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Parks Canada Waterton Lakes National Park General Project Best Management Practices

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Canada





Parks Canada Waterton Lakes National Park General Project Best Management Practices

Recommendation & Approval – Version 2.0

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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. Sensitive features are defined in the supplemental mitigations section. 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.

Abbreviations

AIA	Archaeological Impact Assessment
AOA	Archaeological Overview Assessment
BIA	Basic Impact Analysis
BMP	Best Management Practices
CABIN	Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network
CCME	Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
CEAA	Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
CRZ	Critical Root Zone
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
DIA	Detailed Impact Analysis
EAS	Environmental Alignment Sheets
EI	Ecological Integrity
EIA	Environmental Impact Analysis
ERP	Emergency Response Plan
ESCP	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
GBSA	Grizzly Bear Secure Areas
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drill
IAO	Impact Assessment Officer
IDA	International Dark-Sky Association
LED	Light-emitting diode
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
PCA	Parks Canada Agency
PM	Project Manager / Functional Manager of Project
RAP	Restricted Activity Permit
SAR	Species at Risk
SARA	<i>Species at Risk Act</i>
SO	Surveillance Officer
TPZ	Tree Protection Zone
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UV	Ultra-violet
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 fulfils 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 *Waterton Lakes General Project Best Management Practices* can be applied in the following ways:

- Direct application: Use as is when the proposed project falls within the scope of the BMP(s) and its application will ensure there are no significant residual adverse effects.
- Application along with supplemental mitigations: Additional mitigations or slight modifications are required to ensure all potential impacts are mitigated and to provide project-specific clarifications (e.g., critical timing windows, contact information, SAR or cultural resources considerations). Supplemental mitigations are outlined in the supplemental mitigations section or by filling in check boxes in the appropriate sections of the BMP.
- Application as part of a Basic Impact Analysis (BIA) or Detailed Impact Analysis (DIA): where one or more BMPs may not address all the potential adverse effects of a proposed project, Field Units can apply the BMP(s) as part of a BIA or DIA.

The impact assessment officer (IAO) will review a proposed project and advise the functional manager of the project 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. The IAO will also be responsible for adding any required supplemental mitigations to ensure site specific considerations are addressed.

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

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

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.

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 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.

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.

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](#)”.



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).

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

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



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.

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 1-888-927-3367

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 1-888-927-3367 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.

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. A list of species at risk and defined and proposed critical habitat within WLNP is found in the [appendices](#).

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
- 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 this section with the EIA determination record. This will reduce the overall size and scope of the mitigations to present to contractors and project managers. Supplementary mitigations specific to the project can be defined at the beginning of the mitigations section.

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

Modules

1. [SUPPLEMENTARY MITIGATIONS](#)
2. [ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE](#)
3. [SUBMISSIONS](#)
4. [EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN](#)
5. [EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN MODULE](#)
6. [GENERAL ACTIVITIES MITIGATIONS MODULE](#)
7. [VEGETATION REMOVAL MITIGATIONS MODULE](#)
8. [BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES](#)



Mitigation Package

Parks Canada Waterton Lakes National Park General Project Best Management Practices

Recommendation & Approval – Version 2.0

Modified for: **Day Use Area Reconstruction Early Works Package**

Contact Information

Project Manager:

Mathieu Villeneuve: 403-632-5403

Impact Assessment Office:

Kelly Murray: 403-632-5167

First Contact Authority (for SPILLS):

First Contact Authority: 780-422-4505

OR 1-800-222-6514

Parks Canada Emergency Dispatch:

Banff Dispatch: 1-888-WARDENS

24-hour Emergency Dispatch*:

Police, Fire, Ambulance: 9-1-1

* In an Emergency, 9-1-1 operators can also notify Banff Dispatch.



1. Supplementary Mitigations



Cultural Resources

The Accidental Finds Protocol applies to protect archaeological resources in the following DUAs:

- Bison Jump
- Hay Barn
- Lost Horse

Review of contractor construction methods is required to assess if there is a need for professional archaeological on-site monitoring at the following DUA's:

- Little Prairie
- Driftwood Beach
- Knight's Lake
- McNeely's
- Coppermine

Natural Resources

All tree removal must follow the WLNP BMP for Danger Tree Removal.

Any brushing, tree removal or other vegetation removal occurring inside the breeding bird window (April 8 to August 24) or bat activity period (April 1 to September 30) will be subject to a bird and/or bat survey by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) to ensure compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and the *Species at Risk Act* (for *Little Brown Myotis* bat). Bat surveys are only required for trees assessed as having Medium to High bat roosting potential as per the Banff Field Unit *Pre-Construction Bat Roost Survey Guidelines for Projects Requiring Tree Removal from April to September*. A Qualified Environmental Professional must assess the trees for bat roosting potential as per these survey guidelines.

For work on any existing buildings (e.g., Little Prairie and Lost Horse kitchen shelters), the Contractor will be responsible for surveying for bird nest construction on the buildings if work is occurring within the breeding bird window (April 8 to August 24). If bird nest construction is observed, the Contractor must notify the Environmental Assessment Officer immediately for direction.

Site specific mitigations for the DUA Early Works scope of work include the following:

Little Prairie

- Archaeological review of proposed construction methods is required for project activities to assess the need for on-site monitoring requirements. Professional archaeological monitoring may be required.
- Removal and replacement of the roof on the existing picnic shelter has potential to disturb or harass roosting individuals of Little Brown Myotis, an Endangered species on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. To mitigate this potential risk, ideally the timing of the roof replacement should occur outside the bat activity window (April 1 to August 30). If this timing window cannot be avoided, the following mitigations are to be implemented:



- The Parks Canada Environmental Assessment Officer will deploy an acoustic monitoring device at least one week prior to the roofing work to determine if there is any evidence of bat activity in the area. This will inform whether the following mitigations are required. If there is no acoustic evidence of Myotis species presence in the area, no additional mitigations are required. If there is any acoustic evidence of Myotis species in the vicinity, implement the following:
- a QEP must conduct a pre-removal assessment of the building to check for evidence of bat activity. The exact methodology is to be proposed by the successful Contractor and their QEP, but is suggested to include one bat emergence survey and a visual inspection of the roof and interior of the building to check for recent sign of bat activity.
- The results of the above survey will determine the appropriate mitigation measures for bats. If there are high levels of bat use detected or potential for maternity roosting observed, the roofing work should be delayed until after the bat activity window is over (September 30). If one or a few individuals are observed during the pre-assessment, the Contractor may proceed with roofing work and must stop work if bats are observed under the shingles. The Parks Canada Duty Officer must be notified and will relocate the bat elsewhere. The Contractor is not permitted to handle bats.

McNeely's

- Archaeological review of proposed construction methods is required for project activities to assess the need for on-site monitoring requirements. Professional archaeological monitoring may be required.

Lost Horse

- No archaeological mitigations required beyond Accidental Finds Protocol (listed in Section 6.4.3. of this BMP).
- Apply same mitigations for bats during roof replacement as for Little Prairie (see above).

Coppermine

- Archaeological review of proposed construction methods is required for project activities to assess the need for on-site monitoring requirements. Professional archaeological monitoring may be required.

Driftwood Beach

- Archaeological review of proposed construction methods is required for project activities to assess the need for on-site monitoring requirements. Professional archaeological monitoring may be required.

Hay Barn

- No archaeological mitigations required beyond Accidental Finds Protocol (listed in Section 6.4.3. of this BMP).
- Note: the trees in the vicinity of this site are high value wildlife trees (large, old cottonwoods) and likely have High potential for both bird nesting and bat roosting. If work cannot be conducted outside of the breeding bird and bat activity windows, mitigations will be applied by the Environmental Surveillance Officer which may include surveys, buffers and/or delays in work.



Knight's Lake

- Archaeological review of proposed construction methods is required for project activities to assess the need for on-site monitoring requirements. Professional archaeological monitoring may be required.
- Apply same mitigations for bats during removal of kitchen shelter as for Little Prairie (see above). Note that one Little Brown Myotis was observed in a crevice of the interior of the kitchen shelter in 2019 so there is confirmed bat roosting at this site.
- Note: the trees in the vicinity of this site are high value wildlife trees (large, old cottonwoods) and likely have High potential for both bird nesting and bat roosting. If work cannot be conducted outside of the breeding bird and bat activity windows, mitigations will be applied by the Environmental Surveillance Officer which may include surveys, buffers and/or delays in work.

Bison Jump

- No archaeological mitigations required beyond Accidental Finds Protocol (listed in Section 6.4.3. of this BMP).

Additional weed cleaning stations for heavy equipment:

Heavy equipment must be cleaned of soil and vegetative debris before arriving in the Park, but equipment must also be cleaned when moving between the differently numbered sites below. It does not have to be cleaned when moving between the same numbered sites (e.g. equipment does not have to be cleaned if moving between Little Prairie or McNeely's, but does have to be cleaned if moving between McNeely's and Lost Horse).

1. Little Prairie and McNeely's
2. Lost Horse and Coppermine Creek
3. Driftwood Beach, Hay Barn, Knight's Lake
4. Bison Jump



2. Environmental Surveillance

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. 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.

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"/>	Contractor	Must be submitted prior to start of construction and approved by the ESO.
ERP (Emergency Response Plan)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractor	Must be submitted prior to start of construction and approved by the ESO.
Spill Response Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractor	Must be submitted prior to start of construction and approved by the ESO.
Fire Contingency Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractor	Must be submitted prior to start of construction and include mitigations for vegetation removal during Fire Danger ratings above "Low".
Avalanche Safety Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractor	At the discretion of the WLNP Visitor Safety team, the Contractor will be required to submit an ASP for review when working in avalanche terrain during avalanche season (November 1 st to June 1 st). ASP requirements only applies to Little Prairie DUA.
Site-specific Mitigation Details	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractor	Archaeological, wildlife and rare plant mitigations listed in the Supplemental Mitigations section must be acknowledged by the contractor.
Restoration Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>		



4. Erosion and Sediment Control Plan

- 4.1. An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) will be prepared that covers all construction and restoration periods.
- 4.2. 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.
- 4.3. The Erosion and Sediment Management Plan will be developed by a qualified professional and is subject to approval of the IAO.

Timing of Works

- 4.4. Schedule work to avoid extreme wet, windy and rainy periods that may increase erosion and sedimentation.
- 4.5. 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

- 4.6. Erosion control measures that prevent sediment transport into any waterway, water body or wetland shall be implemented by the contractor.
- 4.7. 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).
- 4.8. 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).
- 4.9. Acquire necessary erosion and sediment control equipment (i.e., landscaping fabric, sediment fences, coir rolls etc.) and install prior to risk of sediment transport.
- 4.10. 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.
- 4.11. Plan project activities to minimize soil handling.
- 4.12. Limit equipment movement over exposed soils.
- 4.13. Avoid activities that contribute to soil compaction and use practices that roughen and decompact soils to promote infiltration.
- 4.14. Ensure all activities are conducted at least 30 m from waterbodies wherever possible.
- 4.15. Minimize extent of vegetation cover removal and grubbing. Clearly mark construction boundaries to prevent accidental damage to vegetation.
- 4.16. 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.
- 4.17. Minimize the length of time soils are exposed and complete work in one area before commencing work in another area.
- 4.18. 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.



- 4.19. Initiate replanting of disturbed areas immediately after construction is completed.
- 4.20. Ensure all erosion and sediment control devices are weed free. Straw and hay based erosion control is not permitted.
- 4.21. Avoid use of coconut matting due to ungulate hoof entrapment.
- 4.22. 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.
- 4.23. The site will be secured against erosion during any periods of construction inactivity or shutdown.
- 4.24. 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

- 4.25. 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.

5. Emergency Response Plan Module

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

Spill Response Plan

- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. 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).
- 5.4. 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

- 5.5. Avoid work in high risk areas, particularly in areas of high water table, steep slopes or in close proximity to streams.



- 5.6. Have spill containment equipment on-hand and ensure that all personnel are aware of their location and trained in their use.
- 5.7. Absorbent booms must be immediately available on site during works in and near water.
- 5.8. 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.
- 5.9. 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.
- 5.10. 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).
- 5.11. Hazardous or toxic products shall be stored no closer than 100 metres from streams, wetlands, water bodies or waterways.
- 5.12. Equipment will be fuelled on hardened surfaces wherever possible.
- 5.13. Spill kits shall be provided at re-fuelling, lubrication, and repair locations.
- 5.14. 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.
- 5.15. 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.
- 5.16. All gas generators and water pumps require secondary containment. Electric pumps are preferred.
- 5.17. Follow all applicable regulations and codes for the management and handling of hazardous waste.
- 5.18. 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.
- 5.19. 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.
- 5.20. 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 along with the First Contact Authority (1-800-222-6514).

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)	Any Quantity, notify the SO and Banff Dispatch.	Required; Major Spill



or poses a threat to human safety (e.g., slippery road, explosive hazard, poisonous gas).		
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

5.21. The Spill Response Plan must at minimum, include the following information:

- 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

5.22. 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

Avalanche Safety Plan

5.23. 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.



- 5.24. 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.
- 5.25. If the avalanche safety plan is drafted by the Prime Contractor, it must be approved by Parks Canada Avalanche Forecasters.
- 5.26. In some situations the Prime Contractor may be permitted 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.
- 5.27. 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.

6. 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.

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. 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

- 6.3. 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).
- 6.4. All Parks Canada designated speed limits apply to construction vehicles. Additional speed restrictions may be required to protect wildlife and visitor safety.

Timing Windows

- 6.5. 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.



WLNP General Project Best Management Practices

Consideration	Applicable	Restricted Window	Notes
Migratory Bird General Breeding Period	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	April 1 to August 24	Tree and brush removal must occur outside this window. If work cannot take place outside window, a QEP will need to be retained to complete a nesting bird sweep and a buffer will be placed if any active nests are found.
Bat Maternity Roost Activity Period	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	April 1 to August 31	Tree removal must occur outside this window. If work cannot take place outside window, a QEP will need to be retained to complete maternity roost bat surveys and, if a maternity roost is found, work must cease until the end of the bat maternity period.
Bat General Activity Period	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	April 1 to October 31	Tree removal must occur outside this window. If work cannot take place outside window, a QEP will need to be retained to complete roosting bat sweeps and work must cease until any found bats leave the area.
Amphibian Calling Window	<input type="checkbox"/>	April 15 to June 15	
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

- 6.6. Minimize vegetation-clearing activities and ground disturbance by staging on existing hardened areas wherever possible.
- 6.7. Delineate the work zone; clearly mark the limits to active construction, sensitive features and the access and egress locations.
- 6.8. The Prime Contractor is responsible for security and safety of the work site.
- 6.9. Strong winds are a regular occurrence in WLNP. Prevent materials from blowing off of work site.
- 6.10. If contamination is found, cease work immediately and if necessary, implement Emergency Response Plan.

Wildlife Observations and Encounters

- 6.11. 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.
- 6.12. 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.
- 6.13. 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.



- 6.14. Contractor will make bear spray, bear spray training, and wildlife awareness training mandatory to all workers on site.
- 6.15. Secure all materials that might attract wildlife (e.g. petroleum products, human food, recyclable food and drink containers and garbage).
- 6.16. 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

- 6.17. Equipment movements and workers' private vehicles shall be restricted to the designated footprint of the construction area.
- 6.18. Protective measures, including using appropriately sized equipment, or protective access matting must be employed if entry into wet areas is required.
- 6.19. 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.
- 6.20. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Little Prairie and McNeely's 2. Lost Horse and Coppermine Creek 3. Driftwood Beach, Hay Barn, Knight's Lake 4. Bison Jump	Equipment must be cleaned when moving between differently numbered sites, but does not have to be cleaned when moving between the same numbered sites.

- 6.21. Inspect equipment daily for fluid/fuel leaks and maintain equipment in good working order.
- 6.22. 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.
- 6.23. Mobile fuel containers (e.g., slip tanks) shall remain in the service vehicle at all times.
- 6.24. 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.
- 6.25. 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*.



- 6.26. 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.
- 6.27. 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.
- 6.28. 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

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

Site Clean Up/Waste Disposal

- 6.32. Clean tools and equipment at an appropriate off-site facility to prevent the release of wash water that may contain deleterious substances.
- 6.33. 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.
- 6.34. 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.
- 6.35. 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.
- 6.36. 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.
- 6.37. 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.
- 6.38. Camping and other recreational activities at the work site by contractors is not permitted without prior approval from the IAO and the Project Manager. These activities, if deemed appropriate, are conditional upon specific mitigations that address risks to wildlife, safety and any other additional environmental effects.

Air Quality Mitigations

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



Cultural Resources

- 6.43. 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.
- 6.44. Where deep excavation is planned within the townsite, notify the Parks Canada Terrestrial Archaeology section to coordinate a site visit to look at the subsurface deposits with buried soils whenever possible.
- 6.45. If applicable, follow additional mitigations outlined in the Cultural Resources Impact Assessment.

	Required	Location(s)	Notes
Are additional mitigations for cultural resources required?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Little Prairie, McNeely's, Coppermine, Driftwood Beach, Knight's Lake, Bison Jump	Additional mitigations for the protection on cultural and archaeological resources are listed in the Supplemental Mitigations section (Section1.)

7. 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](#).

- 7.1. The regional bird/songbird nesting period in WLNP is **April 1 to August 24**. 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 [appendices](#) for regulatory guidance and 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.
- 7.2. 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 September 30 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.
- 7.3. 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 may be 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

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

Vegetation Removal Mitigations

- 7.6. If previously unidentified sensitive features are found during construction, immediately stop work and notify the SO (e.g., raptor nest).
- 7.7. 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.).
- 7.8. Minimize full removal and retain vegetation when possible to reduce erosion.
- 7.9. 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.
- 7.10. Do not deposit debris in water bodies.
- 7.11. 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

- 7.12. Safety of workers and the public is the first priority for all tree removal operations. In consultation with the SO, felling of snags or hazard trees outside the designated work area may be permitted, where required for safety of fellers.
- 7.13. Unless approved by the SO due to site-specific limitations be felled away from sensitive features, such as watercourses, wetlands, riparian zones, or ecological features.
- 7.14. Ensure tree limbs/stumps are flush cut as close to the ground or stem as possible.
- 7.15. Fallers should assess each tree individually for critical wildlife features such as nests or cavities. Notify the SO if unexpected features are identified.
- 7.16. Mechanical falling can be used where it is determined that machines will cause minimal site degradation, due to suitable soil conditions, or on a site that is to be developed for future access or facilities.
- 7.17. Mechanical falling may be preferable on sites with numerous hazard trees to be retained for their habitat values, or where mechanical falling equipment can be used to minimise soil disturbance and better direct fallen trees away from environmentally sensitive areas.
- 7.18. Logs and other salvage materials are to be conveyed to and placed at a storage site without spread of debris or damage to other standing trees or landscape resources outside the marked clearing or storage limits. They shall not be skidded through wetlands, waterways or water bodies.
- 7.19. During the grubbing component, stumps, roots, imbedded logs and other non-soil debris shall be pulled and shaken free of loose soil and rocks before transport.
- 7.20. Where possible, preserve identified wildlife trees by limbing or topping if they are not assessed as hazard trees.

Disposal of Vegetation Debris

- 7.21. 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.
- 7.22. 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.
- 7.23. If temporary storage is required, store debris on already disturbed areas to minimize footprint of disturbance.
- 7.24. All vegetation containing non-native species will be bagged and removed off site to disposal facility.
- 7.25. 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.



8. Buildings & Structures

General Activities

- 8.1. 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).
- 8.2. 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.
- 8.3. 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.

- 8.4. 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.
- 8.5. Identify adjacent natural or artificial roosts that can be avoided or maintained during the Project.
- 8.6. 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](#)).
- 8.7. 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.
- 8.8. 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.

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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.



Appendix 2 Details on Timing Windows and Setbacks

Timing Windows

Several seasonal timing restrictions and area setbacks are regularly applied in WLNP. These are most commonly applied for activities that can disrupt plants and animals such as [vegetation removal](#), but may be applicable for other activities. For individual projects, the relevant timing windows are summarized in the [General Mitigations](#) section. As a best practice, activities should be planned to avoid the restricted window. When activities occur within a timing window, additional mitigations or setbacks may apply.

- Migratory Bird General Breeding Period – April 1 to August 24
 - Bat Maternity Roost Activity Period – April 1 to August 31
 - Bat General Activity Period – April 1 to September 30
 - Amphibian Calling Window – April 15 to June 15
 - Bull Trout Restricted Work Periods – August 31 to August 15
 - Other Fish Species Restricted Work Periods – Consult IAO for location specific advice
 - Grassland Dormancy – October 1 to February 28
 - Additional Timing Considerations (e.g., weed seed set, soil protection) – Dry late summer and fall conditions, avoidance of wet spring
 - Wolf Natal Den – May 1 to July 15
 - Sharp-tailed Grouse Lek – March 15 to June 15
 - Critical Ungulate Winter Range* – December 1 to May 15
- *Consistent with Glacier National Park, Montana

Setback Guidance

Several jurisdictions provide setback and timing guidelines that may assist the IAO in determining the appropriate setback for an activity.

- Stepping Back from the Water Guidelines A BMP [guide](#) for new development near water bodies in Alberta's Settled Region.
- Saskatchewan Activity [Restriction Guidelines](#) for Sensitive Species.
- Petroleum Industry [Activity Guidelines](#) for Wildlife Species at Risk in the Prairie and Northern Region.
- Alberta Recommended [Land Use Guidelines](#) for Protection of Selected Wildlife Species and Habitat within Grassland and Parkland Natural Regions of Alberta.

Environment Canada (Gregoire 2015) provided WLNP additional setback advice for Species at Risk. Note that these setbacks are provided as general feedback and do not present site or project specific guidance.

- Baird's Sparrow (Special Concern COSEWIC) May 15 to August 31. 200m setbacks from nests.
- Barn Swallow (Threatened COSEWIC). May 1 to August 31. 100m setback from active nests.



WLNP General Project Best Management Practices
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- Bobolink (Threatened COSEWIC). May 1 to August 31. 200m setback from active nests.
- Canada Warbler (Threatened SARA). May 1 to July 31 300m (high disturbance) 150m (medium) 0-50m (low)
- Chestnut-collared Longspur (Threatened COSEWIC). May 1 to August 31. 200m setback from active nests.
- Chimney swift (Threatened SARA). April 1 to August 31. 100m setback from active nests.
- Common Nighthawk (Special Concern SARA) May 1 to August 31 200m (high disturbance) 100m (medium) 0-50m (low)
- Horned Grebe (Special Concern COSEWIC). April 1 to August 31. 100m setback from the high water mark of the wetland or waterbody containing a nest.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher (Threatened SARA) May 1 to August 31 300m (high disturbance) 150m (medium) 0-50m (low)
- Rusty Blackbird (Special Concern SARA) May 1 to July 31 300m (high disturbance) 150m (medium) 0-50m (low)
- American Badger (Special Concern COSEWIC) 200m from natal den.
- Monarch Butterfly (Special Concern SARA). June 1 to September 30. 30m setback from occupied host plants.