Basic Impact Analysis

Visitor Centre Renewal Project

Point Pelee National Park of Canada

September 2015

Canada

1. **PROJECT TITLE AND LOCATION**
   Rehabilitation of Visitor Centre Theatre - Point Pelee National Park of Canada

2. **PROPONENT INFORMATION**
   Monique Oltrop, A/VE Manager, PPNP
   407 Monarch Lane,
   Leamington ON
   N8H 3V4
   (519)322-5700 ext. 3322

3. **PROPOSED PROJECT DATES**
   2015-09-01 to 2016-03-31

4. **INTERNAL PROJECT FILE #**
   PPNP-2015-06

5. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

   This project will address significant deferred maintenance in the PPNP Visitor Centre (VC) theatre and surrounding landscape features. The space has not seen reinvestment for over 30 years and as a result its systems are obsolete and the space no longer meets current visitor needs and expectations. For efficiency, the entire VC roof, which is beginning to fail, will also be replaced rather than just the section above the theatre. The scope of work does not include increasing the footprint of the asset.

   Landscaping outside the VC theatre will be redesigned to address current drainage and foundation issues while improving aesthetics and visitor traffic flows around the building. A new entrance/exit between the shuttle loop and the improved theatre will require excavation of the berm that currently surrounds the theatre on all three sides. This change to the surrounding grounds will alleviate current drainage issues while providing better and more attractive visitor access points to the building and surrounding area. The new landscape features will also include the installation of two new water features (3.5 x 6 metres and 12 x 6 metres; both are 0.6 m deep), decommissioning of the existing pond, installation of landscaping rocks, removal of up to 10 trees of various species, and planting of native grasses and other savannah species. This work is expected to occur in two phases, beginning in October 2015. All excavation will occur in the first phase during the fall of 2015 (mid – late October). The second phase will include the landscaping of the grounds, installation of new cement walkways and features, and planting of native species. This phase is expected to occur from mid-October 2015 until March 2016.

6. VALUED COMPONENTS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED

The majority of work occurring on the theatre renewal will occur within the already disturbed footprint of the VC building and grounds. This includes the building itself, the landscaped area between the transit loop and the VC, the interlocking brick to the north of the VC entrance, and the current pond feature. Up to 9 tree removals of various species (White Pine, Red Cedar, Tulip Tree, Common Hoptree) will occur within this area, and are not expected to have any significant impact on their greater park populations. Three COSEWIC-listed Species at Risk plant species that exist at this site will be directly affected by this project, including: Common Hoptree (EN), Swamp Rose-Mallow (SC), and Climbing Prairie Rose (SC). All of these individuals have been planted, but most likely originate from the park's native genetic population. As such, transplanting of these individuals to suitable locations within the park will be undertaken before work begins. In addition, seeds will be collected and planted suitable locations in the park. Since these individuals occur within the building footprint, their surrounding habitat does not qualify as critical habitat under their respective recovery strategies. Several other SAR plant species exist in the VC gardens, which is not within the footprint of this project and therefore these plants will not be affected.

SAR faunal species are known to use the site frequently, including: Five-lined skink which are typically found under wooden debris near the VC walls; Barn Swallow which have been known to nest on the VC; Eastern Foxsnake which are often found over-wintering in the ceiling of the VC; and Eastern mole which may burrow in the soil surrounding the VC. Several species of bat (Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis, Big Brown Bat, and Tri-Coloured), could be present on the building during construction. The pond platform has been known to house skinks in the past. However, the platform has naturally filled with sand and has had no skink sightings on it in 2015. Effects of removing this structure are expected to be temporary as new logs will be placed for skink habitat in the area adjacent to pond. The Resource Conservation Environmental Assessment Officer or other PCA representative will monitor for wildlife during construction activities.

The Visitor Centre renewal project may change Park visitors use and enjoyment during the landscaping and construction work, however the purpose of the project is to improve the visitor experience at PPNP. As such, it is anticipated that a residual positive effect is likely. The majority of work will occur during the park's low season which will reduce effects on visitors.

PCA archaeologists with National Office have been consulted on the plans for this project. The work is expected to have no effect on terrestrial archaeological features as the majority of work will occur within the existing disturbed footprint of the VC.

7. EFFECTS ANALYSIS

VEC	Effects
Air Quality and Noise	• Decreased ambient air quality as a result of emissions from equipment, dust and other particulate matter, and increased greenhouse gas emissions during construction; • Increased noise may affect peace/enjoyment of visitors and distract from park's natural atmosphere for a short period of time.
Soils/Water Quality, Quantity, and Drainage	• Increased soil exposure resulting in erosion and sedimentation; • Potential to disrupt the soils and roots of vegetation with the construction of the new ponds and excavation of berm; • Soil compaction resulting from use of machinery/equipment and temporary storage of concrete, and reduced water/soil drainage infiltration rates; • Soil/water contamination from accidental spill/exposure (e;g; fuel, oil, grease, other chemicals); • Groundwater contamination from point or non-point sources of pollution such as accidental spills from construction vehicles or chemicals on-site for construction; • Destruction of berms surrounding the VC will improve surface drainage patterns and storm water runoff away from building.
Flora/Fauna	• Construction and decommissioning activities and machinery could disturb or cause mortality to wildlife that have been observed hibernating, nesting, feeding or taking shelter in or around the building/pond; • Trampling/destruction of vegetation by the machinery/equipment and people on-site (i.e. PCA staff/contractors) – see field notes for detailed species lists; • Construction noise and human presence may disrupt wildlife in the area; • Loss of up to 9 individual trees due to necessary removals • Potential damage to flora/fauna in case of accidental spill/exposure (e.g. fuel, oil, grease, other chemicals) or introduction of alien species to the park; • The transportation of machinery and materials to and from the work site could result in increased road mortality that is associated with all vehicular traffic at PPNP.
Species at Risk, Residences, and Critical Habitats, and Provincially Rare Species	• Construction and decommissioning activities and machinery could disturb or cause mortality to wildlife that have been observed hibernating, nesting, feeding or taking shelter in or around the building/pond;

VEC	Effects
	• Disruption to Species at Risk migration/movement patterns as a result of construction noise. These effects are expected to be temporary; • One Hoptree growing against the VC wall will need to be removed completely and is not expected to survive transplanting; • Two Climbing Prairie Rose planted within the pond fence, and one Swamp Rose-Mallow may not survive transplantation to new area; • Accidental removal or damage to provincially rare plants and species of restoration value from in and around the existing pond;
Cultural Resources	• Any demolition and rebuilding taking place within the extant VC/grounds footprint, is not expected to disturb terrestrial archaeological artifacts; • Excavation or use of heavy equipment on undisturbed ground around the VC could have disturb or cause adverse effects to terrestrial archaeological artifacts;
Safety and Visitor Experience	• Increased occupational health and visitor safety risk (i.e. machinery/equipment used to carry out the work, flying debris from demolition, etc.) • There will be short-term minor impacts on accessing portions of the VC due to the influx of contractor machinery, equipment, and vehicles; • Short-term work will be an inconvenience to visitors utilizing the VC facilities, especially if there is a need to use portable washrooms, or if the shuttle pick-up location changes; • The construction has the potential to decrease visitor experience due to temporary changes in the viewscape, noise from work activities, etc.

8. MITIGATION MEASURES

VEC	Mitigation Measures
Air Quality and Noise	• Stabilize soil and other material storage piles against wind erosion and restore disturbed areas as soon as possible; • Minimize vehicle traffic on exposed soils and stabilize high traffic areas with clean gravel surface layer or other suitable cover material • Use new or well-maintained heavy equipment and machinery, preferably fitted with up-to-date emission control equipment; • Use heavy equipment and machinery within operating specifications • Minimize operation and idling of vehicles, and avoid operating and idling vehicles and gas-powered equipment during smog advisories • All machinery/equipment will be clean prior to use and in optimal working condition (i.e. fitted with standard air emission control devices, etc.).
Soils/Water Quality, Quantity and Drainage	• Maintain effective surface drainage, re-establish drainage patterns on completion of project; • Excavations shall be backfilled to the existing and/or above grade with various types/sizes of clean, inert, non-contaminated concrete/brick/rubble/fill/topsoil/sand materials. Contaminated soil/materials are unacceptable for backfill (e.g. shingles, drywall, insulation, asphalt, metals, items containing asbestos); • The operating, refueling, and maintenance of machinery/equipment, and the handling and storage of toxic materials (e.g. oils, lubricants, and fuels) will be carried out in such a way as to avoid contamination of soils and water; • The use of ethanol blended fuel and biodiesel are encouraged; • All compounds used for this project shall be utilized and stored according to the manufacturers' Product Technical Data Sheets, stating guidelines and methods for proper use and storage; • Recyclables, hazardous materials, and all waste debris shall be removed from the work area and disposed of off-site, in accordance with all federal, provincial, and municipal regulations, to appropriate disposal facilities licensed to receive them.
Flora/Fauna	• Only trees and vegetation deemed necessary for removal by designated PCA employee will be removed;

VEC	Mitigation Measures
	• Any species targeted for removal will be marked using tree paint, flagging tape, flags or stakes; • All machinery/equipment will be clean prior to use, in order to avoid the introduction of invasive, alien species into the park; • Parks Canada staff will monitor project site for wildlife prior to, during, and after activities. When possible, wildlife will be given the opportunity to escape the work area to the surrounding forest or elsewhere to seek new shelter. If any wildlife is discovered that cannot escape quickly enough, then all work in the immediate area will cease until the PCA representative is consulted. If possible, Resource Conservation staff will attempt to safely move wildlife a short distance from the work area to allow them to remain within their natural home range; • Effects to migratory birds are considered insignificant due to the timing (i.e. from mid-October to March when the birds are not nesting and have migrated south) of the majority of construction activities. Birds will be able to fly away from the site; • Workers will stay in the work areas as much as possible while conducting the decommissioning and construction to reduce overall damage to the surrounding vegetation, trampling and ground compaction; • The park will provide plants for landscaping which will be sourced from the park (transplanted or seed). Locally sourced species will be substituted for species identified in the design in order to maintain the desired aesthetic; • Any viable vegetation imported into the park for landscaping of the pond will consist of native species and will be subject to the approval of PCA officials; • PCA staff will decommission the old pond including removal of aquatic vegetation and wooden platform during September (prior to excavation). This will also discourage wildlife from hibernating in the pond and avoid digging them up or otherwise harming them during excavation; • Pond excavation will occur as early as possible in order to avoid disturbing or harming hibernating wildlife.

VEC	Mitigation Measures
Species at Risk, Residences, and Critical Habitats, and Provincially Rare Species	• Parks Canada staff will conduct a survey for Species at Risk within the project site in order to protect vegetation or remove to appropriate habitat and monitor; • If project area expands beyond currently disturbed area, PCA Resource Conservation staff will be notified and a Species at Risk survey will be conducted in the expanded area; • If VC gardens will be affected by work, Resource Conservation staff will be given advanced notice in order to transplant individual SAR to a new location; • One planted Common Hoptree will be removed during work since it is anticipated that this individual is too large to transplant, seeds will be collected and planted in a new location in the park; • Climbing Prairie Rose and Swamp Rose-Mallow to be transplanted will also have seeds collected from them in case transplants are not successful. Seeds will be planted in other areas of the park; • In the event that a SAR plant is accidently cut or damaged and fruit or seeds are present on the individual, seeds will be collected or left on-site in appropriate habitat; • SAR will be identified with pink flagging tape prior to construction; • New skink habitat will be created in an appropriate area, determined by PCA resource conservation staff, to compensate for the removal of the wooden pond platform; • Prior to, during and after project activities, PCA Resource Conservation staff will monitor for wildlife occurrences. When encountered, all work will stop to enable escape beyond the work area. If the wildlife does not attempt escape or chooses refuge within the work area, then work may not resume until PPNP staff are consulted and a safe removal strategy identified to move them to a safe area within their natural home range; • Construction workers will receive a briefing from PCA staff of the SAR on site, and mitigations required to avoid harm to these individuals.
Heritage Archaeological and Paleontological Features	• It is recommended that the use of heavy equipment for this project be restricted to already disturbed areas, such as parking lots and pathways. If parking of heavy equipment and storing of supplies cannot be restricted to disturbed areas, then these areas should be covered with geotextile topped with approximately 20 cm thick

VEC	Mitigation Measures
	granular "A" (or similar) to prevent damage to the underlying soils. These are to be removed at the end of the construction project; • Tracked construction vehicles are recommended as they create less compaction of the soil. • If significant features (e.g., structural remains and/or high artifact concentrations) are encountered, development work should stop in this immediate area, photographs taken, and the Parks Canada project manager informed. The project manager will then contact Parks Canada's Terrestrial Archaeology section for advice. An assessment of the significance will determine what will be required to mitigate the chance find.
Safety and Visitor Experience	• Circulation around the building will be maintained as per the traffic plan for this project; • The VC and project area will be closed to visitors once work starts on the indoor portion, and shuttle operations will move from the transit loop to a location in the VC parking lot; • Portable washroom facilities will be provided as needed; • All construction equipment, stored materials, and waste will be kept in a secured location to ensure security and public safety when workers are not present on site; • PCA site staff will be briefed on the project and asked to provide information to visitors as required; • Access by Parks Canada Agency staff and representatives will access the VC offices through the rear parking lot and entrance; • Appropriate safety precautions and safe work practices will be implemented; • Maintain proper signage and access controls during construction • All activities associated to the project shall be governed by and constructed in accordance with all laws of Canada and the Province of Ontario; • All work conducted must be performed in accordance with the ordinances and laws set out in the *Canada National Parks Act and Regulations.*

9. PUBLIC / STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

A. Indicate whether public / stakeholder engagement was undertaken in relation to potential adverse effects of the proposed project:

☐ *Yes*
☑ *No*

The theatre renewal has been discussed with many years with the Board of the Friends of Point Pelee. In the 2000s, the Friends Board raised $75,000 towards this renovation. They are pleased to see the project moving forward.

B. Indicate whether Aboriginal consultation was undertaken in relation to potential adverse effects of the proposed project:

☐ *Yes*
☑ *No*

Updates have been provided to Point Pelee NP's First Nations Advisory Circle in the planning process though there has been no formal consultations.

10. SIGNIFICANCE OF RESIDUAL ADVERSE EFFECTS

Only one hoptree will be directly affected by this project. This tree is not expected to survive transplanting, but seeds will collected as a mitigation. The total Common Hoptree population in PPNP is estimated to be approximately 17,000+ specimens. Measures such as the creation of critical habitat in the LESSS and the gathering of seeds for planting in the restoration sites will help compensate for the loss of individual hoptrees and maintain genetic diversity within the park.

Following the application of mitigation measures, any negative residual effects for the natural & cultural environments are expected to be insignificant. It is anticipated that this project will result in positive residual and long-term cumulative effects as a result of an improved visitor experience.

11. SURVEILLANCE

☐ *Surveillance is not required*
☑ *Surveillance is required*

A. Surveillance Program Details

As part of the mitigation for wildlife and wildlife habitat as well as Species at Risk, a surveillance program is recommended to determine species presence prior, during and after construction to reduce the potential for adverse effects.

12. FOLLOW-UP MONITORING

- [✓] *Follow-up monitoring is not required*
- [ ] *Follow-up monitoring is legally required (e.g., under Species at Risk Act or Fisheries Act)*
- [ ] *Follow-up monitoring is required in accordance with Parks Canada Cultural Resource Management Policy*

A. Follow-up Monitoring Program Details

Prior to the start of construction, monitoring of the study area will help locate any Species at Risk at the site. Monitoring will occur during construction and decommissioning to ensure that wildlife are not harmed during the activities.

13. SARA NOTIFICATION

- [✓] *Notification is not required*
- [ ] *Notification is required under the Species at Risk Act*

14. EXPERTS CONSULTED

Department/Agency/Institution: Parks Canada	***Date of Request:*** July 2015
Expert's Name: Monique Oltrop	***Title:*** A/Visitor Experience Manager
Contact Information: Monique.oltrop@pc.gc.ca	
Expertise Requested: Project description, proposed construction activities and footprint	
Response: provided descriptions and plans	
Department/Agency/Institution: Parks Canada	***Date of Request:*** August 2015
Expert's Name: Mark Major	***Title:*** Technical Services Coordinator
Contact Information: mark.major@pc.gc.ca	
Expertise Requested: interpretation of design drawings, details of construction activities	
Response: provided expertise on use of machinery and construction activities	
Department/Agency/Institution: Parks Canada	***Date of Request:*** August 2015
Expert's Name: Tammy Dobbie	***Title:*** Park Ecologist

Contact Information: Tammy.Dobbie@pc.gc.ca	
Expertise Requested: list of SAR on site, review of ecological mitigations and effects	
Response: reviewed and provided comments on ecological effects and mitigations	
Department/Agency/Institution: Parks Canada	***Date of Request:*** September 2015
Expert's Name: Stacey Taylor	***Title:*** Archaeologist
Contact Information: Stacey.taylor@pc.gc.ca	
Expertise Requested: review of design drawings and recommendations for CRM	
Response: reviewed and provided comments on effects and mitigations for cultural resources in form of AOA report	

15. DECISION

A. Taking into account implementation of mitigation measures outlined in the analysis, the project is:

- [✓] *not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.*
- [ ] *likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects*

B. For SARA Requirements

- [ ] *There are no residual adverse effects to Species at Risk and therefore the SARA-Compliant Authorization Decision Tool was not required*
- [ ] *There is no contravention of SARA prohibitions*
- [✓] *Project activities contravene a SARA prohibition and CAN be authorized under SARA*
- [ ] *Project activities contravene a SARA prohibition and CANNOT be authorized*

16. RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL

A. Prepared By:

Name: Nicole Paleczny	Date: August 29, 2015
Position: Resource Management Officer II	

B. Recommended By:

Name: Monique Oltrop	Date: June 26, 2015
Position: A/Visitor Experience Manager	

C. Approved By:

Name: Jarred Picher	Date: YYYY-MM-DD
Position: Southwestern Ontario Field Unit Superintendent	
Signature:	

17. ATTACHMENTS LIST

Appendix 1: Effects Identification Matrix
Appendix 2: SARA-Compliant Authorization Decision Tool

18. NATIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TRACKING SYSTEM

	Project registered in tracking system
✓	*Not yet registered*

Appendix 1: Effects Identification Matrix

***Section A** focuses on direct effects of the project and **Section B** on indirect effects that are caused by changes to the environment.*

Direct Effects										
			Valued components potentially directly affected by the proposed project							
			Natural Resources					Cultural Resources	Visitor Experience	
			Air Quality and Noise	Soil\Water Quality and Drainage	Flora/Fauna	SAR and Critical Habitat		Artifacts	Visitor Safety	Access and services
	Phase	Examples of Associated Activities								
Project Components	Preparation / Construction / Operation / Decommissioning	Supply and storage of materials	❑	❑	❑	✓		✓	✓	❑
		Tree removal	❑	✓	✓	✓		❑	❑	❑
		Demolition	✓	✓	❑	❑		❑	❑	✓
		Grading	❑	✓	❑	❑		❑	❑	❑
		Backfilling	❑	✓	❑	❑		❑	❑	❑
		Use of machinery	✓	✓	✓	❑		✓	❑	❑
		Transport of materials/ equipment	✓	❑	❑	❑		❑	✓	❑
		Vehicle Traffic	✓	❑	✓	✓		❑	✓	✓
		Landscaping	❑	❑	✓	✓		❑	❑	✓

***Section B** of the matrix should be used to identify potential indirect effects that may result from impacts of the project to components of the environment you have identified on the preceding pages (see Section A - direct effects to natural resources). Consideration of indirect effects is required under CEAA 2012 Sections 5(1)(c) and 5(2)(b), and by the PCA mandate. For example:*

- *if the proposed project could lead to adverse effects to water quality and quantity, could this then effect the quantity and quality of water resources (e.g. potable water) used by an Aboriginal community?*
- *could there also be adverse socio-economic effects to a community that relies on recreational fishing tourism?*
- *could changes to the environment (e.g. digging, clearing) affect visitor access, opportunities, or safety?*

B. Indirect Effects (all phases)							
		Impacts as a result of changes to the environment					
		With respect to non-Aboriginal peoples:	With respect to Aboriginal peoples:		With respect to visitor experience		
		Health and socio-economic conditions	Health & socio-economic conditions	Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes	Access & services	Recreation & accommod'n opportunities	Safety
Phase	**Natural resource components affected by the project**						
Preparation /construction operation/implementation/decommissioning	Could impacts to air lead to adverse effects on...	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
	Could impacts to soils and landforms lead to adverse effects on...	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
	Could impacts to water (e.g. surface, ground water and water crossings) lead to adverse effects on...	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
	Could impacts to flora (including SAR) lead to adverse effects on...	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
	Could impacts to fauna (including SAR) lead to adverse effects on...	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
	Other...	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

Appendix 2: SARA-Compliant Authorization Decision Tool

Part A – Does a SARA authorization need to be considered for this activity?

1. Will the activity lead to residual adverse effects that contravene a SARA prohibition for a listed endangered (En), threatened (Th) or extirpated (Ex) Species at Risk, its residence or its critical habitat? (Clearly indicate if the activity will affect one/or more listed species).

SARA prohibitions: s.32 - Cannot: kill, harm, harass, capture, or take individuals; possess, collect, buy, sell or trade individuals or parts of individuals; s.33 – Cannot damage or destroy residences; s.58 – Cannot destroy any part of critical habitat; s.80 - Cannot carry out an activity that is prohibited under a protection order.

☒ **Yes. Residual adverse effects of the activity will contravene a SARA prohibition.**

Document how activities will contravene a SARA prohibition. Then **continue to Question 2.**

2. Is the activity authorized under S. 83 of SARA?

☐ **Yes. A SARA authorization is NOT required.** The activity is authorized in a recovery strategy or action plan;

OR

☐ **Yes. A SARA authorization is NOT required.** The activity is required for public safety, health or national security **AND** authorized by or under another Act of Parliament.

Document below:

- The specific section of the published recovery strategy or action plan that makes reference to section 83 of SARA

OR

- Why the activity is needed for public safety, health or national security and reference the Act of Parliament under which the activity is authorized (*you **MUST** consult a member of the SCM team if you plan to use the section 83 exception).*

If all activities that would contravene a SARA prohibition are already authorized under SARA s.83, **check the first box in Part D and submit for approval.**

☒ **No. A SARA authorization is required. Continue to Part B.**

Part B – Is the activity eligible for authorization under SARA?

******Complete ONLY if you have answered NO to Question 2, above******

3. Does the activity fall into one of the following three categories?

Select the appropriate box (check only one) and **continue to Question 4** OR, If the proposed activity DOES NOT fit in any of the three categories below the activity CANNOT be authorized, and you can check the second box in **Part D and submit for approval.**

☐ The activity is scientific research related to the conservation of the species and conducted by qualified persons; **OR**

☐ The activity benefits the species or is required to enhance its chance of survival in the wild ; OR

☒ Affecting the species is incidental to the activity (i.e. the purpose of the activity is not to engage in an activity that is prohibited under SARA (e.g., kill, harm, harass...an individual; destroy a residence or critical habitat). For example, fishing for a listed species cannot be permitted, but accidental by-catch *may* be.

4. Alternatives that would reduce the impact(s) on the species have been considered and the best solution adopted

Document below and **continue to Question 5.** *This question is an additional requirement to the questions in the BIA template.*

The preferred option is to transplant the individual to another location in the park. However, given its large size and placement against the building, it is unlikely that transplanting would occur successfully. This option will be attempted if at all possible. As an alternative to this, seeds will be collected from the tree and planted in other locations in the park. It is not an option to leave the tree in its current location, as it is placed directly against the foundation of the building which is within the proposed construction area for this project.

5. All feasible measures must be taken to minimize the impact of the activity

Ensure that the mitigations identified in Section 8 of the BIA template to address effects to Species at Risk are as comprehensive as possible, and continue to **Question 6.**

6. Will the activity jeopardize the survival or recovery of the species?

This activity will likely require the removal of an individual planted hoptree from PPNP. No critical habitat for the species will affected, as the tree is currently located within the footprint of the VC building. Jalava et al. (2008) estimated there were approximately 17,000 common hoptrees in the park. The removal of one individual is not expected to have any effect on the survival of the PPNP population or the recovery of the species overall. Planting seeds from the individual will off-set any impacts to the population. Measures such as the creation of critical habitat in the LESSS and the gathering of seeds for planting in the restoration sites will help compensate for the loss of individual hoptrees and maintain genetic diversity within the park.

☐ **Yes. The activity CANNOT be authorized.**

Check analysis with the SCM team. **Then check the second box in Part D and submit for approval. ENSURE THIS CONCLUSION IS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN SECTION 10 OF THE BIA TEMPLATE (SIGNIFICANCE OF RESIDUAL ADVERSE EFFECTS) AND DOCUMENTED IN THE BIA TEMPLATE, SECTION 15 – DECISION.**

☒ **No. The activity CAN be authorized.** Complete explanation and continue to **Part C.**

Clearly document how you considered potential jeopardy to the survival or recovery of the species. Check analysis with the SCM team.

Part C - Prepare the SARA authorization and posting explanation

7. Prepare the authorization

The authorization will be issued using the EIA process and SARA s.74

Issue the SARA authorization using the **template on the intranet** and complete Question 8 to prepare the posting for the SAR Public Registry.

8. Provide description for posting

SARA requires that an explanation of why a SARA authorization is issued be posted in the SARA Public Registry in both official languages within 30 days of the authorization being issued. Prepare the explanation, using the information you entered in the BIA and previous sections of this Appendix. Your regional SCM representative will have the explanation translated and will publish it on the SARA registry.

Regional or Local Number:
PPNP-2015-06

Purpose:
Affecting the species is incidental to the activity

Description of the Activity
Provide a one-paragraph summary of the activity and how it will affect the listed species (using the information in sections 5 & 10 of the BIA template)

Landscaping outside the VC theatre will be redesigned to address current drainage and foundation issues while improving aesthetics and visitor traffic flows around the building. A new entrance/exit between the shuttle loop and the improved theatre will require excavation of the berm that currently surrounds the theatre on all three sides. This change to the surrounding grounds will alleviate current drainage issues while providing better and more attractive visitor access points to the building and surrounding area. The new landscape features will also include the installation of two new water features (3.5 x 6 metres and 12 x 6 metres; both are 0.6 m deep), decommissioning of the existing pond, installation of landscaping rocks, removal of up to 10 trees of various species (including one Common Hoptree), and planting of native grasses and other savannah species. The identified Common Hoptree must be removed as it is located directly against the existing foundation of the building, and within the proposed construction zone.

- Start Date of Authorization: September 15, 2015 End Date of Authorization: March 31, 2016
- Issuing Authority: Parks Canada Agency
- Authority Used: EIA process and SARA s.74
- Location of Activity *(province, territory or ocean):* Point Pelee National Park of Canada
- Affected Species: Common Hoptree (EN)

Pre-Conditions - *limit your explanation to species for which the authorization will be issued:*
Provide a half-page summary of proposed mitigation measures and the significance of residual effects (from the BIA) and provide summary of sections 4, 5 and 6 of this Appendix.

One Common Hoptree (EN) at this site will be directly affected by this project. This individual originates from the Park's native population, but was planted in this location several years ago. As such, transplanting of this individual to a suitable location in the park is preferred and if it is possible will occur before work begins. In addition, seeds will be collected and planted in suitable locations in the park. Since thus individual occurs within the building footprint, its surrounding habitat does not qualify as critical habitat as defined by the National Common Hoptree Recovery Strategy. The following mitigations will be applied to reduce impacts to the individual and population:

- Parks Canada staff will conduct a survey for Species at Risk within the project site in order to protect vegetation or remove to appropriate habitat and monitor;
- One planted Common Hoptree will be removed during work since it is anticipated that this individual is too large to transplant, seeds will be collected and planted in a new location in the park;
- If project area expands beyond currently disturbed area, PCA Resource Conservation staff will be notified and a Species at Risk survey will be conducted in the expanded area;
- In the event that a SAR plant is accidently cut or damaged and fruit or seeds are present on the individual, seeds will be collected or left on-site in appropriate habitat;
- Construction workers will receive a briefing from PCA staff of the SAR on site, and mitigations required to avoid harm to SAR individuals.

Contact Person(s)
Tammy Dobbie
Park Ecologist, PPNP
407 Monarch Lane, Leamington ON, N8H 3V4
(519) 322-5700 ext. 3338

Part D – SARA Authorization Decision

Select the appropriate answer and continue to Part E.

☐ This activity does not require a SARA authorization, as indicated in Questions 1 and 2.

☐ This activity requires a SARA authorization but CANNOT be authorized because it does not fit into one of the three required categories (see response to Question 3) OR it does not meet one of the SARA pre-conditions (see responses to Questions 4-6).

This activity meets the SARA authorization requirements; an authorization may be issued (see response to Questions 3-6). The residual adverse effects (effects remaining after mitigations have been applied) MAY contravene the following SARA prohibition:

☒ s.32 - Cannot: kill, harm, harass, capture, or take individuals; possess, collect, buy, sell or trade individuals or parts of individuals;

☐ s.33 – Cannot damage or destroy residences;

☐ s.58 – Cannot destroy any part of critical habitat;

☐ s.80 - Cannot carry out an activity that is prohibited under a protection order

Part E – SARA Authorization Recommendation and Approval

Prepared by *(add additional blocks as required)*: Nicole Paleczny, Resource Management Officer II	Date: 2015-09-04
Recommended by:	Date: YYYY-MM-DD
Decision Approval	
Name & Position (*FUS Director of a Waterway, or Delegate*): Jarred Pisher	
Signature:	Date: YYYY-MM-DD 2015-09-10

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