

David Thompson 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 David Thompson Provincial Park is currently managed under the Upper Clearwater/Ram and Kiska/Willson Public Land Use Zones. The area includes the Kootenay Plains Ecological Reserve, the Kootenay Plains Provincial Recreation Area (PRA) and the Thompson Creek PRA, which would be consolidated into the new provincial park. Current management varies from areas where commercial and industrial development is prohibited to sites where most kinds of activities are permitted.

The proposed provincial park would better protect important and unique ecosystems along the upper North Saskatchewan River, and provide a protected connection between the northern and southern part of the proposed Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park. Recreation planning and facility development would enhance regional tourism and provide visitor services at the gateway to the backcountry.

The proposed management intent for the David Thompson Provincial Park is the conservation of biodiversity, natural processes and cultural features, while accommodating a range of accessible low-impact, nature-based recreation, tourism and learning opportunities. Zoning for recreation and tourism facilities within the park, and the concentration of visitor services, would take into account existing recreation footprints and be dependent on the location and sensitivity of natural and cultural features.



The proposed park would offer a number of front country experiences to visitors traveling the Highway 11 corridor. This area is popular for camping and access to Abraham Lake. Park facilities would aim to accommodate current interests and experiences in a sustainable way. The Kootenay Plains Ecological Reserve would be placed in a special protection zone to maintain current levels of protection for its many natural and cultural features. Two O-Clock Creek and Cavalcade campgrounds and the Thompson Creek Provincial Recreation Area would become part of this park and would continue to serve as front country campgrounds.

Proposed Management Direction

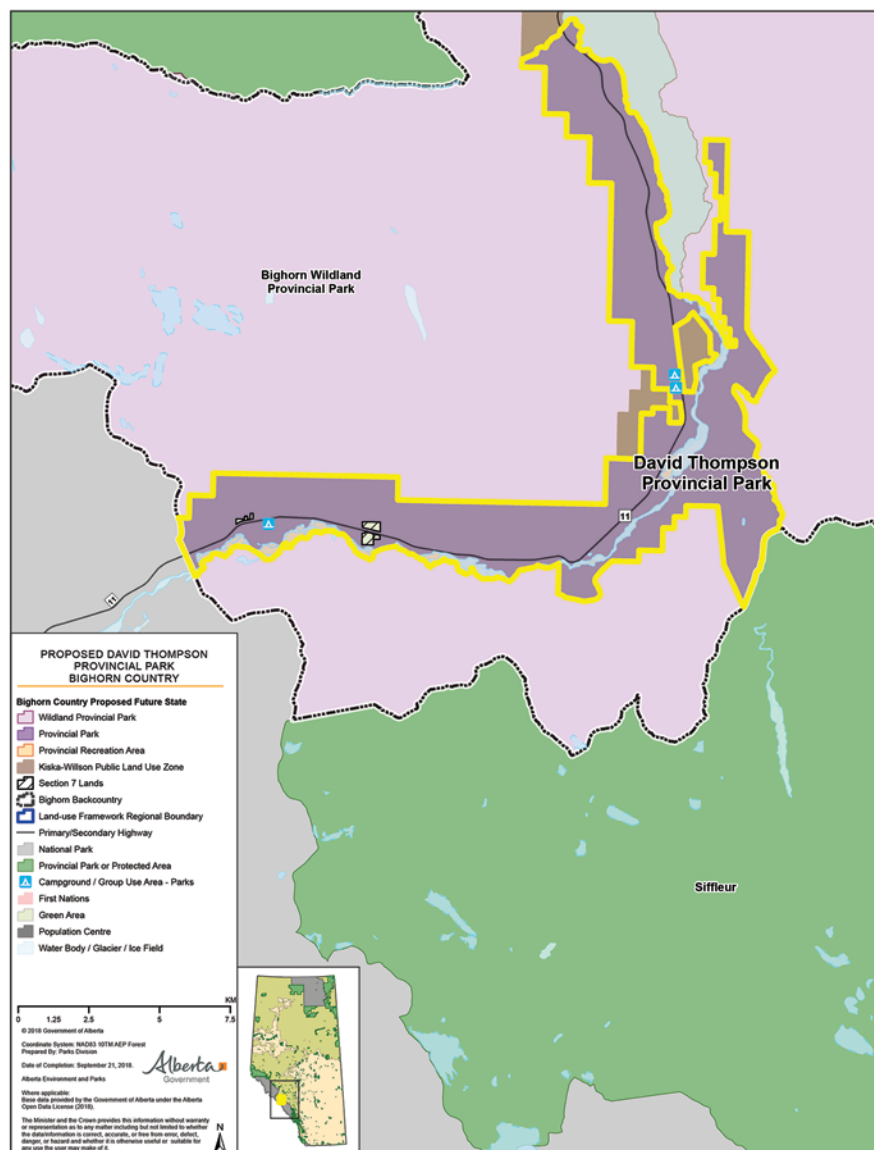
Resource Management

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 currently two existing commitments for this use in this site that would be honoured. Once the gravel is removed, the sites would be reclaimed and the lands would be added to the park. No new additional activities would be permitted. 		
Commercial Forestry	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no existing commercial forestry tenure in this site. 		
Livestock Grazing	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no existing livestock grazing commitments in this site. 		
Registered Trapping	Permitted	Permitted
<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	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently no designated trails for motorized recreation in this area. 		
Undesignated Backcountry Camping	Permitted	Not Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backcountry camping would be allowed only in designated camping areas. 		
Auto Access Camping (front country, vehicle accessible)	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A proposed intent of the park is to facilitate front country and vehicle accessible facilities and staging opportunities. Existing auto access random camping would be replicated as far as possible through the creation of designated rustic camping areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These sites would provide basic amenities and services such as washrooms and garbage collection. A permit would be required to camp in a rustic camping area. 		
Equestrian Use	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equestrian use would be permitted on existing designated trails/staging areas. 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"> Except for within the Kootenay Plains Special Protection Zone, mountain biking would be permitted on all trails unless otherwise indicated by sign, notice or advisory. In the Kootenay Plains Special Protection Zone, mountain biking would be permitted only on Glacier Trail and on Siffleur Falls Trail until it intersects Glacier Trail on the east side of Siffleur River bridge 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 existing Kootenay Plains 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 is undertaken to assess impacts between the desired experience of this park and the frequency of any helicopter landings. 		
Tourism Facilities and Visitor Attractions	Permitted	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism development opportunities appropriate to site management intent could be considered. These may include infrastructure such as camping, small-scale eco lodges and comfort camping which may be associated with visitor services facilities (such as food and beverage service). Planning would be undertaken to proactively identify these opportunities and identify allowable scale and size. Other attractions and services appropriate to site management intent could be considered upon further consultation. Planning would be undertaken to proactively identify any opportunities. 		



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

