

In January 2017, BC Parks provided GP 2020 with the following protocols and restrictions related to the park use permit for Whistler Heli-skiing Ltd.

The park use permit management plan includes the following protocols and restrictions that relate to minimizing impacts to mountain goats and other wildlife:

- Follow the Wildlife Guidelines for Backcountry Tourism/Commercial Recreation in British Columbia (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/twg/index.html>), as well as the recommendations and practices for avoiding and mitigating impacts to wildlife as described in the HeliCat Canada Best Practices for Sustainability (<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55cc00fae4b0bd947546ba72/t/55fb0acde4b0a1a03de797de/1442515661332/20030500+-+Stewardship+of+Mountain+Ecosystems+-+Practices+for+Sustainability.pdf>)
- Choose standardized flight paths that avoid known wildlife habitat (including goat winter range) and adjust flight paths to avoid wildlife encountered during flights to reduce impacts to wildlife.
- The preferred and standard flight path for trips into Whistler Heli-skiing's permit area is from the Whistler Municipal Heliport by Wedge Creek north of the Phalanx Glacier. In poor weather, alternate flight paths are via Blackcomb Mountain. These flight paths all avoid flying over goat winter range.
- Whistler Heli-Skiing will avoid flying directly over mapped goat winter ranges, particularly at low elevations, unless necessary for safety reasons.
- If wildlife are inadvertently encountered during flights, Whistler Heli-Skiing will take immediate action to increase separation distances when animals react to aircraft. Flight paths are altered to avoid animals where they are observed.
- Use consistent flight paths, and identify and use regular and predictable patterns and distribution of flights.
- Helicopters will stay at distances sufficient to prevent changes to the behaviour of animals. More than 500 m line-of-sight is the default for most wildlife, but the distance will be greater for mountain goats.
- Follow a minimum 2000 m horizontal separation and 400 m vertical separation of helicopter flights from mountain goat habitat. Where flights need to occur closer to mountain goat habitat as in the Fitzsimmons drainage, Whistler Heli-Skiing will use topographic barriers to separate helicopters from mountain goat and minimize the number of flights and time spent within disturbance space.

- WHS's operating season ends April 30th in order to not interfere with mountain goat kidding periods.
- Noise reduction techniques are used on all regular takeoffs and landings whenever possible. Commonly used noise reduction techniques include avoiding excessive flaring of rotor blades during landings and pickups as well as avoiding direct over flight of visitors and wildlife.
- When on the ground Whistler Heli-Skiing will follow the following guidelines:
 - Pack out all garbage.
 - Remain still or retreat if animals are encountered and react to human presence.
 - Stay at distances sufficient to prevent changes to the behaviour of animals (at least 100 m in open areas is the default).
- Record all wildlife sightings including date, location, interaction type, number sighted, and further details in a comment box. This information will be reported annually to BC Parks.
- Use wildlife observations and monitoring to adjust flight paths, identify areas and habitats where wildlife are commonly or occasionally sighted, avoid areas where animals are regularly observed, and plan travel routes in the air and on the ground that minimize overlaps with wildlife. Use information from previous day's observations to plan the subsequent day's travel routes. The data can also be used over the longer term to identify areas frequented by wildlife that may need to be avoided or where activities may need special management.
- Annual training of all guides and pilots will cover relevant guidelines including:
 - Flight routes and minimum distances from wildlife habitat.
 - Mapped goat habitat.
 - Actions when wildlife is observed.
 - Recording and communicating wildlife observations.
 - Environmental responsibilities on the ground.
- Landings are permitted only within the heli-ski area tenure.
- Whistler Heli-Skiing will provide annual funding over the term of their permit to BC Parks for wildlife monitoring and studies in the area affected by their operations in Garibaldi Park. All study and monitoring activity focusses will be at the sole discretion of BC Parks.

A goat monitoring plan has not yet been developed, but BC Parks is currently coordinating the development of a plan. An early step in the process will likely involve hiring an appropriately

qualified consultant to develop a monitoring plan in consultation with BC Parks and individuals within and outside of government with relevant expertise and experience related to mountain goats.