



Use of Public Land for Non-Commercial Personal Residential and Recreational Structures

Lands Division
Land Management Branch

Information Letter – IL2010-04

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Purpose

To clarify Sustainable Resource Development's (SRD) approach to preclude the use of public land for non-commercial, private recreation or residential structures.

Background

The Land-use Framework confirmed that public land is finite, valuable and is required to support a variety of social, economic, and environmental values and benefits. This principle has been reflected in SRD's approach to date which has been to not permit the development of non-commercial personal residential and recreational structures on public land.

The use of public land for non-commercial personal recreational or residential use precludes all Albertans from receiving the benefits and values from these parcels. The result is generally a permanent change in land use resulting in a limitation of public land and resource management opportunities and benefits. Personal exclusive use is more appropriately directed towards private lands under the guidance of a municipal Area Structure Plan and bylaws that can appropriately address infrastructure and emergency servicing requirements.

This Information Letter (IL) clarifies this approach for land managers and land users.

Procedure

1. Authorizations will not be provided for non-commercial personal residential or recreational structures on public land.
2. Unauthorized structures will be addressed using the department's enforcement framework.

Out of Scope

Permanent and temporary structures may be permitted on public land for commercial, industrial and emergency response purposes. The following outlines the purposes and processes under which such structures are approved:

- a. Trappers' structures associated with the senior holder of a Registered Fur Management Area which adhere to the applicable standards and guidelines.
- b. Commercial recreational facilities approved under the *Alberta Tourism Recreational Leasing Process*.
- c. Fire protection installations maintained by Sustainable Resource Development such as lookout towers
- d. Structures directly associated with the management of Provincial Grazing Reserves and grazing dispositions where approved.
- e. Industrial and commercial campsites
- f. Structures directly associated and authorized within a miscellaneous disposition such as a caretakers or manager's residence.
- g. Structures to support public recreation opportunities.

Contacts

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