

Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park

To conserve the landscape and better manage social and economic activity in Bighorn Country, the government is proposing new, expanded or amended parks, recreation areas and public land use zones.

The proposed Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park overlaps with the current Job/Cline, Blackstone/Wapiabi, Upper Clearwater/Ram, and Panther Corners Public Land Use Zones, and includes the Douglas Fir and Scalp Creek Natural Areas.

Currently, the area within the Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park is managed under the Bighorn Access Management Plan, which outlines what is and what is not permitted in each public land use zone.

In the Job/Cline and Upper Clearwater/Ram Public Land Use Zones, Crown mineral development is prohibited. Petroleum and natural gas activities may be permitted in the Blackstone/Wapiabi and Panther Corners Public Land Use Zones under certain circumstances. Areas currently protected from industrial development will continue to be protected under the proposed wildland provincial park designation.

The wildland provincial park would play an important role in connecting established conservation areas on the eastern slopes, including Jasper and Banff National Parks and the White Goat and Siffleur Wilderness Areas, and provide significant headwater protection due to its large size and intact landscape. The large size, viewscales and opportunities for backcountry experiences would provide an anchor for recreation and tourism planning. Park planning



South of Pinto Lake

would maintain the rustic, undeveloped character of the park and continue to permit high-quality experiences for those who want to venture beyond front country amenities.

The proposed management intent for the Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park is the conservation of biodiversity in an undeveloped natural landscape that retains the character that drew users to the area in the first place.

Opportunities would focus on providing wilderness-oriented and backcountry hunting, fishing and other recreation experiences, with few if any amenities. This experience would vary on whether visitors are accessing the north, west or south areas of the park.

In the north planning area, visitors would experience a remote backcountry landscape that offers a sense of solitude and remoteness. Travel through the north planning area would be a mix of motorized and non-motorized, with very few amenities, and visitors would need an excellent wilderness skill set to travel through the backcountry safely.

The west planning area, next to the David Thompson Provincial Park, would offer a wilderness experience that allows shorter visits with less backcountry travel. The settings would be less remote, although still wilderness-oriented, with a greater diversity of trails and trail users encountered. The west planning area's proximity to the Highway 11 corridor would allow for a greater number of rustic amenities to support

activities such as backcountry camping and hiking that are closer to front country facilities in other parks and staging areas.

The south planning area would afford visitors a variety of different ways to experience the backcountry, including motorized and non-motorized travel. The landscape is very remote, and visitors could anticipate a sense of solitude.

Proposed Management Direction

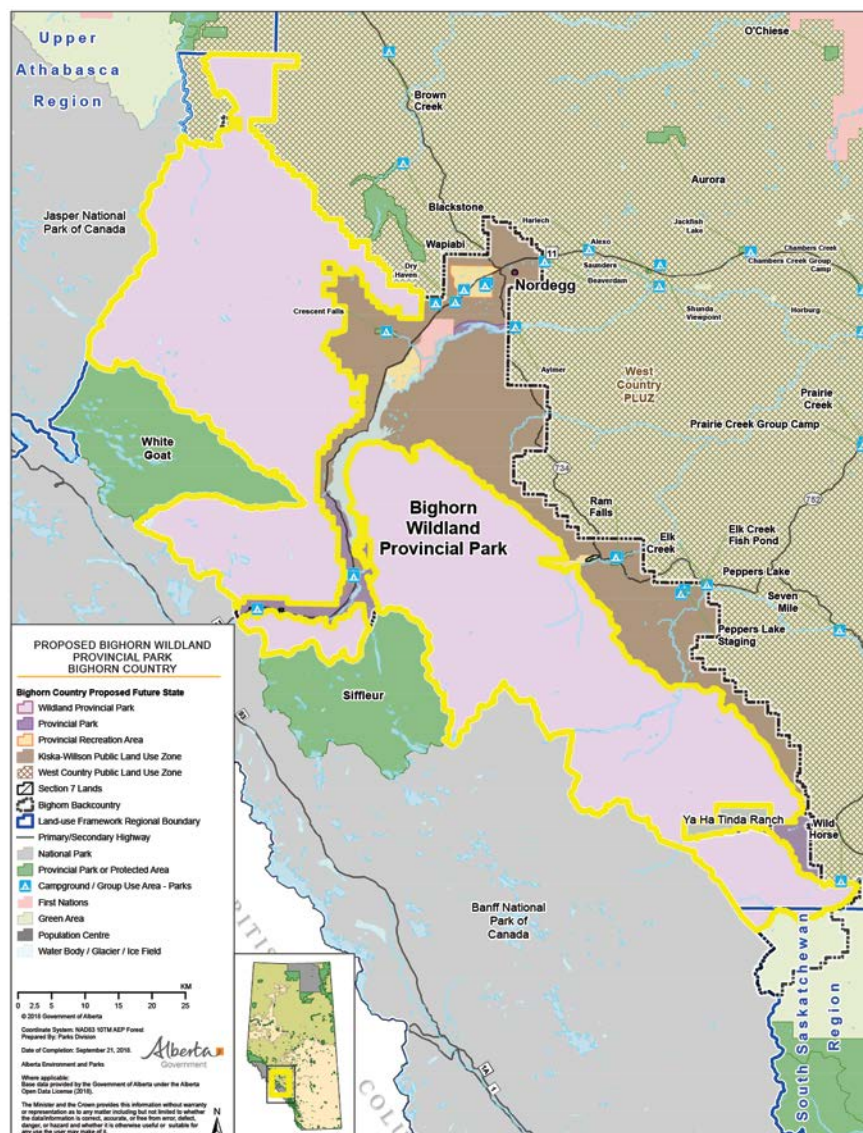
Resource Management

Type of Use	Current State	Proposed Management Direction
Existing Petroleum and Natural Gas	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing petroleum and natural gas agreements would be honoured in accordance with existing policy. 		
New Petroleum and Natural Gas	Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New petroleum and natural gas agreements would be sold but with a "no surface access" addendum, in accordance with existing policy. 		
Metallic and Industrial Minerals (MIM) and Coal	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no existing metallic and industrial minerals or coal agreements in this site. 		
Freehold Minerals	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freehold minerals would be honoured. 		
Surface Materials (Sand and Gravel)	Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no existing commitments for this use in this site. 		
Commercial Forestry	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no existing commercial forestry tenure in this site. 		
Livestock Grazing	Permitted in allocated areas only	Existing grazing would be Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing grazing allocations would continue. 		
Registered Trapping	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing trap lines would be honoured. Trapping would adhere to the <i>Wildlife Act</i>, the <i>Provincial Parks Act</i> and their subsequent regulations and Policies. Motorized access permits and Firearms Discharge Permits (when required to carrying out trapping) may be required. 		

Nature-Based Recreation & Tourism Development

Type of Use	Current State	Proposed Management Direction
Motorized Recreation (OHV)	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OHV use would continue to be permitted on designated trails. Winter snowmobile use would continue to be permitted in designated areas. Timing restrictions may be applied in alignment with current practices to manage environmental impacts (e.g. wet trail conditions). 		
Undesignated Backcountry Camping	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backcountry facility zones would be designated and include a combination of backcountry huts and backcountry campgrounds. Backcountry campgrounds would be located in existing, popular camping locations and include a series of tent pads, bear poles or lockers, toilet facilities and picnic tables. Undesignated (“random”) foot-access backcountry camping would be permitted throughout, except within one kilometre of designated backcountry campgrounds. 		
Auto Access Camping (front country, vehicle accessible)	Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automobiles/highway vehicles are not permitted in wildland provincial parks. Auto-accessible staging areas would be available in David Thompson and Ya Ha Tinda Provincial Parks and Hummingbird Provincial Recreation Area. 		
Equestrian Use	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing trail designations and timing restrictions would continue to apply. Wagon use on designated trails would be permitted. Timing restrictions may apply. Future planning would be undertaken to identify opportunities to improve the equestrian experience and sustainability. 		
Cycling / Mountain Biking	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountain biking would be permitted on all trails unless otherwise indicated by sign, notice or advisory. 		
Foot Access	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foot access would be permitted on all trails and through the backcountry. 		
Recreational Unmanned Aerial Vehicles / Drones	Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use for research or commercial filming/photography may be permitted under the authority of the appropriate permit. 		
Hunting	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial regulations apply. Hunting in Alberta 		
Fishing	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial regulations apply. Alberta Regulations 		
Outfitting (Hunting)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial regulations apply. Targeted engagement would be undertaken to determine allowable hunting practices. 		

Guiding, Outfitting (non-Hunting) and Instructing	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be supported through the existing permitting process for wildland provincial parks. • Existing commitments for permits under the Public Land Administration Regulation (PLAR) would be honoured until expiry. Upon expiry permitting would transition to a Parks permitting process. 		
Helicopter Tours	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing helicopter tours would continue while additional parks management planning would be undertaken to assess impacts between the desired backcountry/ wilderness experience of this park and the frequency of helicopter landings. 		
Tourism Facilities and Visitor Attractions	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This type of development is not compatible with the experience and management intent of a wildland provincial park. 		



For information and to provide input on these proposals, visit TalkAEP.alberta.ca

