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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 projects<sup>1</sup>. 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 Mark<sup>2</sup>, 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 use<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>3</sup> 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 program<sup>4</sup>. 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

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<sup>4</sup> 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-WARDENS*

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-WARDENS 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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/alterd 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. SOIL HANDLING MITIGATIONS MODULE
9. SOIL AND VEGETATION RESTORATION MITIGATIONS MODULE
10. CONCRETE HANDLING MITIGATIONS MODULE
11. PAVING, RESURFACING, GRADING MITIGATIONS MODULE
12. WORKS OVER OR IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO WATER
13. WATER WITHDRAWAL AND DEWATERING MITIGATIONS MODULE
14. GEOTECHNICAL
15. HELICOPTER OPERATIONS



# Mitigation Package

Parks Canada Waterton Lakes National Park General Project Best Management Practices

Recommendation & Approval – Version 2.0

Modified for: **Red Rock Canyon Loop Trail and Bridges Rehabilitation**

## 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

Include any supplemental, or site-specific mitigations

**Rare Plant Mitigations – Several species of rare plants have been identified alongside the current Red Rock Canyon trail. General mitigations to protect rare plants are as follows:**

1. North of Middle Bridge – Ensure disturbance extends no further than 0.3 meters on either side of the trail (including seating areas).
2. South of Middle Bridge – Ensure disturbance extends no further than 0.5 meters on both sides of the trail (including seating areas).
3. All locations – see partial sod salvage/disturbed areas reclamation mitigations below.
4. Identify and avoid high-priority rare plant sites. Contact Departmental Representative at start-up to come identify these locations in advance. If avoidance is not possible, Departmental Representative will identify suitable mitigations to follow.

**Partial Sod Salvage/Disturbed Area Reclamation:**

*Partial sod salvage is defined as “removal of the native sod and associated shrub layer, retaining the sod and the native seed bank contained in the upper 100mm of soil as intact as possible to be used in top-dressing areas to be reclaimed”*

1. Where approved by the Departmental Representative the Contractor shall select stumps, logs, branches and rocks to stockpile and use to create microsites for re-vegetation of non-required trails and areas disturbed by construction activities.
2. Salvage all sod to be disturbed and stockpile vegetation side up in a sheltered location to be used to reclaim disturbed areas.
3. Stockpile all salvaged sod on pallets lined with geotextile and ensure root mass is kept moist.
4. Limit time sods are stockpiled to improve success of vegetation re-establishment upon project completion. This can be done by scheduling work to reduce the amount of time soils are left exposed. 1 week is the maximum recommended time sods should be left exposed.
5. To re-instate the salvaged sod and soils, first scarify the top 50mm of the receiving layer, then roughly place any loose soils directly on disturbed areas followed by placing sods vegetation side up and compact very lightly in place to remove any air pockets. Water as needed once in place. Ideally this work will not take place during the dry summer months.
6. Dispose of any excess stockpiled vegetation as directed by Departmental Representative.

**Breeding birds and roosting bats:**

1. Contact Departmental Representative in advance of bridge works, upper bridge removal and vegetation removal to survey the area for breeding birds or roosting bats. If either are discovered, mitigations will be developed to protect both of these species.



## 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	Site specific ESC Plan to be submitted for PCA review and approval prior to work starting.
ERP (Emergency Response Plan)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractor	Site specific ERP Plan to be submitted for PCA review and approval prior to work starting.
Spill Response Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractor	Site specific Spill Plan to be submitted for PCA review and approval prior to work starting.
Fire Contingency Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractor	Site specific Spill Plan to be submitted for PCA review and approval prior to work starting.
Avalanche Safety Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Site-specific Mitigation Details	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parks Canada	Parks Canada has identified site-specific mitigations that need to be acknowledged and implemented by the contractor prior to work starting.
Restoration Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractor	Site specific Restoration Plan to be submitted for PCA review and approval prior to work starting.
HDD or Geotechnical Drill 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:

<b>Material</b>	<b>Immediate Notification Requirements</b>	<b>Written Spill Report Requirements</b>
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

### Fire Contingency Plan

- 5.23. 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.
- 5.24. Fires or burning of waste materials is not permitted.



- 5.25. 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.
- 5.26. Where an emergency fire contingency plan has been requested, the prime contractor should provide, at minimum the required equipment as defined in the Schedule of the *Alberta Forest and Prairie Protection (Ministerial) Regulation*.
- 5.27. 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 1 Adapted Alberta Forest and Prairie Fire Protection (Ministerial) Regulations AR 65/2017, Schedule

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 in consultation with the Parks Canada Fire Management Officer.
Back pack with pump	1	1	1	2	3	5	10	15	20	
Axe or Pulaski	1	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	

## 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. 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.



- 6.4. 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).
- 6.5. 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

- 6.6. 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 8 to August 24	<a href="#">See supplementary mitigations section</a>
Bat Maternity Roost Activity Period	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	April 1 to August 31	<a href="#">See supplementary mitigations section</a>
Bat General Activity Period	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	April 1 to October 31	<a href="#">See supplementary mitigations section</a>
Amphibian Calling Window	<input type="checkbox"/>	April 15 to June 15	
Bull Trout Restricted Work Periods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	August 31 to August 15	<a href="#">Work must be conducted in a manner so no deleterious substances enter the waterway at any time.</a>
Other Fish Species Restricted Work Periods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consult IAO	<a href="#">Work must be conducted in a manner so no deleterious substances enter the waterway at any time.</a>
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

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



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

### Wildlife Observations and Encounters

- 6.12. 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.
- 6.13. 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.
- 6.14. 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.
- 6.15. Contractor will make bear spray, bear spray training, and wildlife awareness training mandatory to all workers on site.
- 6.16. Secure all materials that might attract wildlife (e.g. petroleum products, human food, recyclable food and drink containers and garbage).
- 6.17. 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

- 6.18. Equipment movements and workers' private vehicles shall be restricted to the designated footprint of the construction area.
- 6.19. Protective measures, including using appropriately sized equipment, or protective access matting must be employed if entry into wet areas is required.
- 6.20. 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.
- 6.21. 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"/>	<a href="#">n/a – extra cleaning locations are not required</a>	

- 6.22. Inspect equipment daily for fluid/fuel leaks and maintain equipment in good working order.



- 6.23. 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.
- 6.24. Mobile fuel containers (e.g., slip tanks) shall remain in the service vehicle at all times.
- 6.25. 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.
- 6.26. 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*.
- 6.27. 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.
- 6.28. 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.
- 6.29. 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*

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

#### **Site Clean Up/Waste Disposal**

- 6.33. Clean tools and equipment at an appropriate off-site facility to prevent the release of wash water that may contain deleterious substances.
- 6.34. 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.
- 6.35. 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.
- 6.36. 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.
- 6.37. 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.
- 6.38. 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.



- 6.39. 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

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

### Cultural Resources

- 6.44. 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.
- 6.45. 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.
- 6.46. If applicable, follow additional mitigations outlined in the Cultural Resources Impact Assessment.

	Required	Location(s)	Notes
Are additional mitigations for cultural resources required?	☒	Archaeological monitoring is required in locations identified by Department Representative in pre-construction meeting.	Departmental Representative requires two weeks’ notice in advance of ground disturbance activities identified as requiring archaeological monitoring. Department will supply the archaeologist for monitoring.

## 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 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 [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 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.
- 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. 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.
- 7.26. 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.
- 7.27. 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.

## 8. 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](#).

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

### Soil Stripping

- 8.2. No stripping shall occur outside of the delineated work area or within 1 metre of the drip line of existing forest.
- 8.3. 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.
- 8.4. 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

- 8.5. Salvage topsoil at all excavation sites for restoration purposes.
- 8.6. Prevent loss of topsoil through wind or water erosion.
- 8.7. 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.
- 8.8. 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.



- 8.9. 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.

## Excavation

- 8.10. All trenches or ditches left unattended overnight must be fenced or covered to prevent wildlife entrapment or provide appropriate egress for wildlife.
- 8.11. 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.
- 8.12. 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.
- 8.13. Special precautions may have to be taken during excavation in the vicinity of intermittent or active drainage channels.
- 8.14. 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.
- 8.15. Backfill and compact excavations as soon as possible. Optimize degree of compaction to minimize erosion and allow for re-vegetation.
- 8.16. To limit over compaction, use equipment which minimizes surface disturbance including low ground pressure tracks/tires, blade shoes and brush rake attachments.
- 8.17. All excavations will remain free of water (see [dewatering mitigations](#)).

## Excavated Material Storage

- 8.18. 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.
- 8.19. 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).
- 8.20. 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.
- 8.21. 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.
- 8.22. Construct barricades to prevent losses on steep terrain (>18°, 3:1).

## Excess Materials and Waste (Overburden Removal)

- 8.23. 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.
- 8.24. Surplus excavated material may be used to fill depressions around the project site providing topsoil is stripped before filling, with approval from SO.



## 9. 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

- 9.1. Develop restoration plan as part of the project scoping and specifications prior to project approvals.
- 9.2. Ensure that the appropriate restoration materials are available as needed immediately following construction activities.
- 9.3. The restoration plan will be subject to the approval of the IAO, who will be responsible for consulting with the Park Vegetation Ecologist.
- 9.4. 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

- 9.5. Complete initial seeding as soon as possible.
- 9.6. 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.
- 9.7. Time weed control measures to prevent seed propagation.

### Topsoil Replacement

- 9.8. Implement restoration plan for the disturbed area immediately following completion of construction.
- 9.9. Minimize soil movement and handling to protect existing native seed bank.
- 9.10. Replace topsoil to all areas immediately following fine grading.
- 9.11. Do not compact topsoil.
- 9.12. Backfilling should allow settling to prevent depressions however, long term roach piles on linear disturbances should be minimal.
- 9.13. 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.
- 9.14. 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.
  - 9.15. Where remaining soils are unstable due to steepness or soil characteristics, immediate installation of sod or other erosion control is required.
  - 9.16. Methods of bioengineering such as terracing, willow staking, live pole drain systems should be assessed as solutions where soils are steeper or remain unstable.

### Seedbed Preparation

- 9.17. 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.
- 9.18. 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.
- 9.19. 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.
- 9.20. Align cleat marks at right angles on slopes to trap seed and sediment and reduce erosion.

### Species Selection

- 9.21. 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

- 9.22. A prescriptive seed mix appropriate for the project area will be provided by Parks Canada. If an appropriate seed mix is not available, the SO will contact the Park Vegetation Ecologist to determine an appropriate mix for the Project.
- 9.23. 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.
- 9.24. 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.

9.25. All seed is subject to testing by PCA prior to use.

## Seeding

- 9.26. Use only seed purchased after written approval is obtained.
- 9.27. 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.
- 9.28. In previously disturbed lawn areas of the Waterton Community, consider using sod in high traffic areas or places that need extra erosion control.
- 9.29. Use temporary seeding when outside the seeding dates for permanent vegetation.
- 9.30. Apply a seed mixture which is appropriate for the climate, soil, and drainage conditions of the site.
- 9.31. Apply seed at a rate appropriate to the seed mixture, seeding method and existing vegetation conditions.
- 9.32. Conduct broadcast seeding under calm wind conditions. Hydro-seeding is acceptable where access is available.
- 9.33. Do not increase the seeding rate to compensate for poor seedbed conditions.
- 9.34. Monitor temporary erosion control measures to prevent seed loss.
- 9.35. Supplemental seeding may be required in subsequent years.

## Alternatives to Seeding

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

# 10. 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

- 10.1. Temporary concrete washout facilities shall be located a minimum of 100 m from storm drain inlets, open drainage facilities, and watercourses.
- 10.2. 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.
- 10.3. Wood stakes, and sandbag materials can be used to construct temporary containment walls or “barriers”.
- 10.4. 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.
- 10.5. The soil base shall be prepared free of rocks or other debris that may cause tears or holes in the plastic lining material.
- 10.6. Washout of concrete mixer trucks is not permitted in WLNP.
- 10.7. Wash concrete from mixer truck chutes/pumps into approved concrete washout facility or collect in an impermeable bag for disposal.
- 10.8. Pump excess concrete in concrete pump bin back into concrete mixer truck.
- 10.9. Concrete washout from concrete pumper bins can be washed into concrete pumper trucks and discharged into designated washout area or properly disposed offsite.
- 10.10. 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

- 10.11. 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.
- 10.12. Maintaining temporary concrete washout facilities shall include removing and disposing of hardened concrete and returning the facilities to a functional condition.
- 10.13. Existing facilities must be cleaned, or new facilities must be constructed and ready for use once the washout is 75% full.
- 10.14. Temporary concrete washout facilities shall be inspected for damage (i.e. tears in PVC liner, missing sand bags, etc.).
- 10.15. 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

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

## Onsite Concrete Management

- 10.17. 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.
- 10.18. Water contaminated in the placing of cement and curing of concrete shall be contained and removed from the site to an approved disposal facility.



- 10.19. The concrete batching plant must be operated pursuant to applicable dust, air emission, and water quality control regulations.
- 10.20. 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.

## 11. 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

- 11.1. Works are preferably undertaken during periods of dry weather (e.g., summer) as this allows easier control of contaminated runoff and sediment.
- 11.2. 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

- 11.3. 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.
- 11.4. 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.
- 11.5. 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.
- 11.6. Retain a 30 metre vegetated buffer around water bodies or install runoff management structures.
- 11.7. 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.
- 11.8. 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

- 11.9. Minimize changes to the surface that could affect infiltration and runoff characteristics and maintain effective surface drainage to limit direct runoff into surface waters.
- 11.10. 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.

- 11.11. For asphalt handling and management see the [Asphalt Mitigation Module](#) of the BMP.

## Pavement Marking and Barrier and Guardrail Reinstatement

- 11.12. 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.
- 11.13. 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.

## 12. 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

- 12.1. 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.
- 12.2. 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.
- 12.3. 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.
- 12.4. 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

- 12.5. 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.
- 12.6. 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.
- 12.7. 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.
- 12.8. 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.
- 12.9. 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.
- 12.10. 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.
- 12.11. 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.
- 12.12. Hydrovac or vacuum trucks may be an option to assist in containment of wash water.
- 12.13. If water for cleaning is extracted from a watercourse, refer to [water withdrawal section](#) of this BMP.

## Bridge and Structure Painting

- 12.14. 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.
- 12.15. 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.
- 12.16. 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.
- 12.17. Use hydro blasting or manual techniques, where possible, when removing road dirt, soluble salts and loose paint to minimize impacts to the watercourse.
- 12.18. Use water without cleaning agent additives if grease film removal is necessary.
- 12.19. Avoid use of toxic liquid paints, primers, solvents, degreasers and rust inhibitors.



- 12.20. Minimize spill potential by storing, mixing and transferring paints and solvents on land.

## 13. 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

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

### Equipment Cleaning

- 13.2. 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](#)).
- 13.3. Do not bring equipment into WLNP from areas that have known infestations of aquatic invasives (e.g., USA, east of Saskatchewan).
- 13.4. Thoroughly clean water trucks, hoses, pumps and intake hoses using clean HOT WATER with as much pressure as possible.
- 13.5. 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

- 13.6. 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.
- 13.7. Do not withdraw water from waterbodies that support breeding amphibians.

### Water Withdrawal

- 13.8. 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.
- 13.9. 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).
- 13.10. No permanent or semi-permanent works for water withdrawal should be placed in the stream channel.
- 13.11. 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

- 13.12. 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

- 13.13. 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.
- 13.14. Site specific mitigations may be required depending on the conditions of the discharge area, freezing conditions operation, overflow avoidance, decanting and settlement pond restoration.
- 13.15. Water containing suspended materials shall not be pumped into watercourses, drainage systems or on to land, except with the permission of the SO.
- 13.16. Soil and vegetation erosion protection is required for water pumped on to land.

## 14. Geotechnical

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

- 14.1. The contractor for geotechnical investigations must obtain a Restricted Activity Permit from the IAO prior to the commencement of work.
- 14.2. 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.

## 15. Helicopter Operations

- 15.1. Safety is the primary objective during all helicopter operations.
- 15.2. All helicopter activity requires a Restricted Activity Permit from the IAO prior to commencement of work.



- 15.3. Helicopter fueling is permitted only at the fueling station of the Operations Compound.
- 15.4. All fuel drums require secondary containment during storage.
- 15.5. 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.
- 15.6. Helicopter operations must not occur within areas of exposed soils where rotor wash will disturb soils or vegetation.
- 15.7. 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.



## Appendix 2 Species at Risk and Critical Habitat

Table 2 Species at Risk Occurring in Waterton Lakes National Park

Species	SARA status	COSEWIC	Provincial Status
<b>Vascular Plants</b>			
Bolander's Quillwort	Threatened	--	--
Limber Pine	--	Endangered	Endangered
Whitebark Pine*	Endangered	--	Endangered
<b>Arthropods</b>			
Half-moon Hairstreak*	Endangered	--	--
Western Bumble Bee	--	Threatened (southern subspecies)	--
<b>Amphibians</b>			
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)	--	--
<b>Reptiles</b>			
Western painted turtle (note that status depends on population definition)	Special Concern	--	--
<b>Birds</b>			
Band-tailed Pigeon	Special Concern	--	--
Bank Swallow	--	Threatened	--
Barn Swallow	--	Threatened	--
Barred Owl	--	Not assessed	Special Concern
Black Swift	--	Endangered	--
Bobolink	--	Threatened	--
Canada Warbler*	Threatened	--	--
Chestnut-collared Longspur*	Threatened	--	--
Common Nighthawk*	Threatened	--	--
Ferruginous Hawk*	Threatened	--	Endangered
Harlequin Duck	--	Not assessed (western population)	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
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	--	--
<b>Fish</b>			
Westslope Cutthroat Trout	Threatened	--	Threatened



WLNP General Project Best Management Practices  
Appendix 2 Species at Risk and Critical Habitat

Species	SARA status	COSEWIC	Provincial Status
Bull Trout	--	Threatened (Saskatchewan-Nelson Population)	Threatened
Pygmy Whitefish	--	Special Concern (Waterton Population)	Threatened
<b>Mammals</b>			
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

Defined critical habitat exists for Bolander's Quillwort and Half-moon Hairstreak.

Contact the Impact Assessment Office for more information, including information regarding other habitats important for species at risk, as well as species at risk without defined critical habitat maps to date.

Additional information on Species at Risk is included in the Multi-species Action Plan.

Parks Canada Agency. 2017. Multi-species Action Plan for Waterton Lakes National Park of Canada and Bar U Ranch National Historic Site of Canada [Proposed]. Species at Risk Act Action Plan Series. Parks Canada Agency, Ottawa. iv + 30 pp. [G:\Resource Conservation\Species at risk\Action Planning 2013-2016\WLNP BURNHS Action Plan](#)



## Appendix 3 List of Non-Native Species of Local Concern

Contact the Impact Assessment Office for more information about potential site specific non-native species of concern.

Table 3 Non-native Species Listed by the *Alberta Weed Control Act*

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b><i>Prohibited Noxious</i></b>	
autumn olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> Thunb.
balsam, Himalayan	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> Royle
barberry, common	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> L.
bartsia, red	<i>Odontites vernus</i> (Bellardi) Dumort
buckthorn, common	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> L.
cinquefoil, sulphur	<i>Potentilla recta</i> L.
crupina, common	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i> Pers. ex Cass.
dyer's woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i> L.
Eurasian water milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> L.
flowering rush	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i> L.
garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i> (M. Bieb.) Cavara & Grande
goatgrass, jointed	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i> Host
hawkweed, meadow	<i>Hieracium caespitosum</i> Dumort.
hawkweed, mouse-ear	<i>Hieracium pilosella</i> L.
hawkweed, orange	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i> L.
hoary alyssum	<i>Berteroa incana</i> (L.) DC.
hogweed, giant	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> Sommier & Levier
iris, pale yellow	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i> L.
knapweed, bighead	<i>Centaurea macrocephala</i> Puschk. ex Willd.
knapweed, black	<i>Centaurea nigra</i> L.
knapweed, brown	<i>Centaurea jacea</i> L.
knapweed, diffuse	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i> Lam.
knapweed, hybrid	<i>Centaurea</i> × <i>psammogena</i> Gáyér
knapweed, meadow	<i>Centaurea</i> × <i>moncktonii</i> C. E. Britton
knapweed, Russian	<i>Rhaponticum repens</i> (L.) Hidalgo
knapweed, spotted	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i> L. ssp. <i>Micranthos</i> (Gugler) Hayek
knapweed, squarrose	<i>Centaurea virgata</i> Lam. ssp. <i>squarrosa</i> (Willd.) Gugler
knotweed, giant	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i> (F. Schmidt Petrop.) Ronse Decr.
knotweed, hybrid Japanese	<i>Fallopia</i> × <i>bohemica</i> (Chrtek & Chrtková) J. P. Bailey
knotweed, Japanese	<i>Fallopia japonica</i> (Houtt.) Ronse Decr.
loosestrife, purple	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> L.
medusahead	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i> (L.) Nevski
nutsedge, yellow	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i> L.
puncturevine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.
ragwort, tansy	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i> Gaertn.
rush skeletonweed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i> L.
saltcedar	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i> Ledeb.
saltlover	<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i> (M. Bieb.) C.A. Mey.
St John's-wort, common	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> L.
starthistle, yellow	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> L.
tamarisk, Chinese	<i>Tamarix chinensis</i> Lour.
tamarisk, smallflower	<i>Tamarix parviflora</i> DC.



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Common Name	Scientific Name
thistle, marsh	<i>Cirsium palustre</i> (L.) Scop.
thistle, nodding	<i>Carduus nutans</i> L.
thistle, plumeless	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i> L.
<b>Noxious</b>	
baby's-breath, common	<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i> L.
bellflower, creeping	<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i> L.
bindweed, field	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> L.
blueweed	<i>Echium vulgare</i> L.
brome, downy	<i>Bromus tectorum</i> L.
brome, Japanese	<i>Bromus japonicus</i> Thunb.
burdock, great	<i>Arctium lappa</i> L.
burdock, lesser	<i>Arctium minus</i> (Hill) Bernh.
burdock, woolly	<i>Arctium tomentosum</i> Mill.
buttercup, tall	<i>Ranunculus acris</i> L.
chamomile, scentless	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L.) Sch. Bip.
clematis, yellow	<i>Clematis tangutica</i> (Maxim.) Korsh.
cockle, white	<i>Silene latifolia</i> Poir. ssp. <i>alba</i> (Miller) Greuter & Burdet
daisy, oxeye	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> Lam.
dame's rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i> L.
henbane, black	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> L.
hoary cress, globe-podded	<i>Lepidium appelianum</i> Al-Shehbaz
hoary cress, heart-podded	<i>Lepidium draba</i> L.
hoary cress, lens-podded	<i>Lepidium chalepense</i> L.
hound's-tongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> L.
mullein, common	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i> L.
pepper-grass, broad-leaved	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i> L.
scabious, field	<i>Knautia arvensis</i> (L.) Coult.
sow thistle, perennial	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i> L.
spurge, leafy	<i>Euphorbia esula</i> L.
tansy, common	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> L.
thistle, Canada	<i>Cirsium arvense</i> (L.) Scop.
toadflax, Dalmatian	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i> (L.) Mill.
toadflax, yellow	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i> Mill.



## Appendix 4 Zoning & Planning Areas

Several zoning and area designations are useful in planning, understanding potential project effects and for developing and choosing appropriate mitigations. Five zones plus an Environmentally Sensitive Site (ESS) are outlined in the [Park Management Plan](#).

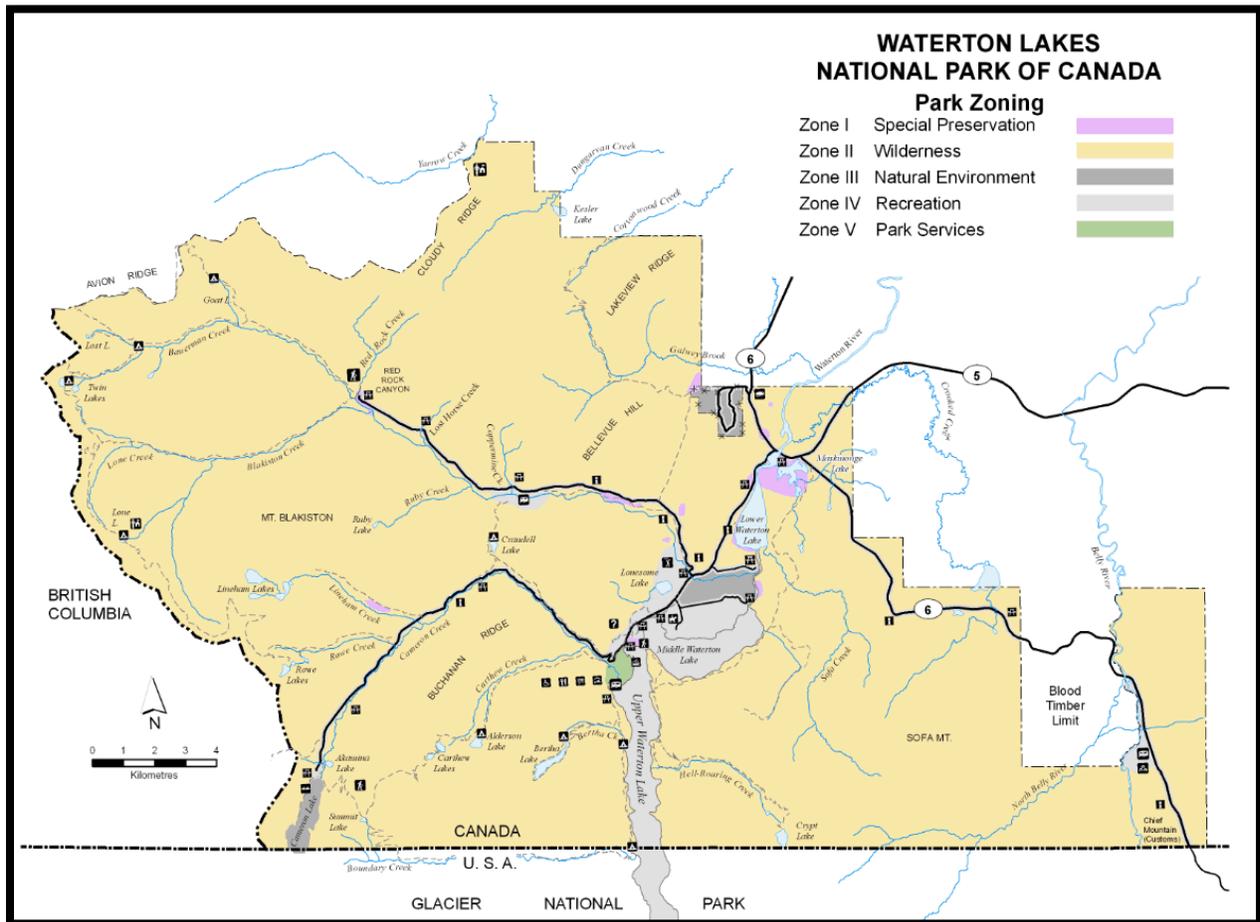


Figure 1 Waterton Lakes National Park of Canada Park Zoning Map

### Zone I: Special Preservation

- Resource sensitivity is the key consideration in designating Zone I areas.
- The Maskinonge wetlands contain some of the few remaining wetlands in southwestern Alberta. This area is an important waterfowl staging and nesting area. Several rare bird species such as Trumpeter swans, Hooded mergansers and Red-necked grebes frequent the area. Two significant archaeological sites on the shores of Maskinonge Lake have been included in the Zone I designation.
- The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommended the Lineham Discovery Well, the first oil well in Western Canada, as a national historic site on May 17, 1965. The site is marked with a plaque which commemorates the “First Oil Well in Western Canada.”



- There are approximately 250 known archaeological sites in Waterton Lakes National Park, dating back almost 11,000 years. Zone I designation is applied to the most significant of these sites.

## Zone II: Declared Wilderness Area

- Only those activities are allowed which are required for: park administration; public safety; provision of basic user facilities including trails and rudimentary campsites; the carrying on of traditional resource harvesting activities where authorized; and in exceptional circumstances, access by air.
- For more information on DWA consult [G:\Common\Planning\Declared Wilderness Areas](#)

## Zone III: Natural Environment

- Applies to areas where visitor use requires facilities that exceed the acceptable standards for Zone II.
- Motorized access is limited and controlled.
- Rigorous protection is required because of the area's ecological and aesthetic importance.

## Zone IV: Recreation

- Zone IV also includes the Upper and Middle Waterton Lakes to accommodate motorized access. Note that trailer launched and motorized watercraft are no longer permitted in Upper and Middle Waterton Lakes.

## Zone V: Park Services

- The [Community Plan](#) outlines the **Land Use Districts** in the Waterton Community (Environmental Reserve, Recreational Reserve, Commercial Retail, Commercial Accommodation, Institutional, Campground, Parking, Cottage)

## Environmentally Sensitive Sites (ESS)

- The Park Management Plan recognizes the foothills rough fescue grasslands as an ESS in Waterton Lakes National Park. The foothills rough fescue grasslands form a narrow band that stretches along the plains and foothills from southern Alberta into Montana. The ESS is not spatially defined, however, a figure that outlines the grassland portions of WLNP is included below.

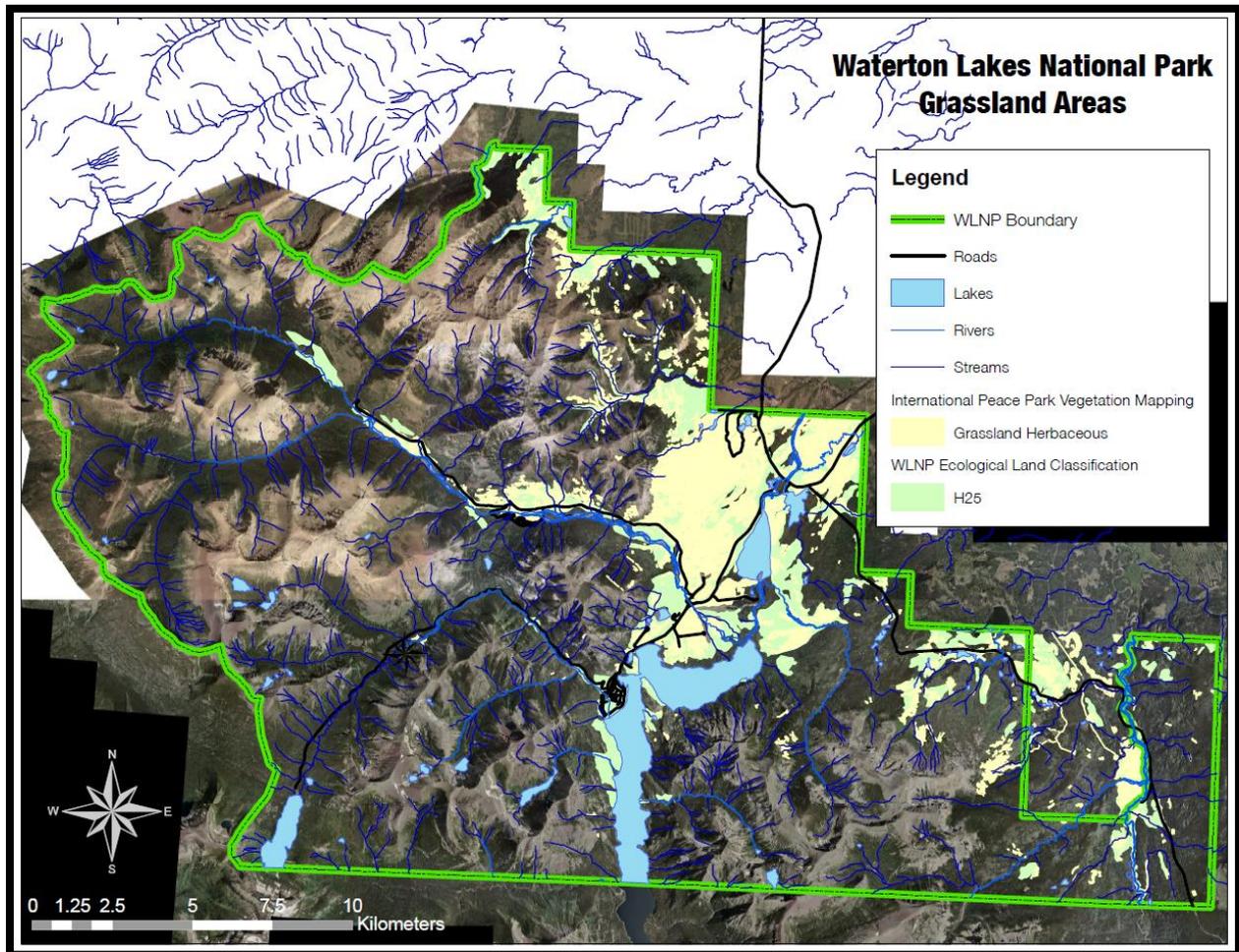


Figure 2 Grassland Areas in Waterton Lakes National Park.

## Avalanche Mapping

Avalanche hazard zone mapping has been completed for the Waterton Townsite, Parks Compound, Little Prairie Day Use Area, and other key sites in WLNP. Consult with the Visitor Safety Specialist for additional information related to avalanche risks and project design.

<G:\Resource Conservation\Visitor Safety\AVALANCHE\Avalanche Mapping>

## Planning Areas

In addition to formal zoning, the park management plan identifies several Planning Areas that may be useful in in planning, understanding potential project effects and for developing and choosing appropriate mitigations. Some of the key ecological factors, seasonal closures and other considerations that may be relevant to impact analysis in each planning area is included below. (Note that information additional to the Management Plan is included.)

Survey	Notes
Waterton Valley	Seasonal closure of the fan reduces disturbance of elk during rut. Area contains critical habitat for half-moon hairstreak butterfly.



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Survey	Notes
	<p>Dynamic natural processes occur on the alluvial Blakiston Fan.            Invasive plant control is a management priority.            Location of northern leopard frog re-introduction.            Contains known salamander migration areas.            Contains fescue grassland ESS.</p>
Waterton Community	<p>Efforts to include natural areas and a natural aesthetic are important goals of the Community Plan.            Need to maintain and monitor wildlife corridors in and around the community.            Community planning involves working to reduce human-wildlife conflict.            Dark sky compliance and upgrading is on-going work.            There is an important archaeological site at Emerald Bay that likely extends into the yard of the superintendent.</p>
Blakiston Valley	<p>Winter road closure reduces disturbance of ungulates in their winter range.            Prescribed fire is an important management tool.</p>
Belly River	<p>Park Management Plan outlines that no new trails will be developed in Belly River Area to maintain secure habitat and a wilderness experience for visitors.            Grizzly Bear secure habitat thresholds are used as part of the Ecological Integrity indicators for WLNP. Human use (e.g., trailheads, trails) can move habitat from “secure” to “unsuitable due to human use”. (See figure of secure habitat).            The highway is not actively maintained in winter which functions to reduce human use in this planning area.</p>
Cameron Valley	<p>Contains critical habitat for Bolander’s quillwort.            Parking congestion along the parkway has resulted in people parking in ditches and non-hardened areas and the refurbishment of trailheads and Cameron Lake DUA is in progress.            The First Oil Well National Historic Site and several cultural resources are adjacent to the Akamina Parkway (Zone I).</p>
Foothills	<p>Contains foothills rough fescue environmentally sensitive site.            Includes wilderness and equestrian opportunities.</p>
*Park Waterbodies	<p>Public use of motorboats and trailer-launched boats is no longer permitted due to risk of aquatic invasive species. An educational self-inspection of human-powered watercraft is required.</p>

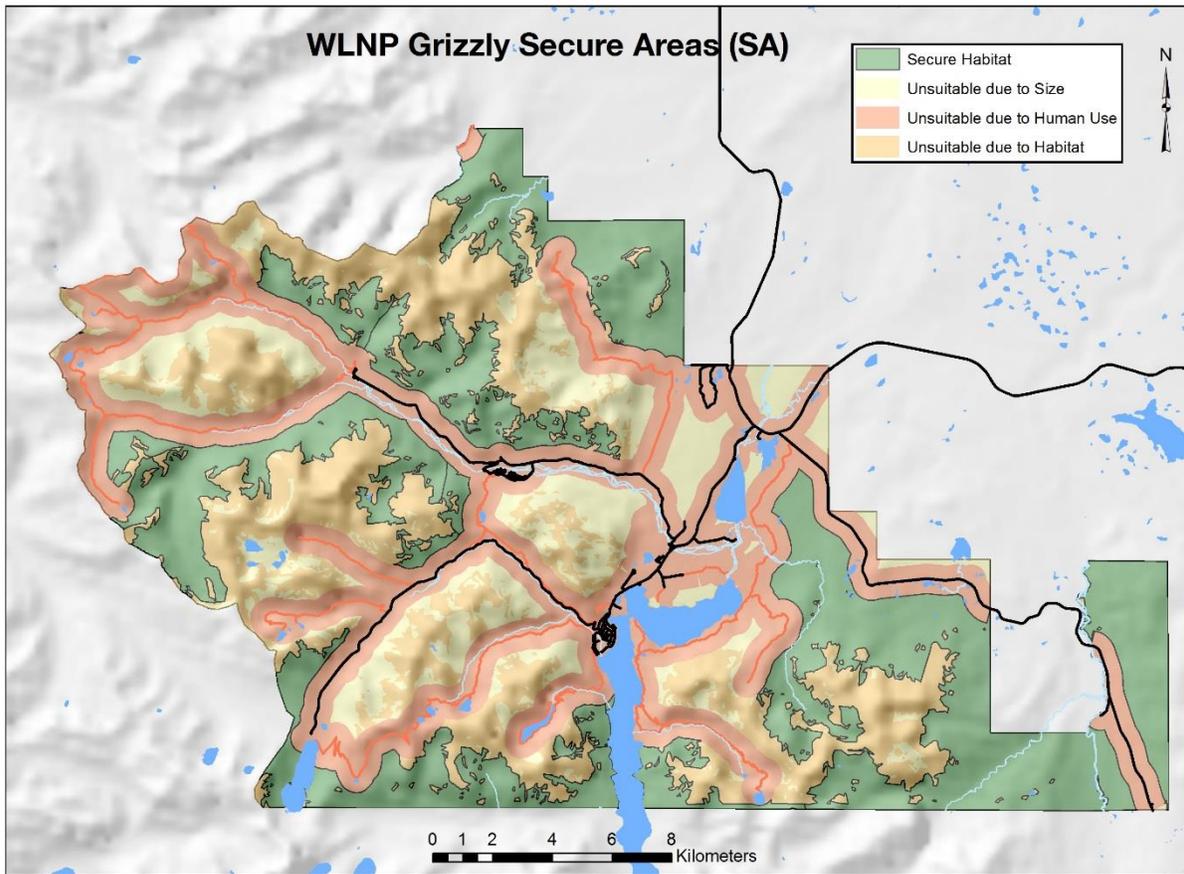


Figure 3 WLNP Grizzly Secure Areas



## Appendix 5 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 8 to August 24
  - Bat Maternity Roost Activity Period – April 1 to August 31
  - Bat General Activity Period – April 1 to October 31
  - 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.



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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.