



New Recreational Activities

Backgrounder: Mountain National Parks

A Need for Change

Existing management plans do not anticipate the effect of technology on demand for recreational activities. The management plan review is an opportunity to provide park-specific direction on new activities that are consistent with Parks Canada's national policy.

Background

- Visitors to national parks enjoy a range of nature-based recreational activities.
- New technology has stimulated interest in activities such as ziplines, via ferrata, etc.
- Parks Canada has published a management bulletin to ensure consistency when considering approval of new activities.

Existing Management Plan Direction

Management plans do not provide specific direction for evaluating new recreational activities.

National parks use zoning to identify areas where motorized and non-motorized activities are allowed.

Existing plans specify that no additional land can be dedicated to commercial use and that aerial sports are not allowed.

Considerations

- New activities can allow visitors to discover, experience and learn about the national parks in different ways.
- Careful management is required to address potential ecological or visitor use conflicts when introducing new activities.
- Parks Canada's management bulletin, *Recreational Activity and Special Event Assessments*, requires a full review of the benefits and concerns associated with new activities and the involvement of national and local stakeholders.
- At the national level, Parks Canada is currently assessing hang gliding, paragliding, ziplines, via ferrata, canopy tours, and adventure courses.

Future Directions

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

- Apply *Management Bulletin 2.6.10, Recreational Activity and Special Event Assessments* and park zoning requirements when assessing new recreational activities.
- Provide park-specific direction for activities that are acceptable according to the national policy and that enhance visitor experience, learning and resource protection.
- Undertake local consultation on new activities as required.

