

Backcountry Use
in
Kootenay National Park

Summary for 1993

Season: June 01 - Sept. 30 1993.

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KNP
October 1993

This report covers activities in the backcountry of Kootenay National Park during the summer season of 1993; from June 01, 1993 to Sept. 30, 1993; a period of 122 days.

WEATHER:

As always the weather played a crucial part in backcountry use. The following mean monthly temperatures may be of interest.

Month	High		Low		Precipitation(mm)		Approx. No. Sunny	
	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992
May	22.8	18.7	7.4	5.1	55.0	73.4	13	08
June	20.8	25.2	8.9	11.2	111.2	57.3	05	15
July	21.0	23.5	9.9	11.3	110.1	84.0	03	10
Aug.	22.4	24.2	9.9	9.7	49.4	35.4	09	13
Sept.	18.7	16.3	5.2	3.9	13.2	24.0	14	10

BEAR SIGHTINGS:

This year there were 167 bear sightings reported to the Kootenay Warden Office. As always a great majority of these were reported directly to the Info Centre and we passed them on to Resource Con. The Kindersley - Sinclair Loop trail had a bear warning posted on it all summer. (In '92 there was a closure on this loop trail) The staff dissuaded hikers from using it but nonetheless it was hiked on quite frequently. The Yoho closure of McArthur Creek/Pass trail affected hikers in our park to some degree as this is the main route into Lake O'Hara when hiking over the Goodsir or Ottertail Passes. This closure went into effect July 19, 1993.

DAY HIKES:

We have no system of monitoring day hike use in the park. The feeling at the Info centre is that there are a great many visitors interested in day hikes; there were a great many requests for maps and information about day hikes. Kootenay is lucky to be able to offer hikes that vary in length and are appropriate for different levels of day hikers. We feel that interest in day hiking is on the increase. There was a very positive response (in spite of the weather) to all the guided hikes that were offered by the dept. of Heritage Communications.

MOUNTAIN BIKING:

As with day hikes, there is no way to monitor mountain bike use; however we received many enquiries about the mountain bike trails in and around the park, and the feeling at the Info Centre is that mountain bike use continues to rise in popularity.

FISHING:

The Info Centre sold 365 fishing licences this season. In addition, there was much fishing done by the 16 years and under crowd. Fishing continues to be popular and we received many enquiries about fishing in KNP and often used the "Backcountry Guide to KNP " to show the fishing areas and their access. For info on fishing in the adjoining mountain parks, we most often referred to the Fishing Regulations as a guide to possible areas, but most often sent people to the appropriate Information Centre for more details. There were also a multitude of questions regarding fishing in the province, or more specifically in the Columbia Valley. We frequently referred to the Invermere Forest District Map but most often (if expert Bob Hahn was not in the office) sent these folks to people outside the park who had greater knowledge of the area.

WATER USE:

We had several requests for the " Paddlers Guide to the Kootenay and Vermilion Rivers", however it is very difficult to ascertain how much watercraft use there was on the rivers.

HORSE USE:

In 1993 no overnight horse use permits were issued. We answered several enquiries re: using horses on the trails. The Simpson River trail continues to be the horse use access to Assiniboine Provincial Park.

BACKCOUNTRY RESERVATION SYSTEM:

All visitors staying overnight in the backcountry require a permit. Additionally, KNP has a quota system for the backcountry campsites. One third of the sites at each of the twelve backcountry campgrounds are reservable. Reservations may be made from 21 days in advance of to 24 hrs. prior to the hike. Although permits for these reservations can be picked up at other centres, the reservations themselves must be made through the West Gate Information Centre.

The remaining sites (non-reservable) are available on a first-come, first-served basis within 24 hrs. of the start of the hike and permits for these sites are issued at either the Marble Canyon or the West Gate Information Centres.

In spite of the new staff at the Info, the radio breakdown at the northern end of the park, and the shortening of the Information Centre hours, the reservation system worked well this season.

Reservation totals and breakdown by point of permit issue:

	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
West Gate Info:	52	47	N/A	21	16
Marble Canyon Info:	171	140		82	56
Banff Park:	88	88		45	27
Yoho Park:	31	26		27	23
Jasper Park:	1	3		3	4
W.R.O.:	29	49		38	50
Other:	1				

Reservation Totals:	373	353		216	176

Of these 373 reservations in 1993 there were 21 cancellations. 1992 had 13 cancellations of the 353 reservations that were made.

BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS:

Whether camping at designated backcountry campsites, bivouacking or staying at alpine huts, all visitors staying overnight in the backcountry require backcountry permits. Maximum group size is 10 people; maximum length of stay is 2 nights per site.

Total Number of Visitors Issued Backcountry Permits:

1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987
1953	1564	N/A	1474	1403	1559	1414

Summary of the Number of Permits Issued:

	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
West Gate Info:	104	105	n/a	76	76
Marble Canyon Info:	458	363		355	337
Other :	146	174		115	104

Totals:	708	642		546	517

Breakdown of site use by number of nights site was used and user nights.

SITE	Nights- User Nights					
	1993	1992	1990	1989	1988	1987
1-Kaufmann	60-142	54-127	52-154	47-96	81-160	47-86
2-Tokumm	15-31	23-92	14-44	18-43	27-42	28-65
3-Ottertail	8-21	4 - 6	11-23	18-25	12-22	5-10
4-Helmet- Ochre	47-129	51-137	37-109	39-83	46-97	27-87
6-Helmet	383-1088	341-898	222-544	311-659	368-725	341-763
8-Tumbling- Ochre	69-182	46-123	45-111	57-116	44-84	48-101
10-Tumbling	393-1178	399-1042	233-607	330-674	352-771	385-837
11-Numa	196-644	150-466	119-263	152-303	220-538	226-463
12-Floe	393-1169	333-810	227-531	301-648	356-716	320-690
16-Verdant	2 - 6	6-28	1-3	12-17	5-36	2-8
18-Dolly Varden	5 - 9	7-13	14-24	0-0	23-34	14-41
SUBTOTAL:	1571-4599	1414-3742	975-2413	1285-2664	1543-3225	1443-3151
Alpine huts	15-40	21-49				
Bivouacs	6-11	18-39	19-32	30-75	69-233	14-28
GRAND TOTALS	1592-4650	1453-3830	994-2445	1315-2739	1603-3458	1457-3179

Overnight Camping with the Intent to Climb:

Unfortunately in 1993 we did not always keep accurate records of how many people were issued backcountry permits with the intent to climb. We'll make sure better records are kept of this next season.

CONCLUSION:

More people than ever are interested in using the backcountry. Kootenay continues to have the reputation of some of the most scenic backcountry trails in the Rocky Mountain National Parks. Reservations to use our backcountry are made by employees from other parks as well as many international visitors. There seems to be a trend for larger groups to hike here: Yamnuska Climbing School, Banff Cadet Camp and Okanagan Mission School are some groups that used our park extensively. The Information Centre continues to receive compliments on the trails and the backcountry campgrounds' set up.

Considering that the Floe Lake Trail and Stanley Glacier Trail are among the highest use trails in the backcountry, it is shameful that the trailheads have no outhouses. This necessary improvement would do much to enhance Kootenay National Park's credibility with the public.

Government Gouvernement
of Canada du Canada

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

To A	*-- Superintendent All Coet Centre Managers All Wardens Mik Peines	--*	Classification
From De	*-- Perry Jacobson Chief Park Warden	*-- *--	Our file/notre reference 4074-1
			Your file/votre reference
			Date October 22, 1990

Subject Kootenay National Park Backcountry Management Plan
Objet

We are in the process of starting the Backcountry Management Plan for Kootenay Park. In order to have everyone's input please fill out the attached forms and return them to the Chief Park Warden or the Warden Office by December 15, 1990.

Your participation is essential and appreciated.

RRC/sh

KOOTENAY BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Backcountry Management Problems

Instructions for filling out forms:

- Problem:** State a clear title of the issue.
- Potential Impacts:** Give a good description of the impact or the expected impacts.
- Solution Objectives:** Objectives must clearly outline your solution to the problem.

The first sheets identify the problems we have identified. Please fill out the potential impacts you feel these problem's have or could have and your solution objectives.

On the blank sheets identify any additional problems and fill out the potential impacts and your solution objectives.

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

Overuse of sites and inadequate rehabilitation and unsatisfactory waste management.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

Trail construction and bridge standards.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

Poorly marked park boundaries.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

Inadequate communication to, and education of, user groups about the backcountry, ie. trailhead information.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

Commercial use of the backcountry, unlicensed outfitters, and the lack of formal definition of guides and outfitters. Definition of guides and outfitters.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

The need to improve inter-agency co-operation.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

Outfitter access through park to hunting areas.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

Campsites and Random Camping.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

Fireroads.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

The dreaded mountain bike.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

Ski Touring.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

Trail construction standards - zoning.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

Zoning of the park.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

Bridge standards = backcountry.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

Administrative responsibilities in regards to maintenance of trail and facilities, permits, public info, facility standards and staff training.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

PROBLEM:

POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

SOLUTION OBJECTIVES:

4074-1/K2

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MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

Canadian Parks
Service

Service canadien
des parcs

Harvey/PP+L/994-2698

Security-Class.-Sécurité
Our file -N / Référence 4074-1
Your file -V /Référence
Date MAY 10 1989

TO : DISTRIBUTION
A

FROM : Director,
Natural Resources Branch
DE

Subject PROCEEDINGS, AQUATIC WORKSHOP
Objet

I am pleased to enclose for your reference and information a copy of the Proceedings from the recently-held national workshop on Use and Management of Aquatic Resources in Canada's National Parks.

The workshop was co-sponsored by the Natural Resources Branch and the Heritage Resources Centre, and took place at the University of Waterloo in November 1988. Approximately 100 persons attended; most participants were Canadian Parks Service staff working at the field or Regional Office level.

This workshop was the largest that has ever been held by the Natural Resources Branch and it was also one of the most successful. Management of aquatic species and habitats is a topic which deserves greater attention from all of us and I hope that you will find these Proceedings useful in that regard.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information regarding the workshop or these Proceedings.



D. M. Lohnes

D. M. Lohnes

	NOTE	ACTION
SUPT		17/19/89
SEC		
CWMGR		
GFA		
CVS	✓	
CPW	✓	DM
CPI	✓	
ACSO		
TECH OFF		
SR A CR		
P & P CR		
ACCT CR		
ENG CR		
W. S. G.		
W. S. G. - Shields		
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