

Defying Gravity - Managing For Multiple Values While Pipelining Jasper National Park And Yellowhead Pass National Historic Site

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Construction of a pipeline through the Yellowhead corridor in the 1950s came with a grandfathering provision that it could be twinned in the future. Accommodating that promise in 2007 was a major challenge for Parks Canada, given the mandate and significant resources in its care for Jasper National Park (part of a world heritage site) and Yellowhead Pass National Historic Site. Route options presented difficult choices. Planning and construction took a results-based focus to avoiding, protecting and restoring affected uplands, wetlands, cultural resources, Aboriginal sites, and managing experiential factors for visitors and residents. The pipeline owners made a commitment to meet the highest construction and restoration standards, and apart from project-imposed obligations, Kinder-Morgan Canada is contributing to presentation of the historic site, education and wildlife initiatives. Through an integrated approach, Parks Canada was able to meet its legislated obligations and overcome significant challenges to manage for multiple values and sometimes-conflicting objectives