



PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE CAMPGROUND AND TRAIL PLANNING IN POACHER'S LANDING PROVINCIAL RECREATION AREA

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is being proposed?

Alberta Parks is proposing to expand the campground and trail planning within Poacher's Landing Provincial Recreation Area (PRA).

The proposed campground expansion includes 68 campsites and will be rustic in nature, with no power hookups and water provided by cisterns, which are accessible by hand pumps. The expansion includes vault toilets, parking, playground, and trails connecting the campground loops to one another and to the existing trail system. The proposal also includes a single lane gravel road to provide access to the new campsites. The proposed campground expansion is located south and southwest of the existing Poacher's Landing PRA campground. The construction would be occurring in the existing facility zone.

There are currently approximately 40 Kilometers of undesignated Trails within the Park. Some existing trails were originally identified in the Poacher's Landing management planning process (2002), but there is need for review of these trails as well as consideration of possible amendments to the trail system as part of the new campground expansion. There are many user types and traditional use which will be gathered to use in the development of the trail plan.

2. Where is the project area located, and what value does the PRA protect?

Poacher's Landing PRA is located approximately 25 kilometres northeast of the Town of Athabasca (north of the Alberta Pacific Pulp Mill). The PRA encompasses an area of 1,518.93 ha of dry mixedwood boreal forest. The north and west boundary is the Athabasca River. The site borders on private or leased land to the south and the La Biche River Wildland Provincial Park to the east.

The preservation and recreational value of the PRA is enhanced by its environmental diversity. The site offers year-round recreational opportunities such as camping, hiking, horseback riding, and snowmobile and off-highway vehicle (OHV) use.

3. Why is the campground expansion being proposed?

Poacher's Landing PRA is a popular destination for both locals and visitors to the area. The existing campground was developed in the 1980s with only five sites. The PRA is popular with OHV-users and equestrian enthusiasts, as the PRA is the only protected area in the region with equestrian facilities. The proposed campground expansion will provide facilities that meet current design standards and accommodate the changing needs of visitors. The proposal is in line with Strategy 2 (Offer Modern Facilities, Policies and Programs) of Alberta's [Plan for Parks](#).

4. Where can I view the proposed campground expansion?

A map of the proposed campground expansion can be viewed [here](#).

5. Why is the trail planning being proposed?

Currently there is a need to update and amend the existing trail system that was originally established in 2002. The Provincial Parks Act (General) Regulation states that off-highway vehicles (OHVs) shall not be operated in a PRA other than on a designated trail. Trail designation will allow enforcement of any contravention of these regulations and discourage habitat destruction by off trail OHV use. This would also be used as a preventative measure to mitigate potential negative impacts from increased trail use caused by the planned campground expansion. Trail planning consultations will be used to create a trail plan that will highlight a designated trail network in the PRA. All non-designated trails will be closed and returned to their natural state by active reclamation.

6. Where can I view the proposed trail map?

A map of the proposed existing trails can be viewed [here](#).

7. What impact will this proposal have on park users?

The existing campground, boat launches, day use facilities and trails would not be closed during the construction, although some construction noise may be heard during this period. If approved, construction on the campground expansion is expected to commence in the fall/winter of 2017, to be ready for use in the 2018 camping season.

The proposed trail planning will gather feedback from stakeholders and Indigenous groups on recreation and traditional use within the park to inform which trails should be designated through a trail plan and which trails would be suitable for reclamation. The

feedback received will provide clearer direction for trail planning from those users who will be impacted.

8. How do I comment on the campground expansion and trail planning?

Public input is encouraged and important. Please send in your comments, suggestions and concerns by clicking on the online comment button below, or you can email or mail in your feedback to the address below. Feedback must be submitted by December 4, 2017.

Online: www.albertaparks.ca/Consult

By Email: ParkNews@gov.ab.ca

By Mail:

Attention: Poacher's Landing Provincial Recreation Area Public Consultation
Alberta Environment and Parks
Box 1019
2nd Floor Provincial Building
9503 Beaver Hill Road
Lac La Biche, AB T0A 2C0

9. What happens after the public comment period?

A decision regarding the proposal will be made after the 60-day public consultation period is over and all comments have been considered. Public feedback gathered during this consultation will be considered along with site management, public safety and further environmental and historical reviews before making a final decision on this proposal.

A summary of public comments will be compiled in a "What We Heard" document and the resulting proposed action(s) will be posted on www.albertaparks.ca/consult

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

If you would like further information on the Poacher's Landing PRA campground expansion, please call 780-623-5455 or email AEP.NEParksLandteam@gov.ab.ca