is generally less than 15 km from the trailhead or the next campground.
- Type 3 trail; parts can be Type 1 or 2.
- Trail may be difficult.
- Good sightlines along most of the trail.
- All major water crossings are bridged. Small creeks may not always be bridged.
- No major obstacles; major hazards are marked.
- Marked occasionally with confidence markers, especially in potentially confusing locations. Distances and directions are marked at trail junctions.
- Biking trails are generally not suitable for a bike trailer.

#### **Campground facilities**

- Bear-proof food lockers or food storage poles with an individual cable for each tent pad.
- Picnic tables.
- One fire pit per campground where fires are allowed. May have benches around fire pit.

- May have a grey water drain.
- Toilets are barrel type or green throne.
- Tent pads for all tents, well-defined and well-drained.
- Water source nearby.
- All facilities are fully signed.
- In some locations there may be a kitchen shelter, but they are the exception.
- If situated on a lake, there generally is no dock, unless the campground is accessible by water only.

#### **Location**

- Generally, but not necessarily, at a scenic location.
- Destination campgrounds may feature natural attractions nearby; some campgrounds are aimed at stop-overs only.

##### **5.1.1.3. Remote campgrounds**

These are simple campgrounds aimed at advanced users with extensive backcountry experience. They are located on remote trails where users are expected to have a high degree of self-reliance. The trails may not be maintained, and obstacles are common. Facilities are not maintained regularly. Many of these are *stop-over campgrounds*, but some are *destination campgrounds*.

#### **Access trail**

- Type 3 trail or Type 4 unmaintained route.
- Trails are generally difficult to very difficult.
- Sightlines are generally not cleared.
- Only critical water crossings may be bridged. The access trail may be impassable during periods of high water.
- Major obstacles can be encountered; hazards are not marked.
- No confidence markers. Distances and directions are not always marked at trail junctions.
- Trails may be open to bikes, but may be unsuitable for all but the most experienced riders.

#### **Campground facilities**

- May have single pole or cable between two trees for food storage; user to bring own rope to hang food. Presence of bear-proof food storage is not guaranteed. Users are responsible to store food safely.
- No picnic tables.
- One fire pit, only where fires are allowed.
- Toilets currently generally consist of a bar over an open hole. Since the toilet may not be maintained, users are responsible to manage their own waste using Leave No Trace principles.
- No tent pads; a general, unmaintained tenting area only.
- Water source may be dry.
- Facilities may not be signed.
- No additional infrastructure.

## **Location**

- Sometimes at a scenic location.
- Destination campgrounds may feature natural attractions nearby; many campgrounds are aimed at stop-overs only.

### **5.1.1.4. Horse campgrounds**

Horse campgrounds in Jasper National Park generally fall into the rustic or remote category, but have some extra facilities aimed at horse use. These campgrounds are aimed at horse users with previous backcountry experience.

The access trails are maintained, but may contain obstacles; users may have to clear deadfall. All campgrounds have grazing areas nearby, but graze may be limited. They can generally be used by either private or commercial horse groups.

In some cases, hikers may use low-use horse campgrounds. For example, McCready Horse Camp has been approved for Great Divide Trail hikers. This frees space at more popular campgrounds like Jonas Cut-off.

**Note:** In the current Parks Canada Reservation Service there is no way to limit or verify maximum annual horse nights. Since there currently is not a lot of horse use in the park, this is unlikely to be an issue.

## **Access trail**

- Campground is generally less than 25 km from the trailhead or next campground.
- Trails are generally Type 3 or 4.
- Trail may be difficult or very difficult.
- Sightlines may not have been cleared. On Type 4 trails there may be obstacles to saddle boxes.
- Critical water crossings are bridged for horse use. Horses generally need to ford smaller rivers and creeks. Fords may be impassable during periods of high water.
- Major obstacles to horses can be encountered; hazards are not always marked. Horse users may have to clear extensive deadfall.

## **Campground facilities**

- Generally, no bear-proof food storage.
- Generally, one or more picnic tables.
- One fire pit per campground where fires are allowed. Benches around fire pit.
- No grey water drain.
- Toilets are generally a green throne.
- No tent pads, only an open tenting area.
- Generally, there are tent poles stored in the campground.
- Water source nearby.
- Generally, hitching rail.
- Many campgrounds have a corral, but users should be prepared to carry out maintenance. Users are responsible to check its integrity before releasing horses in a corral.



- There will be a grazing area nearby, but it may have grown over with shrubs. Grazing meadows are not generally maintained.
- Basic signage only.
- Commercial horse groups may have created additional infrastructure to improve comfort.

#### **Location**

- Generally, but not necessarily, at a scenic location.
- Destination campgrounds may feature natural attractions nearby; some campgrounds are aimed at stop-overs only.

##### *5.1.1.5. Unmaintained campgrounds*

In addition to official backcountry campgrounds, there are a number of unmaintained campgrounds in Jasper. These old campgrounds are no longer maintained or included on official maps. Some facilities may still be present, but cannot be counted on. Advanced users with extensive backcountry experience can continue to use these areas, but users are expected to be completely self-reliant. Infrastructure is **not** maintained and may be removed at any time. They are generally located along remote trails or unmaintained routes. Random camping guidelines apply. See the backcountry campground inventory for a list of unmaintained campgrounds.

#### **Campground facilities**

- Bear-proof food storage is generally no longer functional. Users are responsible to store food safely.
- If there are picnic tables, they may be broken or unsafe.
- If a fire pit is present, it is to be used only if fires are allowed in the area, and if the box is undamaged.
- Generally, no toilets; users are responsible to manage their own waste.
- No tent pads; there may be a general, unmaintained tenting area only.
- Water source may be dry or non-existent; users are responsible to find their own water.
- Facilities are not signed. Only remnants of old signage may remain.
- No additional infrastructure.

##### *5.1.1.6. Decommissioned campgrounds*

Parks Canada has decommissioned several campgrounds by removing all infrastructure. Some of these are in burnt areas, and are no longer suitable for camping. Although these campgrounds may appear on old maps or in old guides, they are not easily found. Random camping is permitted in the area, provided users follow random camping guidelines. Fires are **prohibited** at decommissioned campgrounds. See the *Backcountry Campground Inventory* for a list of decommissioned campgrounds.

##### *5.1.1.7. Seasonal openings*

Due to the chance of snow or high water, some campgrounds will not be opened for booking until later in the summer. The trails are not officially closed, so that properly prepared visitors can travel through these areas at any time of the year. Visitors need to contact the Jasper

Information Centre to make a booking. The Information Centre Team Leader maintains a list of current backcountry campground opening and closing dates.

#### 5.1.2. Party size and length of stay

In general, the maximum group size in backcountry campgrounds is **10 people** on up to **5 tent pads**, (or the maximum number of sites in a campground, whichever is smaller). All backcountry campgrounds only allow **one** tent per tent pad. Maximum length of stay is **3 nights** in most campgrounds, but **2 nights** in the busiest ones.

For horse camps, the maximum group size is **10 riders** with a limit of **20 horses**. Maximum length of stay in horse camps is **3 nights** in most campgrounds, but 2 nights in those where graze is limited, and 1 night where graze is very limited. Commercial horse groups are allowed 20 riders and 38 horses. Party sizes and permitted lengths of stay are detailed in Table 2.

Random camping areas have quotas on the maximum number of random campers and bivvies' allowed in each area at one time.

**Table 2 Party size and length of stay at backcountry campgrounds**

<b>Party size, hikers and bikers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Designated campgrounds:</i> Maximum <b>10 persons</b> and <b>5 tents</b>/hiking group. <b>One</b> tent per campsite, four people per tent. Exception: two single-person tents are permitted on one site, as they will fit on one pad. More than two single tents will not fit. See Section 7.1 below for details on oversized custodial groups.</li> <li>• <i>Unmaintained campgrounds and random camping:</i> maximum <b>6 persons</b> and <b>3 tents</b>/group. Exceptions: Superintendent's permission.</li> <li>• <i>Commercial groups:</i> Maximum <b>10 persons</b> and <b>5 tents</b>/hiking group, but a maximum of <b>4 tent pads</b> will be allowed on all high use backcountry trails/campgrounds. This includes the Skyline Trail, Brazeau Loop, Jacques Lake Campground and Campgrounds in the Tonquin Valley.</li> </ul>
<b>Length of stay, hikers and bikers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Designated campgrounds:</i> No more than 3 consecutive nights per campground. A 2-night maximum for Jonas Cutoff, Tekarra, Curator, Snowbowl, Surprise Point, Four Point, Hidden Cove, Coronet Creek, Fisherman's Bay and Whirlpool. Exceptions: Superintendent's permission, backcountry lodges, alpine huts.</li> <li>• <i>Unmaintained campgrounds and random camping:</i> Maximum length of stay is <b>two</b> nights at each location.</li> </ul>
<b>Party size, horse parties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Designated horse campgrounds:</i> Private horse parties are allowed 10 people and 20 horses. Commercial horse parties are allowed 20 people and 38 horses. The number of people for commercial parties includes the guides and other staff.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Unmaintained horse campgrounds:</i> Private horse parties will be allowed 10 riders and 20 horses.</li> <li>• Commercial horse parties camping at certain unmaintained campgrounds (with prior permission) are allowed 20 people and 38 horses. The number of people for commercial parties includes the guides and other staff.</li> <li>• <i>Random camping:</i> both commercial and private horse parties are restricted to 3 persons and maximum 6 horses.</li> </ul>
<b>Length of stay and quotas, horse parties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Designated horse campgrounds:</i> Length of stay is <b>three</b> nights. The maximum length of stay for horse parties at McCready campground is limited to <b>two</b> nights.</li> <li>• <i>Unmaintained horse campgrounds and random camping:</i> The length of stay is <b>two</b> nights at each location.</li> <li>• <i>Monthly quota/campground:</i> <b>80 horse-nights</b>. This represents four 4 private groups with a full complement of 20 horses, or 2 commercial groups with a full complement of 38 horses per month. The exception is <b>Willow Creek</b>, where the monthly quota is <b>160 horse nights</b>, due to its higher use. At <b>unmaintained and random camping areas</b>, the monthly quota is also <b>80 horse-nights</b>.</li> </ul>

### 5.1.3. Food storage

Campers are responsible to store food in a way that it is not a wildlife attractant. Campers must use the provided bear-proof food storage facilities (bear poles or lockers) in backcountry campgrounds, or carry wildlife-proof containers.

Section 9 and 10 of the Parks Canada Camping Regulations apply:

***9** The holder of a camping permit shall, at all times, maintain the campsite to which the permit applies in a condition satisfactory to the superintendent.*

***10(c)** leave any food, equipment or personal effects in a kitchen shelter or on a picnic table, grill, stove, barbecue or fireplace provided by the superintendent for public use in a Park, except during such reasonable period as such facilities are required for the purpose of preparing and consuming a meal or for cleaning up immediately thereafter.*

Wildlife-safe storage of food, garbage and dishes is also a condition of the backcountry permit.

#### 5.1.3.1. Food lockers

Introductory and most rustic campgrounds have food lockers:

- There is one compartment for each site.
- Coronet Creek and Fisherman's Bay have four 2-door lockers, one locker per two sites. There are no dividers in between the doors, so users must cooperate. Dimensions of each locker compartments are approx. 60 cm wide x 94cm depth x 104 cm high. They will fit most coolers or food containers, but two stacked coolers won't fit.
- Hidden Cove has four lockers, each 100 x 100 x 150 cm.

- Compartments of lockers at all other campgrounds are approx. 55 cm wide x 58 cm deep x 48 cm high. They are **not** big enough to fit an entire backpack. Campers should bring a bag to store food inside the locker.
- Lockers cannot be locked.
- Campers must clean their locker before departure, as they are **not** checked or cleaned regularly by staff.



Figure 1 Backcountry food locker



Figure 2 Coronet/Fisherman's



Figure 3 Hidden Cove

#### 5.1.3.2. Bear poles (with individual cables)

All bear poles with individual cables will be removed in the coming years and replaced with food lockers. Campgrounds with these bear poles are listed in the *Backcountry Campground Inventory*. Until the last of these bear poles are exchanged:

- Campers should bring a carabiner, which makes it easier to clip a food bag to the provided hooks.
- Campers should bring a waterproof bag to store food, garbage and utensils. Cables and hooks **cannot** support the weight of an entire backpack. Max weight for individual cables is 10 kg.
- After removing bags from the cables, always re-clip the cable to the provided hooks. Otherwise, wildlife may get entangled in the cables.
- Campers should carry a rope, at least 15 m long, which can be used in case cables/hooks are broken. See below.



Figure 4 Bear pole with cables

#### 5.1.3.3. Bear poles (no individual cables)

Most remote campgrounds are equipped with simple bear poles (see *Backcountry Campground Inventory*). These consist of either a wooden pole or a steel cable between two trees.

- Campers **must carry** a rope, at least 15 m long, to throw over the pole/cable.
- Food bags must be hung at least 1.3 m from the trees and 1.3 m below the pole above.
- *Tip:* wrap the rope above the food bag tightly with some aluminium foil or thread the rope through a tent pole repair sleeve. This will keep mice and squirrels from climbing down to the food bag.
- Campers planning to stay at several remote (and/or unmaintained) campgrounds on their trip may want to carry an Ursack bear-resistant bag (<https://ursack.com/>). This allows them to safely store their food should the bear pole be broken.



Figure 5 Bear pole without cables

#### 5.1.3.4. Bear-proof food containers

It is mandatory to use bear-proof storage methods for food and garbage at all campsites. In unmaintained campgrounds, it is unlikely that food storage is provided. In many random camping locations in Jasper National Park trees are not tall enough to provide sufficiently bear-proof food storage. Where trees are tall enough, it is often difficult to hang food far enough from the ground and far enough from tree trunks to be a reliable deterrent to bears and other wildlife. Therefore, **bear-proof food containers are strongly recommended for random camping and for camping in unmaintained campgrounds** in Jasper National Park.

**Only** bear-proof containers tested and approved by the US Inter-agency grizzly bear committee (IGBC) are approved for use in Jasper National Park. Visit <http://igbconline.org/certified-products-list/> for an up-to-date list.

- Bear canisters should be hung above ground when camping below treeline. Bring a rope.
- All food should be stored at least 100 m from tents.
- All garbage must be stored securely to avoid access by animals, and packed out.

#### 5.1.3.5. Food drops

Food drops intended for re-supply for extended trips should be hung from food storage poles at the nearest designated campground with poles or cabled food storage.

- Food drops **cannot be stored** in food lockers.
- Food **must** be stored in bear-proof containers.
- A detailed note should be left in the food bag and should state the party's name, contact information, route, trip dates and when they intend to retrieve the items.
- Food cannot be dropped from an airplane or helicopter. Landing of helicopters to drop food is **prohibited**.
- The Jasper Information Centre **must be notified** of these details as part of the trip itinerary, which will be added to the backcountry permit.

#### 5.1.4. Drinking water

There will be a source of drinking water near all designated backcountry campgrounds. Surface waters are generally of excellent quality, but harmful bacteria or parasites can exist in untreated water. *Giardia lamblia*, a waterborne parasite which causes gastrointestinal distress, may be present in mountain streams and rivers. Visitor must:

- Boil or filter all drinking water.
- Practice good sanitation. Use pit privies or dig a hole at least 100 m from any water source.

#### 5.1.5. Grey water

Backcountry campgrounds generally do not have a specific site to dispose grey water. Visitors must carry water 70 m away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Strain food particles from dishwater and store with garbage. Disperse strained water on land at least 50 metres downwind from your campground.

#### 5.1.6. Picnic tables and benches

Introductory and rustic campgrounds are equipped with one or more picnic tables. Users are expected to share tables with other users. There may still be picnic tables at some unmaintained campgrounds; however, these are no longer maintained.

Some campgrounds have simple benches around the fire pit.

#### 5.1.7. Hammocks

Hammock guidelines are available at <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/activ/passez-stay/arrierepays-backcountry/planif-plan#hammocks>.

The use of hammocks as a camping shelter is permitted with the following guidelines:

- One sleeping unit per tent pad. In other words, you can either have a tent or a hammock as a shelter, not both.
- Hammocks must be set up only in the hardened/designated tent sites within an identified campground.
- Hammocks can be used in random campgrounds below tree line.
- Hammocks must stay within the footprint of tent sites (where identified). Tree straps can extend beyond the tent site but must not cross trails or impede access of other visitors.
- Tree saver straps (1-1.5" wide straps that go around a tree to minimise and girdling effect) **must** be used with all hammocks in all areas.
- Hammocks **must not** be hung from food storage poles. They may damage the poles, or attract wildlife.
- Parks Canada cannot guarantee that there will be suitable trees to support hammock camping in all the campgrounds. It is the responsibility of the user to determine this ahead of time and abide by the above rules.
- Users must choose the trees from which they hang the hammock carefully. An old or rotten tree may fall over when a hammock is hung from it. Users are responsible for their own safety.

Hammocks are **not** permitted at the following campgrounds since trees here are small:



- Athabasca Island.
- All Skyline trail campgrounds.
- Jonas Cutoff.
- Second Geraldine Lake.
- All Tonquin Valley campgrounds.
- Big Bend.

#### 5.1.8. Privies

Designated backcountry campgrounds are equipped with a toilet. There is a variety of toilets, depending on the location.

- In the unlikely event that a toilet is full, visitors should notify the Information Centre.
- Visitors should **not throw any garbage** or food waste into any backcountry toilets.



Figure 6 Green throne

##### 5.1.8.1. Green throne

Most backcountry campgrounds are equipped with a “green throne”, a durable plastic toilet covering a pit.

##### 5.1.8.2. Barrel toilet

Campgrounds in alpine areas and on Maligne Lake are equipped with a barrel toilet system. Full barrels are taken out by helicopter, boat or snowmobile.

- All barrel toilets have been redesigned so that users no longer have to change barrels. Each barrel now has a seat, stairs and privacy screen.



Figure 7 Barrel toilet

##### 5.1.8.3. Bar toilets



Figure 8 Bar toilet

Remote campgrounds are equipped with simple bar toilets: a wooden bar between two trees over a small pit. Users must follow leave no trace practices at these campgrounds.

### 5.1.9. Fires

Designated campgrounds where fires are allowed are equipped with metal fire pits. Fires are only allowed in existing fire pits.

- Only deadfall is permitted for fires. It is illegal to cut or damage any trees for firewood.
- Gas stoves are cleaner and more efficient for cooking. They are recommended over a fire.
- Wood-burning backpacking stoves<sup>7</sup> are considered a camping stove, so they are permitted on trails where open fires are not allowed.
- If a fire pit has been damaged, it should not be used.
- Campers are **prohibited** to bring in their own fireboxes.
- Fires are **prohibited** on the Skyline (except Signal), Tonquin, Watchtower and Geraldine trails, or at Jonas Cutoff campground due to the scarcity of wood in the area.
- Fires are **prohibited** while random camping.
- Provisions for camp fires during winter are different; they are covered under winter camping.



Figure 9 Parks Canada fire pit

#### 5.1.9.1. Fire bans

Park-wide fire bans may be implemented during times of high fire danger under the authority of the *National Park Fire Protection Regulations*. During fire bans **ALL fires in the backcountry are prohibited without exception**, except fires in shelters (i.e., Hidden Cove) or backcountry lodges with spark arresters in the chimney.

## 5.2. Park Operations

Backcountry Camping Permits are not required for park staff engaged in park operations.

Park staff will observe restrictions on group size, length of stay and the use of fire that apply to the public.

Wherever possible, JNP trail/campground maintenance and construction crews will use backcountry cabins or existing campgrounds. Use of existing campgrounds by park crews may affect the quota established for the trail system or campground. Visitors will be advised by the Information Centre of the presence of crews in areas where they are hiking. Temporary camps may be established to accommodate specific work projects (i.e., construction or maintenance of a bridge).

Bookings for park operations or research to be made prior to the Parks Canada Reservation Service launch date to guarantee availability. After the reservation service launch date, availability at busy campgrounds is not guaranteed.

Research camping permits must be approved by a Level IV Manager (Resource Conservation or Visitor Experience Manager).

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<sup>7</sup> Some examples at <https://www.byways.org/wood-burning-backpacking-stoves/>



### 5.3. Random camping

Large areas of the park are managed for low use, where habitat security for large carnivores, especially grizzly bears, is maintained. There are no official campgrounds in these areas, so wilderness camping or 'random camping', is permitted. These are generally a day's travel (> 5 km) from a road or trail. Leave No Trace practises are required when travelling in these areas. Random camping is **prohibited** outside of these areas.

#### 5.3.1. Random camping areas

The area of the park where random camping is permitted has been divided into different random camping areas, each with a daily quota for the maximum number of groups allowed (Appendix 4). This allows park managers to control human use in each area separately.

#### 5.3.2. Permits

- The party leader must obtain and carry a valid Backcountry Camping Permit that includes all party members.
- Random camping permits **cannot be booked** online or through the Parks Canada Reservation Service Call Centre. They must be booked in person or by phone at the Jasper or Icefield Information Centres.
- A valid backcountry camping permit specifying approximate camp locations with UTM coordinates must be carried and presented for inspection as required.
- After booking, no refunds can be given.
- See Section 5.1.1.1 above for maximum party size and length of stay.

#### 5.3.3. Camps

- Tenting sites should be chosen to minimize vegetation damage.
- Camping locations must be situated at least 70 metres from water bodies.
- All camps must follow Leave No Trace practices. For more information visit [www.Leavenotrace.ca](http://www.Leavenotrace.ca).
- If an unmaintained campground exists (e.g. old hiker and horse campgrounds along Maligne Pass North), persons with a random camping permit may use them. Facilities may be present, but cannot be counted on. See the backcountry campground inventory for a list of unmaintained campgrounds.

#### 5.3.4. Fires

- Fires of any kind are **NOT** permitted. Backpacking stoves only.
- Wood-burning backpacking stoves<sup>8</sup> are considered a camping stove, so they are permitted.

#### 5.3.5. Food Storage

Food must be stored in a way that it is not a wildlife attractant. Wildlife-proof containers are strongly recommended. Wildlife-safe storage of food, garbage and dishes is a condition of the backcountry permit.

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<sup>8</sup> Some examples at <https://www.byways.org/wood-burning-backpacking-stoves/>

#### 5.3.6. Human waste

- Human waste should be disposed of in random locations, away from camp and at least 200 metres from any water bodies and buried.

#### 5.3.7. Huts and shelters

- To prevent the illegal use of huts and shelters, to minimize the use of firewood and the waste deposited into privies, no random camping or bivouacking is permitted within 1 km radius (or an appropriate geographic boundary) from designated campgrounds, Alpine Club huts, trail shelters, operations cabins or backcountry lodges.

### 5.4. Bivouacking

#### 5.4.1. General principles

- The party must actually intend to undertake the climb of a mountain.
- The climb must be one which reasonably requires a bivouac in order to get a safe start, or because it cannot be done in one day. Trying routes too early in the season is not an acceptable reason.
- The bivouac site must be as close to the start of the route as reasonable.
- Bivouacs are **not** intended to be used as a base camp.

Bivouacking is generally not permitted where random camping is not permitted. However, an exception is made to permit mountaineers to bivouac in the following scenarios:

- Climbers are on a long mountaineering route, and are above the vegetated alpine zone (generally above 2200 m / 7200 feet).
- Climbers are on an approach to a climb, and need a bivouac to facilitate an early/safe start to a climb.
- Emergency situations such as whiteout conditions where there is a safety concern.
- Any unusual requests that do not fit within the above criteria will be forwarded to the Resource Conservation Manager for approval. A minimum of 10 business days is required for approval.

#### 5.4.2. Permits

- A valid backcountry camping permit specifying approximate camp locations by UTM must be carried and presented for inspection as required.
- The party leader must obtain and carry a valid Backcountry Camping Permit that includes all party members.

#### 5.4.3. Party size

- Maximum group size is six persons with a maximum of three tents, except by Superintendent's special permission.

#### 5.4.4. Length of stay

- **Two night** maximum in any location. This restriction does not apply to bivouacs on the Columbia Icefield.

#### 5.4.5. Camps

- Bivouacking is only permitted in **non-vegetated** locations.
- Camping locations must be situated at least 70 metres from water bodies.
- All camps must follow Leave No Trace practices. For more information refer to the *Leave No Trace guidelines* at [www.Leavenotrace.ca](http://www.Leavenotrace.ca).
- Any rock walls must be completely dismantled before departure.
- Tent ditches or trenches are **not** allowed.
- Tents must be collapsed and all gear preferably concealed if leaving it during a climb.
- The bivouac is not intended as a base camp, *and must be removed* when the climb is completed.

#### 5.4.6. Fires

- Wood fires of any kind are **NOT** permitted. Gas stove use only.

#### 5.4.7. Food storage

Food must be stored in a way that it is not a wildlife attractant. Wildlife-proof containers are strongly recommended. Wildlife-safe storage of food, garbage and dishes is a condition of the backcountry permit.

#### 5.4.8. Human waste

- Solid human waste should be deposited in a small excavated hole, and rocks should be placed on top of human waste. Burn toilet paper.

#### 5.4.9. Huts and shelters

- To prevent the “stealth” use of huts and shelters, to minimize the use of firewood and the waste deposited into privies, no bivouacking is permitted within 1 km radius (or appropriate geographic boundary) from designated campgrounds, Alpine Club of Canada huts, trail shelters, operations cabins or backcountry lodges.

#### 5.4.10. Overnighting in vehicles

Overnighting in vehicles is permitted at the Mt. Edith Cavell parking lot in order to allow mountaineers to start their climbs early.

- All food and garbage must be stored inside the vehicle at all times.
- Leave no trace principles must be practiced.
- **Users must pay for a one-night bivouac permit** and the location must be identified on the permit.
- The permit must be displayed on the dash such that staff can verify its validity when patrolling the area at night without having to wake up the occupants.

Overnighting in vehicles is **not** permitted at the parking lot for Mt. Athabasca across from the Icefield Centre. Climbers should camp in the RV campground at the Icefield Centre, or at Icefield Tent campground.

#### 5.4.11. Routes where bivouacs are not permitted

- Athabasca north route (camp at base).
- Colin (use Colin Hut).

- Andromeda – all routes except Andromeda Strain.
- Fryatt Valley (use Fryatt Hut or Headwall campground).
- Cavell West Ridge.

## 5.5. Winter Camping

For the purposes of these guidelines, winter is defined as the period between November 1 and April 30 when there is usually sufficient snow cover for travel by ski or snowshoe.

### 5.5.1. General principles

- All winter campers will adhere to Leave No Trace Practices, [www.Leavenotrace.ca](http://www.Leavenotrace.ca).

### 5.5.2. Areas where winter camping is permitted

- Winter camping is allowed at designated or unmaintained campgrounds. Random winter camping is also allowed along trails with campgrounds.
- Winter camping is **not** permitted along day-use trails.
- Random winter camping is **not** permitted within 1 km (or an appropriate geographic boundary) of any campground, shelter, Alpine Club of Canada Hut, backcountry lodge or operations cabin.

### 5.5.3. Permits

- The party leader must obtain and carry a valid Backcountry Camping Permit that includes all party members.
- A valid backcountry camping permit specifying approximate camp locations by UTM must be carried and presented for inspection as required.
- After booking, no refunds can be given.

### 5.5.4. Party size

- For winter camping purposes the maximum group size is six persons with a maximum of three tents, except by special permission from the Superintendent.

### 5.5.5. Length of stay

- Maximum of three night's stay at any random camp or designated campsite.

### 5.5.6. Fires

- Small fires are permitted in designated campsites and random campsites EXCEPT for the Tonquin Valley, Skyline Trail, Geraldine Lakes and Jonas Cut-Off areas. In those areas, fires are not permitted in neither random camps nor at designated sites unless it is a life-threatening emergency.
- Put out your fire completely and scatter all ashes and coals. Practice leave no trace principles.
- The use of wood burning heaters is strongly discouraged.
- It is illegal to cut live trees. Campers should only use deadfall for fires.

#### 5.5.7. Human waste

- When winter camping at a designated campsite, campers **MUST** locate and use the privy or pack out all solid waste and toilet paper.
- If random camping in winter, campers **MUST** select a location at least 70 m from summer surface water and burn or pack out all toilet paper.

#### 5.6. Backcountry lodges

Commercial backcountry lodges are managed and maintained by their respective leaseholders. They manage all bookings. All lodges except Shangri La are accessible by horse.

Owners **may have** emergency communications equipment. Random camping is **prohibited** in a 1 km radius of any backcountry lodge.

#### 5.7. Alpine Club of Canada Huts

Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) Huts are managed and maintained by the Alpine Club of Canada. Bookings are done through the club. Firewood is flown in and human waste is flown out.

- The huts do **not** contain any emergency communications equipment. Random camping is **prohibited** in a 1 km radius (or appropriate geographic boundary) of any ACC Hut.
- Visit [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca) for detailed information on ACC Huts.
- Users no longer need a backcountry camping permit to stay at ACC Huts; however, users do require a visitor park pass, as do all other visitors.

##### 5.7.1. Wates-Gibson Hut

*Location:* SW corner of the Tonquin Valley, UTM 415107E, 5835479N.

*Max number of guests:* 30

*Season:* February 16 – October 31.

*Access:* Astoria and Wates-Gibson trail.

##### 5.7.2. Fryatt (Sidney Vallance) Hut

*Location:* Upper Fryatt Valley, UTM 440142E, 5817598N.

*Max number of guests:* 12

*Season:* Year-round.

*Access:* Fryatt Valley trail.

##### 5.7.3. Colin Hut

*Location:* Below Mt. Colin, UTM 433246E, 5872346N.

*Max number of guests:* 6

*Season:* Year-round.

*Access:* difficult, unmaintained route from Overlander trail.

##### 5.7.4. Lloyd Mackay (Alberta) Hut

*Location:* Below Mt. Alberta, UTM 470091E, 5792965N.

*Max number of guests:* 6.

*Season:* Year-round.

*Access:* difficult, unmaintained scrambling route via Wooley Creek.

## 5.8. Bald Hills Scout Cabin

The old Scout Cabin near the start of the Bald Hills trail has been removed.

## 5.9. Parks Canada operations cabins

Park staff maintain 41 operations cabins throughout the park. These are only to be used for official work purposes; they are **not** accessible to the public or off-duty staff and they do not contain any emergency communications equipment. Camping is **prohibited** in a 1 km radius of any operations cabin.

Cabins, tack sheds, woodsheds, barns and corrals are for the use of park staff for government business only. They are not to be used by the public or commercial outfitters.

Some cabins have an outside cabinet with a log book where staff and visitors are encouraged to report trail and facility conditions. They are not regularly monitored, but they can assist visitors with recent conditions. Staff passing cabins are encouraged to check the log books, enter any issues encountered in the area and report issues to the Asset Management section upon return.

*Cabins with log books:* Tonquin, Adolphus, Willow Creek, Brazeau, and Rocky Forks.

# 6. Passes and Permits

## 6.1. Park pass

All visitors to Canada's national parks, including those overnighting in the backcountry or in Alpine Club of Canada Huts or commercial backcountry lodges, require a valid Park Pass. Prices are set nationally; see <http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/visit/tarifs-fees> for a current list of pass options and fees. Park passes need to be left in the visitor's vehicle, clearly displayed in the windshield. Visitors should carry the pass with them at all times if they arrive by other means of transportation.

## 6.2. Backcountry camping permit

Purchase of a Backcountry Camping Permit is mandatory for any overnight backcountry visit, including random camping and bivouacking. It specifies the area/trail and campsites to be used and the number of people and tents per group. The Backcountry Camping Permit will be accepted as both a camping permit and a fire permit (where allowed).

The party leader must obtain a valid Backcountry Camping Permit that includes all party members. Permits must be carried at all times and produced upon request by a uniformed Parks Canada staff.

Backcountry Camping Permits can be obtained through the Parks Canada Reservation Service (PCRS), either online at [reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca](http://reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca), by phone at 1-877-737-3783. For random camping, bivouacking or horse trip permits, users can also visit or call the Parks Canada information desks at the Information Centre in Jasper or at the Icefield Centre (summer only). The information centres will **not** book regular backcountry camping trips that can be booked through the PCRS.

Backcountry camping bookings on the PCRS are made per fiscal year, from April 1 to March 31. Reservations for the following fiscal year open at the same time for both the general public and commercial operators.

#### 6.2.1.1. *The following users require a Backcountry Camping Permit*

- Users of national park backcountry campgrounds.
- Visitors random camping and bivouacking in national parks.
- Volunteers and researchers working in the backcountry.
- Parks Canada employees. Employees pay regular camping fees.
- Clients of commercial outfitters. The outfitters are responsible for the purchases of passes for all their guests.

#### 6.2.1.2. *The following users do not require a Backcountry Camping Permit:*

- Staff and volunteers employed by backcountry businesses.
- Guests of commercial backcountry lodges and users of Alpine Club of Canada huts.
- Guests of the Edith Cavell hostel in winter.

Complete backcountry camping reservation policies can be found at <https://reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca/ReservationPolicy.aspx?index=3>.

### 6.3. Backcountry Parks Canada Reservation System policies

Backcountry camping reservation policies are available at <https://reservation.pc.gc.ca/ReservationPolicy.aspx?index=3>

### 6.4. Reservation fees

The reservation fee is **not** charged when a random camping permit is booked **in person on one day before the day of departure** at the Jasper or Icefield Information Centres.

### 6.5. Changes to reservations

Changes can be made online, by phone, or at the Information Centres in the park.

If a permit was booked at the Information Centre, changes must also be made through the Information Centre. If a permit was booked through the call centre, either the call centre or the Information Centre can make the changes.

The change fee will **not** be charged to change the length of stay of a backcountry reservation, increase the number of people, or change the number of tent pads, **as long as the arrival date remains the same**.

### 6.6. Notice of violation

If someone has been caught camping without a Backcountry Camping Permit by a warden, they are issued a “Notice of Violation” (National Park Camping Regulation 3(1)(a): camping without a valid permit), and are told to buy one at an Information Centre. If this happens:

- Issue a Backcountry Camping Permit.
- Write “paid” clearly on the Notice of Violation.
- Email the Notice of Violation to [PC.GRPJNP-LawEnforcement.PC@canada.ca](mailto:PC.GRPJNP-LawEnforcement.PC@canada.ca).

## 6.7. Restricted Activity Permit

Section 7 of the *Canada National Parks Act Regulations* states that the Superintendent may, where it is necessary for the proper management of the Park, designate certain activities, uses or entry and travel in areas in a Park as restricted or prohibited. No person other than the holder of an authorization issued for that purpose shall engage in a designated activity. Permits must be carried at all times and produced upon request by a Park Warden.

Common activities requiring a Restricted Activity Permit (RAP):

- Transport and use of a chainsaw.
- Transport and use of a UAV (drone).

This is not an exhaustive list; other activities not included here may also require an RAP.

Information on the application procedures for a RAP is available from the Resource Conservation Administrative Assistant. They are issued by Parks Canada Dispatch and must be approved and signed by the Superintendent. They are free of charge, but must be applied for well in advance of the proposed activity. See Section 8.4.9 below for the procedures to issue a chainsaw permit.

## 6.8. Research permit

Qualified individuals or organizations under certain conditions as specified in the *Parks Canada Research and Collection Permit System*

([https://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/apps/RPS/page1\\_e.asp](https://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/apps/RPS/page1_e.asp)) may undertake research projects in the park. Research Permits will be approved by the Jasper National Park Resource Conservation Manager. Application procedures for research and collection permits are outlined at [https://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/apps/RPS/page1\\_e.asp](https://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/apps/RPS/page1_e.asp). See Section 5.2 above for information about research camping permits.

## 7. Commercial and non-profit groups

### 7.1. Custodial groups

#### 7.1.1. What is a custodial group?

Officially: A "custodial group" means a group affiliated with an institution, where at least one person is below the age of majority and that minor is not in the company of his/her parent or legal guardian. Institutional groups include but are not limited to school groups, Scout/Guide groups, church groups, cadet groups and community youth groups.

For details on custodial groups, visit <http://parkscanada.gc.ca/custodial>.

#### 7.1.2. Custodial groups – summer

Parks Canada is providing more opportunities for youth to experience the wilderness. Custodial youth groups over 10 people will be able to camp overnight in specially designated backcountry campgrounds during summer (**May 1 – November 14**). This will enable youth to make personal connections with Canada's National Parks, which is an essential way to promote future stewards and advocates of our unique heritage places.



#### 7.1.2.1. What is an oversize group size?

The maximum group size for any overnight backcountry trip in the Mountain National Parks is 10 people including the guide. An oversize group is composed of more than 10 people including the guide.

#### 7.1.2.2. Who qualifies as a custodial group in summer?

These opportunities are available to school groups, families, church groups and other not-for-profit organizations of which a majority of the participants are youth (under 18 years old) and lead by an adult.

This is not open to commercial organizations. A commercial organization is defined as any organization that requires a business licence. This does not preclude a youth organization from using a licensed guide.

#### 7.1.2.3. Who Approves Oversize Groups?

- For the specially designated backcountry campgrounds (listed below), Information Centre staff can approve the request directly.
- For other backcountry locations, or non-youth groups, the Visitor Experience Manager must approve the request. These requests will be considered on a case by case basis and will take into account location, demand, season and other environmental factors. However, Information Centre staff should try to steer over-sized youth groups to the specially designated backcountry campgrounds sites listed below. Requests should be submitted 30 days or more prior to booking, in order allow sufficient time to review the request. This will also help give the group time to make alternate plans if necessary.

#### 7.1.2.4. Where can they camp?

Minimizing impact on the environment is important to maintaining these special places in to the future, and ensuring quality experiences for all backcountry users. Backcountry campgrounds were selected which had the capacity to accommodate a larger group. The following is a list of the designated backcountry campgrounds for oversize groups:

Area	Campground	# Sites	Season	# of campers
Jacques Lake Trail	Jacques Lake	8	Year-round	32
Celestine Lake Trail	Celestine Lake	6	May-October	24
Chaba Trail	Athabasca Crossing	4	Year-round	16

#### Conditions for booking oversize groups:

- An oversize group will **not** be able to book at a designated backcountry campground **where there is already a booking in place** - regardless of whether space is available that could accommodate an oversize group. This is to help meet expectations of other backcountry users for their wilderness experience.
- An oversize group **must book and pay for the entire campground**. This will ensure that the group does not disturb other potential users in the campground.
- The maximum number of tents per site is one.

#### 7.1.2.5. *How to book*

- Oversize youth groups can reserve backcountry campsites through the Information Centre. Staff will create one group reservation in the Parks Canada Reservation Service, using the maximum group size. The true group size will be marked in the comments section, and additional backcountry permits over the maximum group size will be sold separately.
- Groups are encouraged to plan their trips and book as early as possible to ensure availability.

#### 7.1.2.6. *What types of permits are required?*

- In addition to the Backcountry Camping Permit, youth groups must have a Park Pass and, if applicable, any other essential permits (such as fishing licences) before they start their trip.

#### 7.1.2.7. *Do custodial groups require a certified guide?*

Although there are no specific requirements to have a certified guide to lead a youth group during summer, leading any group into the mountains is a big responsibility. Anyone who proposes to lead a group into the backcountry should have significant personal experience in the mountains, first aid training, and strong leadership skills.

#### 7.1.3. Custodial groups - winter

For policies and regulations applying to winter custodial groups, visit <http://parksCanada.gc.ca/custodial>. These policies and regulations are in effect from **November 15 – April 30** annually. The goal of these policies is to ensure that custodial groups receive the right leadership, in the appropriate terrain, during good avalanche conditions.

### 7.2. Outdoor clubs

There are very few requests for backcountry trips by outdoor clubs. They would book through the Parks Canada Reservation Service as any other group would. Oversized groups are booked at the Information Centre, similar to custodial groups; see Section 7.1 above.

## 8. Visitor activities

Permitted and prohibited activities are listed in Appendix 4. The visitor safety aspect of activities in the park are covered in the *Jasper National Park Visitor Safety Plan (2017)*.

### 8.1. Dogs

Dogs, like wolves and coyotes, cause stress for wildlife as they may be seen as a threat. Off-leash dogs can trigger aggressive behaviour from wildlife such as grizzly bears and elk. To prevent unsafe situations, dogs must be on a leash and under control at all times.

It is the dog owner's responsibility to:

- Ensure it is on a leash and under control at all times.
- Pick up and dispose of their dog's waste in a garbage bin. When on overnight trips, ensure that there is no waste on the trail or in campgrounds.

- Ensure their dog's safety; select suitable activities and terrain that align with their and their dog's abilities.
- Ensure they and their dog are prepared for extreme weather conditions (very cold temperatures, exposure, etc.).

Dogs are **prohibited** in certain parts of the park, in order to protect mountain caribou. The areas are defined in the current Superintendent's *notice of prohibition: dogs in caribou habitat*.

## 8.2. Service dogs

See the *Jasper National Park protocol for administrating service dog requests* for information on how to respond to request for service dogs or emotional support dogs.

## 8.3. Fishing

Anglers must obtain a National Parks fishing permit. Visit <http://parkscanada.gc.ca/jasperfishing> for details. Complete regulations are available at: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C., c. 1120/>.

## 8.4. Horse Use

The online-only Horse User Guide outlines regulations specific to private horse use in the park. It can be accessed at [parkscanada.gc.ca/horse-user-guide](http://parkscanada.gc.ca/horse-user-guide). The information below supplements the online information.

### 8.4.1. Trail use

Horse travel is permitted throughout the park **except** for the trails and areas listed in the current Superintendent's Order for horse use.

Generally, Resource Conservation staff will not use horses in areas excluded from public horse use. Only under exceptional circumstances may staff use horses in those areas, including trail sweeps for wildlife closures, search for missing/ overdue persons and other management purposes.

Overnight horse use is not permitted on the Fortress Lake trail or through Hamber Provincial Park, as designated horse campgrounds do not exist. However, day use is permitted. For park management purposes, Parks Canada horses will be allowed to overnight at Chaba Cabin. There are no horse campgrounds in the Tonquin Valley; random horse camping is prohibited there as well.

### 8.4.2. Day use

Currently, there is no restriction on party size for private day-use in Jasper National Park. However, there are restrictions on group sizes for guided activities in the park.

### 8.4.3. Overnight use

The following general guidelines apply to all public and commercial horse use in the park:

- Parks passes, backcountry camping permits and payment of grazing fees are required for all overnight use and corralling of horses in the park.
- Wood fires or wood stoves are not permitted unless camping in a designated campground.

- It is **mandatory** to secure food in bear-proof containers while camping.
- To reduce environmental damage, it is best if horses are allowed to graze at random. Tying horses to trees overnight is not permitted. If overnight tying is necessary, high-lining (stretching a rope between two trees) is permitted. Protect the trees by padding the portion of the rope that is tied around the tree and avoiding the trees' root systems.
- Camps may be left unattended overnight for only one night. Outfitters' camps may be left unattended for two nights on back-to-back return trips at Adolphus, Miette Lake, Willow Creek, Middle Forks, Rocky Forks, Wolverine South and McCready. No permanent or semi-permanent camps may be established in the park without prior permission from the Superintendent.
- No more than one unsaddled horse is permitted to accompany horse groups. All other horses in the group must be used for riding or packing purposes.
- In the event of horses dying while on a backcountry trip, the user is responsible to report the incident immediately to Resource Conservation staff. The user is responsible for the removal of the horse carcass at least one kilometre from any trail and 2 km from any campsite. The cost of removing the carcass will be the responsibility of the owner.

#### 8.4.4. Horse feed

Parks Canada recommends the use of pellets by private and commercial horse parties.

Parks Canada actively discourages the following feed:

- *Hay*. It is a strong vector for introducing undesired non-native plant species onto the landscape. Neither Park Canada nor commercial groups use hay in the backcountry. In addition, hay is bulky to transport.
- *Alfalfa cubes*. These are bulky.
- *Oats*. Oats are **not** recommended as they are a strong attraction for bears. Park Canada only uses oats in bear-proof buildings and storage containers.

Parks Canada recommends the following feed:

- *Compressed horse rations* (generally referred to as "pellets" because of their shape). Usually, grazing is sufficient, but if horses have to travel long distances, and extra food is needed, pellets are the best option. Please use a nose bag to reduce spillage of this bear attractant.

#### 8.4.5. Regulations

- The carrying and or use of chainsaws is restricted to persons who have chainsaw permits.
- Use of horse drawn vehicles is prohibited in the backcountry.
- The carrying or transport of firearms is prohibited.
- Dogs must be kept on leash at all times. We recommend leaving dogs at home.
- Use of park facilities such as backcountry cabins, corrals and pastures is **prohibited**.

#### 8.4.6. Permits and reservations

Before going on an overnight horse trip in the park, users must purchase the following:

- Backcountry Camping Permit (Available **only** at the Jasper Information Centre, or per phone).

- A grazing permit (Available **only** at the Jasper Information Centre, or per phone).
- Park Entrance Pass (Available at all park Information Centres, entry gates or online).

The backcountry and grazing permits must be carried at all times.

Private horse groups and commercial outfitters may reserve campsites for any day of the calendar year on a first-come, first-serve basis, starting on the day that the Parks Canada Reservation Service for backcountry campgrounds opens for public booking.

- Horse groups will be required to submit a daily campsite trip schedule to the Jasper Information Centre when they apply for a reservation. A trip schedule prevents conflicts with other parties. Permits may be picked up in person, mailed or emailed.
- The Information Centre will attempt to book large horse groups with at least one vacant night on either side of campground reservation nights to allow for changes in scheduling as a result from problems arising in the field. Two different horse groups will not be booked into the same campground for the same night.

The following information is required for a grazing permit:

- Number of horses and riders.
- Number of days they wish to stay at each grazing site.
- Vehicle licence plate number.

#### 8.4.7. Trail Etiquette for horse users

- Avoid grazing on wet and fragile areas such as marshes and alpine meadows.
- Keep horses single file to prevent trail braiding.
- Avoid skirting around puddles or obstacles which leads to trail widening, loss of plant cover and increased soil erosion.
- Remove deadfall blocking the trail with an axe or a Swede saw so that new trails aren't created.
- DO NOT nail items to trees or build structures.
- At rest stops, keep horses well off the trail away from water sources.
- Hobbles are preferred to tying up horses overnight.
- If you must tie your horses up overnight, stretch a rope between two trees (high line) well away from the campground area.
- Scatter manure at rest stops and in camps.
- Travel lightly. Advances in lightweight equipment make it easier on the rider, their horses and the environment, and fewer horses may be required to pack their gear.
- Use of feed bags ensures less spillage and less attractant for bears.
- Parks Canada recommends that riders do not take stallions on their trip, since they may be meeting other horse parties on the trail.
- When camping in shared horse/hiker campgrounds, horse should camp in perimeter sites to prevent horses passing through the campgrounds.

#### 8.4.8. Holding corrals

- Horses may be kept for a maximum of 48 hours in the park at the start or end of an overnight backcountry trip at approved corrals or holding facilities only. There is no

charge for the use of these corrals but they must be pre-booked through the Jasper Trail Office. The standard reservation fee applies.

- Grazing is not permitted at trailheads – horses must be fed inside the corrals.
- Temporary primitive camps are permitted at the Moab Lake corral. There is no tent camping at the Poboktan corral, but there is room to park an RV. No fires are allowed.
- The holding corrals receive infrequent maintenance. Users must check the condition of the corral and be prepared to make minor repairs.
- Holding corrals administrated by Jasper National Park are located at:
  - Brazeau Trails: Poboktan Trailhead near Sunwapta Station, 77 km south of Jasper.
  - Athabasca Pass Trail: Moab Lake Trailhead.
- The corrals at Cavell Lake, Portal Creek and Wabasso trailhead are for commercial use only. They are **not** available for public use.
- Other corrals in the park are no longer maintained. They are slated for removal.

#### 8.4.9. Applications for a chainsaw Restricted Activity Permit for horse users

When a permit to carry a chainsaw is requested, **Information Centre staff** will be responsible for:

- Sending the grazing permit details to the Resource Conservation Administrative Assistant with a request to use a chainsaw along a designated trip plan.
- Asking Dispatch, by e-mail, to issue the permit with name of signing authority.
- Providing Dispatch with the details required on the permit (**applicant name, address and phone #, backcountry permit #, trip route and dates**). See permit example in Horse Trip binder for information required.
- Asking Dispatch to e-mail the permit in pdf format to the Information Centre.
- Getting the permit to the applicant (e-mail, mail or hold for pick up, etc.).
- Ensuring that there is a hard copy with the backcountry permit in the Horse Permits binder.
- Filing the pdf in G:\INFOCNTR\Trail Office Files\Horse Info\Grazing Permits *year*.

Parks Canada Dispatch will be responsible for:

- Preparing the permit with the details the Information Centre provides.
- Attaching the special conditions.
- Getting the permit signed by staff with signing authority (see list of staff above).
- E-mailing the signed document in pdf format to the Information Centre.

Commercial outfitters are covered under their business license for chainsaw use along official and unpublished/operational trails for which they have a permit to operate on. Trail brushing is permitted with a chainsaw or hand tools on official trails only and within designated campsites. This includes removal of downed trees on the trail, in the campground, hazard trees in campgrounds, replacement of hitching rails or corral rails. Requests for additional maintenance will require prior approval from Parks Canada. Maintenance conducted on the trail or at a campground will be reported to Parks Canada (Business Liaison/Development Officer) at the end of every trip.

## 8.5. Llamas

The use of llamas is prohibited in Jasper National Park due to potentially serious conflicts with horses. Domestic goats and sheep are prohibited as pack animals as they are known to transfer diseases to wild sheep.

## 8.6. The Great Divide Trail

The Great Divide Trail (GDT) is a long distance trail, stretching over 1100 km from Waterton National Park to Mt. Robson and Kakwa provincial parks. The route is not marked as the Great Divide Trail, but follows existing trails and routes. Several segments follow unmaintained, unmarked routes with unbridged river crossings, so those hiking it have to be experienced backcountry users. It has become an increasingly popular long-distance hiking trail in recent years, with more hikers completing one or more segments. Most long-distance hikers cover 30-40 km/day, much more than the average hiker.

The route traverses Jasper National Park from the southeast to the northwest, much of it along unmaintained routes, but it also includes Jonas Pass and the Skyline trail. See Appendix 6 for details on the route, suggested itineraries and reservations.

## 8.7. Spreading of ashes

Spreading of ashes in the park must follow the Jasper National Park protocol for the spreading of ashes, available at <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/securite-safety/reglements-regulations/cendres-ashes>

# 9. Communications

## 9.1. Information Centres

Parks Canada operates two visitor information centres in the park.

### 9.1.1. Jasper Information Centre

- Phone 780-852-6177.
- Open year-round (opening times vary).
- Responds to general backcountry queries.
- Manages bookings for private and commercial horse trips.
- Manages group bookings.
- Takes bookings for random camping and bivouacking.
- Sells same-day backcountry permits.

### 9.1.2. Icefield Centre

- Phone 780-852-6288.
- Open summer only (building generally April – early October; desk May-September).
- Responds to general backcountry queries.
- Takes bookings for random camping and bivouacking.
- Sells same-day backcountry permits.

Staff will not photocopy portions of publications for the public unless approved by the publisher.

## 9.2. Brochures and publications

Visitor Experience is responsible for providing up-to-date brochures to assist visitors with planning and reserving backcountry trips. Brochures, unless otherwise noted, are available online at <http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/visit/depliants-brochures>.

### 9.2.1. Backcountry trail guides

In-depth trail guides have been written for our backcountry trails and our website. They contain detailed information on distances and facilities, as well as trip ideas and general regulations. They are available for all major backcountry trails. [https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/activ/passez-stay/arrierepays-backcountry/sugg-sentiers\\_trip-ideas](https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/activ/passez-stay/arrierepays-backcountry/sugg-sentiers_trip-ideas)

### 9.2.2. Website

External Relations maintains the backcountry section of the Jasper National Park website. Visitor Experience will provide the content. The content of all trail guides and other publications are posted on the website, as well as relevant content from these guidelines.

### 9.2.3. Parks Canada Reservation System

The Parks Canada Reservation System can be accessed online at [reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca](http://reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca) or by phone at 1-877-RESERVE (1-877-737-3783). Jasper backcountry users can access the Jasper backcountry section of the Reservation System directly via [parkscanada.gc.ca/bookjasperbackcountry](http://parkscanada.gc.ca/bookjasperbackcountry).

### 9.2.4. Vanity URLs

There are a number of web shortcuts (vanity URLs) that redirect to pages relevant for backcountry users. These shortcuts, rather than their full addresses, should be used in brochures, mass emails, etc. A complete list is available at <http://confluence:8090/display/JFU/JFU+-+ER+-+Vanity+URL+list>

**Note:** All references in publications to pc.gc.ca should be replaced with parkscanada.gc.ca.

## 9.3. Maps

Several topographic maps are useful to backcountry users. All are for sale at the Friends of Jasper store.

### 9.3.1. National Geographic Trails Illustrated

Complete coverage of the park at 1:100,000 in two sheets. These waterproof and tear-resistant maps include all official trails and backcountry campgrounds.

- 902, **Jasper South**, area from Jasper townsite south.
- 903, **Jasper North**, area from Jasper townsite north.

### 9.3.2. Gem Trek

Gem Trek has several topographic maps that cover the most visited part of the park. Maps include the official trail network and backcountry campgrounds.

- **Jasper and Maligne Lake**, 1:100,000. Covers the central part of the park, from the east gate to the west gate, east to Maligne Lake and south to Fortress Lake.



- ***Best of Jasper***, 1:35,000. Covers the Three Valley Confluence (see appendix 1 for definition).
- ***Columbia Icefield*** 1:75,000. Covers the area around the Columbia Icefield.

### 9.3.3. NTS maps

The Government of Canada 1:50,000 National Topographic System (NTS) maps cover the entire park. While the topographic features are more detailed than the other maps listed here, the trail and campground data are old and often inaccurate. Backcountry users should **not** rely on these maps for accurate information on backcountry infrastructure. *GoTrekks.com* has published a version of the NTS maps with the official trails and backcountry campgrounds overlaid onto the maps.

## Appendix 1 Definitions

- *Aerial parks*

Elevated paths progress through various obstacles and are equipped with ropes, ladders, suspended bridges, zip lines and via ferrata components. Challenge, adventure and ropes courses belong to this category. Participants use a belay system and move through the course at their own pace.

- *Alpine hut*

Roofed accommodation (often managed by the Alpine Club of Canada, ACC, or other non-profit organization) that provides cooking equipment and sleeping facilities to backcountry visitors, but are self-catered.

- *Backcountry*

For the purposes of this document, the portions of Jasper National Park that correspond with Zones I and II, and those portions of Zone III that are outside of the Three Valley Confluence around the town of Jasper (see definition below). See also wilderness below.

- *Backcountry lodge*

Commercially operated facility providing food and accommodation to backcountry visitors.

- *Bivouack*

A temporary camp located in areas with no vegetation for the purpose of mountaineering. See also random camping.

- *Canopy tours*

This activity involves elevated walkways or other infrastructure that take visitors off the ground and allow them to explore the forest canopy.

- *Critical water crossing*

Water body that cannot be crossed at any time of the year by either horses or hikers. Loss of the bridge will close the trail beyond this point. *Examples:* Snake Indian bridge, Lower Smokey bridge.

- *Custodial group*

A group affiliated with an institution, where at least one person is below the age of majority and that minor is not in the company of his/her parent or legal guardian. Institutional groups include but are not limited to school groups, Scout/Guide groups, church groups, cadet groups and community youth groups.

- *Decommissioned campground*

Old campground from which all facilities have been removed and which has been restored to its natural state, or old campground that in which facilities were damaged or destroyed by a fire or other natural disaster. Random camping may be possible if allowed in the area.

- *Designated campground*

Official campground that is being maintained by Parks Canada or its designated partners.

- *Dog sledding*

Any kind of sled pulled over snow or ice by one or more dogs.

- *Geocaching*

An outdoor activity that is similar to a treasure hunt. The goal of the activity is to find hidden containers known as *caches* or *geocaches* using a portable Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or their smartphones (if equipped with GPS). Individuals who practice this activity (generally referred to as *cachers* or *geocachers*) place a cache in an outdoor location and post the cache's latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates on the Internet. Other geocachers then use their GPS devices to download the coordinates and cache descriptions from the Internet in order to find the caches. Once the participant has found the cache, they may log their findings on the Internet.

There are a number of different types of caches. Physical caches include a logbook, pencil, and trade items\* (small objects left in the caches for geocachers to trade with one another - e.g. toys, key chains, etc.). Another type of cache is an earth cache, which highlights an area's unique natural features. More information regarding different types of caches and geocaching in general can be found at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

\*Trade items are not permitted in caches placed in national historic sites, parks and marine conservation areas managed by Parks Canada. Instead, an educational message about the cache's specific or general location is included.

- *Hang gliding and paragliding*

Participants launch from a high point and use a chute or rigid wing to catch rising currents of air. They eventually land at a different location. Hang glider wings are made of rigid or semi-rigid materials and are heavier and less portable than the chutes used by paragliders. However, paragliders are slower than hang gliders.

- *Ice climbing*

Ice climbing is a sub-activity of mountaineering that bears a close resemblance to rock climbing. It involves ascending steep frozen waterfalls. The objective may be a set route, requiring technical climbing skills particular to ice climbing. Once they reach the top of their chosen route, ice climbers tend to return to home base the same day.

- *Major water crossing*

Water body that hikers can only cross at periods of low water. Loss of the bridge will close the trail to hikers beyond this point during periods of high water. Alternatively, crossing which can cause critical injury or death during much of the year if attempted to ford. *Examples:* Lower Fryatt Creek, Chown Creek.

- *Mountaineering*

Mountaineering, or mountain climbing, is distinguished from rock and ice climbing, although mountain climbing may require these actions in the pursuit of larger objectives. The effort needed for mountain climbing usually draws devoted recreationalists with the required technical climbing skills, experience and proper equipment. This visitor activity group tends to be largely self-sufficient. Climbers expect to encounter alpine conditions above tree line, including ice and snow, regardless of the season. Overnight stays are often anticipated.

- *Operations cabins*

Formerly called warden cabins. Parks Canada maintains 41 cabins throughout the park for operational use by Parks Canada staff. They are not accessible to the public or to staff for recreational use. They do not contain communications equipment.

- *Random camping*

Camping outside of a designated campground. See also bivouacking.

- *Rock climbing*

Rock climbers tend to work on technical types of climbing, usually on short stretches of cliff during daylight hours. It is uncommon for rock climbers to stay overnight. These recreationalists are distinguished from mountain climbers in that they will seek a specific cliff that may contain numerous climbing routes, whereas the latter focus on larger “summit” objectives. Like mountain climbers, members of this visitor activity group are typically self-sufficient. Rock climbers expect to encounter risks, and often engage in the activity to challenge themselves mentally and physically.

- *Scrambling*

Scrambling is a form of mountain ascent that lies somewhere between hiking and rock climbing. It typically involves travel off established trails, over sometimes difficult and steep terrain that does not necessarily require roped protection equipment.

- *Ski mountaineering*

Ski mountaineering is similar in some ways to both ski touring and mountain climbing, using specially designed skis to traverse alpine terrain in winter conditions. Ski mountaineering typically requires specialized gear and skills. Participants tend to be self-reliant and prepared for the higher risks that come with the sport.

Ski mountaineering can involve day trips on peaks near roadways that provide easy access, but many parties engage in multi-day trips. Carrying packs for overnight stays, visitors often use ski mountaineering to meet other objectives, such as mountain climbing. Participants typically travel over glaciers and through avalanche terrain above the tree line. Group survival skills are essential in this sport, and navigation in blizzards and whiteouts is not uncommon. Ski mountaineers generally accept a high degree of risk and self-reliance.

- *Skijoring*

Winter sport in which a person on skis is pulled by a horse, dogs, or vehicle.

- *Three Valley Confluence*

For the purpose of this document, the area within Zones 3, 4 and 5 including and surrounding the town of Jasper, comprising the confluence of the Athabasca, Miette and Maligne river valleys. The western boundary is at trail 3a and the Jasper Tramway. The southern boundary is at the Wabasso Lake trailhead. The northeastern boundary is the power plant and the northern edge of the Maligne horse range. The southeastern boundary is at the Maligne Canyon hostel.

It includes the Pyramid Bench from the Saturday Night Loop to the Palisade Fire Road, Whistlers Bench, Wabasso Lake to the south, the slopes of Signal Mountain, Maligne Canyon and the beginning of the Overlander Trail.

- *Traction kiting*

Kite surfers or skiers harness the wind’s energy with a large kite to propel themselves across snow, ice, water or land. Land-based participants stand on a buggy, skateboard or roller skates. Water-based participants use a board similar to a wakeboard or a surfboard. Traction kiting on frozen surfaces is commonly called kite skiing or snow kiting. Kitters use the power of a kite to glide over snow or ice while strapped to a snowboard, skis or skates. In open terrain, kitters are able to travel significant distances, particularly over open water or frozen lakes and snowfields.

- *Trail shelter*

Simple roofed structure with platforms to sleep, but without any other provisions. Self-catered.

- *Unmaintained campground*

Old campground that has been abandoned and is no longer being maintained by Parks Canada. Facilities and signs may still be present. Camping is generally allowed.

- *Via ferrata*

*Via ferrata* (Italian for iron way) typically consist of a combination of ladders, rungs, bridges and other structures that take a visitor onto a vertical rock face. Participants wear a harness and remain attached to a cable at all times while making their way along the route. Via ferrata can offer a unique opportunity for visitors who may not be able to develop the experience or skills to engage in mountaineering and rock climbing to experience a vertical environment.

- *Visitor Experience*

The sum of all personal, physical and emotional interactions that a visitor has with the protected heritage place. It is the experience that the visitor creates from the visitor opportunities and offer that Parks Canada provides.

- *Visitor Offer*

The sum total of the hardware (facilities and infrastructure) and the software (activities, services and programs) that we have in the park.

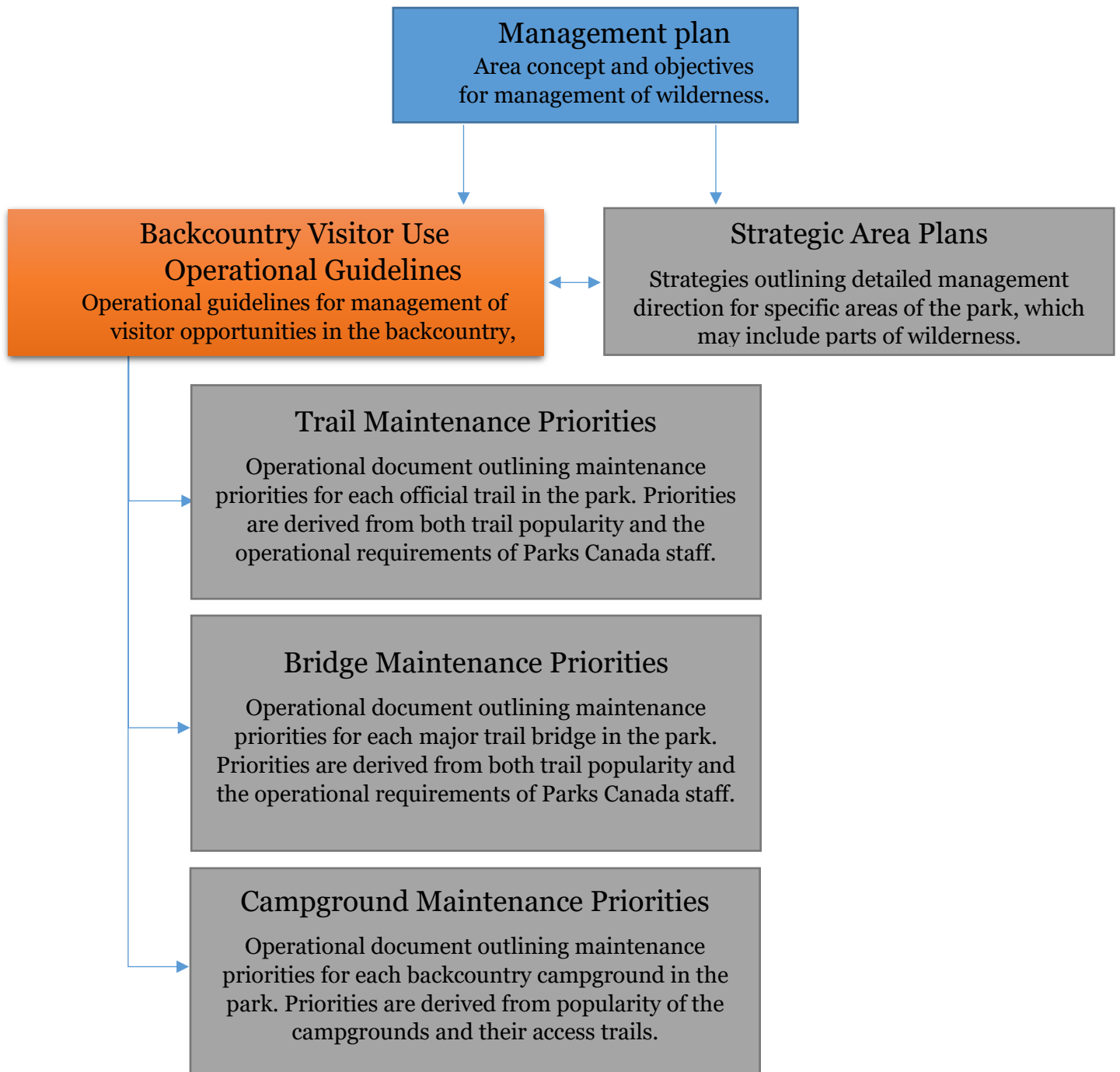
- *Visitor Opportunities*

The individual elements of the hardware or software (e.g. the opportunity to camp at Snowbowl campground, the opportunity to participate in a guided hike, etc.).

- *Wilderness*

For the purpose of this document, equal to the definition of Zone II – Wilderness. See the *Jasper National Park Management Plan* for a detailed definition of Zones.

## Appendix 2 Relationship to other documents



## Appendix 3 List of supporting documents

All supporting documents will be copied to G:\common\backcountry. Changes to the documents will be presented to the Trail Steering Committee for approval.

Document title	Purpose	Current master location	Lead to update
Trail Maintenance Priority Matrix	List of all trails in the park, with status and maintenance priority	G:\Trails Steering Committee\TrailPriorities <a href="#">G:\Common\Backcountry</a>	VEPDO
Backcountry campground inventory	Inventory of facilities at all Jasper National Park backcountry campgrounds	G:\Trails Steering Committee\Backcountry campground inventory	VEPDO with trail crew
Trailhead kiosk inventory	Inventory of all trailheads in Jasper National Park	G:\Common\Trails\Trailhead kiosks	VEPDO
Opening and closing dates for Jasper National Park frontcountry facilities and roads	Inventory of opening and closing dates for roads		Visitor Services Team Leader
Open and closed dates for Jasper National Park backcountry campgrounds	Inventory of opening and closing dates for backcountry campgrounds		Information Services Team Leader
Service dog policy	Policy for the use of service dogs in Jasper National Park	<a href="#">G:\Trails Steering Committee</a> <a href="#">G:\InfoCentre Staff\Guidelines, Protocols &amp; Training</a>	VE Manager
Spreading of ashes in Jasper National Park	Policy on spreading of ashes in Jasper National Park	<a href="https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/securite-safety/reglements-regulations/cendres-ashes">https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/securite-safety/reglements-regulations/cendres-ashes</a>	VE Manager
Protocol to address visitor safety issues on trails	Protocol to address closures of trails	G:\Trails Steering Committee\Protocols	VE Manager

Guidelines for Recreational Activities	Guidelines for new Recreational Activities in Jasper National Park	Jasper National Park website: <a href="https://bit.ly/39ZhKqs">https://bit.ly/39ZhKqs</a>	ILUPP
Trail and Backcountry Sign Design Guidelines	Guidelines for the design of signs along trails and backcountry campgrounds in Jasper National Park	G:\Visitor Experience\Projects\Signs\1-Backcountry and trail sign design guidelines	VEPDO
Backcountry Campground Classification for Jasper National Park	Detailed classification for each service level of campground	G:\Visitor Experience\Projects\Backcountry Campgrounds\Backcountry campground guidelines <a href="#">G:\Common\Backcountry</a>	VEPDO
Backcountry Campground Design Guidelines	Guidelines for the design of backcountry campgrounds in Jasper National Park; complements the Rocky Mountain Parks Facilities Guidelines	G:\Visitor Experience\Projects\Backcountry Campgrounds\Backcountry campground guidelines	VEPDO
Seasonal facility and road opening and closure dates	Opening and closing dates of facilities and roads		Visitor Services Team Leader
Seasonal backcountry campground opening and closure dates	Opening and closing dates of backcountry campgrounds		Information Centre Team Leader
National Trail Principles	Principles for the building and maintenance of trails in Parks Canada		National Trails team
National Trail Standards	Standards for the building and maintenance of trails and trail structures		National Trails team



## Appendix 4 Random camping areas

Random camping areas are managed as follows:

- Visitors will continue to book random camping by calling the Information Centre.
- Before the introduction of the Parks Canada Reservation Service (PCRS), there was also a monthly quota in random camping areas. The PCRS doesn't accommodate monthly quotas, so we only implemented daily quotas. All areas were initially given four groups/day pending a review of the quotas.
- Daily quotas are entered as parameters in the system, so they are applied automatically when staff enter the permits.
- Most random camping areas receive very little use, so the regular quotas and group sizes below are adequate.
- Efforts to reduce human use in caribou habitat and direction in the management plan to maintain grizzly bear habitat security necessitate a reduction in group size and the number of permits that can be issued per month. We propose the following step-wise reductions, depending on the area and potential for disturbance:
  1. Reduce the number of permits/night down to 1 (set in PCRS).
  2. Reduce the group size from 6 people/3 tents to 4 people/2 tents in caribou critical habitat.
  3. Reduce total number of permits to 10 or less/month (requires Info staff to maintain online spreadsheet to record total numbers of groups/month in an area, so only implemented for the most critical areas).
- This system allows us to adjust restrictions as required.

Random camping area	Daily quota	Monthly Quota	Group size	Notes
<i>North Boundary</i> Area north of the North Boundary main trail, between the North Boundary side trails.	4	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	
<i>Resthaven</i> Area between the North Boundary Trail and the park boundary.	2	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	Medium sized area
<i>Calumet</i> Area between Snake Indian Pass, the Smoky River and Moose Pass.	1	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	To reduce impact in high quality grizzly habitat
<i>Snaring</i> Snaring Valley between Highway 16, the Miette River valley and the Snake Indian River.	4	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	

<i>Elysium</i> Elysium Pass and Monarch Meadows	1	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	To reduce impact in high quality grizzly habitat. Note: no overnight commercial horse use beyond Elysium campground.
<i>Miette Lake</i> Miette Lake abandoned campground	1	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	Small area
<i>Miette River</i> Miette Lakes trail up to old horse camp and Rink Lake area.	2	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	
<i>Colonel Pass</i> Colonel Pass route and abandoned campground	1	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	Small area
<i>Highway 16 west</i> Area between the Tonquin Valley and Highway 16, west of Whistler Creek.	0	None	None	Caribou critical habitat, random camping removed (Mar. 2021)
<i>Campus Pass</i> Area around Campus Pass, between Verdant Creek and the Eremite Valley	1	5 groups	4 ppl, 2 tents	Season: July 1 – Sept 15 only. Caribou critical habitat, reduce impact
<i>Needle</i> Upper Simon Creek and Middle Whirlpool River.	3	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	
<i>Whirlpool</i> Whirlpool valley south of the Athabasca Pass trail	1	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	Small area
<i>Geraldine</i> Upper Geraldine Valley.	1	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	Separated from Whirlpool to reduce impact on upper Geraldine valley
<i>Lick Creek</i> Lick Creek watershed.	1	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	Small area

<i>Chaba</i> Lower Chaba valley.	1	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	Small area
<i>Sundial</i> Upper Athabasca River valley north of Habel and Prince Edward Creeks, west of the Icefields Parkway.	4	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	
<i>Mt. Alberta</i> Area east of Mt Alberta to Highway 93. Restricted quota to maintain grizzly bear habitat security	1	10 groups	6 ppl, 3 tents	To reduce impact in high quality grizzly habitat
<i>Icefields</i> Area of Columbia Icefield south of Habel and Prince Edward Creeks.	7	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	Camping on glaciers only
<i>Beauty Lakes</i> Area between Tangle Ridge and Jonas Valley.	1	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	To reduce impact on Beauty Lakes
<i>Maligne Pass North</i> Maligne Pass trail north of Maligne Pass	1	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	To reduce impact in high quality grizzly habitat
<i>Six Pass</i> Six Pass Route between Maligne Pass and Bald Hills	1	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	To reduce impact in high quality grizzly and caribou habitat
<i>Henry McLeod</i> Henry McLeod valley including unmaintained campground.	1	10 groups	6 ppl, 3 tents	To reduce impact in high quality grizzly habitat
<i>Maligne Lake</i> Area surrounding the southern end of Maligne Lake.	3	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	
<i>Southesk/Brazeau</i> Area between the South Boundary Trail and the Grand Brazeau range.	4	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	
<i>Southesk Lake</i> Southesk Lake campground	1	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	Small area
<i>Dean Meadows</i> Old horse campground	1	NA	6 ppl, 3 tents	Small area

<i>South Boundary</i> Rocky River valley downstream from Rocky Pass	4		6 ppl, 3 tents	
<i>Jacques</i> Area between the Colin and Nikanassin Ranges, including the lower Rocky River.	4		6 ppl, 3 tents	
<i>Fiddle</i> Area east of Ashlar Ridge.	1		6 ppl, 3 tents	Small area
<i>Brule (changed from Three Valley Confluence)</i> Old Brule campground	1		6 ppl, 3 tents	Small area
<i>Moosehorn</i> Moosehorn Valley and Wolf Pass.	3		6 ppl, 3 tents	

## Appendix 5 Permitted and prohibited activities

### Permitted activities

Activity	Where permitted	Notes
Mountain biking	Most official trails in Three Valley Confluence (TVC)C; some outside of TVC; frozen rivers and lakes accessible from official trails where biking is permitted.  <b>Prohibited</b> off official trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A list of trails designated for cycling is appended to the current Superintendent's Order for bicycling in the park.</li> <li>Downhill mountain biking (using shuttles) is prohibited.</li> </ul>
Fat biking	Same as mountain bikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fat bikes are subject to the same rules and restrictions as other bikes.</li> <li>Several trails are flat packed each winter. See <a href="https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/activ/activ-experience/hiver-winter/velohiver-fatbike">https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/activ/activ-experience/hiver-winter/velohiver-fatbike</a> for details.</li> </ul>
E-Bikes	Same as mountain bikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power Assisted bicycles (PABs) are defined as a two- or three-wheeled bicycle equipped with handlebars and operable pedals, an attached electric motor of 500W or less, and a maximum speed capability of 32 km/h from the motor over level ground. The bicycles can only deliver assisted power while being pedaled faster than 3 km/h.</li> <li>Throttle-assisted e-bikes are <b>not</b> permitted. They must use an electric motor for assisted propulsion.</li> <li>E-bikes that do not meet the above specifications are prohibited in the park.</li> </ul>
Electric boats	Maligne, Medicine, Talbot, Pyramid and Patricia Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gas-powered motor boats are not permitted on any body of water in the park, except: Maligne Tours is permitted to use gas-powered boats for tours to Spirit Island. Their boats are not permitted past Spirit Island. Pyramid Lake resort operates a rescue boat under special permit.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of the Visitor Safety Rescue jet boats and personal water crafts is permitted for park management, training and emergency responses.</li> <li>• Except for park management purposes, boats may not be airlifted into lakes or streams in the backcountry.</li> </ul>
Non motorized paddle sports	Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean, Drain Dry principles to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species apply.</li> </ul>
Non motorized paddle sports	Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canoeing, kayaking, rafting, packrafting and other non-motorized paddle activities will allowed where permitted by the <i>Guidelines for River Use Management</i>. The middle reach of the Maligne River (Maligne Lake to Medicine Lake) remains closed to all water-based use to aid in the conservation of Harlequin Ducks.</li> <li>• The <i>Guidelines for River Use Management</i> apply on the following rivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Athabasca River (Confluence with Sunwapta River to park boundary).</li> <li>○ Maligne River (Maligne Lake to Athabasca River).</li> <li>○ Miette River (BC border to Athabasca River).</li> <li>○ Sunwapta River.</li> <li>○ Whirlpool River (Moab Lake to Athabasca River).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There are waterfall warning/portage signs posted above Sunwapta Falls on the Sunwapta River and above Athabasca Falls on the Athabasca River. Other waterfalls or river hazards, including Upper and Lower Welbourne and Snake Indian Falls, are <b>not</b> marked.</li> <li>• Random camping will only be permitted along rivers in random camping areas, on sand bars or other flood plain terrain. Open fires are prohibited. Leave No Trace guidelines (<a href="https://www.leavenotrace.ca/">https://www.leavenotrace.ca/</a>) are mandatory in these locations.</li> </ul>
Sailing	Maligne Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No gas powered motors (outboard, inboard or generators). Electric outboard engines only.</li> <li>• Dumping bilge or sewage into the lake is not permitted.</li> <li>• Overnight mooring is only permitted in the area immediately in front of Fisherman's Bay and Coronet</li> </ul>

		<p>Campgrounds and is considered a part of the campsite quota.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Backcountry Camping Permit is required. This permit constitutes a mooring permit.</li> </ul>
Windsurfing	All lakes	
Canyoning	<p>Privately: Permitted; follow closures.</p> <p>Commercially: through a guided business license in specific canyons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow all closures in <a href="https://parks.canada.gc.ca/jasper-alerts">parks.canada.gc.ca/jasper-alerts</a>.</li> </ul>
Caving	All caves in Jasper National Park require a permit to enter, unless they are signed as open. Currently, no caves are signed as open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permits are issued through Resource Conservation.</li> <li>• <b>Procrastination Pot is currently closed to public access.</b></li> <li>• The popular cave in Maligne Canyon is considered open to the public, even though it is not signed as such.</li> </ul>
Climbing	No permit required, aside from Backcountry Camping Permits for overnight trips or bivouacs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Jasper National Park Visitor Safety team provides information and conditions to climbers.</li> <li>• Off-highway motorized support for climbing groups is prohibited.</li> <li>• Climbers are allowed to place protective gear on routes throughout the park, but in remote areas, all gear <b>must</b> be removed at the end of the trip.</li> <li>• Gas-powered tools (such as compressors) are <b>prohibited</b>.</li> <li>• Parks Canada does <b>not</b> maintain any permanent climbing routes. <b>Users are responsible to check the safety of any climbing gear they encounter.</b></li> </ul>
Scrambling	No permit required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks Canada does <b>not</b> maintain any scrambling routes or signage along them; users are responsible for navigation and route finding. Some of the routes are confusing and inexperienced users may get lost.</li> </ul>
Ice climbing	No permit required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks Canada does <b>not</b> maintain any ice climbing routes. <b>Users are responsible to check the safety of any gear they encounter.</b> Visit <a href="https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mtn/securiteenmontagne-mountainsafety/avalanche/echelle-ratings/EETA-">https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mtn/securiteenmontagne-mountainsafety/avalanche/echelle-ratings/EETA-</a></li> </ul>

		<a href="#">ATES</a> for information on avalanche risks at ice climbs.
Geocaching	Approval required to place geocaches. See notes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See <a href="https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/activ/decouvertes-tours/geocache-for-details">https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/activ/decouvertes-tours/geocache-for-details</a>. Geocaches in the park are subject to Parks Canada's national geocaching guidelines for location and educational content (See <a href="https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/docs/pc/guide/geocache/">https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/docs/pc/guide/geocache/</a>), and approval by Jasper's Interpretation Coordinator. Trade items are <b>not permitted</b> in geocaches in the park.</li> <li>Applicants fill out an application form (<a href="https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/docs/pc/guide/geocache/">https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/docs/pc/guide/geocache/</a>) and return it to the coordinator. The coordinator reviews the application and if required, helps the applicant refine the educational content for accuracy and clarity. The coordinator visits the geocache's location to ensure it will not have detrimental effects on natural (i.e., trampling of rare plants) or cultural artifacts, and may suggest a different location if required. Once the coordinator has approved the geocache, it is published on <a href="http://www.geocaching.com">www.geocaching.com</a>. Staff at <a href="http://www.geocaching.com">www.geocaching.com</a> will redirect applicants unaware of these guidelines to the Jasper geocaching coordinator.</li> </ul>
Hiking	No restrictions on private day hiking in the park, except in permanently closed wildlife corridors and other areas closed by Superintendent's order.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A guided business license is required for any commercial groups. See section 7.1 for restrictions on custodial groups.</li> </ul>
Horses	Subject to current Superintendent's order on horse use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See section 8.3 for details.</li> </ul>
Paragliding	Non-commercial use permitted with restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only non-motorized forms of paragliding are permitted. Motorized or towed launches are prohibited.</li> <li>All pilots must be a member of HPAC (Hang gliding and Paragliding Association of Canada). Visiting foreign pilots can buy a temporary membership by contacting the HPAC Office (<a href="http://www.hpac.ca">www.hpac.ca</a>).</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilots should check Parks Canada or HPAC's website for more information on paragliding in Jasper: <a href="https://www.parksCanada.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/activ/activ-experience/ete-summer/parapente-paragliding">https://www.parksCanada.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/activ/activ-experience/ete-summer/parapente-paragliding</a> or <a href="http://www.hpac.ca/pub/?pid=389">http://www.hpac.ca/pub/?pid=389</a>.</li> <li>Further details available in the Recreational Activity Guidelines, <a href="https://bitly.com/39ZhKqs">https://bitly.com/39ZhKqs</a>.</li> </ul>
Scuba diving	Permitted with restrictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scuba diving is only permitted in lakes that are signed as such. Currently, no lakes are signed permitting scuba diving, but it has been allowed in the following lakes: Beauvert, Annette, Edith, Patricia, Pyramid and Horseshoe. These lakes will be identified on the Jasper National Park website in the future.</li> </ul>
Skiing, cross country		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tracksetting priorities are set yearly. Dogs are allowed only on some trackset trails. See <a href="https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/activ/activ-experience/hiver-winter/carteski-skimaps">https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/activ/activ-experience/hiver-winter/carteski-skimaps</a> for details.</li> <li>Walkers, snowshoers and fat bikers are requested to stay off the groomed tracks.</li> </ul>
Skiing, backcountry	Permitted with restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Winter access to several areas is delayed to support caribou conservation. Visit <a href="https://www.parksCanada.gc.ca/caribouwinteraccess">parksCanada.gc.ca/caribouwinteraccess</a> for details.</li> <li>Visit <a href="https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mtn/securiteenmontagne-mountainsafety/gardiens-custodial">https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mtn/securiteenmontagne-mountainsafety/gardiens-custodial</a> for information on custodial groups in winter.</li> <li>The Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale (ATES) helps visitors evaluate avalanche risks in commonly visited parts of the park. Visit <a href="https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mtn/securiteenmontagne-mountainsafety/avalanche/echelle-ratings">https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mtn/securiteenmontagne-mountainsafety/avalanche/echelle-ratings</a> for details.</li> </ul>
Snowshoers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several trails are flatpacked for hikers, snowshoers and fatbikers each winter. See <a href="https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/activ/activ-experience/hiver-winter/raquette-snowshoe">https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/activ/activ-experience/hiver-winter/raquette-snowshoe</a> for details.</li> </ul>
Traction kiting	Permitted for non-commercial use with restrictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See online Recreational Activity Guidelines, <a href="https://bitly.com/39ZhKqs">https://bitly.com/39ZhKqs</a>, for details.</li> </ul>

## Prohibited activities

All terrain vehicles	<p>Prohibited except for Park management purposes, or by Restricted Activity Permit. Use of all-terrain vehicles for park management purposes include maintenance and construction of trails, fire management, freighting supplies into operations cabins, visitor safety response.</p> <p>The use of all-terrain vehicles to transport visitors and their supplies to backcountry huts and lodges, or to service these facilities is <b>not</b> permitted. See Section <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> for restrictions on the use of snowmobiles.</p>
Aircraft	<p>Non-commercial aircraft can take off and land at the Jasper Airfield with a permit, required upon arrival.</p> <p>Recreational take-off and landing is <b>prohibited</b> elsewhere in the park.</p> <p>The use of fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft to transport visitors and personal equipment into the park, other than the Jasper Airfield, is <b>prohibited</b>. The use of aircraft to transport visitors and their supplies to backcountry huts and lodges is <b>prohibited</b>.</p> <p>Helicopter use is limited to flights necessary for park management purposes and to service backcountry huts and lodges. A <i>Restricted Activity Permit</i> is required to land fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft anywhere in the park except for the Jasper Airfield and the Parks Canada Compound Helipad. Wildlife Flight Guidelines <a href="https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/info/plan/survols-flight">https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/jasper/info/plan/survols-flight</a>, must be followed to minimize disturbance of wildlife during over flights.</p>
Cairn building	<p>It is illegal to build cairns, <i>inuksuks</i> or rock art anywhere in the park, except to improve marking of an official trail in locations where it is easy to lose the trail, such as in a rock slide.</p>
Chainsaw use	<p>Chainsaws are <b>not</b> permitted in the backcountry, except by <i>Restricted Activity Permit</i> (RAP). There is no additional fee for the chainsaw permit. Commercial outfitters do not require a RAP; it is included as a condition of their Business License.</p> <p>Outfitters and private horse parties may be allowed to use a chainsaw to clear windfall from designated trails, cut tent poles, or provide firewood in designated horse or horse/hiker campgrounds where fires are allowed. Only dead wood may be used for firewood.</p> <p>If a chainsaw is deemed required, then the horse party is obligated to clear windfall from trails as encountered.</p>

	<p>The permit holder may remove <i>downed</i> trees to facilitate safe access by horse along authorized park trails along the scheduled route described in their Backcountry Camping Permit.</p> <p>Only downed trees crossing the trail may be removed. Trees and debris should be cleared to approximately one metre back from the trail centre line to ensure there are no lingering hazards to pack horses and other users. Brush and small saplings may also be removed to one metre from the trail centre line. Operators must ensure that brush and saplings are flush cut to prevent risk of punctures or tripping hazards.</p> <p>Trails on which chainsaws are permitted include official trails and the designated routes for which the horse party has received a permit. Chainsaws are also permitted in official and unmaintained horse and horse/hiker campgrounds along those routes.</p> <p>Chainsaws are <b>not</b> permitted for clearing of non-designated trails.</p>
Dog sledding	<p><b>Prohibited</b>; subject to approval by the Superintendent on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Commercial dog sledding will only be permitted as a day-use activity and only on those trails that are not track-set for cross-country skiing. Where conflicts between cross-country skiers and dog sleds are implied, skiers will be given preference.</p> <p>Sled dogs are not allowed to overnight inside the park.</p> <p>Private skijoring with a dog is permitted in the park, including on ski trails groomed for skate skiing where dogs are allowed.</p>
Drones	<p>Drones are <b>prohibited</b> anywhere in the park, except for park management purposes. A <i>Restricted Activity Permit</i> is required to fly a drone for park management purposes.</p>
Generators	<p><b>Prohibited</b> anywhere in Zone 2 – wilderness except for Parks management purposes. This includes the Maligne Lake campgrounds.</p>
Orienteering	<p>Although there is currently no policy on orienteering in Jasper National Park, off-trail events are <b>not</b> permitted in the park. This means that any orienteering activity must use official trails only. An event permit would be required for any orienteering event.</p>
Painted rocks	<p>Leaving painted rocks anywhere in the park is <b>prohibited</b> as it is prohibited to disturb natural objects, and it contravenes the principles of leave-no-trace.</p>
Snowmobiles	<p>Prohibited in the park except for Park management purposes.</p> <p>The use of snowmobiles to transport visitors and their supplies to backcountry huts and lodges is <b>prohibited</b>. However, snowmobiles may service these facilities in accordance with their licence of occupation and business licence. A <i>Restricted Activity Permit</i> is required for this use.</p>

Via Ferrata	Via Ferrata or challenge courses such as zip lines or aerial parks, even temporary ones, are <b>prohibited</b> without a permit. See the online Recreational Activity Guidelines, <a href="https://bitly.com/39ZhKqs">https://bitly.com/39ZhKqs</a> for details.
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## Appendix 6 Great Divide Trail

The Great Divide Trail (GDT) is a route from Waterton National Park to Mt. Robson and Kakwa provincial parks. It has become increasingly popular in recent years. The route is not marked as the Great Divide Trail, but follows existing trails and routes. The route includes busy trails (Jonas Pass and Skyline) as well as areas with high quality grizzly habitat, which are managed for low human use. In Jasper National Park, it follows existing trails as follows:

### *Section E (Saskatchewan Crossing to Jasper)*

- Enter Jasper National Park from White Goat Wilderness at Cataract Pass – Four Point - Jonas Shoulder - Poboktan Trail – Maligne Pass (or Six Pass alternate) – Skyline Trail – Jasper.

Campgrounds permitted for through-use:

- Boulder Creek;
- Cline (decommissioned horse camp; for Cline Pass alternate);
- McCreedy Horse Camp;
- Waterfalls;
- Poboktan;
- Avalanche;
- Mary Vaux (unmaintained on Maligne Pass North);
- Mary Schäffer (unmaintained on Maligne Pass North);
- Old Horse camp (unmaintained on Maligne Pass North);
- Trapper Creek (unmaintained on Maligne Pass North);
- Evelyn Creek;
- Watchtower; and
- Signal.

Other campgrounds are **not recommended** for use by through-hikers.

*Notes:*

- The Six Pass Route runs from Maligne Pass to Bald Hills. There is no marked trail or route; there are some boulder fields to traverse. Hikers must be skilled at route-finding. Since the route crosses six high alpine passes, it should not be attempted in bad weather. A large cornice forms on the southernmost pass (Elusive Pass, beside Maligne Pass). This cornice can be difficult to bypass before early July.

### *Section F (Jasper to Mt Robson)*

Townsite - along Highway 16 to Decoigne – Miette Valley Trail – Centre Pass – Grant Pass – Colonel Pass – Moose River Trail – Adolphus. Hikers can choose to end at Mt. Robson Provincial Park via the Berg Lake Trail, or can continue to Kakwa Provincial Park. Most hikers will resupply at the Berg Lake trailhead and climb back up.

Campgrounds permitted for through-use:

- Miette Lakes (unmaintained);

- Colonel Pass (unmaintained);
- Calumet (unmaintained); and
- Adolphus Hiker and Horse.

*Notes:*

- Some GDT hikers walk along the old Tote Road between the Dorothy-Christine and Golden-Cutt trails. From there they connect to the old railroad bed to Decoigne. The Tote road is not cleared, so it has considerable deadfall.
- Some hikers take the Saturday Night Lake loop to Minnow Lake and bushwhack from there to Dorothy Lake. From there they follow the Tote Road to avoid the highway all together.
- A few hikers take an alternate route via Elysium Pass to the Snaring Valley and from there to Centre Pass.

*Section G (Mt Robson to Kakwa)*

Adolphus – North Boundary trail to Chown Creek – Chown Valley - exit Jasper National Park at Bess Pass.

Campgrounds permitted for through-use:

- Wolverine North (regularly flooded until early September);
- Timothy Slide Horse Camp; and
- Chown Creek.

*Reservations*

GDT users must book the designated sites along their route via PCRS, then contact the Information Centre to book the remaining random sites.

GDT users can book all of the campgrounds south of the Jasper townsite via the PCRS. This includes Maligne Pass North, for which there is a quota of one permit per night. With that permit, hikers can camp at any of the unmaintained campgrounds along the Maligne Pass route north of Maligne Pass. For the Six Pass alternate route, they have to call the Information Centre for a random camping permit. The nightly quota for this route is also one group.

Campsites along the Miette Valley, Colonel Pass and Moose River routes must be booked through the Info Centre as random camping. Although random camping is allowed in those areas, GDT users should be encouraged to camp at the unmaintained campgrounds. Staff can add the random camping permits to an existing permit without an extra reservation fee.

Hikers continuing on Section G through Bess Pass should be encouraged to camp at Chown Creek campground or at the Bess Pass camping area just outside Jasper National Park (no charge or reservation required). Wolverine North is often flooded until early September; it should not be used until then.

## Resources

A useful web resource is [www.greatdividetrail.com](http://www.greatdividetrail.com). It contains is a complete listing of the campgrounds in order from south to north.

A commonly used trail guide for the GDT is *Hiking Canada's Great Divide Trail*, by Dustin Lynx.

The Great Divide Trail Association has its own Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Great-Divide-Trail-Association-144747792203345>

Suggestions for the future management of the trail:

- The GDT will remain a low use trail with about 100-150 through-hikers per year. The trails through high quality grizzly habitat cannot handle higher use, and busy trails are already too busy. The route goes through similar high-quality habitat in other mountain national parks.
- Note: Consideration is being given to setting a maximum number of annual permits for the GDT.
- **We work with the GDTA to set up recommended itineraries for GDT hikers that exclude high-use campgrounds (most of Skyline, Four Point etc.), and working with GDTA to manage applicants for the limited number of permits. That is, they vet applicants and ensure they are prepared and able to hike 30+ km/day.**