# FIXED-ROOF ACCOMMODATION FOR BC PARKS

# Policy

Ministry of Environment Environmental Stewardship Division Parks and Protected Areas Branch

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### Introduction

The provincial park system is internationally recognized for its natural beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities. Services and facilities in the park system have evolved over time with low density, natural setting, auto-accessible campgrounds serving as the primary accommodation service to park visitors. There are currently 340 campgrounds offering individual or group use campsites in the system. These facilities have and continue to be heavily used and highly appreciated by B.C. residents and their visitors.

Various lodges, cabins and other forms of fixed-roof accommodation have also been developed in the park system over time. There are currently approximately 160 such facilities offering accommodation to park visitors at various park locations across the province. These facilities range from the highway-accessible E. C. Manning Park Resort to guide outfitter cabins in remote wilderness areas of the park system. These facilities offer an alternative accommodation opportunity to park visitors, often attracting people who would not otherwise visit the park system or attracting visitors to locations where use would not otherwise occur.

It is the province's goal to attract more people to provincial parks, because the more people experience nature, the more they respect and appreciate it. To attract these new visitors, the system must continue to offer a range of options that keep pace with changing local and international demands and demographics. While camping will continue to be the principal form of accommodation available to the majority of park visitors, fixed-roof accommodations will also continue to play an important role in serving visitor needs in provincial parks.

Fixed-roof accommodation services will benefit park users by enhancing their recreational options within a park. The province will benefit by: attracting new park visitors with varied cultural and economic backgrounds and physical abilities; increasing healthy activity and public appreciation of the parks system; and enhancing the parks system's international reputation for environmental stewardship and world-class tourism and recreation opportunities.

In November 2003, the *Park Act* was amended to clarify that resort or tourism development is permitted in the park system where the activity and development are consistent with or complementary to the recreation values of the park involved. The following policy was developed to guide decisions regarding proposals for new, expanded or improved fixed-roof accommodation in the provincial park system.

## **Vision and Purpose of Policy**

In the government's long-term vision for the province, the provincial park system is to be internationally recognized both for environmental stewardship and as a world-class tourism and outdoor recreation destination. The park system is to succeed in this role without compromising its natural and cultural assets by offering a wide variety of world-class outdoor recreation opportunities in natural settings.

An enhanced range of fixed-roof accommodation options that encourages people to explore and enjoy the natural environment of the provincial park system is a key part of that vision.

The purpose of this policy is to allow timely, clear and transparent management of new, expanded or improved fixed-roof accommodation opportunities in provincial parks.

## **Scope of Policy**

This policy applies to proposing, consideration and implementation of new, expanded or improved fixed-roof accommodations and associated facilities and services within parks. The policy will apply to solicited or unsolicited proposals from commercial or non-commercial individuals or organizations intending to operate facilities for paying clients. This policy does not address camping in provincial parks. Campground design, development and operational standards are contained in other agency documents.

## **Management Objectives**

The objectives in managing fixed-roof accommodation facilities and services are to:

- Increase the range and diversity of park visitors;
- Enable a greater variety of opportunities for healthy, nature-based recreation;
- Ensure ecologically sensitive operations that support park values; and
- Provide a clear, open and fair process for evaluating new or expanded visitor accommodation services in parks.

## **Management Principles**

## 1. Natural, Cultural and Recreational Assets of Provincial Parks will be Protected and Enhanced

The development and management of fixed-roof accommodation facilities will be guided by the need for protection of the natural, cultural and recreational assets of the particular parks involved. Accommodation-based recreational activities will encourage environmentally responsible park use and allow enjoyment, study and appreciation of natural and cultural values.

## 2. Public Ownership and Access to Park Land will be Maintained

Provincial parks will be managed for the enjoyment of all park visitors. Park lands designated for fixed-roof accommodation services will remain publicly owned and public access to those lands will be maintained.

#### 3. Interests of First Nations will be Respected

The Ministry will consult with First Nations, and where appropriate, will accommodate their interests.

## 4. The Interests of the Public, Stakeholders & Other Levels of Government will be Considered

Development decisions within provincial parks will be informed by land-use plans, park planning documents and the input of the public, stakeholders and other levels of government.

## 5. Competitive Process with Market-Based Pricing will be Used to Grant Opportunities

The right to develop and operate fixed-roof accommodation in provincial parks will be determined through a competitive process as outlined in this policy. This includes the principle of market-based pricing to determine fees for fixed-roof accommodation park use permits.

#### 6. Concessionaires will be of the Highest Calibre

The Ministry will work with each service provider through the terms and conditions of the park-use permit to foster a successful long-term relationship recognizing the unique circumstance of operating in a provincial park environment. In order to ensure that the best service will be offered to park visitors over the long term, a competitive process will be used to issue new permits.

## Types of Fixed-Roof Accommodation Appropriate to Parks

Lodges, cabins, huts, yurts and shelters with appropriate design and scale and in appropriate settings may all be considered for development in the provincial park system.

Appendix 1 and Table 1 provide guidance with respect to the compatibility of different types of fixed-roof accommodation to different park management zones. Normally, a park planning document will provide more specific detail with respect to compatibility and scale of any fixed-roof accommodation in a specific park.

## **Process for Proposal Review and Approval**

Proposals to provide, improve or expand fixed-roof accommodation facilities and services in parks may be solicited or unsolicited and can be submitted by commercial or non-commercial individuals or organizations intending to operate facilities for public clients. The review and approval process may have up to five phases, as follows. Not all phases may be required for minor amendments to existing facilities.

#### 1. Preliminary Assessment

This phase is used to determine which proposals for fixed-roof accommodations are to be considered for more detailed assessment. Preliminary assessment will address: compatibility with land-use plans and park planning documents; potential issues regarding environmental, recreational, social or economic values of the park; consideration of other opportunities and compatibility with existing recreation services; and the interests of First Nations, other government agencies and the public. A BC Parks Impact Assessment Level 1 Preliminary Screen will be used including preliminary consultation with First Nations and other stakeholders. The Ministry will determine which proposals should proceed to the next phase.

#### 2. Proponent Selection Process

The Ministry determines what public procurement process will be used to select a successful proponent for a proposed fixed-roof accommodation development. The selected process is then followed to determine a proponent to be granted the right to pursue a park use permit.

#### 3. Technical Review and Consultation

The selected proponent will prepare a BC Parks Level 2, Detailed Screen Impact Assessment Report which will be reviewed by the Ministry. This review focuses on issues identified in the Level 1 Assessment. The Ministry may set the public consultation requirements for this phase. If an acceptable proposal is received, the Ministry may issue an interim park-use permit, allowing the proponent to proceed to the next phase.

## 4. Detailed Project Design

The proponent will prepare and submit a Detailed Project Design and Level 3 Full Impact Assessment Report and undertake further public consultation as directed by the Ministry. If an acceptable proposal is received at this phase the Ministry may issue a park-use permit to build and operate a fixed-roof accommodation facility.

### 5. Implementation and Monitoring

This phase involves implementing the approved project design and the ongoing monitoring of facility operations.

## **Policies for Proposal Review and Approval**

The following policies will be applied to the proposal review process outlined above:

#### 1. Compatibility with Land Use Plans

Where applicable, new, improved or expanded fixed-roof accommodation services must be consistent with government approved land-use plans. Land and Resource Management Plan monitoring committees and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (responsible for land use planning) will be consulted if plan commitments require clarification, or if a proposal for a facility and services varies from approved plan direction.

### 2. Compatibility with Park Planning Documents

Where applicable, new, improved or expanded fixed-roof accommodation services must be consistent with park planning documents. Park planning documents identify park values, establish the long-term vision for a park, and provide strategic guidance for park management. As management planning documents do not exist for all parks, nor do all management planning documents contain specific, publicly-supported direction related to fixed-roof accommodations, the following will guide decisions regarding compatibility with park plans:

#### 2.1 Management Planning Document Supports Fixed-Roof Accommodation

Where a management planning document for a park provides specific direction, based on public consultation, indicating that a fixed-roof accommodation facility is appropriate for that park, an application for a fixed-roof accommodation facility may proceed to a competitive process to select a proponent.

## 2.2 Management Planning Document Does Not Consider Fixed-Roof Accommodation

Where a management planning document does not specifically consider the appropriateness of fixed-roof accommodation facilities, but does provide management goals and objectives for the park, the Ministry may assess a proposal for a fixed-roof accommodation facility to determine its compatibility with the management goals and objectives for the park. Where a proposal is determined to be compatible with those goals and objectives, an applicant may be required to demonstrate support for the proposed facility through consultations with the public, First Nations, and stakeholder groups. Based on the outcome of these consultations, the Ministry may determine whether there is adequate support to proceed to a competitive process to select a proponent.

## 2.3 Management Planning Document is Incompatible with Fixed-Roof Accommodation

Should an application be incompatible with an existing planning document, that application may be (a) declined, or (b) the applicant advised of the requirements for the application to be reconsidered. This may include amendments to the proposal and/or consultations with the public, First Nations and various stakeholders at the applicant's expense to

demonstrate the level of support for the application. Based on the outcome of these further consultations, the Ministry may determine that there is adequate support to amend the plan.

Amendment of the plan would address the implications of the fixed-roof accommodation application on park management. Such an amendment will be the responsibility of the Ministry. The scope, timing and nature of any planning document amendment will be determined by the nature of the application, the anticipated complexity of issues, potential impacts, consultation requirements and potential concerns and interests from First Nations, other governments, stakeholders, adjacent communities and businesses.

#### 2.4 No Park Plan in Place

If an application is received for a park without an approved planning document, the application may be declined if it is clearly inconsistent with the management standards or policies of provincial parks and the applicant will be notified of the rationale. Alternatively, in order for the application to be considered, the applicant may be required to demonstrate, through appropriate First Nations and public consultation, that there is support, in principle, for the fixed roof accommodation proposal. If such support is demonstrated, the Ministry may develop a planning document (with appropriate consultation) prior to the application proceeding, thereby ensuring that sufficient information respecting park values, key management issues and responses and zoning is available to make an informed decision.

## 3. Compatibility with Other Opportunities and Existing Recreation Services

Proposals for new accommodation services will be considered in the context of any existing similar operations within the park and in nearby areas that make use of the park as part of their business. The review of fixed-roof accommodation proposals will assess the likelihood and scale of potential impacts on other recreation services both within and outside the park. Consultation with existing permit holders may occur as part of the Impact Assessment Process.

Guidance for consulting with existing commercial tenure holders where conflicts or overlapping tenures may exist can be found in the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts Commercial Recreation Policy.

## 4. Impact Assessment

Recreational opportunities offered by accommodation service providers to park visitors will encourage environmentally responsible park use focusing on enjoyment, study and appreciation of natural and cultural values.

BC Parks' Impact Assessment Process, with its three assessment levels, will be mandatory for analysis of the impacts of the accommodation facility, its associated infrastructure and the recreational activities engaged in by its clients. The results of the Impact Assessment Process will guide decisions on general suitability, site selection and facility design.

Facility proponents will be required to fund impact assessments, consultations and other environment and park use studies as specified by the Ministry as part of the application review.

#### 5. Consultation

The Ministry will ensure that other governments, First Nations, stakeholders and others with interests in the management of a protected area are consulted during the review of any proposal to develop or expand fixed-roof accommodation in a provincial park.

#### 5.1 Consultation with First Nations

Government is responsible for consultation with First Nations and, where appropriate, accommodating their interests. The Ministry will undertake this consultation where new, improved or expanded fixed-roofed accommodation facilities are proposed. The Ministry will also encourage all proponents to review their proposals with appropriate First Nations.

#### 5.2 Consultation with the Federal Government

Federal Government agencies will be consulted by the Ministry and/or applicants where a proposal may have implications for their areas of responsibility, including potential impacts to fish habitat, National Park values, and as required by intergovernmental agreements. The scope and nature of this consultation will be determined by the characteristics of the proposal.

#### 5.3 Consultation with Regional and Municipal Governments

Regional and Municipal governments will be consulted by the Ministry and/or applicants on matters that may impact their interests and as may be required by intergovernmental agreements. The scope and nature of the consultation will be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the interest, the complexity of the decision and existing agreements.

#### 5.4 Public Consultation

The public should be involved in decisions that affect long-term land use in provincial parks. Generally the public will be invited to inform the Ministry of their views and/or concerns respecting fixed-roofed accommodation in individual provincial parks through park management planning processes and/or impact assessment processes.

### 6. Competitive Process

Permits for fixed-roof accommodation services are considered to be exclusive opportunities in parks (that is, a limited number of opportunities). Consequently, as per Park Use Permit Policy, a competitive procurement process will be required. This process may include Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and/or Request for Proposal (RFP) or other procurement processes that would open opportunities to a number of proponents. Government procurement policy and Park Use Permit Policy will guide these processes.

Guide outfitters and angling guides have park-use permits and other government tenures to provide accommodation services to their hunting and angling clients. Proposals by angling guides and guide outfitters to build new facilities, or to improve or expand existing facilities to specifically serve their hunting and angling clients, will not be subject to competitive procurement.

If operators of existing accommodation facilities wish to diversify their business or visitor base, or provide new, improved or expanded fixed-roof accommodations, and where such proposals are outside of the scope of the existing park-use permits, such proposals may be subject to a competitive procurement process.

### 7. Design & Build Considerations

Any new facilities must be consistent with Park Design Guidelines and Park Facility Standards, available on the BC Parks website. Final design will also require public input through the BC Parks' Impact Assessment Process and consider the Fixed-Roof Accommodation Development Guidelines. A maximum accommodation up to 100 beds will be considered normal; greater than 100 will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Park Use Permit Policy requires that facility management plans be submitted as part of the final permit. Project proposals should consider the proponent's concept for the operation as well as estimated maximum build-out, should the operation require expansion. Review of the proposal by the Ministry will consider both the proposed development and the maximum build-out. Further expansion will not be permitted within the first 10 years of the permit term; after that, expansion will be subject to conditions described in Section 6 of this document.

Proponents should identify in the competitive process how they will consider the guidelines and address items within. Key criteria will be the use of "green" technologies to minimize the environmental footprint of the proposal and to showcase "made-in-B.C." technologies. Through impact assessment, they will be able to demonstrate their intentions more specifically.

### **Park Use Permit Conditions**

Positive long-term relationships and successful fixed-roof accommodation services will provide benefits to the province, facility owners, local communities, facility guests and other park visitors. The Park Use Permit Policy and Procedures Manual guides the administration of permits. Some key policy directions that primarily affect fixed-roof accommodation services are outlined below:

#### 1. Permit Terms

Permit terms are based on Park Use Permit policy and may range up to 30 years, varying in relation to the level of financial investment and risk to create and operate an accommodation service.

#### 2. Interim Park Use Permits

Before a long-term park-use permit is issued, preparatory works may require the issuance of interim park-use permits, such as for Level 3 Impact Assessments and facility construction. Interim park-use permits will be issued for a term of one year and are renewable.

#### 3. Financial Guarantee

As conditions of the interim and final permits, the Permittee will deliver to the Ministry security for the performance by the Permittee of its obligations under the permit. The type and amount of security needed by the Permittee is dependent on the type, scale and location of the accommodation facility and the related services and infrastructure. The circumstances under which the security may be accessed by the Ministry will be guided by Ministry policy and negotiated as part of the park-use permit process development.

#### 4. Permit Areas

Specific areas will be mapped or described in a park-use permit to identify where facilities can be developed and where related commercial recreation opportunities can occur. The areas in which facility development can occur should be the minimum size required for successful operation of a fixed-roof accommodation facility. These areas may be defined to limit impacts on park values or other park users.

#### 5. Fees

All structures built and operated under this policy are included in the major resorts fee category. Application fees and annual fees shall be commensurate with this fee category. A bid package fee may be charged to all bidders participating in a competitive procurement process. The winning proponent will be charged an application fee to offset costs of adjudicating the subsequent application.

## 6. Ownership of Facilities

Facilities developed under park-use permits for fixed-roof accommodation will normally be owned by the Permittee. If, upon renewal of a park-use permit, the existing owner is not the successful bidder for renewal of the fixed-roof accommodation opportunity, the successful bidder will be given the opportunity to purchase the facilities at current market value from the existing owner.

## **Co-ordination with Other Land Tenuring Agencies**

The adjudication process for applications which include park land and adjacent Crown land will follow the intent of an existing 1998 agreement between Crown lands and Parks agencies relating to this matter.

## **Glossary of Terms**

"application" means a completed formal application form, with supporting materials, for a parkuse permit, to develop and operate fixed-roof accommodation services.

"application fee" means the fee that is assessed for an application.

"concessionaire" means the person, partnership, corporation, society or other eligible, legal entity to which a park-use permit is issued and which is named in that permit.

"consultation" means providing First Nations, the public and stakeholders with: (1) notice of a matter to be decided; (2) sufficient information to allow the public and stakeholders to prepare their views; (3) an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to present their views on the matter; and (4) feedback on how the input influenced the decision(s).

"detailed project design" means a detailed, comprehensive development and operational plan that expands upon the proposal to respond to issues as identified by government, and includes design and development details and operational services, measures and contingencies with respect to business continuity, park visitors, environmental impact management and mitigation.

"**exclusive**" means that the number of permitting opportunities for a specific activity or use within a park is restricted to a specific number of operators defined by the Ministry.

**"fixed-roof accommodation guidelines"** means the document, the "Fixed-Roof Accommodation Development Guidelines", prepared by the Ministry which provides guidance for applicants and existing permittees interested or involved in development and management of sustainable accommodation facilities in parks and protected areas. The guidelines provide vision and direction to ensure accommodation facilities, as a priority, preserve ecological integrity and complement BC Parks' high standards for parks.

"fixed-roof accommodation facilities and services" means any style or kind of fixed-roof accommodation and related services and functions and includes a cabin, hut, yurt, lodge and any other shelter type with a maximum accommodation up to 100 beds; greater than 100 will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

"impact assessment" means the process of identifying impacts on protected area values that may be associated with actions, evaluating the significance of those impacts and determining and implementing mitigating measures. BC Parks Impact Assessment process is an approved policy/procedure for undertaking impact assessments in protected areas.

"interim park-use permit" means a short-term park use permit issued to a successful concessionaire for a period of one year. The permit may be renewed, if necessary.

"Ministry" means the Ministry of Environment.

"notice of intent" means the method by which the Ministry declares that it intends to issue a park-use permit with a specified proponent, with or without a preceding competitive process. Section 20 of the *Park Act* requires this notice of intent be published prior to issuance of a permit.

"non-exclusive" means that the number of permitting opportunities for a specific activity or use within a park is not restricted to a specific number of operators.

"park" means a park or protected area established by or under the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, or the *Environment and Land Use Act*.

"park-use permit" means a license, issued under the *Park Act*, authorizing an activity or a course of behaviour or conduct, for the occupancy, use, development, exploitation or extraction of a natural resource on or in a park.

"permit area" means the defined area of a park in which the authorized activities of a permittee are confined under the terms of a park use permit.

"planning document" means a Ministry document that guides how the subject park is or will be managed. The Ministry may use one of three documents, depending on the complexity of the management issues and risks affecting the park

- Purpose Statements are intended to expeditiously identify key known management issues and responses and establish a zoning plan until such time a management plan is warranted.
- 2. Management Direction Statements are more extensive plans that provide: a long-term vision and strategic direction respecting priority issues and management objectives and strategies; a zoning plan; and an identification of activities that are appropriate in the zones. Management actions are informed by targeted consultations with stakeholders.
- 3. Management Plans are comprehensive plans founded on substantial research and public consultation that provide: a long-term vision and explicit direction regarding priority issues and management objectives and strategies; a zoning plan; and the identification of activities that are appropriate in the zones.

"proponent" means a party responsible for preparing and submitting a proposal in response to a request for proposal or request for expressions of interest.

"request for expressions of interest (RFEI)" means a tool that can be used to confirm which proponents are interested in competing for a project. A RFEI can also be used to pre-qualify potential and interested proponents, who will then be invited to respond to a request for proposal.

"request for proposal (RFP)" means a request for bidders to submit proposals on how, and at what price, they would provide a good or service in response to an identified problem, requirement or objective (in the case of this Policy, the provision of fixed-roof accommodation services). Based on the review of the responses to the RFP, a successful proponent may be invited to pursue a park-use permit for the purposes of providing fixed-roof accommodation services in a park.

"request for qualifications (RFQ)" is used to determine if there are qualified bidders to provide a good or service (in the case of this Policy, the provision of fixed-roof accommodation services). Based on the review of the responses to the RFQ, the Province may issue a Request for Proposals to qualified respondents.

## **Appendix 1: Fixed Roof Accommodation Zoning Matrix**

The Fixed-Roof Accommodation Zoning Matrix (Table 1) is a generalized guide with respect to the compatibility of types of fixed-roof accommodation, tourism zones, and park management zones. The matrix differentiates the land base according to the degree of naturalness, type of outdoor experience possible, environmental sensitivity, method of transport, intensity of use and scale of facilities. The matrix provides general guidance to applicants on the type of fixed-roof accommodation that might be considered in the various park zones and information on means of access, impacts and recreation opportunities. Types of fixed-roof accommodation are outlined below.

**Lodge:** A permanent structure accommodating kitchen/dining facilities, bathrooms, bedrooms and/or cabins for clients, offering the full range of normal amenities. Policy states a maximum accommodation up to 100 beds; greater than 100 on a case-by-case basis. Note: generator building, waste disposal and staff accommodation may be in additional structures.

**Cabin/hut/yurt:** Generally small structures that may have cooking facilities, water and septic. Attention should be paid to sustainable choices in the design, development and management of these structures. Cabins/huts are generally located in the backcountry and may be made up of one or more structures (e.g. hut-to-hut operations). Yurts are round, semi-permanent, self-supporting, canvas-covered structures, mounted on a wooden deck. Accommodation generally ranges from 4 to 40 beds.

**Shelter:** A small building primarily for emergency use, with no facilities or services. Historically these structures were built by outdoor groups and guide outfitters. May be open style such as an Adirondack shelter. Accommodates a small number of people – 4 to 10 beds is common.

**Table 1. Fixed Roof Accommodation Zoning Matrix** 

	Frontcountry Large volumes of tourists in a naturally scenic area which may have human altered environment	Midcountry High quality natural environment not always wilderness	Backcountry High quality wilderness experience, Pristine environment	
BC Parks' Current Zoning System <sup>1</sup>	Intensive Recreation 1.8%	Nature Recreation 17.5%	Wilderness Recreation 70%	Wilderness Conservation 9.2%
Objective	To provide for a variety of readily accessible outdoor recreation	To protect scenic values and provide for backcountry outdoor recreation	To provide a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation in a pristine environment	To protect a remote, undisturbed landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities
Use level	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Examples of zoning	Mount Robson Park visitor centre and campground area	Core area, Cathedral Park	Quanchus Mountains, Tweedsmuir Park	Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy Area
Size of zone	Usually less than 2000 ha	Small to large	Large	Large
Means of access	All weather road	Trail/water/air; may use rough 4x4 road access	Aircraft and non- mechanized and non-motorized land/ boat access	Non-mechanized and non-motorized
Impacts on natural environment	Human presence noted through high facility development and land impact	Human presence moderate/facility blends in with area	Human presence low/facility presence blends with area	Human presence low
Recreation Opportunities/ Facilities	A wide range of recreation opportunities; may be intensively developed for user convenience	Primarily non-motorized use; can include a wide range of non-road associated recreational uses including snowmobiling, aircraft access, heli-hiking/skiing, trails, accommodation buildings, docks	Backpacking, nature appreciation, fishing, hunting; minimal development can be provided for convenience/ safety	Backpacking, nature appreciation, canoeing, etc.
Resultant Anticipated Fixed Roof Accommodation Types	Lodge	Smaller Lodges	Cabin/hut/yurt	No Facilities

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Special Feature Zone (1.5%) is not shown. This zoning typically includes very small areas where facilities would not be appropriate.

## **Appendix 2: Other Guidance**

The following resources can be located at www.bcparks.ca

#### **Conservation Program Policies**

Synopsis of policies that direct the day-to-day and long-term actions under which the Ministry manages the natural and cultural values within British Columbia's protected area system.

#### **Fixed-Roof Accommodation Development Guidelines**

The Ministry's guidelines were designed to provide guidance for applicants and existing Permittees interested or involved in development and management of accommodation facilities in parks and protected areas from a sustainability perspective. The guidelines provide vision and direction to ensure accommodation facilities, as a priority, maintain ecological integrity and complement the Ministry's high standards for parks. The Ministry's guidelines are designed to:

- Assist proponents and operators of facilities to protect and conserve natural and cultural heritage values through appropriate use of materials, technologies, and design;
- Respect social and community values, contribute to an improved environment and high quality recreation and tourism experiences; and
- Encourage providers to achieve better business practices through meeting responsible tourism performance standards.

#### **Impact Assessment Policy Process**

Provides policy and guidelines for the thorough assessment of actions to determine all impacts (environmental, social, and economic) of these actions.

#### Park Design Guidelines and Data

The guidelines address the process of designing and planning visitor facilities in park environments. These guidelines identify design criteria and sustainability, ensuring minimal facility development and compliance with the BC Parks brand. Two goals are to: (1) effectively have facilities blend with, or complement natural park landscapes, and (2) conserve or restore park environment through appropriate park design.

#### Park Facility Standards

The park facility standards provide direction in the planning, design and development of park facilities and allow the incorporation of the standard details in engineering and design drawings and specifications to meet specific project requirements.

#### **Park Management Planning Process**

Governs the formulation of protected area management planning products.

#### Park Use Permit Policy and Procedures Manual

Outlines policy and procedures concerning the administration of permits.