

2010 Annual Report

Jasper National Park of Canada

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Fireweed in bloom near the Athabasca Glacier in Jasper National Park.

Superintendent’s Message

On behalf of the Parks Canada Agency, I am pleased to provide a report summarizing our work in Jasper National Park in 2010. The diversity of projects undertaken reflects the diversity of our mandate, with its focus on conserving our natural and cultural heritage, facilitating exceptional visitor experiences and promoting public understanding and appreciation.

The past year has been significant from a number of perspectives. Parks Canada is completing an organizational renewal to face the challenges and opportunities of the twenty-first century head on: increasing urbanization, multiculturalism, regional growth, changes in technology and the way we communicate, economic pressures, and environmental issues such as climate change, fresh water and species-at-risk. Parks Canada has strengthened staff capacity and focused specific programs

toward ensuring that Jasper National Park continues to occupy an important place in the hearts and minds of Canadians.

We welcomed the involvement of a broad range of partners and interested Canadians to complete the *Jasper National Park Management Plan* and the *Jasper Community Sustainability Plan*. These plans provide strong frameworks for addressing emerging challenges and opportunities. They also provide direction for exciting collaborative initiatives, such as the Icefields Parkway Strategy, that will lead to concrete actions on the ground. I look forward to continuing our dialogue with Canadians and working together to implement the new plans.

Sincerely,
Greg Fenton
Field Unit Superintendent



Reporting on Implementation

Parks Canada reports annually to Canadians on its progress in implementing its mandate in Jasper National Park. Strategic directions, desired results and measures of performance are set out in the *Jasper National Park Management Plan*, a road map that will direct Parks Canada’s activities in Jasper National Park for the next 10 to 15 years. It is the benchmark against which implementation is measured.



A freshly paved and painted parking lot at Edith Cavell.

The Annual Report is complemented by a public planning forum that provides interested Canadians with an opportunity to give Parks Canada feedback on our performance and assist us in setting future priorities. This year Parks Canada will hold forums in Jasper and Edmonton.

This report covers Parks Canada’s activities in Jasper National Park from January to September 2010. Reports covering implementation highlights from previous years can be found on-line at:

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/ab/jasper/plan.aspx>

Accomplishments in 2010

Jasper National Park’s new management plan contains seven key strategies that provide park-wide direction. The following section reports on achievements over the past year by key strategy, starting with the strategy for visitor experience, Welcoming Visitors to Mountains of Opportunity.

Welcoming Visitors to Mountains of Opportunity

The Big Picture

Jasper National Park welcomes around two million visitors every year with a wide range of facilities, activities, programs and services.

Table 1 provides a snapshot of how many visitors used Parks Canada facilities and services between January and September 2010. Visitor numbers to date** are up slightly over last year.

Table 1. Visitor statistics

	Visitor Numbers						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 (Jan. – Aug.)	2010 projected	% change from 2009
Attendance	1,988,561	2,039,082	1,656,335	1,678,279	1,329,105	1,718,452	+2.4%
Camping	130,297	132,778	127,288	137,211	111,046	131,002	-4.5%



Facility and Service Improvements

Funding from the federal government's Economic Action Plan (EAP)¹ has enabled Jasper National Park to accelerate many priority projects to modernize facilities and infrastructure, such as:

- Repaving the Edith Cavell Road and parking area.
- Upgrading 109 campsites in Whistlers, Wapiti and Wabasso campgrounds to electrical or full service sites.
- Replacing two washrooms in Wabasso Campground.
- Building a two kilometre interpretive trail in Whistlers campground that connects with the Three Valley Confluence Trail Network.
- Road improvements (e.g. pavement repairs, guiderail repairs) on Highway 16 and the Icefields Parkway.
- Paving on the Icefields Parkway and Highway 93A.

Other projects that have been carried out using existing funds (e.g. park user fees, capital budget) include:

- The installation of a new kiosk at the East Gate, which staff report has cut wait times during busy periods by as much as two thirds!
- Upgrades to the Path of the Glacier Trail (e.g. asphalt repairs, bridge replacement, stairway construction, erosion control).
- Redesign of the parking area at the Icefields Centre to improve the sense of arrival and circulation. Further improvements (e.g. new pedestrian walkway, outdoor exhibits) are slated for 2011.
- Installation of new interpretive panels and safety signage at Maligne Canyon.
- Installation of 40 new trailhead kiosks throughout the park. They will soon be furnished with new maps and improved information for trail users.



A new kiosk at the East Gate has cut down wait times on busy days.

- Replacement of 8 self-registration kiosks at campgrounds along the Icefields Parkway.
- Clearing and maintenance of the park's 1,200 km trail system.

¹ The EAP is a \$ 62-billion Government of Canada stimulus package aimed at countering the effects of the global recession on the Canadian economy. To date, Jasper National Park has received \$10.5 million through the EAP.



Interpretation

New interpretive programs, from campfire chats to orientation sessions for hikers on the front lawn of the Jasper Visitor Centre were very successful.

Campground theatre programs and interpretive roves continued to reach a large number of visitors at popular visitor areas, while specialty programs, such as an evening discovering Jasper’s night sky with an astronomer and the BIObus—a mobile field research vehicle full of interesting insects and invertebrates—delivered in-depth information.

A new van sporting images of an elk, a wolf and a bear, signaled the arrival of the Wildlife Guardian program in Jasper. The Wildlife Guardians enhance wildlife viewing by providing information at roadside wildlife jams and ensuring that visitors view wildlife safely.



Parks Canada employee chats with visitor on Parks Day about 125 best park experiences recommended by Jasper residents.

Interpreters delivered programs almost daily to clients of Tauck Tours at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge and, on request, to several other commercial operators.



A Wildlife Guardian shows visitors a set of elk antlers.

Jasper National Park and Hostelling International signed a partnering agreement to develop educational programs and products at park hostels.

Events and Festivals

A multitude of events and festivals offered visitors and residents a chance to learn about and celebrate the different facets of the park. Parks Canada works closely with organizations like the Municipality of Jasper, Friends of Jasper and Yellowhead Museum and Historical Society to organize events like Environment Week, Canada Day, Parks Day and the Wildlife Festival. We also participate actively in events organized by others (e.g. Jasper in January).



Marketing and Product Development

Parks Canada launched a new hiking brochure this year. A new mountain biking brochure is also on its way.

The cottage tents at Whistler’s campground have been a big hit—they were booked 90% of the time in July and August with no let up in demand for the fall. The tents are self-contained units with beds, kitchen equipment and an electric heater.



Whistler Campground’s three new cottage tents are extremely popular.

Visitor Activities

Parks Canada concluded the review of Jasper National Park’s River Use Management Guidelines; no major changes to the Guidelines are required. In moving forward, Parks Canada will engage river users, partners and other interested Canadians in: profiling and celebrating our headwater rivers and their heritage; strengthening understanding of and connection to these important waters; and reassessing monitoring needs and research priorities for ecological and social factors related to river use.

Parks Canada has developed national guidelines for five new recreational activities. The guidelines will ensure that, where offered,

Highlights of national guidelines for new recreational activities are:

Mountain biking: Cross-country will be the principal form of mountain biking offered in national protected heritage places. Parks Canada will not offer downhill-specific trails for mountain biking. Individual parks can consider working with partners to develop and manage bike parks. Parks Canada will continue to focus on designing, creating and managing sustainable multiple-use trails.

Guided interpreted tours that include canopy walks, zip lines, via ferrata and elements of aerial parks: National parks can consider working with third parties to offer guided interpreted tours that include canopy walks, zip lines, via ferrata and other elements of aerial parks (such as raised walkways, permanently fixed climbing routes, ladders, ropes, cables and other challenge elements).

Non-motorized hang gliding and paragliding: Changes must be made to the *National Parks Aircraft Access Regulations* before individual national heritage places will be able to consider these activities through local assessments.

Traction kiting (kite-surfing, kite-skiing) and **community gardening** can now be considered in national parks.

activities encourage Canadians to experience and form connections to their national heritage places in a manner that respects important natural and cultural resources and ensures their ongoing protection.

National parks may now proceed with local assessments of these activities in order to determine whether the activity can be offered in a specific park or site.



Visitor Safety

Public safety specialists responded to roughly 250 incidents, including 30 technical rescues, over the course of a steady operational season, assisting approximately 750 visitors in need. They also assisted or played a leadership role in a number of search and rescues involving external agencies in Alberta and British Columbia.

It was a busy winter with avalanche control required along the Icefields Parkway and Maligne Valley Road on eight occasions, distribution of a daily avalanche bulletin and participation in the Canadian Avalanche Centre.

Staff participated in public outreach initiatives focussing on prevention through education, in partnership with, for example, Marmot Basin and the Palisades Stewardship Education Program.

Bringing the Mountains to People Where They Live

Palisades Stewardship Education Centre

The Palisades Stewardship Education Centre programs continue to grow, offering outstanding outdoor environmental education opportunities to youth from across Canada and beyond.



New accommodation building under construction at the Palisades Centre.

The Palisades reached more than 900 students from 20 plus schools in the 2009/10 school year with courses (e.g. Stewardship of Protected Lands, Winter Travel, Water Experience) that exposed them to mountain recreation, outdoor education and environmental stewardship.

A new barrier-free accommodation building is under construction; students and chaperones will now be able to stay overnight under the same roof. This project, along with a new storage building and entry gate, was funded in part through the Economic Action Plan.

Marmot Basin Learning Centre

In support of a unique partnership with Marmot Basin, Parks Canada specialists offered sessions on topics ranging from avalanche awareness to navigation skills and park ecology to approximately 200 students at the Marmot Basin Learning Centre.

Jasper Raven Totem Pole

For 94 years, a Haida raven totem pole stood proudly near Jasper's railway. It was an important Jasper landmark and a colourful reminder of the community's early railway history. Unfortunately, long-term exposure to the elements weakened the pole to the point where it posed a public safety risk. Parks Canada took it down in April 2009.

This summer, a series of events marked the pole's repatriation to its birthplace in Old Massett, Haida Gwaii. The totem pole's journey back to Haida Gwaii started with a trip to Vancouver, where a conservator removed several layers of paint that had been added to the pole over the years. (The pole was originally unpainted.) A custom crate was built to house the pole on the trip from Vancouver to Old Massett.



The Jasper Totem Pole on tour in St. Albert, Alberta

A travelling tour took the restored pole to urban centres throughout British Columbia and Alberta: Kamloops, Chase, Calgary, St. Albert, Jasper, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Skidegate and Old Massett. Parks Canada staff travelled with the totem pole, relating its history, its relationship to Jasper and place in Haida culture, to the 11,000 people who came out to see it at the different locations.

The community of Jasper bid farewell to the totem pole on June 16, in an event filled with memories and music. The pole arrived home in Haida Gwaii a few days later to a Repatriation Ceremony, community celebration and feast.

Greatest Summer Job

What is the best summer job you can imagine? For 32 students, it was working as video reporters for Parks Canada this past summer. Their task was to share their experiences in national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas across the country with Canadians through a series of video reports. The best of the videos will be screened at the Banff Film Festival in October 2010.

Jasper's student worked on video reports about the Jasper Totem Pole, Jasper's Wildlife Guardians and the Columbia Icefields. They will be posted on the Jasper web-site later this year.

Alpha and Omega

Parks Canada was involved in promotional tie-ins with the movie *Alpha and Omega*, an animated film that features two wolves trying to return home to Jasper National Park. These promotions included: contests at Canadian Pizza Hut restaurants and various zoos in the United States;

television and newspaper ads; and a commercial for Jasper that aired at the beginning of all Canadian pre-screenings of the film.

The tie-ins have the potential to reach approximately 13.5 million North American families, five of whom will eventually win a dream vacation to Jasper National Park.

Celebrating History, Culture and the World Heritage Site

Motorists using Highway 16 have a new place to stretch their legs partway between the town of Jasper and the East Gate. Interpretive panels installed in spring 2010 put the finishing touches on a viewing platform overlooking Jasper House National Historic Site. Highway improvements make it easier for motorists to pull off the highway safely at the parking area for the trail leading to the platform.

BC Parks is improving the day use area on Highway 16 at the west gate of the park. Parks Canada is contributing to the project by developing interpretive panels that tell the story of Yellowhead Pass.



Parks Canada archaeologists spent just over two weeks in the field updating the park's *Archaeological Resource Description Analysis*, an inventory of archaeological sites.

Interpretive programs on David Thompson and the history of the warden service brought Jasper's history alive at the Whistler's campground theatre.

Next year will mark the 200th anniversary of David Thompson's trip through Athabasca Pass. Keep an eye out for celebrations in 2011, like a Star Party (where you can learn the skills of celestial navigation that aided David Thompson in his travels) or the Athabasca River Voyageur Canoe Brigade.

Ensuring Healthy Ecosystems

Fire Management and Forest Health

This spring was the driest on record, with approximately half of the normal average winter precipitation and only eight percent of the normal average precipitation for June. Although there were fewer wildfires than normal this summer, fire crews spent much of the summer on stand-by due to elevated fire danger.

This past winter, fire crews expanded the Fiddle River Fireguard along the park's east boundary, in preparation for prescribed burning in the area. National fire management funding challenges and a very dry spring meant that prescribed fires in all national parks were postponed this spring. Other prescribed fires that may be carried out when conditions and funding allow include Vine Creek and Pyramid Bench Fireguard.

Parks Canada conducts aerial and on-the-ground forest insect surveys three times per year, in partnership with the Canadian Forest Service. Mountain pine beetle populations have remained low in the park; the majority of beetle activity is found in the broad, low-elevation Miette and Athabasca Valleys and in the Smoky district in the northwest corner of park.

The FireSmart/ForestWise program continued its work to reduce the wildfire risk and restore vegetation communities around the community of Jasper and outlying visitor facilities with funding obtained by the Municipality of Jasper from the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta. Through a strategic partnership with the Municipality of Jasper the program:



FireSmart ForestWise crew tends to a burn pile.

- treated 22 ha of steep slopes west of the Jasper townsite with mechanical thinning
- thinned 40 ha of forest in Whistler's campground
- treated a number of small patches totalling just over 30 ha in and around the Jasper townsite
- returned to areas already cleared to clean up of surface fuels (on 75 ha)
- worked with residents to carry out over 50 hazard assessments allowing them to reduce the risk of wildfire to their properties



Species-at-Risk: Spotlight on Woodland Caribou



Woodland caribou are a threatened species in Jasper National Park.

The Southern Mountain population of woodland caribou is listed as Threatened through the Species at Risk Act (SARA). Jasper National Park is home to two populations of woodland caribou, both of which are now smaller in number than in the past. The **northern A la Peche herd** has traditionally spent their summers in the mountains and their winters in the foothills of Alberta. For most of the last 20 years, the A La Peche caribou herd has been stable at approximately 150 animals. The **southern herds**, occupying the Tonquin, Brazeau and Maligne Valleys, are thought to have numbered between 310 and 560 between 1900 and the mid 1970's. During the following two decades, these herds declined to approximately 125 animals. Recent monitoring shows a further 30% decline and there is concern that the southern herds are now below 100.

Next steps...

The Parks Canada Mountain Park Caribou Conservation Committee is preparing a Woodland Caribou Conservation Strategy for Southern Mountain herds on Parks

Why are populations declining?

Threats to woodland caribou with home ranges within Jasper National Park belong to one or more of five broad categories.

Predator/Prey Dynamic: The townsites and outlying areas provide an artificial haven, supporting high numbers of deer and elk, resulting in higher predator numbers.

Predator Access: Packed roads and trails improve winter access for predators.

Human Disturbance: Caribou are killed by vehicles on the Icefields Parkway and are vulnerable to displacement from preferred habitats by human activity.

Habitat Loss: Land use changes, development, and wildfire can impact caribou habitat.

Small Population Effects: when populations get to very small levels (like the Maligne and Brazeau herds), all of the other threats are amplified. Small herds are also more affected by catastrophic events (i.e. avalanches), limited in mate selection and are at higher risk of genetic isolation.



Predator-prey dynamics is one of five threats facing woodland caribou.



Canada lands, including Jasper National Park. This strategy outlines a number of completed, on-going and proposed caribou recovery actions. New recovery actions are based on the five key threats outlined above. The strategy will soon be ready to be reviewed and commented on through a public participation process. Interested members of the public and Aboriginal groups will assist Parks Canada in refining potential actions and alternatives that contribute to all areas of Parks Canada's mandate, for delivery on the ground in Jasper National Park.

Other Species-at-Risk

Parks Canada is the lead agency for recovery planning for an endangered plant, Haller's Apple Moss. The recovery plan for the species was posted for public comment on the SARA public registry in July, and following the end of the public comment period, was approved by Parks Canada. The final version is available at: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=1956



Haller's apple moss is found in two locations in the park.

Whitebark pine has been assessed as Endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

This subalpine tree species is under attack throughout its range by blister rust, a non-native disease. Although whitebark pine are faring better in Jasper than in southern parks such as Waterton and Banff, analysis of field data collected in 2009 shows that the number of infected and dead trees has risen from 2003 levels (just under 50% of live trees were infected and approximately 13% of trees were dead at plots sampled in Jasper).



Grain monitoring along the railway.

In June, the Province of Alberta listed the grizzly bear as Threatened under *Alberta's Wildlife Act*. Parks Canada continues to monitor grizzly bear mortality inside the park and tested a new method for obtaining population data this summer (see Research and Monitoring, p.14).

Wildlife

Resource Conservation staff spent many hours this year managing habituated elk in and around the community of Jasper. During the elk calving season, staff moved aggressive elk mothers from high visitor use areas on 46 separate occasions. Human-wildlife conflicts involving elk have been rising steadily since the early nineties, when conflicts during both the calving and rutting seasons numbered in the low teens. Parks Canada will be seeking public input on options for managing elk in the Three Valley Confluence area in 2011.



There were also more wildlife-human conflicts involving bears than in past years, likely due to environmental factors. Cool spring weather and a very good berry crop at lower elevations prompted bears to spend more time than usual in the valley bottoms.

A three-year project to monitor grain spills in the area in and around the community of Jasper (where trains tend to slow down and spill larger amounts of grain) will wrap up in December. The monitoring data will be analyzed and results made available in 2011.

Vegetation

The weed crew spent 444 person-days pulling an incredible 7,600 kg of invasive non-native plants in the townsite, along park roadways and in wilderness areas! Manual treatment (e.g. mowing, weed-whipping, hand pulling) is used in the vast majority of cases, however weeds that do not respond to manual treatment are occasionally treated with herbicide. Weed crews target 15 priority invasive species. Of those, the worst offenders are toadflax, knapweed, yellow clematis, Canada thistle, ox-eye daisy and tall buttercup.



Jasper's weed crew rehabilitates a disturbed area along the Yellowhead Highway.

Parks Canada worked closely with the Municipality of Jasper to amend the Municipality's herbicide policy. Twelve high priority locations around the Jasper townsite, located away from regular public use, were treated with herbicide this summer in an attempt to tackle persistent infestations. A number of more remote locations in the park were also treated.

Botanists were excited to find a large patch of rough fescue, Alberta's provincial plant, in the park. Rough fescue is a plant that responds poorly to heavy grazing and is relatively rare in the park.

Work to restore several disturbed sites (e.g. the woodlot, Fifth Bridge gravel pit) continued.

Aquatics

A survey of park water bodies shed some light on the prevalence of didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*), a species of freshwater algae that can form large mats on the bottom of lakes, rivers and streams. The mats reduce habitat for fish, invertebrates and plants, can threaten fish populations and reduce the aesthetic appeal of streams. Didymo was found at 17 of the 19 sites surveyed by Parks Canada staff and a University of Calgary researcher.

Parks Canada also looked for chytrid fungus at Cottonwood Slough. The fungus is linked to amphibian mortality around the world, but not much is known about its origins or how it spreads. The majority of frogs captured at the slough had the fungus, however it is unclear if or how the population is being affected.



Native rainbow trout populations in the Athabasca river basin are listed as Threatened under *Alberta's Wildlife Act*. Parks Canada is participating in a multi-stakeholder recovery team led by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development to prepare a recovery plan for the species.



Volunteers netting frogs for chytrid fungus survey.

Two more loon chicks hatched and fledged at Pyramid Lake. In 2001, Parks Canada constructed a floating nesting platform in an attempt to restore nesting success; loons have been raised successfully every year since then. Thanks again to lake users who have ensured that this program is a success.

Steep or hanging culverts hinder the passage of fish and other aquatic species and fragment aquatic ecosystems. Parks Canada has identified a number of culverts that are priorities for corrective work. This summer, Department of Fisheries and Oceans engineers visited those culverts and provided designs in-stream structures (e.g. weirs) that will improve connectivity. The result—a culvert at Talbot Lake was fixed this fall (a rock weir was used to

backwater the culvert). More work will be completed (e.g. at Edna Lake) next year.

Law Enforcement

Parks Canada's revised Law Enforcement program entered its second season this spring.

In 2010, Park Wardens successfully prosecuted clients for off-road driving, fishing illegally, causing disturbances in the campgrounds, and starting wildfires, as well as many other offences. Notably, a \$1,000 fine was levied in court against someone who had fed a bear cub. Through cooperation with other staff, Park Wardens were able to improve visitors' experiences in the campgrounds and at day use areas, as well as protecting the park and its resources.

Fostering Open Management and Innovation

Research and monitoring

Parks Canada is developing and implementing an ecological integrity monitoring and reporting system in national parks across the country. A set of indicators is used to assess the condition of ecological integrity in a State of the Park Report, produced every five years. Parks Canada science staff, contractors and independent researchers spent the 2010 field season in Jasper collecting data for a series of measures that will feed into the indicators. Table 2 (on p.14) provides a summary of their work and associated measures and indicators.

Protocols for more than a dozen other ecological integrity measures are under development.

Parks Canada is also developing nationally-consistent indicators and measures for cultural resources, visitor experience and public appreciation and understanding.

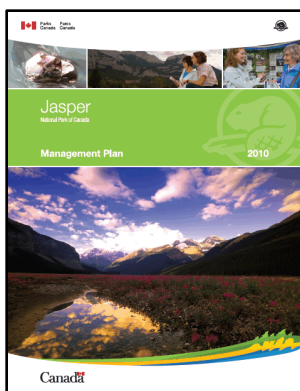


Bird banding is one way park ecologists measure native biodiversity.

The park continues to be an important venue for independent research. Researchers carried out 39 projects this year on topics ranging from aquatics to geology, social science, vegetation and wildlife.

The results of several new visitor surveys and social science studies were released this year. The highlights of those studies are reported in Table 3 (p.16).

New park management and community plans



A new park management plan was approved and tabled in Parliament in June 2010, capping a review process that began in March 2009. The new plan replaces the previous park management plan, approved in 2000.

Table 2. Monitoring activities for the 2010 field season and relationship to the park’s ecological integrity monitoring and reporting program

Activity	Measure	Indicator
Monthly telemetry flights, and annual aerial surveys and scat collection to caribou population size, survival and recruitment.	Caribou population	Native biodiversity
Roadside elk counts twice a year.	Elk population	Native biodiversity
Bird banding at Pyramid Lake.	Avian productivity and survival	Native biodiversity
Recording songbird calls at various locations in the park.	Avian species richness	Native biodiversity
Testing out a new method for counting female grizzly bears and cubs using trail cameras.	Grizzly sow/cub index	Native biodiversity
Inventorying invasive plants along major transportation corridors.	Non-native plant roadside inventory	Terrestrial ecosystems
Fine tuning protocols for inventorying invasive plants in ecologically sensitive sites, such as sand dunes and grasslands.	Non-native plants in sensitive sites	Terrestrial ecosystems
Looking for presence or absence of four amphibian species in park waterbodies.	Amphibian occupancy	Aquatic ecosystems
Measuring water quality using aquatic invertebrates and physical parameters.	Benthic invertebrate diversity	Aquatic ecosystems
Measuring snow accumulation and melt on the Athabasca Glacier in cooperation with the Geological Survey of Canada.	Glacier mass-balance	Climate and Atmosphere



Public and Aboriginal participation played an important role in the development of the new plan. More than 20 separate public participation events, from public forums to workshops to Aboriginal community visits, supported a rich and productive dialogue about the future of the park. The plan can be found on the park web-site at:

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/ab/jasper/plan.aspx>

The future of the community of Jasper was also on the minds of many Jasper residents in 2010, as the municipality and Parks Canada worked to develop the Jasper Community Sustainability Plan, which will replace the Jasper Community Land Use Plan (2001). Jasperites had many opportunities to provide their input as the plan was developed in 2009. The plan was approved by Jasper's town council in July 2010 and is awaiting approval by the Minister.

Please stay engaged!!

One way to stay abreast of opportunities to be involved in planning initiatives in Jasper National Park is to join our management planning mailing list. To join the mailing list, please send the following information to amber.stewart@pc.gc.ca with the header "Please add me to the Management Planning mailing list":

- Name
- Organization
- E-mail address
- Mailing address
- Language of preference (English or French)

Regional work

Parks Canada, along with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Parks, BC Parks and several partners in industry, is participating in

the Yellowhead Ecosystem Group. The focus of the group is recreational and industrial access management throughout the region (both motorized and non-motorized access).

Jasper National Park's current contribution agreement with the Foothills Research Institute ends this year. Funding from Parks Canada has contributed to projects such as research to investigate grizzly bear health and the impacts of mining, mountain pine beetle management and road access on the regional population. Parks Canada is looking forward to continuing its partnership with the Institute.

Volunteer programs

Parks Canada and partners provided many volunteer opportunities this year. Over the course of this spring and summer, the park's vegetation program engaged close to 300 volunteers (local residents, school groups, Junior Forest Rangers and other youth groups) in firesmaring, controlling non-native plants and rehabilitating disturbed sites. The Friends of Jasper connected visitors and residents to opportunities to help with trail work and bird banding. Volunteers also helped with aquatic and wolf research.



Volunteers remove Russian Thistle, a non-native weed, from sandy banks along the Athabasca River.



Table 3. Recent social science research by Parks Canada

Study	Winter Use in Jasper National Park	Summer Trails Survey – Three Valley Confluence	National Survey of Partners and Stakeholders
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Measure visitation levels and patterns during the winter months ◆ Identify reasons why people do not visit the park during winter months ◆ Determine the level of awareness of, interest and participation in and satisfaction with the various winter activities offered in the park ◆ Determine what changes would have the most positive influence on visitors' winter recreation experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Understand visitors' views and perceptions of trails in the mountain parks. ◆ Assess use of and types of activities on trails in the Three Valley Confluence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Gauge the level of support for Parks Canada's activities and perceptions of its engagement practices and opportunities among stakeholders and partners across the country.
Interesting Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Top five activities participated during winter trip: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shopping (56%) ● Hiking/walking (54%) ● General sightseeing & guided tour (34%) ● Downhill skiing (33%) ● Nightlife (24%) ◆ Almost all winter visitors (93%) are "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with winter services. ◆ Top three changes that would improve the winter recreation experience: accommodation, recreational fees (e.g. ski lift passes, guide fees), and road maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Just under four-in-ten summer visitors used a trail in the Three Valley Confluence during their last visit. ◆ Top three trail activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hiking and walking (98% of respondents participated in this activity) ● Dog walking (13%) ● Mountain biking (12%) ◆ Top three trails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Athabasca River/Maligne River/Golf Course (63%) ● Pyramid (51%) ● Edith and Annette (49%) ◆ Overall, Jasper's trails are meeting the needs of nearly all users. The main area for improvement is signage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ More than 75% of the organizations surveyed have a positive overall impression of the Parks Canada Agency. ◆ Parks Canada was given good marks in several areas seen as very important to a productive working relationship (e.g. treating stakeholders and partners "fairly and with respect"). ◆ However, there are a number of areas where Parks Canada can improve (e.g. involving respondents in "the planning of ... policies and/or strategies that could have an impact on my organization") ◆ Top three preferred ways to participate in Parks Canada activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● issue-based workshops or discussion forums (69%) ● project working groups or committees (66%) ● advisory panels or steering committees (65%)



Strengthening Aboriginal Relationships

Jasper National Park continues to work with over 20 different Aboriginal communities and organizations in areas of mutual interest (e.g. showcasing Aboriginal culture, gathering traditional knowledge). The Jasper Aboriginal Forum and the Council of the Elders of Descendants of Jasper are major venues for multilateral collaborative work.

Activities to mark National Aboriginal Day were held in three locations this year: the Moberly Homestead, the visitor centre lawn and Whistler's campground. Descendants of homesteaders who left Jasper National Park in 1910 marked the 100th anniversary of their exodus with a gathering at the Moberly Homestead, where they introduced visitors and



Bannock-making at the Moberly Homestead.



The old fish hatchery at Sixth Bridge is one of several sites being evaluated for future use as an Aboriginal cultural site.

Jasper residents to their culture through demonstrations (e.g. moose hide tanning, horse packing, bannock making) and displays (e.g. tipis, a spirit house, historical exhibits). In town, there were a variety of cultural presentations by local and regional groups on the lawn of the visitor centre and, in the evening, dancing and drumming at the outdoor theatre in Whistler's campground.

Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation is the first Aboriginal community to participate in a pilot project to provide park passes to members of Aboriginal communities with historic ties to Jasper National Park. The Aboriginal pass allows Aboriginal people to enter the park free of charge to participate in ceremonies and reconnect with the park.

Parks Canada initiated work with Aboriginal Groups to identify a site or sites for traditional ceremonies and cultural teachings. Three potential sites have been identified and communities have been invited to visit them and give Parks Canada their feedback.

An Aboriginal cultural awareness workshop provided Parks Canada and partners with an opportunity to learn about Aboriginal history, culture and contemporary perspectives.



Visitors to Wapiti campground this winter may have noticed something new—a Metis wall tent erected by Mahikan Tours. Mahikan Tours offered visitors hands-on experiential learning programs, interpretation and cultural activities as part of a pilot program in Aboriginal cultural tourism. The program was supported by Parks Canada.

Jasper National Park is embarking on a multi-year project to document the history of the Metis of the lower Athabasca Valley and to develop products and programs to present that history (e.g. interpretive signage, publications).



MPL Place has added 21 units of affordable housing to the community of Jasper.

Managing Growth and Development

Sustainable Housing

Parks Canada released two parcels of land to the Caribou Creek Housing Corporation, with a third parcel anticipated for release in 2011. Development permits for the released parcels have also been issued. This project will provide approximately 65 new units of affordable housing to the community.

A twenty-one unit affordable housing project at the north end of Geikie Street was completed in 2010. Each unit contains two separate bedrooms with a shared living space. The apartments were constructed by a private developer in partnership with the Municipality of Jasper. The Municipality contributed \$3.2 million in grant money obtained from the Alberta Affordable Housing Program; the developer provided the land, contributed \$1.4 million to the project, and was responsible for building construction and on-going operation. These units are rent-controlled and applicants must meet provincial income maximums and other criteria to be eligible for tenancy.

Commercial Development & Growth

No new commercial development in the community was completed in 2010. In April, two applicants were awarded a total of 366 m² of development through the Commercial allocation process. This was the third consecutive year where the combined proposed development did not trigger the lottery process.

New development since 2001	3980 m ²
Maximum new commercial development (2001 <i>Jasper Community Land Use Plan</i>)	9290 m ²
Percentage of total new development utilised	42.8%

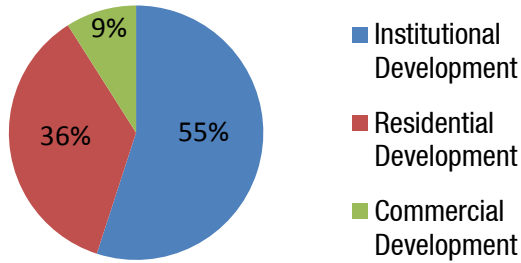
Development Review

Parks Canada issued 45 development permits within the Municipality of Jasper between January 1 and September 13, 2010. Of these projects, 23 received building permits. The total development value was \$6.3 million.

Improvements to the Municipality of Jasper Activity and Aquatic Centres, an institutional project scheduled to be completed in 2011, were of particular interest to the community.



New development approved in 2010 in the community of Jasper by sector



Outside the town boundary, an additional three permits for a total development value of \$1.7 million were issued. These included a small project at Lake Edith, service lines to Maligne Tours and a wastewater building at Marmot Basin.

The Planning and Development Advisory Committee met six times with two more meetings anticipated by the end of the year. To date 29 applications have been heard: 15 discretionary use requests, 13 variance requests and one development appeal.

Environmental Stewardship

Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper jointly fund the Jasper Environmental Stewardship Program. The program advances stewardship programs and public awareness strategies to improve environmental sustainability in the community of Jasper.

A new Beverage Container Donation Program will encourage residents to return refundable beverage containers to the Bottle Depot with proceeds going to local charities.

Public outreach events like Environment Week continue to promote community awareness.

Other initiatives to reduce waste, expand recycling and set an emissions reduction target are in progress.

Parks Canada finished the clean-up of a contaminated site at the Brewster Chalet at Maligne Lake.

Parks Canada is monitoring groundwater at 17 sites throughout the park (some sites are being investigated for possible contamination; others have already been cleaned up).

Trans-Mountain Pipeline (TMX) Update

The Kinder Morgan Canada – Anchor Loop Pipeline Project (TMX) is in the second year of a five year restoration program. Work included weed control, additional planting of shrubs and forbs along creeks, and installing and maintaining erosion control structures. Overall, vegetation on the pipeline and staging area sites is growing well. Follow-up monitoring reports are submitted by Kinder Morgan at the end of each year.

The TMX project will also contribute to long-term ecological gains along transportation corridors in Jasper National Park and Mount Robson Provincial Park through a legacy fund, worth approximately \$2 million. The fund is supporting two projects this year: an inventory of culverts in Mt. Robson Provincial Park and research investigating the extent to which the Yellowhead Highway (Hwy 16) acts as a barrier to large mammal movement.



Erosion-control and re-vegetation work along the TMX pipeline right-of-way.

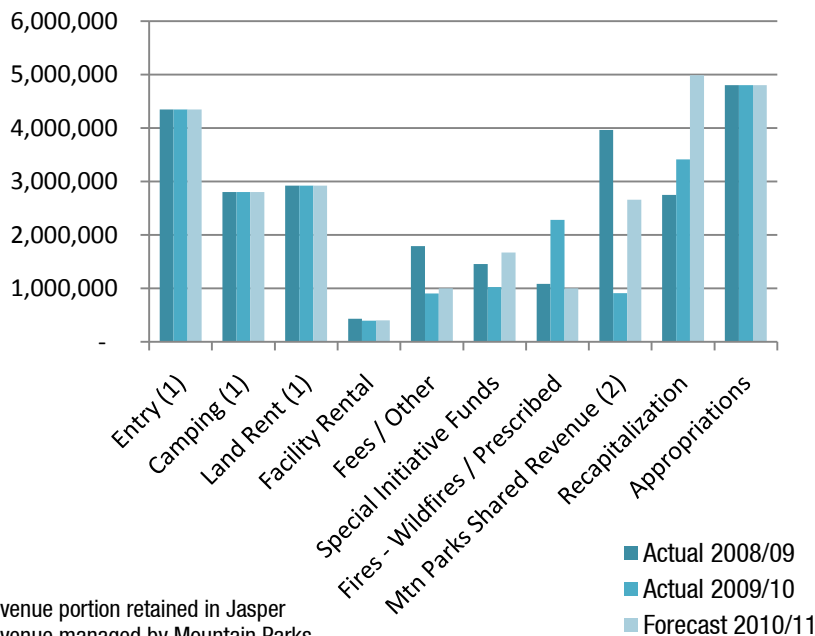


Summary of Financial Expenditures

Table 4. Alignment of Spending with Program Activity and Government of Canada Outcomes

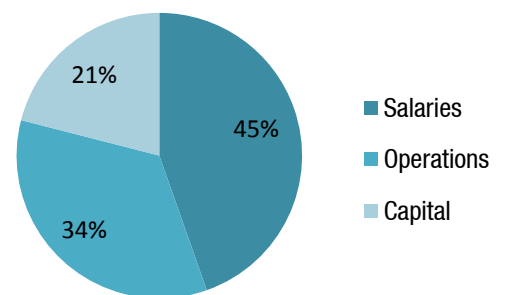
Program Activity	2008/09 Actual (in 000s)	2009/10 Actual (in 000s)	2010/11 Forecast (in 000s)	Alignment to Government of Canada Outcomes
Heritage Places Establishment (PA1)	8.9	-	-	Vibrant Canadian Culture and Heritage/ Clean and Healthy Environment
Heritage Resources Conservation (PA2)	7,608.0	7,412.9	7,700.0	Vibrant Canadian Culture and Heritage/ Clean and Healthy Environment
Promote Public Appreciation and Understanding (PA3)	1,013.9	1,580.5	1,200.0	Vibrant Canadian Culture and Heritage/ Clean and Healthy Environment
Quality Visitor Experience (PA4)	10,766.4	11,090.4	12,700.0	Vibrant Canadian Culture and Heritage/ Clean and Healthy Environment
Townsite and Throughway Infrastructure (PA5)	3,167.7	3,103.4	3,300.0	Safe and Secure Communities/ Clean and Healthy Environment
Internal Services	3,200.2	3,547.7	3,300.0	
Total	25,765.1	26,734.9	28,200.0	

Funding Sources



- (1) Revenue portion retained in Jasper
 (2) Revenue managed by Mountain Parks and redistributed for specific projects

2009/10 Expenses



We hope you have found this year's *Annual Report* informative. For more information on anything you have read, please contact Amber Stewart, Land Use Planner for Jasper National Park, at (780) 852-6147 or amber.stewart@pc.gc.ca