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# Skoki Ski Lodge

National Historic Site of Canada

## Management Statement

2020





## Approval

*Approved by:*



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Rick Kubian  
*Field Unit Superintendent  
Lake Louise, Yoho and Kootenay  
Parks Canada*

June 23, 2020

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*Date*



## Introduction and Overview

The Parks Canada Agency manages one of the finest and most extensive systems of protected natural and historic areas in the world. The Agency's mandate is to protect and present these places for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. This management statement outlines Parks Canada's management approach and objectives for Skoki Ski Lodge National Historic Site.

Skoki Ski Lodge National Historic Site was designated in 1992. Skoki Lodge was designated because it provides a good representation of the Rustic Design Tradition, and because it is associated with outdoor recreation in the national parks. The site consists of six buildings that are of national historic significance, including the main lodge and five cabins arranged in a semi-circle around it. The main lodge was constructed in 1930 to serve as overnight accommodation for backcountry skiers. Additions to the main lodge were completed in 1932 and 1935. Two cabins were constructed in 1932, and the remaining heritage buildings were completed in 1936. Over time the mountain environment has caused some deterioration of the log buildings, and restoration work to repair the main lodge was undertaken between 2001 and 2005. Restoration work on two of the cabins was completed in 2017. Restoration of the remaining heritage buildings is scheduled for completion by 2020.

Skoki Ski Lodge is situated amid subalpine forest on a bench above Little Pipestone Creek, approximately 14.5 km from the trailhead at Lake Louise, in Banff National Park. The lodge is a well-preserved example of rustic log building design and construction, and it continues to be a popular destination for winter ski touring and summer hiking. The lodge is operated as a commercial backcountry heritage attraction by the Lake Louise Ski Area under the authority of a Licence of Occupation that expired on September 30, 2011. Several one-year notices of extension have been granted until a new Licence of Occupation is negotiated.

The Skoki area is one of four known core reproductive areas for female grizzly bears in Banff National Park. Careful management of lodge operations and human use in the Skoki area and surrounding valleys is important to maintaining grizzly bear habitat security, and to reducing the potential for human wildlife conflict.

## Management Approach

Parks Canada will prepare a new Licence of Occupation that will provide for the continued management of Skoki Ski Lodge National Historic Site by the Lake Louise Ski Area for the purpose of commercial backcountry accommodation. Building maintenance and restoration will respect the heritage values of the site, and previous interventions that are inconsistent with cultural resource management principles will be remedied. Forest vegetation surrounding the site will be carefully managed to reduce the risk of wildfire to the heritage buildings using *FireSmart* guidelines and strategies. Key messages reflecting the cultural importance of the log buildings and history of the site will be provided by the operator and Parks Canada through various media.

## Management Objectives

**Collaboration With Others:** Parks Canada and the 3<sup>rd</sup>-party operator work together to address maintenance requirements and implement operational practices that maintain or enhance cultural resources and ecosystems in the Skoki area.

**Resource Conservation:** Heritage restoration work, regular inspection and maintenance, and *FireSmart* vegetation management actions help to ensure the heritage buildings of Skoki Ski Lodge are protected and maintained in good condition. Potential for human-wildlife conflict is reduced through sound operational practices and visitor education on co-existing with wildlife in wilderness landscapes.

**Visitor Experience, Public Appreciation and Understanding:** Lodge guests and other backcountry users of the Skoki area feel welcome to explore the area surrounding the main lodge, and appreciate the heritage architecture and natural setting of the site. Key messages describing the cultural significance of the site are available to on-site visitors, as well as to others through interpretive signage, the park website and social media.

**Links:**

[Skoki Ski Lodge National Historic Site](#)

[Banff National Park](#)

**For more information, please contact:** *Banff National Park, Lake Louise, Alberta, T0L 1E0*

*Cover image: Parks Canada*