



# Non-motorized Paragliding and Hang gliding Activity Guidelines 2021

## Yoho and Kootenay National Parks

### **Background:**

In 2010, Parks Canada concluded assessments of several new recreational activities to determine whether or not they can occur in Parks Canada's protected heritage places. National guidelines for a number of new activities, including non-motorised hang-gliding and paragliding, were released in September 2010. Individual parks and sites must conduct their own local assessments to determine if, and under what conditions, these activities may occur.

Jasper National Park issued *Guidelines for New Recreational Activities* in 2015 that initiated a two-year trial period for paragliding and hang gliding conducted in collaboration with the Hang gliding and Paragliding Association of Canada (HPAC). Following an evaluation of the trial program, hang-gliding and paragliding were approved as appropriate recreational activities in Jasper, subject to revised guidelines issued in 2019.

These guidelines build on the outcomes of the Jasper assessment and outline the proposed approach to managing paragliding in Yoho and Kootenay national parks. Parks Canada will permit paragliding and hang-gliding on a two-year trial basis. During this time, information will be collected on the nature and frequency of potential impacts associated with the activity.

### **Activity Description:**

Participants launch from a high point and use a chute or wing to catch rising currents of air to soar over the landscape. They eventually land at a different location. Access to launch sites and egress from landing sites is by foot.

### **1. Consistency with Policy**

Parks Canada approved non-motorised hang gliding and paragliding as appropriate recreational activities in 2010. Jasper National Park approved the activity in 2019. The following guidelines are consistent with these models, but have been modified to reflect the local context of Yoho and Kootenay national parks. These guidelines are consistent with the Yoho and Kootenay park management plans.

Only non-motorized forms of paragliding and hang gliding will be allowed. No motorized or towed launches will be permitted.

Commercial activities (e.g. tandem flying) and special events will not be permitted.

HPAC will provide data on flights in Yoho and Kootenay national parks annually. Data to be reported will include flight date, launch and landing site co-ordinates, flight duration, and any

wildlife or visitor safety incidents. Parks Canada will use these data to monitor growth of this activity and adjust management approaches if deemed necessary to protect ecological integrity, public safety or visitor experience.

Parks Canada will implement a Superintendent's Order to make the procedures for this activity legally enforceable.

## **2. Zoning/ Location**

Paragliding will be permitted within approximately 83% and 65% of Yoho and Kootenay national parks respectively. Launching and landing will not be permitted in the following areas as indicated on the accompanying map:

- Zone I: Special Preservation Areas
- Environmentally Sensitive Sites
- Lake O'Hara Wilderness Area
- Field, BC
- Active Aggregate Pits/Operation Centres & helipads
- Campgrounds and day use areas
- Sherbrooke Important Goat Area
- Kindersley-Sinclair Bighorn Sheep Habitat
- Rockwall Wilderness Area

Pilots must obtain permission from the lessee or licensee before landing on a leasehold or license of occupation (e.g. commercial lodges, ACC huts).

Pilots should use discretion when launching or landing in public areas, and avoid landing in areas that are crowded.

Emergency landings will be permitted in accordance with Transport Canada and Parks Canada regulations. Emergency landings must be reported to Banff Dispatch (403.762.1470) and to HPAC, as per the established HPAC protocol.

## **3. Infrastructure/ Footprint**

No new roads, launch or landing facilities will be created to support paragliding or hang gliding in Yoho or Kootenay national parks.

## **4. Environmental Considerations**

Pilots must use designated trails to access launch sites.

Pilots must strive to avoid disturbing medium and large wildlife species. If medium and large wildlife is observed, pilots must fly away from the area immediately. If it is not possible to leave the area, pilots should maintain a distance of at least 500m away from wildlife.

Raptors and other birds have been known to fly with paragliders. Pilots must not interfere with or chase airborne birds.

Parks Canada will work with HPAC to manage potential impacts to sensitive species (e.g. goats, bears).

Pilots may use a helmet camera or other mounted camera during flight, but unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) are not permitted in the park.

## **5. Safety and Risk Management**

Paragliding will be practiced according to industry/association standards and rules.

Pilots must be members of HPAC to fly in the park, and must carry proof of membership when flying in the park.

Safety, risk and liability will be considered throughout the ongoing management of the activity. Parks Canada will work with HPAC and local flying clubs to identify necessary safety measures.

## **6. Visitor Learning and Enjoyment**

Parks Canada will work with HPAC and local flying clubs to manage communications with pilots.

Parks Canada will work with HPAC to manage potential impacts on other visitors and on important viewscales.

## **7. Monitoring and Adaptive Management**

To support annual reporting by HPAC to Parks Canada, pilots are expected to record their flights on the Leonardo website ([www.paraglidingforum.com](http://www.paraglidingforum.com)). At the end of the two-year trial period, the activity will be re-evaluated and the management approach may be adjusted.

Approved by:



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