



Parks Canada
Parcs Canada



Waterton Lakes National Park
P.O. Box 200
Waterton Park, Alberta
ToK 2M0

May 24, 2017

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your correspondence of April 17, 2017, regarding the recent decision to restrict access for motorised or trailer-launched watercraft from Waterton Lakes.

As stewards of Canada's national parks, Parks Canada is dedicated to maintaining the ecological integrity of these special places and providing visitors with exceptional and meaningful experiences. This decision was made in full consideration of these important and core elements of Parks Canada's mandate.

Research to date confirms that the greatest risk of infestation is through the transfer of power boats and trailer-launched watercraft and their trailers from infested waters. As there is no evidence that contamination has occurred through the transport of human-powered watercraft, access for these types of vessels will continue, although all operators will be required to complete a mandatory self-assessment before accessing the water.

The decision followed a comprehensive review of all options to manage the risk. The most effective method to safeguard the ecological health of Waterton Lakes and protect important resources within the Park and downstream from the permanent ecological and economic impacts of invasive mussels, is to restrict motorized and trailer-launched recreational watercraft.

Full details on the decision are available on the Parks Canada website at this address: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/waterton/info/index/plans/reglements-regulations/envahissantes-invasive>.

Parks Canada understands that this decision has resulted in a change in use that has been a longstanding part of the Waterton experience for a group of visitors. It is, however, the best decision to ensure that Waterton Lakes remain free of invasive mussels, while providing the vast majority of visitors continued opportunities to experience the full majesty of the National Park.

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You may not be aware that Improvement District #4 has established a working group to explore options around this issue. Parks Canada recently met with this group. I suggest you contact them directly. Details on the initiative are available here:

<https://mywaterton.ca/community/the-clean-lake-initiative/wat6bd8c78a220755ef4>.

Their email address is: cleanlakeinitiative@gmail.com

I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Dennis Madsen
Manager, Resource Conservation

