



**Report on the 2017 Compliance Plan for
Activities on Public Land
Authorized by the Public Land Enforcement Committee
(PLEC)**

April 19, 2018

Executive Summary

In 2015, government launched an initiative to address abuse of public land through the establishment of a cross-ministry Public Land Enforcement Committee. The three pillars of the compliance program are enforcement, education and prevention. Tools used to successfully execute the program include enforcement personnel, public engagement, social media, and data collection and reporting.

A modified program was introduced in 2016 and enhanced in 2017. The committee strives to continuously improve the program with intent to establish a benchmark for future education, prevention and enforcement efforts around public land abuse.

Key to the success of the program is the engagement and collaboration of various departments, agencies and the public. Alberta is a vast jurisdiction, and public land is used by a wide variety of stakeholders, each of which has a role to play in ensuring the laws and regulations that protect public land are understood and followed.

In 2017, staff from Environment and Parks, Justice and Solicitor General's Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch (FWEB), Agriculture and Forestry, the RCMP and other municipal enforcement agencies worked closely to engage the public and deliver another effective compliance program.

Below are highlights from the program's 2017 calendar year.

Education:

- Environment and Parks Minister Shannon Phillips and Justice and Solicitor General Minister Kathleen Ganley launched 2017 enforcement activities in May, highlighting that more than 300 fish and wildlife officers, conservation officers and seasonal park rangers would patrol public land, parks and protected areas to keep Albertans safe, enforce rules and raise awareness about the regulations that protect the land.
- Government staff participated in nine large-scale outreach events in major cities across Alberta. The events allowed ministry staff to directly engage more than 14,000 Albertans who recreate on public land.
- Educational social media content engaged tens of thousands of Albertans. Approximately 81,000 people liked, commented on or shared the year's top post on Environment and Parks' Respect the Land in Alberta Facebook page. The post was related to off-highway vehicle restrictions in southern Alberta.
- The FWEB Facebook page saw an increase of 75 per cent in their fan base; the top post reached 432,600 people. The most popular post related to public land was about the Waiparous/Ghost area and the tickets that officers issued over one weekend. The post reached over 50,500 people.
- A total of 116,000 responsible recreation educational materials (fact cards, information brochures, maps, behavioural prompts) were distributed.
- A Public Lands Compliance Reporting page was developed on the Environment and Parks website and provided regular updates on enforcement and educational contacts, enforcement actions and post long-weekend special reports on public land enforcement activities.

Prevention:

- Environment and Parks' Operations and Parks divisions, as well as Justice and Solicitor General's FWEB, contributed 4,504 person-days towards the delivery of the public land compliance program.
- A total of 71,164 contacts were made with recreational users on public land.
- Nearly 2,500 educational, wayfinding and regulatory signs were developed and distributed.
- The Report A Poacher phone line received 264 calls related to public land violations in 2017.

Enforcement:

- From January 1 through to the end of 2017, a total of 6,595 enforcement actions occurred, 693 of which were for a combination of *Public Lands Act*, Public Lands Administration Regulation, *Petty Trespass Act*, and Recreational Access Regulation contraventions.
- Reports on enforcement actions are compiled throughout the year and are available by searching for Public Land Compliance Program on:
 - [AEP Website](#)

Context:

Albertans use public land for a diverse range of outdoor activities such as cross-country skiing, horseback riding, hiking, photography, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, camping, trapping, canoeing, birding, eco-tourism and motorized recreation (e.g. OHV use).

Outdoor recreational opportunities are a big part of the outstanding quality of life in Alberta. However, the growing demand for these types of opportunities is contributing to undesirable environmental impacts, public safety concerns and conflicts between various users. A few examples of these chronic challenges include:

- Vehicles being operated and parked on the bed, shore and/or in the water of Alberta's streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands.
- Random camping spots located in environmentally sensitive areas and utilized for the entire summer by one user.
- Random trails that are well established and used by many vehicles, causing significant environmental damage.
- Garbage, vehicles and structures abandoned on public land.

Land-use Framework:

The Land-use Framework identifies managing recreation use of public land as one of its priority actions. It outlines the need for a strategy to better manage growing recreational pressures and activities in Alberta.

The Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP) and South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) both identify the increased pressure being placed on the land due to more people seeking outdoor recreational opportunities. To address this pressure, a wide range of recreation experiences and

tourism opportunities that meet the preferences of regional residents and visitors need to be provided. Additionally, the SSRP identifies the need for education, awareness and compliance programs to promote and support responsible land use and identified shared stewardship as a key strategy. Land-use Framework plans continue to be developed for all regions in Alberta and are expected to identify recreational use of public land as a key component.

Castle Provincial Park

Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park were established on February 16, 2017, and are managed according to Alberta's *Provincial Parks Act*. The Castle area is home to over 200 rare or at-risk species located on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains in southern Alberta, near British Columbia and Montana. Part of government's move to further improve protection of the Castle parks area and its unique biological diversity is to transition OHV recreation use out of the new Castle boundary. The first part of a four-year, \$20-million plan to improve recreation opportunities in the Castle parks is already complete.

Recreation Management

Over the past year, Environment and Parks, in cooperation with cross-government colleagues, has been working to advance recreation management on public land through the Outdoor Recreation Committee. Key actions include a focus on departmental governance and accountability, strategic planning, education, policy development, sustainability and stakeholder relations.

Environment and Parks has developed an Operations Recreation Management Program for public land. The program identifies a vision for a world-class landscape that offers diverse outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities on public land. At the same time, the program will promote respect for the environment, promote responsible use and enable economic diversification.

The establishment of the program demonstrates government's commitment to strong environmental management while also providing ample opportunities for outdoor recreation. The program is working collaboratively with stakeholders to provide sustainable, desirable outdoor recreation opportunities.

Intent for the 2017 Public Land Compliance Program

In recognition of the growing pressures on public land, the province will continue to collaboratively develop and deliver a compliance program as part of the overall approach to managing activities on public land and ensuring compliance with rules and regulations. The *2017 Compliance Plan for Public Activities on Public Land* (the plan) leveraged resources from various ministries and other enforcement agencies, recognizing that compliance assurance outcomes will gradually be achieved over a period of time.

The plan incorporated education, prevention and enforcement elements with a focus on offences under the *Public Lands Act* and the Public Lands Administration Regulation, as well as other contraventions encountered on Alberta's public land. These initiatives are an integral component of a comprehensive compliance program.

The **Education** component promoted compliance by raising awareness of environmental protection and management, regulatory requirements, how to comply with those requirements and the consequences of non-compliance. Education was also used to encourage environmental stewardship.

The **Prevention** component supported compliance through increased government staff and officer presence on the land base and other methods, such as installation of signs at trailheads to prevent

inappropriate vehicles from accessing a trail system. Prevention is a shared responsibility and includes the activities and actions of both the government and the public.

The **Enforcement** component ensured that issues of non-compliance were addressed. This included actions that stopped, remedied, deterred and prosecuted violators where appropriate. Deterrence and prosecution measures were used to address contraventions and contributed towards reducing the likelihood of repeat contraventions.

Priorities

Priorities were identified to ensure efforts were focused on activities that pose the highest risk of environmental damage:

- Wheeled and tracked vehicles being operated and parked on the bed, shore and/or in the water of Alberta's streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands.
- Random camping in the same location for greater than 14 days (including squatters).
- Damage or loss to public land (including dumping of garbage).
- Enforcement of legislation in public land use zones (PLUZs), public land recreation areas (PLRAs), or public land recreation trails (PLRTs).

Co-ordinated and Efficient Delivery

A strong, co-ordinated and multi-departmental/agency approach was again identified as the route forward.

- Working collaboratively with other departments and agencies, Environment and Parks developed and implemented a public land enforcement program focused on the above provincial priorities, regional concerns and resources available.
- Justice and Solicitor General's fish and wildlife officers' mandate includes public land enforcement and provided an enhanced enforcement response to serious public land violations across the province.
- Environment and Parks, Parks Division seasonal park rangers and permanent conservation officers provided an enforcement presence primarily along the eastern slopes.
- Environment and Parks, Operations Division recreation engagement officers (new in 2017) distributed educational materials to thousands of recreational users in the field and installed signage throughout the province.
- Environment and Parks, Operations Division environmental protection officers investigate issues that do not require a fully equipped peace officer to gather evidence of non-compliance to support enforcement actions such as administrative penalties, remedial orders, and regulatory prosecutions.
- Other enforcement partners such as the RCMP, Sheriffs Branch and/or municipal peace officers provided an enforcement presence.

2017 Highlights (January to December 2017)

Government continued a co-ordinated enforcement presence on public land, including educational outreach and stakeholder engagement to promote safe, responsible and sustainable recreational activities on public land.

Off-Highway Vehicle Helmets on Public Land

A new law came into place on May 15, 2017, requiring OHV users to wear CSA-compliant helmets when riding on public land. The law is intended to prevent the thousands of injuries incurred every year by people riding OHVs in Alberta. Following the awareness and education campaign that took place prior to the law coming into place, officers ticketed 283 people in 2017 under the *Traffic Safety Act* for operating or riding an OHV without properly wearing a safety helmet.

Off-Highway Vehicle and Forest Closures in Response to Extreme Fire Hazards

On August 1, 2017, the Agriculture and Forestry Minister issued a Ministerial Order closing all public land in the foothills south of the Red Deer River to OHV recreational use. The order was issued due to significant concerns about the fire hazard in the area. This order was in addition to a fire ban issued for the same area the previous week. The OHV restriction was lifted September 21, 2017.

Targeted Outreach

In April 2017, government piloted an approach for targeted stakeholder dialogue in the Grande Prairie Area. Environment and Parks invited 32 OHV club representatives and social media administrators to a meeting to discuss recreation management planning in Alberta, increased efforts to support public land compliance and opportunities to more effectively connect and collaborate with OHV users.

In 2017, over 5,000 individual education and outreach contacts with the public were made in the South Saskatchewan Region. Further, a co-ordinated multi-departmental/agency (Parks/FWEB/RCMP) approach was developed and approximately 1,600 tickets and warnings were issued in the region. The South Saskatchewan Region is updating and improving existing infrastructure to support a more effective recreation system. The projects included: the installation of 25 bridges; redevelopment of two staging areas, including the installation of four outhouses; and 16 bioengineering/riparian restoration sites.

In the Lower Athabasca Region, enforcement capacity was targeted toward 55 identified high-use areas in the Fort McMurray, Lac La Biche and Bonnyville/Cold Lake areas. Signs and message boards were placed at over 20 locations across the region and staff engaged with local OHV organizations running rallies in the region.

In 2017, additional funding staffed eight FWEB seasonal problem wildlife technician (SPWT) positions. These positions were deployed in districts with high frequency use of public land that did not have branch or industry funded SPWT staff or seasonal park rangers. The funded positions were located in Grande Prairie (three), Whitecourt (two), Edson (two) and Cochrane (one). The premise for the Operations Division to fund these SPWT positions was to free up fish and wildlife officers in those districts and units to conduct more law enforcement efforts on public land. This program resulted in an increase of fish and wildlife officer patrols and public contacts on public land, which contributed to a rise in prevention, education and enforcement activities in the areas where the SPWT staff were deployed.

Public Land Cleanups

Staff engaged community groups and municipalities in the Lower Athabasca Region and organized 18 public land clean-ups. Work at Hilda Lake, Ernestina Lake, Tucker Lake and the Highway 63 trout pond are just a few examples of sites where work took place. The work at the Hilda Lake random camping area included the removal of three abandoned camping units and garbage that exceeded four industrial garbage bins. The bin contents were disposed of by the M.D. of Bonnyville, one of the partners in the cleanup. Signs promoting the rules of random camping and preserving the environment were replaced where they had been damaged or destroyed.



A burned trailer removed from the Hilda Lake area during a public land cleanup.

Dunes Cleanup

In the Peace Region, the annual Dunes cleanup in September removed 11.4 tonnes of garbage from 23 square kilometers, as well as seven abandoned vehicles. The work was done by 90 volunteers with the help of 24 partners. Since 2009, 234,326 kilograms of garbage has been removed from the Dunes near Grande Prairie.

Trail Inventory

In the Red Deer North Saskatchewan Region, staff worked on a complete trail inventory of all the undesignated trails within the region. This included thousands of kilometres of undesignated trail on both public land and in a PLUZ.

In the Upper Athabasca Region, the trail to Ruby Falls from the Lakes area was surveyed to determine areas for repair. Data was also collected on popular OHV trails, including: Ruby Falls, Southesk, Brule, Athabasca Ranch PLUZ, Cardinal River, Toma Creek and the Grave Flats washout area.

Clearwater May Long Weekend Taskforce

The May long weekend multi-agency taskforce completed its 13th year in the Clearwater Area, issuing 1,018 violation tickets. Of the 1,764 OHV users checked, only 49 (approximately three per cent) were in non-compliance with the new CSA-compliant helmet law.

Partnerships

Internal and external partnerships and working relationships have been strengthened.

- Environment and Parks staff in both Operations and Parks Divisions worked together to establish local priorities, develop processes and address issues specific to their regions.
- Senior FWEB management collaborated with Environment and Parks management and staff to establish and clarify priorities for the recreational use of public land. The priorities for public land enforcement were embedded into local district work plans that guide field officer work throughout the year.
- Environment and Parks staff work with Agriculture and Forestry staff to ensure they are aware of program requirements and to advise of any non-compliance issues. Environment and Parks staff assist Agriculture and Forestry to enforce fire bans and restrictions.
- Well-established relationships with local RCMP detachments have ensured that enhanced enforcement is present on public land at key times (long weekends) and has resulted in an overall increased presence of enforcement personnel. Environment and Parks staff have had joint patrols with local RCMP, where possible, and when RCMP resources allow. These include vehicle patrols, quad/snowmobile patrols and boat patrols.
- The County of Clearwater and the Rocky Mountain House community peace officers have expanded personnel appointments for public land and work closely with Environment and Parks. Many other municipal agencies also support regional programs.
- Justice and Solicitor General's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch provided assistance with a number of joint force operations where multiple compliance agencies cooperate to focus efforts on a particular activity or location.

Report on Education

A number of educational initiatives have taken place over the past year with more planned for 2018.

Community Outreach Events Participated in

- Calgary Motorcycle and ATV Show (January 6-8)
- Edmonton Motorcycle and ATV Show (January 13-15)
- Calgary RV Expo (January 26-29)
- Edmonton RV Expo (February 9-12)
- Calgary Boat and Sportsman Show (February 9-12)
- Red Deer Sportsman and Outdoor Adventure Show (March 3-5)
- Edmonton Boat and Sportsman Show (March 16-19)
- Grande Prairie Sports Expo (April 5-7)
- Edmonton Cottage Life and Cabin Show (April 28-30)

Education Materials Developed and Distributed

- 30,000 OHV compliance tags
- 18,000 PLUZ maps (e.g. Ghost, Kananaskis, Hinton Coal Branch, Bighorn)

- 15,000 “keep Alberta’s backcountry beautiful” garbage bags
- 13,500 responsible recreation behavioural prompts (e.g. stickers, work gloves, drink cozies, cards, buffs) and 6,200 responsible recreation note pads
- 10,000 “keep Alberta’s backcountry beautiful” brochures
- 10,000 OHV fact cards and 5,000 helmet law fact cards
- 5,000 youth activity books
- 3,400 waterproof OHV insurance wallets
- 1,500 random camping door hangers

Education, Advertising, and Partnerships

- Government expanded its online Facebook advertising campaign in 2017 to span both the August and September long weekends. Digital advertisements promoted the Report A Poacher line for reporting serious land abuse (1-800-642-3800) and highlighted regulations associated with OHV use and random camping. The advertisements were delivered through both the MyWildAlberta and Respect the Land Facebook pages. Overall, the campaign reached more than 236,000 Albertans and motivated more than 10,000 Albertans to react (e.g. commenting, sharing a post, liking a page or clicking a link).
- The Environment and Parks Information Centre (1 877-944-0313) provided information to the public in response to 261 inquiries regarding recreational access to public land.
- The Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) enhanced its educational campaign focus on wildlife and fisheries awareness and contraventions to include public land issues. Its Report A Poacher webpage now encourages people to call the 1-800 line to report not only suspected poaching, but serious public land abuse as well. The Report A Poacher program is a partnership between the ACA and Justice and Solicitor General; Justice and Solicitor General has launched a new Report A Poacher web page on alberta.ca that allows people to report violations using their computer or smart phone rather than dialing the 1-800 number.

Social Media Awareness and Engagement

Environment and Parks and FWEB regularly share relevant posts and tweets between accounts.



The *Respect the Land in Alberta* Facebook page is a venue for Albertans to share information and ask questions about camping, biking, hiking and riding on public land. The page has a very engaged OHV and random camping audience. As of January 2018, the *Respect the Land* Facebook page had 5,130 likes, a 48 per cent increase from the previous year.

The *Fish and Wildlife Enforcement* Facebook page is used to promote the responsible use of public land and fish and wildlife resources. The page's fan base increased by almost 75 per cent and is Justice and Solicitor General's most successful social media page. As of January 18, 2018, there were 16,602 followers.

Posts Related to Public Land Enforcement

- Educational social media content engaged tens of thousands of Albertans: Approximately 81,000 people liked, commented on or shared the year's top post on Environment and Parks' *Respect the Land in Alberta* Facebook page. The post was related to OHV restrictions in Southern Alberta.



- Posts related to public land violations regularly reach tens of thousands of people. In 2017, the most popular post related to public land on the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Facebook page was about the Waiparous/Ghost area and the tickets that officers issued over one weekend. The post reached over 50,500 people.
- Environment and Parks' Twitter Account is the official Twitter account for the ministry, which communicates major announcements, ministry business activities and good news stories on environmental management. The account promotes, in general, environmental messaging on how the government is supporting strong environmental stewardship. It saw an increase of nearly 2,000 Twitter followers this year. The account now has approximately 10,400 followers, which could be due to the increase in prominence for environmental issues in Alberta.
- The Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Twitter Account is the official Twitter account for FWEB and is used to communicate relevant announcements, stories related to enforcement actions and convictions of resource abusers, and good news stories about officers engaging with their community. The account is often used to link to Facebook posts to provide even more resource stewardship messaging.

Report on Prevention

The prevention component is another critical aspect of an effective compliance assurance program. Having staff and officers on the landscape providing information and advising of the rules reinforces expectations for the public. The posting of signs further complements prevention efforts in the same manner. Prevention is a shared responsibility and includes the activities and actions of the ministries and the public.

Staff and Officer Presence on Public Land

Environment and Parks Operations Division, Parks Division, and Justice and Solicitor General FWEB contributed 4,504 person-days towards the program and made 71,164 contacts with members of the public.

Signage

A total of 2,447 educational, regulatory and wayfinding signs were produced in 2017. The signs were distributed across all regions of the province and continue to be installed. The distribution of signs to each region was as follows:

- 1,302 signs – South Saskatchewan Region
- 484 signs – Peace Region
- 340 signs – Red Deer/North Saskatchewan Region
- 288 signs – Upper Athabasca Region
- 33 signs – Lower Athabasca Region

Report on Enforcement

Deterrence and prosecution measures are used to address public land use contraventions and contribute towards reducing the likelihood of repeat offences.

By increasing the enforcement presence on public land and reintroducing specified penalties in 2016 for public land related offences, government is demonstrating to stakeholders and the public that it is serious about managing outdoor recreation. A co-ordinated enforcement program spanning the mandate of several ministries and multiple jurisdictions was imperative to increasing enforcement efforts.

Officers patrolling public land also enforce other legislation relating to public safety (i.e. OHV, liquor, fire bans), hunting, fishing, and more.

The statistics represent enforcement actions on public land only and do not carry over to Alberta Park's land bases (provincial parks, provincial recreation areas and wildland provincial parks).

Types of Enforcement Actions

- **Written Warning** – a formal warning that documents the details of an offence.
- **Prosecution** – a charge that proceeds through the provincial court system. For most recreation-related offences, these are typically issued through a violation ticket or an appearance notice.
- **Time to Produce** – before proceeding with a licencing prosecution (such as OHV licencing/registration/insurance) an officer may issue a “time to produce” document, giving the person the opportunity to produce proof that their paperwork is in order. This is often

used in conjunction with a ticket so a person understands the consequences and does not need to be re-served if they fail to send in the proof.

- **Eviction** – an order for a person or group to vacate public land for a period of time.
- **Enforcement Order** – a verbal or written order for a public land legislated issue to be remediated. Failure to comply with the order can result in a charge.

The tables and graphs in this report have been generated from the ENFOR database that is used by the officers in Parks Division and FWEB to record patrol data, significant events and enforcement actions.

The following table contains a summary of enforcement actions that occurred under the *Public Lands Act* and Public Lands Act Regulation only.

Enforcement Action - Public Lands Act (PLA) and Public Lands Administration Regulation (PLAR)	Section number	Enforcement Order	Eviction	Prosecution	Time to Produce	Warning	Total
A person within a public land use zone/public land recreation area/public land recreation trail fail to comply with signs and notices posted or at the request of an officer	PLAR 181(B)			99		126	225
No person shall, within any public land use zone, operate an on-highway vehicle, except on a highway	PLAR 185(1)(A)			72	1	45	118
No unauthorized person shall use wheeled/tracked conveyance to enter on/occupy vacant public land that is a bed or shore	PLAR 43			17		76	93
The person failed to obtain a permit to undertake a use or activity on vacant public land that could reasonably be expected to occur for a period longer than 14 days	PLAR 32(2)(A)	37	9			13	59

A person ordered to vacate public land for 72 hours due to use exceeding/likely to exceed 14 days without an access permit or other disposition	PLAR 35(1)	33	1				34
No person shall unlawfully operate an off-highway vehicle or snow vehicle within any public land use zone	PLAR 185(1)(B)			20		3	23
A person who occupies public land and is not the holder of a disposition authorizing the person to do so	PLA 47(1)(A)	11	3				14
No person shall damage/deface/destroy/remove any resource/firewood without authorization	PLAR 195			3	4	4	11
No person shall camp within one kilometre of a public land recreation area/provincial recreation area located within the public land use zone	PLAR 185(7)(A)			3		5	8
No person shall cause or allow any conveyance to be left in a public land recreation area or on a public land recreation trail other than designated	PLAR 200(1)			7		1	8
No person shall travel on or enter on closed road	PLA 54.01(2)(A)			3		4	7
A person fails to immediately comply with order to vacate	PLAR 35(2)	4				1	5

No person shall start or maintain an open fire within one kilometre of a public land recreation area/provincial recreation area located within the public land use zone	PLAR 185(7)(B)					4	4
No person shall cause, permit or suffer the disturbance of any public land in a manner that results in injury to the bed or shore of a lake or other body of water in the vicinity of public land	PLA 54(1)(E)			3			3
A person operates a motor vehicle in public land recreation area not in the prescribed manner	PLAR 189(1)					3	3
No person shall start or maintain an open fire within 1 kilometre of a forest recreation area or road within the Kananaskis Country public land use zone	PLAR SCH4 PART A S.2(B)					3	3
No person shall cause, permit or suffer loss or damage to public land	PLA 54(1)(A.1)			3			3
No person shall start/maintain open fire	PLAR 187(1)					3	3
Person within public land use zone/public land recreation area/public land recreation trail failed to comply with the lawful orders, instructions and directions of an officer	PLAR 181(A)					2	2

Did enter on or occupy public land where the use or activity is likely to cause unreasonable loss or damage to vacant public land	PLAR 32(2)(D)			1		1	2
No person shall have a camping accommodation unit within the boundaries of a public land recreation area for a period exceeding 14 consecutive days	PLAR 190(1)					2	2
No person shall cause, permit or suffer the accumulation of waste material, debris, refuse or garbage on public land	PLA 54(1)(A)			2			2
Fail to comply with restriction to entry in public land use zone	PLAR 184(3)					2	2
No person shall cause, permit or suffer the existence on public land of any condition that may cause loss or damage to the public land	PLA 54(1)(C)					2	2
No person shall unlawfully enter on/occupy an area of vacant public land in respect of which a person has had notice not to trespass	PLAR 45(1)					1	1
A person fails to properly leash/constrain pet	PLAR 194(1)			1			1

The operation of a motor vehicle with a dry weight that does not exceed 363 kilograms (800 pounds), as determined by the manufacturer of the vehicle, is permitted in the Willow Creek public land use zone only in areas and on trails that have been designated	PLAR SCH4 PART R S.54(1)					1	1
No person shall camp overnight within 100 m of lakeshore in any public land use zone without authorization	PLAR 185(4)(B)					1	1
A person using public land use zone, public land recreation area, public land recreation trail shall keep the land and improvements in satisfactory condition	PLAR 183(1)			1			1
No person shall set a trap, use an explosive, or discharge a firearm in public land recreation area or on a public land recreation trail without authorization	PLAR 188(1)					1	1
No person shall take an off-highway vehicle or motorcycle within 100 m of a lakeshore in any public land use zone without authorization	PLAR 185(4)(A)			1			1

No person shall have a camping accommodation unit within the Willow Creek Public Land Use Zone for a period exceeding 14 consecutive days unless an access permit authorizes the person to have the unit in the Zone for a greater number of consecutive days.	PLAR SCH4 PART R S.55(2)		1				1
	Total	85	14	236	5	304	644

The following table and graphs include enforcement actions under public land legislation, which includes the *Public Lands Act*, Public Lands Administration Regulation, *Petty Trespass Act* (PTA), and Recreational Access Regulation (RAR). The PTA applies to Crown land subject to a disposition and the RAR applies to the duty to allow access to a person for recreational purposes to land that is the subject of an agricultural disposition.

The table identifies prosecutions, written warnings and other enforcement actions, which consist of the following:

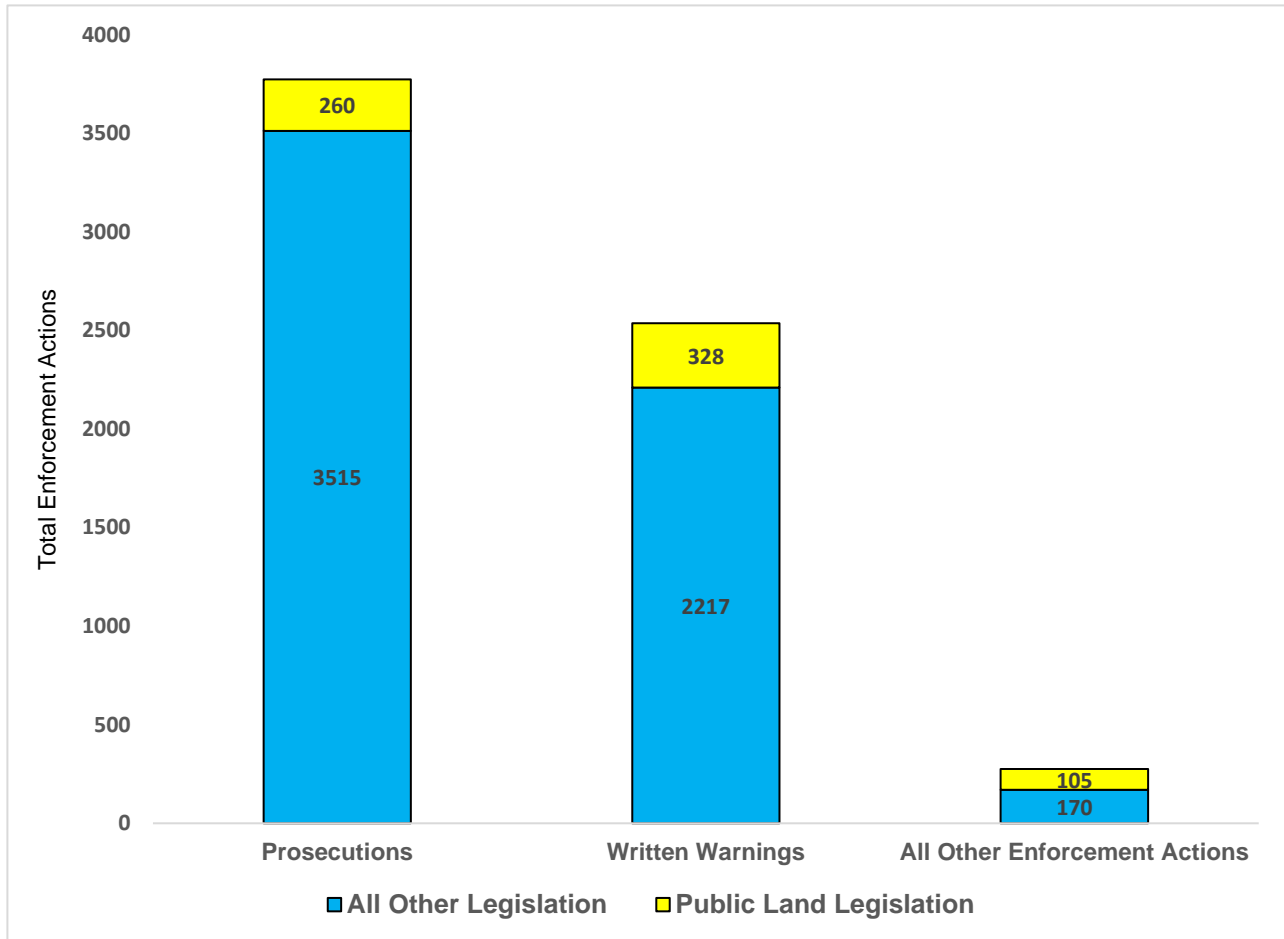
- time to produce documents;
- evictions;
- information letters;
- enforcement orders; and
- 24-hour suspensions

Verbal warnings are not included.

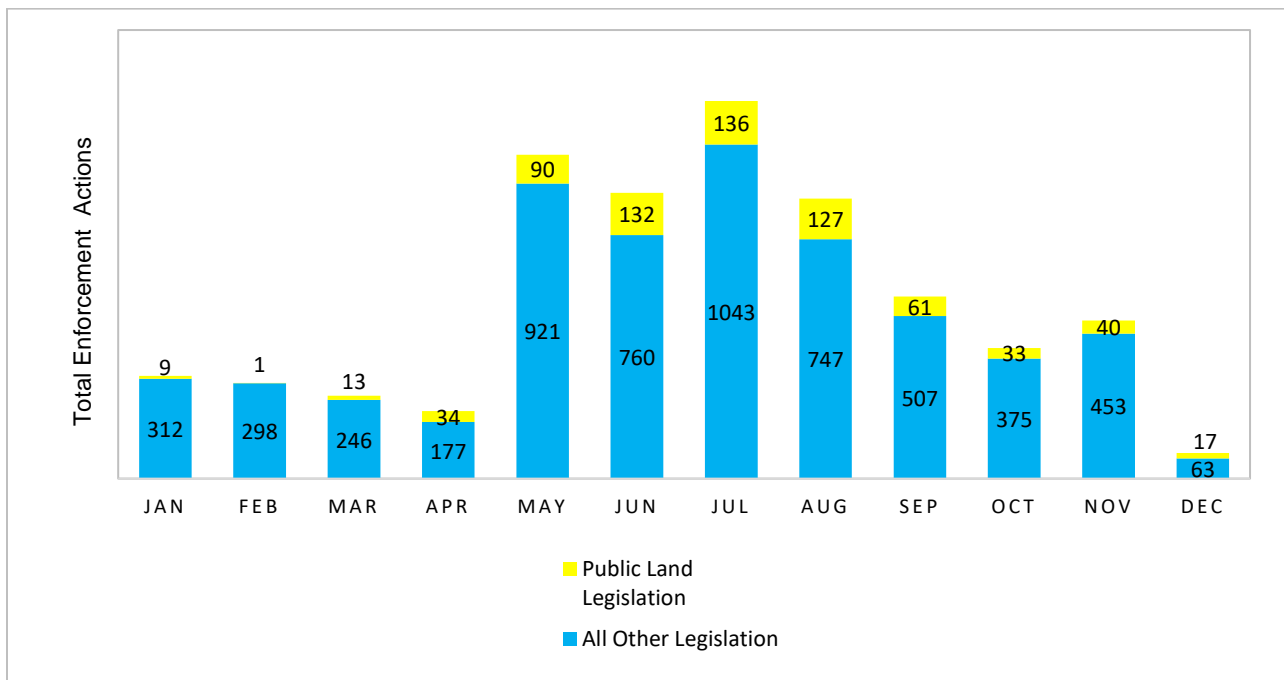
Enforcement Actions – January 1 – December 31, 2017

	Prosecutions	Written Warnings	Other Enforcement Actions
Boating Legislation	9	62	3
Criminal Legislation	9	53	1
Environment Legislation	20	10	10
Fisheries Legislation	1249	832	17
Forestry Legislation	23	25	5
Liquor and Gaming	559	149	0
Traffic Safety Legislation	1196	809	131
Wildlife Legislation	450	277	3
All Other Legislation (Subtotal of Above)	3515	2217	170
Public Land Legislation	260	328	105
Total Enforcement Actions	3775	2545	275

Enforcement Actions – January 1 – December 31, 2017



Total Enforcement Actions by Month - January 1 – December 31, 2017



Examples of Enforcement Actions and Investigations



Helicopter removes OHV from Bighorn PLUZ.

In May 2017, conservation officers were notified that people with OHVs had illegally entered the closed trails on the south side of the Bighorn Dam. The officers located the offenders and issued tickets with a \$287 fine to each of the eight people for failing to comply with signs and notices within a PLUZ. In addition, they discovered that one of the drivers hit a stump with his vehicle while travelling 70 km/h, rendering it inoperable. They contracted a helicopter to lift the damaged vehicle out of the PLUZ. The owner of the vehicle paid for the removal, which cost \$2,400.



Truck stuck in North Saskatchewan River channel.

In May 2017, seasonal park rangers received a public complaint of a pickup truck stuck in the North Saskatchewan River in the Kiska Willson PLUZ, west of Nordegg, along the Banff National Park boundary. Conservation officers responded to the location and found a truck embedded in a side channel of the North Saskatchewan River, approximately 30 metres from the Banff National Park boundary. The driver was charged with entering on or occupying public land that is a bed or shore of a permanent and naturally occurring body of water or naturally occurring river, stream or watercourse where the use or activity is likely to cause unreasonable loss or damage to the public land. The driver pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to a \$1,200 penalty. The driver paid an additional \$5,000 for the safe removal of the vehicle.



Ruts left by a vehicle stuck in a wetland in Crowsnest Pass.

During the May 2017 long weekend, a fish and wildlife officer was conducting patrol in Crowsnest Pass. The officer saw a vehicle stuck in a wetland, off an existing trail. Deep ruts were left in the land as a result and the driver was charged with causing damage to public land. Before pleading guilty, the court heard that the driver returned to the area and filled in the ruts. The court assessed a fine of \$287.



Vehicle stuck in Kiska/Willson PLUZ.

In July 2017, conservation officers received a complaint regarding two vehicles stuck in a wetland in the Kiska/Willson PLUZ. The first driver was arrested on outstanding warrants and issued an appearance notice for causing damage to public land and failing to obey signs and notices in a PLUZ. A second individual was issued a \$287 violation ticket for failing to obey signs and notices in a PLUZ, in connection to his attempted vehicle removal activities. The file is before the courts.



Deep tracks caused by a truck driving along the shore.

On September 10, 2017, fish and wildlife officers received a Report A Poacher complaint regarding a truck stuck in the South Saskatchewan River on land northeast of Medicine Hat. The driver of the truck was driving the truck on the bed and shore of the river on September 9, 2017, when the truck became stuck in the sand near the water's edge. The truck was left overnight. The driver was charged with the use of wheeled or tracked conveyance to enter on or occupy vacant public land that is a bed or shore. The court imposed a fine of \$200.



Truck in the bed of Oldman River northwest of Pincher Creek.

On October 15, 2017, fish and wildlife officers received several Report A Poacher calls regarding a pickup truck abandoned in the main channel of the Oldman River northwest of Pincher Creek. The driver had left his campsite the evening of October 14, 2017, travelled downstream in the truck, and crossed the river several times before getting stuck. The driver was charged for driving on the bed/shore of a naturally occurring water body, and the courts assessed a fine of \$1,500.



These trucks had dirt bike gear in the rear box and quickly left an OHV banned area, which necessitated a helicopter and ground patrol intercept resulting in the recovery of the abandoned motorcycles and laying of *Forest and Prairie Protection Act* charges.

On August 13, 2017, two forest officers observed two trucks departing quickly from the Hunter Valley Road Site. Since both vehicles had dirt bike gear in the back, officers suspected they had breached the OHV ban that was in place in the area at the time. An immediate coordinated tactical deployment by helicopter and ground patrol units manned by Forestry peace officers and fish and wildlife officers ensued. The enforcement team located the vehicle and followed them to a gravel pit, where officers conducted a compliance check. Ultimately, the abandoned motorcycles were recovered and drivers of both vehicles pleaded guilty to operating dirt bikes at the Hunter Valley Road Site contrary to the OHV ban. The court assessed fines of \$575 for each accused.