



Provincial parks general directive

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Contents

Provincial Parks General Directive	5
Introduction	5
1.0 Interpretation	5
• 2.0 General Animal Control	5
• 3.0 Use of dogs to hunt cougar in wildland parks and Castle Provincial Park	6
• 4.0 Use of dogs to hunt game birds	7
• 5.0 Use of dogs to herd livestock on grazing land	7
• 6.0 Dress, hang or store big game	7
• 7.0 Use of bait to hunt black bears and trap fur-bearing animals	8
• 8.0 Firearm possession and discharge in provincial recreation areas	8

Version History

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Author	Change Description
1.0	September 15, 2022	Lands Division	Final document approved for public release.

Any comments, questions, or suggestions regarding the content of this document may be directed to:

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Policy Registry Information

POLICY REGISTRY INFORMATION

Title	Provincial Parks General Directive
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Provincial Parks General Directive

Introduction

The Provincial Parks General Directive (this “directive”) is adopted and incorporated into the Provincial Parks General Regulation (the “Regulation”) under the authority of the *Provincial Parks Act* (the “Act”).

1.0 Interpretation

1.1 Terms defined in the Act and the Regulation apply to this directive.

1.2 In this directive,

- (a) “bait” means any food attractant, including a mineral and any representation of a food attractant;
- (b) “bait station” means a device used to hold bait, and includes the bait and all barrels, boxes, tires, ropes, wires, chains and other equipment used to secure the bait;
- (c) “big game” has the same meaning in the *Wildlife Act*;
- (d) “game bird” has the same meaning in the *Wildlife Act*;
- (e) “fur-bearing animal” has the same meaning in the *Wildlife Act*;
- (f) “return on command” means that a dog promptly returns to its owner in response to sight or sound commands;
- (g) “WMU” means a Wildlife Management Unit as defined in the Wildlife Regulation (AR 143/1997).

2.0 General Animal Control

2.1 Unless otherwise stated in this directive, an owner of an animal who brings the animal into a park or recreation area must keep the animal in a cage or restrained by a leash, chain or other device that is not greater than 2 meters long.

2.2 The owner of a horse, pony or pack animal may not bring into or permit to enter a park or recreation area the horse, pony or pack animal except on an area of land:

- (a) That has been established or approved for equestrian uses; or
- (b) In respect of which a valid disposition is issued that permits equestrian uses.

2.3 Section 2.1 does not apply to a horse, pony or pack animal used on lands within a park or recreation area in accordance with section 2.2.

2.4 The owner of an animal must promptly remove all excrement made by the animal:

- (a) anywhere in Fish Creek Provincial Park; and
- (b) from any facility area in any other park or recreation area.

2.5 Section 2.4 does not apply to:

- (a) a guide dog used by a person in accordance with the *Blind Persons' Rights Act*; or
- (b) a horse, pony or pack animal used on lands within a park or recreation area that have been established for equestrian use or in accordance with the terms of a valid disposition.

2.6 An owner of an animal, other than a guide dog used by a person in accordance with the *Blind Persons' Rights Act*, shall not allow the animal to enter or remain in or on any area in a park or recreation area that is:

- (a) a designated swimming area;
- (b) a beach area adjacent to a designated swimming area;
- (c) a public washroom, change house, concession, picnic shelter or other public building or structure; or
- (d) an area where signs are posted prohibiting animals.

3.0 Use of dogs to hunt cougar in wildland parks and Castle Provincial Park

3.1 Section 2.1 does not apply to an owner of a dog who uses the dog to hunt cougar in a wildland park or in Castle Provincial Park if:

- (a) the owner of the dog is authorized to hunt cougar under the *Wildlife Act*;
- (b) it is an open season for cougars that allows hunting with dogs;
- (c) the dog is only used within a WMU that allows cougar hunting with dogs;
- (d) where the owner of the dog is hunting in Castle Provincial Park, the owner of the dog holds a permit under section 46(1.1) of the Regulation;
- (e) the dog is being tracked by GPS; and
- (f) the dog is able to return on command.

3.2 A dog used to hunt cougar under section 3.1 must be in a cage or restrained by a leash, chain or other device that is not greater than 2 meters long when:

- (a) not actively hunting cougar; or
- (b) within 183 meters of a facility area, excluding trails other than groomed cross-country ski trails.

3.3 In addition to the requirements in section 3.2, a dog used to hunt cougar in Castle Provincial Park must also be in a cage or restrained by a leash, chain or other device that is not greater than 2 meters long when within 183 meters of:

- (a) the Camp Impeesa lease area;
- (b) the Syncline staging and trail system;
- (c) the Carbondale Fire Lookout; and
- (d) the University of Lethbridge Research Station (legal land description SE-1-5-4-W5M)

3.4 If a cougar is treed or cornered within 183 meters of an area referred to in subsection 3.2(b) or listed in section 3.3, the owner must immediately retrieve the dog and remove it from the area.

4.0 Use of dogs to hunt game birds

4.1 Section 2.1 does not apply to an owner of a dog who uses the dog to hunt game birds in a park or recreation area if:

- (a) the owner of the dog is authorized to hunt game birds at the time and location
- (b) if required, the owner of the dog holds a permit under section 46(1.1) of the Regulation; and
- (c) the dog is able to return on command.

4.2 A dog used to hunt game birds must be in a cage or be restrained by a leash, chain or other device that is not greater than 2 meters long when:

- (a) not actively hunting game birds; or
- (b) within 183 meters of a facility area, excluding trails.

4.3 In addition to the requirements set out in section 4.2, a dog used to hunt game birds in Cooking-Lake Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area must also be in a cage or restrained by a leash, chain or other device that is not greater than 2 meters long within 366 meters of:

- (a) Blackfoot Central Staging Area;
- (b) Central Staging Area;
- (c) Islet Lake Staging Area; and
- (d) Waskehegan Staging Area.

5.0 Use of dogs to herd livestock on grazing land

5.1 Section 2.1 does not apply to an owner of a dog who uses the dog to assist with activities related to herding livestock if:

- (a) the dog is within
 - i. an area described in a grazing disposition issued under the Provincial Parks (Disposition) Regulation (AR 241/77), or
 - ii. a forest reserve grazing allotment area described in a forest reserve grazing permit issued under the Forest Reserves Regulation (AR42/2000); and
- (b) the dog is able to return on command.

6.0 Dress, hang or store big game

6.1 A person may field dress or hang big game in a park or recreation area if:

- (a) the person is authorized to hunt big game at the time and location where the field dressing occurs; and
- (b) the offal is left a minimum of 183 meters from any facility area.

6.2 All harvested big game must be removed from the park or recreation area as soon as reasonable unless it is stored in a vehicle, hard sided trailer or other storage device away from bears and other wildlife.

7.0 Use of bait to hunt black bears and trap fur-bearing animals

7.1 A person may use bait to hunt black bear in a wildland park if:

- (a) the person is authorized to hunt black bear under the *Wildlife Act*;
- (b) the bait is used in a WMU that allows hunting of black bear with bait;
- (c) the bait is only used during the 2-week period before the beginning of the open season or during the open season for the hunting of black bear in the WMU in which the person is hunting; and
- (d) the person removes the bait station and associated hunting blinds or tree stands no more than fourteen days after the end of the applicable black bear hunting season.

7.2 A person may use bait to trap fur-bearing animals in a park or recreation area if the person otherwise is authorized to trap fur-bearing animals using bait at the time and location where the trapping occurs.

8.0 Firearm possession and discharge in provincial recreation areas

8.1 For the purposes of section 46(1)(c) and 46(1.1)(b) of the Regulation, a possession or discharge permit is not required if hunting in the following recreation areas or portions of a recreation area:

- (a) Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area,
- (b) that portion of Evan Thomas Provincial Recreation Area that is described as a hunting zone in Plan No. P0239 in which WMU 408 Regulations apply,
- (c) Fickle Lake Provincial Recreation Area,
- (d) Lakeland Provincial Recreation Area, or
- (e) Wapiabi Provincial Recreation Area,

8.2 Notwithstanding section 8.1, a person shall not discharge a firearm within 183 meters of a facility area or as otherwise indicated in a sign.

Directive Approval:

Original Signed by:

Bev Yee, Deputy Minister
Alberta Environment and Parks

September 15th, 2022