



Proposal to Relocate Porcupine Group Campground within Bow Valley Provincial Park

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is being proposed?

Alberta Parks is proposing to relocate the Porcupine group campground within Bow Valley Provincial Park. In 2013 heavy rains in southern Alberta caused flooding along the Kananaskis River that resulted in damage to campground and day use facilities in the Kananaskis Region. The Porcupine group campground, located on the banks of the Kananaskis River, suffered severe damage. Due to the extent of damage to the site, it is not possible to redevelop at this location. Alberta Parks is proposing to relocate Porcupine group campground within Bow Valley Provincial Park from its previous location on Hwy 40 to Bow Valley South.

2. What are the details of the Proposal?

Alberta Parks proposes to:

- Construct a new 40 site group campground by relocating the camping capacity from the former Porcupine site to a new location in Bow Valley Provincial Park.
- Consolidate group campground facilities by constructing the proposed Porcupine campground in Bow Valley South. Bow Valley South is a previously disturbed area with two existing group campgrounds; Owl and Grouse. The disturbance footprint will be expanded to accommodate Porcupine campground.
- Operate the proposed Porcupine campground during the summer season (May to October).
- Decommission the access road into the former Porcupine campground off Hwy 40.
- Amend the Bow Valley South facility zone identified in the [Bow Valley Protected Areas Management Plan](#) to include the proposed Porcupine campground.
- Conduct a minor administrative amendment to the facility zone to include facilities of Owl and Grouse that are not completely captured within the current facility zone and exclude areas of the current facility zone that have mature or recovering vegetation from future footprint expansion.
- Rezone the former Porcupine site from facility zone to natural environment.

3. Why didn't Alberta Parks construct the campground in its former location?

The former site of the Porcupine group campground was located in the flood plain of the Kananaskis River. During the 2013 floods, the flood plain in this area was eroded away and most of the campground and part of the access road was damaged. Shortly after the flood, Alberta Parks removed the remaining campground infrastructure and started planning on its relocation. Alberta Parks considered locating the campground on the upper bench adjacent Hwy 40, however, concluded that Bow Valley South is the preferred location. Bow Valley South enables Alberta Parks to locate the campground in a previously disturbed area, consolidate campground facilities where possible, and avoid the removal of mature vegetation.

4. Why is Alberta Parks changing the facility zone?

The current facility zone surrounding Owl and Grouse group campgrounds in Bow Valley Provincial Park does not encompass the entire existing campground infrastructure. This was an administrative oversight. Alberta Parks is proposing to amend the facility zone identified in the [Bow Valley Protected Areas Management Plan](#) to include existing infrastructure as well as include the proposed Porcupine campground. During the amendment process, Alberta Parks will delineate areas of mature vegetation within the facility zone that will not be used for future facilities within the zone.

In addition, infrastructure including the access road, gate and signage will be decommissioned at the former Porcupine site. The facility zone for the former Porcupine site will be rezoned to natural environment.

5. How will the habitat patch in Bow Valley Provincial Park be affected?

Bow Valley Provincial Park is important in the regional system of identified habitat patches (for elk) and wildlife corridors. There is an elk movement corridor connecting the Bow Valley winter habitat (near the proposed Porcupine site) with spring calving areas and summer habitat in Kananaskis Valley (former Porcupine site). Alberta Parks is consolidating group campground facilities within Bow Valley Provincial Park and making ecological improvements by 1) locating the proposed Porcupine summer use campground in an area of winter elk habitat (area identified as the habitat patch) and 2) reclaiming the former Porcupine site located in spring and summer elk habitat.

6. When would construction of the campground start?

If approved, Alberta Parks is proposing campground construction to start in the fall of 2016. Construction of the proposed Porcupine campground will likely take 4-6 weeks. Decommissioning of the access road into the former Porcupine campground may be completed in the fall of 2016 or in the spring of 2017.

7. How do I comment on this Proposal?

Alberta Parks encourages feedback on this Proposal. Send in your comments, suggestions and concerns by clicking on the online comment link below, or by emailing or mailing in your feedback to the appropriate address outlined below. Feedback will be collected until October 1, 2016.

Online: [Online Comment](#)

By Email: ParkNews@gov.ab.ca

By Mail:

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8. What happens after the public comment period?

Alberta Parks will make a decision regarding the Proposal after the 60-day public comment period is over. Alberta Parks will consider public feedback before a making a final decision.

A summary of public comments and the proposed actions and responses will be posted on www.albertaparks.ca/consult once a decision has been reached.

9. Who can I contact for further information on this Proposal?

If you would like further information on the Porcupine Group Campground Relocation Proposal, please call Thea Mitchell, Flood Recovery Planner for Alberta Environment and Parks at 403-678-5500 ext. 286.

