

Shiretoko National Park

Conduct in the Use of the Shiretoko Peninsula Central Region

Points of consideration and prohibited activities
in the use of the Central Region

Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan
Kushiro Nature Conservation Office

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The contents of this document were mutually agreed upon by members of the Shiretoko National Park Proper Use Committee.

A list of Committee members is included in the end of this document.

1. Introduction

The Shiretoko National Park Shiretoko Peninsula Central Region (hereupon the “Central Region.” Diagram 1-Shiretoko Peninsula Central Region Location Map) possesses rich ecosystems formed by highly primeval natural landscapes and a diverse wildlife. Comprising the Shiretoko-goko Lakes, Shiretoko Mountain Range and Lake Rausu among other sites the Central Region is a well-known focal area long used by many people. However, concentrated and/or overuse of certain parts has had negative effects on the environment.

In light of these circumstances, a code of conduct (manners) for the use of the Central Region was established to ensure that Shiretoko will be left in better condition for future generations and continually conserved as a common heritage of humankind.

2. Conduct in the use of the Central Region

To visitors of Shiretoko National Park we request they interact with the breath-taking nature represented by the brown bear with a sense of humility and wonder, and to kindly follow the following conduct.

To nature guides and other “providers”, we request that not only they follow this conduct but to educate the general user as well. In order to have a safe and pleasant experience, it is also advised to keep up to date with new information, including that on park use restrictions.

[The Three Pillars of Park Use]

1. Environmental consciousness

So that the pristine and tranquil nature of Shiretoko National Park not be harmed, please be well aware of environmental and wildlife protection, minimize impact caused by use and do not leave traces of your visit.

2. Caution concerning brown bears

There is always a possibility that you will encounter brown bears in Shiretoko National Park. Although brown bears will not attack without reason, depending on the area there are some populations that are habituated to humans and exhibit bold behavior. It is thus important not to disturb brown bears or place yourself in dangerous situations as a result of careless behavior.

3. Respect for local livelihoods and culture

Shiretoko has long been home to many people and thus users must respect local livelihoods and culture. In doing so you may become aware of the other charms that Shiretoko has to offer.

[The Ten Promises to Shiretoko]

1. Wild animals may not be fed

You will not only disrupt natural ecosystems, but you will habituate brown bears to approach humans, cause vehicle collisions with foxes, and bring general misfortune to humans and wildlife.

2. Follow the paths

You not only face the risk of getting lost if you stray from the paths, but you will also trample plants and erode topsoil.

- Please do not enter any areas cordoned off with rope or fencing.
- Areas with fragile vegetation, especially mires and those of high altitude vegetation should not be entered.

3. It is prohibited to capture or collect, threaten or harm plants and animals in the park. Conversely, plants and animals may not be introduced into the park

Small actions can have large impact on vulnerable nature.

- When taking pictures of, or observing nature, please do not approach nesting sites, remove vegetation or commit other acts that disturb wildlife.
- Please do not threaten, or commit other acts that provoke wild animals.
- If you find a large nest in the hollow or canopy of a tree, it is probable that it is the nesting site of birds. In order to not disturb breeding, please do not approach the nest and remove yourself from the premises as quickly and as far away as possible.
- With regards to nighttime nature observation, acts that disturb or provoke wild animals such as the overuse of illumination should not be committed.
- Please do not intentionally introduce alien species into the park. Avoid unintentional introduction by removing seeds and other matter from your footwear.

4. Take your rubbish with you

This will have negative effects on the landscape and wildlife, and potentially attract brown bears.

- Rubbish should not be buried or burned. Please either take it with you or dispose of it in designated places.

5. Pets may not be brought into the park

They may provoke brown bears.

Note: Users requiring the assistance of a seeing-eye dog should consult park staff.

6. Food may not be consumed whilst walking on pathways or cooked in the open

Leftovers and the scent of food may attract brown bears, foxes and other animals.

- Cooking outdoors (especially meat and other pungent foods) outside of designated campsites is not permitted.

7. Avoid encounters with brown bears

Your actions may place you in dangerous situations. Avoiding encounters is the best safety measure.

- A sudden encounter at close range may surprise brown bears and provoke them to attack. Pay attention to your surroundings at all time, especially in areas of poor visibility. Alert bears of your presence in advance by speaking whilst walking or carrying a bell.
- Avoid entering the park in times of poor visibility such as nighttime, daybreak, dusk or when there is thick fog as this may lead to sudden encounters.
- Please do not enter areas designated as sites where bears congregate in larger numbers such as rivers where salmon spawn, during their respective seasons.
- In the event of coming across the carcasses of Yezo sika deer or marine animals washed ashore, please do not approach them and remove yourself from the premises as quickly as possible. This may be a feeding ground for bears, which may aggressively attack in order to protect their food.
- In case of an encounter outdoors, it is advisable to carry bear deterrent spray.

8. Please don't approach or provoke brown bears

Not only does this place you in personal danger, but brown bears overly habituated to humans may cause other forms of trouble.

- If you spot a bear whilst driving, you should not leave your vehicle and leave the area as quickly as possible.

- If you spot a bear whilst walking, leave the premises slowly and quietly as to not provoke it. If you panic and run you may excite the bear. Bears with cubs should not be approached at all costs.
- In the event of having your food or rubbish taken by bears or being intentionally approached by them, leave the premises as quickly as possible. Do not attempt to retrieve your belongings.
- If you spot a bear, in order to ensure the safety of others please contact the Utoro or Rausu Park Ranger Offices, Rausu Town Hall or the Shiretoko National Park Nature Center as soon as possible.

9. Reduce your speed when driving

Wildlife may run out onto the road and cause major accidents.

- In order to prevent collisions, please obey traffic regulations and be cautious of Yezo sika deer, birds and foxes running out onto the road.

10. Fishery activities may not be obstructed

These support local livelihoods.

- Please do not collect seafood.
- Acts that interfere with local fishery activities such as entry into fishing grounds or facilities (kelp drying grounds, fixed nets, huts, etc.) should not be committed.

[Mountain Climbing: Five Promises] (For climbers of the Shiretoko Mountain Range)

Although the Shiretoko Mountain Range is situated in a harsh environment, path construction was minimized to protect the area's pristine landscape. Compared to other areas, climbing the Shiretoko Mountain Range requires a high degree of skill and experience. It is thus expected that climbers have sufficient skills, experience and equipment, rely on their own judgment and take personal responsibility when climbing.

In addition to "The Three Pillars of Park Use" and "The Ten Promises to Shiretoko", we ask you to kindly respect the following additional promises.

1. Appropriate planning and preparation

Please incorporate safety and accident prevention measures into planning and equipment

- In order to plan a feasible itinerary, take your health and physical ability as well as environmental conditions into consideration.
- Notify your family of your destination and itinerary. Also, please register your name into the list posted at the trail entrance.
- Prepare sufficient warm clothing and food for the trip. Also pack safety equipment for accident prevention.

2. Appropriate measures against bears

The brown bears of Shiretoko roam freely without avoiding humans and tents. Therefore, compared to other parks extra precautions are necessary. Always be sure to be up to date with the latest information, and take appropriate measures for food storage and waste disposal, especially at campsites.

- If camping, prevent bears from approaching your tent by keeping your tent, cooking area and food storage area sufficiently apart. Never bring food or food wastes into your tent and always store food in the food lockers provided by the campsites (Diagram 2- Shiretoko Mountain Range Designated Campsites). Please do not camp near the lockers or leave your rubbish in them.
- It is dangerous to bring foods with strong odors as these will attract bears. Please select foods with minimal odors.
- Carry bear deterrent spray in case of emergency and follow instructions carefully.

3. Actions taking into consideration the conservation of plants, etc.

Please take extra precautions when mountain climbing and camping to avoid negative impacts on delicate mountain vegetation.

- Do not stray from the paths.
- Areas cordoned off with rope or fencing should not be entered.
- Areas with fragile vegetation, especially mires and those of high altitude vegetation should not be entered.
- Only camp in designated areas. Do not set up camp outside the roped perimeter of individual sites.
- If using trekking poles during the non-snowy seasons, please protect paths and vegetation by fitting poles with caps (covers).

4. Appropriate human and other waste management

In order to maintain a clean environment, try to use portable toilets and be sure to take your rubbish with you.

- Please take a portable toilet and leave the site with your human, paper and other wastes. In the event you are unable to use a portable toilet, please avoid sources of water.
- For day trips, please try to only use the facilities provided at the trail entrance and other designated sites.
- Take all your rubbish with you.
- Please do not use soaps and other detergents. To minimize impact on the environment, avoid foods and preparation methods that produce waste water when cooking or washing up, etc. as much as possible.

5. Precautions when using fire

To prevent negative impacts on the environment and forest fires, please exercise caution when using fire.

- Do not use fire on the paths of the Shiretoko Mountain Range.
- Always put out cigarettes in portable ash trays.
- Please be careful of fire and damage to local vegetation when using gas stoves at campsites.

Notes

Comprising numerous individuals associated with Shiretoko, the Shiretoko National Park Proper Use Committee (hereupon the “Committee”) divided the park into the Apical Region and Central Region of Shiretoko Peninsula. Since the inscription of Shiretoko on the World Heritage List in 2005, the Committee has conducted surveys and explored ways to achieve the desirable protection and use of both regions. Based on “The Basic Plan on the Proper Use of the Central Region of Shiretoko Peninsula (2005),” this document summarizes the points of consideration and prohibited activities of greatest importance in the use of the Central Region.

In the future, should the need arise this document will be revised and supplemented based on the analysis, evaluation and feedback concerning monitoring results of the use of the park and its environmental impact.

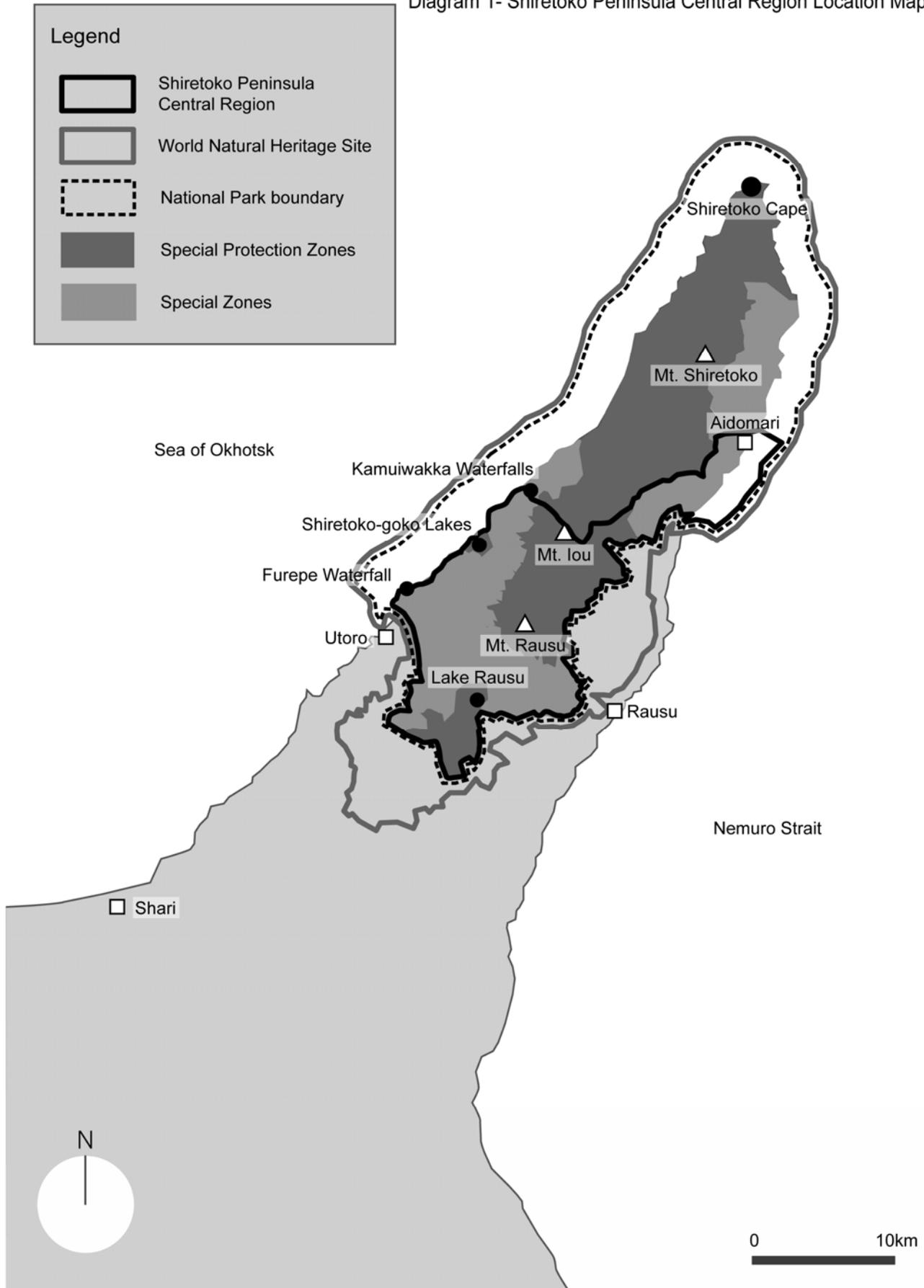
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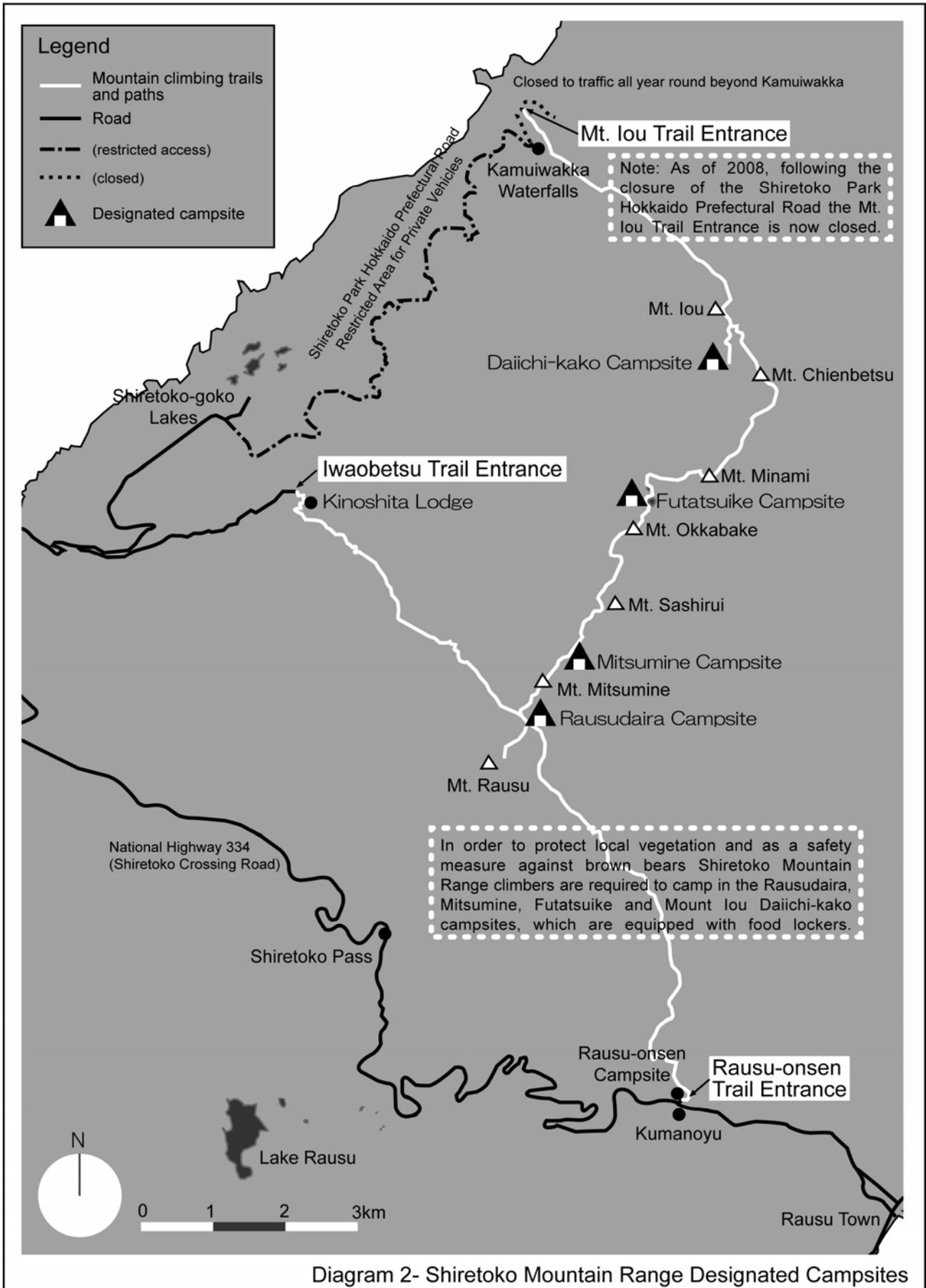
Controlled activities in Shiretoko National Park under the Natural Parks Law

	Zone	Type of Activity
Activities requiring permission	Special Zone	[1] New construction, renovations and additions [2] Tree felling [3] Extraction of minerals, earth and rock [4] Manipulation of water volume of rivers, lakes and ponds [5] Drainage of wastewater into designated lakes and ponds, etc. [Shiretoko Swamp, Shiretoko-goko Lakes and Lake Rausu] [6] Placement of advertisements, etc. [7] Accumulation or storage of designated objects [8] Land reclamation, etc. in bodies of water [9] Changes to land forms [10] Collection, etc. of designated plants [245 species including <i>Geum pentapetalum</i>] [11] Capture, etc. of designated animals [None in Shiretoko National Park] [12] Color alteration of roofs and walls, etc. [13] Entry into designated zones [None in Shiretoko National Park] [14] Entry into designated zones via vehicle or horse [All special zones(excluding roads and agricultural fields)] [15] Other activities by government decree [None]
	Special Protection Zone	In addition to activities in Specials Zones: [1] Damage to trees [2] Tree planting [3] Livestock grazing [4] Accumulation or storage of objects [5] Starting/building fires [6] Collection, etc. of plants excluding trees [7] Capture, etc. of animals [8] Entry via vehicle or horse [9] Other activities by government decree [Planting plants excluding trees, seeding] [Release of animals (excluding livestock grazing)]
Activities requiring notification	Special Zone (ex post facto)	[1] Already commenced activities at time of “Special Zone” designation [2] Emergency procedures during emergencies and disasters
	Special Zone (prior)	[3] Tree planting and livestock grazing in designated zones [None in Shiretoko National Park]

Special Protection Zone (ex post facto)	[1] Already commenced activities at time of “Special Protection Zone” designation [2] Emergency procedures during emergencies and disasters
Ordinary Zone [Marine environments only in Shiretoko National Park]	[1] Large-scale new construction, renovations and additions [2] Manipulation of water level and volume of rivers, lakes and ponds within Special Zones [3] Placement of advertisements, etc. [4] Land reclamation, etc. in bodies of water [5] Extraction of minerals, earth and rock [6] Changes to land forms [7] Changes to sea bed in areas surrounding submerged park zones [No submerged park zone designations in Shiretoko National Park]

Diagram 1- Shiretoko Peninsula Central Region Location Map





Shiretoko National Park Proper Use Committee Members

(1) Committee Members

- Iwao Ogawa President, EcoNetwork
- Akihiro Kobayashi Professor, Hokkaido College, Senshu University
- Hisashi Shinjo Senior Technical Manager of Wetland Ecosystems,
Environmental Policy Division of Environmental Department, Kushiro
City
- Tatsuichi Tsujii President, Hokkaido Environment Foundation (Committee Chair)
- Hajime Nakagawa Director, Shiretoko Museum
- Kouichi Nakayasu President, Hokkaido Forest Assembly Hall

(2) Relevant Regional Organizations

- Natural Environment Sub-group, Shari Town Environment Council
- Utoro Regional Council
- Utoro Fishing Cooperative
- Shiretoko Shari-cho Tourist Association
- Shiretoko Rausu-cho Tourist Association
- Rausu Town Shiretoko Natural World Heritage Council
- Rausu Fishing Cooperative
- Shiretoko Guide Council
- Shiretoko Nature Foundation

(3) Relevant Government Agencies

- Coordination and Public Relations Division,, Hokkaido Regional Forest Office
- Abashirinanbu District Forest Office
- Konsentoubu District Forest Office
- Shiretoko Forest Center
- Kushiro Development and Construction Department, Hokkaido Development Agency
- Abashiri Development and Construction Department, Hokkaido Development Agency
- Abashiri Coast Guard Office
- Rausu Coast Guard Office
- Natural Environment Division, Bureau of Environmental Affairs, Department of Environment and Lifestyle, Hokkaido Government
- Environment and Lifestyle Division, Department of Regional Promotion, Abashiri Subprefectural Office, Hokkaido Government
- Environment and Lifestyle Division, Department of Regional Promotion, Nemuro Subprefectural Office, Hokkaido Government
- Kushiro District Public Works Management Office
- Abashiri District Public Works Management Office
- Shari Town
- Rausu Town

(4) Secretariat

Ministry of the Environment Kushiro Nature Conservation Office

For up to date information and information on park use restrictions please contact the following:

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Kushiro Joint Government Building 4F, 10-3 Saiwai-cho, Kushiro-shi, Hokkaido 085-8639

【TEL】 +81-(0)154-32-7500 【FAX】 +81-(0)154-32-7575

○Utoro Ranger Office 【TEL】 +81-(0)152-24-2297 【FAX】 +81-(0)152-24-3646

○Rausu Ranger Office 【TEL】 +81-(0)153-87-2402 【FAX】 +81-(0)153-87-2468

○Rausu Visitor Center 【TEL】 +81-(0)153-87-2828 【FAX】 +81-(0)153-87-2876

○Shiretoko National Park Nature Center

【TEL】 +81-(0)152-24-2114 【FAX】 +81-(0)152-24-2115

Relevant Websites

○Kushiro Nature Conservation Office 【<http://hokkaido.env.go.jp/kushiro/>】

○Shiretoko National Park 【<http://www.env.go.jp/park/shiretoko/>】

○Rausu Visitor Center 【<http://rausu-vc.jp/>】

○Shiretoko National Park Nature Center 【<http://www.shiretoko.or.jp/>】

(Information available in English)

○Shiretoko Ecotourism Promotion Council 【<http://shiretoko-eco.net/>】