

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE PINEHURST CAMPGROUND WITHIN LAKELAND PROVINCIAL RECREATION AREA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is being proposed for Lakeland PRA?

Alberta Parks is proposing to expand the Pinehurst Campground within Lakeland PRA. The proposed campground expansion includes approximately 100 back-in camping units, designed large enough to fit modern recreational vehicles. The campground would be rustic in nature, with no power hookups and water would be provided by cisterns that would be accessible by hand pumps. The expansion includes vault toilets, parking and beach access. The proposed campground expansion is located approximately 300meters east of the existing Pinehurst campground.

2. Where is Lakeland PRA and the Pinehurst campground located, and what values does the park protect?

Lakeland PRA is located approximately 50 km east of the Town of Lac La Biche, approximately 250 kilometres northeast of Edmonton. Pinehurst Lake is located on the southern most end of the PRA. The Pinehurst campground is located on the southern shore of Pinehurst Lake.

Lakeland PRA, located in a boreal mixedwood forest, contains a unique complex of forest and lake ecosystems. This diversity of landscapes provides for a variety of outdoor recreational activities, such as hiking, mountain biking, wildlife watching, photography, ice fishing and general nature appreciation activities. Facilities include both backcountry and auto-accessible campsites a staging area for off-highway vehicles, , and designated trails for motorised and nonmotorised users. There are four auto-accessible campgrounds within Lakeland PRA: Ironwood, Touchwood, Siebert, and Pinehurst.

3. What would happen to the existing Pinehurst campground?

The existing Pinehurst campground, which currently contains 63 rustic campsites, would be converted into a day-use area to better serve recreational needs on Pinehurst Lake. The proposal for this area includes fire pits, a picnic shelter, picnic tables, parking and a boat launch.

4. Why is the campground expansion being proposed?

The Pinehurst campground is a popular destination among both locals and visitors from outside the region, and demand continues to grow. The existing Pinehurst campground has not been upgraded since 1976, and is no longer capable of meeting the increased visitor demand, types of visitor use and modern recreational vehicles that are being used in the campground. The proposal is in line with Strategy 2 (Offer Modern Facilities, Policies and Programs) in Alberta's *Plan for Parks*. One aspect of this strategy is to upgrade and develop campgrounds and facilities to accommodate the changing needs of visitors; for example, accessibility for people with disabilities, improved trail networks and facilities designed to accommodate modern uses). For more information on Alberta's *Plan for Parks*, please visit <u>www.tpr.alberta.ca/parks/p4p</u>.

5. What impact will this proposal have on campers?

If the proposal is approved, construction on the campground expansion is expected to commence in late summer of 2013, to be ready for the 2014 camping season. The existing campground and associated boat launch and day-use facilities would not be closed during construction, although some construction noise may be heard.

6. How can I comment on the Pinehurst upgrade proposal?

Public input is encouraged and important. Send in your comments, suggestions and concerns by clicking on the online comment button below, or you can mail in your feedback to the address below. Feedback must be submitted by September 16, 2013.

Online: Online Survey

By Email: <u>ParkNews@gov.ab.ca</u> By Mail: Attention: Cara Gill Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation Pinehurst Campground, Lakeland PRA BeaverHill Road 2nd floor, Provincial Building Lac la Biche, Alberta

7. What happens after the consultation period ends?

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 and the resulting proposed action(s) will be posted on http://www.albertaparks.ca/albertaparksca/about-us/public-consultations.aspx