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Parks Canada Waterton Lakes National Park General Project Best Management Practices

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Version 1.2

Canada



Parks Canada Waterton Lakes National Park General Project Best Management Practices

Recommendation & Approval – Version 1.2

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Definitions

Sensitive Features are any areas designated by the IAO or through the EIA process as locations that require additional care and consideration for project activities. Examples of sensitive features include but are not limited to nests, dens and roosts, locations of cultural resources, critical habitat or residences for SAR, riparian areas, fescue grasslands, wildlife corridors, rare ecotypes, areas of management concern, etc.

The following is a list of Sensitive Features defined for this project.

Abbreviations

BMP	Best Management Practices
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
EAS	Environmental Alignment Sheets
EI	Ecological Integrity
EIA	Environmental Impact Analysis
ERP	Emergency Response Plan
ESCP	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
IAO	Impact Assessment Officer
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
PCA	Parks Canada Agency
PM	Project Manager / Functional Manager of Project
SAR	Species at Risk
SARA	<i>Species at Risk Act</i>
SO	Surveillance Officer
VC	Valued Component
WLNP	Waterton Lakes National Park



Introduction

The *Waterton Lakes National Park General Project Best Management Practices* will allow an identified suite of project activities to be undertaken in such a manner that there will not be resulting significant adverse environmental effects.

The Best Management Practice (BMP) pathway is applied when there is a suite of routine, repetitive projects or activities, with well understood and predictable effects. This fulfills Parks Canada's obligations under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012* as a manager of federal land, see the [Guide to the Parks Canada EIA Process](#). The BMP maximizes efficiency through creation of a pre-approved impact assessment for the defined suite of projects, to which standard mitigation and environmental management measures can be applied.

The impact assessment office (IAO) will review a proposed project and advise the functional manager of the project (PM) if and how this BMP should be applied. The IAO's advice will be based on whether the project falls within the scope of the BMP, and whether application of the mitigation measures in the BMP will adequately address potential adverse effects of the project.

Project Managers are responsible to ensure all mitigation measures applicable to the project are added to the terms and conditions of any permits or contracts issued for the project.

The Impact Assessment Officers must ensure the project, Environmental Impact Analysis (EIA) pathway applied and determination are recorded in the Parks Canada National Impact Assessment [Tracking System](#).

These BMPs have been compiled from a number of available documents, as listed at the end of this document, and have been adapted to address the predictable effects of routine, repetitive project or activities within the Waterton Lakes Field Unit.

Scope of Application

This BMP outlines the impact analysis of repetitive and routine projects¹. Site security, worker safety and visitor safety are not included in the scope of this document. If a project involves some or all of below activities, and the initial assessment of site and project indicate "the project is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental effects" the BMP can be applied.

Projects that this BMP would likely be applied to include:

- The proposed maintenance, repair or upgrade of an **existing** development.
- **New** projects with restricted footprints that do not include sensitive habitats.
- Proposed restoration of **new** and **existing** developments.

For projects where further EIA is warranted, this BMP may be utilized as part of the mitigation package for the analysis. Therefore, this document also presents a minimum standard to provide

¹ For repetitive and routine projects on roadways, highways and parkways, refer to the Parks Canada National Best Management Practices - Roadway, Highway, Parkway and Related Infrastructure.



consultants and contractors for environmental protection measures on work sites. In these cases, additional protection measures and mitigations may be required.

Exceptions

Supplemental analysis and/or mitigations are required for the following project activities:

- New projects or developments in natural areas;
- Projects adjacent to sensitive features;
- Work that may impact aquatic or terrestrial wildlife habitat connectivity, such as new fences or culverts;
- Physical works immediately adjacent to the international boundary;
- Elongation of culverts; realigning water courses; dredging; or work below the high water mark of a fish bearing water body;
- Bridge projects needing work to occur below the High-Water Mark², with permanent alteration to the water course, such as replacement of piers/abutments or permanent installation of structures on the bed of a water body;
- Greater than 5% increase in land use footprint (e.g. project expansion); and,
- Work which might adversely impact any potential or established Aboriginal and Treaty rights or traditional use³.

If the project has the potential to have an adverse effect on the critical habitat of a species at risk (with endangered, threatened, or extirpated status) the project will require a separate environmental impact analysis.

If the project has the potential for residual adverse effects on a listed species at risk (including effects to individuals and residence of the individuals) the project will require a separate environmental impact analysis.

Note: If there is any uncertainty regarding potential adverse effects to species at risk, consult a member of the **National Office Species Conservation team**.

Approved Geographic Area of Application

This BMP is intended for use on projects completed in Waterton Lakes National Park (WLNP).

² High-water Mark is the usual or average level to which a body of water rises at its highest point and remains for a sufficient time so as to leave a mark on the land. (Fisheries and Oceans, 2015).

³ Parks Canada must engage in additional and separate consultations with Aboriginal groups if there is a possibility of a project adversely affecting established or potential Aboriginal or Treaty rights. This is required to fulfil federal government responsibilities in upholding the honour of the crown. If there is uncertainty regarding the need for Aboriginal consultation with respect to a project, refer the matter to Parks Canada Legal Services for advice. Guidance on consultation may be sought from the [Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat](#) and from the guidance document "[A Handbook for Parks Canada Employees on Consultation with Aboriginal Peoples](#)".



Roles and Responsibilities during Construction

The following is a select list of key roles that will be in place during the construction program⁴. The responsibilities of the key roles are not limited to those that are stated below, as this is a select list of roles most relevant to compliance with environmental commitments and regulations for projects where the proponent is the Parks Canada Agency (PCA).

Project Manager (PM)

The Project Manager is accountable to deliver the project and is responsible for managing risk, scope, time and budget. The Project manager is the Technical Authority and is the contractor's unique point of contact. The Project manager reviews and develops contract change order and supporting documents and conducts pre-construction meetings and chairs project team meetings. Note that where the proponent of a project is external to Parks Canada, a functional manager of the project within the Agency is designated.

Project Inspector

The Project Inspector reviews plans for compliance to building codes and development guidelines. The Project Inspector performs inspections on behalf of the Project manager and monitors contract compliance in consultation with procurement office. The Project Inspector is responsible for keeping daily logs.

Project Leader

The Project Leader is accountable for the overall success of the project. The Project Leader recommends approval to proceed to the construction phase and approves changes in scope, budget or schedule in consultation with Procurement Officer.

Impact Assessment Officer (IAO)

The Impact Assessment Officer is responsible for drafting and/or reviewing the EIA and ensuring that the scope of work of the environmental analysis complies with Parks Canada's responsibilities under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012* as well as all other relevant regulations and guidelines. The IAO may also function as the SO for project construction.

Surveillance Officer (SO)

The Surveillance Officer is responsible for on-site surveillance of the work in accordance with the Parks Canada EIA and environmental regulations and guidelines. The SO will provide direction regarding environmental assessment / environmental infractions or emergencies through the Project Manager unless necessary. As the Parks Canada representative for environmental concerns, the SO may consult with relevant specialists to determine appropriate implementation for mitigation measures. The SO has the authority to stop work for National Parks Act violations, however, during normal operations does not give direction to the Contractor.

⁴ The list of roles and key responsibilities have been modified from the PCA document *Construction Site Roles and Responsibilities*.



Consultants

Consultants recommend contract amendments, reviews and approves shop drawings and provides advice on project compliance. Consultants perform inspections on behalf of the Project Manager.

Environmental Consultants

Under the direction of the IAO, environmental consultants are responsible for producing deliverables as required for the Project, including, but not limited to: Environmental Impact Assessment, site-specific mitigation strategies, Environmental Alignment Sheets (EAS), Environmental Management Plan.

Prime Contractor

The Prime Contractor is responsible for developing a site-specific Occupational Safety and Health Management Plan. The Prime Contractor is responsible for guarding the health and safety of those working on and visiting the site through implementing occupational safety and health induction training. The Prime contractor also obtains materials and labour necessary to successfully complete the project. The Prime contractor will engage and plan the work of sub-contractors and acquire all necessary licenses and permits, provide any required EIA construction planning documents for review (see [Submissions Section](#)) and record minutes of site meetings.

Banff Dispatch 403-762-1473

911 provides 24-hour emergency dispatch services and will connect callers with emergency or other Parks Canada services as required (e.g., Warden/Law Enforcement Services, Duty Officers). Banff dispatch at 403-762-1473 can be used for 24 hour notification to Parks Canada in non-emergency situations. When calling, if unsure what services you require, request a Waterton Duty Officer.

Environmental Overview

Environmental Setting

Waterton Lakes National Park (WLNP) occupies approximately 505 km² in the southwest corner of Alberta in the southern Rocky Mountains. WLNP forms part of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, and is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its significant ecological, scenic and cultural values. The park is rich in biodiversity, which includes 1001 vascular plant species, 23 fish species, 6 amphibian species, 4 reptile species, 62 mammal species and over 250 bird species.

As part of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem, WLNP makes up part of a north-south wildlife corridor including migratory bird and bat flight pathways (Lausen 2012). Five ecoregions - foothills parkland, montane, lower subalpine, upper subalpine and alpine – are represented within WLNP boundaries.

Refer to [Appendix 3](#) for descriptions and potential construction limitations by ecosite within WLNP.

Ecological Integrity

Ecological Integrity (EI) is defined in the Canada National Parks Act as “a condition that is determined to be characteristic of its natural region and likely to persist, including abiotic



components and the composition and abundance of native species and biological communities, rates of change and supporting processes”.

The indicators used to assess EI in WLNP include: Forest, Freshwater, and Grasslands. Measures of these indicators are summarized and include: Terrestrial Birds, 5-Needled Pine – Health Transects, Area Forest Area Disturbed by Fire, Sensitive Species Secure Habitat, Multi-species Mammal Occupancy, Stream Biotic Health (CABIN), Lake Fish Index, Water Quality, Amphibian Occupancy, Stream Fish Community Index, Grassland Birds, Non-Native and Native Plants, Grassland Extent, Elk, and Grassland Area Disturbed by Fire.

Species at Risk

WLNP is host to a number of species that are Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern under Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Species listed as Endangered, Threatened and Special concern under COSEWIC, as well as the Alberta *Wildlife Act* are also considered in managing species at risk within WLNP. Defined and proposed critical habitat within WLNP is found in [Appendix 2](#) and other habitat association maps.

Table 1 Species at Risk Occurring in Waterton Lakes National Park

Species	SARA status	COSEWIC	Provincial Status
Vascular Plants			
Bolander’s Quillwort	Threatened	--	--
Limber Pine	--	Endangered	Endangered
Whitebark Pine*	Endangered	--	Endangered
Arthropods			
Half-moon Hairstreak*	Endangered	--	--
Western Bumble Bee	--	Threatened (southern subspecies)	--
Amphibians			
Long-toed Salamander	--	Not at risk	Special Concern
Northern Leopard Frog	Special Concern (Western Boreal/Prairie Populations)		Threatened
Western Tiger Salamander	--	Special Concern (Prairie/Boreal Population)	--
Western Toad	Special Concern (Calling and/or Non-calling populations)	--	--
Reptiles			
Western painted turtle	Special Concern	--	--
Birds			
Band-tailed Pigeon	Special Concern	--	--
Bank Swallow	--	Threatened	--
Barn Swallow	--	Threatened	--
Black Swift	--	Endangered	--
Bobolink	--	Threatened	--
Canada Warbler*	Threatened	--	--
Chestnut-collared Longspur*	Threatened	--	--
Common Nighthawk*	Threatened	--	--
Ferruginous Hawk*	Threatened	--	Endangered
Harlequin Duck	--	Not assessed	Special Concern
Horned Grebe	--	Special Concern	--
Lewis’s Woodpecker*	Threatened	--	--
Loggerhead Shrike	Threatened	--	Special Concern
Long-billed Curlew	Special Concern	--	Special Concern
Olive-sided Flycatcher*	Threatened	--	--
Peregrine Falcon	Special Concern	--	Threatened
Prairie Falcon	--	Not assessed	Special Concern



Species	SARA status	COSEWIC	Provincial Status
Red-headed Woodpecker*	Threatened	--	--
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	--	--
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	--	--
Sprague's Pipit	Threatened	--	Special Concern
Trumpeter Swan	--	Not at Risk	Special Concern
Western Grebe	--	Special Concern	Threatened
Western Screech-Owl*	Endangered	--	--
White-winged Scoter	--	Not assessed	Special Concern
Whooping Crane	Endangered	--	--
Fish			
Westslope Cutthroat Trout	Threatened	--	Threatened
Bull Trout	--	Threatened (Saskatchewan-Nelson Population)	Threatened
Pygmy Whitefish	--	Not assessed	Threatened
Mammals			
American Badger	--	Special Concern	Data Deficient
Grizzly Bear	--	Special Concern (Western Population)	Threatened
Little Brown Myotis*	Endangered	--	Data Deficient
Plains Bison	--	Threatened	--
Western Small-footed Myotis	--	Not assessed	Special Concern
Wolverine	--	Special Concern (Western Population)	Data Deficient

*species with no published recovery strategy

Components of the environment that may be affected

Potential effects from projects occurring within WLNP are well understood and predictable. They include:

Water Resources:

- Adverse modifications to surface drainage patterns
- Reduced water quality due to increased erosion, sedimentation, transportation of debris and contamination (i.e. from leaks and accidental spills, etc.)
- Physical alteration of aquatic habitat

Soil/Land Resources:

- Change in slopes, landforms and landscape
- Soil compaction and rutting
- Slope instability due to increased soil exposure and improper excavation and storage
- Soil contamination

Air quality:

- Decreased ambient air quality (i.e. from dust, equipment emissions, etc.)
- Increased ambient noise levels
- Temporary increased levels of CO₂ and other pollutants
- Temporary increased localized temperatures from paving and equipment operation

Vegetation:

- Damage to and/or removal of vegetation in immediate or adjacent areas
- Introduction of non-native species populations, or expansion of existing populations

Wildlife:

- Introduction of non-native species populations, or expansion of existing populations



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- Wildlife sensory disturbance causing displacement/preferred habitat avoidance
- Wildlife habituation/attraction to artificial food sources
- Impeded/altered wildlife movement
- Damage to nests/disruption of nesting animals
- Mortality from project activities
- Damage to the quality of nesting / spawning / roosting habitats

Cultural Resources:

- Adverse effects on the heritage value or character-defining elements of a cultural resource
- Impacts to archaeological resources (known or potential)

Visitor Experience / Safety

- Decreased quality of visitor experience due to temporary area closures, operation of equipment, sensory disturbance
- Potential impacts to visitor safety due to construction activities



Mitigation Measures

To use the document efficiently, keep the activity mitigation lists that apply to the project expanded and collapse the other activities by clicking on the section titles, print this as a pdf or paper document and include with the EIA determination record. This will reduce the overall size and scope of the mitigations to present to contractors and project managers.

Choose all that apply to project. Each title is hyperlinked to the related section.

Module

- 1..... ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE
2. PROJECT PLANNING / DESIGN
3. SUBMISSIONS
4. ENVIRONMENTAL ALIGNMENT SHEETS
5. EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN
6. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN MODULE
7. GENERAL ACTIVITIES MITIGATIONS MODULE
8. VEGETATION REMOVAL MITIGATIONS MODULE
9. SOIL HANDLING MITIGATIONS MODULE
- 10..... SOIL AND VEGETATION RESTORATION MITIGATIONS MODULE
11. SLOPE STABILIZATION, DRILLING AND BLASTING MITIGATIONS MODULE
- 12..... ASPHALT PRODUCTION AND HANDLING MITIGATIONS MODULE
- 13..... CONCRETE HANDLING MITIGATIONS MODULE
- 14..... PAVING, RESURFACING, GRADING MITIGATIONS MODULE
- 15..... DRAINAGE STRUCTURES MITIGATIONS MODULE
- 16..... WORKS OVER OR IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO WATER
- 17..... WATER WITHDRAWAL AND DEWATERING MITIGATIONS MODULE
- 18..... BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES
- 19..... GEOTECHNICAL
20. SERVICE LINE HDD
- 21..... FIRE OPERATIONS
22. HELICOPTER OPERATIONS



1. Environmental Surveillance

- 1.1. All projects are subject to environmental surveillance by the SO to ensure that mitigation measures as outlined through the EIA process are implemented during all phases of construction, including clearing, grading, construction, cleanup, and restoration.
- 1.2. The SO will report deficiencies to the PM and summarize site visit observations in a surveillance report. The surveillance report will be filed into a database to supplement information for restoration activities in the future.
- 1.3. The Prime Contractor is responsible for keeping the SO informed of project activities and will notify the SO prior to the following activities:
 - Vegetation clearing and soil stripping < 30 m from sensitive features;
 - Activities in and < 30 m from water;
 - Species at risk mitigation measures;
 - Rare plant mitigation measures; and
 - As otherwise outlined in the project EIA. Project Planning / Design

2. Project Planning / Design

Project planning and engineering design for new projects or upgrades to existing infrastructure will incorporate consideration of environmental impacts of long term operation and the potential for Conservation Gains through improved design.

Lighting / Dark Sky Compliance

- 2.1. The replacement or installation of new lighting must be dark sky compliant and follow the Parks Canada Guidelines and Specifications for Outdoor Lighting ([Appendix 9](#)). Outdoor fixtures must be shielded, full cut off low intensity dark sky compliant lights. Interior lighting must be designed to reduce light trespass. The colour temperature of any new luminaires should be under 3000K, with amber LED or converted amber LED preferred.

Wildlife Collisions & Direct Mortality

Buildings and structures may include features that attract or result in direct mortality of wildlife. For example, reflective or transparent surfaces and lights left on after dark can attract or confuse resident and migratory birds leading to an increase in collisions.

- 2.2. Incorporate lights that shut-off automatically to promote energy efficiency and reduce night time bird collisions.
- 2.3. Minimize use of unnecessary reflective or transparent materials in building design.
- 2.4. For windows, complete risk assessment for collisions and consider technologies that effectively make windows visible to birds (e.g., UV visible coatings, closely spaced marker dots).
- 2.5. Appropriately screen chimney and ventilation shafts to avoid attracting cavity roosting birds or bats to risky locations.
- 2.6. Appropriately screen all water intakes to prevent amphibian and fish mortality.



Wildlife Habitat & Movements

- 2.7. Do not constrict wildlife movement corridors and wildlife trails with physical barriers or sensory disturbance (e.g., lighting, fences, generator noise, and increased human use). Known areas of constricted wildlife movement are outlined in [Appendix 6](#).
- 2.8. In the Waterton community or areas with high visitation, do not create wildlife barriers where animals may become trapped or difficult for Wildlife Conflict Specialists to manage (e.g., fences, corners, spaces under decks).
- 2.9. Enclose all areas such as under porches, to prevent access by wildlife (e.g., prevent cougars from using these areas for hunting, caching and resting).
- 2.10. For gated/fenced areas, provide escape routes such as leaving 45 cm clearance under gates.
- 2.11. Improve landscape connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife:
 - Remove anthropogenic constrictions from wildlife movement corridors;
 - Increase the span length of bridges during replacements to allow for terrestrial wildlife passage underneath; and
 - Convert smaller culverts to larger culverts or clear span bridges to allow for better fish passage and less restricted flows (see [culvert section](#)).

Human Use

- 2.12. Incorporate human behaviour into design to minimize human use impacts on the surrounding lands. Some examples include:
 - Block social trails and provide clear wayfinding signage to encourage use of designated trails;
 - Formalize a single trail to remove multiple social/unwanted trails;
 - Prevent vehicle parking outside designated areas; and
 - Manage wildlife attractants and litter through garbage facilities.

Efficiency

- 2.13. Design includes materials and technologies that minimize environmental impacts through the lifecycle of the material.
- 2.14. Design incorporates energy efficiency, reduction of greenhouse gases and environmental design best management practices (e.g., LEED criteria).
- 2.15. Minimize water use and incorporate water meters in buildings over 1000 m².

Project Footprint & Siting

- 2.16. Avoid sensitive features and apply appropriate setbacks.
- 2.17. The Project Footprint and construction methods use existing disturbances and development footprints as much as possible in order to minimize project impacts on native vegetation.
- 2.18. Minimize visual impact of site layout, access routes and construction activities.
- 2.19. Locations are compatible with any zoning requirements (e.g., avalanche paths, wilderness zone). See [Appendix 7](#).
- 2.20. Design minimizes the area and/or impact of disturbance.
- 2.21. Design and plan activities and works near watercourses and waterbodies to minimize disturbance to aquatic habitat and avoid sensitive spawning habitats.
- 2.22. Design and construct approaches to a watercourse perpendicular to the watercourse to minimize loss or disturbance to riparian vegetation.



- 2.23. Avoid building structures on meander bends, braided streams, alluvial fans, active floodplains or any other area that is inherently unstable and may result in erosion and scouring of the stream bed or the built structures.

Aquatic Habitat / Water Quality

- 2.24. Minimize runoff into water bodies; direct runoff and storm water into vegetated areas rather than directly into surface waters.
- 2.25. Avoid designs and construction practices that result in long, smooth, uniform slopes and may contribute to erosion or sediment transfer.
- 2.26. Apply appropriate standards for all septic field, pit privy, and other waste water management at facilities.
- 2.27. Projects < 100 m from sensitive aquatic features including wetlands, drainages, streams, lakes and other surface water requires additional EIA to determine appropriate setbacks, mitigations and other design considerations related to aquatic habitats.

Fire

- 2.28. Design considers location and materials appropriate for risk of fire, following FireSmart Canada guidelines where feasible to reduce risk of fire in the wildland-human interface.

Restoration Funding / Plan

- 2.29. Project planning and design minimize the disturbance to surrounding vegetation as much as is feasible.
- 2.30. Project planning incorporates opportunities to restore or use existing disturbed areas. Consult the disturbed areas database in [Appendix 8](#).
- 2.31. Project planning includes restoration of the site following construction. Short term revegetation must establish native vegetation cover to reduce potential for erosion, topsoil loss, and weed infiltration and spread. Long term restoration will establish native vegetation communities similar to existing communities prior to disturbance, or comparable to adjacent areas (see [Restoration Section](#)).

Pre-Construction Surveys

- 2.32. Prior to the commencement of project activities, the IAO may determine that field surveys are required to determine the applicability of this BMP, requirements for additional impact analysis, identify sensitive features, and determine mitigations.
- 2.33. All ground disturbance activities must be compared to local archaeological resource inventories and the IAO will consult with the Terrestrial Archaeology section. An Archaeological Overview Assessment (AOA) may be required to determine the archaeological potential of the work area. Based on the results from the AOA, an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) might be required.

Survey	Required	Details
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hazardous Materials Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reconnaissance Site Visit	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rare Plant Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Survey	Required	Details
Wetland Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wildlife Survey (list types)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fish Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Soils / Geotechnical	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cultural Resources (list type)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
AOA / AIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Water/Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Visitor Experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Weed Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

3. Submissions

3.1. Check box of attachments / plans required prior to the start of construction.

Attachments / Plans	Required	Responsible Party	Reviewer and Submission Deadline
Environmental Alignment Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Follow mitigation measures in this document	N/A
ERP (Emergency Response Plan)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Spill Response Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Follow mitigation measures in this document	N/A
Fire Contingency Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Avalanche Safety Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Site-specific Mitigation Details	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Restoration Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>		
HDD or Geotechnical Drill Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>		

4. Environmental Alignment Sheets

4.1. Environmental Alignment Sheets (EAS) are maps of the project area that clearly outline environmental and cultural sensitivities relative to the designated work area. They assist the PM, SO and contractor in the scheduling, planning, and execution of Project works.

5. Erosion and Sediment Control Plan

- 5.1. An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) will be prepared that covers all construction and restoration periods.
- 5.2. The requirements for an erosion and sediment control plan can be scaled to the scope and associated risks of the project, as determined by the IAO or SO.
- 5.3. The Erosion and Sediment Management Plan will be developed by a qualified professional and is subject to approval of the IAO.



Timing of Works

- 5.4. Schedule work to avoid extreme wet, windy and rainy periods that may increase erosion and sedimentation.
- 5.5. Avoid soil disturbing activities during periods with saturated soils, periods of runoff, high rainfall intensity, high winds, or wet snow. Temporarily stop work when wet ground conditions contribute to erosion and sediment transport.

General Mitigations

- 5.6. Erosion control measures that prevent sediment transport into any waterway, water body or wetland shall be implemented by the contractor.
- 5.7. Identify high risk areas or components of the project including areas with fine-grained soils, sandy deposits, slopes, shallow soils, or adjacent to sensitive features (e.g., riparian areas).
- 5.8. Identify sources of potential runoff (e.g., ditches, slopes) from within the construction site or from upslope areas. Construct and maintain structures to deflect sources of runoff from entering areas of exposed soils (e.g., diversion ditches, vegetative filter strips).
- 5.9. Acquire necessary erosion and sediment control equipment (i.e., landscaping fabric, sediment fences, coir rolls etc.) and install prior to risk of sediment transport.
- 5.10. Minimize slope lengths and angles, promote surface roughness on slopes, and avoid designs and construction practices that result in smooth, uniform slopes. Incorporate texture and organics into the cover of slopes to reduce soil erodibility.
- 5.11. Plan project activities to minimize soil handling.
- 5.12. Limit equipment movement over exposed soils.
- 5.13. Avoid activities that contribute to soil compaction and use practices that roughen and decompact soils to promote infiltration.
- 5.14. Ensure all activities are conducted at least 30 m from waterbodies wherever possible.
- 5.15. Minimize extent of vegetation cover removal and grubbing. Clearly mark construction boundaries to prevent accidental damage to vegetation.
- 5.16. Where vegetation cannot be retained, apply soil covers to erodible areas (granular materials, mulches, tackifier, tarps). Note that tarp covers may not be suitable at most locations in WLNP where high winds are common.
- 5.17. Minimize the length of time soils are exposed and complete work in one area before commencing work in another area.
- 5.18. If vegetation clearing is scheduled early due to timing windows, grubbing should be delayed until just prior to construction activities, in order to maintain soil stability.
- 5.19. Initiate replanting of disturbed areas immediately after construction is completed.
- 5.20. Ensure all erosion and sediment control devices are weed free. Straw and hay based erosion control is not permitted.
- 5.21. Avoid use of coconut matting due to ungulate hoof entrapment.
- 5.22. Maintain and repair all erosion and sediment control structures in a timely manner. If the design of the control measures is not functioning effectively they are to be repaired.
- 5.23. The site will be secured against erosion during any periods of construction inactivity or shutdown.



- 5.24. Install all erosion and sediment control devices according to Typical Drawings included in ESCP. Typical Drawings must be on site and available at the request of the SO.

Minimum Requirements

- 5.25. The minimum requirements of an erosion and sediment control plan include consideration of:
- Project design and spatial concept of environmental sensitivities (e.g. watercourses, wetlands, steep slopes etc.);
 - Erosion prevention procedures (e.g., project schedule, minimization of work area, site management, ground cover measures);
 - Sediment control measures (e.g. sediment fences, check dams, sediment traps, etc.) including specifications and Typical Drawings of sediment control structures;
 - Detailed plans for instream works including site isolation measures and project timelines;
 - Water management plans including site control, equipment necessary and proposed dewatering locations;
 - Locations of erosion and sediment control measure application;
 - Monitoring of prevention and control measures and corrective actions (e.g., repairs).
 - Removal of non-biodegradable materials once site is stabilized.

6. Emergency Response Plan Module

- 6.1. The general emergency contact for WLNP is 9-1-1.

Spill Response Plan

- 6.2. The Prime Contractor is responsible for ensuring that a Spill Response Plan is developed prior to start of work and the plan is subject to approval of the IAO.
- 6.3. The Prime Contractor is responsible for ensuring that spill kits sufficient to contain and clean up 110% of the site's largest possible fuel / chemical spill must be retained on site at each location of potential spills (sites where equipment is working).
- 6.4. The Prime Contractor is responsible for ensuring that all crew members and sub-consultants on site receive a briefing about the Spill Response Plan and are aware of the location and use of spill kits and containment devices.

General Mitigations

- 6.5. Avoid work in high risk areas, particularly in areas of high water table, steep slopes or in close proximity to streams.
- 6.6. Have spill containment equipment on-hand and ensure that all personnel are aware of their location and trained in their use.
- 6.7. Absorbent booms must be immediately available on site during works in and near water.
- 6.8. Ensure all construction equipment is free of leaks from oil, fuel or hydraulic fuels. See [General Activities](#) module for the requirements for equipment inspection by the SO prior to entry to WLNP.
- 6.9. The crossing of any waterbody (including wetlands) by construction equipment, or the use of such equipment within waterbodies is strictly prohibited unless prior approval has been confirmed from the SO.



- 6.10. Designate refuelling areas at least 100 m away from any water body. Refuelling activities should not be conducted where run-off could carry contaminants into drainage pathways (including storm sewers).
- 6.11. Hazardous or toxic products shall be stored no closer than 100 metres from streams, wetlands, water bodies or waterways.
- 6.12. Equipment will be fuelled on hardened surfaces wherever possible.
- 6.13. Spill kits shall be provided at re-fuelling, lubrication, and repair locations.
- 6.14. Dispose of contaminated materials at provincially certified disposal sites outside of WLNP. No treatment of contaminated soils (e.g., bioremediation) is allowed in WLNP. All applicable documentation demonstrating proper disposal will be provided to Parks Canada.
- 6.15. If potentially hazardous materials (e.g. cement-based products, sealants or paints) are used on site ensure raw material, mixed compounds and wash water are not released to any watercourse or soils. Secondary containment measures such as collection/drip trays and berms lined with occlusive material such as plastic and a layer of sand, and double-lined fuel tanks are required.
- 6.16. All gas generators and water pumps require secondary containment. Electric pumps are preferred.
- 6.17. Follow all applicable regulations and codes for the management and handling of hazardous waste.
- 6.18. The costs involved in a spill incident (the control, clean up, disposal of contaminants and site remediation to pre-spill conditions), shall be the responsibility of the Prime Contractor. The site will be inspected by the SO to ensure completion to the expected standard and to the satisfaction of Parks Canada.
- 6.19. Timely and effective action shall be taken to stop, contain and clean-up all spills as long as the site is safe to enter. In the event of a major spill, all other work shall be stopped and all personnel devoted to spill containment and clean-up.
- 6.20. The SO shall be notified immediately of any spill. In the event of a major spill, Banff Dispatch (403-762-1473) shall be notified immediately.

A major spill is defined below:

Material	Immediate Notification Requirements	Written Spill Report Requirements
Any deleterious substance that enters a water body of any type (e.g., stream, lake, wetland, drainage, sewer) or poses a threat to human safety (e.g., slippery road, explosive hazard, poisonous gas).	Any Quantity, notify the SO and Banff Dispatch.	Required; Major Spill
Any substance that is hazardous or toxic to the environment including but not limited to, waterproofing agents, grout, cement, concrete finishing agents, hot poured rubber membrane materials, asphalt cement, sand blasting agents, paint, solvents and hydrocarbons (e.g., fuel, grease, hydraulic fluid).	<100 L, immediately notify the SO. > 100 L, immediately notify the SO and Banff Dispatch.	At the discretion of the SO. Major Spill if not contained. Required; Major Spill

Minimum Requirements

- 6.21. The Spill Response Plan must at minimum, include the following information:
 - o List of products and materials that are considered or defined as hazardous or toxic to the environment. Such products include, but are not limited to, waterproofing



- agents, grout, cement, concrete finishing agents, hot poured rubber membrane materials, asphalt cement, sand blasting agents, paint, solvents and hydrocarbons.
- required equipment on site and location of spill kits;
 - spill prevention procedures (i.e., containment and storage of materials, security, handling, use and disposal of empty containers, surplus product or waste generated in the application of these products in accordance with all applicable federal and provincial legislation);
 - fuelling procedures, fuel storage;
 - spill response (i.e., containment, clean-up, disposal of contaminated materials, etc.);
 - spill reporting procedure; and
 - up-to-date emergency response contact list including contact information for reporting spills.

Spill Reporting Requirements

- 6.22. Immediate spill reports are verbal notifications and must include all available information. Follow-up written spill reports must include the following:
- Prime Contractor Name
 - Name and Contact Number
 - Location and time the spill occurred
 - Type and quantity of the substance spilled
 - Cause of the spill
 - Size of area the spill spread to
 - Was the spill in water or on land
 - Does the spill have potential to enter a water body
 - Detail of immediate action taken to control the spill
 - Additional actions required or ongoing to control the spill
 - Any restoration required at the spill site
 - Names of PCA representatives that were present at the spill site

Fire Contingency Plan

- 6.23. An emergency fire contingency plan is required for projects where risk of fire exists (e.g. for operations on dry grassland habitats) as requested by the IAO in consultation with the Fire Management Officer.
- 6.24. Fires or burning of waste materials is not permitted.
- 6.25. The Prime Contractor is responsible for ensuring that all crew members and sub-consultants on site receive a briefing about the Fire Contingency Plan and are aware of the location of emergency equipment, such as fire extinguishers.
- 6.26. Where an emergency fire contingency plan has been requested, the prime contractor should provide, at minimum the required equipment as defined in Table “A” of the *Alberta Forest and Prairie Protection Regulations*.
- 6.27. The fire contingency plan must at minimum contain the following information:
- required equipment on site;
 - fire prevention procedures;
 - initial response;
 - fire reporting procedure; and
 - up-to-date emergency response contact list.



Table 2 Adapted Alberta Forest and Prairie Fire Protection Regulations AR 135/72, Table “A”

Required Equipment for Fire Control	People Employed at the Site of Operations									
	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41+
Shovels	1	1	2	2	3	5	10	15	20	Same as 31-40 plus increase as required by SO.
Back pack with pump	0	0	1	2	3	5	10	15	20	
Axe or Pulaski	0	1	1	1	2	5	10	15	20	
Fire pump	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Fire hose (metres)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	450 m	450 m	
Power saw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	

Avalanche Safety Plan

- 6.28. Before work commences in a workplace where there is or may be a risk from an avalanche to a person working in the workplace, an avalanche risk assessment must be completed.
- 6.29. If an avalanche risk assessment identifies an avalanche risk zone, no work may be conducted in the avalanche risk zone at any time when snow conditions have the potential to create an avalanche unless an avalanche safety plan has been developed and implemented.
- 6.30. If the avalanche safety plan is drafted by the Prime Contractor, it must be approved by Parks Canada Avalanche Forecasters.
- 6.31. The Prime Contractor can also choose to work under the Parks Canada Avalanche Safety Plan provided that this has been communicated to the WLNP Visitor Safety Technician and acknowledged in writing.
- 6.32. The Prime Contractor is responsible for ensuring and documenting that all crew members and sub-consultants have the required certification and training for work in avalanche terrain, as outlined in the Avalanche Safety Plan.

7. General Activities Mitigations Module

Construction activities involve the use of laydown/staging areas, equipment operations, storage and handling of hazardous materials. Potential adverse effects include: alteration of vegetation, erosion and sedimentation, constriction for wildlife movements and introduction/spread of non-native vegetation.

- 7.1. All employees must attend an environmental briefing with a SO before beginning work at the site to review and explain the mitigations that are conditions of the project approvals. Employees must attend this briefing before beginning their work at this site.
- 7.2. All equipment and vehicles will be made available for inspection by the SO on arrival to WLNP. The Prime Contractor will give 48 hours’ notice and schedule equipment inspection with the SO. Water trucks require a written restricted activity permit from the SO to enter the Park. The permit is received at initial inspection.



Construction Timing / Visitor Experience

- 7.3. Confine construction activities to hours set below, and if possible to periods of low visitation in order to reduce sensory disturbance to wildlife and visitors.
- 7.4. Time activities to minimize vehicle conflicts on access roads (*i.e.*, where possible, schedule activities so that equipment operations does not disrupt traffic flow; result in wildlife collisions).
- 7.5. All Parks Canada designated speed limits apply to construction vehicles. Additional speed restrictions may be required to protect wildlife and visitor safety.

	Required	Location(s)	Notes
Additional Speed Limits	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Work Hour Restriction	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Designated Truck Routes	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Timing Windows

- 7.6. Timing windows to reduce erosion, maintain compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, *Fisheries Act*, *Species at Risk Act* and may be part of best practices to reduce erosion and environmental effects. See detailed mitigations for timing windows under [Erosion and Sediment Control](#), [Vegetation Removal](#) and [Buildings](#) modules where these activities are part of project works. A summary of these restrictions is made below.

Consideration	Applicable	Restricted Window	Notes
Migratory Bird General Breeding Period	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	April 1 to August 31	
Bat Maternity Roost Activity Period	<input type="checkbox"/>	April 1 to August 31	
Bat General Activity Period	<input type="checkbox"/>	April 1 to October 31	
Amphibian Calling Window	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Bull Trout Restricted Work Periods	<input type="checkbox"/>	August 31 to August 15	
Other Fish Species Restricted Work Periods	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consult IAO	
Grassland Dormancy	<input type="checkbox"/>	October 1 to February 28	
Additional Timing Considerations (e.g., weed seed set, soil protection)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dry late summer and fall conditions	

Work Site Conditions/Staging/Laydown

- 7.7. Minimize vegetation-clearing activities and ground disturbance by staging on existing hardened areas wherever possible.
- 7.8. Delineate the work zone; clearly mark the limits to active construction, sensitive features and the access and egress locations.
- 7.9. The Prime Contractor is responsible for security and safety of the work site.
- 7.10. Strong winds are a regular occurrence in WLNP. Prevent materials from blowing off of work site.



- 7.11. If contamination is found, cease work immediately and if necessary, implement Emergency Response Plan.

Wildlife Observations and Encounters

- 7.12. Notify the SO immediately of any dens, litters, nests, carcasses (road kills or other), wildlife encounters, or carnivore (bears, wolves or cougars) observations on or around the worksite.
- 7.13. If wildlife is observed at or near the work site, allow the animal(s) the opportunity to leave the work area to the surrounding habitat and away from areas of potential conflict.
- 7.14. If potentially dangerous wildlife (e.g., bear, cougar, wolf, deer, sheep) persistently enter the work area or display aggressive behaviour, the contractor will immediately stop work, notify 9-1-1 or Banff Dispatch (403-762-1473), and safely evacuate the area.
- 7.15. Contractor will make bear spray, bear spray training, and wildlife awareness training mandatory to all workers on site.
- 7.16. Secure all materials that might attract wildlife (e.g. petroleum products, human food, recyclable food and drink containers and garbage).
- 7.17. No feeding, baiting or luring of any wildlife (including bears, small mammals, birds); do not approach or harass wildlife in any way. Notify the SO immediately if wildlife obtain garbage or human food. If wildlife get into attractants that have been intentionally or accidentally left out, individuals or the contractor could be charged under the *Canada National Parks Act* Regulations.

Equipment Operations & Fuelling

- 7.18. Equipment movements and workers' private vehicles shall be restricted to the designated footprint of the construction area.
- 7.19. Protective measures, including using appropriately sized equipment, or protective access matting must be employed if entry into wet areas is required.
- 7.20. Due to the importance of fescue grassland within WLNP, vehicles must not be driven onto any open grassland areas unless it has been designated by the SO as a parking area prior to construction activities.
- 7.21. Machinery must arrive on site in a clean and dry condition and be maintained free of fluid leaks, vegetative material (*i.e.*, invasive species, noxious weeds) and soils from off-site. All construction equipment from outside WLNP will be washed prior to arrival to minimize the risk of introducing weeds or aquatic invasive species. Additional weed-cleaning stations may be designated by the SO depending on project activities and locations (see table below).

	Required	Location(s)	Notes
Are additional weed cleaning stations required?	<input type="checkbox"/>		

- 7.22. Inspect equipment daily for fluid/fuel leaks and maintain equipment in good working order.
- 7.23. Equipment fuelling and maintenance sites will be identified by the Contractor and approved by the SO. Fuelling should occur on hardened areas > 100 m from streams,



wetlands, waterbodies or watercourses. Fuelling personnel shall maintain presence at and provide immediate attention to the fuelling operation.

- 7.24. Mobile fuel containers (e.g., slip tanks) shall remain in the service vehicle at all times.
- 7.25. Operate machinery on land above the high water mark, on ice, or in another manner that minimizes disturbance to the banks and bed of any water body.
- 7.26. Limit machinery crossing (fording) a stream or watercourse to a one-time event (i.e., over and back), and only if no alternative crossing method is available. If repeated crossings of the watercourse are required, construct a temporary crossing structure in compliance with the *Fisheries Act*.
- 7.27. For fording equipment without a temporary crossing structure, use stream bank and bed protection methods (e.g., swamp mats, pads) if minor rutting is likely to occur during fording.
- 7.28. Use temporary crossing structures or other practices to cross streams or water bodies with steep and highly erodible (e.g., dominated by organic materials and silts) banks and beds.
- 7.29. Equipment that will work adjacent to or within a stream or watercourse should be free of external grease, oil or other fluids, excessive mud, dirt and vegetation before entering the work area.

Small Equipment

- 7.30. All small equipment (e.g., chainsaws, mowers, etc.) should be kept in good working condition and free of oil and fuel leaks.
- 7.31. Where possible, chain oil should be vegetable-based.
- 7.32. Fuelling of chainsaws will take place outside of riparian areas and sensitive features.

Site Clean Up/Waste Disposal

- 7.33. Clean tools and equipment at an appropriate off-site facility to prevent the release of wash water that may contain deleterious substances.
- 7.34. Sweep up loose material or debris. Any material that may pose a risk of contamination to soils, surface water or groundwater should be disposed of appropriately off-site.
- 7.35. No construction waste (sawdust, soil, vegetation, debris, pumped water, hydrocarbon, chemicals, cement, asphalt, etc.) shall be allowed to enter an aquatic habitat or be deposited on undisturbed lands unless the said lands are part of the project works and approved for temporary waste storage.
- 7.36. Construction, trade, hazardous waste and domestic waste materials shall not be burned, buried or discarded at the construction site or elsewhere in WLNP. These wastes shall be contained and removed in a timely and approved manner and disposed at an appropriate waste landfill site located outside WLNP.
- 7.37. Construction waste storage containers, shall be emptied when 90% full. Waste containers will have lids, be wildlife proof if containing attractants, and waste loads shall be covered while being transported.
- 7.38. Sanitary facilities, such as a portable container toilet, shall be provided and maintained in a clean condition. Sanitary facilities must be in good condition, and located away from sensitive resources including water bodies.



Air Quality Mitigations

- 7.39. Diesel equipment used on the project shall be fuelled with low sulfur diesel fuels and shall conform to local emission requirements.
- 7.40. Minimize idling of engines at all times.
- 7.41. Schedule dust generating activities during periods with lower wind speeds.
- 7.42. Ensure fine materials being transported are covered and protected.

Cultural Resources

- 7.43. All work in WLNP is subject to the accidental finds clause whereby on finding any unexpected Cultural Resources, workers shall stop work in the immediate area and notify the SO. Parks Canada’s Terrestrial Archaeology section will provide advice and assessment of significance and determine requirements to mitigate the chance find. Examples of archaeological artefacts encountered in WLNP include buried bison bones, stone tools, and above ground cairns.
- 7.44. If applicable, follow additional mitigations outlined in the Cultural Resources Impact Assessment.

	Required	Location(s)	Notes
Are additional mitigations for cultural resources required?	<input type="checkbox"/>		

8. Vegetation Removal Mitigations Module

Project activities that may alter or remove vegetation include mowing, brushing, and landscape maintenance activities, non-native species management, fire hazard reduction and prescribed burn operations and pre-construction site clearing. Grubbing (stump and root removal) may be required to prepare the ground surface for other activities.

Wildlife Timing Windows

All vegetation, including grassland, has the potential to provide habitat for wildlife. Applicable timing windows for individual project vegetation removal is listed under the [General Activities Mitigations Module](#).

- 8.1. The regional bird/songbird nesting period in WLNP is **April 1 to August 31**. Avoid all vegetation removal during this time. If vegetation removal is scheduled to occur within this period, the SO may complete pre-work surveys for nesting migratory birds. See [Appendix 1](#) on regulatory guidance for further detail on the MBCA and SARA.
 - Nesting surveys must be completed within 7 days of project activities.
 - There is a **risk of delays** to project activities due to the presence of nesting migratory birds.
 - If a nest is found during the pre-work surveys, the vegetated area will be left intact with a suitable sized protected buffer until the young have left the nest and vicinity. Size of buffer is species dependent, to be determined by the SO in consultation with federal regulatory guidance.



- 8.2. Vegetation clearing can negatively impact bats in spring and summer. The timing windows for avoidance of vegetation removal activities in WLNP is April 1 to August 31 for vegetation likely to support roosting bats. If vegetation removal is scheduled to occur within this period, the SO may complete pre-work surveys for bat roosts.
- Roosting surveys must be completed within 7 days of project activities.
 - There is a **risk of delays** to project activities due to the presence of bat roosts.
 - If a potential bat roost is located, a site-specific mitigation strategy must be developed dependent on the type of roost and species present, to be determined by the SO in consultation with federal regulatory guidance.
- 8.3. Vegetation removal can negatively impact amphibians and reptiles, especially during breeding, transformation and important movement periods within and close to wetlands.
- If vegetation removal is to occur within 300 m from a confirmed or potential amphibian breeding wetland, or within 500 m from a confirmed SAR amphibian breeding wetland, additional impact analysis is required and site-specific mitigations developed.
 - If vegetation removal is scheduled to occur during non-frozen conditions, the SO may complete an amphibian and reptile ground search immediately prior to equipment activities.
 - If ground disturbance activities are scheduled to occur in frozen conditions, amphibian exclusion fencing may be required in the preceding fall season at the discretion of the SO.

Other Timing Considerations

- 8.4. Where ground disturbance accompanies vegetation removal, time activities to minimize soil handling, soil compaction, and erosion potential. Avoid extreme dry windy and wet conditions.
- 8.5. In areas with weed infestations, reduce weed spread through vegetation removal prior to seed set.

Vegetation Removal Mitigations

- 8.6. If previously unidentified sensitive features are found during construction, immediately stop work and notify the SO (e.g., raptor nest).
- 8.7. Vegetation removal should be limited to the minimum area required for safe operations during construction or to meet the objectives of the clearing activities (i.e., fire breaks, sight lines etc.).
- 8.8. Minimize full removal and retain vegetation when possible to reduce erosion.
- 8.9. Retain 30 metre vegetated buffer around sensitive features; where disturbance is unavoidable < 30 metres, a restoration plan is required and the SO must be on site during disturbance activities.
- 8.10. Do not deposit debris in water bodies.
- 8.11. Limbing must be completed using the appropriate equipment to minimize damage to the tree (i.e., using a hoe bucket to limb trees is not appropriate as it can cause the bark to tear and can make the remaining tree vulnerable to diseases and rot).

Tree removal



Disposal of Vegetation Debris

- 8.21. Where practicable, as much of the coarse woody debris and organic matter from the tree removal should remain on the site and used in restoration. The quantity and distribution of slash remaining must not impede wildlife movement, choke out native vegetation, create a significant fire hazard or cause an excessive nutrient flush.
- 8.22. All debris that is not being disposed of on-site must be removed as soon as possible from the project footprint, by transporting off-site for disposal.
- 8.23. If temporary storage is required, store debris on already disturbed areas to minimize footprint of disturbance.
- 8.24. All vegetation containing non-native species will be bagged and removed off site to disposal facility.
- 8.25. On approval of the SO, vegetation debris may be taken to the WLNP burn pile at the upper government compound provided all materials are transported, placed and sorted according to current WLNP requirements.
- 8.26. If removal is not feasible a chipper may be used for less than 50 boles per hectare. Chip depth is to be a maximum of 5 cm (2 inches), spread over area no greater of 5m x 5m per hectare so as to not cover underlying vegetation, prevent new native seedlings from sprouting, and cause soil/seed bank sterilization. Spreading of chips may extend beyond these parameters with approval by the SO.
- 8.27. Firewood must be salvaged and bucked and stacked at the government compound.
 - Firewood Tree: one that has a minimum diameter off 15 cm outside bark at stump height (30 cm) and a usable length of 4.88 m to a 10 cm diameter (inside bark).
 - Fire Piece: One that is 2.44 m (plus 5 cm trim allowance) or longer, with a 10 cm (inside bark) small end, where rot content or form does not render it unusable.

Pile Burning (PCA Prescribed Burn Operations)

Herbicide Use

- 8.34. A Field Unit Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) must be completed and approved prior to the use of herbicides to ensure the most effective and least harmful substances are properly used.

9. Soil Handling Mitigations Module

To successfully complete restoration of disturbed areas, and protect areas from erosion, proper soil handling and backfilling procedures must be followed. Post excavation and stripping soil and vegetation restoration mitigations should be applied. See Section 10 of this BMP for [Soil and Vegetation Restoration](#).

- 9.1. All soil handling activities require consideration of erosion and sediment control. [See ESCP Section](#).

Soil Stripping

- 9.2. No stripping shall occur outside of the delineated work area or within 1 metre of the drip line of existing forest.
- 9.3. Stripping close to any watercourse, water body or wetland shall employ methods to ensure materials are not pushed, do not fall or erode into the water or wetlands.
- 9.4. Soil must be stripped in accordance with the [ESCP](#). Key components for soil stripping are:



- Minimize soil movement and handling at all times.
- Strip topsoil under dry conditions, whenever possible.
- In the event of a work program shutdown during inclement weather (e.g. winter conditions unfavourable for construction, heavy rain events, construction delays, etc.) contingency planning for bared soils or excavated material stockpiles is required.

Topsoil Salvage

- 9.5. Salvage topsoil at all excavation sites for restoration purposes.
- 9.6. Prevent loss of topsoil through wind or water erosion.
- 9.7. Usually the upper 15 cm of soil, below the sod layer if present, is considered topsoil, where topsoil depths exceed 15 cm then salvage the entire depth of topsoil.
- 9.8. Where depths exceed 15 cm, salvage the upper 15 cm of topsoil separately from the remaining, where the seedbank is filled with desirable native seed material.
- 9.9. The SO may designate separate storage of topsoil zones whereby forest soils are stored separately from grassland soils and weed contaminated soils are separated from clean topsoil.

Fescue Grassland

- 9.10. Fescue grasslands are sensitive features and work in or adjacent to them requires additional impact analysis.
- 9.11. Fescue grassland will be marked and staked by the SO prior to initial construction activities.
 - To prevent the transfer of weeds, all equipment will be cleaned of organic material prior to work within fescue grassland. A weed cleaning station between work areas within WLNP may be necessary. See [weed cleaning section](#).
- 9.12. In fescue grassland, remove fescue sod, retaining as much of the root mass as possible (can be greater than 30 cm) and in pieces as large as possible, while maintaining manageability for replacement (usually approximately 1 x 1 m).
- 9.13. Where sod cannot be maintained intact, attempt to retain as large and intact sod pieces as possible in primary lift through minimal soil handling, appropriate equipment, and experienced equipment operators.
- 9.14. Sod must be stored upright.
- 9.15. All fescue sod salvaged will be stored in such a manner as to permit its re-use during the restoration phase of the project.
- 9.16. Place salvaged sod in a weed free area for storage designated by the SO, in low profile windrows with the appropriate erosion control for rain and windy conditions.

Excavation

- 9.17. All trenches or ditches left unattended overnight must be fenced or covered to prevent wildlife entrapment or provide appropriate egress for wildlife.
- 9.18. Workers must inspect trench for trapped wildlife prior to backfilling. If trench has been left open for > 24 hours, SO must be notified and time allowed for the SO to complete additional inspection for trapped wildlife such as salamanders.
- 9.19. Materials shall be placed at storage sites or on the grade without spillage outside the working limits. Any material inadvertently falling outside the work limits is to be removed promptly in a manner that does not damage trees or vegetation.



- 9.20. Special precautions may have to be taken during excavation in the vicinity of intermittent or active drainage channels.
- 9.21. Minimize changes to the ground surface that affects its infiltration and runoff characteristics and maintain/re-establish effective surface drainage on completion of the project.
- 9.22. Backfill and compact excavations as soon as possible. Optimize degree of compaction to minimize erosion and allow for re-vegetation.
- 9.23. To limit over compaction, use equipment which minimizes surface disturbance including low ground pressure tracks/tires, blade shoes and brush rake attachments.
- 9.24. All excavations will remain free of water (see [dewatering mitigations](#)).

Excavated Material Storage

- 9.25. Allow space for separate storage of topsoil and spoil; where space is available, separate stored topsoil from spoil by at least 1 m. Use appropriate material (e.g., geo-textile) to separate soil components where space is limited.
- 9.26. Topsoil from separate ecotypes or areas of the project may not be mixed without approval of the SO (i.e., grassland soils must be kept separate from forested soils).
- 9.27. Topsoil may be stored on hardened surfaces, geo-textile material, in topsoil storage containers or directly on undisturbed vegetation. If storage occurs on vegetation, material recovery by hand may be required.
- 9.28. Topsoil should be stockpiled on the uphill side of the disturbance on sloped terrain and away from any grades, subsoils, spoil material, construction activity and day to day operations.
- 9.29. Construct barricades to prevent losses on steep terrain (>18°, 3:1).

Excess Materials and Waste (Overburden Removal)

- 9.30. Remove excess excavated material from site where it cannot be used for the final grading of the area. Site specific arrangements must be made for disposal locations and procedures of overburden.
- 9.31. Surplus excavated material may be used to fill depressions around the project site providing topsoil is stripped before filling, with approval from SO.

10. Soil and Vegetation Restoration Mitigations Module

Almost all projects activities included in this BMP will require some ecological restoration- *the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed*. The restoration plan can be a simple application of the following mitigations and can be at the site or both at the site and in concert with another site designated to offset the permanent impact of a project. A restoration plan is required for all projects but the scale and scope can be adapted to that required by the project (i.e., BMPs, site restoration plan, etc.). Restoration works can often be considered projects in and of themselves. Soil and vegetation restoration must apply the principles of effective, efficient and engaging solutions.

Restoration Plan

- 10.1. Develop restoration plan as part of the project scoping and specifications prior to project approvals.
- 10.2. Ensure that the appropriate restoration materials are available as needed immediately following construction activities.



- 10.3. The restoration plan will be subject to the approval of the IAO, who will be responsible for consulting with the Park Vegetation Ecologist.
- 10.4. The restoration plan should the following minimum information
 - Site description;
 - Site-specific restoration goals and objectives;
 - Schedule of clean-up activities;
 - Timing of restoration activities;
 - Restoration Standards; and
 - Follow-up Protocols (i.e., supplemental seeding, native transplants, weed control, etc.)

Timing Windows

- 10.5. Complete initial seeding as soon as possible.
- 10.6. Supplemental planting should be timed for the species and location. Seeding in the fall allows for full scarification of the seed over the winter. Consider using seed that requires shorter scarification times for spring and summer applications. Transplants may do best in the spring and summer and can require watering or other maintenance.
- 10.7. Time weed control measures to prevent seed propagation.

Topsoil Replacement

- 10.8. Implement restoration plan for the disturbed area immediately following completion of construction.
- 10.9. Minimize soil movement and handling to protect existing native seed bank.
- 10.10. Replace topsoil to all areas immediately following fine grading.
- 10.11. Do not compact topsoil.
- 10.12. Backfilling should allow settling to prevent depressions however, long term roach piles on linear disturbances should be minimal.
- 10.13. Where insufficient topsoil is available, the SO may approve moving soil from different projects or areas of WLNP. Imported soil may be used as a last resort and must be from a supplier that has been inspected and approved by the Park Vegetation Ecologist. Methods of improving vegetation succession using locally sourced, weed and contaminant free materials are preferred.
- 10.14. Slopes to be seeded should be no steeper than 2 horizontal to 1 vertical (2:1) and covered with a minimum of 5 cm (2 inch) of topsoil. Finish grading should always follow top soil placement. Maintain structure (i.e., rocks, roots, woody debris) in topsoil.
- 10.15. Where remaining soils are unstable due to steepness or soil characteristics, immediate installation of sod or other erosion control is required.
- 10.16. Methods of bioengineering such as terracing, willow staking, live pole drain systems should be assessed as solutions where soils are steeper or remain unstable.

Fescue Grassland

- 10.17. Sod must be used in restoration as soon as practicable following fine grading.
- 10.18. Depending on original topsoil depth, secondary salvage topsoil may be returned prior to sod placement
- 10.19. Sod will be placed in locations that will receive no further disturbance.



- 10.20. Once returned, do not compact or move equipment over sod. Do not harrow or pulverise sod.
- 10.21. Do not attempt to level or flatten sod. Sod should be uneven and retain vegetation and landscape structure.
- 10.22. Use topsoil from local site to fill cracks between pieces of sod.
- 10.23. To return structure, additional nursery stock of shrubby species may be required.

Soil Amendments

Fertilizer Application

- 10.24. Avoid use of fertilizer to limit non-native vegetation growth and allow for local species to use available nutrients.
- 10.25. If needed use locally sourced mycorrhizae compost teas to improve vegetative success, as approved by WLNP vegetation ecologist.

Topsoil substitute

- 10.26. Apply an organic cellulose only amendment as a soil substitute if restoration standards are not being met within the defined time frame.
- 10.27. Determine the type of organic amendment based on the site-specific requirements (e.g., peat moss, compost) at the discretion of WLNP vegetation ecologist.

Seedbed Preparation

- 10.28. The seedbed will be scarified by hand or, with the approval of the SO, by machine on large areas (i.e., roadbeds) where it is accessible and appropriate.
- 10.29. The seedbed will be scarified if seeding takes place more than 7 days after final grading or if there has been a rainfall between final grading and the seeding date.
- 10.30. The cleats of a tracked vehicle or a harrow device will be used, where possible, to prepare an adequate seedbed with seedling safe-sites (microsites) substantially free of soil crusts.
- 10.31. Align cleat marks at right angles on slopes to trap seed and sediment and reduce erosion.

Species Selection

- 10.32. When selecting species and varieties:
 - Use species of local native plant communities.
 - Avoid use of cultivars.
 - Species viability in proposed environment and climatic conditions.
 - Capability to effectively control erosion, where required.
 - Adaptation to the variable site conditions of undulating topography.
 - Consider palatability of some species to herbivores and avoid growing attractants in areas of increased risk to wildlife and visitors.
 - Variable life expectancy to produce variable, delayed die-out of seeded species and replacement with indigenous native plants.

Seed Mix Selection

- 10.33. Prescriptive seed mixes are provided in [Appendix 4](#). If an appropriate seed mix is not available, the SO will contact the Park Vegetation Ecologist to determine an appropriate mix for the Project.



- 10.34. Percentage of individual species within mixes are approximate and may vary depending on seed availability. A number of native species that are available only in limited quantities commercially have been included in the seed mixes. These seed mixes are to be used conditional on availability of individual species; modifications/replacements are allowed, subject to approval by the WLNP Vegetation Ecologist.
- 10.35. Prior to seed purchase, certificates of seed analysis will be provided to the Vegetation Ecologist for approval.
 - Do **NOT** purchase seed until written approval is obtained.
 - Certificates of Analysis must include both the common and include the scientific name following the CANADENSYS nomenclature system; indicate if the seed is a cultivar, ecovar, or wild native; geographic origin (seed source); date of collection; method of seed storage; germination, viability and vigour; and indicate all other species occurring including agronomic, weed, and native species; and date of the analysis. The contact information for the Seed Supplier will be included.
- 10.36. All seed is subject to testing by PCA prior to use.

Seeding

- 10.37. Use only seed purchased after written approval is obtained.
- 10.38. Seed and stabilize (e.g. mulch/tackifier) bare areas as soon as possible after disturbance, preferably as soon as a significant area is graded and finished and before the next rain event. If there is a risk of seedling mortality as a result of fall frost stabilize until appropriate growing conditions exist.
- 10.39. In previously disturbed lawn areas of the Waterton Community, consider using sod in high traffic areas or places that need extra erosion control.
- 10.40. Use temporary seeding when outside the seeding dates for permanent vegetation.
- 10.41. Apply a seed mixture which is appropriate for the climate, soil, and drainage conditions of the site.
- 10.42. Apply seed at a rate appropriate to the seed mixture, seeding method and existing vegetation conditions.
- 10.43. Conduct broadcast seeding under calm wind conditions. Hydro-seeding is acceptable where access is available.
- 10.44. Do not increase the seeding rate to compensate for poor seedbed conditions.
- 10.45. Monitor temporary erosion control measures to prevent seed loss.
- 10.46. Supplemental seeding may be required in subsequent years.

Alternatives to Seeding

- 10.47. Use topsoil seed bank in small areas when there is no risk of erosion or competition from invasive species (i.e., natural regeneration).
- 10.48. Use native transplants in areas where conventional seeding applications are not applicable or where slope stability is an issue.
- 10.49. Use native transplants to provide additional diversity and structure to supplement seeding.
- 10.50. Use conventional forestry planting methods for container grown transplants, see [website](#) for guidance.



11. Slope Stabilization, Drilling and Blasting Mitigations Module

Where standard excavation is not sufficient, scaling, hydraulic hammers, drilling units or trim blasting are used to break up rock or soil for removal. Accumulations of debris in ditches reduce their effectiveness at trapping rock fall and reduce public safety. Ditches will be cleaned using a loader and back hoe. Guardrails and rock fences may be temporarily removed to permit this activity.

Timing of Works

- 11.1. Follow timing windows as specified under the Vegetation Removal Mitigation Module.

Slope Stabilization-Scaling, Hydraulic Hammers

The use of hydraulic hammers attached to excavators is considered the ideal solution for rock disintegration. It avoids rock blasting where the parent rock is no longer rippable by the excavator's bucket but still has enough planes of weakness for economical operation and effective use of the hydraulic hammer. Scaling is the manual removal of loose material on rock slopes using pry bars, hydraulic press, brooms, shovels and power equipment operated by personnel using roped access to a rock face.

- 11.2. For vegetation clearing refer to the [vegetation removal mitigation module](#) of this BMP.
- 11.3. For slope-stabilization in soils, please refer to the [ESCP](#) and [Excavation](#) section.
- 11.4. Measures shall be taken to control dust as much as possible during the removal and falling of rock materials down slope.
- 11.5. Placement of rip rap and backfill on sensitive features shall be undertaken without contacting the feature, in particular, not be below the High Water Mark.
- 11.6. If replacement rock reinforcement/armouring is required to stabilize eroding or exposed areas, then ensure that appropriately- sized, clean rock is used, and rock is installed at a similar slope to maintain a uniform bank.
- 11.7. Direct concentrated surface water (runoff) away from cut and fill slopes.
- 11.8. Immediately stabilize banks disturbed by any activity associated with the project to prevent erosion and/or sedimentation, preferably through vegetation restoration with native species suitable for the site-refer to [soil and vegetation restoration section](#) of BMP.

Drilling and Blasting for Slope Stabilization and Geotechnical Investigations

Drilling (General)

Blasting

12. Asphalt Production and Handling Mitigations Module

Asphalt is a common building material for transportation infrastructure. Its production requires the use of gravel, water, and petroleum products, and associated project activities include transportation, storage and handling of these materials. Installation of asphalt plants is common within the larger parks where gravel extraction is undertaken.



Timing of Works

- 12.1. Asphalt works are preferably undertaken during periods of dry weather as this allows easier control of contaminated runoff and sediment.
- 12.2. If the work schedule requires working in the rain, the area of work must be isolated and appropriate sediment controls must be installed to prevent the release of sediment-laden water or any other deleterious substances into surface waters, particularly for surface repair works requiring the application of patching and sealing compounds, tar, asphalt, and chemical surface sealants.

Gravel Crushing and Washing

- 12.3. Where possible within engineering constraints, asphalt materials should be recycled to reduce the need for new gravel.
- 12.4. Gravel will be obtained from an approved operational borrow pit only. For gravel obtained from a borrow pit within a protected heritage place or borrow pit, gravel extraction within the footprint of the disturbed area of the approved operational borrow pit is permitted.
- 12.5. Gravel will not be crushed within 30 meters of any water body.
- 12.6. If water for cleaning is extracted from a watercourse, refer to [water withdrawal section](#) of this BMP.
- 12.7. If gravel requires washing, the water used will not be returned directly to any watercourse.
- 12.8. Water free from chemical contaminants will be discharged into ground where further erosion and runoff into surface water is prevented. Discharging into well vegetated ground surface, at a rate which prevents erosion can often provide increased absorption and reduction of sediment load.
- 12.9. Contaminated water must be treated to meet CCME guidelines or transported outside of WLNP for disposal at an approved facility.
- 12.10. For waste removed from WLNP a detailed receipt of delivery to an approved facility will be provided to the SO.

Oiling of Truck Boxes

Trucks for hauling asphalt mixture shall have tight, clean, smooth metal beds that have been sprayed with a minimum amount of thin fuel oil to prevent the mixture from adhering and causing waste asphalt.

- 12.11. Truck boxes may be oiled only when absolutely necessary.
- 12.12. Oiling will take place in a bermed area, consisting of a plastic underlay with 15 centimetres overlay of clean gravel. Oil contaminated gravel will be hand collected (so as to prevent tearing of the plastic) from the bermed area daily, and put through the asphalt plant.
- 12.13. Vehicle covers shall be securely fastened.

Disposal and Clean Up of Other Waste Products

- 12.14. To ensure regular clean-up of waste asphalt and petroleum spills, a defined clean up schedule will be established during the preconstruction meeting.
- 12.15. Leaks will be collected in drip-trays, the collected material will either be removed from WLNP, or recycled back through the Asphalt Plant. For any material removed outside WLNP to an approved facility, a detailed receipt will be provided to the ESO.



- 12.16. Used oil, filters, grease cartridges, oil cans and other waste products of plant servicing will be collected and disposed of at the nearest industrial waste facility.

13. Concrete Handling Mitigations Module

Concrete is a common construction material. Its use ensures longevity of the infrastructure and safety for public use. One litre of concrete wash water or leachate in 1000L of water will kill fish. Cement-based products including grouts and concrete are lethal to fish and many other aquatic organisms. Raw product or leachate entering a watercourse will alter water chemistry, making it more basic or alkaline.

Onsite Temporary Concrete Washout Facility

- 13.1. Temporary concrete washout facilities shall be located a minimum of 100 m from storm drain inlets, open drainage facilities, and watercourses.
- 13.2. Temporary concrete washout facilities shall be temporary pit or bermed areas constructed and maintained in sufficient quantity and size to contain all liquid and concrete waste generated by washout operations.
- 13.3. Wood stakes, and sandbag materials can be used to construct temporary containment walls or “barriers”.
- 13.4. Plastic lining material shall be a minimum of 10-mil polyethylene sheeting and shall be free of holes, tears or other defects that compromise the impermeability of the material.
- 13.5. The soil base shall be prepared free of rocks or other debris that may cause tears or holes in the plastic lining material.
- 13.6. Washout of concrete mixer trucks is not permitted in WLNP.
- 13.7. Wash concrete from mixer truck chutes/pumps into approved concrete washout facility or collect in an impermeable bag for disposal.
- 13.8. Pump excess concrete in concrete pump bin back into concrete mixer truck.
- 13.9. Concrete washout from concrete pumper bins can be washed into concrete pumper trucks and discharged into designated washout area or properly disposed offsite.
- 13.10. Once concrete wastes are washed into the designated area and allowed to harden, the concrete shall be broken up, removed, and disposed of per federal and provincial regulations.

Maintenance and Inspection of Temporary Concrete Washout Facilities

- 13.11. Temporary concrete washout facilities shall be maintained to provide adequate holding capacity with a minimum freeboard of 100 mm (4 inches) for above grade facilities and 300 mm (12 inches) for below grade facilities.
- 13.12. Maintaining temporary concrete washout facilities shall include removing and disposing of hardened concrete and returning the facilities to a functional condition.
- 13.13. Existing facilities must be cleaned, or new facilities must be constructed and ready for use once the washout is 75% full.
- 13.14. Temporary concrete washout facilities shall be inspected for damage (i.e. tears in PVC liner, missing sand bags, etc.).
- 13.15. Onsite concrete waste storage and disposal procedures should be monitored at least weekly or as directed by the SO.



Removal of Temporary Concrete Washout Facilities

- 13.16. Holes, depressions or other ground disturbance caused by the removal of the temporary concrete washout facilities shall be backfilled and restored.

Onsite Concrete Management

- 13.17. Rolling concrete mixers with surplus concrete in amounts less than one cubic metre of wet concrete may waste this concrete in a right-of-way as directed by the SO in areas that drain well away from watercourses. Surplus amounts in excess of one cubic metre are to be returned to the batching yard.
- 13.18. Water contaminated in the placing of cement and curing of concrete shall be contained and removed from the site to an approved disposal facility.
- 13.19. The concrete batching plant must be operated pursuant to applicable dust, air emission, and water quality control regulations.
- 13.20. Waste, solidified concrete from rolling concrete mixers in amounts less than 1 cubic meter and waste solidified concrete from construction pour shall be buried in the grade within 48 hours of the pour, or removed from the site subject to approval and direction from the SO.

14. Paving, Resurfacing, Grading Mitigations Module

Surface management activities are undertaken to ensure public safety on PCA surfaces by maintaining clean, level, and unbroken road surface conditions through activities such as pavement cleaning, patching, application of surface treatments, and pavement crack sealing. Grading is used to address drainage issues, vegetation encroachment, potholes and rough surfaces.

Timing of Works

- 14.1. Works are preferably undertaken during periods of dry weather (e.g., summer) as this allows easier control of contaminated runoff and sediment.
- 14.2. If the work schedule requires working in the rain, the area of work must be isolated and appropriate sediment controls must be installed to prevent the release of sediment-laden water or any other deleterious substances into surface waters, particularly for surface repair works requiring the application of patching and sealing compounds, tar, asphalt, and chemical surface sealants.

Grading

- 14.3. During grade construction conducted close to any watercourse, water body or wetland ensure materials are not pushed, fall or are eroded into the water or wetlands.
- 14.4. No grade building shall occur outside of the delineated work area or within 1 metre of the drip line of existing forest. Any material inadvertently falling outside the work limits will be removed promptly in a manner that does not damage trees or vegetation.
- 14.5. Materials shall be placed at storage sites or on the grade without spillage outside the work limits. Any material inadvertently falling outside the work limits will be removed promptly in a manner that does not damage trees or vegetation.
- 14.6. Retain a 30 metre vegetated buffer around water bodies or install runoff management structures.



- 14.7. If possible, grade roads early in the spring before vegetation develops seed heads or late in season after vegetation has set seed and is dormant to minimize non-native vegetation propagation.
- 14.8. Ensure gravel or road bed material is free of weeds and comes from an approved operational gravel source free of other contaminants.

Paving and Resurfacing

- 14.9. Minimize changes to the surface that could affect infiltration and runoff characteristics and maintain effective surface drainage to limit direct runoff into surface waters.
- 14.10. Minimize application of seal coats in wet conditions. Attempt to apply only to dry surfaces and not prior to (within 24 hrs.) or during rainfall. If unforeseen rain arrives ensure runoff from recently seal coated surfaces are prevented from entering surface waters.
- 14.11. For asphalt handling and management see the [Asphalt Mitigation Module](#) of the BMP.

Pavement Marking and Barrier and Guardrail Reinstatement

- 14.12. Minimize changes to the surface that could affect infiltration and runoff characteristics and maintain effective surface drainage to limit direct runoff into surface water. Pavement marking shall be undertaken pursuant to standard methods applied in National Parks for control of paint products, both in transport and handling. The Contractor shall present a description of methods to be employed for transporting and controlling paint and hazardous products, application of paint, cleaning of equipment, containment and disposal of waste paint and cleaning products, etc. to the satisfaction of the SO.
- 14.13. Where concrete barriers or guard rails are temporarily removed, for highway improvements, temporary glow posts shall be installed, at 20.0 m intervals on straight sections and at 10.0 m intervals on curves and shall remain in place until permanent barrier system has been installed.

15. Drainage Structures Mitigations Module

Drainage structures on roadway, highway and parkways are structures such as culverts, ditches and drains. Drainage structure management activities are undertaken to ensure that surfaces are safe and efficiently drained, water is efficiently channeled to ditches and watercourses, and erosion of highways and adjacent properties is prevented. These mitigations include the cleaning and maintenance of drainage structures and related hardware, as well as the repair or replacement of existing and installation of new drainage structures.

- 15.1. All workers shall be familiar with the [Spill Response Section](#) of this document.

Timing of Works

- 15.2. Time work in water to respect [timing windows](#) to protect fish, including their eggs, juveniles, spawning adults and/or the organisms upon which they feed. Contact your local aquatics specialists and DFO offices for further information on [timing windows](#) in your region.
- 15.3. Conduct in-stream work during periods of low flow, to further reduce the risk to fish and their habitat or to allow work in water to be isolated from flows.



- 15.4. If the work schedule requires working in the rain, the area of work must be isolated and appropriate sediment controls installed to prevent the release of sediment-laden water or any other deleterious substances into surface waters.

Drainage Structures

- 15.5. Isolate your work area from any flowing water that may be present. Ensure any flows are temporarily diverted around the portion of the ditch or watercourse where you are working.
- 15.6. Select appropriate equipment and work access routes to reduce damage to riparian vegetation and watercourse banks when using earth-moving equipment.
- 15.7. For smaller scale debris and sediment removal activities, remove materials by hand.
- 15.8. To assist with bank stability and invasive plant prevention, leave topsoil and root systems intact on channel banks surrounding your work area.
- 15.9. Ensure any works to repair damaged structures retain the pre-repair channel conditions (e.g., streambed profile, substrate, channel cross section) and do not constrict the stream width.
- 15.10. Maintain effective sediment and erosion control measures until complete re-vegetation of disturbed areas is achieved.

Culverts

A BMP for culverts is currently in development. Consult with the IA Office for more information.

- 15.11. If a proposed culvert crosses a stream where fish are present, the crossing should be designed or upgraded to provide fish passage and avoid interference with fish habitat. Consult with the IAO and/or Parks Biologist to determine the desirable outcome of the culvert design.
- 15.12. Engage qualified professionals as necessary and follow regional and provincial best practices.
- 15.13. Conduct a technical assessment of water flows and fish species to establish a culvert design that will allow for the passage of fish if desirable.

Culvert Design and Alternatives

- 15.14. Utilize alternative crossing structures (e.g. clear span bridges, lock blocks and concrete decks) as a replacement for culverts, where possible.
- 15.15. Ideally, crossings should have natural streambed material through them to allow continuous substrate that matches the streambed below and above the crossing. Open bottom crossings are ideal for maintaining natural substrate.
- 15.16. Utilize a single large culvert design over a multiple culverts design (i.e. several smaller culverts) to reduce debris blockage and increase fish and wildlife passage, where hydrologically feasible.
- 15.17. Design culvert bottoms to be placed at least 30cm below the stream bed elevation to ensure culverts remain passable by fish and wildlife by preventing culverts from becoming perched.
- 15.18. A minimum water depth of 200 mm should be provided throughout the culvert length. To maintain this water depth at low flow periods an entrance/downstream pool can be constructed. In some cases, an upstream pool may also be necessary.
- 15.19. The culvert slope should follow the existing streambed slope where possible.



- 15.20. The culvert, inlet(s) and outlet(s) should be adequately protected with rip-rap to prevent erosion and scour around the culvert during high runoff events. The following measures should be incorporated when using replacement rock to stabilize the culvert:
- Place appropriately-sized, clean rocks into the eroding bank area by hand or machinery operating outside the water course.
 - Do not obtain rocks from below the ordinary high water mark of any water body.
 - Where possible, install rock at a slope similar to the stream bank to maintain a uniform stream profile and natural stream alignment. Otherwise, install the rock at the closest slope required to ensure it is stable.
 - Ensure rock does not interfere with fish passage or constrict the channel width.
- 15.21. Trash racks should not be used near the culvert inlet. Accumulated debris may lead to severely restricted fish passage and potential injuries to fish. Where trash racks cannot be avoided in culvert installations, they must only be installed above the water surface indicated by bank full flow. A minimum of 23 cm clear spacing should be provided between trash rack vertical members. If trash racks are used, a long term maintenance plan must be provided along with the design, to allow for timely clearing of debris.
- 15.22. Ensure designs locate culvert structures in areas that minimize impacts to riparian vegetation and associated wildlife.

Culvert Installation

- 15.23. It may be necessary to exclude fish from the immediate construction site while a culvert is being installed. If this practice is necessary, fish shall be salvaged by a qualified aquatics professional from within the exclusion area.
- 15.24. If dewatering is required refer to the [Water Withdrawal and Dewatering Mitigations Module](#) of this BMP for appropriate mitigations.
- 15.25. Maintain effective sediment and erosion control measures until complete re-vegetation of disturbed areas is achieved.
- 15.26. Remove any old structures to a suitable upland disposal facility away from the riparian area and floodplain to avoid waste material from re-entering the watercourse

Wildlife Considerations for Culverts

- 15.27. At times, culverts are placed along portions of highways that bisect wetlands or specific habitats that support an abundance of wildlife. Consider building natural rock ledges through culverts to allow for small and medium-sized animals to walk on during periods of high flow.

16. Works Over or Immediately Adjacent to Water

Works over or immediately adjacent to water include activities associated with the maintenance and repair of bridge structures and/or viewing platforms located adjacent to water. Activities could include the cleaning and painting of structures as well as the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of elements including decks, railings, abutments, and bearings. Works may include asphalt, concrete works, chipping, painting, grouting, timber truss, abutment and piling maintenance. These activities help ensure bridge structures remain structurally sound and safe for public use.



Timing of Works

- 16.1. Bridges provide nesting and roosting habitat for wildlife including Cliff Swallows and Little Brown Bats. See timing windows under the [General Activities Mitigations Module](#). If work must occur in the restricted timing window, the SO may complete preconstruction surveys to determine if activities may proceed.
 - There is risk of **DELAY** to project activities if work is scheduled within the migratory bird window.
- 16.2. Time work in water to respect [timing windows](#) to protect fish, including their eggs, juveniles, spawning adults and/or the organisms upon which they feed.
 - Detailed information on timing windows and their application in WLNP is included in [Appendix 11](#).
- 16.3. Conduct in-stream work during periods of low flow to further reduce the risk to fish and their habitat or to allow work in water to be isolated from flows.
- 16.4. If the work schedule requires working in the rain, the area of work must be isolated with appropriate sediment controls installed to prevent the release of sediment-laden water or any other deleterious substances into surface waters.

Bridge Cleaning

- 16.5. Schedule bridge-cleaning activities to coincide with the watercourse's spring freshet when possible. At freshet or during periods of high flow a large watercourse will often have its highest background levels of sediment. At this time, the introduction of a small amount of sediment to a watercourse (from bridge cleaning) will have a lower risk of potential impact when considered against those high natural background levels.
- 16.6. If works are planned outside the freshet or if your region does not experience a freshet, discuss the protocol and timing of these works with your local aquatics ecologist and/or DFO Officer.
- 16.7. Dry sweep and collect loose material off bridge surfaces before washing the bridge. Adequately seal drains and any open joints on the bridge deck before sweeping or washing to prevent material or sediment-laden wash water from entering any watercourse.
- 16.8. If dry sweeping and preventing direct runoff to waterway is not a feasible way to clean the surface, discussion and planning with local aquatic ecologists will be required.
- 16.9. Use water alone. If your cleaning activities require degreasers or any other chemical, approval for use must be obtained from local aquatics specialists and/or DFO.
- 16.10. Contain any wash water or runoff to the bridge deck. Direct wash water towards the bridge approaches and away from the watercourse, then to a vegetated area or contained settling area (e.g., dry ditch channel unconnected to a watercourse) where it can infiltrate.
- 16.11. If superstructure cleaning is undertaken above or on the bridge deck level, prevent potentially harmful materials from entering into road drains. Block deck drains with suitable barriers (e.g., polyethylene or drain blocks) to prevent direct discharge to a watercourse, or re-route runoff through temporary piping onto adjacent containment structure.
- 16.12. Hydrovac or vacuum trucks may be an option to assist in containment of wash water.



- 16.13. If water for cleaning is extracted from a watercourse, refer to [water withdrawal section](#) of this BMP.

Repairs Using Treated Wood Products

- 16.14. Untreated wood products are recommended, if treated wood is to be used, ensure it has been treated with a wood preservative appropriate for the project. Refer to the [Parks Canada Guide for the Use, Handling and Disposal of Pressure Treated Wood 2009](#) and any further updates from [Parks Canada Real Property – Environmental Management](#).
- 16.15. If treated timber must be cut to size, ensure cutting takes place away from the bridge and watercourse. Sawdust from treated wood is harmful to aquatic organisms and must be prevented from entering any watercourse.
- 16.16. Wood preservatives should be applied in a contained area and not be applied over or within 200m of water.

Bridge and Structure Painting

- 16.17. Ensure paint flakes, abrasive grits and abrasive/paint flake mixtures do not enter the watercourse as they may leach toxic heavy metals into receiving waters and/or be ingested by fish.
- 16.18. Install ground covers and/or vertical drapes such as sheets of plastic or air-permeable cloth (e.g., burlap or canvas) prior to removal activities to capture falling debris. Floating barges may be deployed in watercourses to capture falling debris, such as paint flakes and dust.
- 16.19. Waste materials collected during removal and application of protective coating operations (e.g., blasting abrasives, paint particles, rust and grease) should be collected and retained for disposal at appropriate locations. Waste materials must not be deposited into watercourses or riparian areas.
- 16.20. Use hydro blasting or manual techniques, where possible, when removing road dirt, soluble salts and loose paint to minimize impacts to the watercourse.
- 16.21. Use water without cleaning agent additives if grease film removal is necessary.
- 16.22. Avoid use of toxic liquid paints, primers, solvents, degreasers and rust inhibitors.
- 16.23. Minimize spill potential by storing, mixing and transferring paints and solvents on land.

17. Water Withdrawal and Dewatering Mitigations Module

Construction often requires the use of water; many common methods of excavation and site isolation require dewatering. Temporary, short term water withdrawal provides an efficient uncontaminated water source for local project sites. Dewatering can allow sites to be effectively dry during construction, reducing the impact of sediment laden water entering fish bearing waters.

Additional Permits

- 17.1. All water withdrawal requires a Restricted Activity Permit issued by the IAO.

Equipment Cleaning

- 17.2. All hoses, pumps, intake hoses, or equipment from outside of WLNP must be clean and dry on arrival and require approval and inspection by the SO prior to use in WLNP (see [General Activities Section](#)).



- 17.3. Do not bring equipment into WLNP from areas that have known infestations of aquatic invasives (e.g., USA, east of Saskatchewan).
- 17.4. Thoroughly clean water trucks, hoses, pumps and intake hoses using clean HOT WATER with as much pressure as possible.
- 17.5. If last use of equipment was out of province, allow hoses, pumps and intake hoses to dry completely and then remain dry (ideally for >20 days).

Timing Windows

- 17.6. As a general guide to prevent taking more water than aquatic system can support, limit total take of water to less than 5 successive days and less than 10 days in any period of 30 days.
- 17.7. Do not withdraw water from waterbodies that support breeding amphibians.

Water Withdrawal

- 17.8. Water should not be withdrawn from a wetland or stream less than 2 metres wide at the surface or a lake less than one hectare in area.
- 17.9. Water withdrawal should follow the 10/90 rule which allows for up to 10% of the stream flow to be withdrawn, as long as the stream flow does not fall below the 90% exceedence flow (eg.1 in 10 chance in a given year).
- 17.10. No permanent or semi-permanent works for water withdrawal should be placed in the stream channel.
- 17.11. Screen any water intakes or outlet pipes to prevent entrainment or impingement of fish, amphibians and/or reptiles. Entrainment occurs when a fish or amphibian is drawn into a water intake and cannot escape. Impingement occurs when an entrapped fish, reptile or amphibian is held in contact with the intake screen and is unable to free itself.

Pump Screens

- 17.12. Fish-bearing waters design and installation of intake end-of-pipe fish screens:
 - Locate screen in areas and depths of water with low concentrations of fish throughout the year away from natural or artificial structures that may attract fish that are migrating, spawning, or in rearing habitat.
 - Orient the screen face in the same direction as the flow of water.
 - Ensure openings in the guides and seals are less than the opening criteria to make “fish tight”.
 - Screens should be located a minimum of 300 mm (12 in.) above the bottom of the watercourse to prevent entrainment of sediment and aquatic organisms associated with the bottom area.
 - Provide structural support to the screen panels to prevent sagging and collapse of the screen. Large cylindrical and box type screens should have a manifold installed to ensure even water velocity distribution across the screen surface. The end of the structure should be made of solid materials and the end of the manifold capped.
 - Heavier cages or trash racks can be fabricated out of bar or grating to protect the finer fish screen, especially where debris loading (woody material, leaves, algae mats, etc.) is a concern. A 150 mm (6 in.) spacing between bars is typical.
 - Provision should be made for the removal, inspection, and cleaning of screens.



- Ensure regular maintenance and repair of cleaning apparatus, seals, and screens to prevent debris fouling and impingement of fish.
- Pumps must be shut down when fish screens are removed for inspection and cleaning.

Dewatering

- 17.13. A site specific dewatering plan is required be provided before commencing a pump-out sump to dewater excavation sites with specific details on how and where the water will be discharge.
- 17.14. Site specific mitigations may be required depending on the conditions of the discharge area, freezing conditions operation, overflow avoidance, decanting and settlement pond restoration.
- 17.15. Water containing suspended materials shall not be pumped into watercourses, drainage systems or on to land, except with the permission of the SO.
- 17.16. Soil and vegetation erosion protection is required for water pumped on to land.

18. Buildings & Structures

These mitigations are currently in development. Consult with the IA Office for more information.

General Activities

- 18.1. As appropriate for project activities, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and/or hazardous material survey must be completed by qualified personnel. Mitigations to safely and effectively manage any impacts of hazardous materials on people or the environment will require additional project planning (e.g., asbestos, ground contamination).
- 18.2. If building systems will incorporate glycol or antifreeze, ensure design includes containment and spill response plan. If risk to aquatic habitat cannot be mitigated, use alternative system.
- 18.3. Refer to [Section 2, Project Planning and Design](#) for addition mitigations related to building design.
- 18.4. Be aware that high winds are common in WLNP and all materials need to be secured to prevent materials from blowing off site, particularly during high risk activities such as roofing.

Wildlife & Structures - Bats

Resident bats in southwest Alberta include Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), an Endangered species on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) that is often associated with buildings. Project proposals that include building renovation, refurbishment, relocation, and demolition have the potential for adverse effects on this listed species of risk.

- 18.5. Buildings require a Bat Building Evaluation to determine the potential use at the building (i.e., none, day roost, night roost, maternity roost, or hibernacula). Results of the evaluations are used to determine the appropriate site-specific mitigations and prevent any residual effects of Project activities on Little Brown Myotis or other bat species.
- 18.6. Identify adjacent natural or artificial roosts that can be avoided or maintained during the Project.



- 18.7. Reduce light trespass from buildings and in natural areas or corridors bats may use to travel from roosts to water (see [Section 2, Project Planning and Design](#)).
- 18.8. Maintain the properties and characteristics of a structure that make it attractive to bats and where feasible, allow them to continue roosting at the structure. Where not feasible, a site specific mitigation plan is required.
- 18.9. Structures and buildings provide nesting and roosting habitat for wildlife including Cliff Swallows and Little Brown Bats. See timing windows under the [General Activities Mitigations Module](#). If work must occur in the restricted timing window, the SO may complete preconstruction surveys to determine if activities may proceed.
 - There is risk of **DELAY** to project activities if work is scheduled within restricted windows.

Sandblasting, Painting, Stripping

- 18.10. Minimize sandblasting to only remove loose paint and provide a clean surface for new paint to adhere to.
- 18.11. Confine activity to days with little or no wind and use physical barriers to contain dust.
- 18.12. See the section on [Spill Response](#) for spill response.

Ground Thawing

- 18.13. If ground must be thawed to allow excavation, activities related to generators, fuel stations, and antifreeze/glycol must be included in Spill Response Plans.

Foundation

- 18.14. See Section 13, [Concrete Handling](#).

19. Geotechnical

Refer to the [National Best Management Practices for Geotechnical Investigations](#).

- 19.1. The contractor for geotechnical investigations must obtain a Restricted Activity Permit from the IAO prior to the commencement of work.
- 19.2. Prior to work in the Park, arrange environmental briefing and equipment inspection with the SO. Work vehicles and equipment will arrive in WLNP clean of organic material.

20. Service Line HDD

- 20.1. For directional drilling operations, a drilling plan will be developed by the contractor, addressing mud systems and handling, and contingency measures for circulation losses or dewatering of excavations.
- 20.2. All mud containment structures must be situated outside of sensitive features.
- 20.3. All drill mud must be disposed of appropriately off site.
- 20.4. Use of methanol or ethylene glycol is not permitted. Propylene glycol may be permitted with review of the drill operation and drill plan by the SO. Consistent with spill plan requirements, all containers must have original labels.
- 20.5. Schedule drilling operations outside repeated days of cold weather (below -20°C).



- 20.6. Drill mud containment and frac-out response materials and equipment must be immediately available on site during operations (e.g., vacuum truck, sandbags, spill response equipment).
- 20.7. The Prime Contractor is responsible for completing regular and scheduled visual checks for frac-outs (*i.e.* frac walks).

21. Fire Operations

A National BMP and alternate process for fire operations is in the process of being drafted. In the interim, a BIA of the fire plan will be completed.

22. Helicopter Operations

- 22.1. Safety is the primary objective during all helicopter operations.
- 22.2. All helicopter activity requires a Restricted Activity Permit from the IAO prior to commencement of work.
- 22.3. Helicopter fueling is permitted only at the fueling station of the Operations Compound.
- 22.4. All fuel drums require secondary containment during storage.
- 22.5. The Prime Contractor is responsible for ensuring that a Spill Response Plan for fuelling and fuel drum storage is developed prior to start of work, as stated in the Emergency Response Plan Module.
- 22.6. Helicopter operations must not occur within areas of exposed soils where rotor wash will disturb soils or vegetation.
- 22.7. Helicopter operations are not to occur within 100 m of sighted wildlife, raptor nests or any sensitive features, as designated in the Sensitive Features Table.



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Appendix 1 Regulatory Guidance

Jurisdictions

While all projects on lands managed by Parks Canada must adhere to Federal law and regulation, it is considered best practice to refer to local community, regional, provincial regulation and best practices where federal guidance is silent and/or attempt to meet those targets if it can reduce the overall impact of the project.

Some of the project activities reviewed have potential environmental impacts that are addressed by various provincial, federal and territorial acts and regulations. All activities must meet current environmental law and regulations in their design and construction. The following is a brief description of some of the key federal acts and regulations. Further review, understanding and application of other federal, provincial and territorial environmental laws are part of a rigorous approach to project planning and execution.

Canada National Parks Act and Regulations-Parks Canada

All work inside National Parks and Protected Areas must be performed in accordance with the laws and regulations set out in the *Canada National Parks Act* and Regulations. This includes the requirement for most activities described to only be done under a permit such as: business licence for contractor, disturbance of natural objects, travel in restricted areas, special events or use of disposal sites.

Fisheries Act - Fisheries and Oceans Canada

If a project is to be conducted near water, it is the proponent's responsibility to ensure they avoid causing **serious harm to fish** in compliance with the ***Fisheries Act***. The **[advice in on the Fisheries and Oceans website](#)** will help a proponent avoid causing harm and comply with the Act.

If the water body in the project area has fish or is connected to waters at any time that have fish the project must meet the **[self-assessment criteria on the Fisheries and Oceans website](#)**, if not a project review can be made by Fisheries and Oceans Canada to assess whether the project requires authorization or authorization can be requested directly. Given the level of detail required for a review and/or authorization request the EIA officer may need to consider a more involved EIA pathway in those circumstances.

Migratory Bird Convention Act – Environment Canada

The purpose of this Act is to implement the Convention by protecting and conserving migratory birds - as populations and individual birds - and their nests. Section 6 - prohibits the disturbance, destruction, or taking of a nest, egg, or nest shelter of a migratory bird.

In Canada, the general nesting period may start as early as mid-March and may extend until end of August. This is a general nesting period that covers most federally protected migratory bird species. This period varies regionally across Canada mainly due to differences in species assemblages, climate, elevation and habitat type. Generally, the nesting period is delayed in more northerly latitudes, corresponding to vegetation development and food availability. (Environment Canada, 2014). To help with determining regionally relevant periods where nesting is likely to occur, Environment Canada is publishing estimated regional nesting periods within large geographical areas across Canada referred as "nesting zones". These periods are



estimated for each zone and consider the time of first egg-laying until the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest. Field Units may wish to refine this section and add their known local nesting periods.

Species at Risk Act

If a species listed under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) is found within the project area, any potential adverse effects from the proposed project to the individuals of the species, their residences and/or their critical habitat must be understood. Species at risk considerations require specific expertise, due to additional legal requirements under the SARA and CEAA 2012. If the projects or activities to be addressed by the BMP could affect a listed species or its critical habitat, the EIA officer may need to consider a more involved EIA pathway in those circumstances.