

<p>ESTIMATES NOTE (2019) Confidential</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>Date: February 2019</p>	<p>Park Demand, Expansion and Overuse</p>
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Key Messages:

- The number of park visits has been increasing significantly in recent years. The total park attendance reached 23.7 million in 2017/18; a slight drop of 4.5% from the historic-high level in 2016 due to the unprecedented wildfires in 2017. Despite this drop, the total park attendance has been increasing on average, at an annual rate of 3.0% over the past five years.
- Camping attendance also experienced a similar average growth of 3.0% each year and reached approximately 2.9 million persons in 2017/18.
- Due to the increasing visits, some parks - particularly those highly popular destination parks near urban centers - have experienced capacity issues during the peak summer season. There are not enough camping opportunities in those parks to meet demand.
- Increasing the number of reservable sites in a park, via Discover Camping, is a strategy used to manage high-demand parks where demand greatly exceeds supply.
- To increase the camping opportunities, the Province is investing up to \$22.9 million to add more than 1,900 new campsites over five years. More than 800 of the new sites will be in provincial parks and more than 1,000 will be in recreation sites.
- A number of day-use areas have seen unprecedented increases, particularly in the South Coast region.
- In response to this increase, BC Parks is working on a Visitor Use Management Framework and completing a pilot project at Joffre Lakes Park in the Sea-to-Sky Corridor. BC Parks has partnered the Lil'Wat and N'quatqua First Nations to develop strategies to manage visitor use.

Contact: Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Division, (250) 387-1288

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Gooderham, Coleen E ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX](#); [Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX](#); [Martin, Sydney D ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Joffre Lakes Briefing?
Date: May 30, 2019 7:01:12 AM

Thanks Coleen:

We will make sure both points are completed as outlined.

Regards, Bob Austad

From: Gooderham, Coleen E ENV:EX
Sent: May 29, 2019 3:53 PM
To: Ranson, David ENV:EX
Cc: Standen, Jim ENV:EX ; Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX ; Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX ; Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Gooderham, Coleen E ENV:EX ; Martin, Sydney D ENV:EX
Subject: RE: Joffre Lakes Briefing?

Hi

This is a 2 part response;

1 - Upon further discussion with Mark he has advised that the Minister would like a few bullets and a copy of the report prior to the release of the report. The DMO will action cliff/eapps.

s.13

Thank you

From: Martin, Sydney D ENV:EX
Sent: May 29, 2019 1:30 PM
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Subject: RE: Joffre Lakes Briefing?

Thanks Coleen.

Just to clarify – is this site visit intended to be prior to the release of the 2019 Action Plan – or is this ok to be planned for after the mid June release/announcement?

Sydney Martin | Manager of Visitor Programs | BC Parks | Office: 778-698-9458

From: Gooderham, Coleen E ENV:EX
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Subject: RE: Joffre Lakes Briefing?

Hi all

s.13

Let me know if I can help with this.

Thank you

From: Ranson, David ENV:EX

Sent: May 29, 2019 9:43 AM

To: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>

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Subject: Joffre Lakes Briefing?

Mark:

Before he left yesterday, Jim asked us to ask you if you or the Minister would like a briefing on the 2019 Joffre Lakes Visitor Use Management Action Plan before its public release next month?

Background:

In collaboration with the Lil'wat Nation and N'Quatqua, MOTI, and FLNRORD, a 2019 Action Plan has been drafted that includes overuse management strategies for the coming season. These strategies include parking lot expansion, a shuttle bus service, emergency phone through wifi connectivity, a possible highway web cam, and other traffic management actions (e.g. towing of illegally parked vehicles on highway).

The First Nations and key stakeholders are currently reviewing the latest draft and we are planning to publicly release this Action Plan in mid to late June.

s.13

David Ranson

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Ministry of Environment
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