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PWS Standing Camp Policy and Procedures PWS P-017

1 Purpose

This Policy provides a definition of a 'standing camp' and sets out procedures for assessing standing camp proposals and operations.

For the purpose of this Policy, a standing camp is defined as: "a temporary bush camp providing overnight camping opportunities associated with commercial guided walk operations where accommodation is provided in tents, or tent-like structures on reserved land". It provides a guided tour operator with the exclusive use of a campsite for a prescribed period each year to operate a commercial camping facility as part of an organised guided tour experience. Such opportunities appeal to visitors seeking an authentic camping experience in a natural environment but who may not have the confidence or equipment to do so.

The Policy and Procedures apply to land declared 'reserved land' under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* which is managed under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* and where the Director of National Parks and Wildlife is the managing authority.

This Policy does not apply to:

- standing camp proposals submitted before [date of approval]; or
- existing commercial guided walk operations that are hut-based.

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2 Definitions

Agreement	Refers to a lease or licence to occupy issued under Section 48 of the <i>National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002</i> .
Boardwalk	A constructed narrow walkway within the camp area required to control potential environmental damage from repeated pedestrian access. Generally anchored into the ground, but may be raised above-ground where required. Typically timber planking, decking, or a non-timber walkway mesh surface.
Camp	Means the standing camp to be erected, maintained and used within the camp area. Where the context requires it includes all infrastructure and equipment associated therewith.
Camp area	Means the area within the reserve in which the camp is to be erected and operated.
Camp platform	A constructed level structure on which the camp tents can be erected. Generally placed on, and anchored into the ground, but may be raised above the ground where required. Typically made of decking timber or a similar mesh surface. The size to be limited to the size of the tent with a small extension at the entrance.
Controls	Actions taken, or to be taken, to avoid or reduce adverse impacts and maximise beneficial impacts.
Cultural heritage	Refers to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage values.
Cultural significance (values)	Same meaning as that defined in the Burra Charter ¹ . Refers to aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Includes Aboriginal and historic cultural values. Cultural values encompass social as well as recreational values, but are often separated to highlight this distinction.
DPIPWE	Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.
Expressions of Interest (EOI)	A process undertaken to seek the best possible external (non-PWS) operator for a particular activity and giving all potential operators a fair and equal opportunity to put forward and present their proposals.
High Quality Wilderness	Refers to assessment of wilderness quality with a value equal to or greater than 12.
Hut-based operations	Provision of commercial overnight accommodation in a habitable building(s) consisting of solid walls and/or a roof, or other built structures not satisfying the definition of a standing camp (clause 4.2.1). May comprise more than one structure, including separate huts for cooking, toilets and/or storage.
Impact	Includes any adverse or beneficial changes.
Level of Service	The combination of built facilities (e.g. access, information, amenities) and management actions (e.g. facility servicing, guided walks) provided by the PWS, or those operating on behalf of the PWS, to enhance the visitor's recreational experience and enjoyment of the area and to protect reserve values from adverse impacts.
Natural Significance	Natural significance means the importance of ecosystems, biological diversity and geodiversity for their existence value, or for present or future generations in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and life-support value. ²

¹ Australian ICOMOS, 1999, *The Burra Charter: the Australian ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*. Australian ICOMOS

² Australian Heritage Commission, 1997, *Australian Natural Heritage Charter*; Australian Heritage Commission

PWS	Parks and Wildlife Service.
RAA	Reserve Activity Assessment: the PWS set of processes and documents used to identify, assess, control and monitor environmental impacts.
Reserve	All land including land covered by water, and the water reserved under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i> .
Reserve Management Objectives	Refers to objectives listed for a particular class of reserved land in Schedule 1 of the <i>National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002</i> .
Reserve Values	The <i>natural significance</i> and/or <i>cultural significance</i> of an object, site or place within a reserve.
Recreation Management Zone (RMZ)	Areas defined as a Recreation Management Zone in Management Plans, the General Management Plan, or site Plans.
Recreational setting	The place where recreational activity takes place. Defined by the combination of physical, social and managerial conditions or attributes of a place.
Recreation Standards Framework (RSF)	A framework that describes a range of recreational settings, facility types, and standards that enables the PWS to provide a spectrum of recreational experiences from the remote (wilderness) to urban recreational settings.
Site Analysis	The site analysis identifies existing physical conditions, natural and cultural values, as well as existing use and development that will influence or constrain the site plan and other development (e.g. landscape plans).
Should	In this policy <i>should</i> is used to state the desirable practice for most situations and is to be interpreted by branch or regional managers taking account of the context of the situation. 'Should' statements will be applied unless there are good reasons for making exceptions and acceptable environmental outcomes are achieved.
Social	Spiritual, political, natural or other cultural sentiment of a group of people or community that they attribute to a place.
Standing camp	A temporary bush camp providing overnight camping opportunities associated with commercial guided walk operations where accommodation is in tents or tent-like structures as specified in 4.2.1.
Use	Refers to all types of use and development, including recreational, tourism, management-related, commercial and private use and infrastructure development.
Visitor capacity	The maximum amount and type of visitor use that an area can accommodate while maintaining desired resource (environmental) conditions and visitor experiences.
Visitor experience	The perceptions, feelings and reactions that a visitor has before, during and after a visit to an area.
Visitor Services Management Zone (VSMZ)	Areas defined as a Visitor Services Management Zone in management plans, the General Management Plan, or site plans.
Will and Must	In this Policy, <i>will</i> or <i>must</i> is used to state a required practice. 'Will' or 'must' statements have to be complied with.

3 Background and Context

3.1 History

The first standing camp on reserved land in Tasmania was set up at Forest Lagoon, Port Davey, in the Southwest National Park. An agreement was issued in 1981 to a company that had been providing bushwalking tours in the park since 1975. Visitors were flown into the area and taken by boat to the campsite, where they stayed for eight days. The accommodation was in large tents, and the facilities included air mattresses, toilets, tables and chairs. The camp was fully catered and clients were given a choice of activities, including various walks and boating activities.

The next standing camps approved were within Freycinet National Park at Bluestone Bay and Cooks Beach in 1995. These camps were set up to provide overnight tent accommodation during multi-day bushwalking tours. Since then, a number of standing camps have been approved to provide a camping experience for those clients unaccustomed to camping in natural areas. They have generally been designed around non-permanent tent style structures that can cater for up to 10 clients. Over time, existing standing camps and proposals have evolved to include the installation of semi-permanent structures, which is a significant departure from the original intent of the Standing Camp Policy and can have unintended consequences on existing visitors' experience and the environment. This, in association with changes to Tasmania's building regulatory framework, has prompted a review of the Policy.

The key changes in this Policy are:

- Clarifying the distinction between standing camps and other accommodation, such as semi-permanent structures and permanent structures, including huts.
- Providing a definition of a 'standing camp'.
- Clarifying the recreational setting in which standing camps are appropriate and the recreational experience they can offer, thus providing a point of difference with other types of accommodation.
- Recognising that some existing 'standing camps' are semi-permanent and clearly not consistent with the original concept of a standing camp; they can continue to operate, but will no longer be recognised or defined as a standing camp.
- Removal of the Type C standing camp as this type of built accommodation was a significant departure from what was originally intended. This change will have no impact on the operation of existing Type C standing camps, however they will be subject to review at the end of their agreed term (refer section 6.7).

3.2 Guiding Principles

PWS Recreational Settings and Experiences

The PWS aims to provide a variety of recreational and visitor experiences suited to the range of natural and cultural environments typically found in Tasmania's parks and reserves. The PWS uses the RSF to distinguish different user groups; the experience they seek; and the different recreational settings in which those experiences may be realised. The recreational setting is a combination of the *physical*, *social* and *managerial* attributes of an area in which a recreational activity takes place. Each of these attributes comprise the following elements:

Physical	vegetation, landscape, wildlife, topography, scenery, area (size), distance from nearest road/development, naturalness
Social	level of use, type of use, crowding
Managerial	levels of service including on-site facilities that accommodate and direct use and impacts (e.g. walking tracks, toilets, barriers, signage, fencing tracks and roads)

The quality of a recreational experience depends on maintaining the physical, social and managerial attributes to ensure they are complementary and consistent. These attributes must be appropriate to the level of use, otherwise poor visitor experiences or environmental degradation may occur. The PWS RSF policy and procedures detail the physical, social and managerial attributes for the full range of recreational settings.

Consequently, the first key guiding principle is that the provision of a standing camp should not be inconsistent with the physical, social and managerial attributes that make up the recreational setting.

In order to maintain opportunities for quality recreational experiences, this policy specifies which management zones and recreational (RSF) zones should accommodate standing camps. This ensures that the reserve values are assessed through the management zoning process, and the recreational setting is maintained – that is, the number of people using an area – and standing camp structures are not substantially different to the current level and type of use.

The Standing Camp Visitor Experience

The visitor experience is one where the visitor feels they are getting away from civilisation. Whether this experience is achieved depends on the visitor's previous overnight experiences in natural areas. Most visitors will achieve a sense of remoteness in a camp that is in a natural setting without the need to travel to more remote or wilderness areas. The simpler the accommodation, the more likely the visitor will feel at one with the environment. The appeal for visitors is that they do not have to carry their equipment or cook, and they are hosted by a guide who provides a high quality interpretive experience. Consequently, a standing camp provides a safe camping experience for those who are not adept at camping,

or equipped to do so. This type of experience differs from staying in hut or lodge style accommodation with four solid walls and modern conveniences.

Standing camps are usually permitted in reserves where tent-based camping is the normal type of visitor accommodation, and tent-like standing camps are less likely to seem out of place to other visitors. The two user groups most likely to seek camping experiences that standing camps can offer are the RSF user groups Easy Access Campers and Bushcamping Get-Away. Those classed as Easy Access Campers tend to seek overnight camping in predominantly natural settings accessible by vehicle. These visitors expect a camping experience and the associated facilities to be low risk and well serviced. Visitors classed as Bushcamping Get-Away usually seek overnight camping in a natural setting with some facilities provided. Access is via four-wheel drive or on foot.

Protection of Wilderness Recreational Experiences

Tasmania's reserves are renowned for the opportunity for visitors to experience remote wilderness settings that are largely devoid of any obvious modern-day human impact. The conservation of these recreational settings is the focus of one of the management objectives for National Parks listed in the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*¹:

(j) to preserve the natural, primitive and remote character of wilderness areas.

The protection of wilderness recreational settings is also a key management objective of the Wilderness Zone within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The RSF aims to maintain opportunities for remote, wilderness recreational experiences by maintaining large natural areas mostly devoid of human impacts.

A key guiding principle is that the provision of standing camps should not adversely impact high quality wilderness recreational settings.

3.3 Assessment Processes and Lease or Licence Conditions

Standing camp proposals must be consistent with the requirements set out in the relevant management plan approved under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*. Approved management plans may contain requirements around the provision and operation of standing camps. If the policy and procedures contained in this document are inconsistent with the provisions of any approved management plan, the provisions of a management plan will prevail (to the extent of the inconsistency).

The PWS [Environmental Risk Management Policy PWS-EP-300](#) requires assessment of all activities that have the potential to impact on reserve values. The Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA) is the process used to assess impacts. Any proposal for a new standing camp, or to expand or modify an existing camp, needs to be assessed via the RAA process.

In order to establish and operate a standing camp within a reserve, a lease or licence is required. Standard conditions that should be covered by lease or licence conditions are detailed under Section 6 of this policy.

¹ Schedule 1 *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*

3.4 Tasmanian building framework

The *Building Act 2016* (BA) provides the legislative framework for all building, plumbing and demolition work in Tasmania. The BA is supported by the *Building Regulations 2016*, Director's Determinations, Director's Guidelines, and specified lists and forms.

Classification of buildings and structures has been established under the National Construction Code. The determination of the class of structures associated with a standing camp depends on the purpose for which it is designed, constructed or adapted for use. Each proposal will require a Building Surveyor to assess and determine building requirements on a case-by-case basis.

4 Policy

4.1 Effect of Approved Management Plan

- 4.1.1 If policies and procedures contained in this document are inconsistent with the provisions of any approved management plan, the provisions of management plan will prevail (to the extent of the inconsistency).

4.2 Standing Camps

- 4.2.1 A standing camp must be:

- (a) temporary in nature and tent-like in structure and appearance (e.g. small scale, with walls and roofing constructed of canvas or material similar to that of a tent);
- (b) lightweight and easy to pack up and be removed within 24 hours; and
- (c) sitting on a natural surface with no permanent anchors unless:
 - i. the standing camp is located in a visitor services site; or
 - ii. in the opinion of the PWS, semi-permanent camping platforms or track surfacing (duck boarding) is deemed essential to protect the environment.

- 4.2.2 Toilet facilities already provided by the PWS may be utilised by a standing camp operator subject to:

- (a) the toilet facilities having the capacity to accommodate additional use;
- (b) the operator contributes to the maintenance of the toilet facilities; and
- (c) the formal management arrangements are documented in the lease or licence.

- 4.2.3 Standing camps will only be provided in Visitor Services Management Zones or Recreation Management Zones.

- 4.2.4 If an area has not been designated a management zone, then this needs to be undertaken in accordance with the process outlined in the PWS Reserve Management Zoning Policy P-003, and form part of a proposal.

- 4.2.5 The provision of a standing camp must be consistent with the recreational settings prescribed in the RSF. Standing camps will not be approved in areas where the camp would change the recreational setting.

- 4.2.6 Interpretation should be an integral part of the standing camp operation.

4.3 Standing Camps in Recreation Management Zones (RMZ)

4.3.1 Standing camps within a RMZ will only be permitted:

1. In the following (RSF) classified zones:
 - (a) Easy-Access Camping Mid;
 - (b) Easy-Access Camping Basic;
 - (c) Bushcamping Get-Away Mid;
 - (d) Bushcamping Get-Away Basic; or
2. In areas where the recreational setting (prescribed in the RSF) is consistent with the above zones.

4.3.2 Hardened camping platforms and track surfaces (boardwalks) are only permitted if the platforms and boardwalks are essential for environmental protection (see 4.2.1(c)(ii)).

4.3.3 The total platform or building floor area, including sleeping and communal areas, toilets and amenities, but excluding walkways, must not exceed 8m²/person.

4.3.4 Apart from any camping platforms and boardwalks (satisfying 4.3.2 and 4.2.1(c)(ii)) the entire camp must be removed for at least 12 weeks each year, during which time the camp will not be operated.

4.3.5 Temporary track surfacing (e.g. matting) may be approved for use within the camp area to connect individual camping structures.

4.3.6 Wastewater (sewage and grey water) must be captured (not disposed to ground) and periodically removed. Total on-site storage capacity must not exceed 800 litres.

4.3.7 Aircraft cannot be used to transport guests to or from the camp.

4.3.8 Aircraft should only be used to transport the camp supplies at the start and end of the season, and essential servicing.

4.3.9 The maximum number of people (including guides) that can be accommodated at a standing camp within a RMZ is specified in the PWS Track Classification Scheme (P-036) which may be updated from time to time (see also 6.1.6).

4.4 Standing Camps in Visitor Services Management Zones (VSMZ)

4.4.1 Standing camps within a VSMZ will only be permitted in areas either classified, or consistent with, the following RSF classifications:

- (a) Easy-Access Camping Complex;
- (b) Easy-Access Camping Mid; or

(c) Bushcamping Get-Away Mid.

- 4.4.2 The standing camp must be dismantled and packed-up for a continuous period of at least 12 weeks in each year, during which time the camp will not be operated.
- 4.4.3 Over the 12 week period, the packed-up camp material may be stored on-site, on the camp platform(s).
- 4.4.4 Use of boardwalks and platforms within a camp will be considered if they reduce ground impacts or are consistent with the standard of facilities provided in the area. The boardwalks and camp platforms may be left in situ when the camp is packed up.
- 4.4.5 The operator of the camp will continue to have responsibility for the entire site for the period the camp is broken down; however, the operator will only have the ability to occupy that part of the site where the standing camp infrastructure and equipment is stored.
- 4.4.6 Within a VSMZ, wastewater (sewage and grey water) can be either stored and periodically removed from the site; or treated and disposed to ground in accordance with statutory requirements. (See also 5.3.8 – 5.3.9.)
- 4.4.7 The number of people that can be accommodated at a standing camp located within a VSMZ is dependent on an assessment of the site's visitor capacity.

5 Assessment Procedures and Requirements

5.1 Expression of Interest (EOI)

- 5.1.1 The Director of National Parks and Wildlife may decide to offer the opportunity to develop a standing camp to the public via a PWS Invitation for EOI (IEOI) process. The IEOI program identifies the best possible operator for a particular business opportunity, while at the same time giving all potential proponents fair and equal opportunity to present their proposal.
- 5.1.2 An IEOI will generally be considered when:
- (a) there is more than one proponent seeking a site which only has the *visitor capacity* for one commercial operator; or
 - (b) a commercial opportunity has been identified and the Government is seeking the best operator and/or financial return from that opportunity.

5.2 Assessment Process for New, Expanded or Modified Standing Camps

- 5.2.1 Any proposal for a new standing camp or proposal to expand or modify an existing standing camp will require assessment via the reserve activity assessment (RAA) process.
- 5.2.2 The assessment must include all direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of activities associated with the camp, including access to and from the camp area, operation of the camp and daily activities of the clients. If relevant, aircraft operations (including the frequency of flights, flight paths, and duration each year) must be detailed in the assessment.

Information Requirements

- 5.2.3 Depending on the scope and scale of the proposal, the following information is generally required to be submitted for a new standing camp:
- (a) How the proposal complies with the requirements contained in this document.
 - (b) How the proposed camp is in the public interest and fits with the management objectives for the site, and/or tourism goals for the area.
 - (c) Alternative options considered to establishing a standing camp.
 - (d) A Site Analysis identifying existing physical conditions, and natural and cultural values, as well as existing use and development that may influence or constrain the site plan and other development (e.g. landscape works).
 - (e) A Site Plan indicating the extent of the camp area, number and location of tents, toilet facilities and other infrastructure, as well as access to and within the camp area.

- (f) A Visual Impact Assessment and photomontage/artist impression that represents the standing camp in the context of the surrounding environment and assessment of visual impacts.
- (g) A Bushfire Protection Plan covering bushfire risk assessment controls implemented to eliminate or control the risks and emergency response.
- (h) A Business Plan including:
 - i. assessment of economic viability of the business and how it contributes to the local/regional economy; and
 - ii. details of the operators' business history.
- (i) Financial or resourcing implications for the PWS or Tasmanian Government, including expected maintenance or upgrading of reserve infrastructure.
- (j) A Waste Management Plan which identifies the quantity and treatment of sewage, grey water and solid waste.
- (k) A client safety risk assessment and risk control plan that includes operational procedures and response plans to potential emergencies.
- (l) An Interpretation Plan that sets out the interpretive themes, staff training and interpretation strategy for the standing camp operation.
- (m) An Operations Plan that covers:
 - i. operating and servicing guidelines (including details of how the camp will run on a day-to-day basis) and includes maintenance and works during rest/non-operational periods;
 - ii. proposed number of clients and trips per week/operational season;
 - iii. proposed access route and method (e.g. walking, vehicle, boat);
 - iv. camp set-up methods and break-down and storage procedures; and
 - v. biosecurity and hygiene protection measures.

5.3 Assessment Criteria and Requirements

5.3.1 In addition to the requirements of the Policy set out in section 4, standing camps should not be supported when:

- (a) There is likely to be a significant adverse impact on any reserve values, including:
 - i. flora, fauna, geoh heritage or landscape values of significance; and/or
 - ii. Aboriginal or historic values.

- (b) The use is likely to significantly exceed *visitor capacity*, i.e. there is likely to be significant change to the recreational setting (RSF category) through changes to one or more of the following:
 - i. the natural environment (e.g. vegetation clearance or ground modification is required);
 - ii. the level and type of use (e.g. increased use that is likely to impact on the enjoyment or use of the area by other people); or
 - iii. the level or type of facilities (e.g. the number or type of facilities that are inconsistent with the recreational setting).
- (c) The camp directly competes with or duplicates existing commercial products, unless the demand for new or additional product can be demonstrated.

5.3.2 Standing camps should be located:

- (a) on previously disturbed or hardened sites where they exist, rather than on undisturbed sites;
- (b) to avoid limb or tree fall risks, and the need to remove or manage tree-related risks;
- (c) nearby existing access infrastructure (to minimise the need for new or upgraded access infrastructure – roads and tracks);
- (d) at least 30 metres from watercourses and waterbodies;
- (e) at least 30 metres from the high-water mark in coastal locations;
- (f) away from areas of potential coastal vulnerability; and
- (g) away from areas that pose very high fire risks, unless sufficient mitigation measures can be implemented.

5.3.3 Standing camps must not change *high quality wilderness* values.

5.3.4 The camp area should be the minimum required to establish and operate the camp, taking account of the local setting, including separation from public camping sites and high visitation areas.

5.3.5 Notwithstanding 5.3.2(b); any vegetation and trees encompassed by the standing camp area must be managed by the operator to reduce risks to the health and safety of workers and clients. (See also 6.1.5).

5.3.6 Prior to finalising an Agreement, the operator must pay for a site survey and preparation of a detailed camp area map defining the boundaries of the operational area subject to the Agreement.

- 5.3.7 The camp must be of a form and constructed of materials that blend in with the surroundings, e.g. muted bush tones and colours.
- 5.3.8 Grey water and sewage infrastructure and plumbing must be acceptable to the PWS and approved by the relevant local council (as the regulatory authority).
- 5.3.9 New toilet systems will usually require a Special Plumbing Permit from the relevant local council.
- 5.3.10 Access tracks and roads to be constructed, used or maintained by the operator and clients must comply with the PWS Walking Track Classification System (PWS P-036) and/or the Road Classification System (PWS P-066).

6 General Agreement Conditions

This section only covers specific conditions relevant to a standing camp lease or licence.

6.1 Operational

6.1.1 All standing camp operators must:

6.1.2 (a) Review annually their WHS and environmental risk assessments and control plans. Control actions must be incorporated into the Operations Manual.

(b) Regularly review and maintain an Operations Manual that will include but not be limited to:

- i. Operating procedures and maintenance tasks required to manage risks to health and safety, and the environment (e.g. bushfire risks, tree and limb fall risks), including implementation of a monitoring program (see 6.2).
- ii. Guide induction and training (see 6.1.8).
- iii. Site plan showing the location and extent of the approved standing camp; vegetation/tree managed areas; location and type of structures; and equipment permissible under the Agreement.
- iv. Approved walking tracks that can be used as part of the camp's operation (e.g. guided walks).
- v. The means of access to and from the camp.
- vi. Biosecurity measures.
- vii. Camp set-up and break-down procedures, as well as methods of transporting camping structures and equipment to and from the site.
- viii. Environmental monitoring program.
- ix. Frequency and responsibility of reporting.

(c) Regularly review and maintain an Interpretation Plan that sets out the themes, strategy and training plan. Interpretation Plan themes must be based on the reserve values and support management objectives.

6.1.3 An Interpretation Plan must be approved by the PWS prior to the commencement of operations. If Aboriginal heritage is to be interpreted, the plan must be approved by Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania.

6.1.4 All guides must have first aid certificates up to the level of workplace safety level 2, except where circumstances require a higher qualification (e.g. more remote areas).

6.1.5 The operator must not remove trees in order to control tree limb and tree fall risks unless issued with a written authority from a delegated PWS officer.

- 6.1.6 The number of people that can be accommodated at a standing camp is dependent on the class of walking track used to access the camp. The numbers are specified in the PWS Track Classification Scheme (P-036), which may be updated from time to time. Currently the scheme allows for group sizes up to 13 on tracks within a recreation management zone. Larger group sizes are possible in a visitor services management zone so long as *visitor capacity* is not exceeded.
- 6.1.7 The clients are to be supervised by a minimum of two trained guides when staying overnight. On a day trip, the normal bushwalking guidelines apply.
- 6.1.8 The operator will have in place an induction program for all guides specific to the operation of the standing camp. The induction program is to cover aspects of safety, risk, protection of reserve values and management issues. The induction program will be set out in the Operations Manual (see 6.1(b)).
- 6.1.9 The system, route and/or mode of set-up and removal of the camp must be specified in the Operations Manual.
- 6.1.10 If required, the operator is responsible for advising the PWS the date by which the camp will be dismantled, and the date it will be re-erected in each year.

6.2 Monitoring Program

- 6.2.1 Monitoring of the camp area and camp operations should be undertaken in accordance with the program documented in the Operations Manual to observe any changes to the local environment over time as well as compliance with agreement conditions and relevant operational guidelines.
- 6.2.2 The PWS reserves the right to assess the camp and operations on an ongoing basis, and may elect to have one staff member undertake a trip or part of a trip up to one time per year at no cost to the PWS. The PWS will try to fit in at a time where spare visitor capacity exists, rather than taking a paying customer's place.
- 6.2.3 The monitoring program must be approved by the PWS and documented in the Operations Manual for inclusion in the conditions of the Agreement before the lease or licence is issued.
- 6.2.4 A photographic record of the site will be made prior to the camp being erected. Photo monitoring points will be established once the camp has been erected, then used as an annual reference after camp break-down.
- 6.2.5 The monitoring program will detail the:
- (a) environmental attributes to be monitored;
 - (b) baseline conditions of the environmental attributes to be monitored;
 - (c) how the monitoring will be conducted;
 - (d) frequency of monitoring;

- (e) responsibility for undertaking the monitoring; and
 - (f) the frequency of reporting.
- 6.2.6 The monitoring program must document agreed limits of acceptable environmental change.
- 6.2.7 The camp area is to be inspected at least annually to ensure compliance with the agreement.
- 6.2.8 Monitoring reports and associated data are to be provided to the PWS, in an agreed electronic format.
- 6.2.9 PWS monitoring and inspection reports will be made available to the operator with a list of items that require action. The operator has the right to provide the PWS with a list of their own concerns.

6.3 Agreement Renewal

- 6.3.1 One year prior to the end of the agreement period, the PWS will assess the future use of the standing camp site. This assessment will include, but not be limited to:
- (a) results of the monitoring and inspections at the site, including the camp's rating on various criteria and the operator's response to issues identified over the period of the previous agreement;
 - (b) any breaches of agreement conditions by the current operator;
 - (c) changes to the management plan or management zoning;
 - (d) new information regarding the environment at the site; and
 - (e) the history of use of the site.
- 6.3.2 As a result of the information gathered, the PWS may decide to:
- (a) negotiate with the current operator to renew the agreement;
 - (b) require changes to the structures, facilities or procedures that may lessen environmental impacts on the site;
 - (c) cease operations for a specified period of time, or until certain environmental conditions are met;
 - (d) remove the ability to apply for any future standing camps from the site; or
 - (e) terminate the contract and undertake an Invitation for Expression of Interest process for the site.

6.4 Reporting

6.4.1 The operator of a standing camp will undertake any reporting requirements as determined by the PWS. These may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) recording number of clients;
- (b) safety incidents and injuries;
- (c) environmental monitoring; and
- (d) client satisfaction surveys.

6.5 Maintenance

6.5.1 The operator will be responsible for all maintenance at the site for the duration of the agreement. This includes all rubbish removal, approved tree lopping for safety reasons, and other regular site maintenance tasks.

6.6 Rehabilitation Bond

6.6.1 In order to promote responsible management of the site, the operator of the camp may be required to pay a rehabilitation bond held in trust, or provide a bank guarantee for a set time period.

6.6.2 The rehabilitation bond may be refunded subject to satisfactory environmental performance. Where a bond or similar is negotiated and included in the agreement, the Government may deduct any cost(s) to the Government incurred in rehabilitating disturbed areas from the bond.

6.7 Existing Standing Camps

6.7.1 The PWS acknowledges that some existing standing camps may not comply with all of the conditions stated in this Policy.

6.7.2 At the end of the term of an Agreement, existing standing camps should be made to comply with this Policy. That is, the requirements contained in this Policy will, where practicable, be fully implemented with any new agreement or camp reconstruction.

6.7.3 All existing operators of standing camps will be encouraged to follow the conditions contained in this Policy.

7 Policy Owner

Director Tourism, Experience and Visitor Services.

8 Policy Document Approval

Approved by:

Director
National Parks and Wildlife

Date: