

Title:	Heritage Rangelands Operational Management Directive
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Program Name:	Public Land Management
Effective Date:	Land Policy Branch
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Application:	This Operational Management Directive applies to all employees of Environment and Parks.
Approval Authority:	Operational Management Standing Committee
Enquiries:	Operational Management Standing Committee

1.0 Introduction

Heritage rangelands and heritage rangeland natural areas are provincial designations under the *Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands Act (WAERNAHRA)*, and are an important component of Alberta’s protected area network. Dispositions for activities in heritage rangelands permitted by *WAERNAHRA*, including livestock grazing, may be issued under the *Public Lands Act (PLA)*. The Minister of Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) is responsible for both Acts, although the duties associated with fulfilling those responsibilities will be carried out by different divisions to reflect their respective responsibilities in above legislation.

Heritage rangelands recognize the value of grazing as a tool for maintaining native grasslands and that carefully managed grazing and traditional ranching practices are integral to maintaining the health of grassland ecosystems. Long term grazing dispositions are used to promote and support a stewardship ethic by disposition holders that will ensure the preservation and protection of heritage rangelands. There are presently two heritage rangelands in Alberta; the Black Creek Heritage Rangeland and the OH Ranch Heritage Rangeland, and a third heritage rangeland will be established in the Pekisko area under direction of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. Heritage rangeland natural areas were established as natural areas prior to amendments to *WAERNAHR* legislation with the intent of designating them as heritage rangelands. Information on heritage rangeland natural areas is detailed in Appendix 1.

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) was developed through the Provincial Land Use Framework (LUF), approved by Cabinet in July, 2014, and came into effect on September 1, 2014. The plan recognizes the contribution of heritage rangelands to Alberta’s protected area system and supports the continuation of existing grazing activities under long-term grazing leases. The SSRP states that the Minister responsible for the *Public Lands Act*¹ will administer and manage heritage rangelands, which includes:

¹ The SSRP came into effect prior to the amalgamation of Parks Division within AEP in mid-September 2014.

- Development of a management plan working with the Minister responsible for protected areas to ensure protected area requirements are met;
- Administration of grazing disposition issuance, renewals and assignments, and ;
- Implementation of resource management decisions in accordance with the management plan or other direction that exists.

These responsibilities came into effect on September 1, 2014 and will be carried out by the Operations Division of AEP on behalf of the Minister.

The SSRP also states that the Minister responsible for the *Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands Act* maintains responsibility for oversight and reporting on Alberta’s protected areas network, including heritage rangelands. These responsibilities will be carried out by the Parks Division of AEP on behalf of the Minister.

1.1 Purpose

To define roles and responsibilities of AEP divisions and staff on legally designated heritage rangelands.

1.2 Scope

This Operational Management Directive will provide direction on the management of heritage rangelands across the province by the Government of Alberta through Alberta Environment and Parks. This includes planning, policy development and the issuance and management of non-energy resource dispositions under the *Public Lands Act*.

Energy resource dispositions issued under the *Public Lands Act* pursuant to provisions of the *Responsible Energy Development Act (REDA)* are issued and managed by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) in cooperation with Parks Division, and are beyond the scope of this directive.

1.3 Guiding Principles

The Department agrees that the following guiding principles shall apply to their dealings regarding heritage rangelands.

1. The Divisions (Policy & Planning, Operations and Parks) will work together in an integrated fashion to achieve efficient delivery of services for Albertans and to ensure the Heritage Rangelands are protected in keeping with legislation.
2. Cooperation between Divisions and within the GoA must be at all levels and at all locations.
3. A cooperative management approach involving grazing disposition holders and other key stakeholders will be used to create opportunities for stakeholders to dialogue, share views, discuss issues and participate in management planning

1.4 Legislation (WAERNAHRA/PLA) and Authorities

1.4.1 Definitions

Under *WAERNAHRA*:

- “the Minister” is the Minister of AEP
- “the Crown” means the Crown in right of Alberta
- “Lieutenant Governor in Council” is the Cabinet.

1.4.2 Establishing a heritage rangeland (Section 4.1 of WAERNAHRA)

Under provisions of WAERNAHRA, the Lieutenant Governor in Council has the sole authority to designate a heritage rangeland on public land or on land that the Minister responsible for WAERNAHRA has entered into an agreement that gives the Crown the right to designate it as a heritage rangeland in order to ensure its preservation and protection using grazing to maintain the grassland ecology.

1.4.3 Granting dispositions in heritage rangelands (Section 7.2 of WAERNAHRA)

Generally, where land is designated as or becomes part of a heritage rangeland, the Minister shall ensure, as far as is practicable, that any existing dispositions under the *PLA*, the *Special Areas Act*, timber dispositions under the *Forests Act* or dispositions under any other Act are withdrawn, cancelled or otherwise terminated. There are exceptions for: livestock grazing dispositions, minerals dispositions under the *Mines and Minerals Act*, a disposition of an interest in privately-owned minerals, or a surface disposition granting access to land covered in one of the excepted disposition types.

However, the Minister may, where land is designated as a heritage rangeland, give **permission** for subsisting *PLA* dispositions, *Special Areas Act* dispositions, and grazing permits under the *Forest Reserves Act* on new heritage rangelands to continue until their expiry, or be renewed.

Subject to the granting of the Minister's permission, the Crown shall not grant a **new** disposition in a heritage rangeland, **other than**:

- A disposition for livestock grazing rights, or a disposition granting access to land held under a grazing disposition, under the *PLA*, the *Special Areas Act* or the *Forest Reserves Act*,
- Dispositions for the working, extraction, or removal of subsurface minerals from land in or surrounded by a heritage rangeland, if the right to access to the subsurface minerals existed at the time that land became part of the heritage rangeland was created,
- Dispositions allowing access to privately-owned land or minerals that are in or surrounded by a heritage rangeland, or
- A disposition for range maintenance or forest health.

1.5 Program and Policy Direction

Parks Division will lead broad policy review and development pertaining to parks and protected areas, including heritage rangelands. Policy & Planning Division will participate and provide input on policy development specific to, or related to, heritage rangelands.

Policy & Planning Division, through consultation with Parks and Operations Divisions, will lead the development and coordination of program and policy direction and standards for management and administration of *PLA* dispositions in heritage rangelands.

2.0 Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 Management and Administration

2.1.1 Overview

Operations and Parks Divisions share responsibility for ensuring that heritage rangelands are managed in accordance with legislation, program objectives, regional plans, management plans, and policy direction and standards applicable to heritage rangelands.

In the absence of clear direction from legislation, plans or policy, including this Operational Management Directive, Parks Division will facilitate resolution and clarity of direction on undefined issues through collaboration with Operations and Policy & Planning Division and other the affected agencies within GoA.

2.1.2 Disposition Management and Administration

Operations Division is the primary contact and is responsible for the day-to-day operations, management and monitoring of dispositions issued under the *PLA* on heritage rangelands and for the implementation of the relevant legislation, policies and program direction.

Operations Division is responsible for the administration of the issuance, renewal, amendment and assignment of *PLA* dispositions, located within heritage rangelands.

Regional staff (Operations Division) will lead the evaluation process for the issuance, renewal, transfer and amendment of dispositions in heritage rangelands. This will include:

- Advising regional Parks staff (Parks Division) of dispositions scheduled for renewal evaluations prior to the field season in which the evaluation will occur.
- Conducting a renewal evaluation of the disposition including assessments of range health on grazing dispositions and overall compliance with disposition conditions. Regional Parks staff may request an opportunity to accompany Operations personnel during the disposition renewal evaluation.
- Reviewing the outcome of the renewal evaluation with regional parks staff and resolving concerns that may be identified prior to submitting a renewal report for the disposition.
- Submitting disposition renewal reports, co-signed by Operations and Parks field staff, to Approvals and Disposition Services Section.
- Consulting with regional parks staff and providing field reports and joint recommendations as required to Approvals and Disposition Services Section on items pertaining to the issuance of new dispositions or the transfer or amendment of existing dispositions.

Regional Parks staff will provide input as required to regional Operations staff during the above processes relative to legislation, program objectives, management plans and policy direction, and standards applicable to heritage rangelands.

Approvals and Disposition Services Section will refer field recommendations for the issuance, amendment, renewal or transfer of dispositions to the Land Use and Disposition Management Section of Parks Division to coordinate the granting of consent from the Deputy Minister through the Action Request Tracking System (ARTS) process.

Following receipt of consent from the Deputy Minister, Approvals and Disposition Services Section will process the issuance, amendment, renewal and transfer of dispositions.

Regional range staff (Operations Division) will also be responsible for:

- Working with grazing disposition holders to implement sound range management practices to achieve the ecological objectives of the heritage rangeland, and to recognize and/or improve stewardship where required.
- Assessing ongoing range health, including renewal evaluations, and reviewing overall management on grazing dispositions.
- Evaluating expiring grazing dispositions for eligibility of extended tenure in accordance with policy.

- Subject to any other statutory authorities that may be required, implementing resource management decisions in accordance with the Heritage Rangeland Management Plan, range management plans, range resource operational plans or other direction that exists.

2.1.3 Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement

Operations Division shall monitor PLA dispositions to ensure compliance with legislation and shall carry out appropriate enforcement actions as required and as per delegated authorities to achieve compliance.

Operations Division shall manage recreational access to grazing dispositions on heritage rangelands in accordance with the *PLA* and the Recreational Access Regulation (RAR); and any other pertinent restrictions and prohibitions under the *WAERNAHRA*.

Where appropriate, Operations and Parks Divisions will work together to ensure the application of the most effective means of managing, monitoring and ensuring compliance and enforcement of legislation within heritage rangelands.

Compliance and enforcement of legislation requirements outside of the authorities delegated to Operations and Parks Division staff, such as the *Wildlife Act* and the *Public Lands Act* with respect to energy resource dispositions or recreational access will be conducted by the appropriate delegated authority. The Regional Heritage Rangeland Working Group, as identified later in this document, will ensure that the roles and responsibilities for these compliance and enforcement activities are clearly identified.

2.1.4 Planning

Parks Division is responsible for the development and maintenance of a Regional Park Plan that provides broad strategic management direction for all sites in a Land Use Framework Region.

Operations Division is responsible for the development and maintenance of heritage rangeland management plans with direction from Regional Park Plans. Heritage rangeland management plans will also help inform Regional Park Plans.

Operations Division is responsible for public, stakeholder, and aboriginal consultation related to the development, maintenance or updating of heritage rangeland management plans.

Operations Division is responsible for development of heritage rangeland management plans and other operational plans for range resource management in accordance with the heritage rangeland management plan. Plans involving range improvements and/or vegetation management will be developed in cooperation with Parks Division through the range management planning process.

All other operational management plans will be coordinated and integrated through the cooperative management structure, using a consultative approach. Examples would include prescribed burn plans and species at risk plans.

2.1.5 Research, Monitoring and Education

Operations and Parks Divisions will act in partnership to coordinate planning and implementation of research, monitoring and education initiatives. Research permits will be the responsibility of Parks Division, using Parks standards [Online Permitting and Clearance System (OPAC)] with a referral to Operations Division.

2.2 Oversight and Reporting

Parks Division has the primary responsibility for oversight and reporting on heritage rangelands as part of Alberta's protected areas network. More specifically:

2.2.1 Oversight

Parks Division, in collaboration with Operations Division, will establish mechanisms and processes to ensure that heritage rangelands are managed to meet protected area requirements and in a manner that is consistent with protected area legislation, policy, directives and management plans.

These responsibilities will be achieved through:

- Defining clear standards and associated processes for managing all protected areas, including the heritage rangeland designation. Some examples of existing standards and/or processes include signage, management planning, consultation and Environmental Review.
- Effectively communicating the standards within and outside of GoA.
- Participating in cooperative management initiatives within and outside of GoA.
- Identifying and leading boundary adjustments for existing heritage rangelands in consultation and partnership with Operations Division, other GoA departments, and key stakeholders.
- Working with Operations Division in the development of the Management Plan and joint approval of the final plan.
- Coordinating the consent of Deputy Minister on all dispositions issued under PLA by Approvals and Disposition Services Section.

2.2.2 Reporting

Parks Division, in collaboration with Operations Division, will establish mechanisms to track the status of each heritage rangeland in meeting the standards defined through legislation, policies, directives and management plans. This will include establishing a formal reporting system to identify information that needs to be tracked by Operations and Parks Divisions. All staff will participate in providing the required information as needed.

3.0 Cooperative Management Approach

3.1 Government of Alberta Internal

A Provincial Heritage Rangelands Steering Committee (HRSC), as well as individual Regional AEP Heritage Rangeland Working Groups (HRWGs), will be established.

3.1.1 Provincial Heritage Rangelands Steering Committee (HRSC)

A provincial Heritage Rangeland Steering Committee will be formed to provide advice to the regional heritage rangeland working groups on interpretation of legislation, policy and this directive; to ensure consistency in the management and administration of heritage rangelands; and to lead the scheduled review of this directive.

The steering committee will be comprised of senior managers from the Rangeland Integration and Public Lands Management Sections of Policy & Planning Division; Provincial Programs Branch of Operations Division; Parks Program Coordination from Parks Division; and the co-chairs of the regional heritage rangeland working groups. Membership on the committee will be determined by the directors of the respective branches. Environmental Law Services will be asked to participate in meetings as required to provide advice pertaining to the legal implications of the outcomes of steering committee decisions.

The steering committee will meet at least once annually for the first two years following implementation of this directive to review and report to branch directors on the successes and challenges encountered in implementing the directive. The requirement for annual meetings will be reviewed after two years.

3.1.2 Regional AEP Heritage Rangeland Working Groups (HRWG)

Regional AEP Heritage Rangeland Working Groups (HRWG) will be established on the basis of Land Use Framework (LUF) regions and will include staff from Operations and Parks Divisions. The HRWG will be co-chaired by a Parks and Operations designate from each region. Co-chairs will connect across regions and with the Provincial Heritage Rangeland Steering Committee as required to identify and resolve legislative and policy issues, as well as maintain consistency of application of this directive.

The HRWG will meet at least once annually to:

- Bring together regional Operations and Parks staff with heritage rangeland responsibilities.
- Provide updates and communication on all aspects of heritage rangeland implementation.
- Engage technical and scientific expertise within and outside of GoA to inform discussions of the HRWG.
- Prepare and maintain an annual AEP work plan, including identification of *PLA* dispositions scheduled for renewal in the coming year, for each Heritage Rangeland and report on its implementation.
- Involve other GoA departments as needed based on agenda items.
- Advance any proposed changes to the Operational Management Directive for heritage rangelands in cooperation with other regional HRWG.
- Ensure management plans are developed in a consistent manner across the province.
- Where appropriate, oversee the establishment of advisory committees for specific heritage rangelands with representation from the GoA, grazing leaseholders and other representatives as identified by HRWG.
- Maintain ongoing communication and information sharing between AEP field staff (Operations and Parks) at an operational level.
- Ensure all Divisions will work cooperatively in defining additional roles and responsibilities on the implementation of directives, management plans, and other mechanisms as appropriate.
- Ensure that heritage rangelands are managed within the scope and understanding of this Operational Management Directive.

3.2 External

A variety of external mechanisms will be used to engage the public and key stakeholders in a collaborative approach. These mechanisms will be individually focused on each designated heritage rangeland and may include:

- The development of a heritage rangeland management plan led by Operations Division with the active participation of Parks Division. The plan will be developed through engagement and consultation with grazing leaseholders, local governments, aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, partners and the public in general.
- The establishment of an Advisory Committee that includes key interests in specific heritage rangelands to work with the GoA on the implementation of the management plan. The committee will meet as required to provide advice to the GoA. The structure and function of the committee will be defined in the management plan. The specific roles and authorities assigned to Advisory Committees need to be clear and consistent across the province. This consistency will be achieved through endorsement of the provincial HRSC.

- Ongoing communication will occur between AEP staff (Operations and Parks) and grazing leaseholders, disposition holders, researchers, visitors and other interested parties associated with a designated heritage rangeland.

3.3 Budget Responsibility

Operations and Parks Divisions will coordinate budgets to address specific management requirements on an as needed basis.

If a responsibility is assigned to any particular Division, then they are responsible for the budget.

4.0 Directive Implementation and Review

4.1 Implementation

This Operational Management Directive will become effective on the date of sign-off.

Concerns pertaining to the interpretation of this directive or the application of legislation, program objectives, management plans and other policy direction and standards applicable to heritage rangelands, will be elevated to appropriate managers for resolution. Mediation of disputes may be facilitated by the HRSC at the request of the parties involved.

4.2 Review

Should any additions or changes be required to the Operational Management Directive for any reason the Heritage Rangelands Working Group will make specific recommendations to the HRSC who will be responsible for updates to the Operational Management Directive.

The Parks Division will initiate formal reviews of the Heritage Rangelands Operational Management Directive every five years.

5.0 Sign Off

This Operational Management Directive is endorsed by the Assistant Deputy Ministers of Parks, Operations, and Policy and Planning Divisions of Alberta Environment and Parks.

Original Signed by: _____
Graham Statt
Assistant Deputy Minister
Parks Division

Date: July 20, 2015

Original Signed by: _____
Matt Machielse
Assistant Deputy Minister
Operations Division

Date: July 23, 2015

Original Signed by: _____
Shannon Flint
Assistant Deputy Minister
Policy and Planning Division

Date: July 23, 2015

Appendix 1

Heritage Rangelands Natural Areas

There are six existing heritage rangeland natural areas (HRNAs) in Alberta. They include Onefour, Twin River, Beaverhill Lake, Tolman Badlands, Ribstone Creek and Killarney-Reflex Lakes. The HRNAs were established through the Special Places Program as Natural Areas in 1999-2000, with the explicit intent of moving these lands into the heritage rangeland classification when legislation was established. The heritage rangeland classification was included in the *WAERNAHR Act* in 2001 but these six sites remained as Natural Areas despite the original intent to re-classify the sites. To resolve the re-classification of these sites:

- Parks will review and classify appropriate sites as heritage rangelands through the LUF regional planning process and potential legislated changes, in collaboration with Operations and Policy & Planning Divisions.
- In the interim, all provisions of this directive will apply to the six HRNAs during this period of transition.
- If re-classification of the HRNAs is not proceeding in a timely manner, any barriers to re-classifying the sites will be identified and mitigated to facilitate their re-classification.
- If the HRNAs have not been re-classified prior to the next scheduled formal review of this directive the responsibility for administration and management of these sites will be reviewed to determine the appropriate delegation of responsibility.

Appendix 2

Heritage Rangelands Backgrounder

Overview

Heritage Rangeland sites are established *to conserve representative areas of Alberta's native grasslands* under the *Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands Act (WAERNAHRA)*. These sites are located primarily within the Parkland or Grassland Natural Regions of Alberta, and some areas of Montane region where significant native grasslands are present. The intent of these sites is to protect native grasslands through the recognition of the value of ranching in providing stewardship for these areas. Native grasslands are home to more than 80% of the threatened species in Alberta, and so the Heritage Rangelands are a very special part of Alberta's protected area system. For thousands of years these grasslands have been maintained by grazing, historically by bison and other large mammals. The goal is to preserve these areas through the careful use of grazing to maintain grassland ecology.

The Heritage Rangeland class acknowledges the important relationship ranchers play in maintaining native rangelands through good stewardship and properly managed grazing. Not every grassland area qualifies to be designated as a Heritage Rangeland:

1. The Province must own the lands, with most of the land under grazing lease or where historical grazing of livestock has been used to maintain grassland ecology.
2. The area should be over 1,000 ha. Smaller sites with provincially significant grasslands may be included in this class where use of grazing via long term lease to maintain grassland is central, or where a site is managed in conjunction with adjacent private lands under conservation easement for the same purpose.
3. High quality natural condition of the native grassland must exist, with minimal disturbance.

To create a Heritage Rangeland, Alberta works with area leaseholders and a public notice period is required. The Heritage Rangeland is then established by an "Order in Council" of government. Once established, *WAERNAHRA* provides for the management and protection of the Heritage Rangeland.

In accordance with *WAERNAHRA* and the *Public Lands Act*, certain activities are allowed, and others are prohibited. A general outline of such activities is as follows:

Activities of the Public in a Heritage Rangeland

Motor Vehicle Access: Public motor vehicle access in Heritage Rangelands is limited to public roads.

Off-Highway Vehicles, Snowmobiles and Power Boats: These activities are not permitted, with the exception that limited use is permitted for specific management activities such as use by the grazing leaseholder in their operations.

Foot Access or Horse Use: Permitted subject to terms and conditions outlined in the Recreational Access Regulation, and any additional conditions that may be implemented through the Recreational Access Regulation as laid out in management plans.

Hunting: Permitted for licensed species subject to the *Wildlife Act*. Access for hunting must follow the conditions and limitations as outlined in the Recreational Access Regulation and implemented by the leaseholder.

Fishing: Permitted subject to Alberta Fisheries regulations and guidelines in the management plan. If access is required across land under grazing lease, it must follow the access conditions in place on the lease as permitted by the Recreational Access Regulation.

Mountain Biking: Access must follow the access conditions in place on the lease as permitted by the Recreational Access Regulation. Use is often restricted to improved trails or roads subject to a management plan.

Backcountry Camping: Low impact backcountry camping may be permitted in some Heritage Rangelands subject to the management plan and the recreational access conditions and limitations implemented by the grazing leaseholder. If permitted, it may be restricted to specific locations and limits may be established to minimize environmental impacts and ensure compatibility with grazing operations.

Trapping: Registered Fur Management Areas located within a Heritage Rangeland are normally permitted to continue if the activity occurred **before** the area was designated as a Heritage Rangeland and **continuation** is approved in the Heritage Rangeland management plan. New trap lines would not be issued in Heritage Rangelands.

Commercial Tourism and Recreational Facilities: Hotels or motels, RV parks, golf courses, or similar types of development or outdoor recreation facilities such as auto access campgrounds, picnic areas, hard surface hiking trails, boat launches and beach areas are not permitted. These are **inconsistent** with the purpose of Heritage Rangelands and will not be considered under any circumstances. Small trail head parking and staging areas for recreation access may be permitted on the edges of a Heritage Rangeland subject to a management plan.

Commercial and Industrial Activities in a Heritage Rangeland

Livestock Grazing: Livestock grazing will continue as the primary management tool in Heritage Rangelands and with lease terms up to 30 years, subject to good stewardship.

Cultivation: New cultivation is prohibited in Heritage Rangelands. Existing authorized cultivation, including any requirement for regular renovation of existing range improvement areas, may remain as a range management tool used to provide an alternate forage source for livestock.

Commercial Telecommunications Towers and Power Transmission Corridors: Existing towers and corridors may remain, but new sites and expansion of existing sites is prohibited. Access will continue to be provided for on-going operations and maintenance.

Surface Materials: Removal of surface materials (e.g. sand and gravel) from Heritage Rangelands is prohibited and no new dispositions or exploration permits for surface materials will be issued in Heritage Rangelands. As a general rule, lands containing sand and gravel leases, or a registered interest (DRS) from Alberta Transportation, are not included within a Heritage Rangeland.

Oil and Gas Exploration and Development: Existing well sites and related infrastructure will be allowed to continue and undeveloped rights that existed **prior** to the establishment of the Heritage Rangeland will be honoured. Where the disposition holder chooses to develop these rights, every effort will be made to use existing access and to minimize disturbance. Over time, the resources will be depleted and the infrastructure associated with existing commitments would be phased out and the disturbed lands reclaimed. Any new mineral agreements for oil or natural gas will be issued with “no surface access” to prevent new surface disturbances within Heritage Rangelands.

Mineral Exploration and Mining (Coal, Metallic and Other Industrial Minerals): Once a Heritage Rangeland has been established, no new exploration permits, mineral agreements, or dispositions (e.g. mine) for coal, metallic or industrial minerals can be issued. Existing dispositions (active mine) would be excluded. Mineral agreements

issued before designation may be included as existing commitments (if the likelihood of development is low) however if development of the minerals was to proceed then the mine area would have to be excluded from the Heritage Rangeland.

Freehold Minerals: Some Heritage Rangelands contain ‘freehold’ (private) minerals. All ‘freehold’ mineral rights will be honoured. In the event that the owner of freehold mineral rights wishes to develop the resource, the proposal will be reviewed through the existing regulatory process. If development is approved, then dispositions will be issued for access roads, well sites and other infrastructure.

Mainline Pipelines: New mainline pipeline corridors are prohibited in Heritage Rangelands. Existing pipelines will continue as per the existing pipeline agreements. Access will continue for ongoing operations, maintenance of facilities, and emergencies.

Public and Resource Roads: Resource roads will be closed and reclaimed when the resource activity ends. New resource roads to existing resource commitments within the site will only be considered when no other options exist. New roads through the site to access resource or other commitments outside the site would typically not be permitted unless no other options exist. Use of existing roads through the site for resource access outside the site would be discouraged. Existing public roads that pass through a Heritage Rangeland are generally not included as part of the Heritage Rangeland. Where they are included, they will be maintained.

Commercial Logging: Commercial and salvage logging are prohibited in Heritage Rangelands.

Wind Farms: Construction of windmills or development of wind farms is prohibited.