

Summary of Legal Regulations

1. National Parks Act

The National Parks Act establishes regulations and specific prohibited activities to preserve the natural environment and ensure its proper use.

Violations of the act are punishable by **imprisonment of up to one year and/or a fine of up to 1 million yen.**

Main activities requiring permission from the Minister of the Environment

- 1) New construction, remodeling, or expansion of a structure
- 2) Cutting down or damaging trees or bamboo
- 3) Mining minerals or collecting earth and stones
- 4) Accumulating or storing earth, stones, or other similar items outside
- 5) Gathering or damaging alpine plants or other designated plants
- 6) Riding a vehicle (including bikes, snowmobiles, etc.), operating a power-driven vessel, or landing an aircraft in prohibited areas
- 7) Capturing animals or gathering or damaging plants
- 8) Making a fire
- 9) Planting plants or seeds
- 10) Grazing livestock or releasing animals

*Items 7) to 10) are regulated activities in special protection areas.

Prohibited activities

- 1) Disposal or abandonment of trash or other waste using methods that cause significant displeasure to park users
- 2) Causing significant annoyance to park users by emitting odors; generating unwanted noise with loudspeakers, radios, etc.; selfishly excluding others from use of observation areas, rest areas, etc.; attracting customers using disgusting or repulsive means; etc.

2. Nature Conservation Act

Approximately 1,000 hectares of Daisetsuzan National Park located in the upper reaches of the Tokachi River are designated as the “Tokachi River Watershed Wilderness Area” by the Nature Conservation Act. Consequently, acts such as constructing a structure; changing land characteristics; collecting earth and stones; gathering or damaging plants; capturing, killing, or injuring animals; making a fire; riding a vehicle or horse; and landing an aircraft in this area without the permission of the Minister of the Environment are punishable by **imprisonment of up to one year and/or a fine of up to 500,000 yen.**

3. Cultural Assets Preservation Act

Approximately 35,000 hectares in the central portion of Daisetsuzan National Park are designated as a “special natural monument” by the Cultural Assets Preservation Act. Additionally, this area is a habitat for alpine butterflies (among them *Parnassius evermanni daisetsuzanus* and *Vacciniina optilete daisetsuzana*) and birds (*Dryocopus martius martius* and *Ketupa blakistoni blakistoni* among others) that are designated as protected species. Accordingly, engaging in an act that changes existing conditions or impacts on the preservation of those conditions without the permission of the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs is punishable by **imprisonment of up to five years and/or a fine of up to 300,000 yen.**

4. Wildlife Protection and Proper Hunting Act

Daisetsuzan National Park is a valuable habitat for forest wildlife. As such, approximately 42,000 hectares in nine locations are designated as wildlife protection areas. They include the nationally designated Daisetsuzan Wildlife Protection Area and the prefecturally designated Shirogane Wildlife Protection Area, Daisetsu Genseirin Wildlife Protection Area, and Tomuraushi Wildlife Protection Area. Accordingly, capturing wildlife or engaging in an act that affects the breeding of wildlife in these areas without the permission of the Minister of the Environment or the Governor of Hokkaido is punishable by **imprisonment of up to three years and/or a fine of up to 500,000 yen.**

5. Forest Act

Most of the forests in Daisetsuzan National Park are designated as forest reserves under the Forest Act for the recharging of headwaters, defense against sediment runoff, defense against wind and snow damage, protection of public hygiene, and preservation of scenic and historic places. Accordingly, acts such as cutting down or damaging trees and bamboo; grazing livestock; gathering undergrowth, fallen leaves, or fallen branches; collecting earth and stones; and changing land characteristics in these forest preserves without the permission of the Governor of Hokkaido are punishable by **imprisonment of up to five years and/or a fine of up to 500,000 yen.**