

## Parks and Protected Areas Indigenous (re)Naming Checklist

### **Purpose:**

This document is a public guide to facilitate the (re)naming of parks and protected areas to Indigenous names.

Provincial protected areas are generally named to reflect local usage, local place names and/or local history. BC Parks recognizes and respects Indigenous place names and acknowledges that these place names are story maps that are embedded in the cultural landscape and identities of Indigenous people.

### **Scope:**

This checklist applies to naming of all new provincial protected areas as well as the legal renaming of existing protected areas to Indigenous names. It does not apply to geographical features or facilities within parks.

It is assumed that naming initiatives will be brought forward by First Nations communities, or by those working in close partnership with First Nations.

### **Checklist for First Nations and Community Partners:**

- 1) To submit a proposal to change the legal name of a park, please reach out to BC Parks staff by emailing [parkinfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:parkinfo@gov.bc.ca) with the subject line: "Park Naming."
- 2) Prepare and submit the following documentation to your BC Parks contact:
  - Proposed new legal name.
  - English translation/significance of the proposed name, if applicable.
  - Demonstrated support from all First Nations with interests in that protected area (usually in the form of support letters/emails).
  - Band Council (or other Indigenous governing body) approval with spelling, English translation, and phonetic pronunciation guide.
  - Sound clip of the name pronunciation, that includes identification of recorded speaker.
- 3) Connect with BC Parks staff to engage their support. BC Parks staff will complete consultation with local government and others as needed.

BC Parks will work closely with First Nations and community partners throughout the legal name change process. The legal name change process is time-intensive - as most of the protected area names are listed in the schedules of the Protected Areas of British Columbia Act or in an Order in Council, a name change requires approval by Cabinet or the Legislature. Following submission of a proposal and the completion of engagement steps, the finalization of a legal name change can take up to 18 months.

Once the name change has been legally formalized BC Parks will work with First Nations and community partners to share the name change through BC Parks webpages, social media, signage and/or other communication channels.