



Basic Impact Analysis (BIA) Determination: Project J15-054 - Valley of the Five Lakes Parking Lot

1. Scope of Work:

The proposed project involves the reconstruction and expansion of the Valley of the Five Lakes parking area, as well realignment and stabilization of the trailhead 9a. The existing parking area, privy and day use area will be removed, and new privy installed along with a new day use area. The parking area will be paved and expanded to accommodate for current and expected peak hour usage of passenger cars and larger recreational vehicles.

2. Project Rationale:

The Three Valley Confluence Trail Plan (2009) identified the Valley of the Five Lakes as a high day use area in need of work to alleviate congestion at the staging area. Upgrading the parking lot and facilities was identified as a key action in the plan. The Jasper Park Management Plan (2010) also identified ensuring adequate parking at trailheads as a key action under the Icefields Parkway Strategic Concept.

The current trailhead has eroded and deteriorated due to deferred maintenance and high visitor use. The gravel parking area is too small and not designed to meet current demand, forcing visitors to park on the shoulder of the Icefields Parkway, increasing the risk of a traffic accident. Additionally, drivers of large recreational vehicles are forced to back out onto the Parkway from the parking lot entrance. Redesigning the parking lot meets objectives of the Parks Canada Directive on Visitor Safety (2012), where facilities are designed in a manner that will reduce or prevent risky behaviors from occurring while improving the opportunity for positive visitor experience.

The size of the proposed project is based on a transportation assessment study completed in 2015 by Bunt & Associates. The study established current and projected visitor need requirements for the Valley of the Five Parking Lot.

3. Project Dates

- a. Planned commencement: 2016-08-17
- b. Planned completion: 2016-11-15

4. Environmental Effects

- Impacts to vegetation are expected to occur primarily as a result of clearing and grubbing activities, excavation, grading, backfilling, stockpiling and general construction disturbance. Project activities require the use of heavy machinery, whose movement has the potential to remove or damage vegetation even in areas that are not intended to be cleared.
- An estimated 175 dead pine trees and 237 live pine trees, along with 10 live spruce trees will need to be removed in order to construct the parking lot.
- Wildlife impacts are expected to occur primarily as a result of clearing and grubbing, earthworks (excavation, filling) and general construction activities. Impacts to wildlife may also occur indirectly through vegetation impacts (i.e., reduced habitat availability).



- Noise and vibrations resulting from construction activities may be a temporary disturbance to wildlife.

5. Mitigation Measures:

- All mitigations outlined in the *Valley of the 5 Lakes Parking Lot Expansion Basic Impact Analysis (BIA)* prepared by Avens Consulting (March 2016) will be followed, particularly:

Vegetation Management

- Prior to construction, Parks Canada vegetation/restoration crew, in consultation with the Vegetation Specialist and/or the Environmental Surveillance Officer (ESO) or designate will salvage tree saplings of interest to be used in other parts of the park for restoration projects.
- Top soil and associated ground cover plants to be salvaged and used for restoration activities in the existing trailhead alignment must be taken from undisturbed native plant communities that are within the project footprint and need to be cleared. Avoid salvaging native topsoil from any previously disturbed sites in the highway right-of-way (approximately 10 m) as these soils may contain non-native propagules.
- A seed certificate for any seeded grasses must be presented to Parks Canada for approval prior to applying seed to ensure seed lots contain the right species, and are free of weeds.
- All machinery and equipment must arrive on site clean and free of soil and vegetative debris to avoid the spread of invasive non-native plant species. Machinery must also be cleaned prior to mobilizing to other parts of the park.

Spill Management

- Appropriately sized and stocked spill kits must be available at the worksite. They will be capable of dealing with 110% of the largest potential spill. All workers will be aware of their location(s) on site and trained in spill response procedures.
- Any spill of a substance that is toxic, polluting, or deleterious to the environment will be immediately be reported to Parks Canada dispatch (780.852.6155) or ESO (Jurgen Deagle 780.883.0794) or designate as well as the PCA Project Manager (Steven Colbath 780.883.0273).
- All stationary operating equipment with fuel tanks or hydraulic systems (e.g., pumps), or stores of liquid hazardous materials (e.g., fuel) will be located within an impervious secondary containment area capable of holding 110% of the contents.

Machinery and Equipment

- Equipment and machinery will be in good operating condition, clean (power washed), free of leaks, excess oil and grease and non-native plant species. Equipment leaking or producing excessive exhaust will be repaired or replaced.
- Machinery will be situated to minimize track movement.
- Equipment servicing and maintenance will not occur on site.



- Refueling will occur over berms, tarps or other impervious barriers. Refueling of equipment will occur on land at least 30 m from any watercourse.

Cultural Resources

- If cultural /archaeological artifacts are found, project work will stop immediately at that location and the Environmental Surveillance Officer (780.883.0794), the Cultural Resource Specialist (mike.dillon@pc.gc.ca or 780.852.6164) or Jasper Dispatch (780.852.6155) will be notified.

Visitor Experience/Safety

- PCA will post signs to inform the public of the proposed Project, including works to occur and timelines.
- Visitor Information Centre will provide information regarding the Project activities, work periods and timelines.
- The contractor will have a Health and Safety Plan in place that includes measures to protect the public from construction activities (e.g., marking and providing barriers to open excavation, restricting access to active work areas etc.).

Site Reclamation

- Upon completion of the proposed work, the area will be reclaimed using standard practices - recontouring, redistribution of the stockpiled topsoil, seeding and, if desired, placing salvaged woody material at nodes throughout the disturbed area.
- Seeding will use the most current *Jasper National Park Approved Seed Mix*.

General Mitigations:

- Please contact the ESO – Jurgen Deagle (780-883-0794 or jurgen.deagle@pc.gc.ca) or designate two weeks (or as soon as possible) prior to commencement of work. The ESO will schedule an on-site start up meeting, arrange site surveillance, and will issue any applicable Special Activity Permits.
- The ESO or designate may require additional mitigations in response to any unforeseen environmental impacts.
- All contractors will ensure that all work is performed in accordance with the ordinances, laws, rules and regulations set out in the *Canada National Parks Act* and Regulations.

6. Conclusion and Determination

Through careful review of the all components of this project, Parks Canada has determined there are no valued ecosystem components considered at risk. Taking into account the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, this project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

7. Approval



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



BIA Determination Prepared by:

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Signature

Date: May 3/16

BIA Reviewed by:

Steven Colbath
Project Manager, Project Delivery Services West


Signature

Date: May 03/16

BIA Reviewed by:

Mabaye Dia
Sr. Environmental Assessment Scientist


Signature

Date: May 3rd/16

BIA Recommended by:


Tom Bell
A/Asset Manager


Signature

Date: May 03/16

BIA Recommended by:


Shawn Cardiff
Integrated Land Use Policy and Planning Manager


Signature

Date: May 4/16

BIA Approved by:

Alan Fehr
Jasper Field Unit Superintendent


Signature

Date: May 5/16