

Ya Ha Tinda 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 area for the proposed Ya Ha Tinda Provincial Park overlaps with the current Upper Clearwater/Ram and Kiska/Willson Public Land Use Zones. Current management varies from areas that prohibit commercial and industrial development to sites where most kinds of activities are permitted.

The area for the proposed park has an abundance of wildlife including grizzly bear, wolf, cougar, moose, deer and bighorn sheep and is a major winter range for elk. It is also the gateway to Ya Ha Tinda Ranch, which is owned and operated by Parks Canada and has contributed significantly to development of equestrian trails in the area.

The proposed management intent for the Ya Ha Tinda Provincial Park is conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, while affording a diverse range of recreation opportunities.

Recreation opportunities in the park would be focused on equestrian use, while continuing to provide opportunities for hunting, guiding and outfitting. It would be a key access point to front country and backcountry camping and hiking in the proposed Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park. These recreation activities would be dependent on and compatible with maintaining natural values found in the area, and would be managed in a way that does not compromise the integrity of the natural environment.



Proposed Management Direction

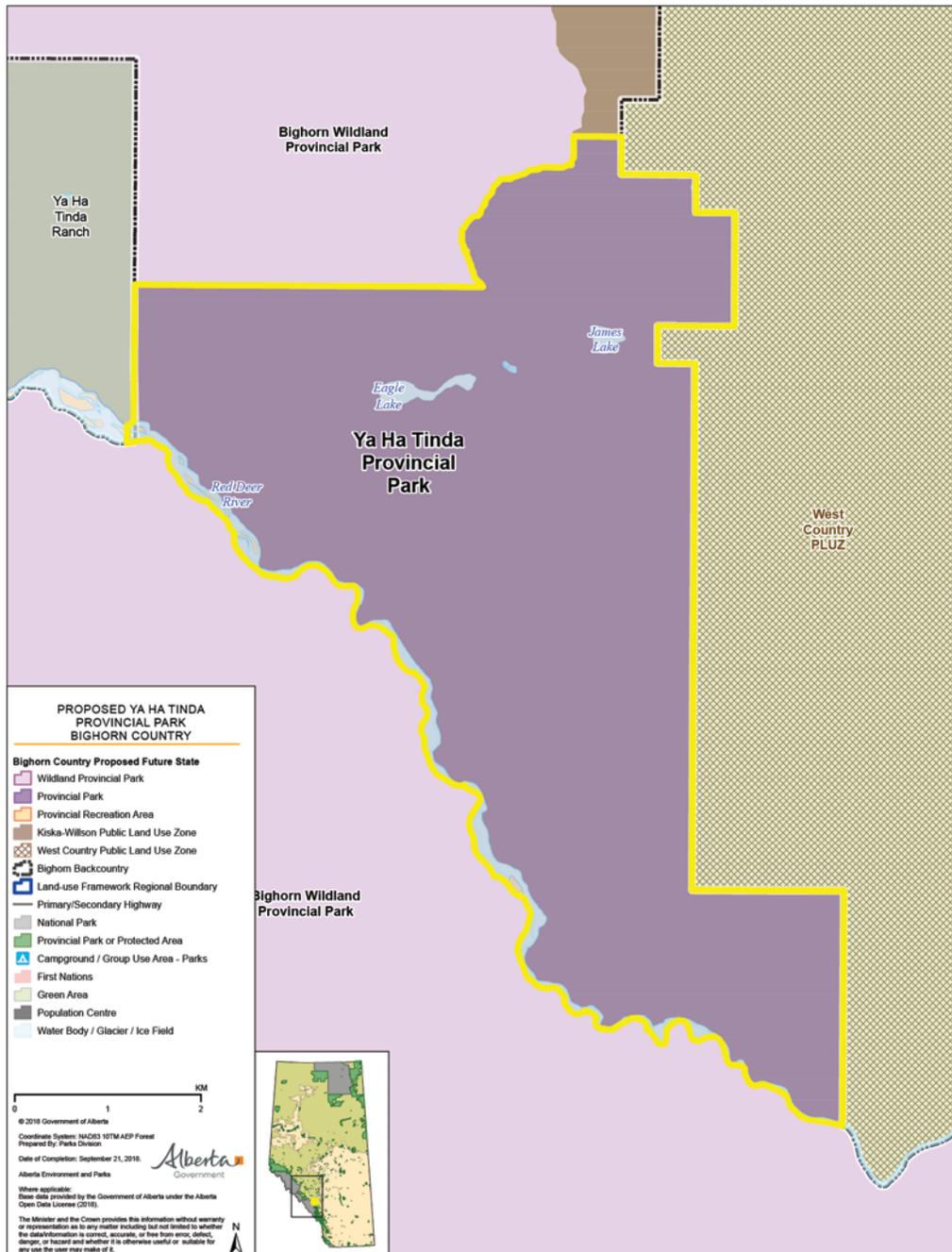
Resource Management

Type of Use	Current State	Proposed Management Direction
Existing Petroleum and Natural Gas	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no existing petroleum and natural gas agreements in this site. 		
New Petroleum and Natural Gas	Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New petroleum and natural gas agreements would be sold 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"> There are no freehold minerals in this site. 		
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 park. 		
Livestock Grazing	Permitted	Existing grazing would be Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are two existing allotments for this use in this proposed park that would be honoured. Grazing allotments would be administered in collaboration with Alberta Environment and Parks rangeland staff for this area. New grazing could be considered for ecological management purposes only. 		
Registered Trapping	Permitted	Permitted for existing commitments
<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 carry out trapping) would be required. 		

Nature-Based Recreation & Tourism Development

Type of Use	Current State	Proposed Management Direction
Motorized Recreation (OHV)	Not Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OHV use would be permitted on the designated trail. Timing restrictions may be applied in alignment with current practices to properly manage environment impacts (e.g. wet trail conditions). 		
Undesignated Backcountry Camping	Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backcountry camping would be permitted only in designated areas. The possibility of establishing a future designated backcountry campground at Eagle Lake would be explored. 		
Auto Access Camping (front country, vehicle accessible)	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camping is permitted only in facility zones designated for this purpose (Eagle Creek Campground). 		
Equestrian Use	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equestrian use would be permitted on existing designated trails/staging areas. Wagons would be permitted on designated trails only. Timing restrictions may be applied to manage environmental impacts (e.g. wet trail conditions). 		
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 throughout and on all trails. 		
Recreational Unmanned Aerial Vehicles / Drones	Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use for research or commercial filming/photography may be considered under the authority of the appropriate permit. 		
Hunting	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ya Ha Tinda road corridor wildlife sanctuary would apply. Hunters would require a Parks Discharge Permit that would outline site specific conditions and areas restrictions on discharge (e.g. around infrastructure). 		
Fishing	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial regulations apply. Alberta Regulations 		
Guiding, Outfitting (non-Hunting) and Instructing	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would be supported through the existing permitting process for 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 experience of this park and the frequency of any helicopter landings. 		

Tourism Facilities and Visitor Attractions	Not Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a limited developable area based on steep northern topography, ecological values such as riparian areas and wildlife movement, and the significant demand to retain public staging and develop formalized camping. • Further detailed planning and assessment is required, which would be undertaken to proactively zone and identify feasible small-scale private sector tourism development opportunities. • Attractions and services appropriate to site management and intent, site context and visitor preferences may be considered, with a focus on small-scale opportunities appropriate to the site. 		



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