

FACTS ON

Filming in Alberta's Parks & Protected Areas

Parks and protected areas are often desirable locations for filming and still photography. Alberta Community Development recognizes the positive economic impact of the commercial film industry. While the ministry recognizes this important role, commercial filming and still photography in parks and protected areas is considered a privilege.

Commercial filming and still photography are permitted when the projects do not conflict with, or take precedence over, public use of recreational facilities or licenced commercial operations, and are not harmful to the environment. Commercial users must also have the proper insurance and liability coverage.

All commercial filming and still photography projects in parks and protected areas must be approved before the start of filming. Alberta Community Development has authority under the *Provincial Parks Act*, the *Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands Act*, the *Public Lands Act* and the *Water Act* to authorize commercial filming and still photography within Alberta's parks and protected areas.

News media filming and photography related to reporting of news events do not require such authorization.

How do I apply for approval

A simple, one-window process is in place to obtain approval for commercial filming and still photography in Alberta's parks and protected areas. Information on filming is available from Parks and Protected Areas offices and the Alberta Film Commission. Applications are either faxed or mailed out.

Applicants must provide either a film script or written description of the production with their application. The application must contain sufficient information to determine if the activity should be permitted. The description must explicitly describe and document any use of wild or domestic animals, non-native plant species, fire or explosives, chemicals, artificial snow, fog machines, high risk activities or stunts, discharge of firearms, safety/emergency response planning, facility modification or new construction, off-highway vehicle use or similar activities.



Filming of 'Texas Rangers' at Dinosaur Provincial Park

Staff usually require a minimum of five business days to process an application and issue a letter of authority, if the application is approved. This time frame may be reduced or increased, depending on the complexity and nature of the application and whether or not environmental or other agency approval are required. Our staff recognize the time constraints that many film production companies operate under and will strive to accommodate the deadlines of applicants whenever possible. Parks and Protected Areas staff have a long history of working with the film industry, a good reputation for being cooperative, and a very good relationship with the Alberta Film Commission.



Filming in Alberta's Parks & Protected Areas

East Central Management Area:

Kay Olson
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Kananaskis Country:

Jim Dennis
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Northeast/Northwest Management Areas:

Norbert Raffael
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E-mail: Norbert.Raffael@gov.ab.ca

Southeast Management Area:

Dinosaur District:

Rob Hugill
Phone: 403-378-4342
E-mail: Rob.Hugill@gov.ab.ca
Sites: Dinosaur, Dry Island Buffalo Jump, Kinbrook Island, Little Fish Lake, Midland & Tillebrook provincial parks; Bigelow Reservoir, Blieriot Ferry & Horsehoe Canyon provincial recreation areas; and Hand Hills & Rumsey ecological reserves.

Cypress Hills District:

Julie McDougall
Phone: 403-893-3777
E-mail: Julie.McDougall@gov.ab.ca
Sites: Cypress Hills & Writing-on-Stone provincial parks; Bullshead Reservoir & Michelle Reservoir provincial recreation areas; Red Rock Coulee Natural Area; and Kennedy Coulee Ecological Reserve.

Southwest Management Area:

Garry Hellinga
Phone: 403-382-4099
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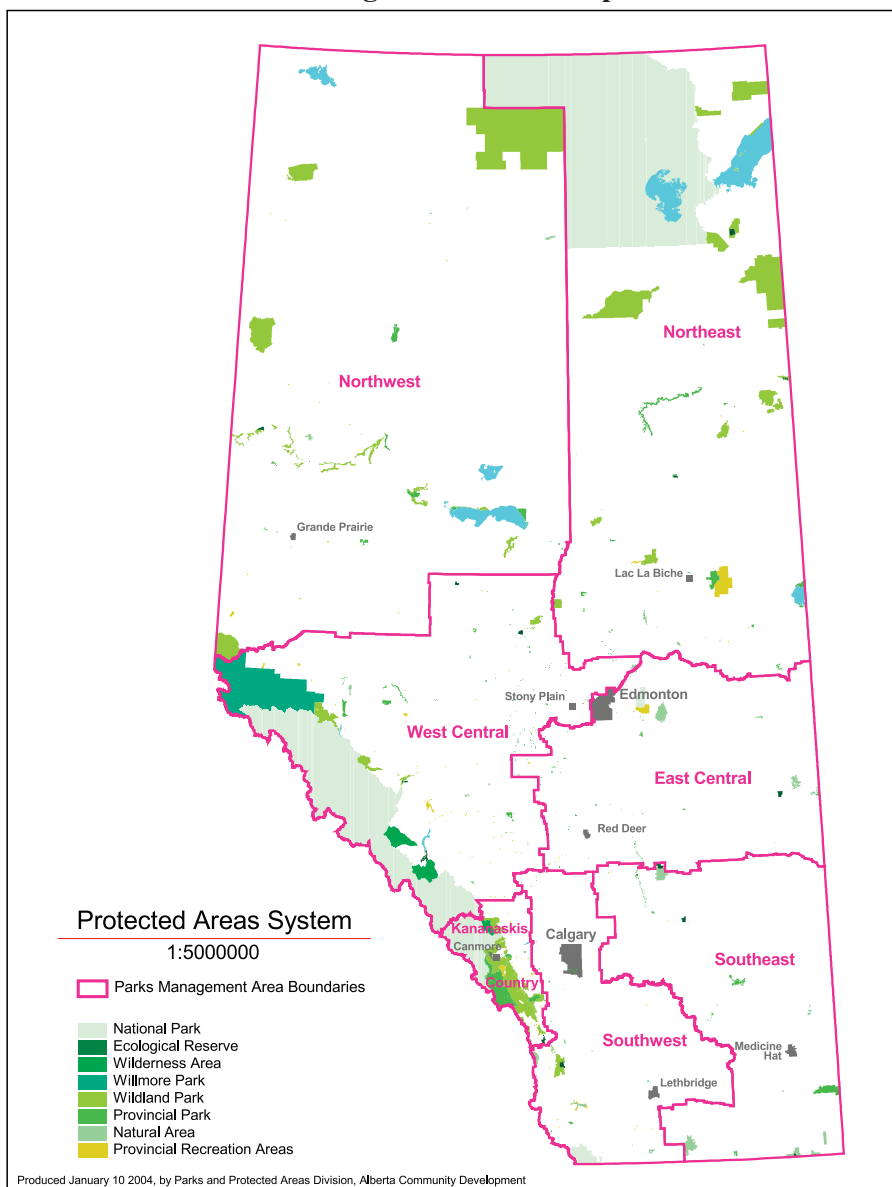
West Central Management Area:

Kyle Clifford
Phone: 780-963-6131 ext. 240
E-mail: Kyle.Clifford@gov.ab.ca

Fees

There is no cost for a permit application. The fee for departmental support and monitoring services related to commercial filming and still photography projects in parks and protected areas will normally be charged to the production company at a set daily rate. For projects requiring only minimal support and/or monitoring services, the fee may be reduced or waived at the discretion of staff.

Alberta's Parks and Protected Areas Management Areas Map



To call toll free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000 and dial the number.