



Parks Canada  
Environmental Impact Analysis (EIA) Record of Decision

Project Title: MRG Paving and Gabion Wall Repairs

Project File #: MRG2015-01

Proponent Contact Information:

Charles Badger, Technical Services Coordinator

Highway Service Centre

403.760.1360

Proposed Start and Completion Dates: May 2015 to October 2015

Date of Request: January 12, 2015

**EIA Requirement - Record decision**

The form of EIA required for the proposed project is:

- Use of an approved alternate process
- Use of approved Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Basic Impact Analysis
- Detailed Impact Analysis (note FUS signature required in Section D if this option is checked)

**Applicable BMPs:**

Best Management Practices – Asphalt applications

Highway asphalt maintenance and repair is proposed for the field season of 2015. This project will include overlay paving along approximately 10 kilometers of the TransCanada Highway (TCH) to repair potholes and other damage, equalling approximately 20,000 tonnes of hot-mix asphalt as well as ancillary works including about 300 m<sup>3</sup> of shouldering gravels, barrier removals, barrier re-installations, new barrier installations. Staging areas for the highway works will be based out of the Beaver Pit area. Additionally the project will include repair to a failing gabion wall on the north side of the TCH, 200 meters east of the Giant Cedars Day Use Area. The statement of work on paving/repairing sections of the TCH Mt Revelstake & Glacier (MRG) National Parks was reviewed to determine if the project is excluded from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA 2012) under one of the following exemption conditions;

- *Project/activity already assessed - The potential environmental impacts from the proposed works can be mitigated by existing Best Management Practices.*

Although no Impact Assessment is required according to CEAA 2012 or Interim Management Directive July 2012 (rescinds # 2.4.2), the project must adhere to all contract specifications for working within a National



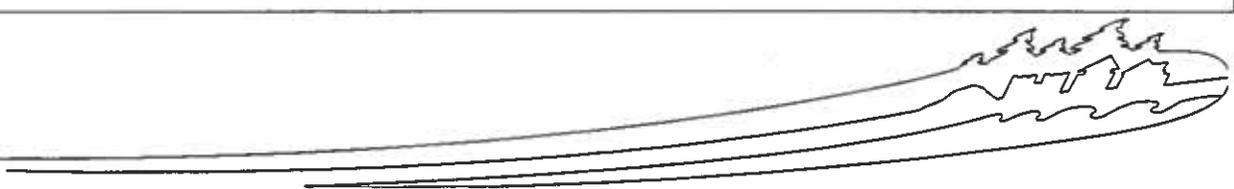


Park, employ relevant environmental best management practices and specific environmental mitigations to ensure the desired minimal adverse effects are achieved.

A section of the gabion wall repair is adjacent to a product wetland complex and pond that supports breeding amphibian populations and beavers. The location of Giant Cedars is in designated critical caribou habitat, and occasionally supports bear activity in the spring and summer; the interior-cedar-hemlock forest within Giant Cedars provides roosting habitat to bats, including the endangered little brown and northern myotis (Caceres, 1998). Prior to any physical works occurring in this area, the contractor will be required to schedule an on-site meeting with the MRG Environmental Surveillance Officer (ESO) to identify sensitive areas, establish construction limits and discuss mitigation techniques.

**Specific Mitigations for the repair of the gabion wall include:**

- A rare plant survey shall be conducted prior to project commencement targeted to assessing the presence of Giant Helleborine which is suspected to be in the area due to its affinity to boggy areas and mineralized water. As well, there has been a confirmed observation of Giant Helleborine in the vicinity of the project area. This work will be conducted by MRG staff.
- Impacts to vegetation should be minimized or avoided, especially in the areas surrounding the pond and wetland complex. The limits of the construction footprint should be flagged to help direct contractors to minimize the area of impact. Should effects to vegetation occur as a result of the proposed project activities, efforts will be made to re-vegetate the disturbed area with vegetation native to the area according to MRG planting criteria.
- No debris from excavating and/or trenching activities will be allowed to enter any water course, efforts to reduce incidental spillage into the pond must be presented during the start-up meeting with the ESO.
- The contractor will provide the ESO a sediment and erosion control plan prior to project start-up (at least 2 weeks in advance).
- If the work schedule requires working during high precipitation periods or high runoff periods, the areas of work that could impact the pond or wetland complex must be isolated and appropriate sediment and erosion controls must be installed to prevent the release of sediment laden water or any other deleterious substance. When works will involve the disturbance of soils or the use of erodible materials (e.g. sand, topsoil), prevent the transport of sediment through application of appropriate erosion and sediment control mitigation guidelines.
- Prior to use on site, equipment will be inspected for fluid leaks of any kind. Any detected leaks will be addressed immediately. Equipment stored overnight should be stored on tarps with appropriate containment if required.
- The Contractor shall have a spill response and cleanup plan in the event of a release of deleterious materials to the natural environment. Appropriately sized and stocked spill kits shall be on site capable of dealing with 110% of the largest potential spill. All staff must be aware of its location on site and must be trained on spill response procedures.
- All refueling should take place on hardened, impermeable surfaces at least 30 m from any watercourse, ditch or storm drain.





- In the event of any fluid spills or leaks exceeding 5 litres or any spill quantity to water, Jasper Dispatch should be notified immediately. Any absorbent materials used in the clean-up or soils contaminated by the spill should be disposed of in the appropriate facilities.
- Fill materials for the gabion bags will be sourced outside of the National Parks unless a suitable source has been identified and is not suspected to contain material contaminated with road salts and/or other contaminants.
- In the event that artifacts are uncovered at any point during earthworks, operations must stop and a cultural resources Parks representative (or ESO) shall be notified.

**Specific mitigations for Highway Paving, include:**

**WASTE**

- All asphalt millings from staging areas and/or work areas must be removed and disposed of at a proper facility and is the responsibility of the contractor, unless the material is stored at an established and designated stockpile area (i.e. Beaver Pit) for removal at a later date. The dumping of waste products in the National Park is prohibited under Section 32 (1) CNPA.

**BIRDS**

- The nesting bird window is from April 1 to August 31 in lower elevations. In elevations of 1300m or higher, the nesting window is from May 1 to August 31. No brushing or tree removal can occur during this time unless a nesting bird survey has been completed by an external qualified biologist.

**WATER**

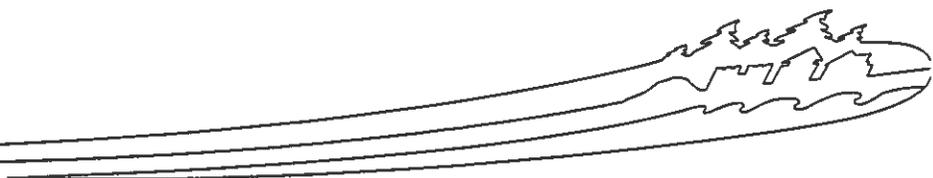
- Spraying of sealants or other propellants is prohibited near standing and/or flowing water for the protection of fish and amphibian species;
- Waste, asphalt, gravels or any over-burden materials cannot be stockpiled within 30m of a waterbody.

**VEGETATION**

- General Best Management Practices regarding invasive weeds are required (see attachment 1, Best Management Practices – Asphalt Applications, MRG).

**GENERAL SITE MITIGATIONS**

- All staff employed at the construction site will attend an Environmental Briefing led by the Environmental Surveillance Officer (ESO) regarding their individual and collective responsibilities to ensure avoidable adverse environmental impact does not arise from their activities and personal choices.
- Debris and equipment shall not block any wildlife trails or movement corridors;
- If any large wildlife enters or is near the worksite, cease all activities where appropriate to ensure personal safety and that of the travelling public. Under no circumstances should wildlife be harassed. Report immediately to Jasper Dispatch (1-780-852-3100).





- All equipment will be cleaned of debris and other organics to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Signature	
Completed by: Sara DeVita, Environmental Assessment Coordinator	
Signature: 	Date: January 22, 2015
Bruno Delesalle, Resource Conservation Manager	
Signature: 	Date: Jan 22, 2015

Attachment – Best Management Practices – Asphalt Applications, MRGNP

