



## Additional Vehicle Rates Policy

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**NAME OF POLICY:** Additional Vehicle Rates Policy

**APPLICATION:** This policy is to be referred to by Regional Managers when determining fees for additional vehicles at a recreation site.

**ISSUANCE:** Branch Director

**IMPLEMENTATION:** Provincial

**REFERENCES:** the *Forest Recreation Regulation*

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS POLICY:** none

**POLICY AMENDMENT** This policy can be amended with Branch Director Approval


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Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

October 23, 2017

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Date

Approved Amendments		
Effective Date	Approval	Summary of Changes
November 19, 2019	 Robert van der Zalm A/Director	Formatting changes to align with Ministry standard for policy documents.  Minor amendments to reflect change to definition of the term, 'party' in the Forest Recreation Regulation.
Click here to enter a date.		

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## 1. General

This policy applies to:

- The determination of additional vehicle fees for camping in established recreation sites.

This policy does not apply to:

- Recreation sites or trails where no user fees are charged; activities other than camping.

## 2. Principles

Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) has developed a consistent approach to the use of a fee for service for additional vehicles across the province.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide direction to Regional Managers (RM) when determining the fee for service for additional vehicles;
- Establish consistency and predictability in the way fees are charged at recreation sites across the province;
- Influence users' behavior towards limiting the number of vehicles on a recreation site; and
- Generate revenue to pay for the additional wear and tear on in site roads and parking areas resulting from additional traffic (e.g. road grading and dust control).

A fee for additional vehicles must be determined by the RM under a fee determination.

## 3. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

*Fee for Service* – is a fee charged to the user to generate revenue, on a cost recovery basis, to provide for a service.

*Service* – is as defined in the Forest Recreation Regulation.

*Party* – is as defined in the Forest Recreation Regulation.

*Recreation Site* – refers to a site established under section 56 of *the Forest and Range Practices Act*.

## 4. Regulated Authority

Part 5 of the Forest Recreation Regulation provides guidance and authority for the application of a fee for the use of a recreation site or trail.

### Part 5 — Fees

#### Fees for use of recreation site or trail

- 22** (1) In this section, "**service**" means, in relation to a recreation site or trail,
- (a) maintenance and repair of the recreation site or trail,
  - (b) supervision at the recreation site or trail,
  - (c) provision of overnight camping facilities, parking facilities, boat launch ramps, mooring buoys, warming huts or cabins on the recreation site or trail,
  - (d) grooming or setting ski tracks on the recreation trail, or
  - (e) provision of similar improvements for recreation purposes included in the list described in subsection (5).
- (2) The minister may determine that a fee is required to use a recreation site or trail if he or she is satisfied that the fee is justified by the provision of the service at the site or trail.
- (3) If a determination is made under subsection (2) the minister must set the fee at an amount that does not exceed an amount calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{Amount} = (AC/N)$$

where

**AC** is the annual cost of providing the service, estimated by the minister when the fee is first set for the year, and

**N** is the number of times the service will be used by the public, estimated by the minister when the fee is first set for the year.

- (4) The minister may cancel a determination made under subsection (2), if satisfied that the service provided at the recreation site or trail does not justify the fee.

The authority to determine a fee for service is delegated to the Regional Managers for Recreation Sites and Trails (RSTBC).

The *Forest Recreation Regulation* Part 1, Definitions, implies there will be an additional fee for the use of a recreation site for groups exceeding the definition of a party.

"**party**" means individuals who

- (a) together, form a group of
  - (i) not more than six persons, or
  - (ii) parents and their unmarried children under the age of 19, or guardians and their unmarried wards under the age of 19, and
- (b) arrive at a recreation site
  - (i) in not more than one motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, unless the additional motor vehicle is towed,

(ii) on foot, by bicycle, motorcycle or watercraft, or

(iii) by a combination of the means in subparagraphs (i) and (ii);

For this reason, there is currently an additional charge to groups larger than 6 persons, and similarly there would be a charge for additional vehicles.

The additional vehicle fee is a regulated fee and should therefore be determined by the RM for RSTBC.

## 5. Fee Criteria

The following fee criteria can be considered when determining a fee for service.

- **Simplicity** - Fees should be easy for the public to understand and applied equitably and consistently for all consumers.
- **Appropriate amount and rates** – Fees should be based on cost recovery (non-commercial), or justification provided for lower than cost recovery percentages.
- **Consolidation** - Fees should be consolidated as much as possible to minimize the overall number of fees in a schedule (e.g., a partner managing a large number of recreation sites should attempt to charge similar fees for similar services over the entire area they are managing). This is consistent with government's deregulation and simplification objectives, and the public interest.
- **Cost Justification** - Partners submitting proposals for new or increased fees must provide detailed information on the costs of the services for which the fees are being charged (i.e., how the proposed fees fit into the formula).
- **Enhanced Service** - Any increased fees must demonstrate an enhancement in the level of services for which the fees are being charged.

These criteria are not binding on the decision makers. However, they are worth considering when determining a fee for service.

## 6. Fee Determination

The fee should meet the requirements of simplicity and a consolidation fee structure, by minimizing the overall number of fees in the fee schedule, however without restricting the operational considerations of recreation sites. The additional vehicle fee will be 50% of the regular camping fee.

Rates for seniors and persons with disabilities apply to additional vehicle fees, as per the RSTBC Camping Fees for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Policy. This means, for example, that if the regular camping fee is \$15 and the additional vehicle fee is 50% of the regular camping fee, the senior's party would pay \$7.50 for camping and \$3.75 for an additional vehicle.

If the fee is under consideration to be waived, the RM should consider:

- An assessment of the incremental cost of additional vehicles to the agreement holder;

- An assessment of available parking space at the recreation site; and
- Other options available to limit the number of vehicles on a site.

*Transition Provisions for Coast Recreation Sites:*

Some recreation sites in the Coast region have an established second vehicle rate of 100% of the regular camping fee. Site operators have based operational plans and operation proposals on this fee structure. Opportunities to align the fee structure with this policy should be considered where current agreements expire and are re-tendered or in consultation with site operators where new fee determinations are made. Where fees cannot be reduced from the current 100% level, regional managers may opt to maintain the 100% fee based on an appropriate rationale and fee determination.

## **7. Procedure**

The additional vehicle fee will be 50% of the camping fee, and will change when camping fees are adjusted as part of the normal fee determination process

The DRO will ensure the fee is posted at the recreation site and will update the Forest Tenure Administration database.

## **8. Permit Issuance**

A separate permit must be issued in all instances where an additional vehicle fee is charged. The permit sale is to be recorded in the annual revenue and expense report for the recreation site.