

## **BC PARKS COMMERCIAL FILMING GUIDELINES**

These guidelines are intended to provide information to applicants on BC Parks application requirements, and on what standard conditions may apply to a film shoot in a park. Before making an application you should be familiar with the requirements and process for submitting a film permit application as set out on FrontCounter BC's website, and BC Parks' Commercial Filming Policy.

FrontCounter BC: <http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/guides/parks/film/overview/>

BC Parks has standard requirements for film shoots within parks that will apply if you are given rights to film within a park. An overview of the particular conditions that may apply to your filming activities in a park setting is provided below for film shoots that will be working with animals, artificial snow, crash scenes, explosions, aircraft, simulated fires, other special effects, or alteration of vegetation. Some general considerations that would apply as a standard for any film permit are also provided.

### **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **HOURS OF OPERATION AND SCHEDULING**

- Hours of administration for BC Parks offices and FrontCounter BC offices are between of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### **SANITATION**

- You will be expected to collect and properly dispose of all garbage and refuse resulting from the filming activity, to an area outside the park boundaries. This may also include providing toilet facilities.
- You are expected to support an environmentally conscious approach to waste disposal, including providing options for recycling. Please refer to the Reel Green BC website for more information about reducing the environmental impacts related to filming activities:  
<http://www.creativebc.com/industry-sectors/motion-picture/reel-green/index> .

#### **PUBLIC CONSIDERATION AND SAFETY**

- Park users and staff should not be unduly inconvenienced by restricted access to the park. You may be required to provide a sign at each location with the film company's name, the dates on which filming will take place and a message apologizing for any inconvenience to the public.
- You will be responsible for the safety of any staff/crew/etc. under your guidance, and should be prepared to address medical emergencies and initial search and rescue operations at your expense. This would also include responsibilities such as traffic control that may require special training and safety equipment (e.g. high-visibility vests). Some parks will not have reliable cell phone service.
- Where a Film Site Monitor is assigned to monitor the shoot, you may need to provide them with a radio so that they can be in contact while on site.

## VEHICLE USE, ACCESS AND CONTROL

Vehicles may be used to access the film location, to be filmed as part of the shoot, to be used in stunts or to provide production support. It is expected that vehicles will be operated in safe professional manner, and will adhere to the following standards.

- Vehicles may not leave the road or parking lot surfaces unless specifically authorized by the permit. Vehicles should park only in designated parking areas except as approved within the permit. The film company, may be required, at its own expense, to provide a shuttle service from the designated parking areas to the filming location.
- All vehicles that require access into the park should display proper film company identification.
- Vehicles and equipment used should be in sound mechanical condition and not displaying oil leaks, deteriorating hydraulic hoses and/or other fluid leaks.
- Vehicles and equipment contaminated with extraneous material (mud, vegetation, sludge, etc.) will be required to be cleaned to BC Parks' satisfaction prior to entering the park. This is to prevent the introduction of non-native plant species and contaminated soil into the park.
- The *Motor Vehicle Act* applies to roads in parks, and all crew should be advised of the speed limit within the park and that they may be ticketed if caught violating the speed limit.
- The film company may stop the normal flow of traffic where approved within the permit. Road closures are typically limited to a maximum three minute shut down with five minute openings. While filming on any road, traffic control should consist of traditional traffic control techniques and apparatus, including radio contact, and be carried out by trained staff. All traffic control personnel must have "Worksafe BC" certification and all regulations of the *Workers Compensation Act* must be adhered to at all times.
- Radios used by film companies often have inadequate range to communicate between the upper and lower lock-up positions on mountain roads. Dedicated long range radios are suggested.
- If filming occurs between dusk and dawn, traffic personnel should be equipped with flashlights and flashing barricades.
- You are responsible for ensuring that any disturbance or damage to the road surface, road shoulders, park resources or trails will be repaired or restored to BC Parks' specifications, or the Ministry of Transportation and Highways' specifications when they pertain to roads.

## ANIMALS

If you are proposing to use animals as part of your film shoot, you should expect to adhere to the following standards.

- Animals associated with filming may only be brought into the park on the conditions approved in the permit.
- [Wildlife](#) (as defined by the *Wildlife Act*) may only be brought into the park provided the handler is in possession of an approved Ministry of Environment Wildlife Permit that includes possession and transport. For more information, visit: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/pasb/applications/process/wildlife.html> or contact [FrontCounter BC](#).
- All wildlife and animals brought into the park and used in the filming may be required to be removed from the park each day, unless overnight stays are otherwise authorized by the permit.

Overnight stays may only be approved for certain animals (e.g., bears, wolves) where it will reduce stress for the animals. Standards set for the overnight stay must be approved by BC Parks in the permit and follow the the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)).

- Domestic animals such as horses and dogs used in filming may be required to be attended by a handler at all times. The permit may include feed requirements, including storage of food, and grazing animals such as horses will have requirements for their containment and may not be permitted to graze.
- The permit holder will be responsible for all excrement, and the standard requirements include removal of any excrement from the park.
- While stunts utilizing animals are being performed, a member of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) may be required to be on site.
- Please refer to Creative BC's Animals in Film guidance for information on controlled alien species in BC: [http://www.creativebc.com/industry-sectors/motion-picture/location-resources/index/sb\\_expander\\_articles/400.php](http://www.creativebc.com/industry-sectors/motion-picture/location-resources/index/sb_expander_articles/400.php)
- In cases where animals are subject to situations that could compromise their well-being, (e.g., dog swimming in cold water), you may be required to have a certified veterinarian present to ensure the animal's health is not compromised.

### **RESIDENT WILDLIFE - SPECIAL NOTE**

- Bears, cougars and other potentially dangerous animals frequent parks. Staff, and in particular animal handlers, should be made aware of this situation. The film company will be required to ensure that the film site and catering area are clean and no crew approaches, feeds or otherwise harasses wildlife. Specific requirements will be set out in the permit to minimize the risk of harm to wildlife.

### **VEGETATION**

If you are proposing to bring vegetation on site or to alter existing vegetation as part of your film shoot, you should expect to adhere to the following standards.

- Introduction of any plants or plant material and soils, etc. will be specified in the permit, and special restrictions will apply to the use of any foreign (non-native) plants or plant material. Some foreign plants or plant material may be prohibited.
- For any equipment or props that must be secured to existing trees, each tree trunk should be protected with burlap or rubber matting or another alternative. No nails, screws or any other similar equipment may be inserted into the vegetation. Rigging and overhead wiring will be required to be installed in such a way as to not damage vegetation (dead or alive).
- Pruning of tree branches, removal of stumps, displacement of large logs, rocks and other vegetation (dead or alive) will only be allowed if it is specified in the permit. If any vegetation is removed or moved you will be expected to replace it to the pre-existing location after filming is completed.
- In areas where filming is done off a trail or road, access to the site will be limited to the entry and exit paths for set-up and filming. Site-specific requirements for access to off-trail or off-road sites will be included in the permit, as there are environments where additional precautions may be required to prevent permanent damage such as boardwalks and platforms. A BC Parks

representative/ Film Site Monitor may be required to be consulted to identify entry and exit paths of a filming site.

## **SPECIAL EFFECTS**

BC Parks discourages filming special effects and stunts within parks but requests for special effects and stunts will be reviewed on a case by case basis. If you are proposing to use special effects as part of your film shoot, you should expect to adhere to the following standards.

- When stunts using vehicles are permitted in parks, stunt vehicles should be drained of hazardous fluids in case of leakage. Minimal fuel should be in vehicle during the stunt.
- Spill kits should be on hand in the event of an accidental spill from vehicles, generators, gas powered fans, etc. Spill kits are mandatory and must accompany set trucks that are being fuelled in the park. Any special effects with a possibility of fire should have an appropriate number of fire extinguishers on hand.
- You may be required to erect a sign notifying the public of possible noises created by special effects.

## **ARTIFICIAL SNOW**

If you are proposing to use artificial snow as part of your film shoot, you should expect to adhere to the following standards.

- Stepanol AM for artificial snow is not supported for simulating artificial snow in a park. The use of potato flakes “SnoBiz” (a carbohydrate rice by-product) to simulate snow may be permitted provided remediation and clean up are completed.
- Snow blankets are encouraged wherever possible to contain any artificial product and to minimize the use of artificial snow.

## **CRASH SCENES**

If you are proposing to conduct crash scenes as part of your film shoot, you should expect to adhere to the following standards.

- For any crash scenes, medical and emergency response agencies would be required to be on site.
- You should ensure that no environmentally harmful substances (e.g., oil, gas or anti-freeze) are used or released in the simulated crash.
- Clean-up is your responsibility and should occur immediately after the shoot. Standard requirements would be for the clean up to be inspected by a BC Parks representative/Film Site Monitor to confirm it has been adequately addressed.

## **EXPLOSIONS (EXPLOSIVES, GUNFIRE, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS)**

If you are proposing to use explosives or hazardous materials as part of your film shoot, you should expect to adhere to the following standards.

- Any hazardous materials may only be brought into or used in a park where approved within the permit.
- The film company may use simulated gunfire provided that the number of shots is minimized and the resulting noise is of little impact to adjacent land owners, other park users and park fauna. If

complaints are received or the BC Parks representative/ Film Site Monitor deems the noise excessive, approval for simulated gunfire may be rescinded.

- The use of full load simulated gunfire is not supported, although quarter load ammunition may be permitted. The production armourer, special effects department and props department should be aware of all conditions in the permit on the use of ammunition.
- The use of mortars, lifters, squibs, and b-lines may be allowed depending on the particular location (case by case basis).

## **AIRCRAFT**

If you are proposing to use aircraft, including unmanned air vehicles, as part of your film shoot, you should expect to adhere to the following standards.

- Applicants are encouraged to minimize the use of all aircraft to reduce the disturbance to park users, neighbours and wildlife. If permitted, staging areas for helicopters will be identified in the permit and should be required to be cordoned off for public safety. A Film Site Monitor will likely be required during all helicopter activities.
- All staff working near any aircraft used in the film shoot should have appropriate training/orientation.
- Additional insurance for the use of aircraft will be included as a permit condition.

## **SIMULATED FIRES**

If you are proposing to use simulated fires as part of your film shoot, you should expect to adhere to the following standards.

- Open fires may be allowed where and as specified in the permit, and permission to use simulated fire may be rescinded should a fire ban under the *Wildfire Act* come into effect during filming.
- Controlled simulated campfires are preferred. The propane should be turned off any time filming is not in progress. The ground beneath the area may be required to be covered to prevent damage from heat or friction. The fire should be attended at all times and fire extinguishers be on hand. Upon completion of filming, you will be responsible for any required remediation, which may include removing all debris from the park and restoring the area to its original condition.
- You will likely be required to have a water storage tanker available during all takes with a potential fire hazard and will be held responsible for all firefighting costs incurred as a result of filming activities.
- If any smoke or fire is used as special effects, you should ensure that the local fire departments and the Wildfire Management Branch of the British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range are notified.