



Three Sisters Campground Redevelopment within Bow Valley Provincial Park

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is being proposed?

In 2013 heavy rains in southern Alberta caused flooding along the Bow River that resulted in damage to facilities in the Kananaskis Region including the Three Sisters campground. As a result of flood damage, Alberta Parks is proposing to remove Three Sisters campground infrastructure and establish a day use facility that includes picnic sites and watercraft hand launch opportunities. Alberta Parks strives to locate facilities outside the floodplain to reduce risk to infrastructure and park visitors.

Further clarification: Alberta Parks is seeking to remove overnight use to avoid negative encounters between people and bears at this site. As part of planning, Alberta Parks strives to locate facilities outside of known wildlife corridors.

2. What are the steps of the Proposal?

As part of the Proposal, Alberta Parks plans to:

- Decommission campsites at Three Sisters campground and reclaim the campground loop where it is not part of the proposed day use area.
- Remove campground signage, one washroom, cook shelter, and maintenance buildings.
- Construct at or near the hand launch:
 - a small traffic loop to accommodate public and commercial vehicle turn-arounds.
 - six public parking spots and six picnic tables.
 - stairs to improve access to the hand launch site.
- Construct/formalize four commercial operator parking stalls near the entrance gate.
 - **Further Clarification: commercial operator stalls are for the existing raft operators who are permitted to use the Three Sisters watercraft launch.**
- Operate the proposed day use area daily (7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m.) and seasonally (May to October).
- Reduce the facility zone as managed under the [Bow Valley Protected Areas Management Plan](#) to only include day use infrastructure and rezone the remainder of the facility zone area to preservation.

3. Why isn't Alberta Parks repairing the Three Sisters campground?

This Proposal avoids replacing campground infrastructure in a known flood zone. Three Sisters campground was affected by the 2013 flood. As a result, Alberta Parks strives to locate facilities outside the floodplain to reduce risk to infrastructure and park visitors. In 2014, Alberta parks met with an arborist to evaluate the trees in the campground. Mature flood affected trees located on the north side of the campground outside the proposed day use area are showing signs of deterioration and tree hazard will increase when the trees start to decay. Decay could occur over the next 10 years.

Alberta Parks is addressing flood recovery projects and will develop in a manner that considers the design, location and operations to mitigate future losses to infrastructure. In addition, this Proposal aligns with the concepts presented in the [Dead Man's Flats Area Development Plan](#) that supports flood risk area setbacks whereby the development of permanent structures, is not allowed in the floodway on any lands within the 1:100 year flood level. The Three Sisters campground is currently located in the 1:100 year flood zone.

4. How does the Three Sisters campground redevelopment support wildlife movement?

Bow Valley Provincial Park is important in the regional system of identified habitat patches and wildlife corridors. Regional habitat patches have been identified throughout the Bow Valley including the Bow Flats Regional Habitat Patch where the Three Sisters campground is located. The high concentration of carnivore movements between the Bow River and Dead Man's Flats suggests east-west connectivity through the Three Sisters campground area is important. By reducing infrastructure at a wildlife pinch point where the campground is located, Alberta Parks is supporting wildlife movement in the Bow Valley.

Alberta Parks reviewed their operations occurrence database and found that bear occurrences were substantially higher in the Three Sisters campground when compared to Lac Des Arc and Bow River campgrounds between 2002 and 2015. By reducing infrastructure and overnight use at Three Sisters campground, Alberta Parks is reducing the potential for human/wildlife conflict in the Bow Valley.

5. How will Alberta Parks address lost campground capacity?

Alberta Parks provides numerous camping opportunities throughout the front country and backcountry in the Kananaskis Region. Through recent Government of Alberta infrastructure funding announcements, Alberta Parks is in the process of planning and implementing campground initiatives throughout the region.

6. Why is Alberta Parks changing the facility zone?

Alberta Parks supports areas identified as wildlife movement corridors. Rezoning portions of the facility zone to preservation under the [Bow Valley Protected Areas Management Plan](#) will align with other zoning considerations Alberta Parks has implemented for important wildlife movement corridors within Bow Valley Provincial Park and Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park. In addition, enacting a ministerial order for the preservation zone would support the management of human use in the wildlife corridor.

7. When does construction of the structure start?

Alberta Parks is proposing redevelopment activities to begin in spring of 2017. However, timing will be dependent on a final decision for the Project which will take into account public feedback.

8. How do I comment on this Proposal?

Alberta Parks encourages feedback on this Proposal. Send in your comments, suggestions and concerns by clicking on the online comment link below, or by emailing or mailing in your feedback to the appropriate address outlined below. The 60-day input period started November 14, 2016 and was scheduled to close January 13, 2017.

The feedback deadline has been extended to February 13, 2017.

Online: <http://www.albertaparks.ca/albertaparksca/about-us/public-consultations/archives/bow-valley-provincial-park-three-sisters-campground-redevelopment/>

By Email: ParkNews@gov.ab.ca

By Mail:

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9. What happens after the public comment period?

Alberta Parks will make a decision regarding the Proposal after the extended public comment period is over. Alberta Parks will consider public feedback before making a final decision on this Proposal.

A summary of public comments and the proposed actions and responses will be posted on www.albertaparks.ca/consult once a decision has been reached.

10. Who can I contact for further information on this Proposal?

If you would like further information on the Three Sisters Campground Redevelopment Proposal, please call Thea Mitchell, Flood Recovery Planner for Alberta Environment and Parks at 403-609-6036.