

From: [Lo, Reamick ENV:EX](#)
To: [Throness.MLA, Laurie LASS:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Cultus Lake
Date: April 2, 2020 8:28:00 AM

Hi Coletta,

- In response to COVID-19 BC Parks has suspended services and closed facilities in most parks, and fully closed some parks under Directors Orders.
- Directors Orders have been, and will be, issued for parks where visitation numbers are exceedingly high and social distancing directives of the Provincial Health Officer are not being followed.
- BC Parks has taken this action to preserve the health and safety of the public and BC Parks staff, contractors, partners and volunteers.
- In Cultus Lake Park, BC Parks has suspended services and closed all facilities, however, the Teapot Hill Trail parking lot remains open, and the Jade Bay boat launch is open daily from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm.
- The only park in your constituency that is currently fully closed under Director's Order is Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park.

Warmly,

Reamick Lo

Executive Assistant to Hon. George Heyman
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Ph: 250-812-8642
Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca

From: Throness.MLA, Laurie <Laurie.Throness.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: March 24, 2020 5:37 PM
To: Lo, Reamick ENV:EX <Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Cultus Lake

Hi Reamick,

Thank you for the follow up. I thought I was calling you directly but now see that the number on the dir.gov.bc.ca was for the whole ministry, my apologies. I appreciate having your direct line.

Thanks for all the updates and the work each of you is doing to help us support our constituents.

Best,

Coletta

From: Lo, Reamick ENV:EX <Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 5:26 PM
To: Throness.MLA, Laurie <Laurie.Throness.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: Cultus Lake

Hi Coletta,

Thanks for calling the Minister's office for clarification about parks closures. I understand that you'd like to know if the provincial portion of Cultus Lake Park is fully closed now, including day use areas. I'm looking into it and will keep you posted.

I'm the liason in the Minister's office for MLA queries. Please feel free to contact me directly in the future.

Thanks.

Warmly,

Reamick Lo

Executive Assistant to Hon. George Heyman
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Ph: 250-812-8642
Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca

From: [Gooderham, Coleen E ENV:EX](#)
To: [Shoquist, Sarah ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Kennedy, Karla ENV:EX](#); [Morgan, Carly ENV:EX](#); [Gooderham, Coleen E ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Call request for Kelly
Date: April 2, 2020 3:21:08 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Invite to follow.

Thank you

From: Shoquist, Sarah ENV:EX <Sarah.Shoquist@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 2, 2020 3:21 PM
To: Gooderham, Coleen E ENV:EX <Coleen.Gooderham@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Kennedy, Karla ENV:EX <Karla.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca>; Morgan, Carly ENV:EX <Carly.Morgan@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Call request for Kelly

2:00 looks fine to me!

Sarah Shoquist

Administrative Assistant to
The Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

From: Gooderham, Coleen E ENV:EX <Coleen.Gooderham@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 2, 2020 3:19 PM
To: Shoquist, Sarah ENV:EX <Sarah.Shoquist@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Gooderham, Coleen E ENV:EX <Coleen.Gooderham@gov.bc.ca>; Kennedy, Karla ENV:EX <Karla.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca>; Morgan, Carly ENV:EX <Carly.Morgan@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Call request for Kelly

Hi

Mark wants to talk to Kelly tomorrow re Parks Closure. Jim Standen and Paul Corns will join also. Kelly is aware this call is coming.

How does 2:00 look?

Thank you



Coleen Gooderham

Senior Executive Assistant to Mark Zacharias, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
P: 250-387-5429/F: [250-387-6003](tel:250-387-6003)/ Coleen.Gooderham@gov.bc.ca

From: s.22 - Sather, Kelly ENV:EX
To: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX
Subject: Accepted: Conf Call: Mark, Kelly, Paul and Jim re; Parks Closure

From: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#); [Lo, Reamick ENV:EX](#)
Subject: NR Closures V3
Date: April 3, 2020 1:23:36 PM
Attachments: [BCParks Full Closure v3.docx](#)

Here it the tighter version as discussed.

Paul



Paul Corns | Director of Communications

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

☎ 778 974-2011 📠 250 882-6572 ✉️ paul.1.corns@gov.bc.ca

-

From: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#); [Lo, Reamick ENV:EX](#); [Lindsay-Baugh, Anna ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Fwd: DRAFT PARKS MATERIALS
Date: April 8, 2020 7:39:45 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good for the Minister to know.

p

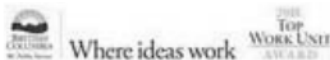
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Standen, Jim ENV:EX" <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Date: April 8, 2020 at 7:35:50 AM PDT
To: "Corns, Paul GCPE:EX" <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>, "Ranson, David ENV:EX" <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX" <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>, "Austad, Bob ENV:EX" <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>, "Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX" <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>, "Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX" <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: DRAFT PARKS MATERIALS

FNLC was provided a heads up on their call with EMBC yesterday that a Parks announcement is coming. EMBC and MIRR advised that we send the NR and any other supporting material to the FNLC this morning.

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 5:39 PM
To: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: DRAFT PARKS MATERIALS

Thanks David. MIRR is asking which FN's were contacted? Specifically did we connect

with FNLC?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 7, 2020, at 2:57 PM, Ranson, David ENV:EX
<David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good question Paul – not to my knowledge though I have a recollection that during wildfire events that the EOCs may have accessed them to get messaging out. But I've never been involved in getting DriveBC to update their site.

Planned stakeholder outreach is the same as the past announcement: operators, FNs, volunteers, permit holders, camping reservation holders.

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: DRAFT PARKS MATERIALS

Hi David,
Does your team update the DriveBC site?

Any additional stakeholder outreach planned we should be aware of in support of the announcement?

Thanks
Paul

BC Parks

For the health and safety of visitors, employees, park contractors, volunteers and partners, BC Parks has temporarily suspended services, limited access and closed facilities in most provincial parks. For details:

- See Parks BC for park closures

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 11:51 AM
To: Zdravec, Don GCPE:EX <Don.Zdravec@gov.bc.ca>; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; Grieve, Chandler GCPE:EX <Chandler.Grieve@gov.bc.ca>; Watson, Andy PSSG:EX <Andy.Watson@gov.bc.ca>; Robb, Katie TRAN:EX <Katie.Robb@gov.bc.ca>; Iliffe, Liam GCPE:EX <Liam.Iliffe@gov.bc.ca>; Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: DRAFT PARKS MATERIALS

Hey folks,

Given the interest on the 11:00am I am forwarding the nr and draft q/a to you now for a look prior to full signoff our dm/mo. The nr did go through a previous pass with JIC. We do expect the news will be hard to hear for some of the hardcore fans of parks. We expect there will be media demand and the minister will be out talking about the “difficult but necessary” decision to keep people safe consistent with PHO orders and feedback from RCMP, SARS, FN’s, local gov’s etc... The finals will be on the SharePoint this afternoon.

David C. , including you here. I believe Parks has reached out to have messages posted to DriveBC. If that has not happened as yet, can we discuss how we can make that happen.

Thanks all,
 Paul

KM’s

- Physical distancing works and it is one of the most crucial things we can do to keep people safe from COVID-19 transmission. As the

tourism season starts to take off, it will become increasingly difficult to enforce physical distancing in provincial parks.

- The provincial health officer (PHO) is very clear, now is the time to escalate action to bend the curve and reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- We understand the value of connecting to nature, and we will reopen the parks as soon as the PHO indicates it is safe to do so. Until that time, the public must not access provincial parks.
- The decision to close the park system and suspending all camping until May 31 is difficult but necessary. It is informed by continued feedback from RCMP, local government, First Nations, local search and rescue organizations and the general public.
- By taking this action now, we are potentially saving lives and increasing our opportunity for success. We are all in this together.

	<p>Paul Corns Director of Communications</p> <p>Government Communications and Public Engagement</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>📞 778 974-2011 📠 250 882-6572 📧 📧</p> <p>paul.1.corns@gov.bc.ca</p>
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From: [Shypitka, MLA, Tom LASS:EX](#)
To: [Lo, Reamick ENV:EX](#); [Jones, Tristan FLNR:EX](#)
Cc: [Wheeldon, Christy LASS:EX](#); [Shypitka, Tom](#)
Subject: FW: Outdoor Recreation in the East Kootenay's
Date: April 8, 2020 10:55:29 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Has all camping been banned on crown land? See screen shot from BC Parks below?



Heather Smith
Constituency Assistant
Tom Shypitka, MLA
Kootenay East
302 535 Victoria Ave N.,
Cranbrook, British Columbia V1C6S3
Office: 1 877 417 6022
Fax : (250) 417-6026
Website : tom.shypitka.mla@leg.bc.ca
Email Heather.Smith@leg.bc.ca

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From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 11:02 AM
To: Shypitka, MLA, Tom <Tom.Shypitka.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: Outdoor Recreation in the East Kootenay's

Hi Tom,

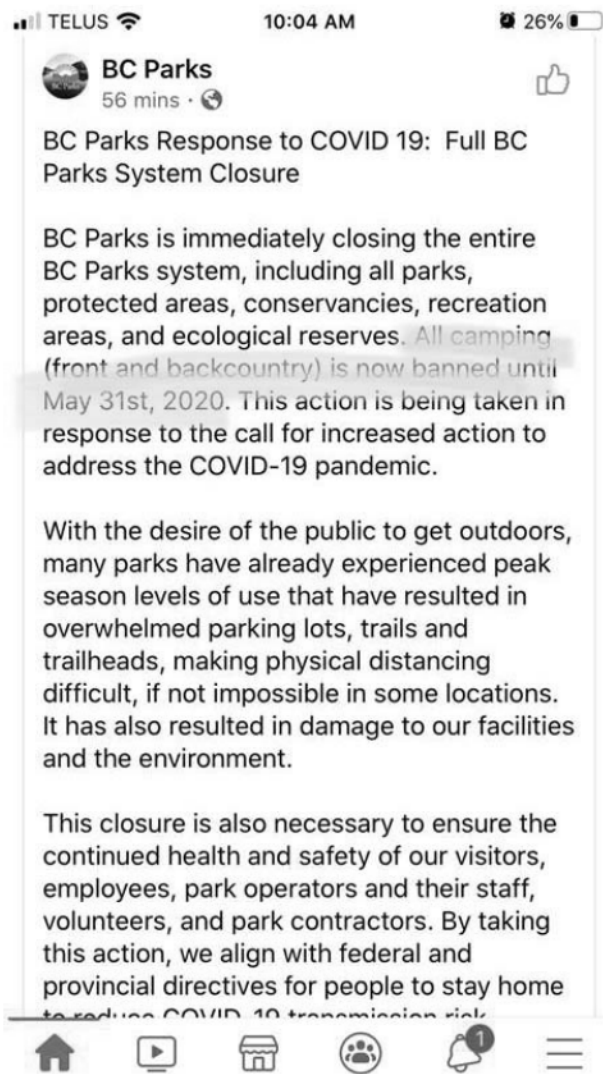
I was aware of the RDEK's request to the government to close access to the "backcountry". In seeing a publication from BC Parks today, it appears as though this request was granted. Is it true that the backcountry is in fact closed to the public? If yes, to what extent?

Dr. Henry has, on numerous occasions, suggested that British Columbian's should in fact get outside for their overall health - whilst maintaining a proper social distance. I would suggest the the outdoor activities that the people of the Kootenay's enjoy, and rely on for mental health, such as hiking, fishing, camping, ATVing, etc. are all great ways to get out and maintain a good physical distance from one another.

To be clear, I am all for the closure of provincial parks as this promotes a congregate gathering. Just not sure I understand the backcountry ban.

Just looking for your feedback and thoughts.

Regards,



COVID Based Park Closures

As the province has responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic, BC Parks has been following the direction of the Public Health Officer to implement physical distancing while preserving opportunities of the public to avail themselves of provincial parks to get outdoors.

BC Parks introduced a general facilities closure on March 20. This included the closure of all campgrounds until April 30, in line with Parks Canada and other PT jurisdictions. It also included service withdrawal from all but a select handful of parks where day use facilities were maintained to provide the public with some limited serviced areas. These serviced parks were primarily in the Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky and Vancouver Island.

The weekend following the general closure saw peak season levels of use at all parks, overwhelming parking lots, trails and trailheads. Citizens, local government officials and police all raised concerns with overcrowding and lack of social distancing. In response, portions of Stawamus Chief Park were immediately closed to address the overuse. Following further review of weekend overuse and large crowds at the following parks, they were closed, most in their entirety:

- French Beach Provincial Park
- Goldstream Provincial Park
- Gowlland Tod Provincial Park (closure restricted to McKenzie Bight and Tod Inlet)
- Juan de Fuca Provincial Park (includes China Beach, Sombrio Beach and Botanical Beach)
- John Dean Provincial Park
- Spectacle Lake Provincial Park
- Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park
- Joffre Lakes Provincial Park
- Murrin Provincial Park
- Shannon Falls Provincial Park
- Stawamus Chief Provincial Park and Protected Area
- Skaha Bluffs Provincial Park
- Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Provincial Park
- Liard River Hot Springs Provincial Park

While in most cases the closures have proven successful in limiting use in those parks to manageable levels, and has facilitated better compliance with physical distancing, it has also resulted in higher usage of the parks that remain open as users seek open alternatives. Recent inclement weather has also contributed to lower attendance over the last 14 days. However as we approach Easter and the long weekend, concern is growing amongst BC Parks management about the potential to again see large numbers of users flock to parks creating challenges to properly manage for COVID and general public safety.

In preparing for the expected increase in usage, the following factors come into play

- Public understanding: The current mix of full and partial park closures, combined with the full system service withdrawal, are creating confusion about what is and isn't accessible by the public. A number of provincial and state parks systems are currently under complete closure and

this further adds to the confusion amongst park users in BC. This confusion is best addressed by a more consistent approach rather than the mixed approach currently in place in BC.

- Lack of social distancing: Many provincial parks have natural gathering areas where social distancing is challenging if not impossible (parking lots, trailheads, popular trails, day use areas). Even where social distancing is possible, public compliance remains an issue. There are insufficient resources in BC Parks to police social distancing requirements.
- Park Management Capacity: Provincial park facilities are managed in partnership with private Park Operators. Many of these operators are losing staff to self-isolation and/or are refusing to undertake the work necessary to keep facilities open during the COVID crisis. BC Parks has not yet brought on seasonal rangers and is currently operating with just regular staff which is insufficient to manage the anticipated levels of service. Recall of seasonal rangers is challenged by the inability to provide the necessary safety and operational training, given the ban on large gatherings. Any front-line service provision requires Personal Protective Equipment which is being redirected to front line health workers.
- Reservation services: Public facing reservation services (Discover Camping) are provided under contract to a private provider, US eDirect. US eDirect is headquartered out of New York city which is facing COVID challenges that are acknowledged as the epicenter of the US outbreak. As a result, US eDirect is facing staffing challenges that are limiting their capacity to support the current fragmented approach to closures and the cancellations and client refunds that come with rolling closures. BC Parks' Discover Camping team is very lean and has been reduced by self-isolation and COVID issues. As such BC Parks has been challenged to manage public communications and reservation management under the current mixed closure approach.
- Local government concerns: BC Parks and MLAs are fielding regular complaints from the public about perceived lack of physical distancing in parks and concerns with provincial parks remaining open. Displacement of use from closed parks is also resulting in overcrowding effects (e.g. illegal parking) in neighbourhoods adjacent to parks that remain open.
- Search and Rescue (SAR): SAR resources are also impacted by COVID and as a result BC Parks has been receiving requests from SAR for full back country closures. Such a closure would help to prevent risky back-country recreation activities which can divert critical resources to injury calls and SAR searches. Injuries from risky back-country behaviours also divert medical resources away from COVID response as was highlighted in a back-country closure request BC Parks received from an emergency room physician from Vancouver.
- Seasonal openings: Most parks in BC remain under winter closure and are under snow. This has allowed BC Parks to focus on managing issues in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island where parks remain open all year and issues were greatest. With the warmer weather, pressure will increase on parks in other parts of the province, creating additional pressures on rangers and park operators at a time when resources are limited. Any decisions regarding longer term closures are best made before general usage increases.

Recommendations:

- 1. Immediately extend general service withdrawal/facility closure to May 31, 2020**
- 2. Plan and institute a system wide Provincial Park Closure ahead of the Easter Long Weekend**

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
Date: April 3, 2020 12:56:52 PM
Attachments: [RD Order - Porteau Cove Park - Park Closure - April 3 2020.pdf](#)
[FW Park Operations COVID-19.msg](#)
Importance: High

Hi Jim:

Even if we don't get a system wide closure today, I would like to support Jennie request by Director Order to close Porteau Cove PP and Golden Ears PP (more information coming on Golden Ears). Both Park Operators want the parks closed and without facilities and services human waste and garbage and on going social distancing problems from group and individuals are evident.

I think we need to support the POs and Regions request to issue the Directors Order. We need to take the pressure off both the Park Operators staff and enhance PHO public safety direction.

Regards, Bob

From: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)

Hi Bob,

As discussed, I am requesting approval to proceed with the closure of Porteau Cove Park by 5PM today (see attached RD Order).

Region has provided the following rationale:

- Facilities are closed, however we are still seeing high levels of visitation which is resulting in concerns for the safety of the public and staff.
- Due to the proximity to Vancouver, visitation is anticipated to be high for the coming weekend.
- We have worked with MOTI, the Park Operator, and other stakeholders (CN, s.22 and have their full support/agreement for gate closures.
- Recommendation: to close the park immediately by Regional Director's order and gate the park at the highway.

Eddie Wood has contributed these additional points from Sea to Sky Parks (email attached):

- The physical nature of Porteau Cove Day Use Area is that there is no room for people to disperse given the volume that use it. The day use areas is a dead end, similar to Murrin Park and Shannon Falls. Park visitors congregate and stay in the immediate area for long periods of time – there is very little room to disperse compared to a trail head where people can move

on to a trail and maintain appropriate social distancing.

- On sunny days the demand for Porteau Cove is such that the volume of cars will often double and triple park, blocking people in, which requires several staff to manage
 - Car clubs continue to use Porteau Cove Day Use Area. The activity is primarily on weekends, we are now also experiencing visits during the week. Car clubs are comprised of 15 cars or more.
 - People are using the grounds to defecate/relieve themselves given the washroom facilities are closed
 - Visitation is high at Porteau Cove weekends and midweek; based on sunny weather
 - STS staffing levels are very low and not in line with maintaining facilities under the current situation. Infection is of great concern ^{s.22} within the small levels we have, this compromises our ability to recover or replace staff. ^{s.22}
- s.22

Launa is preparing the messaging to post on the park webpages and through social media. She has confirmed that this needs to be completed by 5PM, as web staff are not available for postings after that time.

I am preparing a similar email and an RD order for the closure of Golden Ears Park, including the rationale from PO.

Thanks.

Jennie

Jennie Aikman
Regional Director, South Coast Region
BC Parks – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Phone: (604) 398-5913
Cell: (778) 875-8494



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Park Act

Order of the Regional Director

TO: Public Notice

DATE: April 3, 2020

WHEREAS:

- A. Porteau Cove Park ("the Park") is located near Lions Bay, BC;
- B. The Park is a Class A park established under the *Park Act* in 1981;
- C. Due to larger than average crowds and concerns about the potential spread of COVID-19 to the local community, the Park will be closed until further notice.
- D. Section 17 of the *Park Act* states:

A Director or any Park Officer acting on the Director's behalf may do one or more of the following:

- (c) Order any person in any park, conservancy or recreation area to cease or refrain from an action, an omission or conduct that the Director or Park Officer, in his or her discretion, considers dangerous to life or property or detrimental to the public interest.

ACCORDINGLY, the Regional Director orders:

1. Closure of Porteau Cove Park to all recreational uses until further notice starting April 3, 2020.
2. The duration of the closure period will reflect the level of risk to park visitors due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Any changes to the closure date will be posted on the BC Parks website.

Signed in North Vancouver, this 3rd day of April 2020.



Jennie Aikman
Regional Director
BC Parks, South Coast Region
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

From: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX []
To: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX [Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca]
Subject: FW: Park Operations COVID-19
Date: Friday, April 03, 2020 11:46:51
Attachment 1: image001.jpg
Attachment 2: image002.jpg
Attachment 3: image003.png
Attachment 4: image004.png
Attachment 5: image005.png
Attachment 6: image006.png
Attachment 7: image007.png
Attachment 8: image008.png
Attachment 9: image009.png
Attachment 10: image010.png

From: Eddie Wood <ewood@mtseymour.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 11:23 AM
To: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Park Operations COVID-19

Hi Jennie,

I've added points below for your consideration.

Thank you,

Eddie

From: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Eddie Wood <ewood@mtseymour.ca>
Subject: FW: Park Operations COVID-19

Hi Eddie,

Further to this note below, can you provide some key points outlining the specific concerns at Porteau Cove Park?

We are advocating for a closure for this park, and I understand that some additional rationale from you regarding the situation on the ground would be helpful.

Here is our rationale:

- Facilities are closed, however we are still seeing high levels of visitation which is resulting in concerns for the safety of the public and staff.
- Due to the proximity to Vancouver, visitation is anticipated to be high for the coming weekend.
- We have worked with MOTI, Park Operator, and other stakeholders (CN, ^{s.22}) and have support/agreement for gate closures.
- Recommendation to close and gate the park at the highway.

STS added:

- The physical nature of Porteau Cove Day Use Area is that there is no room for people to disburse given the volume that use it. The day use areas is a dead end, similar to Murrin Park and Shannon Falls. Park visitors congregate and stay in the immediate area for long periods of time – there is very little room to disburse compared to a trail head where people can move on to a trail and maintain appropriate social distancing.
 - On sunny days the demand for Porteau Cove is such that the volume of cars will often double and triple park, blocking people in, which requires several staff to manage
 - Car clubs continue to use Porteau Cove Day Use Area. The activity is primarily on weekends, we are now also experiencing visits during the week. Car clubs are comprised of 15 cars or more.
 - People are using the grounds to defecate/relieve themselves given the washroom facilities are closed
 - Visitation is high at Porteau Cove weekends and midweek; based on sunny weather
 - STS staffing levels are very low and not in line with maintaining facilities under the current situation. Infection is of great concern ^{s.22} within the small levels we have, this compromises our ability to recover or replace staff. ^{s.22}
- s.22

Thanks.

Jennie

Jennie Aikman

Regional Director, South Coast Region

BC Parks – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Phone: (604) 398-5913

Cell: (778) 875-8494

From: Eddie Wood <ewood@mtseymour.ca>

Sent: March 19, 2020 9:27 PM

To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>; Russell Chamberlain (rchamberlain@cypressmountain.com) <rchamberlain@cypressmountain.com>

Subject: Park Operations COVID-19

Dear Jim,

After speaking with Jennie Aikman and Dylan Eysers today, I understand that BC Parks is in the process of preparing an announcement on park operations for the coming weeks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am deeply concerned that BC Parks is considering maintaining access to some Day Use Areas despite the direction of BC's Provincial Health Officer regarding mass gatherings, social distancing and the importance of not putting further stress on our healthcare system.

While I understand the importance of being outside during this difficult time, I believe it

is irresponsible to provide access to parks where people congregate in groups greater than 50 and require services from front line staff. Park Operators and Mt. Seymour staff provide services including managing visitor volume, providing park information and answering questions, providing first aid, directing traffic, cleaning washrooms and collecting garbage and recycling. The staff members working in Day Use areas will undoubtedly find themselves in close contact with visitors throughout their shifts. Maintaining the required social distancing measures will be difficult for staff and visitors, especially due to high anticipated volumes as seen in the last several days at most parks.

In addition, we anticipate that staffing Day Use areas will become increasingly difficult. Currently^{s.22}

s.22

s.22

As a responsible employer, I am concerned that I will not be exposing my staff to an unsafe work environment. As Dr. Henry continues to indicate now is the time for all British Columbians need to take action to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

If an accident occurs in a park, search and rescue and hospitalization may be required, compromising our health care capacity. This one of the reasons Mt Seymour Resorts, along with other ski areas, closed on Monday, March 16th. We have seen high volume, as evidenced by full parking lots, over the past week in areas including Stawamus Chief, Shannon Falls and Poteau Cove. We have also experienced significant volume at Mt Seymour in the last week.

If BC Parks decides to keep Day Use Areas open this weekend and throughout the pandemic period we will experience overcrowding (groups of more than 50 people) which will contradict the Class Order and direction provided by Minister Adrien Dix and Chief Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, social distancing will be compromised and our healthcare system will be further taxed. I firmly believe that all Day Use Areas should be closed and that British Columbians should be advised to be outside in their yards and in their neighbourhoods where they can successfully maintain adequate social distancing.

If you would like to discuss my concerns, please call me at^{s.22}

Sincerely,

Eddie

Eddie Wood

President & General Manager

Mt Seymour Resorts----- | Sea to Sky Park Services

604-986-2261 x 240 | ewood@mtseymour.ca | www.mtseymour.ca

<https://mtseymour.ca/>

<https://seatoskyparks.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MtSeymour><https://www.instagram.com/mtseymour>https://twitter.com/Mt_Seymourhttps://www.youtube.com/channel/UC98LFVe_vh4SiOShY8602pghttps://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001Y9XAqyV8VF0eW1cFRNFvlwP2TpY6ib9R5jGvd6FMPPYGOVHNQbjLB3lsZLkaWy7FGep9f2nFq2mUuguG2VPlaRbbU1kNMmJbGVjuvMogMpujUtrC_ZDOruciqWl3vefL4zTj1L7saQxWGf_CXx_9ig%3D%3D<https://www.facebook.com/seatoskyparks><https://www.instagram.com/seatoskyparks><https://twitter.com/seatoskyparks?lang=en>

Mt Seymour acknowledges that it operates on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Confidentiality Warning: This message and any attachments are intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s), are confidential, and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, retransmission, conversion to hard copy, copying, circulation or other use of this message and any attachments is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail, and delete this message and any attachments from your system. Thank you.

 Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.

From: [Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX](#)
To: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Eyers, Dylan ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Golden Ears Park Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
Date: April 3, 2020 2:25:55 PM
Attachments: [RD Order - Golden Ears Park - Park Closure - April 3 2020.pdf](#)
[Fwd Golden Ears - Operating.msg](#)

Hi All,

Further to the previous note re: closure of Porteau Cove Park, we are also recommending full closure of Golden Ears Park. Attached is the RD Order.

I have also attached an email from Lance Leger outlining the Park Operator's concerns, and rationale for the park closure.

Region is recommending the park closure based on the following rationale:

- Facilities are closed, however we are still seeing high levels of visitation which is resulting in concerns for the safety of the public and staff.
- Due to the proximity to Vancouver, visitation is anticipated to be high for the coming weekend.
- We have worked with the Park Operator and have support/agreement for gate closures. The local government and First Nations have been notified.
- Recommendation to close and gate the park at the park entrance.

Launa has prepared messaging that will be coming up for approval.

Thanks.

Jennie

Jennie Aikman
Regional Director, South Coast Region
BC Parks – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Phone: (604) 398-5913
Cell: (778) 875-8494

From: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
Importance: High

Hi Jim:

Even if we don't get a system wide closure today, I would like to support Jennie request by Director Order to close Porteau Cove PP and Golden Ears PP (more information coming on Golden Ears). Both Park Operators want the parks closed and without facilities and services human waste and garbage and on going social distancing problems from group and individuals are evident.

I think we need to support the POs and Regions request to issue the Directors Order. We need to take the pressure off both the Park Operators staff and enhance PHO public safety direction.

Regards, Bob

From: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)

Hi Bob,

As discussed, I am requesting approval to proceed with the closure of Porteau Cove Park by 5PM today (see attached RD Order).

Region has provided the following rationale:

- Facilities are closed, however we are still seeing high levels of visitation which is resulting in concerns for the safety of the public and staff.
- Due to the proximity to Vancouver, visitation is anticipated to be high for the coming weekend.
- We have worked with MOTI, the Park Operator, and other stakeholders (CN, s.22 s.22 and have their full support/agreement for gate closures.
- Recommendation: to close the park immediately by Regional Director's order and gate the park at the highway.

Eddie Wood has contributed these additional points from Sea to Sky Parks (email attached):

- The physical nature of Porteau Cove Day Use Area is that there is no room for people to disperse given the volume that use it. The day use areas is a dead end, similar to Murrin Park and Shannon Falls. Park visitors congregate and stay in the immediate area for long periods of time – there is very little room to disperse compared to a trail head where people can move on to a trail and maintain appropriate social distancing.
- On sunny days the demand for Porteau Cove is such that the volume of cars will often double and triple park, blocking people in, which requires several staff to manage
- Car clubs continue to use Porteau Cove Day Use Area. The activity is primarily on weekends, we are now also experiencing visits during the week. Car clubs are comprised of 15 cars or more.
- People are using the grounds to defecate/relieve themselves given the washroom facilities are closed
- Visitation is high at Porteau Cove weekends and midweek; based on sunny weather

- STS staffing levels are very low and not in line with maintaining facilities under the current situation. Infection is of great concern s.22 within the small levels we have, this compromises our ability to recover or replace staff. s.22 s.22

Launa is preparing the messaging to post on the park webpages and through social media. She has confirmed that this needs to be completed by 5PM, as web staff are not available for postings after that time.

I am preparing a similar email and an RD order for the closure of Golden Ears Park, including the rationale from PO.

Thanks.
Jennie

Jennie Aikman
Regional Director, South Coast Region
BC Parks – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Phone: (604) 398-5913
Cell: (778) 875-8494



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Park Act

Order of the Regional Director

TO: Public Notice

DATE: April 3, 2020

WHEREAS:

- A. Golden Ears Park ("the Park") is located near Maple Ridge, BC;
- B. The Park is a Class A park established under the *Park Act* in 1967;
- C. Due to larger than average crowds and concerns about the potential spread of COVID-19 to the local community, the Park will be closed until further notice.
- D. Section 17 of the *Park Act* states:

A Director or any Park Officer acting on the Director's behalf may do one or more of the following:

- (c) Order any person in any park, conservancy or recreation area to cease or refrain from an action, an omission or conduct that the Director or Park Officer, in his or her discretion, considers dangerous to life or property or detrimental to the public interest.

ACCORDINGLY, the Regional Director orders:

1. Closure of Golden Ears Park to all recreational uses until further notice starting April 3, 2020.
2. The duration of the closure period will reflect the level of risk to park visitors due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Any changes to the closure date will be posted on the BC Parks website.

Signed in North Vancouver, this 3rd day of April 2020.



Jennie Aikman
Regional Director
BC Parks, South Coast Region
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

From: Eyers, Dylan ENV:EX []
To: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX [Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca]
Subject: Fwd: Golden Ears - Operating
Date: Friday, April 03, 2020 12:46:37
Attachment 1: image002.jpg

Statement from Lance.

Thanks,
Dylan Eyers
Lower Mainland Section Head
BC Parks
604-741-7302

Please excuse any typos, missing words, or poor grammar - Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lance Leger <lance@alouetteparks.ca>
Date: April 3, 2020 at 12:37:38 PM PDT
To: "Eyers, Dylan ENV:EX" <Dylan.Eyers@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Walter, Rhys ENV:EX" <Rhys.Walter@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Golden Ears - Operating

Hi Dylan,

We have made a number of operational changes to address the challenges of staying open during the current health environment. While we have been successful in keeping our staff distanced from potential sources of infection (limited interaction with the public, safe facility cleaning procedures, closing the park before it reaches an unsafe capacity level), there are a few ongoing challenges that exist which are not easy (or possible) to address:

- Security/safety/medical incidents: If a situation arises that requires immediate assistance, our staff will be potentially put in a situation where they have to move within the safe zone to assist. Further, emergency responders (ambulance, RCMP, Search & Rescue) will potentially be put in the same situation. This will be an issue on trails all over, whether parks are open or not.
- Pit toilets: While we are performing a safe clean of the surfaces, if a particularly messy situation arises, we may not be able to adequately clean it, given our lack of access to protective equipment. We may have to close some buildings as time progresses, depending on our ability to address the mess, and clean after an appropriate decontamination time has passed.
- Once the weather improves, we will have large volumes of traffic attempting to come to the park. This will likely result in us shutting access off early in the day and only allowing small batches of

cars up as available room opens up. While we hopeful that the public will be understanding, there is the potential for conflict with some members of the public. Our staff is instructed to remain in their vehicle if approached and close the window if necessary to maintain safe distancing. This may become difficult for us to handle once we get in to 20+ degree sunny weather.

- Thus far most park goers are hiking, the beach is seeing very little activity. This will change as the weather warms. We may see more groups not practicing safe social distancing.
- We will see more evening hour use as the weather warms. This will put increased pressure on staff as many will not obey the 5:30pm closing. It is likely we will need to remain at the gate until late evening (staff will receive so many callouts that it would be better to just stay there).
- As the weather warms, there will be more backcountry and lake camping (allowed or not).

In a nutshell: yes, we can continue to manage the park as it is currently running, and yes, it will become increasingly challenging as the weather warms.

Thanks,

Lance Leger - Vice President

<http://www.alouetteparks.ca/>

Alouette Park Management Ltd. | P: (604) 466-8325

From: [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#); [McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
Date: April 3, 2020 2:55:38 PM

Minister is comfortable with closing both.

From: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)

I support these two closures for the reasons expressed below. Kelly, can you let MGH know what we're proposing ASAP?

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 3, 2020, at 1:55 PM, Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Should we not move to a full system closure, I support Jennie's request.

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca

<image001.png>

From: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
Importance: High

Hi Jim:

Even if we don't get a system wide closure today, I would like to support Jennie request

by Director Order to close Porteau Cove PP and Golden Ears PP (more information coming on Golden Ears). Both Park Operators want the parks closed and without facilities and services human waste and garbage and on going social distancing problems from group and individuals are evident.

I think we need to support the POs and Regions request to issue the Directors Order. We need to take the pressure off both the Park Operators staff and enhance PHO public safety direction.

Regards, Bob

From: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 3, 2020 11:49 AM

To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)

Hi Bob,

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- Due to the proximity to Vancouver, visitation is anticipated to be high for the coming weekend.
- We have worked with MOTI, the Park Operator, and other stakeholders (CN, s.22) and have their full support/agreement for gate closures.
- Recommendation: to close the park immediately by Regional Director's order and gate the park at the highway.

Eddie Wood has contributed these additional points from Sea to Sky Parks (email attached):

- The physical nature of Porteau Cove Day Use Area is that there is no room for people to disburse given the volume that use it. The day use areas is a dead end, similar to Murrin Park and Shannon Falls. Park visitors congregate and stay in the immediate area for long periods of time – there is very little room to disburse compared to a trail head where people can move on to a trail and maintain appropriate social distancing.
- On sunny days the demand for Porteau Cove is such that the volume of cars will often double and triple park, blocking people in, which requires several staff to manage
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comprised of 15 cars or more.

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- Visitation is high at Porteau Cove weekends and midweek; based on sunny weather
- STS staffing levels are very low and not in line with maintaining facilities under the current situation. Infection is of great concern^{s.22} within the small levels we have, this compromises our ability to recover or replace staff.
s.22

Launa is preparing the messaging to post on the park webpages and through social media. She has confirmed that this needs to be completed by 5PM, as web staff are not available for postings after that time.

I am preparing a similar email and an RD order for the closure of Golden Ears Park, including the rationale from PO.

Thanks.

Jennie

Jennie Aikman

Regional Director, South Coast Region

BC Parks – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Phone: (604) 398-5913

Cell: (778) 875-8494

<RD Order - Porteau Cove Park - Park Closure - April 3 2020.pdf>

<mime-attachment>

From: [Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX](#)
To: [Russell, Shannon PREM:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#); [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Conversation with Mayor Ken Williams of the District of Highlands
Date: April 3, 2020 5:13:34 PM

Will do, Shannon. We will have Park Rangers patrolling this area of Gowlland Tod Park, amongst other key provincial park locations such as Juan de Fuca.

They will visit locations within the park and record observations along the local municipal roadways. They will provide me with updates both days and I will keep you updated. If possible, I'll also send you some photos taken by the park ranger staff.

Have a good weekend.

*Andy Macdonald
Regional Director
BC Parks – West Coast Region
Ministry of Environment
Phone: (250) 947-2601
Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca*

From: Russell, Shannon PREM:EX <Shannon.Russell@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 5:06 PM
To: Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX <Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Conversation with Mayor Ken Williams of the District of Highlands

Thanks again for taking the time for the touch-base Andy. Please keep me up to date on reports this weekend so I can respond to the Mayor when he calls.

Thanks,
Shannon

Shannon Russell
*Executive Advisor
Project and Strategic Liaison
Office of the Premier
Shannon.Russell@gov.bc.ca | 250-896-6063*

From: Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX <Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 1, 2020 2:45 PM
To: Russell, Shannon PREM:EX <Shannon.Russell@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Conversation with Mayor Ken Williams of the District of Highlands

Hello Shannon and Jim.

I followed up with Mayor Williams this afternoon at the request of Jim. It was a good conversation and Mayor Williams understands the challenges we are facing.

The key points of our discussion:

- I explained that BC Parks' consistent observations in the current portion of Gowlland Tod Park that remains open is that park visitor activity within the park is being managed well. We are finding that the available space in this portion of the park and the wider trails (as opposed to the narrow trails in the nearby CRD Parks) are helping visitors maintain the social distancing and other guidelines and rules communicated by the Provincial Health Officer.
- I also explained that we are aware of the concerns expressed by citizens within his community with the parking along the adjacent municipal roadways. I explained that, while we are conducting patrols in the area with our Park Rangers, BC Parks has no jurisdiction in these locations and any unauthorized parking would need to be enforced by the by-law officers.
- Mayor Williams agreed with our observations of visitor activity within the park and confirmed that his by-law officers would be monitoring the situation. He explained that some of the parking is not being done in conflict with local by-laws but they are particularly concerned about parking congestion obstructing fire hydrants and other needs by the local fire department. This will be the focus of the by-law officers.
- Mayor Williams is concerned about the potential increase in parking congestion and traffic in the area as we near the summer.
- Mayor Williams explained that most of his concerns are with the nearby CRD Parks because of their narrower trails, dogs off leash and less than sanitary toilets.
- I explained that we have Park Ranger staff patrolling key locations in the South Island throughout the week and weekend, that Gowlland Tod Park is one of those key locations. I did emphasize that we are very stretched with our capacity but will continue to do our best to monitor the situation in Gowlland Tod Park, promoting to park visitors the need for social distancing and install signage in additional locations where needed.
- He did identify the Emma Dickson Trailhead location as one that is more concerning than the others and that we should consider a closure of that trail. I explained that I would investigate that with staff, keeping in mind that a trail closure may help with the parking congestion issue but that compliance from all would likely not be successful. At the same time it is worth investigating and I'll discuss today with staff.

The above covers the main points of the discussion. I provided Mayor Williams with my cell number s.22 and offered that he could contact me if he has any further questions or concerns that he would like to discuss with BC Parks. He thanked me for the call and willingness for further discussions as needed.

I hope this helps. Any questions please let me know.

Thank you.

Andy Macdonald
Regional Director
BC Parks – West Coast Region
Ministry of Environment
Phone: (250) 947-2601
Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca

From: [Guzek, Elyse ENV:EX](#)
To: [Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX](#); [Michelfelder, Volker ENV:EX](#); [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX](#); [Brown, David R ENV:EX](#); [Baric, Keith J ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Exec Order
Date: April 7, 2020 12:21:20 PM
Attachments: [Park Act Order of the Executive Director.pdf](#)

From: Guzek, Elyse ENV:EX
Sent: April 7, 2020 11:58 AM
To: Martin, Sydney D ENV:EX <Sydney.Martin@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Exec Order

Elyse Guzek

BC Parks Program Coordinator
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy



gov.bc.ca/bcparks-student-rangers



BC Parks has recently launched new speciality plates! [Get your BC Parks licence plate today.](#)



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Park Act

Order of the Executive Director

TO: Public Notice

DATE: April 8, 2020

WHEREAS:

- A. This order applies to all Crown land established or continued as a park or ecological reserve under the *Park Act* or the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*; .
- B. This order is made in the public interest in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the purposes of the protection of human health and safety.
- C. This order is in regard to all public access, facilities or uses that exist in any of the lands mentioned in Section A above, and include but are not limited to: campgrounds, day-use areas, trails, playgrounds, shelters, visitor centers, cabins, chalets, lodges, resort areas, group campsites, and all other facilities owned or operated by or on behalf of BC Parks.
- D. This order is subject to amendment, revocation or repeal as necessary to respond to changing circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic.
- E. The protection of park visitor health, the health of all BC Parks staff, Park Operators, contractors and permittees is the primary consideration in the making of this order.

F. Section 17 of the Park Act states:

A director or any park officer acting on the director's behalf may do one or more of the following:

- (c) order any person in any park, conservancy or recreation area to cease or refrain from an action, an omission or conduct that the director or park officer, in his or her discretion, considers dangerous to life or property or detrimental to the public interest;

ACCORDINGLY, the Executive Director orders:

1. All Provincial Parks and Ecological Reserves established or continued as a park under the *Park Act* or the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, are hereby closed to all uses by the public.
2. Any facility, event, or activity involving the participation of the public, which was previously allowed or authorized under the authority of a Park Officer, or a Park Use Permit are ordered to cease and are closed for the duration of this order.
3. Access to any park associated with permitted operations that do not involve the participation of the public and are for the purpose(s) of the preservation and maintenance of the park and/or private or park facilities; requires a written exemption to this order issued by the Regional Director responsible for the Park.
4. This order comes into effect at 08:00 hrs on Wednesday April 8th, 2020 and remains in effect until repealed by further order.
5. If this order is not carried out or is only partially or imperfectly carried out, I may direct any person to carry out or complete the order, and the expense to the government of carrying out or completing the carrying out of the order will be a debt owing to the government by Individual at the suit of the government in any court of competent jurisdiction

Dated at Victoria, B.C., this 8th day of April, 2020.



Bob Austad

Executive Director, Regional Operations Branch

BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Faganello, Tara MAH:EX](#); [Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX](#); [Nash, Laurel ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX](#); [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Response Required: - Parks
Date: April 8, 2020 7:57:11 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Closure messaging Final.docx](#)

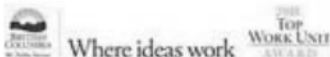
Here are our key messages as developed for MLAs. Note that while COVID is definitely a factor in the move to full closure, it is also based heavily on operational challenges related to staffing and over-use that leave us unable to assure public safety and the protection of park assets. In addition to these, specific to Local Governments:

- Like local government we have been trying to support the PHO by providing outdoor spaces for the public to access as we all cope with COVID.
- Unfortunately we have been required to close a number of parks in and around Vancouver and on Vancouver Island due to overuse which was resulting in environmental and facility damage as well as making it near to impossible to manage for physical distancing.
- With the Easter weekend coming, and good weather predicted, all indications are that usage could exceed that seen to date which would be beyond our ability to manage given the impacts of COVID on staffing levels.
- While we share many of the same challenges as local parks managers in our near to community parks, we also have many operating considerations that are unique to BC Parks.
- Key in this is that unlike local parks, most provincial parks are some distance from population centers and require travel to reach them that is inconsistent with recent PHO and Ministry of Health directives not to undertake recreational travel within the province.
- On consideration of all the variables, BC Parks felt that the only viable option is to close our parks until further notice.

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 5:28 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX <Nicola.Marotz@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX <Trish.Rorison@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Response Required: - Parks

Shortening the distribution list on this one, thanks Jim I understand your limitations and s.13

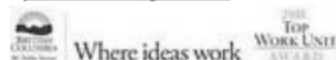
s.13 If you send to Nicola, Trish and I what you have approved we can go from there.

Thanks
T

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 4:36 PM
To: Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>; Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX <Nicola.Marotz@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>; Steves, Gregory OHCS:EX <Gregory.Steves@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX <Trish.Rorison@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Response Required: - Parks

Looping in Paul as I intended to the first time....

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Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
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From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
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Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX <Trish.Rorison@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Response Required: - Parks

I am happy to help however I can Tara but guidance for municipal authorities is outside my purview.
I have copied Paul Corns of our GCPE shop as he is part of JIC and perhaps can advise on how best to approach this request.

For clarity, the provincial system closure is indefinite. Any reopening will be subject to any emerging direction from the PHO.

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Sent: April 7, 2020 4:18 PM

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Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX <Trish.Rorison@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Response Required: - Parks

Thanks Jim, on a call just now with my Minister (who did received the Caucus briefing which was very helpful), she specifically asked for her Thursday regional calls with Mayors and Regional District Chairs if we could please get some approved (by the JIC/PHO) messaging on what advice can be given to Regional Districts/Municipalities on their parks? And to clarify if this is just for the long weekend or ongoing during COVID?

I have included Greg here on the vulnerable persons side of camping in parks...

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Sent: April 7, 2020 3:07 PM

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Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: FYI - Parks

I will be drafting a formal response to that question for use in your calls and our Q/As but so you know, we have not had any issues reported with homeless camping as we shut the camping down a couple of weeks ago or since. We did have some discussion with housing about what role provincial parks could potentially play with homeless but on review there a number of issues that were surfaced that caused housing to put a pause on the discussion.

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Assistant Deputy Minister

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From: Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX <Nicola.Marotz@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: FYI - Parks

Thanks Tara – additionally flagging whether this might also have issues on the vulnerable people side; this came up in a couple of the Minister’s calls, re local governments wondering about people camping in closed provincial parks and how that relates to homeless people’s Charter rights to have shelter.

From: Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 2:38 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX <Nicola.Marotz@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: FYI - Parks

Thanks Jim, just raised with Laurel the need for more messaging around direction to local governments for regional parks too if that is being considered? As you know, closure of provincial parks may put pressure on regional parks. We have a call with Mayors/Chairs in 5 regions on Thursday and I’m sure this will come up...

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 6, 2020 3:40 PM
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Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FYI - Parks

Good afternoon all,

This morning my minister presented to caucus our plan to move to a full system closure for the

provincial parks system. Current plan is for the attached news release to go out at 8am this Wednesday. Up to this point, BC Parks has taken a scaled and phased-in approach to park access limits to preserve general access and provide the public with outdoor areas to use, subject to practicing physical distancing. Where we have implemented access restrictions, they have proven successful, but they have also resulted in higher usage of the parks that remain open as users seek alternatives.

With the desire of the public to get out of doors, many parks have already experienced peak season levels of use which overwhelmed parking lots, trails and trailheads, made physical distancing difficult if not impossible in some locations, and resulted in damage to our facilities and the environment. As well, self-isolation and/or concerns with potential for COVID exposure have reduced park management capacity. This puts the public, staff, contractors and volunteers such as SARS at risk. This at a time when resources and supplies are being diverted to support front line health care workers. Spill-over to neighbouring communities has also been a concern raised by citizens, local government officials First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

With the Easter holiday upon us, and given the challenges posed by COVID, the expected influx of visitors is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. For all these reasons, we are moving to a full access closure of all provincial parks.

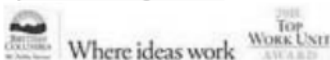
I have attached the news release for your info. It is embargoed pending release on Wednesday. KMs and Q/As for MLAs and ministers under development and expected by noon tomorrow

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
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- Physical distancing works.
- For that reason, the PHO continues to encourage people to stay home and avoid recreational travel, even within the province.
- Until now, BC Parks has taken a scaled and phased-in approach to park access limits to preserve general access and provided limited access to outdoor areas and has encouraged people to practice physical distancing.
- Where we have implemented access restrictions and park closures, they have proven successful, but they have also resulted in higher usage of the parks that remain open as users seek alternatives.
- Many parks have already experienced peak season levels of use that has resulted in overwhelmed parking lots, trails and trailheads, making physical distancing difficult if not impossible in some locations. It has also resulted in damage to our facilities and the environment.
- Self-isolation and/or concerns with potential for COVID-19 exposure have reduced park management capacity.
- This puts the public, staff, contractors and volunteers such as search and rescue services at risk. This at a time when resources and supplies are being diverted to support front line health care workers.
- Spill-over to neighbouring communities has also been a concern raised by citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police, along with general concerns about overcrowding and the lack of physical distancing in provincial parks.
- With the Easter holiday upon us, and given the challenges posed by COVID-19, the expected influx of visitors is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety.
- For this reason, we are implementing an immediate closure of all provincial parks and a continued ban on all camping.
- This action is difficult but necessary. We ask that you please respect the closures by not attempting to access provincial parks.
- BC Parks recognizes the value of nature in contributing to public health and wellness, and will expand access to the park system as soon as the PHO indicates it can be done without increasing the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- While we are closed to public access, we'll be using the time to prepare our parks for re-opening and look forward to when we can welcome the public back #ExploreBC...later
- Any change to provincial park access or services will be posted to the BC Parks website:
<http://bcparks.ca>

From: [Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX](#) on behalf of [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [ENV PPA PFOs; XT:Merilees, Andrew ENV:IN; Robert.russ@haidanation.com](#)
Cc: [Martin, Sydney D ENV:EX; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX; Ranson, David ENV:EX; Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
Bcc: [ENV PPA Regional Directors](#)
Subject: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the desire of the public to get outdoors, many parks recently experienced peak season levels of use overwhelming parking lots, trails and trailheads, making physical distancing difficult if not impossible in some locations, and resulted in damage to our facilities and the environment. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

Today, with the Easter holiday upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID and the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors.

This temporary measure means public and vehicle access is no longer available. All trails, roads, day use areas, beaches, lakes, boat launches, and backcountry areas are closed to public access. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park will be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

All campgrounds, camping opportunities and accommodations will be closed until at least May 31, 2020. Full refunds will be provided to existing reservation holders during this time and the Discover Camping reservation system will be suspended for all new reservations for the foreseeable future.

A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and facilities are reopened and available for reservation.

Our advice to visitors is to continue following the Provincial Health Officer's direction regarding social distancing and other health measures when they access provincial parks.

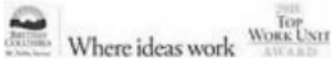
Regional staff will be in touch with POs directly to work through all operational questions and park specific plans regarding these closures. Park Operators will receive an exemption from Directors Order closing all parks, and will continue to have access to work and reside in the parks they manage through their Park Operator Agreement.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
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From:
Bcc:

Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX on behalf of Standen, Jim ENV:EX
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Subject: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 9:01:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

This temporary measure means that any activity involving the participation of the public is prohibited for the duration of the order. Where permit holders need to access a park for activities not involving the participation of the public, but as required for the preservation and maintenance of the park or their own private facilities, they must have a written exemption from the Regional Director responsible for the park in question. Requests for exemptions should be coordinated through the BC Parks staff contacts listed on your permits. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park without a written exemption may be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

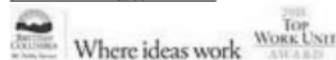
A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and regular public access and permitted operations can resume.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From:
Bcc:

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Subject: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 9:02:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning:

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increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

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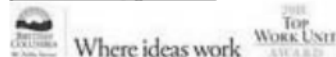
A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and regular public access and permitted operations can resume.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
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From:
Bcc:

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Subject: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 9:02:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

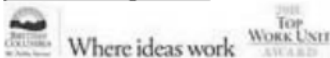
This temporary measure means that any activity involving the participation of the public is prohibited for the duration of the order. Where permit holders need to access a park for activities not involving the participation of the public, but as required for the preservation and maintenance of the park or their own private facilities, they must have a written exemption from the Regional Director responsible for the park in question. Requests for exemptions should be coordinated through the BC Parks staff contacts listed on your permits. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park without a written exemption may be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and regular public access and permitted operations can resume.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,
Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
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Subject: Important Update from BC Parks to our valued Ecological Reserve Wardens
Date: April 8, 2020 9:04:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise all of our valued volunteer Ecological Reserve Wardens of the decision that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the desire of the public to get outdoors, many parks recently experienced peak season levels of use overwhelming parking lots, trails and trailheads, making physical distancing difficult if not impossible in some locations, and resulted in damage to our facilities and the environment. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

Today, with the Easter holiday upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID and the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors.

As part of this system-wide closure, all provincial Ecological Reserves (ER) will also be closed to access. In accordance with this direction and to simplify visitor management, ER Wardens are asked to cease their volunteer activities for the duration of this closure. ER Wardens should cease all park activities, including engaging with members of the public around issues of compliance, and should instead advise BC Parks regional office of any concerns. Critical or urgent activities that cannot be deferred or delayed will need to obtain an exemption from the BC Parks Regional Director before they may be allowed to proceed.

This temporary measure means public and vehicle access is no longer available. All trails, roads, day use areas, beaches, lakes, boat launches, and backcountry areas are closed to public access. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone

found in a closed park will be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

All campgrounds, camping opportunities and accommodations will be closed until at least May 31, 2020. Full refunds will be provided to existing reservation holders during this time and the Discover Camping reservation system will be suspended for all new reservations for the foreseeable future.

A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and facilities are reopened and available for reservation.

Our advice to visitors is to continue following the Provincial Health Officer's direction regarding social distancing and other health measures when they access provincial parks.

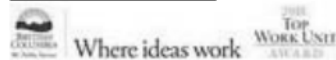
Regional staff will be in touch with POs directly to work through all operational questions and park specific plans regarding these closures.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
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From: Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX on behalf of Standen, Jim ENV:EX

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ENV:EX

Subject: Important Update from BC Parks to our Valued Volunteers

Date: April 8, 2020 9:04:00 AM

Attachments: image001.png

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

Although we have already been in contact with you, our intent is to continue to keep you informed on the activity and actions being undertaken by BC Parks, and to inform you as to why this decision has been made. We appreciate your continued cooperation and support in ceasing volunteer activities in all BC parks and protected areas for the duration of this closure.

With the desire of the public to get outdoors, many parks recently experienced peak season levels of use overwhelming parking lots, trails and trailheads, making physical distancing difficult if not impossible in some locations, and resulted in damage to our facilities and the

environment. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors.

This temporary measure means public and vehicle access is no longer available. All trails, roads, day use areas, beaches, lakes, boat launches, and backcountry areas are closed to public access. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park will be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and facilities are reopened and available for reservation.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen

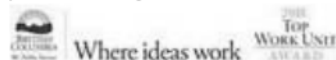
Assistant Deputy

Minister

BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service

Telephone: 250-387-1288

jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: s.22
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 9:07:11 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank You !

On Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 9:04 AM Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

This temporary measure means that any activity involving the participation of the public is prohibited for the duration of the order. Where permit holders need to access a park for activities not involving the participation of the public, but as required for the preservation and maintenance of the park or their own private facilities, they must have a written exemption from the Regional Director responsible for the park in question. Requests for exemptions should be coordinated through the BC Parks staff contacts listed on your permits. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park without a written exemption may be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and regular public access and permitted operations can resume.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,
Jim Standen

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy
Minister

BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service

Telephone: 250-387-1288

jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



Where ideas work



From: s.22
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COV
Date: April 8, 2020 9:15:01 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good call.

Thank you

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Wed., 8 Apr. 2020 at 9:06, Standen, Jim ENV:EX
<Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

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Thank you,
Jim Standen

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy
Minister

BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service

Telephone: 250-387-1288

jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



Where ideas work



From: s.22
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 9:17:34 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Jim & Deborah:

Thank you for this. As a BCer I am always so proud of our Provincial Parks. And it is great that BC Parks is taking the lead on this!

s.22

I cannot say enough about these two people and what a pleasure s.22 In fact, all of the people from BC Parks that we needed to deal with during those years at Pavilion Lake were fantastic.

So thank you again for looking after BC Parks staff and us the public.

s.22

From: Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX <Deborah.Carroll@gov.bc.ca> **On Behalf Of** Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: April 8, 2020 9:02 AM
Subject: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

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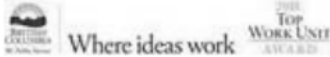
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BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,
Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: [pinkmountainoutfitters](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 9:46:17 AM

Thank you for the update , we will not be in the parks during this time

Sincerely

Lloyd Clark

Pink Mountain Outfitters

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: "Standen, Jim ENV:EX" <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Date: 2020-04-08 10:02 a.m. (GMT-07:00)
To:
Subject: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

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Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy
Minister

BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service

Telephone: 250-387-1288

jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: [XT:Wood, Eddie ENV:IN](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 10:02:02 AM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)

Thank you Jim.

Eddie

Eddie Wood

President & General Manager

Mt Seymour Resorts | Sea to Sky Park Services

604-986-2261 x 240 | ewood@mtseymour.ca | www.mtseymour.ca



Mt Seymour acknowledges that it operates on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x̱məθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Confidentiality Warning: This message and any attachments are intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s), are confidential, and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, retransmission, conversion to hard copy, copying, circulation or other use of this message and any attachments is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail, and delete this message and any attachments from your system. Thank you.



Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.

From: Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX <Deborah.Carroll@gov.bc.ca> **On Behalf Of** Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: April 8, 2020 9:02 AM
Subject: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

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BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: ["Verschoor, Michael"; Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Nunn, Chris; XT:Wheeler, Richard FLNR:IN](#)
Subject: RE: [External] Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 10:06:29 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

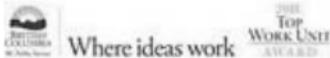
Michael,

Thanks for your email. We recognize that there will be exemptions needed for such circumstances and we were leaving the issuance of those to our Regional Directors. Given your request for a blanket exemption for BC Hydro I have copied Bob Austad, Executive Director for Regional Operations to make him aware of your request so he can work you and our team on a response.

Regards,
Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Verschoor, Michael <Michael.Verschoor@bchydro.com>
Sent: April 8, 2020 9:37 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Nunn, Chris <Chris.Nunn@bchydro.com>; XT:Wheeler, Richard FLNR:IN <Richard.Wheeler@bchydro.com>
Subject: FW: [External] Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

Good morning Jim.

Please note that BC Hydro requires continued and unobstructed access through some BC Parks in order to ensure public safety and electrical system security. Can you please provide a blanket written exemption to allow BC Hydro staff and contractors to access BC Parks for this purpose. Would it also be possible to post this exemption internally and send it out to your Parks staff so that we do not run into enforcement conflicts?

Thank you.

Michael Verschoor, RPF, PMP | Manager, Rights of Way & Roads
Line Asset Planning, Transmission Sustainment Planning

BC Hydro
6911 Southpoint Drive, B03
Burnaby, BC, V3N 4X8
T 604.515.8641 (78641)
C 604.789.1943

From: Nunn, Chris
Sent: 2020, April 08 9:27 AM
To: Verschoor, Michael
Subject: FW: [External] Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

FYI

From: Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX [<mailto:Deborah.Carroll@gov.bc.ca>] **On Behalf Of** Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: 2020, April 08 9:02 AM
Subject: [External] Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

*****Caution:** This is an **external** email. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders.***

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

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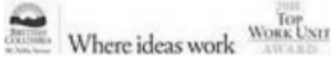
A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and regular public access and permitted operations can resume.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,
Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister

BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



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From: [Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX](#) on behalf of [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Bcc: s.22
Subject: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 10:35:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

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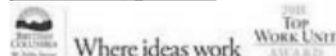
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Thank you,
Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: ["Molly Staats"; Meyer, Mika FLNR:EX; Robert Busby](#)
Cc: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX; Brown, David R ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 12:02:24 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Molly,

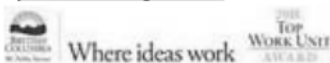
Thanks for your reply and for your understanding. I am copying both my Regional Director for the North as well as the Executive Director for Regional Operations so that they are aware of how you are approaching this challenging time.

Regards

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Molly Staats <molly.staats@iris.edu>
Sent: April 8, 2020 9:54 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Meyer, Mika FLNR:EX <Mika.Meyer@gov.bc.ca>; Robert Busby <busby@iris.edu>
Subject: Re: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

Good Morning Jim,

We are aware of the concern for the spread of Covid-19 to rural/remote communities and are heeding all travel restrictions at the national, provincial, and local levels. We are currently working with our sponsor, the US National Science Foundation, on plans to potentially delay or fully postpone all field activities this summer.

Our team has spent several months this winter creating a detailed plan for the removal of 87 seismic stations throughout Alaska and northwestern Canada, concluding the temporary USArray project. If we are unable to remove stations this year, we will plan to operate one additional year (with no planned in-person service visits), with decommissioning work shifting to 2021. Fortunately, this extended timeline would be covered by our current permit (#108176) which does not expire

until 12/30/2021.

We thank you for your flexibility and willingness to work with us during this unprecedented time.

Molly

On 4/8/2020 10:02 AM, Standen, Jim ENV:EX wrote:

Good morning:

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Thank you,
Jim Standen

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy

Minister

BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service

Telephone: 250-387-1288

jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



Where ideas work



From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: ["Charles Menzies"](#)
Cc: [Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX](#); [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 1:19:49 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Charles,

Thanks for your email. The closure applies to all Provincial Parks, Conservancies, Recreational Areas and Ecological Reserves. It does not apply to Crown Lands outside of the provincial parks system. You can view the order at <http://bcparks.ca/advisories/2020/orders/20200408-BCParks-Executive-Directors-Order-Full-Closure.pdf?v=1586375580741> and the news release can be found at <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020ENV0019-000645>

While we are asking everyone to respect the closures and refrain from entering all parks and protected areas, there will be of courses cases where maintaining critical infrastructure or equipment support a request for an exemption. If you have critical equipment maintenance to undertake then that request should be addressed to the BC Parks Regional Director in the region in which you hold your permit. As I do not know where your research is happening, I am afraid I cannot direct you but I have copied the Executive Director of Regional Operations who can direct you if you could identify what geographic area your permit covers.

Regards,
Jim

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Charles Menzies <charles.menzies@ubc.ca>
Sent: April 8, 2020 9:48 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX <Deborah.Carroll@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

Does this cover remote conservation areas within which I have a current research permit for?

Or, is it only for the actual parks?

Thanks,
Charles Menzies

--

Charles R. Menzies, PhD

(affiliation information provided for identification purposes only)
Professor. Dept. of Anthropology & Institute of Oceans and Fisheries.
Director of the Ethnographic Film Unit at UBC
Editor, Collaborative Anthropologies
UBC-V Joint Faculties Senator (elect). Term: September 2020 to August, 2023.

Located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) People.

email: charles.menzies@ubc.ca

<https://www.charlesmenzies.ca>
<https://charlesmenzies.blogspot.ca>
<https://blogs.ubc.ca/saltwaterpeople/>
<https://anthfilm.anth.ubc.ca>

Twitter @charlesmenzies

From: "Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX" <Deborah.Carroll@gov.bc.ca> on behalf of "Standen, Jim ENV:EX" <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 9:02 AM

To: "<Undisclosed recipients:>"

Subject: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

Good morning:

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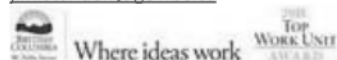
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Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: ["Icefield Discovery"](#)
Cc: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Brown, David R ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 2:16:08 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

If you would like to discuss an exemption you should contact David Brown, Regional Director for out North Region. I have copied him on this email so he is aware.

Regards
Jim

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Icefield Discovery <info@icefelddiscovery.com>
Sent: April 8, 2020 9:17 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

Hi Lance, if there is any chance you are coming back this weekend, I can try and get this exemption sorted out for you. Sian

On Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 9:07 AM Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

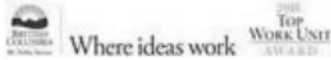
This temporary measure means that any activity involving the participation of the public is prohibited for the duration of the order. Where permit holders need to access a park for activities not involving the participation of the public, but as required for the preservation and maintenance of the park or their own private facilities, they must have a written exemption from the Regional Director responsible for the park in question. Requests for exemptions should be coordinated through the BC Parks staff contacts listed on your permits. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park without a written exemption may be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and regular public access and permitted operations can resume.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,
Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: [NOCS](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 2:52:30 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you for the update. We have sent a newsletter out to our membership to ensure they visit the BC Parks website to stay up to date on the COVID changes implemented.

Take care,
Rosemary

On Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 9:03 AM Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

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BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging

time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy
Minister

BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service

Telephone: 250-387-1288

jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



Where ideas work



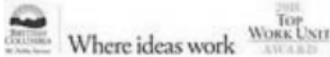
From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: s.22
Cc: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Brown, David R ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: [External] Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 3:17:04 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

s.22

Thanks for your email. As I am sure you can appreciate, the decision to close provincial parks was not an easy one but one that was deemed necessary for a variety of reasons. We are asking everyone to respect the closure and not enter the parks. Someone requiring access through the park to get to and from their residence or to maintain infrastructure could request an exemption but we are not providing exemptions for general or recreational access. If you want to explore an exemption, you would need to address that request to the Regional Director, David Brown, and I have copied him so he is aware of your situation.

Jim

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: s.22
Sent: April 8, 2020 9:26 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: [External] Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

Thank you for the update. s.22

s.22 The reason is s.22
and it would be very difficult in the summer by boat. If it's not possible under your restrictions I understand. If it's acceptable who should I contact for a written exemption? Thank you, s.22
s.22

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 8, 2020, at 9:02 AM, Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

EXTERNAL: PLEASE PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

This e-mail has originated from outside of the organization. Do not respond, click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender or know the content is safe.

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

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A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and regular public access and permitted operations can resume.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca
<image001.png>

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: ["David Fehr"](#)
Cc: [Michelfelder, Volker ENV:EX](#); [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 3:22:54 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

David,

Thanks for your reply. As I am sure you can appreciate, the decision to close provincial parks was not an easy one but one that was deemed necessary for a variety of reasons. You received the notice because as a Park Use Permit holder, we wanted to ensure you received notice of the closure from us directly.

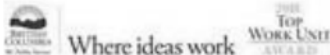
We are asking everyone to respect the closure and not enter the parks. Someone requiring access through the park to get to and from their residence or to maintain infrastructure could request an exemption but we are not providing exemptions for general access or recreational purposes. If you want to explore an exemption, you would need to address that request to the Regional Director, Volker Michelfelder, and I have copied him so he is aware of your situation.

Regards

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: David Fehr <david.fehr@bidco.ca>
Sent: April 8, 2020 9:11 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

I assume that issuing this letter to me acknowledges my necessity to access park?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 8, 2020, at 9:04 AM, Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in

response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

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BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca
<image001.png>

From: [Datoo, Hayley C ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Davies, Heather J ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX](#)
Subject: West Coast Correspondence to First Nations
Date: April 8, 2020 3:29:02 PM

Hello, the FN communication from BC Parks was sent out to West Coast First Nations early this afternoon. To date, we have not received any responses, but will be maintaining a communications tracking sheet. We have also shared this information with our MIRR and FLNRORD counterparts in the region.

Please contact me if you require any further/updated information as we progress.

FN contacted by email:

'Namgis First Nation	Pauquachin First Nation
Ahousaht First Nation	Penelakut Tribe
Council of the Haida Nation	Qualicum First Nation
Cowichan Tribes	Quatsino First Nation
Da'naxda'xw First Nation	Scia'new First Nation
Ditidaht First Nation	Secretariat Of The Haida Nation
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation	Skidegate Band Council
Ehattesaht Chinehkint First Nation	Snaw-Naw-As First Nation
Esquimalt First Nation	Snuneymuxw First Nation
Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations	Songhees Nation
Gwawaenuk Tribe	Stz'uminus First Nation
Halalt First Nation	T'Sou-ke First Nation
Hesquiaht First Nation	Te'mexw Treaty Association
Homalco First Nation	Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation
Hul'qumi'num Nations	Tlatlasikwala First Nation
Hupacasath First Nation	Toquaht Nation
Huu-ay-aht First Nations	Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation
K'omoks First Nation	Tsartlip First Nation
Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tlas7et'h' First Nations	Tsawout First Nation
Klahoose First Nation	Tsawassen First Nation
Kwakiutl First Nation	Tseshaht First Nation
Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation	Tseycum First Nation
Lyackson First Nation	Uchucklesaht Tribe
Maa-nulth First Nations	Ucluelet First Nation
Malahat Nation	We Wai Kai Nation
Mamalilikulla First Nation	Wei Wai Kum Nation
Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation	
Nuchatlaht First Nation	
Old Massett Village Council	
Pacheedaht First Nation	

Hayley Datoo

North Island/Central Coast Planning Section Head
West Coast Region, BC Parks
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Hayley.Datoo@gov.bc.ca

Cel: 250-898-4439



BC Parks has recently launched new speciality plates! [Get your BC Parks licence plate today.](#)

From: s.22
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Re: BC Parks Facility Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 4:55:47 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

s.22 due to B.C. Parks decision. At least we can still do
maintenance on the buildings.
s.22

New Outlook Express and Windows Live Mail replacement - get it here:
<http://www.oeclassic.com/>

Original Message:

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
To:
Sent: 2020-03-20 2:19:43 PM
Subject: BC Parks Facility Closures in Response to COVID-19

Dear Park Use Permit Holder,

In order to ensure public safety, and in an effort to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, BC Parks has taken the extraordinary measure to close many BC Parks facilities and restrict overnight camping for the public. BC Parks recognizes that this closure may have a direct impact on your ability to carry out some or all of the activities that are authorized in your existing or pending Park Use Permit.

BC Parks has temporarily suspended services at marine parks, visitor centres, nature houses, washrooms and day-use facilities. All campgrounds, camping opportunities and accommodations will be closed until at least April 30, 2020. Provincial park visitors may continue to use trails and areas where accessible. In addition you should be aware parking lots in some parks may be closed and gated where necessary.

This direction is not meant to restrict park use permit holders from accessing front country and back country areas to provide guided day-use activities that are compliant with the direction of the Provincial Health Officer. This order does not restrict permittees from accessing private structures in parks, or conducting maintenance or operations associated to land use\occupancy permits or to maintain critical operations or infrastructure within parks. Permittees are still allowed to access the park, and have their staff or contractors access the park to undertake necessary works and maintenance to protect their infrastructure.

In addition, research and monitoring activities can continue as long as it can meet the requirements of the Provincial Health Officer, and does not involve access to, or use of park facilities.

Full provincial park closures are also being implemented on a case-by-case basis where required to address concerns regarding health and safety. If you have any questions or concerns as it relates to this closure, please get in touch with your regional contact for the parks that you are permitted to operate in. In addition, any changes to access or services at provincial parks will be posted to the BC Parks website at <http://bcparks.ca/>

BC Parks appreciates your cooperation with these restrictions and is looking forward to being able to resume operations once the current situation has resolved.

Sincerely,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy

Minister

BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service

Telephone: 250-387-1288

jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



Where ideas work



From: Cousins, Paula TRAN:EX
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Cc: Miska, Ed TRAN:EX; Ludwar, Kenedee TRAN:EX; Ranson, David ENV:EX; Austad, Bob ENV:EX
Subject: RE: Request for Highway Changeable Message Sign Language
Date: April 8, 2020 8:13:02 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Jim,

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you and closing the loop. The following message went live on our digital messaging boards at 5pm:

For overhead dynamic message signs (with provincial park closed messaging)

PROVINCE WIDE FOR SIGNS WITH 18 CHARACTERS OR MORE PER LINE	
MESSAGE 1	
Phase 1	Phase 2
COVID19 STAY HOME	ALL PROVINCIAL
ESSENTIAL TRAVEL ONLY	PARKS CLOSED
PROVINCE WIDE FOR SIGNS UNDER 18 CHARACTERS PER LINE	
MESSAGE 2	
Phase 1	Phase 2
COVID19 ESSENTIAL	ALL PROVINCIAL
TRAVEL ONLY	PARKS CLOSED

Thanks,
Paula

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 4:32 PM
To: Cousins, Paula TRAN:EX <Paula.Cousins@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Miska, Ed TRAN:EX <Ed.Miska@gov.bc.ca>; Ludwar, Kenedee TRAN:EX <Kenedee.Ludwar@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Request for Highway Changeable Message Sign Language

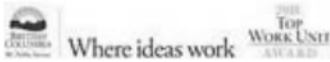
Paula, I did hear back from Bob suggesting perhaps we have it say "All Provincial" rather than "All BC" as the latter could be interpreted to include regional and national parks.

Thanks again and good catch Bob.

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Cousins, Paula TRAN:EX <Paula.Cousins@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Miska, Ed TRAN:EX <Ed.Miska@gov.bc.ca>; Ludwar, Kenedee TRAN:EX <Kenedee.Ludwar@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Request for Highway Changeable Message Sign Language

Good Afternoon Jim,

Hope you are doing well during these ever changing times.

We had a local request from someone on your team to use our Highway Digital Messaging Signs to advise the public of the full BC Parks closure that is pending.

We are able to assist with this and have drafted the proposed messaging below; as we prefer a consistent approach across the province.

Please let me know if you have any comments or concerns with what is proposed. The signs flash between the Phase 1 and Phase 2 message every few seconds. Once approved, and when you confirm what date you would like us to implement, this would be the standard messaging with vehicle or emergency incident messaging on the highways taking priority as needed.

PROVINCE WIDE – PARK CLOSURE	
MESSAGE 1	
Phase 1	Phase 2
COVID19 STAY HOME	ALL BC
AVOID GATHERING	PARKS CLOSED

Kind Regards,

Paula

Paula Cousins
A/Executive Director
Southern Interior Region

250-371-4505

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Closure List
Date: April 1, 2020 10:12:16 AM

I don't believe there are any other changes, but I've send out the Regional Directors to confirm.
Regards, Bob

From: Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX
Sent: April 1, 2020 10:03 AM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Closure List

Hello Bob and David,

I know we have our daily call at 11 am, but thought I would flip this to you in advance.

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 1, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Closure List

Pamela;

Is there any update to this closure list for the upcoming weekend. Any other changes to parks service levels the public should be made aware of?

Thanks

Paul

West Coast, Vancouver Island:

- French Beach Provincial Park
- Goldstream Provincial Park
- Gowlland Tod Provincial Park (closure restricted to McKenzie Bight and Tod Inlet)
- Juan de Fuca Provincial Park (includes China Beach, Sombrio Beach and Botanical Beach)
- ŁÁU,WELŃEW/John Dean Provincial Park
- Spectacle Lake Provincial Park

South Coast:

- Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park
- Joffre Lakes Provincial Park
- Murrin Provincial Park
- Shannon Falls Provincial Park
- Stawamus Chief Provincial Park and Protected Area

Okanagan:

- Skaha Bluffs Provincial Park

North:

- Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Provincial Park
- Liard River Hot Springs Provincial Park (hot springs and campground closed previously; now full closure)

Full and partial park closures previously put in place:

- Flores Island Park and Gibson Marine Park (closure of Wildside Trail)
- Maquinna Marine Provincial Park (full closure)
- Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Provincial Park (full closure)



Paul Corns | Director of Communications

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

☎ 778 974-2011 📠 250 882-6572 📧 paul.1.corns@gov.bc.ca

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: ED REview and Approval Required: fact sheet for BC Parks
Date: April 2, 2020 2:50:01 PM
Attachments: [FS_BCParks_COVID19.docx](#)

Here are my edits Launa for your consideration.

Regards, Bob

From: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Sent: April 2, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX
Subject: ED REview and Approval Required: fact sheet for BC Parks
My suggested edits in the attached. Over to you two for review, edit, approval, please.
Thanks.

From: Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 2, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: fact sheet for BC Parks

Hi Launa,

Here is the fact sheet for you to make any edits and run through approvals. I am going to the kitchen now

Thanks!

Pamela Roth
Public Affairs Officer
Environment and Climate Change Strategy
525 Superior Street
Ph: 778-698-8085 Cell: 250-213-5992
Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca

From: [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
To: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: ED REview and Approval Required: fact sheet for BC Parks
Date: April 2, 2020 2:57:28 PM
Attachments: [FS_BCParks_COVID19.docx](#)

I've put some changes in track changes. I think we need to be a little more up front with the statement that all camping opportunities are closed so have reordered that somewhat.

From: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Sent: April 2, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX
Subject: ED REview and Approval Required: fact sheet for BC Parks
My suggested edits in the attached. Over to you two for review, edit, approval, please.
Thanks.

From: Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 2, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: fact sheet for BC Parks

Hi Launa,

Here is the fact sheet for you to make any edits and run through approvals. I am going to the kitchen now

Thanks!

Pamela Roth
Public Affairs Officer
Environment and Climate Change Strategy
525 Superior Street
Ph: 778-698-8085 Cell: 250-213-5992
Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Parks Closure Rationale
Date: April 2, 2020 4:28:45 PM
Attachments: [COVID Based Park Closures V4.docx](#)

FYI - Here is the final version which we will be discussing with MO and GCPE tomorrow. For your eyes only at the moment - thanks.

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 2, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Kennedy, Karla ENV:EX <Karla.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Parks Closure Rationale

Folks: To inform our discussion tomorrow. Paul, based on this document could you craft a draft NR so we could see what this might look like? Jim, this is your version 3 with a few typos fixed and changes accepted.

Regards, MZ

COVID Based Park Closures

As the province has responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic, BC Parks has been following the direction of the Public Health Officer to implement physical distancing while preserving opportunities of the public to avail themselves of provincial parks to get outdoors.

BC Parks introduced a general facilities closure on March 20. This included the closure of all campgrounds until April 30, in line with Parks Canada and other PT jurisdictions. It also included service withdrawal from all but a select handful of parks where day use facilities were maintained to provide the public with some limited serviced areas. These serviced parks were primarily in the Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky and Vancouver Island.

The weekend following the general closure saw peak season levels of use at all parks, overwhelming parking lots, trails and trailheads. Citizens, local government officials and police all raised concerns with overcrowding and lack of social distancing. In response, portions of Stawamus Chief Park were immediately closed to address the overuse. Following further review of weekend overuse and large crowds, 14 additional parks were closed, most in their entirety.

While in most cases the closures have proven successful in limiting use in those parks to manageable levels, and has facilitated better compliance with physical distancing, it has also resulted in higher usage of the parks that remain open as users seek open alternatives. Recent inclement weather has also contributed to lower attendance over the last 14 days. However, as we approach Easter and the long weekend, concern is growing amongst BC Parks management about the potential to again see large numbers of users flock to parks creating challenges to properly manage for COVID and general public safety.

In preparing for the expected increase in usage, the following factors come into play

- **Park management capacity:** Provincial park facilities are managed in partnership with private Park Operators. Many of these operators are losing staff to self-isolation and/or are refusing to undertake the work necessary to keep facilities open during the COVID event. BC Parks has not yet brought on seasonal rangers and is currently operating with just regular staff which is insufficient to manage the anticipated levels of service. Recall of seasonal rangers is challenged by the inability to provide the necessary safety and operational training, given the ban on large gatherings.
- **Discouraging unnecessary travel:** Many park users are travelling some distance to get to the park of their choice, contrary to PHO direction to avoid unnecessary travel. In southeastern BC there are growing concerns with Albertans coming in large numbers to use BC's provincial parks, increasing the risk of cross border transmission.
- **Public understanding:** The current mix of full and partial park closures, combined with the full system service withdrawal, are creating confusion about what is and isn't accessible by the public. In addition to the Parks Canada full closure, parks systems in WA, OR are currently closed and AB has implemented a full vehicle access closure, which further adds to the confusion amongst park users in BC. This confusion is best addressed by a more consistent approach rather than the mixed approach currently in place in BC. Given self-isolation and COVID issues,

BC Parks has been challenged to manage public communications and reservation management under the current mixed closure approach.

- External concerns: BC Parks and MLAs are fielding regular complaints from the public about perceived lack of physical distancing in parks and concerns with provincial parks remaining open. Displacement of use from closed parks is also resulting in overcrowding effects (e.g. illegal parking) in neighbourhoods adjacent to parks that remain open. First Nations have also expressed concerns with parks remaining open adjacent to their communities.
- Search and Rescue (SAR): SAR resources are also impacted by COVID and as a result BC Parks has been receiving requests from SAR for full back country closures. Such a closure would help to prevent risky back-country recreation activities which can divert critical resources to injury calls and SAR searches.
- Seasonal openings: Most parks in BC remain under winter closure and are under snow. This has allowed BC Parks to focus on managing issues in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island where parks remain open all year and issues were greatest. With the warmer weather, pressure will increase on parks in other parts of the province, creating additional pressures on rangers and park operators at a time when resources are limited. Any decisions regarding longer term closures are best made before general usage increases.

Recommendations:

- 1. Immediately extend general service withdrawal/facility closure to May 31, 2020.**
 - Will take a minimum of a month to return to normal operations
 - Need closure to extend beyond May long weekend to provide lead time to deal with existing reservations and communicate change
- 2. Plan and institute a system wide Provincial Park Closure ahead of the Easter Long Weekend**
 - There is insufficient capacity to manage expected surge in usage
 - Concerns with large groups in provincial parks and displacement impacts at and around parks that remain open

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: electronic sign on Highway 14.
Date: April 2, 2020 4:43:35 PM

Hi Jim:

Andy MacDonald is requesting the ability to place a electronic sign on Highway 14 to support messaging the provincial parks between Sooke and Port Renfrew are closed. I think this is a great idea, as it will stop people who are touring the highway believing they can access the closed parks (French, Beach, China Beach, Sombrio Beach, Botanical Beach and Juan de fuca trail).

Do you have any concerns with approach of cost.

Regards, Bob

From: Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX
Sent: April 2, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX
Subject: FW: electronic sign on Highway 14.

Hi Bob.

Given we would need to pay for this with the COVID project # coding, are you supportive of us proceeding at \$1,200/ month?

Andy Macdonald
Regional Director
BC Parks – West Coast Region
Ministry of Environment
Phone: (250) 947-2601
Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca

From: Meding, Craig ENV:EX <Craig.Meding@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 2, 2020 3:09 PM
To: Webster, Mickey ENV:EX <Mickey.Webster@gov.bc.ca>; Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX <Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Catherall, Owen ENV:EX <Owen.Catherall@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: electronic sign on Highway 14.

Great thanks Mickey.

Andy - Do you support the immediate rental and installation of an electronic sign on highway 14? Or given the higher level conversations going on between HQ and MoTI should we standby?

Mickey has a quote from Ansan Traffic for sign rental at \$1,200 per month, installation \$60, location: HWY 14 just east of Jordan River.

Thank you,

Craig Meding

A/Parks and Protected Areas Section Head
Haida Gwaii and South Island Section, West Coast Region
BC Parks, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
1240 Rath Road, Parksville, BC V9P 2E2
Phone: 250 954-4606 | Cell: 250 228-4541
Craig.Meding@gov.bc.ca

From: Webster, Mickey ENV:EX <Mickey.Webster@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 2, 2020 2:54 PM
To: Meding, Craig ENV:EX <Craig.Meding@gov.bc.ca>; Catherall, Owen ENV:EX

<Owen.Catherall@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: electronic sign on Highway 14.

Hi Craig,

I got a hold of MoTI and they have no concerns at all with us placing an electronic sign alongside the highway.

I found a company in Victoria (Ansan Traffic) that will rent us a sign for \$1,200 per month.

I said I would likely want it on HWY 14 just this side of Jordan River and he said they will deliver it and set it up for \$60.

So if you okay this the only thing left is to choose some effective wording. You can leave that to me. Nothing to worry about there.

Mickey

From: Meding, Craig ENV:EX <Craig.Meding@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 2, 2020 1:19 PM

To: Webster, Mickey ENV:EX <Mickey.Webster@gov.bc.ca>; Catherall, Owen ENV:EX <Owen.Catherall@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: electronic sign on Highway 14.

Have we confirmed MoTI is supportive?

Thanks!

Craig Meding

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Phone: 250 954-4606 | Cell: 250 228-4541
Craig.Meding@gov.bc.ca

From: Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX <Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 1, 2020 5:31 PM

To: Meding, Craig ENV:EX <Craig.Meding@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: electronic sign on Highway 14.

Hi Craig. Bob will seek support from PEC for the expenditure against a budget not within region.

Please let me know if MoTI is supportive.

Andy Macdonald
Regional Director
BC Parks - West Coast Region
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Office: (250) 954-4613

On Apr 1, 2020, at 4:51 PM, Meding, Craig ENV:EX <Craig.Meding@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Andy,

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Owen and Mickey are speaking with MoTI to confirm they are supportive.
Cost for rental and installation approximately \$2,000 for one month.
I think it is a good idea if we can manage the expense. What do you think?

Craig Meding

A/Parks and Protected Areas Section Head
Haida Gwaii and South Island Section, West Coast Region
BC Parks, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
1240 Rath Road, Parksville, BC V9P 2E2
Phone: 250 954-4606 | Cell: 250 228-4541
Craig.Meding@gov.bc.ca

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: electronic sign on Highway 14.
Date: April 2, 2020 4:47:21 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

No concerns.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Austad, Bob ENV:EX
Sent: April 2, 2020 4:44 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Subject: FW: electronic sign on Highway 14.

Hi Jim:

Andy MacDonald is requesting the ability to place a electronic sign on Highway 14 to support messaging the provincial parks between Sooke and Port Renfrew are closed. I think this is a great idea, as it will stop people who are touring the highway believing they can access the closed parks (French, Beach, China Beach, Sombrio Beach, Botanical Beach and Juan de fuca trail).

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A/Parks and Protected Areas Section Head
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Regional Director

BC Parks - West Coast Region
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Office: (250) 954-4613

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Craig Meding

A/Parks and Protected Areas Section Head

Haida Gwaii and South Island Section, West Coast Region

BC Parks, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

1240 Rath Road, Parksville, BC V9P 2E2

Phone: 250 954-4606 | Cell: 250 228-4541

Craig.Meding@gov.bc.ca

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Guzek, Elyse ENV:EX](#); [Price, Chris ENV:EX](#); [Villeneuve, Kirby A ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Final Sitrep March 28 2020 as sent to DM
Date: April 3, 2020 7:56:39 AM
Attachments: [Parks SIR Park closure COVID-19 March 2020.docx](#)

FYI – Info. from Alberta.

Their vehicle access closure is working, but still finding they need Rangers in the field to manage some of the barriers and ensure public is adhering to governments direction.

Regards, Bob

From: Amy Nugent
Sent: April 3, 2020 7:49 AM
To: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Final Sitrep March 28 2020 as sent to DM

From: Mike Fernandez <mike.fernandez@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 6:30 PM
To: Amy Nugent <Amy.Nugent@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: Final Sitrep March 28 2020 as sent to DM

Mike Fernandez
Alberta Environment and Parks
ADM, Parks
Office - 780-415-6594
Cell -s.17
Mike.Fernandez@gov.ab.ca

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**Parks Division
Significant Incident Notification**

Notification #: March 2020 - 1

Incident Title: TEMPORARY SYSTEM WIDE PARK CLOSURE DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Park Name: PROVINCIAL SUMMARY REPORTING

Incident Location: PROVINCE

Incident Date & Time: March 28, 2020 15:00hrs
Provincial Responder: Amy Nugent / Keith Bocking

SITUATION: Two Ministerial Orders came into affect at 1:00 p.m. Friday, March 27, 2020 temporarily restricting automobile to all provincial parks as well as provincial recreation areas.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

AEP Parks Operations and Lands staff developed a COVID-19 Response Plan for Implementing a Temporary System Wide Park closure. Plan was approved for implementation on Friday, March 27, 2020.

Parks staff initiated gating or barricading access points to Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas Friday late afternoon and evening, and monitoring user compliance. Initial public communication program initiated through social media and web late Friday afternoon as well. Highway signing has been initiated Saturday.

PROVINCIAL REPORT BACK (as of 14:00hrs March 28, 2020):

Use levels vary across the Province, higher levels of use seen west of Rocky Mountain House. Winter storm conditions in the NW has led to low levels of use in that Region. NE Region has seen lower use than previous weekend. The rest of Central region has seen lower or similar levels of use as compared to last weekend – falling temperatures and snow likely factors in the level of use. Southern Region is reporting relatively low levels of use.

Kananaskis Country has reported another busy weekend but visitation levels have dropped from the previous weekend. Parks staff have started closing Parks and Recreation Areas effective Saturday morning. Many areas were already being utilized ahead of the closure activities and they are presently challenged with limited number of barricades and staff to man barricades to interact with approaching users. Coordination with Town of Canmore and AB Transportation, Volker Stevin and Fortis occurring to implement closures.

User response to the temporary vehicle access restrictions are reported as “mixed”. If users were unaware of the closure, a general acceptance of the new policy. Some users have expressed their disagreement with this approach. Most often reported questions relate to understanding what outdoor recreational activities are still permitted and exactly where, or alternative access points to lakes for ice fishing. User parking at gated entrances or along roadway or highways adjacent to closed areas has been reported. More of an issue in the Highway 11 corridor west of Rocky Mountain House.

Signage Update

- Province Wide – all 11 large/permanent digital (DMS) signs broadcasting Parks message as of Friday evg. Road condition messaging still takes priority so AB Trans may change message as required by site. Location of DMS signs listed at bottom.
- Province Wide – AT’s 511 info app broadcasting Parks closure as of Friday evg.
- DMS and 511 message requested to be in place until Tuesday AM
- Mobile digital road signs by region – location of signs show in the pin map link below
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1G70XvTwvArLkjY0CKTon7vJaAUkUK4HG&usp=sharing>
 - NW – No signs in place. Snowfall warning is taking priority for maint contractor. Will reassess Monday AM
 - NE – all in place
 - CR – Edson region snowfall is taking priority for maint contractor, thus no signs in that district. No report back yet from AT on remainder of CR
 - KR – all in place
 - SR – all in place
 - Current request to AB Trans is to have these mobile message signs in place until Tuesday AM (at which time our letter boards will be rolling out).

Letter board signs – all regions progressing as efficiently as possible. Roll out by region will vary. Expect them showing up between Sunday – Wednesday. Most current pin map showing locations by region (may get refined next week)

- <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Edn5MU67ojF8AAuQnssgo7gq7EdBqyqp&usp=sharing>

AB Transportation ’s Digital Messaging System (DMS) sign locations:

- SB QEII south of Leduc
- NB QEII north of Red Deer
- NB QEII south of Airdrie
- WB Highway 1, west of Highway 22 (Cochrane)
- NB Highway 36 Lac la Biche
- EB Highway 63 at Grasslands
- SB Highway 63 at Airport Road (Fort McMurray)
- NB Highway 22, 2km south of Drayton Valley Bridge
- NB Highway 22, 300m south of Drayton Valley Bridge
- SB Highway 22, 2km north of Drayton Valley Bridge

-
- SB Highway 22, 300m north of Drayton Valley Bridge

Social media:

There has been many questions via Contact Us and social media asking about further guidance on what Public Lands are included under this temporary restriction. Points of clarification include: where people can still go, can they get dropped off at a park, where can OHV, how they can use their horse or get their horse to Parks.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES: Continuing to gate or barricade sites in a prioritized order through the weekend. Monitoring and public engagement of users will continue.

Waiting from Communications for updated and approved Q&A that better defines restriction related to Public Lands. Additional social media planned and waiting for approval to address questions.

AGENCIES INVOLVED: AEP Parks and Lands, AB Transportation

MEDIA CONTACT: None reported.

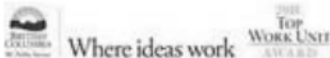
NEXT UPDATE: Sunday, March 29, 2020 @ 15:00hrs

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Guzek, Elyse ENV:EX](#); [Price, Chris ENV:EX](#); [Villeneuve, Kirby A ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Final Sitrep March 28 2020 as sent to DM
Date: April 3, 2020 9:41:20 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks for this Bob. Looks like they are having the same or similar issues we are with spillover and parking. To me it points to full closure as the best option over vehicle restrictions.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Austad, Bob ENV:EX
Sent: April 3, 2020 7:57 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX
Cc: Guzek, Elyse ENV:EX ; Price, Chris ENV:EX ; Villeneuve, Kirby A ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Final Sitrep March 28 2020 as sent to DM
FYI – Info. from Alberta.

Their vehicle access closure is working, but still finding they need Rangers in the field to manage some of the barriers and ensure public is adhering to governments direction.

Regards, Bob

From: Amy Nugent <Amy.Nugent@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 7:49 AM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Final Sitrep March 28 2020 as sent to DM

From: Mike Fernandez <mike.fernandez@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 6:30 PM
To: Amy Nugent <Amy.Nugent@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: Final Sitrep March 28 2020 as sent to DM

Mike Fernandez
Alberta Environment and Parks
ADM, Parks
Office - 780-415-6594
Cell - 780-868-5659
Mike.Fernandez@gov.ab.ca

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From: [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
To: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Guzek, Elyse ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Movement data from Google
Date: April 3, 2020 12:10:23 PM

This is really interesting google analytics data. More grist for the closure mill Jim.

From: Quayle, James F ENV:EX
Sent: April 3, 2020 12:02 PM
To: Ranson, David ENV:EX
Cc: ENV PPA HQ Managers
Subject: FW: Movement data from Google
This might be useful in your COVID discussions ...

From: Ban, Stephen ENV:EX <Stephen.Ban@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 11:03 AM
To: ENV PPA Conservation Specialist <PPACSVSP@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Movement data from Google

There's some really interesting stuff in here – note that movement to parks has ***decreased*** by 16% nationally, but ***increased*** by 27% in BC!

https://www.gstatic.com/covid19/mobility/2020-03-29_CA_Mobility_Report_en.pdf

Stephen Ban, Ph.D., RPBio

Protected Areas Applied Ecologist (Aquatic/Marine)

BC Parks | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Stephen.Ban@gov.bc.ca

Phone: (778) 698-5791

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
Date: April 3, 2020 12:56:52 PM
Attachments: [RD Order - Porteau Cove Park - Park Closure - April 3 2020.pdf](#)
[FW Park Operations COVID-19.msg](#)
Importance: High

Hi Jim:

Even if we don't get a system wide closure today, I would like to support Jennie request by Director Order to close Porteau Cove PP and Golden Ears PP (more information coming on Golden Ears). Both Park Operators want the parks closed and without facilities and services human waste and garbage and on going social distancing problems from group and individuals are evident.

I think we need to support the POs and Regions request to issue the Directors Order. We need to take the pressure off both the Park Operators staff and enhance PHO public safety direction.

Regards, Bob

From: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX
Sent: April 3, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX
Cc: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Subject: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)

Hi Bob,

As discussed, I am requesting approval to proceed with the closure of Porteau Cove Park by 5PM today (see attached RD Order).

Region has provided the following rationale:

- Facilities are closed, however we are still seeing high levels of visitation which is resulting in concerns for the safety of the public and staff.
- Due to the proximity to Vancouver, visitation is anticipated to be high for the coming weekend.
- We have worked with MOTI, the Park Operator, and other stakeholders (CN, s.22 and have their full support/agreement for gate closures.
- Recommendation: to close the park immediately by Regional Director's order and gate the park at the highway.

Eddie Wood has contributed these additional points from Sea to Sky Parks (email attached):

- The physical nature of Porteau Cove Day Use Area is that there is no room for people to disburse given the volume that use it. The day use areas is a dead end, similar to Murrin Park and Shannon Falls. Park visitors congregate and stay in the immediate area for long periods of time – there is very little room to disburse compared to a trail head where people can move on to a trail and maintain appropriate social distancing.
- On sunny days the demand for Porteau Cove is such that the volume of cars will often double and triple park, blocking people in, which requires several staff to manage
- Car clubs continue to use Porteau Cove Day Use Area. The activity is primarily on weekends, we are now also experiencing visits during the week. Car clubs are comprised of 15 cars or more.
- People are using the grounds to defecate/relieve themselves given the washroom facilities are closed

- Visitation is high at Porteau Cove weekends and midweek; based on sunny weather
- STS staffing levels are very low and not in line with maintaining facilities under the current situation. Infection is of great concern **s.22** within the small levels we have, this compromises our ability to recover or replace staff. **s.22**

Launa is preparing the messaging to post on the park webpages and through social media. She has confirmed that this needs to be completed by 5PM, as web staff are not available for postings after that time.

I am preparing a similar email and an RD order for the closure of Golden Ears Park, including the rationale from PO.

Thanks.

Jennie

Jennie Aikman

Regional Director, South Coast Region

BC Parks – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Phone: (604) 398-5913

Cell: (778) 875-8494



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Park Act

Order of the Regional Director

TO: Public Notice

DATE: April 3, 2020

WHEREAS:

- A. Porteau Cove Park ("the Park") is located near Lions Bay, BC;
- B. The Park is a Class A park established under the *Park Act* in 1981;
- C. Due to larger than average crowds and concerns about the potential spread of COVID-19 to the local community, the Park will be closed until further notice.
- D. Section 17 of the *Park Act* states:

A Director or any Park Officer acting on the Director's behalf may do one or more of the following:

- (c) Order any person in any park, conservancy or recreation area to cease or refrain from an action, an omission or conduct that the Director or Park Officer, in his or her discretion, considers dangerous to life or property or detrimental to the public interest.

ACCORDINGLY, the Regional Director orders:

1. Closure of Porteau Cove Park to all recreational uses until further notice starting April 3, 2020.
2. The duration of the closure period will reflect the level of risk to park visitors due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Any changes to the closure date will be posted on the BC Parks website.

Signed in North Vancouver, this 3rd day of April 2020.



Jennie Aikman
Regional Director
BC Parks, South Coast Region
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

From: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX []
To: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX [Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca]
Subject: FW: Park Operations COVID-19
Date: Friday, April 03, 2020 11:46:51
Attachment 1: image001.jpg
Attachment 2: image002.jpg
Attachment 3: image003.png
Attachment 4: image004.png
Attachment 5: image005.png
Attachment 6: image006.png
Attachment 7: image007.png
Attachment 8: image008.png
Attachment 9: image009.png
Attachment 10: image010.png

From: Eddie Wood <ewood@mtseymour.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 11:23 AM
To: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Park Operations COVID-19

Hi Jennie,

I've added points below for your consideration.

Thank you,
Eddie

From: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Eddie Wood <ewood@mtseymour.ca>
Subject: FW: Park Operations COVID-19

Hi Eddie,

Further to this note below, can you provide some key points outlining the specific concerns at Porteau Cove Park?

We are advocating for a closure for this park, and I understand that some additional rationale from you regarding the situation on the ground would be helpful.

Here is our rationale:

- Facilities are closed, however we are still seeing high levels of visitation which is resulting in concerns for the safety of the public and staff.
- Due to the proximity to Vancouver, visitation is anticipated to be high for the coming weekend.
- We have worked with MOTI, Park Operator, and other stakeholders (CN, ^{s.22} and have support/agreement for gate closures.
- Recommendation to close and gate the park at the highway.

STS added:

- The physical nature of Porteau Cove Day Use Area is that there is no room for people to disburse given the volume that use it. The day use areas is a dead end, similar to Murrin Park and Shannon Falls. Park visitors congregate and stay in the immediate area for long periods of time – there is very little room to disburse compared to a trail head where people can move on to a trail and maintain appropriate social distancing.
- On sunny days the demand for Porteau Cove is such that the volume of cars will often double and triple park, blocking people in, which requires several staff to manage
- Car clubs continue to use Porteau Cove Day Use Area. The activity is primarily on weekends, we are now also experiencing visits during the week. Car clubs are comprised of 15 cars or more.
- People are using the grounds to defecate/relieve themselves given the washroom facilities are closed
- Visitation is high at Porteau Cove weekends and midweek; based on sunny weather
- STS staffing levels are very low and not in line with maintaining facilities under the current situation. Infection is of great concern s.22 within the small levels we have, this compromises our ability to recover or replace staff. s.22
s.22

Thanks.

Jennie

Jennie Aikman

Regional Director, South Coast Region

BC Parks – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Phone: (604) 398-5913

Cell: (778) 875-8494

From: Eddie Wood <ewood@mtseymour.ca>

Sent: March 19, 2020 9:27 PM

To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>;

Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>; Russell Chamberlain

(<rchamberlain@cypressmountain.com> <rchamberlain@cypressmountain.com>

Subject: Park Operations COVID-19

Dear Jim,

After speaking with Jennie Aikman and Dylan Eysers today, I understand that BC Parks is in the process of preparing an announcement on park operations for the coming weeks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am deeply concerned that BC Parks is considering maintaining access to some Day Use Areas despite the direction of BC's Provincial Health Officer regarding mass gatherings, social distancing and the importance of not putting further stress on our healthcare system.

While I understand the importance of being outside during this difficult time, I believe it is irresponsible to provide access to parks where people congregate in groups greater than 50 and require services from front line staff. Park Operators and Mt. Seymour staff provide services including managing visitor volume, providing park information and answering questions, providing first aid, directing traffic, cleaning washrooms and collecting garbage and recycling. The staff members working in Day Use areas will undoubtedly find themselves in close contact with visitors throughout their shifts. Maintaining the required social distancing measures will be difficult for staff and visitors, especially due to high anticipated volumes as seen in the last several days at most parks.

In addition, we anticipate that staffing Day Use areas will become increasingly difficult. Currently^{s.22}

s.22

s.22

As a responsible employer, I am concerned that I will not be exposing my staff to an unsafe work environment. As Dr. Henry continues to indicate now is the time for all British Columbians need to take action to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

If an accident occurs in a park, search and rescue and hospitalization may be required, compromising our health care capacity. This one of the reasons Mt Seymour Resorts, along with other ski areas, closed on Monday, March 16th. We have seen high volume, as evidenced by full parking lots, over the past week in areas including Stawamus Chief, Shannon Falls and Poteau Cove. We have also experienced significant volume at Mt Seymour in the last week.

If BC Parks decides to keep Day Use Areas open this weekend and throughout the pandemic period we will experience overcrowding (groups of more than 50 people) which will contradict the Class Order and direction provided by Minister Adrien Dix and Chief Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, social distancing will be compromised and our healthcare system will be further taxed. I firmly believe that all Day Use Areas should be closed and that British Columbians should be advised to be outside in their yards and in their neighbourhoods where they can successfully maintain adequate social distancing.

If you would like to discuss my concerns, please call me at^{s.22}

Sincerely,

Eddie

Eddie Wood

President & General Manager

Mt Seymour Resorts----- | Sea to Sky Park Services

604-986-2261 x 240 | ewood@mtseymour.ca | www.mtseymour.ca

<https://mtseymour.ca/>

<https://seatoskyparks.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MtSeymour>/<https://www.instagram.com/mtseymour>/https://twitter.com/Mt_Seymourhttps://www.youtube.com/channel/UC98LFVe_vh4SiOSHY8602pghttps://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001Y9XAqyV8VF0eW1cFRNFvlp2TpY6ib9R5jGvd6FMPPYGOVHNQbjLB3lsZLkaWy7FGep9f2nFq2mUuguG2VPlaRbbU1kNMmJbGVjuvMogMpujUtrC_ZDOruciqWI3vefL4zTj1L7saQxWGf_CXx_9ig%3D%3D

<https://www.facebook.com/seatoskyparks>/<https://www.instagram.com/seatoskyparks>/<https://twitter.com/seatoskyparks?lang=en>

Mt Seymour acknowledges that it operates on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x̱məθkwəy̱əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Confidentiality Warning: This message and any attachments are intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s), are confidential, and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, retransmission, conversion to hard copy, copying, circulation or other use of this message and any attachments is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail, and delete this message and any attachments from your system. Thank you.



Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
Date: April 3, 2020 2:59:35 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

FYI. Can discuss on our call.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX
Sent: April 3, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX ; Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Cc: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX ; McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX
Subject: RE: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
Minister is comfortable with closing both.

From: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
I support these two closures for the reasons expressed below. Kelly, can you let MGH know what we're proposing ASAP?

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 3, 2020, at 1:55 PM, Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Should we not move to a full system closure, I support Jennie's request.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca

From: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
Importance: High

Hi Jim:

Even if we don't get a system wide closure today, I would like to support Jennie request by Director Order to close Porteau Cove PP and Golden Ears PP (more information coming on Golden Ears). Both Park Operators want the parks closed and without facilities and services human waste and garbage and on going social distancing problems from group and individuals are evident.

I think we need to support the POs and Regions request to issue the Directors Order. We need to take the pressure off both the Park Operators staff and enhance PHO public safety direction.

Regards, Bob

From: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 3, 2020 11:49 AM

To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)

Hi Bob,

As discussed, I am requesting approval to proceed with the closure of Porteau Cove Park by 5PM today (see attached RD Order).

Region has provided the following rationale:

- Facilities are closed, however we are still seeing high levels of visitation which is resulting in concerns for the safety of the public and staff.
- Due to the proximity to Vancouver, visitation is anticipated to be high for the coming weekend.
- We have worked with MOTI, the Park Operator, and other stakeholders (CN, s.22 and have their full support/agreement for gate closures.
- Recommendation: to close the park immediately by Regional Director's order and gate the park at the highway.

Eddie Wood has contributed these additional points from Sea to Sky Parks (email attached):

- The physical nature of Porteau Cove Day Use Area is that there is no room for people to disburse given the volume that use it. The day use areas is a dead end, similar to Murrin Park and Shannon Falls. Park visitors congregate and stay in the immediate area for long periods of time – there is very little room to disburse compared to a trail head where people can move on to a trail and maintain appropriate social distancing.
- On sunny days the demand for Porteau Cove is such that the volume of cars will often double and triple park, blocking people in, which requires several staff to manage
- Car clubs continue to use Porteau Cove Day Use Area. The activity is primarily on weekends, we are now also experiencing visits during the week. Car clubs are comprised of 15 cars or more.
- People are using the grounds to defecate/relieve themselves given the washroom facilities are closed
- Visitation is high at Porteau Cove weekends and midweek; based on sunny weather

- STS staffing levels are very low and not in line with maintaining facilities under the current situation. Infection is of great concern s.22 within the small levels we have, this compromises our ability to recover or replace staff. s.22 s.22

Launa is preparing the messaging to post on the park webpages and through social media. She has confirmed that this needs to be completed by 5PM, as web staff are not available for postings after that time.

I am preparing a similar email and an RD order for the closure of Golden Ears Park, including the rationale from PO.

Thanks.

Jennie

Jennie Aikman

Regional Director, South Coast Region

BC Parks – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Phone: (604) 398-5913

Cell: (778) 875-8494

From: Ranson, David ENV:EX
To: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX; Parks Web Revisions ENV:EX
Cc: Standen, Jim ENV:EX; Austad, Bob ENV:EX; Magnes, Wendy JEDC:EX; Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: URGENT - ADM Approved messaging - Park Closures
Date: April 3, 2020 3:58:15 PM

Yes, thank you Rob. This looks great – I like how you’ve brought the closures to the top of the list.

From: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Sent: April 3, 2020 3:53 PM
To: Parks Web Revisions ENV:EX
Cc: Standen, Jim ENV:EX; Austad, Bob ENV:EX; Ranson, David ENV:EX; Magnes, Wendy ENV:EX; Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: URGENT - ADM Approved messaging - Park Closures
Looks great. Thanks so much, Rob, really appreciate the quick turn around.
Launa

From: Parks Web Revisions ENV:EX <parksweb@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>; Parks Web Revisions ENV:EX <parksweb@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Magnes, Wendy ENV:EX <Wendy.Magnes@gov.bc.ca>; Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: URGENT - ADM Approved messaging - Park Closures
Hi, these closures have been posted.
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/golden_ears/
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/porteau/>
<http://bcparks.ca/covid-19/parks-affected/>
I have the new version of the ‘parks affected’ page drafted and it will be live soon. It’s updated automatically when we post a closure. The new version is to clarify things further and it allows sorting of the table.
This is the development version:
<http://www.d.bcparks.ca/covid-19/parks-affected/>
Thanks
Rob

From: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 3:28 PM
To: Parks Web Revisions ENV:EX <parksweb@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Magnes, Wendy ENV:EX <Wendy.Magnes@gov.bc.ca>; Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: URGENT - ADM Approved messaging - Park Closures
Importance: High
Rob, as per our conversation this morning, the closures have been approved for Golden Ears and Porteau PP. Please post this messaging as soon as possible – thank you!

BCP Web Pages:

Golden Ears PP:

Remove:

- Services are suspended and facilities are closed (including those at day-use sites) at this park until April 30th due to concerns surrounding COVID-19
- Golden Ears Provincial Park is operating on winter hours

Until further notice, Golden Ears Provincial Park is operating on winter hours. The park main gate is open from 8am to 5:30pm daily, visitors please exit the park by 5:30pm.

Replace with standard messaging for closure:

- This park is currently closed. Access to the public is not permitted until further notice. All trails, roads, day use areas, beaches, lakes and backcountry areas are closed to public access.

Closure Date: April 3, 2020

- Due to the COVID-19 response, BC Parks has fully closed this park including all related services and facilities

[Order of the Regional Director \[PDF\]](#) (protected area)

[Order of the Regional Director \[PDF\]](#)

Porteau Cove PP

Remove:

- This park is partially closed
Closure Date: March 20, 2020

Replace with:

- This park is currently closed. Access to the public is not permitted until further notice. All trails, roads, day use areas, beaches, and the boat launch and diving area are closed to public access.

-

- Closure Date: April 3, 2020

- Due to the COVID-19 response, BC Parks has fully closed this park including all related services and facilities

[Order of the Regional Director \[PDF\]](#) (protected area)

[Order of the Regional Director \[PDF\]](#)

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Guzek, Elyse ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: South Coast Region - Weekend Ranger Report Summary
Date: April 6, 2020 11:18:06 AM
Attachments: [South Coast Region - Weekend Ranger Report.docx](#)

FYI –

Bob

From: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX
Sent: April 6, 2020 11:08 AM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Subject: South Coast Region - Weekend Ranger Report Summary

Hi Bob and Jim,

Attached is the summary of the park closures compiled from the rangers' patrol reports.

Jennie

Jennie Aikman

Regional Director, South Coast Region

BC Parks – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Phone: (604) 398-5913

Cell: (778) 875-8494

South Coast Region Weekend Ranger Report

Parks Fully Closed: 8

Park Partially Closed: 3

Park Ranger Staff on Duty: 6

- Sam Stickney, Area Supervisor
- Simon Debisschop, Senior Park Ranger
- Gareth Wheatley, Park Ranger
- Ali Mackellar, Park Ranger
- Kara Palangio, Senior Park Ranger
- Sietse Breedjik, Senior Park Ranger

1. Fully Closed Parks

Porteau Cove Park

- Overall, weekend closure was successful, with Park Ranger and Park Operator staff posted at the entrance gate.
- High volumes of vehicles turned away from the park on both Saturday and Sunday.
- Current traffic configuration allows vehicles to stop in the area in front of the gates. If left unattended, vehicles would use this area as a rest stop and turn-around causing congestions.
- Park rangers did not allow vehicle to stop there on Sunday. Had to keep a truck with emergency lights flashing and a ranger doing traffic control from noon to 4pm.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Improve highways messaging to drivers, or/and
- Have a flagger during peak hours to do traffic control, or/and
- Cone off the exit lanes (preferable)

Golden Ears Park

- High numbers of vehicles turned away all weekend; 480 vehicles on Saturday and 500 on Sunday.
- Park ranger and park operator stationed at the gate.
- Signage effective, but additional signage required on highways to warn visitors of the park closures well before they arrive at the park.
- VIP/park closure signage generally being ignored.
 - I'm not sure if this includes motorcycles – there were quite a few groups, given the sunny weather
- Overall good compliance (and some praise!) from vehicle visitors. A significant number (~50) of hikers/bikers/equestrian visitors that passed by visible closure signage and were attempting to get further into the park. Anticipate the ongoing need to have Park Operator/Park Ranger presence on the trails in the south end of the park, turning trail users around before they get further into the park.
- Sam Stickney visited Rolley Lake on Saturday afternoon many visitors displaced from GE have created traffic/parking issues on Bell Street that have been a concern in previous winters (narrowed road access, blocking driveways and the park gate).

Stawamus Chief Park and Protected Area

- Still seeing considerable non-compliance with the closure. Visitors parking outside the park and walking in.
- Park Ranger Ali MacKellar joined the PO in enforcing the closure at the Chief on Sunday; many visitors had already arrived via walking in by the time staff were on site.

Shannon Falls Park

- Better compliance than the Chief, but people parking at Darrell Bay and walking into the park

Murrin Park

- Some visitors still using outhouses despite closed signage.
- Many visitors were walking through Murrin to access Petgill Lake.

Joffre Lakes Park

- Only one car ignored the closed sign at Joffre all weekend.

Chilliwack Lake Park

- No weekend patrols.

2. Partially Closed Parks

Cypress Park

- Road closures still an effective means of controlling visitors; constant flow of cars turning around. Critical for PO to maintain gate staffing 24/7.
- Handful of park users reportedly skiing in the resort while groomers are still operating.
- Bikes not slowing down coming down to the gate despite the barriers and STOP signs.
- PO observed a biker crashing into the gate (no injuries). Some safety concerns around that for people working the gate.

Mount Seymour Park

- Road closures still an effective means of controlling visitors; constant flow of cars turning around. Critical for PO to maintain gate staffing 24/7.
- Old Buck parking lot over capacity; overflowing onto Anne McDonald Way. So far no complaints received.

Alice Lake Park

- No weekend patrols.

3. Other Parks

- **Nairn Falls:** 10 cars parked outside the gate.
- **Brandywine Falls:** 5 cars Sunday afternoon.
- **Garibaldi Park:**
 - 21 vehicles between both upper and chainup area/2 vehicles and 10 vehicles parked along roadway up to Rubble Creek
 - Social distancing mostly being observed.
- **Cerise Creek Conservancy:** A lot of folks accessing Cerise Creek – 15-20 with some overnight.

No other reports at this time.

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Guzek, Elyse ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Weekend report-out: Kootenay- Okanagan
Date: April 6, 2020 1:09:49 PM

FYI

Bob

From: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
Sent: April 6, 2020 12:00 PM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX
Subject: Weekend report-out: Kootenay- Okanagan

Generally use in our parks was manageable...thanks to some rather inclement weather across the region.

We are getting good compliance with our Director's order closure at Skaha Bluffs, but anticipate the long weekend will be challenging with off-site parking.

Kalamalka Lake Park and Ellison Park witnessed high numbers of people but most are self-regulating with social distancing. The gate at Ellison Park was compromised which allowed for vehicle access to the parking lot. The gate is being fixed today.

Lussier Hot Springs at Whiteswan Park did see some non-compliance but a very strong presence by BC Parks staff and the COS helped deflect most of the use.

West Kootenay experienced the majority of the issues over the weekend. They are seeing a significant increase in use in parks that are accessible: Syringa, Kokanee, Beaver Creek. Along with lots of people our ranger staff and the PO are observing lots of non-compliance; dogs, gatherings, of people using facilities (tables).

Keith J. Baric

A/Regional Director (Kootenay-Okanagan Region)

BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division

102 Industrial Place, Penticton B.C. V2A 7C8

Phone: 250-490-8260

Email: Keith.Baric@gov.bc.ca

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#); [Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Draft closure messaging
Date: April 6, 2020 2:21:37 PM
Attachments: [Closure messaging.docx](#)

I took a crack at some draft messaging for use by staff. Could be expanded for MLAs and or/media.
For your review and comment.

From: [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
To: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#); [Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Draft closure messaging
Date: April 6, 2020 2:37:32 PM
Attachments: [Closure messaging.docx](#)

Nice. A couple of suggestions and a couple of questions for your consideration.

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: April 6, 2020 2:22 PM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX ; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Cc: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX ; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX
Subject: Draft closure messaging

I took a crack at some draft messaging for use by staff. Could be expanded for MLAs and or/media.
For your review and comment.

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Baric, Keith J ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: s̓wìws and s̓x̓w̓ə̓x̓w̓nitk̓w parks...full park closure inclusion?
Date: April 6, 2020 4:01:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

That is a good idea. Keith we will be talking with POs at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

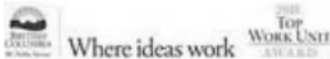
Regards, Bob

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: April 6, 2020 3:54 PM
To: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX
Subject: RE: s̓wìws and s̓x̓w̓ə̓x̓w̓nitk̓w parks...full park closure inclusion?

I would suggest we reach out to them tomorrow at the same time we are speaking with the POs.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX <Keith.Baric@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 6, 2020 3:26 PM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: s̓wìws and s̓x̓w̓ə̓x̓w̓nitk̓w parks...full park closure inclusion?

How would you like to handle closure of these two parks run and operated by OIB....I was thinking of reaching out to them and ensuring their thoughts are aligned with ours. Both sites are closed for camping of course, but get a lot of local walking use etc., particularly s̓wìws.

Thanks,

Keith

Keith J. Baric
A/Regional Director (Kootenay-Okanagan Region)
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division
102 Industrial Place, Penticton B.C. V2A 7C8
Phone: 250-490-8260
Email: Keith.Baric@gov.bc.ca

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Subject: QA_BCParks_full park closures_v2.docx
Date: April 6, 2020 4:37:41 PM
Attachments: [QA_BCParks_full park closures_v2.docx](#)

Launa - Only one minor edit in yellow bold. Might be good to include add a line regarding the PHO has indicated people shouldn't travel for recreation, but stay home and stay safe. Provincial parks are closed and there is no vehicle or public access.

Regards, Bob

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#); [Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Closure messaging V2
Date: April 7, 2020 9:28:15 AM
Attachments: [Closure messaging V2.docx](#)

Slightly revised version reflecting David and Launa's comments.

Jlm

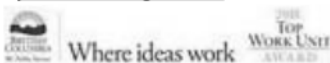
From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX](#); [Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Closure messaging V2
Date: April 7, 2020 11:01:41 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Closure messaging Final.docx](#)

Folks, here is the final that includes some edits suggested by Pamela. We can treat this as the final working version.

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: April 7, 2020 9:47 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Cc: Ranson, David ENV:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX ; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX ; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Closure messaging V2

Thanks Jim. This is a good script for your team which we have distilled into 4/5 key messages to accompany the FAQ's for MO/caucus distribution later today.

Our aims is to have the package approved by noon.

Thanks

Paul

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 7, 2020, at 9:28 AM, Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Slightly revised version reflecting David and Launa's comments.

Jim

- Physical distancing works.
- For that reason, the PHO continues to encourage people to stay home and avoid recreational travel, even within the province.
- Until now, BC Parks has taken a scaled and phased-in approach to park access limits to preserve general access and provided limited access to outdoor areas and has encouraged people to practice physical distancing.
- Where we have implemented access restrictions and park closures, they have proven successful, but they have also resulted in higher usage of the parks that remain open as users seek alternatives.
- Many parks have already experienced peak season levels of use that has resulted in overwhelmed parking lots, trails and trailheads, making physical distancing difficult if not impossible in some locations. It has also resulted in damage to our facilities and the environment.
- Self-isolation and/or concerns with potential for COVID-19 exposure have reduced park management capacity.
- This puts the public, staff, contractors and volunteers such as search and rescue services at risk. This at a time when resources and supplies are being diverted to support front line health care workers.
- Spill-over to neighbouring communities has also been a concern raised by citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police, along with general concerns about overcrowding and the lack of physical distancing in provincial parks.
- With the Easter holiday upon us, and given the challenges posed by COVID-19, the expected influx of visitors is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety.
- For this reason, we are implementing an immediate closure of all provincial parks and a continued ban on all camping.
- This action is difficult but necessary. We ask that you please respect the closures by not attempting to access provincial parks.
- BC Parks recognizes the value of nature in contributing to public health and wellness, and will expand access to the park system as soon as the PHO indicates it can be done without increasing the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- While we are closed to public access, we'll be using the time to prepare our parks for re-opening and look forward to when we can welcome the public back #ExploreBC...later
- Any change to provincial park access or services will be posted to the BC Parks website:
<http://bcparks.ca>

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Magnes, Wendy JEDC:EX](#)
Cc: [Guzek, Elyse ENV:EX](#); [Price, Chris ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Ex. Director Order
Date: April 7, 2020 3:02:52 PM
Attachments: [Scan_20200407.pdf](#)

Hi Launa:

Attached is the new "Order of the Executive Director" for park system closure effective tomorrow.

Regards, Bob Austad



DRAFT

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Park Act

Order of the Executive Director

TO: Public Notice

DATE: April 8, 2020

WHEREAS:

- A. This order applies to all Crown land established or continued as a park, conservancy, recreation area, or ecological reserve under the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* or protected areas established under provisions of the *Environment and Land Use Act*.
- B. This order is made in the public interest in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the purposes of the protection of human health and safety.
- C. This order is in regard to all public access, facilities or uses that exist in any of the lands mentioned in Section A above, and include but are not limited to: campgrounds, day-use areas, trails, playgrounds, shelters, visitor centers, cabins, chalets, lodges, resort areas, group campsites, and all other facilities or lands owned or operated by or on behalf of BC Parks.
- D. This order is subject to amendment, revocation or repeal as necessary to respond to changing circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic.
- E. The protection of park visitor health, the health of all BC Parks staff, Park Operators, contractors and permittees is the primary consideration in the making of this order.

F. Section 17 of the *Park Act* states:

A director or any park officer acting on the director's behalf may do one or more of the following:

- (c) order any person in any park, conservancy or recreation area to cease or refrain from an action, an omission or conduct that the director or park officer, in his or her discretion, considers dangerous to life or property or detrimental to the public interest;

ACCORDINGLY, the Executive Director orders:

1. All Provincial Parks, Conservancies, Recreation Areas and Ecological Reserves established or continued under the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, or protected areas established under provisions of the *Environment and Land Use Act*, are hereby closed to all uses by the public.
2. Any facility, event, or activity involving the participation of the public, which was previously allowed or authorized under the authority of a Park Officer, or a Park Use Permit are ordered to cease and are closed for the duration of this order.
3. Access to any park, associated with any authorized or permitted operations, that do not involve the participation of the public and are for the purpose(s) of the preservation and maintenance of the park; access to or maintenance of private or park facilities; requires a written exemption to this order issued by the Regional Director responsible for the Park.
4. Continued access and use of areas described in Section A (page 1) to accommodate Indigenous people's social, ceremonial, and cultural activities in provincial parks and protected areas must align with current health directives for public health and safety.
5. This order comes into effect at 08:00 hrs (PST) on Wednesday April 8th, 2020 and remains in effect until repealed by further order.

6. If this order is not carried out or is only partially or imperfectly carried out, I may direct any person to carry out or complete the order, and the expense to the government of carrying out or completing the carrying out of the order will be a debt owing to the government by Individual at the suit of the government in any court of competent jurisdiction

Dated at Victoria, B.C., this 8th day of April, 2020.



Bob Austad

Executive Director, Regional Operations Branch
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Magnes, Wendy JEDC:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Price, Chris ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Order
Date: April 7, 2020 3:11:31 PM
Attachments: [Scan_20200407.pdf](#)

Launa:

Attached is the final Ex. Dir. Order for the park system closure.

Regards, Bob

From: s.15

Sent: April 7, 2020 3:09 PM

To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX

Subject: Order



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Park Act

Order of the Executive Director

TO: Public Notice

DATE: April 8, 2020

WHEREAS:

- A. This order applies to all Crown land established or continued as a park, conservancy, recreation area, or ecological reserve under the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* or protected areas established under provisions of the *Environment and Land Use Act*.
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- C. This order is in regard to all public access, facilities or uses that exist in any of the lands mentioned in Section A above, and include but are not limited to: campgrounds, day-use areas, trails, playgrounds, shelters, visitor centers, cabins, chalets, lodges, resort areas, group campsites, and all other facilities or lands owned or operated by or on behalf of BC Parks.
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2. Any facility, event, or activity involving the participation of the public, which was previously allowed or authorized under the authority of a Park Officer, or a Park Use Permit are ordered to cease and are closed for the duration of this order.
3. Access to any park, associated with any authorized or permitted operations, that do not involve the participation of the public and are for the purpose(s) of the preservation and maintenance of the park; access to or maintenance of private or park facilities; requires a written exemption to this order issued by the Regional Director responsible for the Park.
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Dated at Victoria, B.C., this 8th day of April, 2020.



Bob Austad

Executive Director, Regional Operations Branch
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Request for Highway Changeable Message Sign Language
Date: April 7, 2020 4:25:17 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

This is good news Jim. A few thoughts for your consideration.

"Parks Closed" implicates all park agencies in BC. I don't think National Parks will really care given they are telling the public to stay home. Other regional park agencies like CRD and I think Metro Vancouver are still open and accessible. Perhaps "Provincial Parks Closed" would be more appropriate wording. It would be nice if all park agencies were on the same page, but don't think we are there yet.

Regards, Bob

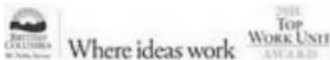
From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: April 7, 2020 4:16 PM
To: Cousins, Paula TRAN:EX
Cc: Miska, Ed TRAN:EX ; Ludwar, Kenedee TRAN:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX
Subject: RE: Request for Highway Changeable Message Sign Language

Thanks Paula, that messaging would be great! I am really grateful for the assistance as we get the word out. Unless something changes at the last minute (and I pray it doesn't) the closure comes into effect tomorrow at 8am, the same time that the public news release goes out. Any time after that would be great.

Thanks again

Jim

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Cousins, Paula TRAN:EX <Paula.Cousins@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Miska, Ed TRAN:EX <Ed.Miska@gov.bc.ca>; Ludwar, Kenedee TRAN:EX <Kenedee.Ludwar@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Request for Highway Changeable Message Sign Language

Good Afternoon Jim,

Hope you are doing well during these ever changing times.

We had a local request from someone on your team to use our Highway Digital Messaging Signs to advise the public of the full BC Parks closure that is pending.

We are able to assist with this and have drafted the proposed messaging below; as we prefer a consistent approach across the province.

Please let me know if you have any comments or concerns with what is proposed. The signs flash between the Phase 1 and Phase 2 message every few seconds. Once approved, and when you confirm what date you would like us to implement, this would be the standard messaging with vehicle or emergency incident messaging on the highways taking priority as needed.

PROVINCE WIDE – PARK CLOSURE	
MESSAGE 1	
Phase 1	Phase 2
COVID19 STAY HOME	ALL BC
AVOID GATHERING	PARKS CLOSED

Kind Regards,

Paula

Paula Cousins

A/Executive Director

Southern Interior Region

250-371-4505

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Cousins, Paula TRAN:EX](#)
Cc: [Miska, Ed TRAN:EX](#); [Ludwar, Kenedee TRAN:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Request for Highway Changeable Message Sign Language
Date: April 7, 2020 4:32:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

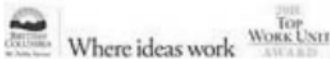
Paula, I did hear back from Bob suggesting perhaps we have it say "All Provincial" rather than "All BC" as the latter could be interpreted to include regional and national parks.

Thanks again and good catch Bob.

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Cousins, Paula TRAN:EX
Sent: April 7, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Cc: Miska, Ed TRAN:EX ; Ludwar, Kenedee TRAN:EX
Subject: Request for Highway Changeable Message Sign Language

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PROVINCE WIDE – PARK CLOSURE	
MESSAGE 1	
Phase 1	Phase 2
COVID19 STAY HOME	ALL BC
AVOID GATHERING	PARKS CLOSED

Kind Regards,

Paula

Paula Cousins

A/Executive Director

Southern Interior Region

250-371-4505

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX](#); [Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: DRAFT PARKS MATERIALS
Date: April 8, 2020 6:41:44 AM

Hi Paul:

All FN's were contacted by BC Parks and this will happen again once the new NR is sent out at 8:00 a.m. today. I believe FNLC was contact, but will need to check on that question with Regional staff.
Regards, Bob Austad

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: April 7, 2020 5:39 PM
To: Ranson, David ENV:EX
Cc: Standen, Jim ENV:EX ; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX ; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: DRAFT PARKS MATERIALS

Thanks David. MIRR is asking which FN's were contacted? Specifically did we connect with FNLC?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 7, 2020, at 2:57 PM, Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good question Paul – not to my knowledge though I have a recollection that during wildfire events that the EOCs may have accessed them to get messaging out. But I've never been involved in getting DriveBC to update their site.
Planned stakeholder outreach is the same as the past announcement: operators, FNs, volunteers, permit holders, camping reservation holders.

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: DRAFT PARKS MATERIALS

Hi David,

Does your team update the DriveBC site?

Any additional stakeholder outreach planned we should be aware of in support of the announcement?

Thanks

Paul

BC Parks

For the health and safety of visitors, employees, park contractors, volunteers and partners, BC Parks has temporarily suspended services, limited access and closed facilities in most provincial parks. For details:

- [See Parks BC for park closures](#)

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 7, 2020 11:51 AM

To: Zadavec, Don GCPE:EX <Don.Zadavec@gov.bc.ca>; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; Grieve, Chandler GCPE:EX <Chandler.Grieve@gov.bc.ca>; Watson, Andy PSSG:EX <Andy.Watson@gov.bc.ca>; Robb, Katie TRAN:EX <Katie.Robb@gov.bc.ca>; Iliffe, Liam GCPE:EX <Liam.Iliffe@gov.bc.ca>; Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: DRAFT PARKS MATERIALS

Hey folks,

Given the interest on the 11:00am I am forwarding the nr and draft q/a to you now for a look prior to full signoff our dm/mo. The nr did go through a previous pass with JIC. We do expect the news will be hard to hear for some of the hardcore fans of parks. We expect there will be media demand and the minister will be out talking about the "difficult but necessary" decision to keep people safe consistent with PHO orders and feedback from RCMP, SARS, FN's, local gov's etc... The finals will be on the SharePoint this afternoon. David C. , including you here. I believe Parks has reached out to have messages posted to DriveBC. If that has not happened as yet, can we discuss how we can make that happen.

Thanks all,

Paul

KM's

- Physical distancing works and it is one of the most crucial things we can do to keep people safe from COVID-19 transmission. As the tourism season starts to take off, it will become increasingly difficult to enforce physical distancing in provincial parks.
- The provincial health officer (PHO) is very clear, now is the time to escalate action to bend the curve and reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- We understand the value of connecting to nature, and we will reopen the parks as soon as the PHO indicates it is safe to

do so. Until that time, the public must not access provincial parks.

- The decision to close the park system and suspending all camping until May 31 is difficult but necessary. It is informed by continued feedback from RCMP, local government, First Nations, local search and rescue organizations and the general public.
- By taking this action now, we are potentially saving lives and increasing our opportunity for success. We are all in this together.

Paul Corns | Director of Communications

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

☎ 778 974-2011 📠 250 882-6572 📧 📱

paul.1.corns@gov.bc.ca

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX](#); [Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: DRAFT PARKS MATERIALS
Date: April 8, 2020 7:58:43 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Paul, can you please send me the final approved package of materials. I want to get the NR and Q/As over to FNLC ASAP after the release. Bob, could you also please send me the final order?

Thanks

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX

Sent: April 8, 2020 7:36 AM

To: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX

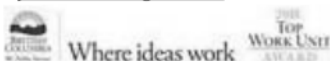
Cc: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX ; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX

Subject: RE: DRAFT PARKS MATERIALS

FNLC was provided a heads up on their call with EMBC yesterday that a Parks announcement is coming. EMBC and MIRR advised that we send the NR and any other supporting material to the FNLC this morning.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 7, 2020 5:39 PM

To: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: DRAFT PARKS MATERIALS

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To: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>

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Sent: April 7, 2020 11:51 AM

To: Zdravec, Don GCPE:EX <Don.Zdravec@gov.bc.ca>; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; Grieve, Chandler GCPE:EX <Chandler.Grieve@gov.bc.ca>; Watson, Andy PSSG:EX <Andy.Watson@gov.bc.ca>; Robb, Katie TRAN:EX <Katie.Robb@gov.bc.ca>; Iliffe, Liam GCPE:EX <Liam.Iliffe@gov.bc.ca>; Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: DRAFT PARKS MATERIALS

Hey folks,

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Paul Corns | Director of Communications

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

☎ 778 974-2011 📠 250 882-6572 📧 📧

paul.1.corns@gov.bc.ca

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
To: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX; Ranson, David ENV:EX; Austad, Bob ENV:EX; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX
Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: FB/TW post - BC parks closure
Date: April 8, 2020 7:59:44 AM
Attachments: image002.png

Thanks Paul.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX

Sent: April 8, 2020 6:55 AM

To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX

Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX ; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX ; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX

Subject: Fwd: FOR APPROVAL: FB/TW post - BC parks closure

Here is the digital supporting today's closure announcement.

Paul

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Thaw, Sara GCPE:EX" <Sara.Thaw@gov.bc.ca>

Date: April 8, 2020 at 6:26:48 AM PDT

To: "Corns, Paul GCPE:EX" <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: "Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX" <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>, "Farmer, Leila GCPE:EX" <Leila.Farmer@gov.bc.ca>, "Hardin, Karl GCPE:EX" <Karl.Hardin@gov.bc.ca>, "Ferguson, Stephanie GCPE:EX" <Stephanie.Ferguson@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: FB/TW post - BC parks closure

Good morning Paul,

Here's the graphic we will use on the post. Are we good to go? Our goal is to post by 10AM this morning. Thank you kindly!

FB/TW

Effective immediately, all BC parks are closed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Stay close to home this long weekend and help keep people all over BC safe. Do not go to provincial parks or travel to smaller communities.



Warmly,

Sara Thaw

Manager, Strategic Content

Strategic Communications | Government Communications & Public Engagement

Government of British Columbia

sara.thaw@gov.bc.ca | +1 250 883 0374

From: Sara Thaw <Sara.Thaw@gov.bc.ca>

Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 5:10 PM

To: "Corns, Paul GCPE:EX" <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: "Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX" <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>, "Farmer, Leila

GCPE:EX" <Leila.Farmer@gov.bc.ca>, "Hardin, Karl GCPE:EX"

<Karl.Hardin@gov.bc.ca>, "Ferguson, Stephanie GCPE:EX"

<Stephanie.Ferguson@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FOR APPROVAL: FB/TW post - BC parks closure

Hi Paul,

Thank you for your prompt response on the other post. Here's another social media post/graphic for approval. We'll loop back with the graphic.

FB/TW

Effective immediately, all BC parks are closed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Stay close to home this long weekend and help keep people all over BC safe. Do not go to provincial parks or travel to smaller communities.

Visual: gate closed

Graphic text: All provincial parks are closed.

Warmly,

Sara Thaw

Manager, Strategic Content

Strategic Communications | Government Communications & Public Engagement

Government of British Columbia

sara.thaw@gov.bc.ca | +1 250 883 0374

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: French Beach Sani Station
Date: April 8, 2020 8:08:03 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Thanks Jim.
Regards, Bob

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: April 8, 2020 8:01 AM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX
Cc: Ranson, David ENV:EX ; Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX
Subject: RE: French Beach Sani Station

Thanks Bob. I did let Greg at MAH know that we were seeing challenges with keeping French Beach open.

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 4:39 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX <Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: French Beach Sani Station

Hi Jim:

RE: Sani-station – French Beach

RLC Enterprizes Ltd. Is not interested in maintaining the sani-station at French Beach Prov. Park citing staff safety concerns. I agree with Andy that it is not worth keeping open with own forces and if Rick won't maintain with his staff we will need to keep the facility closed.

I just wanted to take French Beach off the table, if you are reaching out to social services and housing. There are other private sani-dump options in the great Victoria, southern Vancouver Island Region, so we wouldn't be creating a hardship for the public living in RVs and wanting to properly dump their holding tanks.

Regards, Bob

From: Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX <Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 4:32 PM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: French Beach Sani Station

Andy Macdonald
Regional Director
BC Parks – West Coast Region
Ministry of Environment
Phone: (250) 947-2601

Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca

From: Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX

Sent: April 7, 2020 1:36 PM

To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: French Beach Sani Station

Hi Bob. See below response from RLC. I don't believe we should allow use of this facility if it cannot be operated in a way that meets the necessary maintenance requirements and standards. There would exist a liability risk on our part to allow it to be used but without the necessary cleaning, servicing and maintenance.

Please let me know how you feel or if you wish me to call you.

Andy Macdonald

Regional Director

BC Parks – West Coast Region

Ministry of Environment

Phone: (250) 947-2601

Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca

From: Porsborg, Thomas ENV:EX <Thomas.Porsborg@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 7, 2020 12:58 PM

To: Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX <Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Rikley, Christine ENV:EX <Christine.Rikley@gov.bc.ca>; Eckert, Andrew ENV:EX <Andrew.Eckert@gov.bc.ca>; Martin, Sydney D ENV:EX <Sydney.Martin@gov.bc.ca>; Meding, Craig ENV:EX <Craig.Meding@gov.bc.ca>; Webster, Mickey ENV:EX <Mickey.Webster@gov.bc.ca>; Catherall, Owen ENV:EX <Owen.Catherall@gov.bc.ca>; Grandbois, Michael ENV:EX <Michael.Grandbois@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: French Beach Sani Station

Hi Andy,

RLC has brought forward concerns around the health and safety of their staff members if they are required to service the sani station during the pandemic. Concerns are similar to those of cleaning Pit Toilets, an activity that has been stopped in most areas.

RLC is recommending opening up the Sani-station, not charging for use, not turning the water on, not cleaning or maintaining the equipment, and clearly signing the Sani-station as unmaintained. This would remove their staff from the health risk and allow visitors to dump their septic tanks. Pumping of the sani-station septic would be paid for through PMA.

During the discussions with the PO, this was considered to be the best solution given the current situation. Does this plan work for the agency?

Thomas Porsborg, RPF

Recreation Services Officer

BC Parks - West Coast Region

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Phone: (778) 974-2782

Cell: (250) 886-1969

Email: Thomas.Porsborg@gov.bc.ca



BC Parks

From: Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX <Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 7, 2020 9:34 AM

To: Porsborg, Thomas ENV:EX <Thomas.Porsborg@gov.bc.ca>; Meding, Craig ENV:EX <Craig.Meding@gov.bc.ca>; Webster, Mickey ENV:EX <Mickey.Webster@gov.bc.ca>; Catherall, Owen ENV:EX <Owen.Catherall@gov.bc.ca>; Grandbois, Michael ENV:EX <Michael.Grandbois@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Rikley, Christine ENV:EX <Christine.Rikley@gov.bc.ca>; Eckert, Andrew ENV:EX <Andrew.Eckert@gov.bc.ca>; Martin, Sydney D ENV:EX <Sydney.Martin@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: French Beach Sani Station

Hi Folks. There has been some concerns raised about the reduced availability of sani stations in communities throughout the province. BC Parks was requested to examine locations where we could potentially allow sani station use without having to open main entrance gates to parks. French Beach is the only one we have on Vancouver Island that's located outside a park entrance gate so its our candidate.

Tom, please contact RLC and explain that we would like to have the sani-station operated and maintained, available to the public as soon as possible. They would just follow the facility spec of course and collect the revenue as needed. I'm copying Sydney and Andrew so they're aware of this additional service that's going to be provided. Not sure if the revenue would cover the cost but ask you discuss that with RLC. Please keep Craig and Andrew informed. Thanks Tom.

Andy Macdonald

Regional Director

BC Parks – West Coast Region

Ministry of Environment

Phone: (250) 947-2601

Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Order
Date: April 8, 2020 8:09:10 AM
Attachments: [Order of the Executive Director.pdf](#)

Attached if final Order.



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Park Act

Order of the Executive Director

TO: Public Notice

DATE: April 8, 2020

WHEREAS:

- A. This order applies to all Crown land established or continued as a park, conservancy, recreation area, or ecological reserve under the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* or protected areas established under provisions of the *Environment and Land Use Act*.
- B. This order is made in the public interest in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the purposes of the protection of human health and safety.
- C. This order is in regard to all public access, facilities or uses that exist in any of the lands mentioned in Section A above, and include but are not limited to: campgrounds, day-use areas, trails, playgrounds, shelters, visitor centers, cabins, chalets, lodges, resort areas, group campsites, and all other facilities or lands owned or operated by or on behalf of BC Parks.
- D. This order is subject to amendment, revocation or repeal as necessary to respond to changing circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic.
- E. The protection of park visitor health, the health of all BC Parks staff, Park Operators, contractors and permittees is the primary consideration in the making of this order.

F. Section 17 of the *Park Act* states:

A director or any park officer acting on the director's behalf may do one or more of the following:


(c) order any person in any park, conservancy or recreation area to cease or refrain from an action, an omission or conduct that the director or park officer, in his or her discretion, considers dangerous to life or property or detrimental to the public interest;

ACCORDINGLY, the Executive Director orders:

1. All Provincial Parks, Conservancies, Recreation Areas and Ecological Reserves established or continued under the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, or protected areas established under provisions of the *Environment and Land Use Act*, are hereby closed to all uses by the public.
2. Any facility, event, or activity involving the participation of the public, which was previously allowed or authorized under the authority of a Park Officer, or a Park Use Permit are ordered to cease and are closed for the duration of this order.
3. Access to any park, associated with any authorized or permitted operations, that do not involve the participation of the public and are for the purpose(s) of the preservation and maintenance of the park; access to or maintenance of private or park facilities; requires a written exemption to this order issued by the Regional Director responsible for the Park.
4. Continued access and use of areas described in Section A (page 1) to accommodate Indigenous people's social, ceremonial, and cultural activities in provincial parks and protected areas must align with current health directives for public health and safety.
5. This order comes into effect at 08:00 hrs (PST) on Wednesday April 8th, 2020 and remains in effect until repealed by further order.

6. If this order is not carried out or is only partially or imperfectly carried out, I may direct any person to carry out or complete the order, and the expense to the government of carrying out or completing the carrying out of the order will be a debt owing to the government by Individual at the suit of the government in any court of competent jurisdiction

Dated at Victoria, B.C., this 8th day of April, 2020.



Bob Austad

Executive Director, Regional Operations Branch
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [XT:Lee, Joy-Ann ENV:IN](#); [XT:Wood, Eddie ENV:IN](#)
Cc: [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Martin, Sydney D ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Guzek, Elyse ENV:EX](#)
Subject: BC Parks News Release
Date: April 8, 2020 8:32:37 AM
Attachments: [NR BC Parks full closures - COVID-19 04 07 2020 FINAL.pdf](#)
[Order of the Executive Director.pdf](#)
[BCPs Full Closure Messaging Final.docx](#)

Hi Eddie and Joy-Ann:

I'm just giving you notice that the new release for the full BC Parks system closure was released at 8:00 a.m. today. You can visit the BC Parks website to get the latest information at <http://bcparks.ca/>. I'm sure we will be updating some of the website park pages and fine tuning the information as the closure lands today.

I have also attached a copy of the new release, Ex. Directors Order and some key messaging. You will find other key messaging on the BC Parks website (questions and answers).

The Regional Directors will be actioning exemptions for Park Operators and others to work and reside in parks. Conduct your business as usual and the exemptions will be coming to your direction from the Regional Directors.

Joy-Ann this information can go out to the society's members and please if you could forward to Rick Carswell, Neil Abbott, Michael and Bonnie Ley that would greatly appreciated. However, Jim Standen will be sending out an email to all Park Operator with the new information on the system wide closure and camping closures extended to May 31, 2002.

Please let myself, David or Sydney know if you have any questions or concerns going forward.

Regards, Bob Austad

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2020ENV0019-000645
April 8, 2020

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

All BC Parks closing

VICTORIA – BC Parks is immediately closing all provincial parks in response to the widespread call for increased action to address COVID-19.

The closure responds to both the federal and provincial directives that people should stay close to home to reduce COVID-19 transmission risk. This temporary measure means people should not be going to provincial parks until further notice.

“Because physical distancing works, it is critical that we take every action needed to restrict the spread of COVID-19. This applies to British Columbians and out-of-province visitors who were planning to visit or stay at our provincial parks. The message is clear: stay home, avoid travel, do not put yourself or others at risk,” said George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

“I understand and share the love people in British Columbia have for the outdoors and the connection between health and proximity to nature. We tried to provide safe space for people to get some exercise and fresh air in our beautiful parks. But it has proven too challenging to maintain safe distance between visitors. This action is difficult but necessary. We look forward to the day we can welcome people back to our wonderful parks.”

The decision to close the park system is informed by continued feedback from RCMP, local government, First Nations, local search-and-rescue organizations and the general public. While many people are observing the physical distancing requirements set by the provincial health officer (PHO), some continue to ignore the order, making enforcement in a wilderness setting challenging.

The timing of this decision is important given the upcoming long weekend and the beginning of the busy season for outdoor recreation and camping. BC Parks is also extending the ban on all camping in provincial parks until May 31, 2020, in alignment with neighbouring jurisdictions and the temporary closure of Canada’s national parks. Refunds for bookings up to May 31 will be sent automatically.

As previously announced, the Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has also closed its campgrounds and amenities in response to the COVID-19 situation.

BC Parks has taken a scaled and phased in approach to limiting park access following PHO requirements and the latest COVID-19 transmission data. BC Parks recognizes the value of nature in contributing to public health and wellness and will expand access to the park system as soon as the PHO indicates it can be done without increasing the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Learn More:

Any change to provincial park access or services will be posted to the BC Parks website:
<http://bcparks.ca>

For status updates on RSTBC campgrounds, visit:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/camping-hiking/sites-trails>

For the latest medical updates, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing, visit:
<http://www.bccdc.ca/>
Or follow @CDCofBC on Twitter

For provincial health officer orders, notices and guidance, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/phoguidance

For non-health related information, including financial, child care and education supports, travel, transportation and essential service information, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/covid19

Or call 1 888 COVID19 (1 888 268-4319) between 7:30 a.m. and 8 p.m., seven days a week.

Contacts:

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Media Relations 250 953-3834	Joint Information Centre COVID Provincial Co-ordination Plan embc.covidjic@gov.bc.ca 236 478-1336
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Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Park Act

Order of the Executive Director

TO: Public Notice

DATE: April 8, 2020

WHEREAS:

- A. This order applies to all Crown land established or continued as a park, conservancy, recreation area, or ecological reserve under the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* or protected areas established under provisions of the *Environment and Land Use Act*.
- B. This order is made in the public interest in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the purposes of the protection of human health and safety.
- C. This order is in regard to all public access, facilities or uses that exist in any of the lands mentioned in Section A above, and include but are not limited to: campgrounds, day-use areas, trails, playgrounds, shelters, visitor centers, cabins, chalets, lodges, resort areas, group campsites, and all other facilities or lands owned or operated by or on behalf of BC Parks.
- D. This order is subject to amendment, revocation or repeal as necessary to respond to changing circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic.
- E. The protection of park visitor health, the health of all BC Parks staff, Park Operators, contractors and permittees is the primary consideration in the making of this order.

F. Section 17 of the *Park Act* states:

A director or any park officer acting on the director's behalf may do one or more of the following:


- (c) order any person in any park, conservancy or recreation area to cease or refrain from an action, an omission or conduct that the director or park officer, in his or her discretion, considers dangerous to life or property or detrimental to the public interest;

ACCORDINGLY, the Executive Director orders:

1. All Provincial Parks, Conservancies, Recreation Areas and Ecological Reserves established or continued under the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, or protected areas established under provisions of the *Environment and Land Use Act*, are hereby closed to all uses by the public.
2. Any facility, event, or activity involving the participation of the public, which was previously allowed or authorized under the authority of a Park Officer, or a Park Use Permit are ordered to cease and are closed for the duration of this order.
3. Access to any park, associated with any authorized or permitted operations, that do not involve the participation of the public and are for the purpose(s) of the preservation and maintenance of the park; access to or maintenance of private or park facilities; requires a written exemption to this order issued by the Regional Director responsible for the Park.
4. Continued access and use of areas described in Section A (page 1) to accommodate Indigenous people's social, ceremonial, and cultural activities in provincial parks and protected areas must align with current health directives for public health and safety.
5. This order comes into effect at 08:00 hrs (PST) on Wednesday April 8th, 2020 and remains in effect until repealed by further order.

6. If this order is not carried out or is only partially or imperfectly carried out, I may direct any person to carry out or complete the order, and the expense to the government of carrying out or completing the carrying out of the order will be a debt owing to the government by Individual at the suit of the government in any court of competent jurisdiction

Dated at Victoria, B.C., this 8th day of April, 2020.



Bob Austad

Executive Director, Regional Operations Branch
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

BC Parks Messaging – Full System Closure

- Physical distancing works.
- For that reason, the PHO continues to encourage people to stay home and avoid recreational travel, even within the province.
- Until now, BC Parks has taken a scaled and phased-in approach to park access limits to preserve general access and provided limited access to outdoor areas and has encouraged people to practice physical distancing.
- Where we have implemented access restrictions and park closures, they have proven successful, but they have also resulted in higher usage of the parks that remain open as users seek alternatives.
- Many parks have already experienced peak season levels of use that has resulted in overwhelmed parking lots, trails and trailheads, making physical distancing difficult if not impossible in some locations. It has also resulted in damage to our facilities and the environment.
- Self-isolation and/or concerns with potential for COVID-19 exposure have reduced park management capacity.
- This puts the public, staff, contractors and volunteers such as search and rescue services at risk. This at a time when resources and supplies are being diverted to support front line health care workers.
- Spill-over to neighbouring communities has also been a concern raised by citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police, along with general concerns about overcrowding and the lack of physical distancing in provincial parks.
- With the Easter holiday upon us, and given the challenges posed by COVID-19, the expected influx of visitors is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety.
- For this reason, we are implementing an immediate closure of all provincial parks and a continued ban on all camping.
- This action is difficult but necessary. We ask that you please respect the closures by not attempting to access provincial parks.
- BC Parks recognizes the value of nature in contributing to public health and wellness, and will expand access to the park system as soon as the PHO indicates it can be done without increasing the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- While we are closed to public access, we'll be using the time to prepare our parks for re-opening and look forward to when we can welcome the public back #ExploreBC...later
- Any change to provincial park access or services will be posted to the BC Parks website:
<http://bcparks.ca>

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Magnes, Wendy JEDC:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: UPDATED Q&A for website
Date: April 8, 2020 8:37:26 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Magnes, Wendy ENV:EX

Sent: April 8, 2020 8:34 AM

To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX

Subject: RE: UPDATED Q&A for website

Absolutely – will work with Rob on this and send a draft for review and approval.

Cheers,

Wendy

Wendy Magnes

Manager, Visitor Services

BC Parks

Ph: 1 (778) 698-4300

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 8, 2020 8:27 AM

To: Magnes, Wendy ENV:EX <Wendy.Magnes@gov.bc.ca>

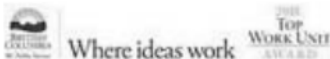
Cc: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX
<Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: UPDATED Q&A for website

Thanks Wendy. In looking at the main page, the closure notice gets a bit lost in all the other info. Can we please make it larger and more prominent once all the other stuff is done?

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Magnes, Wendy ENV:EX <Wendy.Magnes@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 8, 2020 8:16 AM

To: Parks Web Revisions ENV:EX <parksweb@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX

<Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX
<David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX
<Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Wilcock, Leah ENV:EX
<Leah.Wilcock@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: UPDATED Q&A for website

Thanks everyone – we are just making some small adjustments to a few web pages. The DC team is

now actioning changes with USEDirect. Facebook post is live.

Cheers,

Wendy

Wendy Mages

Manager, Visitor Services

BC Parks

Ph: 1 (778) 698-4300

From: Parks Web Revisions ENV:EX <parkswweb@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 8, 2020 8:10 AM

To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Mages, Wendy ENV:EX <Wendy.Mages@gov.bc.ca>; Parks Web Revisions ENV:EX <parkswweb@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Wilcock, Leah ENV:EX <Leah.Wilcock@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: UPDATED Q&A for website

Good morning! The updates are live.

<http://bcparks.ca/>

Rob

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 8, 2020 8:05 AM

To: Mages, Wendy ENV:EX <Wendy.Mages@gov.bc.ca>; Parks Web Revisions ENV:EX <parkswweb@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Wilcock, Leah ENV:EX <Leah.Wilcock@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: UPDATED Q&A for website

Thank you!

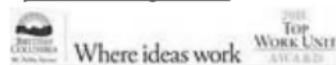
Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister

BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service

Telephone: 250-387-1288

jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Mages, Wendy ENV:EX <Wendy.Mages@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 8, 2020 8:04 AM

To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Parks Web Revisions ENV:EX <parkswweb@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Wilcock, Leah ENV:EX <Leah.Wilcock@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: UPDATED Q&A for website

On it – thanks Jim!

Cheers,

Wendy

Wendy Mages

Manager, Visitor Services
BC Parks
Ph: 1 (778) 698-4300

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 8, 2020 8:03 AM

To: Mages, Wendy ENV:EX <Wendy.Mages@gov.bc.ca>; Parks Web Revisions ENV:EX <parksweb@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Wilcock, Leah ENV:EX <Leah.Wilcock@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: UPDATED Q&A for website

Thanks Wendy. The NR is now up and live so can we hit go on the web updates please?

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Mages, Wendy ENV:EX <Wendy.Mages@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 7, 2020 5:28 PM

To: Parks Web Revisions ENV:EX <parksweb@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Wilcock, Leah ENV:EX <Leah.Wilcock@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: UPDATED Q&A for website

Importance: High

Hello – Perhaps some crossed wires however, as this was not provided to the VS team as part of the comms package – the VS team has provided the following updates to the <http://bcparks.ca/covid-19/questions-answers/>. Refinements to these updates if needed can be addressed tomorrow morning. Hoping that this sufficiently provides updates consistent with the other approved messaging in time for the announcement tomorrow morning. Once ready an email confirming updates will be sent.

Thanks

Wendy and the VS team (aka Rob!)

Why are some parks throughout the province now fully closed, and what does this mean?

BC Parks received numerous complaints and concerns from the public, RCMP, First Nations, regional and municipal governments related to the increase in visitors in certain parks and a lack of people adhering to social distancing directives currently in place. This raised concerns regarding our ability to preserve the health and safety of the public in our parks and we decided to close these parks.

The public may not enter any parks that have been closed under an Executive Directors Order. These closures have been put in place to preserve the public health and safety.

Who has the authority to close a park?

- Under the Park Act, Section 17 – Authorities of Directors and Officers, BC Parks Executive Directors and Regional Directors have the ability to issue an order for closure.
- Parks closed under an Directors Order prohibit access of the public.
- The public can continue to access those parks that remain open but in doing so must remember that services have been suspended and facilities in most parks, including washrooms, have been closed.
- Please visit specific park pages to get more information on parks currently available for visitation.

Which BC Parks are closed:

Due to public health and safety concerns BC Parks is immediately closing the entire BC Parks system, including all parks, protected areas, conservancies, recreation areas, and ecological reserves. All provincial parks and camping (front and backcountry) is now banned until May 31st, 2020. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

West Coast:

- ◆ ~~Elk Falls Provincial Park~~
- ◆ ~~Flores Island Provincial Park and Gibson Marine Provincial Park — closure of Wildside Trail~~
- ◆ ~~French Beach Provincial Park~~
- ◆ ~~Goldstream Provincial Park~~
- ◆ ~~Gowlland Tod Provincial Park (closure restricted to McKenzie Bight and Tod Inlet)~~
- ◆ ~~Juan de Fuca Provincial Park (includes China Beach, Sombrio Beach and Botanical Beach)~~
- ◆ ~~LÁU.WELNEW/John Dean Provincial Park~~
- ◆ ~~Maquinna Marine Provincial Park~~
- ◆ ~~Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Provincial Park~~
- ◆ ~~Speetacle Lake Provincial Park~~

South Coast:

- ◆ ~~Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park~~
- ◆ ~~Joffre Lakes Provincial Park~~
- ◆ ~~Murrin Provincial Park~~
- ◆ ~~Shannon Falls Provincial Park~~
- ◆ ~~Stawamus Chief Park and Protected Area~~

Okanagan:

- ◆ ~~Skaha Bluffs Provincial Park~~

North:

- ◆ ~~Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Provincial Park~~
- ◆ ~~Liard River Hot Springs Provincial Park — hot springs and campground closed previously; now full closure~~

How will park closures be enforced?

- Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols by park operators and park rangers.
- Signs will be posted at various locations in closed parks to provide notice to the public.
- This temporary measure means public and vehicle access is prohibited until further notice. All trails, roads, day-use areas, beaches, lakes, boat launches, and backcountry areas are closed to the public.
- Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park will be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

Can I still access trails?

- This temporary measure means all trails, roads, day-use areas, beaches, lakes, boat launches, and backcountry areas are closed to the public. Also, all public and vehicle access is prohibited until further notice.

~~Visitors may use frontcountry, backcountry and marine areas where accessible but should keep in mind they are responsible for their own safety and that washroom facilities will not be available at parks. Parking lots in many parks may be closed and gated where necessary to ensure public health and safety. Complete park closures may also be implemented on a case-by-case basis where required.~~

~~Parks close to urban centres can attract large numbers of people, so please keep this in mind when choosing which park to visit. To keep each other safe, visitors are reminded to follow social distancing direction set out by the provincial health officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control.~~

Can I still go camping?

No. All campgrounds will be closed until ~~April 30~~ May 31, 2020.

BC Parks continues to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak closely and will follow direction and advice set out by the Public Health Officer when making decisions on when to reopen facilities and services. Please

check back on the BC Parks homepage as closure dates may change.

What will happen to my reservation on Discover Camping?

An initial email was sent out to Discover Camping users on March 20 with information for reservation holders with arrival dates between March 20 and April 30, 2020 . An additional email was sent out April 8, 2020 to all reservation holders explaining the current status of camping reservation closures for BC Parks.

All current reservations with arrival dates between March 20 and ~~April 30~~ May 31, 2020, inclusive, are being automatically cancelled and fully refunded. Please allow 7-10 business days for your refund to be processed. **Please do not cancel your own reservation if you have reservations that fall within this booking window** as cancelling your own reservation or submitting a refund request may delay processing.

If you currently hold a reservation with an arrival date beyond ~~April 30~~ May 31st, regular reservation and cancellation rules apply. However, as we move through this pandemic this date may change. Check back on the BC Parks homepage for further updates.

The Discover Camping call centre is available for reservations support during the updated call centre hours of:

Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm PT
Saturday–Sunday, 10am–4pm PT

Please note – the Discover Camping call centre is for reservations-related transactions and questions, only. They do not have general park access information.

No new reservations will ~~not~~ be accepted until further notice.

Cheers,

Wendy

Wendy Magnes

Manager, Visitor Services

BC Parks

Ph: 1 (778) 698-4300

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Davies, Heather J ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Email to FN Partners - A8.docx
Date: April 8, 2020 8:45:01 AM
Attachments: [Email to FN Partners - A8.docx](#)

Hi Jim:

Attached is the FN letter to RDs yesterday. It was approved by you and Heather and then sent out.

Regards, Bob

From: Austad, Bob ENV:EX

Sent: April 7, 2020 3:53 PM

To: Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX ; Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX ; Michelfelder, Volker ENV:EX ; Baric, Keith J ENV:EX ; Brown, David R ENV:EX ; Davies, Heather J ENV:EX ; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX

Cc: Guzek, Elyse ENV:EX

Subject: Email to FN Partners - A8.docx

Hi Everyone:

This email for Indigenous partners is ready for release tomorrow upon the news release going out at 8:00 a.m. The messaging has been approved by Heather Davies and Jim Standen.

Regards, Bob

FN email – A8:

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks and protected areas until further notice. All campgrounds, camping opportunities and accommodations will be closed until at least May 31, 2020. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the desire of the public to get outdoors, many parks recently experienced peak season levels of use overwhelming parking lots, trails and trailheads, making physical distancing difficult if not impossible in some locations, and resulted in damage to our facilities and the environment. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with some First Nations, local citizens, local government officials, and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

Today, with the Easter holiday upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID-19 and the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of all, including that of our neighbouring Indigenous communities.

This closure is in no way intended to restrict Indigenous social, ceremonial, and cultural activities in provincial parks and protected areas that align with current health directives for public health and safety.

In these challenging times, BC Parks continues to recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous peoples. Thus, while taking these necessary steps to ensure public health and safety and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, BC Parks will continue to make every reasonable effort to ensure that the steps taken will be respectful of Aboriginal and Treaty rights of Indigenous peoples.

BC Parks would like to address any concerns and input you may have regarding health and safety measures for the provincial park system during the COVID-19 crisis.

A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and facilities are reopened and available for reservation.

Our advice to visitors is to continue following the Provincial Health Officer's direction regarding social distancing and other health measures.

Our regional staff will be in touch with park operators directly to work through all operational questions and park specific plans on the ground regarding these closures and we certainly invite you to reach out to us with any concerns you may have as well

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support and we hope that your families and community members are staying safe and well during this challenging time

From: [Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX](#) on behalf of [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [ENV PPA PFOs; XT:Merilees, Andrew ENV:IN; Robert.russ@haidanation.com](#)
Cc: [Martin, Sydney D ENV:EX; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX; Ranson, David ENV:EX; Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 9:00:50 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the desire of the public to get outdoors, many parks recently experienced peak season levels of use overwhelming parking lots, trails and trailheads, making physical distancing difficult if not impossible in some locations, and resulted in damage to our facilities and the environment. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

Today, with the Easter holiday upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID and the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors.

This temporary measure means public and vehicle access is no longer available. All trails, roads, day use areas, beaches, lakes, boat launches, and backcountry areas are closed to public access. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park will be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

All campgrounds, camping opportunities and accommodations will be closed until at least May 31, 2020. Full refunds will be provided to existing reservation holders during this time and the Discover Camping reservation system will be suspended for all new reservations for the foreseeable future.

A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and facilities are reopened and available for reservation.

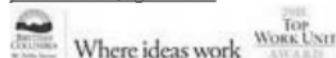
Our advice to visitors is to continue following the Provincial Health Officer's direction regarding social distancing and other health measures when they access provincial parks. Regional staff will be in touch with POs directly to work through all operational questions and park specific plans regarding these closures. Park Operators will receive an exemption from Directors Order closing all parks, and will continue to have access to work and reside in the parks they manage through their Park Operator Agreement.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: [Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX](#) on behalf of [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 9:03:03 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

This temporary measure means that any activity involving the participation of the public is prohibited for the duration of the order. Where permit holders need to access a park for activities not involving the participation of the public, but as required for the preservation and maintenance of the park or their own private facilities, they must have a written exemption from the Regional Director responsible for the park in question. Requests for exemptions should be coordinated through the BC Parks staff contacts listed on your permits. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park without a written exemption may be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and regular public access and permitted operations can resume.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



Where ideas work



From: [Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX](#) on behalf of [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Important Update from BC Parks to our Valued Volunteers
Date: April 8, 2020 9:04:08 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

Although we have already been in contact with you, our intent is to continue to keep you informed on the activity and actions being undertaken by BC Parks, and to inform you as to why this decision has been made. We appreciate your continued cooperation and support in ceasing volunteer activities in all BC parks and protected areas for the duration of this closure. With the desire of the public to get outdoors, many parks recently experienced peak season levels of use overwhelming parking lots, trails and trailheads, making physical distancing difficult if not impossible in some locations, and resulted in damage to our facilities and the environment. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors.

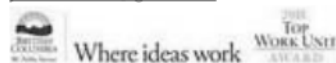
This temporary measure means public and vehicle access is no longer available. All trails, roads, day use areas, beaches, lakes, boat launches, and backcountry areas are closed to public access. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park will be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and facilities are reopened and available for reservation.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,
Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: [Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX](#) on behalf of [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Important Update from BC Parks to our valued Ecological Reserve Wardens
Date: April 8, 2020 9:04:47 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise all of our valued volunteer Ecological Reserve Wardens of the decision that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the desire of the public to get outdoors, many parks recently experienced peak season levels of use overwhelming parking lots, trails and trailheads, making physical distancing difficult if not impossible in some locations, and resulted in damage to our facilities and the environment. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

Today, with the Easter holiday upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID and the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors.

As part of this system-wide closure, all provincial Ecological Reserves (ER) will also be closed to access. In accordance with this direction and to simplify visitor management, ER Wardens are asked to cease their volunteer activities for the duration of this closure. ER Wardens should cease all park activities, including engaging with members of the public around issues of compliance, and should instead advise BC Parks regional office of any concerns. Critical or urgent activities that cannot be deferred or delayed will need to obtain an exemption from the BC Parks Regional Director before they may be allowed to proceed. This temporary measure means public and vehicle access is no longer available. All trails, roads, day use areas, beaches, lakes, boat launches, and backcountry areas are closed to public access. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park will be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

All campgrounds, camping opportunities and accommodations will be closed until at least May 31, 2020. Full refunds will be provided to existing reservation holders during this time and the Discover Camping reservation system will be suspended for all new reservations for the foreseeable future.

A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and facilities are reopened and available for reservation.

Our advice to visitors is to continue following the Provincial Health Officer's direction regarding social distancing and other health measures when they access provincial parks. Regional staff will be in touch with POs directly to work through all operational questions and park specific plans regarding these closures.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister

BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



Where ideas work



From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: ["Verschoor, Michael"; Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Nunn, Chris; XT:Wheeler, Richard FLNR:IN](#)
Subject: RE: [External] Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 10:06:30 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Michael,

Thanks for your email. We recognize that there will be exemptions needed for such circumstances and we were leaving the issuance of those to our Regional Directors. Given your request for a blanket exemption for BC Hydro I have copied Bob Austad, Executive Director for Regional Operations to make him aware of your request so he can work you and our team on a response.

Regards,

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Verschoor, Michael
Sent: April 8, 2020 9:37 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Cc: Nunn, Chris ; XT:Wheeler, Richard FLNR:IN
Subject: FW: [External] Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Good morning Jim.

Please note that BC Hydro requires continued and unobstructed access through some BC Parks in order to ensure public safety and electrical system security. Can you please provide a blanket written exemption to allow BC Hydro staff and contractors to access BC Parks for this purpose. Would it also be possible to post this exemption internally and send it out to your Parks staff so that we do not run into enforcement conflicts?

Thank you.

Michael Verschoor, RPF, PMP | Manager, Rights of Way & Roads
Line Asset Planning, Transmission Sustainment Planning
BC Hydro
6911 Southpoint Drive, B03
Burnaby, BC, V3N 4X8
T 604.515.8641 (78641)
C 604.789.1943
E michael.verschoor@bchydro.com

From: Nunn, Chris
Sent: 2020, April 08 9:27 AM
To: Verschoor, Michael
Subject: FW: [External] Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
FYI

From: Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX [<mailto:Deborah.Carroll@gov.bc.ca>] **On Behalf Of** Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: 2020, April 08 9:02 AM
Subject: [External] Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

*****Caution:** This is an **external** email. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders.***

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all

provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

This temporary measure means that any activity involving the participation of the public is prohibited for the duration of the order. Where permit holders need to access a park for activities not involving the participation of the public, but as required for the preservation and maintenance of the park or their own private facilities, they must have a written exemption from the Regional Director responsible for the park in question. Requests for exemptions should be coordinated through the BC Parks staff contacts listed on your permits. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park without a written exemption may be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

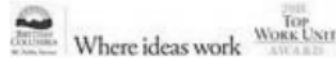
A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and regular public access and permitted operations can resume.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



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From: [Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Martin, Sydney D ENV:EX](#); [Beveridge, Megan ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FYI: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 10:37:50 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

FYI – we were able to track down contact info for Diana Baldus and have sent the message to her.

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: April 8, 2020 10:09 AM
To: s.22

Cc: Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX

Subject: RE: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

Thank you for letting us know. We will update our contact list and will make efforts to let the Baldus' know.

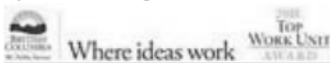
Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister

BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service

Telephone: 250-387-1288

jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: s.22

Sent: April 8, 2020 9:53 AM

To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX

Subject: Re: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

Trapline has been sold. I no longer have any affiliation with any of this. Chris and Diana Baldus now own the trapline and Jarl Sundve is trapping the line. Thanks

----- Original Message -----

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Wed, 08 Apr 2020 10:03:00 -0600 (MDT)

Subject: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

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@font-face

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panose-1:2 15 5 2 2 2 4 3 2 4;}

@font-face

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Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

This temporary measure means that any activity involving the participation of the public is prohibited for the duration of the order.

Where permit holders need to access a park for activities not involving the participation of the

public, but as required for the preservation and maintenance of the park or their own private facilities, they must have a written exemption from the Regional Director responsible for the park in question. Requests for exemptions should be coordinated through the BC Parks staff contacts listed on your permits. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park without a written exemption may be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and regular public access and permitted operations can resume.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service

Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca

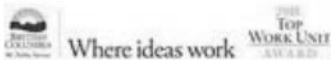
[Redacted Signature]

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Chang, Johann GCPE:EX](#); [Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX](#); [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Brown, David R ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Media Requests - BC Parks Closures - As of 9:20am
Date: April 8, 2020 10:51:21 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I think he is but look to Bob for advice.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca

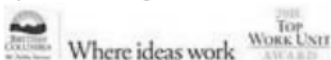


From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: April 8, 2020 10:48 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX ; Chang, Johann GCPE:EX ; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX
Cc: Brown, David R ENV:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests - BC Parks Closures - As of 9:20am
Is David briefed and ready to go?

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 8, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Chang, Johann GCPE:EX <Johann.Chang@gov.bc.ca>; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brown, David R ENV:EX <David.R.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Media Requests - BC Parks Closures - As of 9:20am
Yes

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 8, 2020 10:41 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Chang, Johann GCPE:EX <Johann.Chang@gov.bc.ca>; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brown, David R ENV:EX <David.R.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
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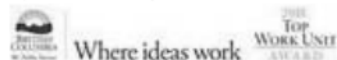
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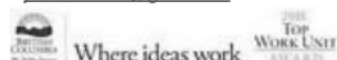
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Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX

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250-374-1610 ext 5229

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Johann Chang 曾宇恆

Media Relations Officer, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

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Government Communications and Public Engagement

Media Line (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change): 250 920-5104

Office: 778 698-7771

Mobile: 604 313-0638

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From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Chang, Johann GCPE:EX](#); [Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX](#); [Brown, David R ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Media Requests - BC Parks Closures - As of 9:20am
Date: April 8, 2020 10:56:24 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Paul:

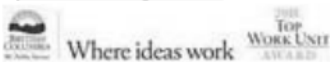
David Brown has my support for media response regarding CBC Yukon.

Regards, Bob

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: April 8, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX ; Chang, Johann GCPE:EX ; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX
Cc: Brown, David R ENV:EX
Subject: RE: Media Requests - BC Parks Closures - As of 9:20am
I think he is but look to Bob for advice.

Jim Standen

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Subject: RE: Media Requests - BC Parks Closures - As of 9:20am
Is David briefed and ready to go?

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <jim.standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 8, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Chang, Johann GCPE:EX <Johann.Chang@gov.bc.ca>; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
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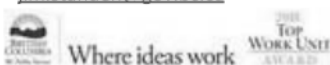
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Cc: [Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Rcnp calls
Date: April 8, 2020 11:03:03 AM

Paul - we missed RCMP/Police contacts regarding closures. Not a big deal in North where parks are just waiting for snow to exit and begin operational clean-up. However down South RCMP over last 2-3 weeks have been critical of parks remaining open given the high visitor use occurring without social distancing and group assembly. Going forward, Park Ranger will be working with their regional detachments as required to first update park status of closure and second let them know long weekend will be managed by Park Ranger and Park Operator staff to inform - educate and gain the compliance from the public not to use and enter Provincial Park and Protected Areas.

Regards, Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 8, 2020 10:50 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>
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Jim Standen
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Telephone: 250-387-1288
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Who was the RCMP contact on parks closures. They have been getting calls at HQ.

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Sent: April 8, 2020 10:35 AM

To: Watson, Andy PSSG:EX <Andy.Watson@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Rcmp calls

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Sent from my iPhone

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> To: Watson, Andy PSSG:EX <Andy.Watson@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

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Cc: [Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Rcmp calls
Date: April 8, 2020 11:09:22 AM

I would suggest the following response:

Our apologies if our release caused any issue for RCMP. We did hear concerns raised regarding parking and overuse issues at a couple of our more highly used parks in the Sea to Sky. This included concerns raised by RCMP.

Jim Standen
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To: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Closure of BC Parks and Recreation sites
Date: April 8, 2020 11:58:39 AM

FYI

From: s.22

Sent: April 8, 2020 11:53 AM

To: Mungall.MLA, Michelle LASS:EX ; justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca; rob.morrison@parl.gc.ca; Minister, ENV ENV:EX ; ParkInfo ENV:EX ; Louie, Toby I PSSG:EX ; Horgan.MLA, John LASS:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX

Subject: Closure of BC Parks and Recreation sites

To Whom It may Concern,

I am writing to you to express that I ***absolutely do not support*** the current protocol of blanket Park and Recreational site closures. In fact, I am outraged by this decision. I support limited closures of small parks and playgrounds in highly populated areas only.

The closure of large, open parks where people can maintain a reasonable distance in the open air to supposedly protect their health is absurd. The benefits of people exercising and spending time in nature are well documented as is evidenced by the numerous studies cited by the New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation website - "Immerse Yourself in a Forest for Better Health":

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/90720.html>

If the issue at hand is proximity, hire the scads of the currently unemployed to patrol and manage social distancing in park spaces. This provides an opportunity to manage the gathering of people. If the issue is liability, we need to take a long hard look at ourselves and our society. The end result of extreme liability mitigation means we all sit at home in our armchairs doing nothing. That's not healthy.

As a constituent, citizen, tax-payer and resident of BC, I demand the opening of large parks and recreation areas to the populace. Limiting people from activity in open natural spaces is unhealthy and inhumane.

Sincerely,

s.22

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: ["Molly Staats"; Meyer, Mika FLNR:EX; Robert Busby](#)
Cc: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX; Brown, David R ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19
Date: April 8, 2020 12:02:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Molly,

Thanks for your reply and for your understanding. I am copying both my Regional Director for the North as well as the Executive Director for Regional Operations so that they are aware of how you are approaching this challenging time.

Regards

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
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Telephone: 250-387-1288
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From: Molly Staats
Sent: April 8, 2020 9:54 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX ; Meyer, Mika FLNR:EX ; Robert Busby
Subject: Re: Important Update from BC Parks - Closures in Response to COVID-19

Good Morning Jim,

We are aware of the concern for the spread of Covid-19 to rural/remote communities and are heeding all travel restrictions at the national, provincial, and local levels. We are currently working with our sponsor, the US National Science Foundation, on plans to potentially delay or fully postpone all field activities this summer.

Our team has spent several months this winter creating a detailed plan for the removal of 87 seismic stations throughout Alaska and northwestern Canada, concluding the temporary USArray project. If we are unable to remove stations this year, we will plan to operate one additional year (with no planned in-person service visits), with decommissioning work shifting to 2021. Fortunately, this extended timeline would be covered by our current permit (#108176) which does not expire until 12/30/2021.

We thank you for your flexibility and willingness to work with us during this unprecedented time.

Molly

On 4/8/2020 10:02 AM, Standen, Jim ENV:EX wrote:

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks until further notice. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home. With the Easter holiday now upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID along with the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our visitors, employees, park operators and their staff, volunteers, and park contractors. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with citizens, local government officials, First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

This temporary measure means that any activity involving the participation of the public is prohibited for the duration of the order. Where permit holders need to access a park for activities not involving the participation of the public, but as required for the preservation and maintenance of the park or their own private facilities, they must have a written exemption from the Regional Director responsible for the park in question. Requests for exemptions should be coordinated through the BC Parks staff contacts listed on your permits. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park without a written exemption may be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

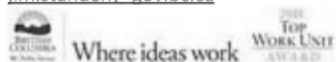
A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and regular public access and permitted operations can resume.

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support during this challenging time.

Thank you,

Jim Standen

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: s.22
Cc: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Notice of Closure to Parks and Backcountry.
Date: April 8, 2020 12:54:52 PM

s.22

The closure applies to all Provincial Parks, Conservancies, Recreational Areas and Ecological Reserves. It does not apply to Crown Lands outside of the provincial parks system. You can view the order at <http://bcparks.ca/advisories/2020/orders/20200408-BCParks-Executive-Directors-Order-Full-Closure.pdf?v=1586375580741> and the news release can be found at <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020ENV0019-000645>

Regards,
Jim

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22
Sent: April 8, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Notice of Closure to Parks and Backcountry.

Jim,
Is issued (above captioned)today for both Parks and Backcountry Crown lands ?
Please send me the complete order or bulletin.
Much Appreciated, s.22

Data transmitted by s.22

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Price, Chris ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#); [Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Closure enforcement
Date: April 8, 2020 1:37:52 PM
Attachments: [Closure enforcement \(003\).docx](#)

Looks good Jim, just one small edit in additional to Launa's points.

Regards, Bob

From: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Sent: April 8, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Price, Chris ENV:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX ; Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX
Cc: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX ; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Closure enforcement
Comment and edit.
THanks.

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 8, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Price, Chris ENV:EX <Chris.Price@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>; Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX <Doug.Forsdick@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Closure enforcement
I have taken a stab at simplifying the enforcement messaging. Provided for your review and comment.
Jim

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Boyd, Wes CSNR:EX](#)
Cc: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Martin, Sydney D ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Fishing resorts
Date: April 8, 2020 2:01:09 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Wes,

Is there any corporate response messaging we can use for those asking about the financial impacts of COVID? Would help as we build responses to the parks closure.

Thanks

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister

BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service

Telephone: 250-387-1288

jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Carroll, Mike

Sent: April 8, 2020 10:54 AM

To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX

Cc: Matt Jennings (matt@bcfishingtourism.com)

Subject: Fishing resorts

Hi Jim,

Many resort businesses will be effected by your decision to close the parks until further notice. Please advise if the gov't is going to provide coverage for the loss of business income these clients will suffer due to this decision. As I am sure you are aware, global pandemics are not able to be covered by loss of business income insurance, and I am now getting calls to cancel their insurance as they will not be able to afford the coverage due these closures. Please advise what the plan is to make these clients whole so I can inform them to hold on until help arrives. Thanks

Yours truly,

**Click here to access our
Coronavirus Resource Center.**



Michael Carroll, BA, CAIB

Commercial Account Manager

HUB International Limited

299 3rd Ave

Kamloops, BC V2C 3M4

Office: 250-377-2337

Mobile: 250-320-1042 (text is best)

Toll-free: 1800-661-6194

Fax: 250-372-1962

mike.carroll@hubinternational.com

hubinternational.com

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From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Potholes
Date: April 8, 2020 2:15:11 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Andy:

I doubt anything is planned for the park facilities as Sooke Pot holes except closure signs? Gate is now with District of Sooke from what I understand.

Regards, Bob

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: April 8, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX
Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX ; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Potholes

Jim and co.

CRD is asking about the plan for Sooke?

p

From: Andy Orr <aorr@crd.bc.ca>
Sent: April 8, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Potholes

This issue again around both of us having parks at Sooke Potholes, just FYI

From: Mike Macintyre
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2020 1:51 PM
To: Christiana Jones <cjones@crd.bc.ca>; Andy Orr <aorr@crd.bc.ca>
Cc: Jeff Leahy <jleahy@crd.bc.ca>; Tracey Moss <tmoss@crd.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Potholes

Hi,

As of April 1, the District of Sooke took over the gate and parking lot at Sooke Potholes Provincial Park (they were actually on DOS property). At this time DOS is continuing with the gate contract, we spoke to the security company this morning and confirmed. So the parking lot and gate will be open as usual even though the Provincial Park is technically closed. I don't know what BC Parks will be doing to enforce their closures.

Mike

From: Christiana Jones
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2020 1:46 PM
To: Andy Orr <aorr@crd.bc.ca>; Mike Macintyre <mmacintyre@crd.bc.ca>
Cc: Jeff Leahy <jleahy@crd.bc.ca>; Tracey Moss <tmoss@crd.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Potholes

This is a good question. The provincial part would, presumably, be closed after today's announcement. However, you have to drive through the provincial part to reach ours.

Mike – are you able to provide any clarity around this?

Thanks,

Christiana

From: Andy Orr

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2020 1:44 PM

To: Christiana Jones <cjones@crd.bc.ca>

Subject: Potholes

Can you remind me is our part still open, provincial part closed right

Andy Orr, Senior Manager

Executive Services | Capital Regional District

625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

T: 250.360.3229 | C: 250.216.5492 |

www.crd.bc.ca | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)



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From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); ["Wilson, Andrew"](#); [Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX](#); [Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX](#); [Michelfelder, Volker ENV:EX](#); [Baric, Keith J ENV:EX](#); [Brown, David R ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Price, Chris ENV:EX](#); [Guzek, Elyse ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: URGENT: FFSBC access to BC Parks for lake stocking
Date: April 8, 2020 3:02:56 PM

Thanks David and Andrew:

I'm distributing this email to the Regional Directors just so they are loop-in on the requests coming forward to their staff from FFSBC.

Regards, Bob Austad

From: Ranson, David ENV:EX
Sent: April 8, 2020 2:56 PM
To: 'Wilson, Andrew'
Cc: Price, Chris ENV:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX
Subject: RE: URGENT: FFSBC access to BC Parks for lake stocking

Hi Andrew – I just mentioned this on a call with Bob Austad and he says to have your folks reach out to your regular regional BC Parks contacts and they will work with you provide you with exemptions. He says you'll get access as part of regular operational business, and if you have any troubles to connect with him and Chris Price who has been coordinating the order and the exemption process. Exemptions are being provided at the Regional level by the Regional Directors.

Best regards,
David

From: Wilson, Andrew <Andrew.Wilson@gofishbc.com>
Sent: April 8, 2020 2:45 PM
To: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: URGENT: FFSBC access to BC Parks for lake stocking
Importance: High

Hi David,

I understand the move to shut parks to public access in the face of COVID-19.

We stock a number of lakes in Parks across all regions under contract to the province.

Is it possible to obtain an approval for FFSBC to be provided access to stock lakes that can be disseminated to all BC Parks managers? Time is of the essence as we are releasing fish now and have been turned away from some access points.

Can you let me know ASAP on this one?

Thanks,
Andrew



Andrew Wilson

President

Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC

T 250.414.4201 C 778.679.0952

101 - 80 Regatta Landing, Victoria, BC V9A 7S2

gofishbc.com

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Review and Approval Required - ENV Media Request - BC Parks Closure - Terrace area
Date: April 8, 2020 4:31:32 PM

Hi Launa:

Look fine from my review.

Bob

From: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX

Sent: April 8, 2020 4:26 PM

To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX

Cc: Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX

Subject: Review and Approval Required - ENV Media Request - BC Parks Closure - Terrace area

Importance: High

Bob and David, both of your areas are involved with this media request so sending to each of you. One of the media questions relates to a construction project in Furlong Bay campground – in discussing with Justin, we agree that a more generic response may be the best way to answer as it will bring up the issue of park access. If you disagree, I'm happy to reach out to Craig for specifics.

Over to each of you for review and approval, please:

I am inquiring about Lakelse Lake Provincial park, which is the closest major BC park to my town, Terrace, but I will also be happy for information about other nearby parks (such as Kleanza Creek Provincial Park or Kitsumkalem Provincial Park).

1. **Will park facility operators and other park staff be laid off as a result of the park closures, or will they continue to work?**
 - We continue to work with our Park Operators to manage the current closure.
2. **How will the closures be enforced?**
 - Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols by park operators and park rangers. Signs are posted at various locations within parks to provide notice about the closures to the public and barricades will be installed at access points as necessary.
 - A closed park means no public access.
3. **What sort of penalty would a person face if they ignored a closure and entered a park anyway?**
 - Anyone found in a closed park will be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.
4. **Prior to the shutdown, have any of these parks noticed a significant increase/decrease in visitors compared to the good ol' pre-coronavirus days?**
 - Visitation at a number of BC Parks had increased in previous weeks and concerns related to a lack of physical distancing, damage to trails and facilities were raised.
 - The spill-over of parks visitors in smaller communities caused concerns that were raised by local citizens and governments, First Nations and policing partners.
5. **Will the construction project at Furlong Bay campground (Lakelse Lake Provincial**

Park) continue as planned?

- All construction projects currently underway will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- BC Parks continues to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak and is following the direction and advice set out by the provincial health officer (PHO) and the Ministry of Health. We will expand access to the park system as soon as the PHO indicates it can be done without increasing the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

From: Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 8, 2020 2:55 PM

To: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>; Chang, Johann GCPE:EX <Johann.Chang@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: ENV Media Request - BC Parks Closure - Terrace area

Hey Launa,

I am helping Johann and Courtney with the mountain of media requests. I took a stab at the response for this one. Some of the info is clearly stated on the BC Parks Facebook page and website, so I will include a link to that to. Over to you now...

From: jake.wray@terracestandard.com [<mailto:jake.wray@terracestandard.com>]

Sent: April 8, 2020 2:10 PM

To: Chang, Johann GCPE:EX

Subject: RE: Media Request - BC Parks Closure - Terrace area

Johann,

Thanks a bunch!

I am inquiring about Lakelse Lake Provincial park, which is the closest major BC park to my town, Terrace, but I will also be happy for information about other nearby parks (such as Kleanza Creek Provincial Park or Kitsumkalem Provincial Park).

Will park facility operators and other park staff be laid off as a result of the park closures, or will they continue to work?

How will the closures be enforced? What sort of penalty would a person face if they ignored a closure and entered a park anyway?

Prior to the shutdown, have any of these parks noticed a significant increase/decrease in visitors compared to the good ol' pre-coronavirus days?

Will the construction project at Furlong Bay campground (Lakelse Lake Provincial Park) continue as planned?

Cheers,

JAKE WRAY

Reporter, Terrace Standard

Direct: 250 638 7283

jake.wray@terracestandard.com

Response:

- The temporary closure affects all provincial parks, conservancies, recreational areas and ecological reserves.
- Park staff are.... (I don't think we want to talk about layoffs right now, so maybe we should avoid the second question)

- Update on Furlong Bay....

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: BC Parks Closure enforcement & Implications to Fuel Management
Date: April 8, 2020 4:42:57 PM
Attachments: [RD exemption template.docx](#)

Hi Everyone:

Lindsay brought forward a good question on fuel management projects and whether we would consider them suitable exemptions like Capital projects and support ongoing work in PPAs going forward. I consider fuel management is linked to public safety and park safety, along with ecosystem management and restoration. I think and hope this type of work can go forward, as the funding is available and it might not be as easy to obtain in the future. Of course the contractors would have to meet all the worksafe conditions aligned for safe work procedure under COVID-19.

Your thoughts would be helpful, before I respond to Lindsay.

Regards, Bob

From: Vandesteeg, Lindsay ENV:EX
Sent: April 8, 2020 4:13 PM
To: Price, Chris ENV:EX
Cc: Austad, Bob ENV:EX
Subject: BC Parks Closure enforcement & Implications to Fuel Management

Hi Chris and Bob,

Can you please help me to understand how the information below/attached will impact operational fuel management projects within parks and protected areas?

- Can this work still continue, or will it have to resume once the restrictions are lifted? Some fuel management project objectives are human life/safety, critical infrastructure and/or ecosystem restoration focused. Not entirely sure it fits into the "essential" category.
- The note below identifies contractors working for the Capital Program are "agents" of the crown, however fuel management projects also have contractors or BCWS completing the work, and are also deemed "agents" of the crown. Are they able to keep working?
- Will PUP holders (local government or indigenous governments) completing fuel management met the tests for an exemption?

I am available to discuss further if required. I am hoping to get clarity so I can message out to staff and answer any questions they may have. Better yet! Chris - there is a BC Parks Prevention Conversation on Tuesday that you are welcome to come and speak directly to this ;)

Thank you and keep up the great work! This is meaningful stuff,

Lindsay

From: Michelfelder, Volker ENV:EX

Sent: April-08-20 3:15 PM
To: ENV PPA THOMPSON-CARIBOO
Subject: FW: Closure enforcement

Hi,

The rationale below developed for exemptions from the Executive Director Parks Closure Order should help you with identifying valid exemption requests.

Please discuss any exemption requests with your Section Head who can then forward them to me for approval as appropriate.

Thanks

Volker

From: Price, Chris ENV:EX <Chris.Price@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 8, 2020 3:06 PM

To: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; ENV PPA Regional Directors <ENVPPARD@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Closure enforcement

Hi,

As requested here is the approach that we discussed with the Regional Directors in regard to exemptions from the Executive Director Order closing parks to public access. Park Operators and Contractors working directly for BC Parks capital program are being considered as “agents” of BC Parks, and are not included as “public” in the order and won’t require specific exemptions. Also included in this are Emergency responders when addressing emergencies (ie: Police, SAR, EMBC, BCWS etc).

Park Use Permittees and other entities from the public that are authorized to have infrastructure or conduct activities in Parks would be required to have an exemption in order to access the park, and these exemptions are at the discretion of the Regional Director and are based on the criteria that;

- there is no participation of the [general] public in the activity being exempted (eg: Guide Outfitter clients) and;
- that it is necessary for the permittee to access the park to maintain their infrastructure in the park, continue critical operations that preserve and maintain park values, or is necessary to access private or park facilities (within or outside the park).

We have developed a template for those exemptions (attached above).

Some examples of where exemptions are being considered is:

- Permittees with cabins or other private infrastructure in the park for the maintenance of that infrastructure (ie: not just private recreational use).
- Utilities and utility corridors with maintenance or infrastructure requirements (hydro lines, gas lines, cell towers etc).
- **Permittees** with permits allowing access to private inholdings or private lands adjacent to the park.
- Research or time bound scientific investigations where the information is of a benefit to the park, and the PHO directives can be maintained.
- Trappers, Range tenure holders and others who have obligations under other legislation that require access to the park.
- Critical conservation work requiring access to the park for specific individuals or entities and where the PHO directives can be maintained.

- Other government agencies that need access to perform or maintain their critical operations (eg: DFO – Nav Aids; Provincial fisheries enumeration, stocking etc.)

The Regional Director is the discretionary decision maker will be basing their decision on the intent of the order and the specific request that they are considering. The paramount goal is to manage the park consistent with the closure of access to the general public for recreation and other non-essential purposes in support of broader government messaging of the public remaining at home to protect public health.

Hope this helps. Please let me know if I can assist with further clarification.

Cheers,

Chris.

Chris Price

Safety, Compliance and Enforcement Program Specialist

BC Parks, Regional Operations Branch

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

778-671-0132

From: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 8, 2020 2:25 PM

To: Price, Chris ENV:EX <Chris.Price@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>;
Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: Closure enforcement

Hi Chris:

Please can you outline for Paul our approach being taken on exemptions criteria approved by Regional Directors at noon in response to the order. I think pull all the piece together can be useful for everyone going forward.

Thanks, Bob

From

File #: _____

TO: _____

DATE: _____

WHEREAS:

- A. By order of the Executive Director, dated April 8, 2020, all Provincial Parks, Conservancies, Recreation Areas and Ecological Reserves established or continued under the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, or protected areas established under provisions of the *Environment and Land Use Act*, are closed to all uses by the public.
- B. Section 3 of the Executive Director's order allows for access to any park, associated with any authorized or permitted operations, that do not involve the participation of the public and are for the purpose(s) of the preservation and maintenance of the park; access to or maintenance of private or park facilities; requires a written exemption to this order issued by the Regional Director responsible for the Park.

ACCORDINGLY, the Regional Director responsible for _____
Park exercises the exemption in Section 3 of the Executive Director's order and does
allow _____ (person, business) and any employees or
associated persons, to enter onto lands contained within _____
Park for the purpose(s) of:

This exemption is effective between the dates of _____ and
_____, 2020, or until the Executive Directors order is
repealed, whichever comes first.

This exemption is subject to amendment, revocation or repeal, as necessary, to
respond to changing circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dated at _____ B.C., this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Name of Signatory
Regional Director
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Price, Chris ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Closure enforcement
Date: April 8, 2020 4:53:44 PM

Yes, final version looks fine Jim.

Regards, Bob

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: April 8, 2020 4:39 PM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Ranson, David ENV:EX ; Price, Chris ENV:EX ; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Cc: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX
Subject: Closure enforcement

Appreciating that it may not get used in the end, I still wanted to close the loop with you on the final version of the bullets on enforcement in case they end up needed later.

Jim

From: [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#)
To: [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: BC Parks Closure enforcement & Implications to Fuel Management
Date: April 8, 2020 4:59:10 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Great, thanks David and Jim. I will proceed to inform Lindsay and RDT.
Regards, Bob

From: Ranson, David ENV:EX
Sent: April 8, 2020 4:58 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX ; Austad, Bob ENV:EX ; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Subject: RE: BC Parks Closure enforcement & Implications to Fuel Management
I agree. Same rationale applies in my mind – agents of the crown. And its good to keep people employed and making progress where we can.

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 8, 2020 4:44 PM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: BC Parks Closure enforcement & Implications to Fuel Management
I tend to agree.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 8, 2020 4:43 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: BC Parks Closure enforcement & Implications to Fuel Management
Hi Everyone:

Lindsay brought forward a good question on fuel management projects and whether we would consider them suitable exemptions like Capital projects and support ongoing work in PPAs going forward. I consider fuel management is linked to public safety and park safety, along with ecosystem management and restoration. I think and hope this type of work can go forward, as the funding is available and it might not be as easy to obtain in the future. Of course the contractors would have to meet all the worksafe conditions aligned for safe work procedure under COVID-19.

Your thoughts would be helpful, before I respond to Lindsay.

Regards, Bob

From: Vandesteeg, Lindsay ENV:EX <Lindsay.Vandesteeg@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 8, 2020 4:13 PM
To: Price, Chris ENV:EX <Chris.Price@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: BC Parks Closure enforcement & Implications to Fuel Management

Hi Chris and Bob,

Can you please help me to understand how the information below/attached will impact operational fuel management projects within parks and protected areas?

- Can this work still continue, or will it have to resume once the restrictions are lifted? Some fuel management project objectives are human life/safety, critical infrastructure and/or ecosystem restoration focused. Not entirely sure it fits into the "essential" category.
- The note below identifies contractors working for the Capital Program are "agents" of the crown, however fuel management projects also have contractors or BCWS completing the work, and are also deemed "agents" of the crown. Are they able to keep working?
- Will PUP holders (local government or indigenous governments) completing fuel management met the tests for an exemption?

I am available to discuss further if required. I am hoping to get clarity so I can message out to staff and answer any questions they may have. Better yet! Chris - there is a BC Parks Prevention Conversation on Tuesday that you are welcome to come and speak directly to this ;)

Thank you and keep up the great work! This is meaningful stuff,

Lindsay

From: Michelfelder, Volker ENV:EX

Sent: April-08-20 3:15 PM

To: ENV PPA THOMPSON-CARIBOO

Subject: FW: Closure enforcement

Hi,

The rationale below developed for exemptions from the Executive Director Parks Closure Order should help you with identifying valid exemption requests.

Please discuss any exemption requests with your Section Head who can then forward them to me for approval as appropriate.

Thanks

Volker

From: Price, Chris ENV:EX <Chris.Price@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 8, 2020 3:06 PM

To: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; ENV PPA Regional Directors <ENVPPARD@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: C closure enforcement

Hi,

As requested here is the approach that we discussed with the Regional Directors in regard to exemptions from the Executive Director Order closing parks to public access. Park Operators and Contractors working directly for BC Parks capital program are being considered as "agents" of BC

Parks, and are not included as “public” in the order and won’t require specific exemptions. Also included in this are Emergency responders when addressing emergencies (ie: Police, SAR, EMBC, BCWS etc).

Park Use Permittees and other entities from the public that are authorized to have infrastructure or conduct activities in Parks would be required to have an exemption in order to access the park, and these exemptions are at the discretion of the Regional Director and are based on the criteria that;

- there is no participation of the [general] public in the activity being exempted (eg: Guide Outfitter clients) and;
- that it is necessary for the permittee to access the park to maintain their infrastructure in the park, continue critical operations that preserve and maintain park values, or is necessary to access private or park facilities (within or outside the park).

We have developed a template for those exemptions (attached above).

Some examples of where exemptions are being considered is:

- Permittees with cabins or other private infrastructure in the park for the **maintenance** of that infrastructure (ie: not just private recreational use).
- Utilities and utility corridors with maintenance or infrastructure requirements (hydro lines, gas lines, cell towers etc).
- **Permittees** with permits allowing access to private inholdings or private lands adjacent to the park.
- Research or time bound scientific investigations where the information is of a benefit to the park, and the PHO directives can be maintained.
- Trappers, Range tenure holders and others who have obligations under other legislation that require access to the park.
- Critical conservation work requiring access to the park for specific individuals or entities and where the PHO directives can be maintained.
- Other government agencies that need access to perform or maintain their critical operations (eg: DFO – Nav Aids; Provincial fisheries enumeration, stocking etc.)

The Regional Director is the discretionary decision maker will be basing their decision on the intent of the order and the specific request that they are considering. The paramount goal is to manage the park consistent with the closure of access to the general public for recreation and other non-essential purposes in support of broader government messaging of the public remaining at home to protect public health.

Hope this helps. Please let me know if I can assist with further clarification.

Cheers,

Chris.

Chris Price

Safety, Compliance and Enforcement Program Specialist

BC Parks, Regional Operations Branch

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

778-671-0132

From: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 8, 2020 2:25 PM

To: Price, Chris ENV:EX <Chris.Price@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: Closure enforcement

Hi Chris:

Please can you outline for Paul our approach being taken on exemptions criteria approved by Regional Directors at noon in response to the order. I think pull all the piece together can be useful for everyone going forward.

Thanks, Bob

From

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Kennedy, Karla ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Carroll, Deborah ENV:EX](#)
Subject: COVID Based Park Closures
Date: April 2, 2020 1:34:29 PM
Attachments: [COVID Based Park Closures.docx](#)
Importance: High

Mark,

As we get closer to Easter I continue to be concerned about the impending crush of users that will come if the weather forecast holds. Given what we have seen to date, and casting forward to a weekend as busy or busier than the weekend we saw when we had to close Stawamus, we would not be able to manage reactionary closures the way we have up to now. I have put together the attached two pager that flags the issue and look for your direction on if/how we raise the question.

Time is growing short...

Jim

From: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Park Closures
Date: April 2, 2020 2:28:46 PM
Attachments: [COVID Based Park Closures MZ.docx](#)

This is good. Please see my comments. We also might want to point out that all FS rec sites are closed.

Regards, MZ

Page 03 of 80 to/à Page 04 of 80

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Kennedy, Karla ENV:EX](#)
Subject: COVID Based Park Closures V3
Date: April 2, 2020 4:15:16 PM
Attachments: [COVID Based Park Closures V3.docx](#)

Sorry for the multiple versions in quick succession but I missed the texts you sent. This is updated to reflect the content of those texts.

From: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#); [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Kennedy, Karla ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Parks Closure Rationale
Date: April 2, 2020 4:20:15 PM
Attachments: [COVID Based Park Closures V4.docx](#)

Folks: To inform our discussion tomorrow. Paul, based on this document could you craft a draft NR so we could see what this might look like? Jim, this is your version 3 with a few typos fixed and changes accepted.

Regards, MZ

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX
To: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX
Cc: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Subject: Re: BC Parks Facebook and Search Ad for review/approval
Date: April 2, 2020 4:43:39 PM

On hold with the digital folks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 2, 2020, at 4:20 PM, Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good catch, let's hold on any actions until we've got a plan landed tomorrow.

On Apr 2, 2020, at 4:17 PM, Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

While I feel a full closure is warranted, Mark is better placed to know if we have much likelihood of getting approval to implement a full closure.

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca
<image004.png>

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 2, 2020 4:12 PM
To: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: BC Parks Facebook and Search Ad for review/approval

Jim (including Mark here).
Based on the potential of moving to a full Park closure, do we want to suspend the digital ad. until that decision is made?
I want to avoid having social media content in circulation which may be contrary to the position we may soon be adopting.
Thanks
p

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kelch, Kyla GCPE:EX" <Kyla.Kelch@gov.bc.ca>
Date: April 2, 2020 at 3:58:31 PM PDT
To: "Corns, Paul GCPE:EX" <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX" <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>; "Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX" <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>; "LeSueur, Kathryn GCPE:EX" <Kathryn.LeSueur@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: BC Parks Facebook and Search Ad for review/approval

Hi Paul – just following up on creative approval.

Thank you,
Kyla

From: Kelch, Kyla GCPE:EX
Sent: April 2, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>; LeSueur, Kathryn GCPE:EX <Kathryn.LeSueur@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: BC Parks Facebook and Search Ad for review/approval

Hi Paul,

It passes the contrast check. GCPE digital are using this style of graphic for all their posts on social media right now.

Additionally, screen readers will pick up the post copy, headline and image description.

Thank you,
Kyla

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 2, 2020 9:16 AM
To: Kelch, Kyla GCPE:EX <Kyla.Kelch@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>; LeSueur, Kathryn GCPE:EX <Kathryn.LeSueur@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: BC Parks Facebook and Search Ad for review/approval

Thanks Kyla. I really appreciate the quick action on this. How does this check off with the accessibility guidelines. I am thinking about people who are visually impaired. The black against turquoise is a bit difficult to pick out. We'll run it past the team and get back to you.
p

From: Kelch, Kyla GCPE:EX <Kyla.Kelch@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 1, 2020 4:37 PM
To: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>; LeSueur, Kathryn GCPE:EX <Kathryn.LeSueur@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: BC Parks Facebook and Search Ad for review/approval

Hi Paul,

Below you'll find a mock-up of a Facebook ad for review/approval. Please note that we have the option to include messaging around the Goldstream park closure since this ad will be targeted at southern Vancouver Island residents and one option could be to replace "Temporary Park Closures" with "Goldstream Provincial Park". Let me know if you'd like to see more direction in the copy.
I've also included the search ad from earlier below to review and approve.

Post copy: To prevent the spread of COVID-19, BC Parks has temporarily suspended services and facilities, closed some parks and all provincial campgrounds until at least April 30.
Headline: BC Park Closures
Link Description: Check specific park pages for details.

<image005.png>

For search we're limited to 90 characters each for the two description fields and 30 characters each of the headlines.
Here's an alt that incorporates your feedback for review:
Description 1: BC Parks has temporarily suspended services and facilities. (59)
Description 2: Some parks and all provincial campgrounds are closed until at least April 30. (78)
Headline 1: BC Park Closures in Effect (26)
Headline 2: BC Parks Response to COVID 19 (29)

<image006.png>
Thank you,

Kyla Kelch
Senior Marketing Officer | Advertising & Marketing Services
Government Communications & Public Engagement
(T) 250 896-6348

www.gov.bc.ca

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 1, 2020 9:13 AM
To: LeSueur, Kathryn GCPE:EX <Kathryn.LeSueur@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hardin, Karl GCPE:EX <Karl.Hardin@gov.bc.ca>; Zdravec, Don GCPE:EX <Don.Zdravec@gov.bc.ca>; Kelch, Kyla GCPE:EX <Kyla.Kelch@gov.bc.ca>; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>; Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: BC Parks Closure Search Ad for approval

Thanks to the team. I am forwarding a few km's which Parks would like reflected in the ad. We appreciate the ad will not be a verbatim of the km's and will link to these more detailed messages. Thanks again for all your work on this.
Cheers,
Paul

- To prevent the spread of COVID-19, BC Parks has temporarily suspended services and facilities, closed some parks and all provincial campgrounds until at least April 30.
- As the weather improves, our provincial parks that are open can easily draw large crowds at trailheads, parking lots and viewpoints, so it's crucial to practice physical distancing.
- If you arrive at your favourite park and find it crowded, please go elsewhere. Don't add to the crowding. We need your help with this to ensure your safety and some of our parks can stay open. Anyone caught in a park that is closed could face a fine.

From: LeSueur, Kathryn GCPE:EX <Kathryn.LeSueur@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 31, 2020 6:07 PM
To: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hardin, Karl GCPE:EX <Karl.Hardin@gov.bc.ca>; Zdravec, Don GCPE:EX <Don.Zdravec@gov.bc.ca>; Kelch, Kyla GCPE:EX <Kyla.Kelch@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: BC Parks Closure Search Ad for approval
Importance: High

Paul,
Working on a Facebook/Instagram ad and that should be ready for you to review tomorrow.
Also, can you review the search terms below.
I still need to run this by my ADM for approval regarding budget.
At the very least, the digital comm team can provide support via the BC Gov't Facebook page.
Reach out if you have any questions.
Kathryn

From: Kelch, Kyla GCPE:EX <Kyla.Kelch@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 31, 2020 5:35 PM
To: LeSueur, Kathryn GCPE:EX <Kathryn.LeSueur@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: BC Parks Closure Search Ad for approval

<image001.jpg>
Destination URL: www.bcparks.ca

Site Links:

Park Closures	13	http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/covid-19/parks-affected/
BC Parks Response	17	http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/covid-19/
Common Questions	16	http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/covid-19/questions-answers/
Information Map	15	https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=077ef73a1eae4ca88f2ba7bb831215af

Kyla Kelch
Senior Marketing Officer | Advertising & Marketing Services
Government Communications & Public Engagement
(T) 250 896-6348

www.gov.bc.ca

From: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Closure - DRAFT nr
Date: April 3, 2020 11:53:13 AM
Attachments: [BCParks Full Closure v2.docx](#)

Here is draft nr to help guide our discussion this afternoon.

Paul



Paul Corns | Director of Communications

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

☎ 778 974-2011 📠 250 882-6572 ✉️ paul.1.corns@gov.bc.ca

-

From: [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Kennedy, Karla ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Parks Closure Rationale
Date: April 3, 2020 12:14:45 PM

Thanks Mark. The Minister will join us for this call this afternoon.

A couple of thoughts to discuss this aft -

-on the seasonal rangers: where do we think we will be with capacity in the coming weeks/months?

-homeless population: I understand from MAH that they've flagged for us the challenge for people who are experiencing homelessness that would normally be in parks have been displaced.

Thanks,
Kelly

-----Original Message-----

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

Sent: April 2, 2020 4:20 PM

To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Kennedy, Karla ENV:EX <Karla.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Parks Closure Rationale

Folks: To inform our discussion tomorrow. Paul, based on this document could you craft a draft NR so we could see what this might look like? Jim, this is your version 3 with a few typos fixed and changes accepted.

Regards, MZ

From: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Interesting statistics - worth a look before our call
Date: April 3, 2020 1:26:09 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

This is very interesting. BC Parks visitation up 27% compared to baseline in March.

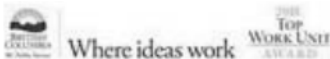
Regards, Mark

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 1:20 PM
To: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Interesting statistics - worth a look before our call

https://www.gstatic.com/covid19/mobility/2020-03-29_CA_Mobility_Report_en.pdf

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)
To: [McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: NR Closures V3
Date: April 3, 2020 1:27:24 PM
Attachments: [BCParks Full Closure v3.docx](#)

Discussion with MGH and MO at 2:00 pm. Just FYI.

Regards, Mark

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>; Lo, Reamick ENV:EX <Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: NR Closures V3

Here it the tighter version as discussed.
Paul



Paul Corns | Director of Communications

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

☎ 778 974-2011 📠 250 882-6572 ✉️ paul.1.corns@gov.bc.ca

-

BC Parks is announcing an immediate closure of all provincial parks in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

This closure is in direct response to both the federal and provincial directives that people should stay home and reduce transmission risk. This temporary measure means people should not be recreating in provincial parks until further notice.

“Now, more than ever, it is critical that we take every action to restrict the spread of COVID-19. This applies to people in British Columbia and those who would typically visit our provincial parks and from those outside our borders. The message is clear – stay home, avoid travel, do not put yourself at risk.” said BC’s Environment and Climate Change Strategy Minister George Heyman. “I understand and share the love people in British Columbia have for the outdoors and the need to be close to nature. This action is not taken lightly, but is necessary.”

The decision to close the park system is informed by continued feedback from RCMP, local government, First Nations, local Search and Rescue organizations and the general public. While many people are observing the physical distancing requirements set by the provincial health officer (PHO), some continue to ignore the order increasing the risk of transmission.

BC Parks is also extending the ban on all camping in provincial parks until May 31st, 2020 in alignment with neighbouring jurisdictions and the temporary closure of Canada’s national parks. Refunds will automatically be provided to those with existing reservations during this time.

Any changes to services at provincial parks will be posted to the BC Parks website: <http://bcparks.ca>

Learn More:

For non-clinical information on COVID-19, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/COVID19

The latest information on COVID-19 protective measures is available through the BC Centre for Disease Control by calling 1 888-COVID19 or at: BCCDC.ca

BC Parks website: <http://bcparks.ca>

Contact:

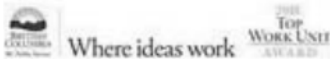
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Strategy
Media Relations
250 953-3834

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
Date: April 3, 2020 1:55:17 PM
Attachments: [RD Order - Porteau Cove Park - Park Closure - April 3 2020.pdf](#)
[FW Park Operations COVID-19.msg](#)
[image001.png](#)
Importance: High

Should we not move to a full system closure, I support Jennie's request.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
Importance: High

Hi Jim:

Even if we don't get a system wide closure today, I would like to support Jennie request by Director Order to close Porteau Cove PP and Golden Ears PP (more information coming on Golden Ears). Both Park Operators want the parks closed and without facilities and services human waste and garbage and on going social distancing problems from group and individuals are evident.

I think we need to support the POs and Regions request to issue the Directors Order. We need to take the pressure off both the Park Operators staff and enhance PHO public safety direction.

Regards, Bob

From: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)

Hi Bob,

As discussed, I am requesting approval to proceed with the closure of Porteau Cove Park by 5PM today (see attached RD Order).

Region has provided the following rationale:

- Facilities are closed, however we are still seeing high levels of visitation which is resulting in concerns for the safety of the public and staff.
- Due to the proximity to Vancouver, visitation is anticipated to be high for the coming weekend.
- We have worked with MOTI, the Park Operator, and other stakeholders (CN, s.22 and have their full support/agreement for gate closures.
- Recommendation: to close the park immediately by Regional Director's order and gate the park at the highway.

Eddie Wood has contributed these additional points from Sea to Sky Parks (email attached):

- The physical nature of Porteau Cove Day Use Area is that there is no room for people to disperse given the volume that use it. The day use areas is a dead end, similar to Murrin Park and Shannon Falls. Park visitors congregate and stay in the immediate area for long periods of time – there is very little room to disperse compared to a trail head where people can move on to a trail and maintain appropriate social distancing.
- On sunny days the demand for Porteau Cove is such that the volume of cars will often double and triple park, blocking people in, which requires several staff to manage
- Car clubs continue to use Porteau Cove Day Use Area. The activity is primarily on weekends, we are now also experiencing visits during the week. Car clubs are comprised of 15 cars or more.
- People are using the grounds to defecate/relieve themselves given the washroom facilities are closed
- Visitation is high at Porteau Cove weekends and midweek; based on sunny weather
- STS staffing levels are very low and not in line with maintaining facilities under the current situation. Infection is of great concern s.22 within the small levels we have, this compromises our ability to recover or replace staff. s.22

Launa is preparing the messaging to post on the park webpages and through social media. She has confirmed that this needs to be completed by 5PM, as web staff are not available for postings after that time.

I am preparing a similar email and an RD order for the closure of Golden Ears Park, including the rationale from PO.

Thanks.

Jennie

Jennie Aikman
Regional Director, South Coast Region
BC Parks – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Phone: (604) 398-5913

Cell: (778) 875-8494



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Park Act

Order of the Regional Director

TO: Public Notice

DATE: April 3, 2020

WHEREAS:

- A. Porteau Cove Park ("the Park") is located near Lions Bay, BC;
- B. The Park is a Class A park established under the *Park Act* in 1981;
- C. Due to larger than average crowds and concerns about the potential spread of COVID-19 to the local community, the Park will be closed until further notice.
- D. Section 17 of the *Park Act* states:

A Director or any Park Officer acting on the Director's behalf may do one or more of the following:

- (c) Order any person in any park, conservancy or recreation area to cease or refrain from an action, an omission or conduct that the Director or Park Officer, in his or her discretion, considers dangerous to life or property or detrimental to the public interest.

ACCORDINGLY, the Regional Director orders:

1. Closure of Porteau Cove Park to all recreational uses until further notice starting April 3, 2020.
2. The duration of the closure period will reflect the level of risk to park visitors due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Any changes to the closure date will be posted on the BC Parks website.

Signed in North Vancouver, this 3rd day of April 2020.



Jennie Aikman
Regional Director
BC Parks, South Coast Region
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

From: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX []
To: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX [Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca]
Subject: FW: Park Operations COVID-19
Date: Friday, April 03, 2020 11:46:51
Attachment 1: image001.jpg
Attachment 2: image002.jpg
Attachment 3: image003.png
Attachment 4: image004.png
Attachment 5: image005.png
Attachment 6: image006.png
Attachment 7: image007.png
Attachment 8: image008.png
Attachment 9: image009.png
Attachment 10: image010.png

From: Eddie Wood <ewood@mtseymour.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 11:23 AM
To: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Park Operations COVID-19

Hi Jennie,

I've added points below for your consideration.

Thank you,

Eddie

From: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Eddie Wood <ewood@mtseymour.ca>
Subject: FW: Park Operations COVID-19

Hi Eddie,

Further to this note below, can you provide some key points outlining the specific concerns at Porteau Cove Park?

We are advocating for a closure for this park, and I understand that some additional rationale from you regarding the situation on the ground would be helpful.

Here is our rationale:

- Facilities are closed, however we are still seeing high levels of visitation which is resulting in concerns for the safety of the public and staff.
- Due to the proximity to Vancouver, visitation is anticipated to be high for the coming weekend.
- We have worked with MOTI, Park Operator, and other stakeholders (CN,^{s.22} and have support/agreement for gate closures.
- Recommendation to close and gate the park at the highway.

STS added:

- The physical nature of Porteau Cove Day Use Area is that there is no room for people to disburse given the volume that use it. The day use areas is a dead end, similar to Murrin Park and Shannon Falls. Park visitors congregate and stay in the immediate area for long periods of time – there is very little room to disburse compared to a trail head where people can move on to a trail and maintain appropriate social distancing.
- On sunny days the demand for Porteau Cove is such that the volume of cars will often double and triple park, blocking people in, which requires several staff to manage
- Car clubs continue to use Porteau Cove Day Use Area. The activity is primarily on weekends, we are now also experiencing visits during the week. Car clubs are comprised of 15 cars or more.
- People are using the grounds to defecate/relieve themselves given the washroom facilities are closed
- Visitation is high at Porteau Cove weekends and midweek; based on sunny weather
- STS staffing levels are very low and not in line with maintaining facilities under the current situation. Infection is of great concern due to losing staff within the small levels we have, this compromises our ability to recover or replace staff. We currently have two staff off due to illness (non COVID-19).

Thanks.

Jennie

Jennie Aikman

Regional Director, South Coast Region

BC Parks – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Phone: (604) 398-5913

Cell: (778) 875-8494

From: Eddie Wood <ewood@mtseymour.ca>

Sent: March 19, 2020 9:27 PM

To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>; Russell Chamberlain (rchamberlain@cypressmountain.com) <rchamberlain@cypressmountain.com>

Subject: Park Operations COVID-19

Dear Jim,

After speaking with Jennie Aikman and Dylan Eysers today, I understand that BC Parks is in the process of preparing an announcement on park operations for the coming weeks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am deeply concerned that BC Parks is considering maintaining access to some Day Use Areas despite the direction of BC's Provincial Health Officer regarding mass gatherings, social distancing and the importance of not putting further stress on our healthcare system.

While I understand the importance of being outside during this difficult time, I believe it

is irresponsible to provide access to parks where people congregate in groups greater than 50 and require services from front line staff. Park Operators and Mt. Seymour staff provide services including managing visitor volume, providing park information and answering questions, providing first aid, directing traffic, cleaning washrooms and collecting garbage and recycling. The staff members working in Day Use areas will undoubtedly find themselves in close contact with visitors throughout their shifts. Maintaining the required social distancing measures will be difficult for staff and visitors, especially due to high anticipated volumes as seen in the last several days at most parks.

In addition, we anticipate that staffing Day Use areas will become increasingly difficult. Currently s.22

s.22 have indicated they are not willing to work in this environment. As a responsible employer, I am concerned that I will not be exposing my staff to an unsafe work environment. As Dr. Henry continues to indicate now is the time for all British Columbians need to take action to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

If an accident occurs in a park, search and rescue and hospitalization may be required, compromising our health care capacity. This one of the reasons Mt Seymour Resorts, along with other ski areas, closed on Monday, March 16th. We have seen high volume, as evidenced by full parking lots, over the past week in areas including Stawamus Chief, Shannon Falls and Poteau Cove. We have also experienced significant volume at Mt Seymour in the last week.

If BC Parks decides to keep Day Use Areas open this weekend and throughout the pandemic period we will experience overcrowding (groups of more than 50 people) which will contradict the Class Order and direction provided by Minister Adrien Dix and Chief Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, social distancing will be compromised and our healthcare system will be further taxed. I firmly believe that all Day Use Areas should be closed and that British Columbians should be advised to be outside in their yards and in their neighbourhoods where they can successfully maintain adequate social distancing.

If you would like to discuss my concerns, please call me at s.22

Sincerely,

Eddie

Eddie Wood

President & General Manager

Mt Seymour Resorts----- | Sea to Sky Park Services

604-986-2261 x 240 | ewood@mtseymour.ca | www.mtseymour.ca

<https://mtseymour.ca/>

<https://seatoskyparks.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MtSeymour><https://www.instagram.com/mtseymour>https://twitter.com/Mt_Seymourhttps://www.youtube.com/channel/UC98LFVe_vh4SiOShY8602pghttps://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001Y9XAqyV8VF0eW1cFRNFvlwP2TpY6ib9R5jGvd6FMPPYGOVHNQbjLB3lsZLkaWy7FGep9f2nFq2mUuguG2VPlaRbbU1kNMmJbGVjuvMogMpujUtrC_ZDOruciqWl3vefL4zTj1L7saQxWGf_CXx_9ig%3D%3D<https://www.facebook.com/seatoskyparks><https://www.instagram.com/seatoskyparks><https://twitter.com/seatoskyparks?lang=en>

Mt Seymour acknowledges that it operates on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkwəʔəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Confidentiality Warning: This message and any attachments are intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s), are confidential, and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, retransmission, conversion to hard copy, copying, circulation or other use of this message and any attachments is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail, and delete this message and any attachments from your system. Thank you.

 Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.

From: [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#); [McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
Date: April 3, 2020 2:55:39 PM

Minister is comfortable with closing both.

From: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)

I support these two closures for the reasons expressed below. Kelly, can you let MGH know what we're proposing ASAP?

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 3, 2020, at 1:55 PM, Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Should we not move to a full system closure, I support Jennie's request.

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca

<image001.png>

From: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
Importance: High

Hi Jim:

Even if we don't get a system wide closure today, I would like to support Jennie request

by Director Order to close Porteau Cove PP and Golden Ears PP (more information coming on Golden Ears). Both Park Operators want the parks closed and without facilities and services human waste and garbage and on going social distancing problems from group and individuals are evident.

I think we need to support the POs and Regions request to issue the Directors Order. We need to take the pressure off both the Park Operators staff and enhance PHO public safety direction.

Regards, Bob

From: Aikman, Jennie S ENV:EX <Jennie.Aikman@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 3, 2020 11:49 AM

To: Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)

Hi Bob,

As discussed, I am requesting approval to proceed with the closure of Porteau Cove Park by 5PM today (see attached RD Order).

Region has provided the following rationale:

- Facilities are closed, however we are still seeing high levels of visitation which is resulting in concerns for the safety of the public and staff.
- Due to the proximity to Vancouver, visitation is anticipated to be high for the coming weekend.
- We have worked with MOTI, the Park Operator, and other stakeholders (CN, s.22 and have their full support/agreement for gate closures.
- Recommendation: to close the park immediately by Regional Director's order and gate the park at the highway.

Eddie Wood has contributed these additional points from Sea to Sky Parks (email attached):

- The physical nature of Porteau Cove Day Use Area is that there is no room for people to disburse given the volume that use it. The day use areas is a dead end, similar to Murrin Park and Shannon Falls. Park visitors congregate and stay in the immediate area for long periods of time – there is very little room to disburse compared to a trail head where people can move on to a trail and maintain appropriate social distancing.
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comprised of 15 cars or more.

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- STS staffing levels are very low and not in line with maintaining facilities under the current situation. Infection is of great concern^{s.22} within the small levels we have, this compromises our ability to recover or replace staff.
s.22

Launa is preparing the messaging to post on the park webpages and through social media. She has confirmed that this needs to be completed by 5PM, as web staff are not available for postings after that time.

I am preparing a similar email and an RD order for the closure of Golden Ears Park, including the rationale from PO.

Thanks.

Jennie

Jennie Aikman

Regional Director, South Coast Region

BC Parks – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Phone: (604) 398-5913

Cell: (778) 875-8494

<RD Order - Porteau Cove Park - Park Closure - April 3 2020.pdf>

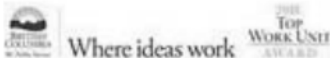
<mime-attachment>

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX](#); [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
Date: April 3, 2020 3:00:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Most of the use is day use originating from Metro Van so tonight should be enough notice.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)

Good point but a response that there is public defecation happening might address concerns :)

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 3, 2020, at 2:53 PM, Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Will highways be notified? The limited public notice may invite criticism.
p

From: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
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Subject: FW: Porteau Cove Park - Closure Rationale (and RD Order)
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Regards, Bob

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Thanks.

Jennie

Jennie Aikman

Regional Director, South Coast Region

BC Parks – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Phone: (604) 398-5913

Cell: (778) 875-8494

<RD Order - Porteau Cove Park - Park Closure - April 3 2020.pdf>

<mime-attachment>

From: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Closure NR
Date: April 3, 2020 3:12:56 PM
Attachments: [NR_BCParks_full_closures.docx](#)

Here is the latest draft reflecting our discussion. I will share with the JIC over the weekend.
Paul



Paul Corns | Director of Communications

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

☎ 778 974-2011 📠 250 882-6572 ✉️ paul.1.corns@gov.bc.ca

-

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)
Subject: COVID Based Park Closures V5
Date: April 3, 2020 4:26:13 PM
Attachments: [COVID Based Park Closures V5.docx](#)

Edited in response to MGH comments. For review and forwarding in prep for Monday.

From: [Russell, Shannon PREM:EX](#)
To: [Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#); [Austad, Bob ENV:EX](#); [Ranson, David ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Conversation with Mayor Ken Williams of the District of Highlands
Date: April 3, 2020 5:15:31 PM

Thanks Andy, your support is really appreciated.

Shannon Russell

Executive Advisor

Project and Strategic Liaison

Office of the Premier

Shannon.Russell@gov.bc.ca | 250-896-6063

From: Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX <Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Russell, Shannon PREM:EX <Shannon.Russell@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Conversation with Mayor Ken Williams of the District of Highlands

Will do, Shannon. We will have Park Rangers patrolling this area of Gowlland Tod Park, amongst other key provincial park locations such as Juan de Fuca.

They will visit locations within the park and record observations along the local municipal roadways. They will provide me with updates both days and I will keep you updated. If possible, I'll also send you some photos taken by the park ranger staff.

Have a good weekend.

Andy Macdonald

Regional Director

BC Parks – West Coast Region

Ministry of Environment

Phone: (250) 947-2601

Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca

From: Russell, Shannon PREM:EX <Shannon.Russell@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 3, 2020 5:06 PM
To: Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX <Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Conversation with Mayor Ken Williams of the District of Highlands

Thanks again for taking the time for the touch-base Andy. Please keep me up to date on reports this weekend so I can respond to the Mayor when he calls.

Thanks,
Shannon

Shannon Russell
Executive Advisor
Project and Strategic Liaison
Office of the Premier
Shannon.Russell@gov.bc.ca | 250-896-6063

From: Macdonald, Andy M ENV:EX <Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 1, 2020 2:45 PM
To: Russell, Shannon PREM:EX <Shannon.Russell@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>; Austad, Bob ENV:EX <Bob.Austad@gov.bc.ca>; Ranson, David ENV:EX <David.Ranson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Conversation with Mayor Ken Williams of the District of Highlands

Hello Shannon and Jim.

I followed up with Mayor Williams this afternoon at the request of Jim. It was a good conversation and Mayor Williams understands the challenges we are facing.

The key points of our discussion:

- I explained that BC Parks' consistent observations in the current portion of Gowlland Tod Park that remains open is that park visitor activity within the park is being managed well. We are finding that the available space in this portion of the park and the wider trails (as opposed to the narrow trails in the nearby CRD Parks) are helping visitors maintain the social distancing and other guidelines and rules communicated by the Provincial Health Officer.
- I also explained that we are aware of the concerns expressed by citizens within his community with the parking along the adjacent municipal roadways. I explained that, while we are conducting patrols in the area with our Park Rangers, BC Parks has no jurisdiction in these locations and any unauthorized parking would need to be enforced by the by-law officers.
- Mayor Williams agreed with our observations of visitor activity within the park and confirmed that his by-law officers would be monitoring the situation. He explained that some of the parking is not being done in conflict with local by-laws but they are particularly concerned about parking congestion obstructing fire hydrants and other needs by the local fire department. This will be the focus of the by-law officers.
- Mayor Williams is concerned about the potential increase in parking congestion and traffic in the area as we near the summer.
- Mayor Williams explained that most of his concerns are with the nearby CRD Parks because of their narrower trails, dogs off leash and less than sanitary toilets.

- I explained that we have Park Ranger staff patrolling key locations in the South Island throughout the week and weekend, that Gowlland Tod Park is one of those key locations. I did emphasize that we are very stretched with our capacity but will continue to do our best to monitor the situation in Gowlland Tod Park, promoting to park visitors the need for social distancing and install signage in additional locations where needed.
- He did identify the Emma Dickson Trailhead location as one that is more concerning than the others and that we should consider a closure of that trail. I explained that I would investigate that with staff, keeping in mind that a trail closure may help with the parking congestion issue but that compliance from all would likely not be successful. At the same time it is worth investigating and I'll discuss today with staff.

The above covers the main points of the discussion. I provided Mayor Williams with my cell number s.22 and offered that he could contact me if he has any further questions or concerns that he would like to discuss with BC Parks. He thanked me for the call and willingness for further discussions as needed.

I hope this helps. Any questions please let me know.

Thank you.

Andy Macdonald
Regional Director
BC Parks – West Coast Region
Ministry of Environment
Phone: (250) 947-2601
Andy.M.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca

From: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Park Closure
Date: April 5, 2020 11:51:21 AM
Attachments: [NR_BCParks_full_closures_v_040520.docx](#)

Here's the updated edit of the nr. I tidied up the final para. It is now with the JIC. We have set a release for Tues/Wednesday in the corporate calendar.

p

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX
Sent: April 5, 2020 11:43 AM
To: Watson, Andy PSSG:EX <Andy.Watson@gov.bc.ca>; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; Grieve, Chandler GCPE:EX <Chandler.Grieve@gov.bc.ca>; Robb, Katie TRAN:EX <Katie.Robb@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX <Don.Zadravec@gov.bc.ca>; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Park Closure

Andy and team;

As noted on the call, BC Parks is planning for a closure of all provincial parks in the lead up to the long weekend. The measure is guided by the PHO's orders with regard to physical distancing and takes into consideration public health and safety. It is in alignment with decisions by the federal government

and neighbouring jurisdictions such as Washington State. Google Cloud has provided interesting data on its recent release "Community Mobility Report" during the COVID-19 response period. Many provinces have seen a significant decrease in park visitations. BC is one of the jurisdictions to have seen an increase.

https://www.gstatic.com/covid19/mobility/2020-03-29_CA_Mobility_Report_en.pdf. Including only as background.

Here is a draft of our nr which we are planning to release midweek. It is with our minister. There are a couple of key briefings planned.

Thanks

Paul



Paul Corns | Director of Communications

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

☎ 778 974-2011 📠 250 882-6572 📧 paul.1.corns@gov.bc.ca

-

From: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#); [Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Park Closure
Date: April 5, 2020 3:55:55 PM
Attachments: [NR_BCParks_full closures v_040520i.docx](#)

Here is the release with the Minister's changes to his quote. We have been asked to plan for a Wednesday release and avoid Tuesday if possible. We still need to run this through the editors and possibly flag for Finance. The JIC has this draft Mark if you want run it past Lori H.

Paul

-----Original Message-----

From: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 5, 2020 12:59 PM
To: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Park Closure

Thanks, let me know when I can send to Lori Halls

> On Apr 5, 2020, at 11:51 AM, Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca> wrote:
>
> <NR_BCParks_full closures v_040520.docx>

From: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)
To: [Halls, Lori D EMBC:EX](#)
Cc: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: NR BCParks Full Closure
Date: April 5, 2020 4:58:01 PM
Attachments: [NR_BCParks_full_closures_v_040520i.docx](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Good afternoon Lori

Scheduled for Mid week release to intercept the anticipated flood of Albertans over Easter Weekend and BC residents preparing to travel to visit parks. Reinforces the S.58 crown land closure in SEBC and addresses the fact that seasonal rangers are not yet in place and many of our park operators are refusing to work. Aligns BC with WA, OR, AB and Parks Canada. JIC has this draft and MGH has approved.

Regards, Mark

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#)
Subject: Updated COVID Based Park Closures V5
Date: April 6, 2020 10:31:24 AM
Attachments: [COVID Based Park Closures V5.docx](#)

Have added a bit more text and a chronology to the end. There were a number of parking lot closures I didn't capture as they were done locally and not tracked centrally but the major changes are reflected on the chronology. Let me know if you need anything further.

Jim

From: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)
To: [Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: This weekend in TFL 38
Date: April 6, 2020 10:52:55 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Sounds good and thanks

From: Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX <Doug.Forsdick@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 10:41 AM
To: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: This weekend in TFL 38

No pictures, he just got texts informing of activity it sounds like. I will have our folks start to compile pics as they encounter similar instances.

D

From: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 6, 2020 9:02 AM
To: Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX <Doug.Forsdick@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: This weekend in TFL 38

Thanks, it helps with the elevation of this issue if there are photos.

Regards, MZ

From: Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX <Doug.Forsdick@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 8:53 AM
To: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: This weekend in TFL 38

There were none when I got the message. I will track them down.

Doug

From: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 6, 2020 8:52 AM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX <Doug.Forsdick@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: This weekend in TFL 38

Thanks both. Was there photos with the original message?

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 8:46 AM

To: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX <Doug.Forsdick@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: This weekend in TFL 38

Thanks for sharing Doug.

Mark, we will need to make sure that as we develop the border plans that we ensure enough capacity and planning go into addressing this kind of abuse.

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister

BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service

Telephone: 250-387-1288

jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



Where ideas work



From: Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX <Doug.Forsdick@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 6, 2020 8:36 AM

To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: This weekend in TFL 38

Jim

Attached FYI, it shows the level of non-compliance both with core legislation as well as the physical distancing concerns that are occurring out there.

Doug

From: Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX <Chris.Doyle@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 6, 2020 8:23 AM

To: Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX <Doug.Forsdick@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: This weekend in TFL 38

FYI – activity in one area on the weekend. I suspect, Kootenay and Okanagan and Fraser Valley at least will be seeing similar things especially with the forecast this week. Things are turning into one extended May long weekend. I will see what the activity was like in other parts of the province

today.

From: Rochetta, Steve J FLNR:EX <Steve.Rochetta@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 6, 2020 8:15 AM

To: Southam, Dave FLNR:EX <Dave.Southam@gov.bc.ca>; Shaw-MacLaren, Scott D FLNR:EX <Scott.ShawMacLaren@gov.bc.ca>; Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX <Chris.Doyle@gov.bc.ca>; Gravel, Simon ENV:EX <Simon.Gravel@gov.bc.ca>; Cunneyworth, Robert W FLNR:EX <Robert.Cunneyworth@gov.bc.ca>; Bickerton, Sean FLNR:EX <Sean.Bickerton@gov.bc.ca>; McCrone, Alistair FLNR:EX <Alistair.McCrone@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: This weekend in TFL 38

On Saturday I received 6 text messages from individuals concerned about behaviour in the Squamish so on Sunday at 1300h I decided to go take a look for myself and what I observed was outrageous. It has already been explained to me that people are being encouraged to go outdoors and that we are hoping that they will adhere to the Medical Health Guidelines for distancing but here is what I observed.

Large groups....yes, close quarters....yes but that's only the start.

I drove to the Sigurd trail head in the Ashlu and then to 11 km in the Squamish. I stopped counting vehicles at 500, the rec sites were overloaded with campers, beaches covered with people, high speed driving on the wrong side of the road with oncoming traffic, drinking while driving, throwing cans out of the vehicle, I observed 16 moto cross, 2 side X sides and an ATV with no licensing (also 11 motor bikes were licensed), Vehicles ripping up the floodplain in places where they would have to cross fish bearing side channels to get, and everywhere you stop gunfire including handgun fire at the pit at 5 Km.

I spoke to 2 different groups...first to a group of 12 motocross riders and I casually mentioned the need for licensing and insurance to ride on the mainline. The response was expletive who's going to check us.

The second group was 24 guys partying at the Ashlu, I asked them where they were from and why were they there....the response was, we can't gather in Van we will get fined so we came here to party, drink and shoot guns.

Every weekend is now like the worst long weekend.

As some of you know the last 2 weekends have been similar and I expressed concerns regarding social behaviour and mixed messaging. It's obvious that people are stupid or have no regard for the well being of others but my concerns now switch to wildlife. We are expecting a warm week and Grizzlies will be emerging and dropping to the floodplain where the food is. They will be met by 100's to 1000's of people drinking with guns. Not an ideal situation.

Something has to be done, any suggestions?

Steve

From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Avison, Claire TAC:EX](#); [Austin, Matt FLNR:EX](#); [Faganello, Tara MAH:EX](#); [Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX](#)
Cc: [Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX](#); [Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX](#); [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FYI - Parks
Date: April 6, 2020 3:40:15 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[NR_BC Parks_full closures v_040520i.docx](#)

Good afternoon all,

This morning my minister presented to caucus our plan to move to a full system closure for the provincial parks system. Current plan is for the attached news release to go out at 8am this Wednesday. Up to this point, BC Parks has taken a scaled and phased-in approach to park access limits to preserve general access and provide the public with outdoor areas to use, subject to practicing physical distancing. Where we have implemented access restrictions, they have proven successful, but they have also resulted in higher usage of the parks that remain open as users seek alternatives.

With the desire of the public to get out of doors, many parks have already experienced peak season levels of use which overwhelmed parking lots, trails and trailheads, made physical distancing difficult if not impossible in some locations, and resulted in damage to our facilities and the environment. As well, self-isolation and/or concerns with potential for COVID exposure have reduced park management capacity. This puts the public, staff, contractors and volunteers such as SARS at risk. This at a time when resources and supplies are being diverted to support front line health care workers. Spill-over to neighbouring communities has also been a concern raised by citizens, local government officials First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

With the Easter holiday upon us, and given the challenges posed by COVID, the expected influx of visitors is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. For all these reasons, we are moving to a full access closure of all provincial parks.

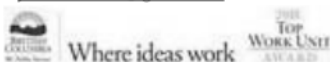
I have attached the news release for your info. It is embargoed pending release on Wednesday. KMs and Q/As for MLAs and ministers under development and expected by noon tomorrow

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: [Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Sather, Kelly ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FOR FINAL REVIEW: BC Parks Package
Date: April 7, 2020 12:17:20 PM
Attachments: [Web SM.docx](#)
[QA_BCParks_full park closures_FINAL.docx](#)
[NR_BCParks_full closures v_040720_FINAL.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Kelly, Mark:

Please find the attached final NR, QA and web content for the parks announcement tomorrow.

Please let us know of any further edits. The NR is with the GCPE editors getting put into the system for an 8am release tomorrow.

Thanks,

Courtney

Courtney Stewart

Communications Manager | Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Ph: 778-698-8755 | Cell: 250-920-5104
courtney.stewart@gov.bc.ca

BC Parks Webpage:

BC Parks Response to COVID 19: Full BC Parks System Closure

BC Parks is immediately closing all provincial parks in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the desire of the public to get outdoors, many parks have already experienced peak season levels of use that have resulted in overwhelmed parking lots, trails and trailheads, making physical distancing difficult, if not impossible in some locations. It also resulted in damage to our facilities and the environment. By taking this action, BC Parks is aligning with federal and provincial directives for people to stay home and reduce COVID-19 transmission risk.

This temporary measure means public and vehicle access is no longer available. All trails, roads, day use areas, beaches, lakes, boat launches, and backcountry areas are closed to the public. Park closures will be enforced through regular monitoring and patrols and anyone found in a closed park will be evicted and could face a \$115 fine.

In addition to the full system closure, the campground closure has been extended to May 31. Full refunds will continue to be provided to those with existing reservations during this time. The Discover Camping reservation system has been suspended for all new reservations. A public notice will be issued once facilities are reopened and the system is able to accept new reservations.

BC Parks continues to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak closely and is following the recommendations set out by the provincial health officer and Minister of Health for decisions related to closure and reopening of parks and facilities.

Please continue to check this website for updates.

For Social – include the following:

Please continue to check this website for updates.

For the most up to date information, please continue to monitor the [BC Parks Webpage](#) And read our FAQ.

BC Parks COVID-19 Questions and Answers: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/covid-19/questions-answers/>

Media Release: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020ENV0014-000553>

For more COVID-19 information, visit the BC Centre for Disease Control:
BCCDC: <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

Provincial Health Officer and Ministry of Health
News: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/health>

Photo: Golden Ears Provincial Park,
Iain Robert Reid Photography

Page 48 of 80 to/à Page 50 of 80

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
[Date]

Ministry of Environment and Climate
Change Strategy

BC Parks implements full provincewide closures

VICTORIA – BC Parks is announcing the immediate closure of all provincial parks in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

The closure responds to both the federal and provincial directives that people should stay close to home to reduce COVID-19 transmission risk. This temporary measure means people should not be recreating in provincial parks until further notice.

“Now, as we see that physical distancing works, it is critical that we take every action needed to restrict the spread of COVID-19. This applies to British Columbians and out of province visitors who were planning to visit or stay at our provincial parks. The message is clear – stay home, avoid travel, do not put yourself or others at risk,” said B.C.’s Environment and Climate Change Strategy Minister George Heyman. “I understand and share the love people in British Columbia have for the outdoors and the connection between health and proximity to nature. We tried to provide safe space for people get some exercise and fresh air in our beautiful parks, but it has proven too challenging to maintain safe distance between visitors. This action is difficult but necessary. We look forward to the day we can welcome people back to our wonderful parks.”

The decision to close the park system is informed by continued feedback from RCMP, local government, First Nations, local search and rescue organizations and the general public. While many people are observing the physical distancing requirements set by the provincial health officer (PHO), some continue to ignore the order, making enforcement in a wilderness setting challenging.

The timing of this decision is important given the upcoming long weekend and the beginning of the busy season for outdoor recreation and camping. BC Parks is also extending the ban on all camping in provincial parks until May 31, 2020, in alignment with neighbouring jurisdictions and the temporary closure of Canada’s national parks. Refunds for bookings up to May 31 will be sent automatically.

As previously announced, the Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has also closed its campgrounds and amenities in response to the COVID-19 situation.

BC Parks has taken a scaled and phased in approach to limiting park access following PHO requirements and the latest COVID-19 transmission data. BC Parks recognizes the value of nature in contributing to public health and wellness and will expand access to the park system as soon as the PHO indicates it can be done without increasing the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Learn More:

Any change to provincial park access or services will be posted to the BC Parks website:

<http://bcparks.ca>

For status updates on RSTBC campgrounds, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/camping-hiking/sites-trails>

For the latest medical updates, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing,

visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/> or follow @CDCofBC

For provincial health officer orders, notices and guidance, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/phoguidance

For non-health related information, including financial, child care and education supports,

travel, transportation and essential service information, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/Covid-19

Or call 1 888 COVID19 (1 888 268-4319) between 7:30 a.m. and 8 p.m., seven days a week

Contact:

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Media Relations

250 953-3834

Joint Information Centre

COVID Provincial Co-ordination Plan

embc.covidjic@gov.bc.ca

236 478-1336

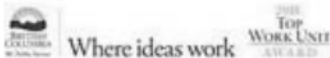
From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Balcaen, Trish L IRR:EX](#)
Cc: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FW: FYI - Parks
Date: April 7, 2020 12:57:46 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[NR_BCParks_full closures v_040520i.docx](#)

Trish,

As I mentioned in my voice-mail. Looking on your advice on how to communicate with FN leadership about the closures and assure them that it does not impact their ability to access the system for F/S/C.

Thanks
Jim

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: April 6, 2020 3:40 PM
To: Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FYI - Parks

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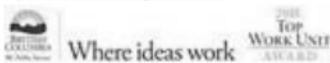
I have attached the news release for your info. It is embargoed pending release on Wednesday. KMs and Q/As for MLAs and ministers under development and expected by noon tomorrow

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: [Corns, Paul GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX](#); [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [McGuire, Jennifer AGRI:EX](#); [Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Kooacanusa IB
Date: April 7, 2020 1:31:13 PM

Thanks. I spoke with Jim. The request for Joe to speak to the Kookanusa IB should go to Doug to assign to Joe if appropriate. Danielle can share the nr and q/a as embargoed with Joe so he has the detail on the pp system and isn't drawn into a discussion on that. If anyone asks he can refer folks to the media line. Looping Doug in now.

p

From: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 12:54 PM
To: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Kooacanusa IB

I had the Lake Kooacanusa mudboggging event mixed up with this snow mobile event at Tatshenshini (which was scheduled for this weekend as well)

N	Tatshenshini-Alsek – C Directors Order	Annual very large snowmobile special event during Easter weekend. Participants come from Alaska, Yukon, Alberta and BC. RCMP will not be in attendance this year. Very doubtful social distancing will be practiced given type of event and type of visitors attending – event is a group activity, a high social gathering from past experience. Recommend park closure to improve park visitor health and safety from COVID-19
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From: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 12:41 PM
To: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Kooacanusa IB

I'm good with the COS speaking to the closures but note that our materials speak both to mud-boggging and a snowmobile event. Is the COS speaking to both?

Regards, Mark

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 7, 2020 12:03 PM

To: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: Koocanusa IB

Maybe it's nothing to worry about...but I get paid to worry about these things.

p

From: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX

Sent: April 7, 2020 11:59 AM

To: McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>; Haslam, David GCPE:EX <David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Rasmussen, Paul FLNR:EX <Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca>; Wiggill, Garth W FLNR:EX <Garth.Wiggill@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Koocanusa IB

Thanks David. I understand FLNRO is recommending a CO to speak to the closure of Lake Kookanusa. Given that our release is going out 8:00 and yours at 8:15 I just want to make sure messaging aligns. We expect our Minister will be active with media.

From: McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 7, 2020 11:44 AM

To: Haslam, David GCPE:EX <David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Rasmussen, Paul FLNR:EX <Paul.Rasmussen@gov.bc.ca>; Wiggill, Garth W FLNR:EX <Garth.Wiggill@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Koocanusa IB

Thanks - closing the loop with Paul Corns.

Thanks

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 7, 2020, at 11:43 AM, Haslam, David GCPE:EX <David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

I'm coordinating with my GCPE colleagues and JIC. They're all well aware. I expect to share the IB shortly.

From: Rasmussen, Paul FLNR:EX

Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 11:41 AM

To: Wiggill, Garth W FLNR:EX

Cc: McGuire, Jennifer ENV:EX; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX; Standen, Jim ENV:EX; Haslam, David GCPE:EX

Subject: Koocanusa IB

Hi Garth. I just got this IM from Jenn McGuire:

hi - do you have the FLNR Info bulletin that is going out re: Lake Koocanusa
mud bogging measures?
need to ensure it is coordinated with BC Parks announcement that is going out
tomorrow

I may have missed it in my inbox. Do you have it and can you please circulate it?

Thanks.

Paul Rasmussen

Assistant Deputy Minister

South Area Operations

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

<image001.png>

From: [Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX](#)
To: [Faganello, Tara MAH:EX](#); [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Avison, Claire TAC:EX](#); [Austin, Matt FLNR:EX](#); [Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX](#); [Nash, Laurel ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX](#); [Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX](#); [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: FYI - Parks
Date: April 7, 2020 2:54:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks Tara – additionally flagging whether this might also have issues on the vulnerable people side; this came up in a couple of the Minister’s calls, re local governments wondering about people camping in closed provincial parks and how that relates to homeless people’s Charter rights to have shelter.

From: Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 2:38 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX <Nicola.Marotz@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: FYI - Parks

Thanks Jim, just raised with Laurel the need for more messaging around direction to local governments for regional parks too if that is being considered? As you know, closure of provincial parks may put pressure on regional parks. We have a call with Mayors/Chairs in 5 regions on Thursday and I’m sure this will come up...

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 6, 2020 3:40 PM
To: Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
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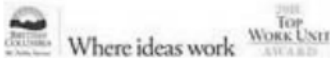
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Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



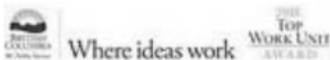
From: [Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Faganello, Tara MAH:EX](#); [Avison, Claire TAC:EX](#); [Austin, Matt FLNR:EX](#); [Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX](#); [Nash, Laurel ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX](#); [Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX](#); [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#)
Subject: RE: FYI - Parks
Date: April 7, 2020 3:08:01 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks Jim – appreciate any key messaging that you can provide. Cheers Nicola

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 3:07 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX <Nicola.Marotz@gov.bc.ca>; Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
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To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>
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Subject: RE: FYI - Parks

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Sent: April 6, 2020 3:40 PM
To: Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FYI - Parks

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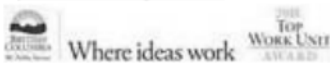
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Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Steves, Gregory OHCS:EX](#); [Faganello, Tara MAH:EX](#); [Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX](#); [Avison, Claire TAC:EX](#); [Austin, Matt FLNR:EX](#); [Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX](#); [Nash, Laurel ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX](#); [Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX](#); [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Response Required: - Parks
Date: April 7, 2020 4:35:02 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks Greg. I did canvass for where there are accessible sani-dumps and the only one we could identify that is not behind a closed gate is the one at French Beach on the road to Port Renfrew. All the rest could not be accessible once the gates are closed and having the gates closed is essential for managing during the closure. We did ask the operator of French Beach to find a way to maintain that one as open.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Steves, Gregory OHCS:EX <Gregory.Steves@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 4:32 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>; Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX <Nicola.Marotz@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX <Trish.Rorison@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Response Required: - Parks

Thanks Jim. It is all good from my part.

We do know that there are number of homeless people living fulltime in RV's that rely on BC Parks and other campgrounds. We are looking into whether they have COVID specific needs, or not. I don't think this issue to related directly to the issue of closing the parks and is phenomena that is present in downtown Victoria and Vancouver.

I did, however, observe on the weekend a number of full-timers "parked" outside the entrances to the bamberton and goldstream facilities. I will reiterate my request to keep sani-dumps open when possible.

Best,
Greg

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 7, 2020 4:23 PM

To: Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>; Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX <Nicola.Marotz@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>; Steves, Gregory OHCS:EX <Gregory.Steves@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX <Trish.Rorison@gov.bc.ca>

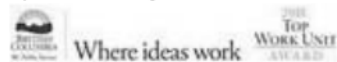
Subject: RE: Response Required: - Parks

I am happy to help however I can Tara but guidance for municipal authorities is outside my purview. I have copied Paul Corns of our GCPE shop as he is part of JIC and perhaps can advise on how best to approach this request.

For clarity, the provincial system closure is indefinite. Any reopening will be subject to any emerging direction from the PHO.

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 7, 2020 4:18 PM

To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX <Nicola.Marotz@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>; Steves, Gregory OHCS:EX <Gregory.Steves@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX <Trish.Rorison@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Response Required: - Parks

Thanks Jim, on a call just now with my Minister (who did received the Caucus briefing which was very helpful), she specifically asked for her Thursday regional calls with Mayors and Regional District Chairs if we could please get some approved (by the JIC/PHO) messaging on what advice can be given to Regional Districts/Municipalities on their parks? And to clarify if this is just for the long weekend or ongoing during COVID?

I have included Greg here on the vulnerable persons side of camping in parks...

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 7, 2020 3:07 PM

To: Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX <Nicola.Marotz@gov.bc.ca>; Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>

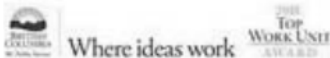
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To: Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Laurel ENV:EX <Laurel.Nash@gov.bc.ca>

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Sent: April 6, 2020 3:40 PM

To: Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>

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jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



Where ideas work



From: [Balcaen, Trish L IRR:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Wood, Jessica IRR:EX](#); [Caul, Doug D IRR:EX](#)
Subject: FW: FYI - Parks
Date: April 7, 2020 4:41:29 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[NR_BCParks_full closures v_040520i.docx](#)

Hi Jim,

Thanks for this.

I spoke with Doug briefly about this and he does recommend you reach out to FNLC to give a heads up before the NR goes out.

With the heads up, they could give a hand with comms by tagging your NR on their COVID website and help affirm the message that the closures won't affect indigenous peoples' use.

I haven't yet been able to connect with Jessica who has been our key lead on FNLC. I recommend a quick conversation with her before you reach out to FNLC for context.

Cheers,
Trish

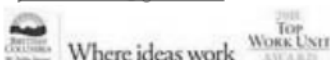
From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 12:58 PM
To: Balcaen, Trish L IRR:EX <Trish.Balcaen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: FYI - Parks

Trish,

As I mentioned in my voice-mail. Looking on your advice on how to communicate with FN leadership about the closures and assure them that it does not impact their ability to access the system for F/S/C.

Thanks
Jim

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Assistant Deputy Minister
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Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX

Sent: April 6, 2020 3:40 PM

To: Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>

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Where ideas work



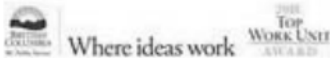
From: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
To: [Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX](#); [Melles, Jennifer IRR:EX](#)
Cc: [Wood, Jessica IRR:EX](#); [Balcaen, Trish L IRR:EX](#); [Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX](#); [Caul, Doug D IRR:EX](#)
Subject: RE: FYI - Parks
Date: April 8, 2020 8:49:46 AM
Attachments: [Order of the Executive Director.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[Email to FN Partners - A8.docx](#)

Thanks all. The core materials are available on the BC Gov news site and in case its not there too, I have attached the Directors Order. I am also attaching an email notice that went out to FN to let them know of the closures.

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca



From: Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 5:19 PM
To: Melles, Jennifer IRR:EX <Jennifer.Melles@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wood, Jessica IRR:EX <Jessica.D.Wood@gov.bc.ca>; Balcaen, Trish L IRR:EX <Trish.Balcaen@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Caul, Doug D IRR:EX <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: FYI - Parks

I agree that tomorrow would be just fine.

Dave Peterson

Assistant Deputy Minister - Recovery, Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction
Emergency Management BC Block A – Suite 200, 2261 Keating Cross Rd
Saanichton, BC V8M 2A5 778-974-5838

From: Melles, Jennifer IRR:EX <Jennifer.Melles@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wood, Jessica IRR:EX <Jessica.D.Wood@gov.bc.ca>; Balcaen, Trish L IRR:EX <Trish.Balcaen@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Caul, Doug D IRR:EX <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>; Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: FYI - Parks

I think tomorrow is just fine. Dave and I will ensure information gets distributed appropriately. If you could send it our way once released that would be great.

Jennifer

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: April 7, 2020 5:11 PM

To: Melles, Jennifer IRR:EX <Jennifer.Melles@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Wood, Jessica IRR:EX <Jessica.D.Wood@gov.bc.ca>; Balcaen, Trish L IRR:EX <Trish.Balcaen@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Caul, Doug D IRR:EX <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>; Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: FYI - Parks

Thanks Jennifer. I would be comfortable sharing the NR on a confidential basis this evening if you think that is warranted. It does not speak to the specific acknowledgement that indigenous access for cultural, social and ceremonial purposes will be respected (this is in the Director's order closing parks) so would need some context setting. If you feel we are good to share in the morning then I am good with that.

Big thanks Dave!

Jim

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 7, 2020, at 5:04 PM, Melles, Jennifer IRR:EX <Jennifer.Melles@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon,

As part of COVID response, EMBC hosts regular twice weekly meetings with FNLC (political level); there are report outs from the key players such as EMBC, Health (FNHA) and our federal counterparts and a chance for FNLC representatives to bring up issues. Parks came up as a topic at today's meeting, Dave Peterson (ADM EMBC), cc'd on this email, made the group aware that there is an upcoming announcement around Parks.

I'm happy work through the EMBC channels to ensure FNLC has the information once released and suggest that we provide the opportunity to discuss during the upcoming call on Thursday.

Jennifer

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 4:47 PM
To: Wood, Jessica IRR:EX <Jessica.D.Wood@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Balcaen, Trish L IRR:EX <Trish.Balcaen@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Caul, Doug D IRR:EX <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>; Melles, Jennifer IRR:EX <Jennifer.Melles@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: FYI - Parks

8am tomorrow.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 7, 2020, at 4:44 PM, Wood, Jessica IRR:EX <Jessica.D.Wood@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thanks Trish. Pulling in Jennifer here.

Jim – Can you advise when the NR is going out?

Thanks –

Jessica.

From: Balcaen, Trish L IRR:EX <Trish.Balcaen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 4:41 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>; Wood, Jessica IRR:EX <Jessica.D.Wood@gov.bc.ca>; Caul, Doug D IRR:EX <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: FYI - Parks

Hi Jim,

Thanks for this.

I spoke with Doug briefly about this and he does recommend you reach out to FNLC to give a heads up before the NR goes out.

With the heads up, they could give a hand with comms by tagging your NR on their COVID website and help affirm the message that the closures won't affect indigenous peoples' use.

I haven't yet been able to connect with Jessica who has been our key lead on FNLC. I recommend a quick conversation with her before you reach

out to FNLC for context.

Cheers,
Trish

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 7, 2020 12:58 PM
To: Balcaen, Trish L IRR:EX <Trish.Balcaen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: FYI - Parks

Trish,

As I mentioned in my voice-mail. Looking on your advice on how to communicate with FN leadership about the closures and assure them that it does not impact their ability to access the system for F/S/C.

Thanks
Jim

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy
Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca
<image001.png>

From: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Sent: April 6, 2020 3:40 PM
To: Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Austin, Matt FLNR:EX <Matt.Austin@gov.bc.ca>; Faganello, Tara MAH:EX <Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca>; Mounteney, Renee TRAN:EX <Renee.Mounteney@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Richter, Kevin J TRAN:EX <Kevin.Richter@gov.bc.ca>; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharias, Mark ENV:EX <Mark.Zacharias@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FYI - Parks

Good afternoon all,

This morning my minister presented to caucus our plan to move to a full system closure for the provincial parks system. Current plan is for the attached news release to go out at 8am this Wednesday. Up to this point,

BC Parks has taken a scaled and phased-in approach to park access limits to preserve general access and provide the public with outdoor areas to use, subject to practicing physical distancing. Where we have implemented access restrictions, they have proven successful, but they have also resulted in higher usage of the parks that remain open as users seek alternatives.

With the desire of the public to get out of doors, many parks have already experienced peak season levels of use which overwhelmed parking lots, trails and trailheads, made physical distancing difficult if not impossible in some locations, and resulted in damage to our facilities and the environment. As well, self-isolation and/or concerns with potential for COVID exposure have reduced park management capacity. This puts the public, staff, contractors and volunteers such as SARS at risk. This at a time when resources and supplies are being diverted to support front line health care workers. Spill-over to neighbouring communities has also been a concern raised by citizens, local government officials First Nations and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

With the Easter holiday upon us, and given the challenges posed by COVID, the expected influx of visitors is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. For all these reasons, we are moving to a full access closure of all provincial parks.

I have attached the news release for your info. It is embargoed pending release on Wednesday. KMs and Q/As for MLAs and ministers under development and expected by noon tomorrow

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Jim

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy

Minister

BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service

Telephone: 250-387-1288

jim.standen@gov.bc.ca

<image001.png>



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Park Act

Order of the Executive Director

TO: Public Notice

DATE: April 8, 2020

WHEREAS:

- A. This order applies to all Crown land established or continued as a park, conservancy, recreation area, or ecological reserve under the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* or protected areas established under provisions of the *Environment and Land Use Act*.
- B. This order is made in the public interest in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the purposes of the protection of human health and safety.
- C. This order is in regard to all public access, facilities or uses that exist in any of the lands mentioned in Section A above, and include but are not limited to: campgrounds, day-use areas, trails, playgrounds, shelters, visitor centers, cabins, chalets, lodges, resort areas, group campsites, and all other facilities or lands owned or operated by or on behalf of BC Parks.
- D. This order is subject to amendment, revocation or repeal as necessary to respond to changing circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic.
- E. The protection of park visitor health, the health of all BC Parks staff, Park Operators, contractors and permittees is the primary consideration in the making of this order.

F. Section 17 of the *Park Act* states:

A director or any park officer acting on the director's behalf may do one or more of the following:

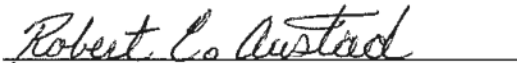
- (c) order any person in any park, conservancy or recreation area to cease or refrain from an action, an omission or conduct that the director or park officer, in his or her discretion, considers dangerous to life or property or detrimental to the public interest;

ACCORDINGLY, the Executive Director orders:

1. All Provincial Parks, Conservancies, Recreation Areas and Ecological Reserves established or continued under the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, or protected areas established under provisions of the *Environment and Land Use Act*, are hereby closed to all uses by the public.
2. Any facility, event, or activity involving the participation of the public, which was previously allowed or authorized under the authority of a Park Officer, or a Park Use Permit are ordered to cease and are closed for the duration of this order.
3. Access to any park, associated with any authorized or permitted operations, that do not involve the participation of the public and are for the purpose(s) of the preservation and maintenance of the park; access to or maintenance of private or park facilities; requires a written exemption to this order issued by the Regional Director responsible for the Park.
4. Continued access and use of areas described in Section A (page 1) to accommodate Indigenous people's social, ceremonial, and cultural activities in provincial parks and protected areas must align with current health directives for public health and safety.
5. This order comes into effect at 08:00 hrs (PST) on Wednesday April 8th, 2020 and remains in effect until repealed by further order.

6. If this order is not carried out or is only partially or imperfectly carried out, I may direct any person to carry out or complete the order, and the expense to the government of carrying out or completing the carrying out of the order will be a debt owing to the government by Individual at the suit of the government in any court of competent jurisdiction

Dated at Victoria, B.C., this 8th day of April, 2020.



Bob Austad

Executive Director, Regional Operations Branch
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

FN email – A8:

Good morning:

I am emailing today to advise that as of Wednesday, April 8th, 2020, we are closing all provincial parks and protected areas until further notice. All campgrounds, camping opportunities and accommodations will be closed until at least May 31, 2020. This action is being taken in response to the call for increased action to address the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with federal and provincial experts requesting citizens to stay home.

With the desire of the public to get outdoors, many parks recently experienced peak season levels of use overwhelming parking lots, trails and trailheads, making physical distancing difficult if not impossible in some locations, and resulted in damage to our facilities and the environment. Along with this, the spill-over to neighbouring communities raised concerns with some First Nations, local citizens, local government officials, and police along with a general concern with provincial parks overcrowding and the lack of social distancing.

Today, with the Easter holiday upon us, and the challenges posed by COVID-19 and the expected influx of visitors, we feel it is beyond the ability of BC Parks to manage for physical distancing and general public safety. We feel this closure is necessary to ensure the health and safety of all, including that of our neighbouring Indigenous communities.

This closure is in no way intended to restrict Indigenous social, ceremonial, and cultural activities in provincial parks and protected areas that align with current health directives for public health and safety.

In these challenging times, BC Parks continues to recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous peoples. Thus, while taking these necessary steps to ensure public health and safety and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, BC Parks will continue to make every reasonable effort to ensure that the steps taken will be respectful of Aboriginal and Treaty rights of Indigenous peoples.

BC Parks would like to address any concerns and input you may have regarding health and safety measures for the provincial park system during the COVID-19 crisis.

A public notice will be issued when this closure is lifted, and facilities are reopened and available for reservation.

Our advice to visitors is to continue following the Provincial Health Officer's direction regarding social distancing and other health measures.

Our regional staff will be in touch with park operators directly to work through all operational questions and park specific plans on the ground regarding these closures and we certainly invite you to reach out to us with any concerns you may have as well

BC Parks appreciates your understanding, cooperation, and support and we hope that your families and community members are staying safe and well during this challenging time