PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Park Act

Order of the Executive Director

TO: **Public Notice**

DATE: June 1, 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;* **and listed in the attached Schedule.**

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 includes but is 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 in replacement of the Order of the Executive Director dated May 14, 2020 and is subject to further amendment, revocation or repeal as necessary to respond to changing circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic. Exemptions that were issued in relation to a previous Order, and were still in effect, are carried forward and applied to this Order in the same manner and effect.

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. 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*, **and listed in the attached Schedule**, are hereby closed to all uses by the public.

2. Any facility, event, or activity involving the participation of the public, which is allowed or authorized under the authority of a Park Officer, or a Park Use Permit, and is to occur in any park listed in the Schedule, are ordered to cease and are closed for the duration of this order unless authorized by an exemption issued under Subsection 3.

3. Access to any park listed in the attached Schedule, which is in regard to any authorized or permitted operations, requires a written exemption to this Order issued by the Regional Director responsible for the Park. An exemption must not be issued unless, in the opinion of the Regional Director, to do so is not inconsistent with the objectives of the park closure. If an exemption has been previously issued in relation to a previous Order, and remains in effect, that exemption is carried forward and applied to this Order in the same manner and effect.

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 hours (PST) on Monday, June 1, 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 1st day of June, 2020.

Robert C. Austad

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

Schedule

Amendment #21 as of July 22, 2022

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*, **listed below**, are hereby closed to all uses by the public.

This schedule will be amended as parks and protected areas become open and operational. For proposed opening dates please refer to the BC Parks website for more information.

Section	**Parks and Protected Areas**
South Coast Region	
Lower Mainland	Peace Arch Park
Thompson Cariboo Region	
Cariboo	Machmell Conservancy
Cariboo	Owikeno Conservancy
Cariboo	Penrose Island Marine Park is open with the exception of Fury Cove
Cariboo	Sheemahant Conservancy
Thompson	Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park
West Coast Region	
South Island	Hesquiat Lake Park
South Island	Hesquiat Peninsula Park
South Island	Maquinna Marine Park
South Island	Maquinna Protected Area