

Hunter Information Package

[Cypress Hills Provincial Park](#)

Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 624

If you have questions or concerns please contact a Conservation Officer or park staff at 403-893-4357 or 403-893-4357. For emergencies please dial 911.

Contents

Introduction	3
Cypress Hills Map	6
Access Information and Photos	7
Successful Hunter Information	9
Wildlife Management Assistance	11
Important Park Specific Information for Hunters	13
Extra Word of Caution	16



Hunter Information Package
Cypress Hills Provincial Park
Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 624

Introduction



Hunter Information Package
Cypress Hills Provincial Park
Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 624

There are hunting opportunities on more than 85 percent of the land base in Alberta's parks system. Hunting is permitted in all Wildland Provincial Parks and some Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas under the Provincial Parks Act.

Alberta Parks are enjoyed by a wide range of recreational users year-round and in Provincial Parks and Provincial Recreation Areas, where hunting is allowed, Firearm Discharge Permits are required to address public safety and inform hunters of areas where discharge is prohibited because of site specific values and facilities.

Hunting is a supported activity in Alberta Parks because of its alignment with preserving natural heritage, including traditional land use, providing exceptional recreation opportunities, providing tools for wildlife management, and getting people outside and connecting with nature.

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Recreation Areas, where hunting is allowed, Firearm Discharge Permits are required to address public safety and wildlife management issues as well as to protect sensitive areas and species.

Cypress Hills is designated as a Provincial Park and is managed by the Parks Operations Division of Alberta Environment and Parks. It is located in the southeast of Alberta near Medicine Hat and is a unique ecological entity.

The Cypress Hills are a unique landform within the Canadian prairies, extending eastwest across the southern Alberta-Saskatchewan border at heights of over 600 m above the surrounding grasslands. This mountain-like environment contrasts dramatically with the surrounding prairies in terms of its forested slopes, grassland plateaus, flora and fauna, and moderate climate. The distinct ecosystem, physiographic features, environmental importance and rich western history of the Cypress Hills are recognized nation-wide but also can cause unpredictable weather including increased



Hunter Information Package
Cypress Hills Provincial Park
Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 624

precipitation and extreme temperature fluctuations.

Hikers, cyclists, equestrian users, school children, community groups, park employees, volunteers and hunters, as well as cattle ranchers are present at all times of year at Cypress Hills Provincial Park. Please be aware of their presence and take appropriate measures to ensure you are being safe and aware at all times.

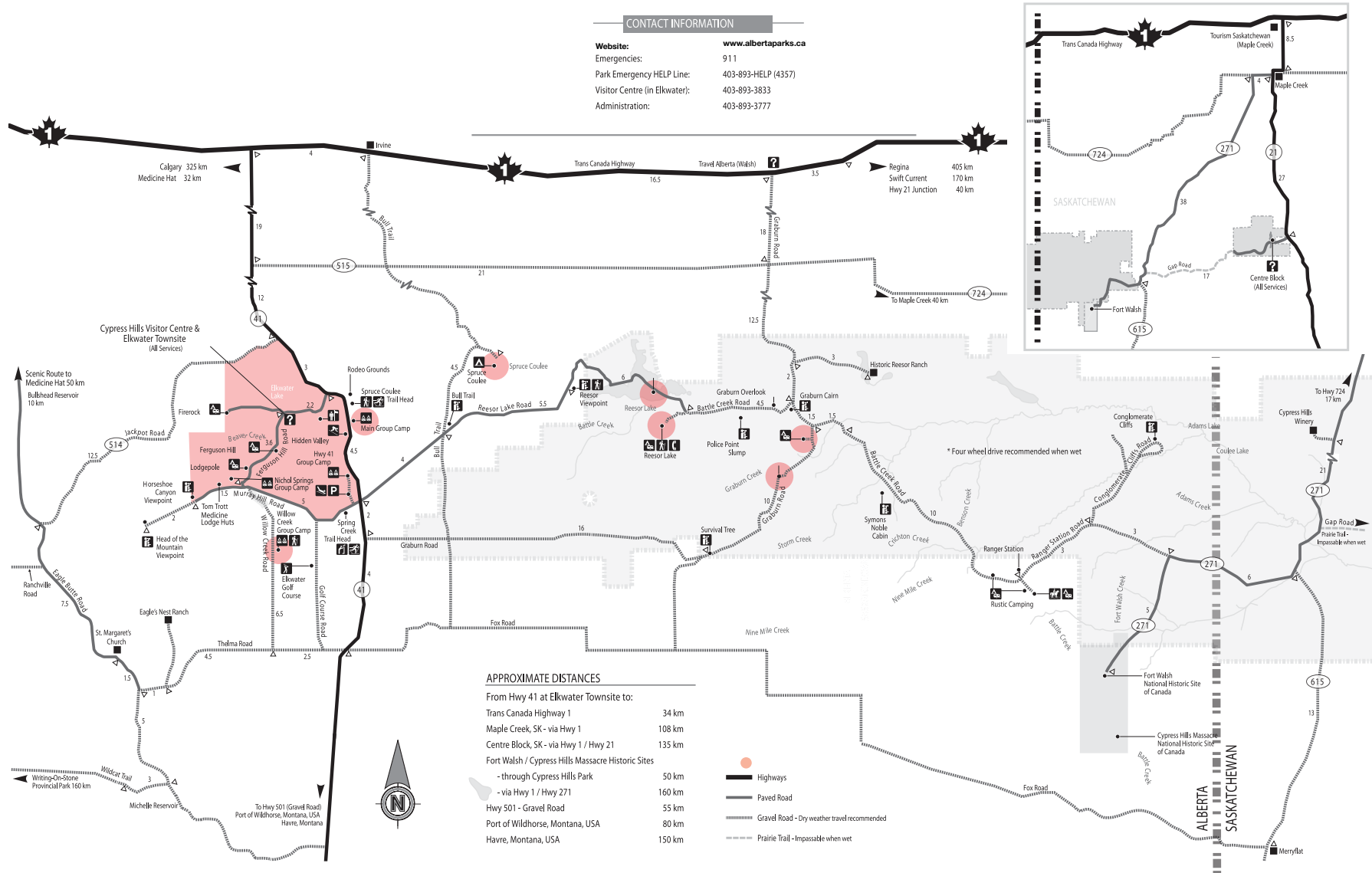


Hunter Information Package
Cypress Hills Provincial Park
Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 624

Cypress Hills Map

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website: www.albertaparks.ca
Emergencies: 911
Park Emergency HELP Line: 403-893-HELP (4357)
Visitor Centre (in Elkwater): 403-893-3833
Administration: 403-893-3777



Access Information and Photos

Access into the park is by vehicle or horse or foot power only. Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) cannot be used inside the park. Hunters may use motor vehicles (on truck trails that marked are “open”), pedal bicycles, skis, and horses to travel around the park. Horses are to stay on designated trails; please do not traverse off the trails or through the bush. Trails that may be driven on with vehicles are marked as open. If trails are marked “vehicles prohibited” do not travel by vehicle. Please be aware they may be closed if conditions are poor (e.g. muddy or snowed in). All multi use trails are open to hunting. Vehicles are not allowed down all fire guard trails. Motorized travel within rivers and creeks is detrimental and prohibited. Please watch for the markers as shown on the next page:



Hunter Information Package
Cypress Hills Provincial Park
Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 624

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Cypress Hills Provincial Park
Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 624



Open trails sign.



Prohibited vehicles sign.



Please stay on designated trails and roads. Do not drive around water holes as it damages the trail and increases the size of the disturbances to the land.

Successful Hunter Information

Emergency Preparedness

Be prepared for weather changes. The elevation changes in Cypress Hills Provincial Park are dramatic and can lead to precipitation, unpredictable weather, and fluctuating temperature.

Be equipped with survival gear – matches, flashlight, warm clothes, compass, extra batteries, flagging tape, food, water.

It is advised to carry flagging tape so you can mark your kill site (so you can find it again) and find your path back to your vehicle. Make sure all flagging is removed on your way out.

Be prepared to spend the night outdoors. Unpredictable precipitation and weather create a need for 4x4s in some areas and road conditions are subject to change. Weather can make travel hazardous and you might find yourself unable to travel with or without a vehicle.



Hunter Information Package
Cypress Hills Provincial Park
Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 624



Cougars

Tell a friend or family member where you are going, how to contact you, what time you expect to return, and make sure they know who to contact if you are late and they are unable to contact you.

Hunters should use caution and be aware that there are many predators in the area including Coyotes and Cougars. Should it be necessary to leave your animal overnight, be sure to leave human scent around the carcass and drag the offal (organs) away from the carcass as these predators/scavengers will typically consume those parts first.

Optional but for information and management purposes please report Cougar evidence, sightings or their cached kills to Alberta Parks staff or a Conservation Officer in the office or at 403-893-3833 or 403-893-4357.



A Cougar cache of a dead deer (the Cougar has used long grass to conceal their kill)



Cougar scat

Wildlife Management Assistance

Not frequently expected in Cypress Hills Provincial Park but if found, please report any animal harvested with an ear tag to Conservation Officers upon discovery. Ear tags may be white with black numbers, or orange stating “DO NOT EAT” followed by a phone number. The “do not eat” tag is placed on animals that have been tranquilized; hunters must tag their animal and can still expect to salvage their harvest, but depending on when the animal was tranquilized, the hunter will find out whether the meat is safe to consume (or whether a replacement tag may be issued).



Hunter Information Package
Cypress Hills Provincial Park
Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 624

For deer hunters: Cypress Hills Provincial Park has a 24-hour Chronic- Wasting Disease freezer drop off location at the 12-34 Café/gas station in Elkwater for hunters to drop off deer heads for testing during fall rifle seasons. Elk heads are not required as with deer but accepted and welcome. Please refer to [Chronic Wasting Disease – Information for Hunters](#)* for further information.

For more information on [Indigenous hunting and fishing in Alberta](#)** please refer to the webpage.

Contact the office at 403–893–4357 or 403–893–3833 for further questions or concerns.



Hunter Information Package
Cypress Hills Provincial Park
Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 624

*<https://www.alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease-information-for-hunters.aspx>

**<https://www.alberta.ca/indigenous-hunting-and-fishing-in-alberta.aspx>

Important Park Specific Information for Hunters



Hunter Information Package
Cypress Hills Provincial Park
Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 624

1. As a reminder, hunters must also abide by federal legislation regarding firearm transport and storage in a vehicle (particularly for times when a firearm is left unattended). The park does require that firearms not in use must be encased.
2. The permit holder shall not discharge a firearm within 366 metres (400 yards) of the Elkwater townsite and 183 metres (200 yards) of park facilities. Details are listed in the terms and conditions and located on the map.
3. You cannot access a pasture if it is marked as 'closed'. If you wish to access a pasture that is marked as 'open' please leave the gate as you found it. If a gate is open, please leave it open; if it is closed, please close it behind you.

4. Hunters must salvage their animal in accordance with the provincial Wildlife Regulations and will not receive assistance from park employees.
5. Do not cut any fences to provide easy access to your harvested animal; this includes any of the interior pasture fences or the fences belonging to surrounding landowners.
6. Be a conscientious neighbour! If you wish to hunt on adjacent private land or you need to access private land in order to salvage your animal on adjacent private land, you must obtain permission from the landowner before doing so to avoid trespassing.
7. Open fires are only permitted in the engineered facilities (such as wood stoves and fire pits with steel rings) that are provided in campgrounds, backcountry cabins or day use areas. Campfires are prohibited at times when a fire ban is in place. It's an offence to burn deadfall.

8. Tree stands are permitted only if they are portable, man-made, self-contained (do not build it using natural materials from the park), and do no permanent damage (do not remove/knock down dead or live branches) to the tree(s) and surrounding vegetation. Tree stands must be taken down at the end of each hunt (every day) to ensure fairness and equal access to hunting locations throughout the season.



Hunter Information Package
Cypress Hills Provincial Park
Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 624

Extra Word of Caution

Both Parks are Named Cypress Hills Provincial Park. Cypress Hill Provincial Park borders the province of Saskatchewan and the Alberta Parks Firearm Discharge Permit is not applicable in Saskatchewan. Please contact Saskatchewan Parks for further information on hunting on land within that province.

Please contact [Alberta Fish and Wildlife](#)* for more information.



Hunter Information Package
Cypress Hills Provincial Park
Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 624

*<http://www.albertaregulations.ca/huntingregs/>

In case of an emergency, call 911. To report concerns to a Conservation Officer, call 403–893–4357 or 403–893–3833. The nearest hospital is located in Medicine Hat. The non-emergency line for the hospital is 403–529–8000.