



Non-Motorized Paragliding and Hang Gliding

Non-motorized paragliding and hang gliding have not been permitted in national parks by regulation for at least 30 years.

Description

Participants launch from a high point and use a chute or rigid wing to catch rising currents of air. They eventually land at a different location.

Hang glider wings are made of rigid or semi-rigid materials and are heavier and less portable than the chutes used by paragliders. However, paragliders are slower than hang gliders.

Guidelines for Hang Gliding and Paragliding

1. Consistency with Policy

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

Parks Canada will work with the Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association of Canada (HPAC)¹ in order to identify the management approach to this activity in Jasper National Park. As hang gliding and paragliding are new recreational activities in Jasper National Park, and peer reviewed research on its impacts indicates that they can be more significant for alpine ungulates than existing activities, Parks Canada will be cautious in its approach and initially permit this activity on a two-year trial basis for personal use only (i.e. no commercial or special events permitted). During this time, data collection will provide Parks Canada with information on the nature and frequency of potential impacts associated with these activities.

Parks Canada will work with the Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association of Canada (HPAC) in order to develop best practices for paragliding and hang gliding in Jasper National Park (see Appendix 1). This will include measures to reduce user conflicts and wildlife disturbance.

During the initial two-year pilot, no commercial activities (e.g. tandem flying) or special events will be considered.

Hang gliding and paragliding is not permitted at Marmot Basin under the *Marmot Basin Site Guidelines for Development and Use*.

¹ HPAC has secured the authority from Transport Canada to self-regulate hang gliding and paragliding activities, subject to Canadian Aviation Regulations. HPAC membership ensures that pilots have third-party liability insurance and that they have sufficient skills to fly unsupervised safely. Pilots from outside of Canada can obtain temporary HPAC membership, including liability insurance, based on International Pilot Proficiency Information cards (IPPI).



2. Zoning / Location

Hang gliding and paragliding will be permitted throughout Jasper National Park, however take offs, landings or low level flying will not be permitted in the following areas:

- Environmentally Sensitive Sites² and Zone I areas
- Zone V (the Jasper townsite)
- Marmot Basin Ski Area
- roadways and associated rights-of-way (e.g. Highway 16, Icefields Parkway)
- within 30 m of any watercourses (e.g. lakes, rivers, creeks) and their banks
- within 1000 m of active raptor nests or mineral licks

Pilots must obtain permission from the lessee or licensee before landing on a leasehold or license of occupation.

Pilots must exercise discretion when landing at Parks Canada facilities, such as picnic areas, campgrounds, and facility parking areas, and should avoid these areas during peak season³ and other busy times of the year.

Emergency landings will be permitted in accordance with Transport Canada and Parks Canada regulations.

3. Infrastructure / Footprint

No new roads will be created to support hang gliding and paragliding.

4. Environmental Considerations

Parks Canada is currently developing recovery strategies and action plans for several alpine species-at-risk in the mountain parks. This includes woodland caribou and whitebark pine, both listed as endangered and both afforded the highest level of protection possible in Canada. These guidelines may be amended at a future date to make them compliant with Species-at-Risk requirements.

Take offs, landings and flights will avoid disturbing sensitive wildlife (e.g. nesting birds, mountain goats, woodland caribou).

Pilots will use official trails and routes to access areas for hang gliding and paragliding.

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

² The following Environmentally Sensitive Sites are designated in the *Jasper National Park Management Plan*: Edith Cavell Meadows, Pocahontas Ponds, and Maligne Lake Outlet.

³ Peak season in Jasper National Park runs from the May long weekend to the September (Labour Day) long weekend.



5. Safety and Risk Management

Hang gliding and paragliding will be practiced according to industry/association standards and rules.

Pilots must be members of HPAC to fly 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 iconic views.