



Management Plan Review

Mountain National Parks Backgrounder

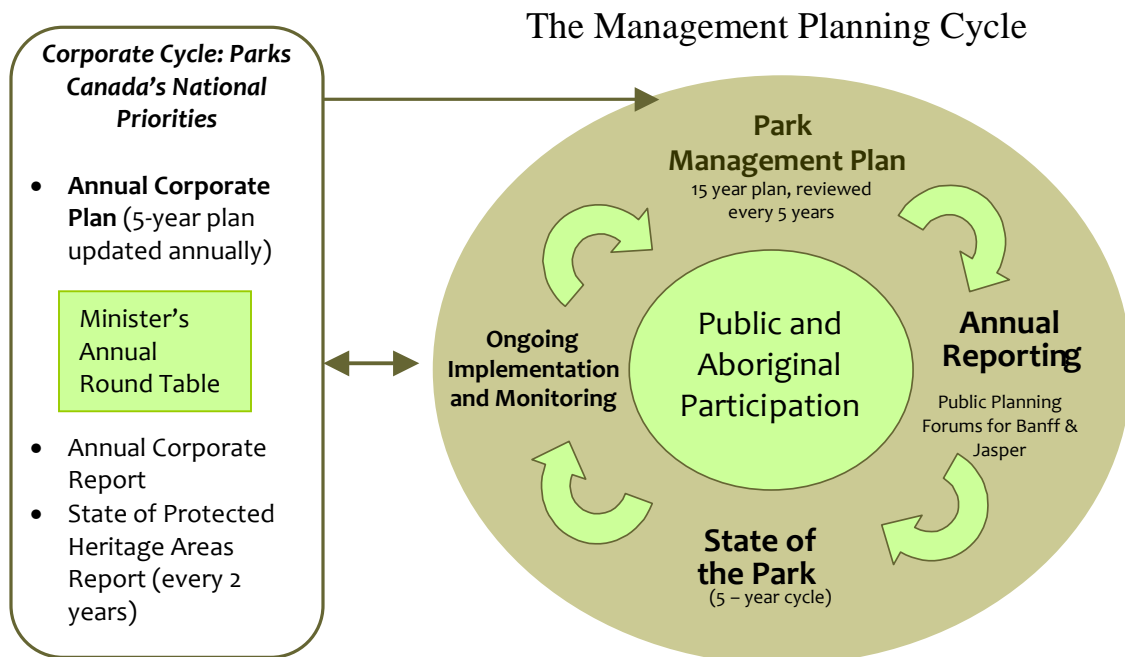
On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure their ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations.

Canada National Parks Act

Parks Canada is reviewing the management plans for Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, Waterton Lakes, Yoho, Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks and for Rogers Pass National Historic Site. This fact sheet describes the plan review process, key principles and opportunities for public participation.

The Park Management Plan

- Management planning and implementation is a continuous cycle of consultation, decision-making, monitoring, and reporting.
- The park management plan is the 'road map' used by each national park and national historic site to achieve Parks Canada's mandate.
- The role of the management plan is to:
 - reflect national direction
 - guide resource protection, visitor experience and education programs
 - reflect Canadians' perspectives through consultation and review
 - provide a consistent benchmark for business planning decisions
 - create accountability to the public
- Management plans, designed to guide decision-making for fifteen years, are reviewed by the public every five years, as required by the *Canada National Parks Act*.
- Because the seven mountain national parks and Rogers Pass National Historic Site share many of the same challenges, opportunities, visitors and stakeholders, Parks Canada is reviewing their management plans at the same time.





The Review Process

- Every five years, *State of the Park Reports* set the stage for the management plan review; these reports analyze the state of heritage resources, visitor experience, public education, and the achievement of desired results. A report has been prepared for each park.
- A *Scoping Document* is an internal document that describes areas of concern and possibilities for improvement. Parks Canada determines the scope of the management plan review based on the *State of the Park Reports*, public feedback, Aboriginal perspectives, and the Agency's corporate priorities.
- Throughout the review process, Parks Canada's *Corporate Plan* provides guidance on fiscal responsibilities.
- Each park reports annually on progress in implementing its management plan.

Guiding Principles

Moving Forward, Not Starting Over

- The current management plans contain strong, relevant direction, particularly with respect to heritage resource protection. Building on their current strengths, the plans will be updated to address key trends, visitor needs and expectations, and external relations. The updated plans will also reflect new government policy, directions and decisions.

A New Approach to Visitor Experience

- Parks Canada is working to enhance visitor experience by defining the nature and character of visitor opportunities in each park. Social science techniques, such as focus groups and market segmentation, will help Parks Canada better understand the requirements and expectations of park visitors.

Building Relationships

- The management plan review engages the public, stakeholders and Aboriginal communities in crafting a vision and updating key strategies for the mountain parks, as part of an on-going dialogue with Canadians about their views on and aspirations for these special places.

Integration through an Area Approach

- Parks Canada will invite stakeholders, Aboriginal communities and the public to help identify areas that would benefit from more detailed planning. An integrated approach that considers ecological values, visitor experience and education opportunities will be used to develop strategies and identify actions in these areas.

An Updated Format

- The updated management plans will set out a more integrated, future-oriented approach. Each will include a mountain park vision that frames collective goals as well as a park-specific vision, key management strategies, and area concepts to guide management activities.

Your Invitation to Participate

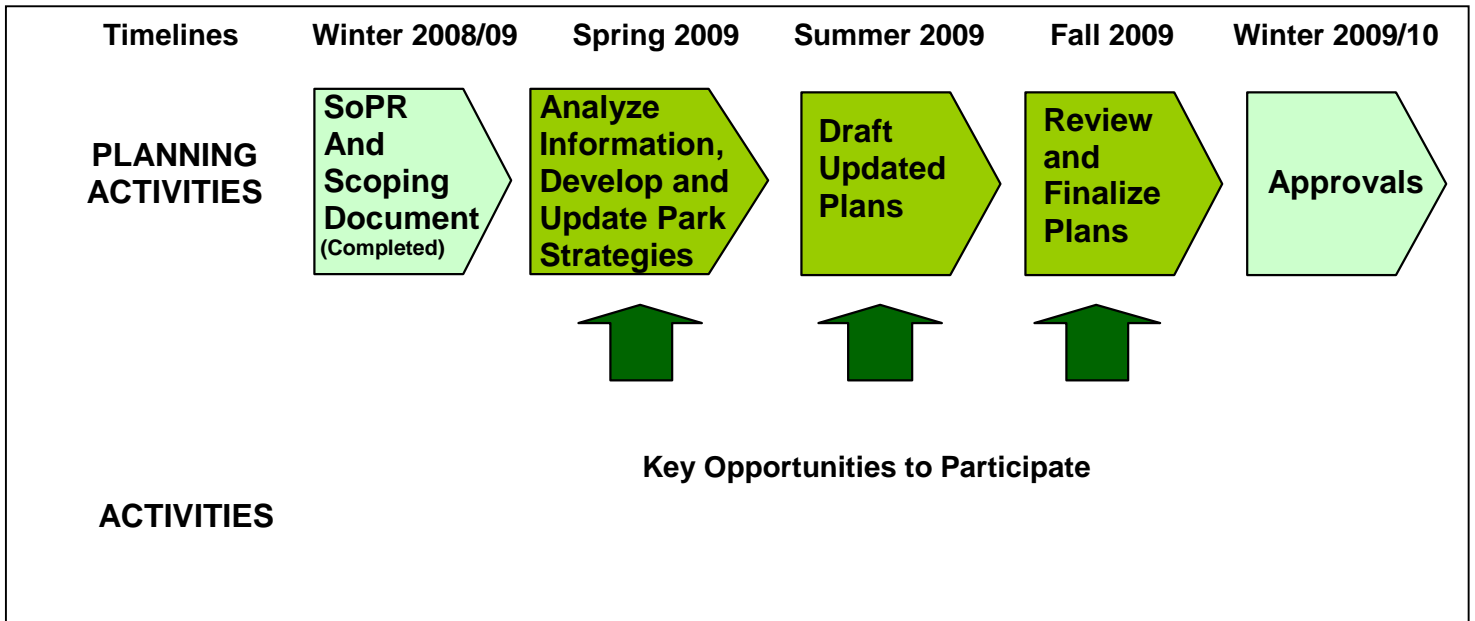
- We welcome the participation of Canadians in the management plan review. Each park will offer a variety of ways to get involved -- from workshops or public meetings to on-line forums.
- Information about upcoming opportunities for public participation is available on-line at www.pc.gc.ca



- To join the on-line public participation site, please e-mail parks.chats@pc.gc.ca

Timelines

- Initial information gathering and analysis is underway (spring 2009).
- Draft management plans, prepared during the summer of 2009, will be ready for review in the fall.
- The updated plans will be submitted for parliamentary review in late 2009 or early 2010.



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