

Preapproved Routine Impact Assessment Scaling and Ditching Material Deposition

Mt Revelstoke & Glacier national parks
IAA 2019

Preapproved Routine Impact Assessments (PRIA) are pre-determined environmental management and mitigation measures for a defined class of routine, repetitive projects or activities with well understood and predictable effects. Approved PRIAs are an acceptable Impact Assessment pathway as they fulfill Parks Canada's obligations as a manager of federal lands under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).

Physical project works and activities that may be associated with rock scaling and ditching projects will require further assessment under a separate Impact Assessment (IA) pathway.

This PRIA has been prepared based on information available at time of writing (January 2018, updated in December 2018, converted from BMP to PRIA in January 2020) and is intended to be revised on a periodic basis as new information becomes available (see version tracking in Development and Review Team Section below).

Scope of Application:

This PRIA includes (but is not limited to):

The transportation and deposition of organic (fines) and rock debris material at Approved Deposition Sites in specific locations along the Trans-Canada Highway (TCH) corridor within Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks, including Rogers Pass National Historic Site.

Conditions and Exceptions:

This section specifies circumstances when the PRIA would not apply or should be used in conjunction with additional analysis such as a Basic Impact Analysis (BIA), including the following:

- Emergency situations where debris has fallen onto the highway and requires immediate temporary storage;
- Deposition of material outside of the approved sites identified within this PRIA unless in an emergency situation as above;
- Any work that could directly impact a known cultural resource;
- Vegetation removal of trees > 15 cm dbh and / or removal of more than 50 m² of vegetation;
- Deposition or vegetation removal in areas of known rare plants;
- Deposition within 50 m of a watercourse or waterbody.
- Deposition or vegetation clearing that could result in residual adverse effects on migratory birds or their nests. Refer to the draft- *Parks Canada Guidance on Reducing Risk to Migratory Birds* and associated draft- *Conservation Measures for Minimizing Impacts to Migratory Birds during the Nesting Period*.
- Deposition that could adversely impact sites of significance to Indigenous peoples or current access and use of areas where hunting, fishing or gathering rights are exercised by Indigenous peoples.

Approved geographic areas of application:

This PRIA may be used:

At Approved Deposition Sites listed in Table 1 in Mount Revelstoke & Glacier national parks, including Rogers Pass National Historic Site.

Table 1. Approved Deposition Sites in Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks.

National Park	Material	Site Name ¹	Location (UTM) NAD 83, Zone 11U		Location Relative to TCH
			Easting	Northing	
Glacier	Rock	East Welcome	466639	5701464	Westbound
		Heather Hill Pullout	466736	5699996	Westbound
		Goddard Gun Position	464533	5680394	Westbound
		Fidelity Gun Position	452314	5674434	Eastbound
	Fines	Stonearch Gun Position	469251	5687232	Westbound
		Loop Brook Gun Position	462122	5678868	Westbound
		Gunners Gun Position	458444	5678035	Eastbound
		Bostock Trailhead	453227	5675585	Westbound
Both	Beaver Road Highway Storage	469200	5690846	Eastbound	
Mount Revelstoke	Rock	Woolsey Creek	437509	5663180	Westbound
		Laings Corner Pullout	434338	5656078	Eastbound
	Fines	Giant Cedars	437017	5662486	Eastbound

Note: ¹ Sites are listed in geographical order from east to west starting at the eastern boundary of the respective National Park in which they occur.

To request a copy of this document with images, please contact ia-ei@pc.gc.ca.

Valued Components and Effects Analysis

Aquatic ecosystems (lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and surrounding riparian zones)

- Increased sedimentation;
- Impairment to amphibian and fish bearing habitat from increased sedimentation and contaminants;
- Contamination from fuels, lubricants and road salt, increased pollutants from overland flow.

Terrestrial vegetation

- Reduction in abundance/diversity;
- Introduction or spread of invasive alien plants (IAP);
- Destruction of rare plants;
- Increased risk of wildfire from cut vegetation and associated debris.

Terrestrial wildlife

- Removal of habitat, nesting areas and food sources from vegetation clearing;
- Destruction of breeding / foraging habitat from deposition of materials;
- Temporary disturbance/displacement of wildlife due to noise/human presence;
- Road mortality of migrating pond breeding amphibians passing through deposition sites.

Soils

- Less infiltration during heavy rainfall events leading to overland flow and increased sedimentation/erosion;
- Contamination from spills or leaks of fuels or lubricants. Salt contamination from deposition of materials.

Visitor experience

- Visual impacts: noticeable waste sites may be visually unappealing to visitors;
- Noise pollution from use of motorized equipment;
- Dangers to public safety while work is being conducted.

Cultural resources

- Impacts to known cultural resources;
- Alterations to cultural landscapes and viewsapes.

Mitigation Measures

Table 2: Environmental Timing Windows Table

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fish	AVOID INSTREAM WORK					Least risk window for work in and around freshwater, June 01 – Sept 01 – SPECIES DEPENDANT				AVOID INSTREAM WORK		
Birds	Reduced risk for harm to birds		AVOID VEGETATION REMOVAL Bird Nesting Period: April 01 – August 31						Reduced risk for harm to birds			
Bats	Bat in Hibernacula		Bats Nursing Pups						Reduced risk for harm to bats: Sept 01 – Nov 15		Bat in Hibernacula	

Table 3: Environmental Timing Windows

Consideration	Applicable	Restricted Window	Notes
Migratory Bird General Breeding Period	✓	April 1 to August 31	
Bat Maternity Roost Activity Period	✓	April 1 to August 31	
Bat in hibernacula	✓	November 15 – March 31	
Bull Trout Restricted Work Periods	✓	August 15 to August 31	Different fish species have different instream work windows, consult with IAO
Additional Timing Considerations (e.g., weed seed set, soil protection)	✓	Dry late summer and fall conditions	Before plants have gone to seed, generally around July. Before mowing, timing must be approved by IAO

First Use

All approved deposition sites must have the following completed by MRG Resource Conservation staff prior to first use of the site:

- 1) Delineate site boundaries;
- 2) Consult with CP is required (for Loop Brook and Gunners Gun positions only) as they boarder the railroad right-of-way (to be done after site boundary is flagged) ;
- 3) Stone Arch Gun Position - Identify and flag the location of proximal cultural resource in the field (Connaught Siding 409T25) to ensure no materials will be deposited within 30 m from the edge of Connaught Siding

General

- 4) Sites that require vegetation removal will follow the mitigation measures outlined in the MRG PRIA 01.00 Vegetation Removal.
- 5) Each site may only receive the type of material it has been assessed and approved for in Tables 1.
- 6) Traffic control may be required during material deposition activities.
- 7) Use temporary fencing/signs or close an area as necessary to ensure visitor safety.
- 8) Use concrete barriers, delineators, stakes or other appropriate materials to delineate work site/boundaries.
- 9) Equipment will arrive on site clean and free of soil and seeds to prevent the spread of IAP and will be inspected by the Environmental Surveillance Officer (ESO) prior to use on site. Equipment will also be cleaned prior to moving to a different work site.
- 10) Ensure machinery is free of leaks and well maintained.
- 11) Maintenance and refueling should be done at least 30 meters from any water body and at designated areas.
- 12) A spill kit capable of containing and responding to the largest potential spill must be available on site at all times and staff working at the site trained in its correct use.

Aquatic Ecosystems

- 13) Potential deposition sites less than 50m from the nearest water body were not approved for use in order to ensure protection of aquatic habitats.

- 14) Works are preferably undertaken during periods of dry weather (e.g. summer) as this allows easier control of contaminated runoff and sediment.
- 15) Sites approved for fines deposition will be regularly monitored by the FU ESO to determine whether there is evidence of sediment laden run-off or discharge to water bodies. Site-specific sediment and erosion controls may be required and will be determined in consultation with the IA Officer.

Terrestrial Vegetation

- 16) Vegetation clearing should be conducted in accordance with the MRG Best Management Practices for Vegetation Removal 1.02.
- 17) Minimize full removal and retain vegetation when possible to reduce erosion.
- 18) Consult with IA Officer to select appropriate disposal method for disposal of cut vegetation.

Rare Plants, Invasive Species, and Noxious Weeds

- 19) A rare plant survey was conducted at every deposition site prior to first deposition.
- 20) To prevent spread of IAP, deposition should occur at equal or lower elevations than collection site.
- 21) Each deposition site was assessed and will be monitored for priority IAP by the MRG Field Unit. Sites requiring IAP treatment will be included in an annual control plan in accordance with the MRG Invasive Alien Plant Management Plan.

Wildlife

- 22) Any tree or vegetation removal should be conducted in accordance with the MRG Best Management Practices for Vegetation Removal 1.02. The vegetation removal period of least risk for migratory birds and bats is September 1st to March 31st. Any vegetation clearing outside of this period requires an assessment/survey conducted by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP).
- 23) Workers should immediately report any observations of wildlife within the site to the IA Officer and Wildlife Ecologist. Any large mammal (or emergency) wildlife sightings should be immediately reported to Jasper Dispatch (1-877-852-3100).

Soil

- 24) A spill kit capable of containing and responding to the largest potential spill must be available on site or within the vehicle transporting deposition material at all times and staff working at the site trained in its correct use.

Cultural Resources

- 25) All works will follow the Mount Revelstoke and Glacier Field Unit Accidental Finds Protocol. If a suspected cultural resource is discovered, halt work and contact the CRM Advisor or Resource Conservation Manager immediately for direction.

Approval:

Original approved and signed by Nicholas Irving, Field Unit Superintendent, on February 16, 2018.

References:

Parks Canada. 2010. Mount Revelstoke National Park of Canada, Glacier National Park of Canada, Rogers Pass National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan.

Parks Canada. 2012. Nesting Bird Windows, Mount Revelstoke & Glacier National Parks.

Parks Canada. 2016. Mount Revelstoke and Glacier Invasive Alien Plant Management Plan.

Parks Canada. 2019. PRIA for Vegetation Removal 1.03.