



Indicators

Backgrounder: Mountain National Parks

A Need for Change

Developments in park monitoring programs mean updated indicators of ecological integrity are required. As most plans do not have indicators for cultural resource management, public appreciation and understanding or visitor experience, revisions also need to include indicators for these aspects of Parks Canada's mandate.

Background

- Researchers collect data about key components of park resources or aspects of a visitor's experience called indicators. By comparing this data to targets or thresholds, Parks Canada can monitor the status of an indicator and assess the effectiveness of management actions.
- The seven mountain parks have common ecological integrity indicators for the montane bioregion as well as several park-specific measures.
- Parks Canada is in the process of developing measures for cultural resource management, public appreciation and understanding, and visitor experience at the national level.
- Every five years, each park prepares a *State of the Park Report*, which includes the condition and trend of each of the chosen indicators.

Existing Management Plan Direction

The park management plans for Jasper, Kootenay, Yoho, Waterton Lakes, Mount Revelstoke and Glacier contain a set of ecological integrity indicators and targets (*A Place for Nature*). A key action in the *Banff National Park Management Plan* calls for a monitoring program based on a variety of ecological, social, economic and other indicators (p 100).

Considerations

- Parks Canada is still refining the monitoring program and may adjust the indicators, measures, targets, and thresholds in the coming years.
- New scientific information is reviewed as it becomes available. Where appropriate, it is incorporated in the management plans at the next scheduled review.
- On-going data collection and long-term monitoring will be used to determine additional thresholds and targets for ecological integrity and cultural resource management.

Future Directions

Parks Canada welcomes public comments on the following proposed direction for the revised management plan.

Include a monitoring framework in each management plan.



Report the results of monitoring in the appropriate *State of the Park Report* before the next management plan review.