



June 30, 2023

Committee Chair
Rouge National Urban Park Study

Dear Committee Chair,

Recognizing that your first step will be to develop your methodology for the study, Parks Canada is providing an analysis of the potential work required for valued components in the study. While all valued components (VCs) are by definition, “valuable”, it can be beneficial to vary the effort and level of analysis to understand the potential impacts. The level of effort can differ based on the complexity of interactions, vulnerability of valued components, magnitude of potential effects from proposals, and level of uncertainty. Predicting the anticipated appropriate level of work required for different valued components can assist in producing a well-focused assessment with detailed analysis in the right places to bring better understanding and better decision-making. As a result, we are providing this analysis in hope that it will be helpful in developing your methodology for the study.

Parks Canada’s Strategic Environmental Assessment of National Park Management Plans explains the methodology used by Parks Canada to select the level of analysis for individual VCs when conducting strategic environmental assessments of management plans. A recommendation for the level of effort for this study has been developed using an adaptation of this methodology. We categorized the valued components into three levels of anticipated work required.

Detailed: Quantitative analysis is used when possible, and methodologies are tailored to the valued component.

Moderate: Analysis in the moderate category typically consists of identification of key contributors of cumulative effects, qualitative analysis or summary of conclusions in existing documents.

Minimal: This is used when there is not expected to be large contributions to the conservation or status of the valued component, but due diligence is required to ensure actions do not contribute to cumulative effects. The identification of a valued component as requiring minimal analysis does not indicate that it is not important. It indicates that a detailed analysis of cumulative effects as part of the assessment process would not be beneficial. In some cases this is because the nature of the effects and the causes are already very well understood.

In order to propose a recommended anticipated work required, VCs were ranked for their vulnerability and magnitude as described below.

Vulnerability:

Score	Category	Definition
0	Less vulnerable	Would require considerable regional activities to impact population/ecosystem e.g. a species that is not sensitive to disturbance because the species is tolerant of people; a large waterbody that would require large interventions to affect; or species is less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
1	Moderately vulnerable	Moderately sensitive to disturbance, with restricted range, dispersal, or movement. Park disturbance in combination with regional activities may impact the population/ecosystem. Climate change may be projected to impact the population/ecosystem in the longer term, but will not be the likely VCs to be impacted first.
2	Highly vulnerable	Highly sensitive to disturbance, limited ability to practice avoidance, occupies a habitat niche with a unique set of requirements not readily available elsewhere in the region. Disturbances within the park are likely to impact the population/ecosystem. Likely to be the first to be impacted by climate change.

Anticipated magnitude of potential impacts:

Score	Category	Definition
0	Limited impacts likely	There are likely to be limited to no impacts within the next 10 years based on reasonably foreseeable internal or external drivers and pressures.
1	Predictable and manageable impacts likely	There are likely to be some impacts within the next 10 years based on reasonably foreseeable internal or external drivers and pressures. The anticipated impacts are predictable and manageable through conservation actions, and other mitigation options.

2	Considerable impacts likely, or uncertainty	There are likely to be a high magnitude of impacts within the next 10 years based on reasonably foreseeable internal or external drivers or pressures; or there is considerable uncertainty associated with the potential impacts anticipated within the next 10 years.
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A matrix was then used to identify the recommended level of analysis for VCs based on the vulnerability and magnitude of potential impacts.

	Magnitude of Potential Impacts		
Vulnerability	Limited impacts likely (0)	Predictable and manageable impacts likely (1)	Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty (2)
Less Vulnerable (0)	Minimal (0)	Minimal (0)	Minimal (0)
Moderately Vulnerable (1)	Minimal (0)	Moderate (1)	Moderate (2)
Highly Vulnerable (2)	Minimal (0)	Moderate (2)	Detailed (4)

The results are shown in this table.

Potential valued components may include:	Vulnerability rating	Magnitude of impacts	Anticipated Work Required
Forest Bird Community	2-Highly vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Detailed
Wildlife Health - Road Mortality	2-Highly vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Detailed

Potential valued components may include:	Vulnerability rating	Magnitude of impacts	Anticipated Work Required
Forest Structural Connectivity	2-Highly vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Detailed
Meadow Structural Connectivity	2-Highly vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Detailed
Grassland Bird Community	2-Highly vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Detailed
Wetlands – Wetland Function	2-Highly vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Detailed
Wetlands – Wetland Area	2-Highly vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Detailed
Blandings Turtle; Snapping turtle; Midland Painted Turtle Connectivity	2-Highly vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Detailed
Blanding’s Turtle	2-Highly vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Detailed
Snapping turtle	2-Highly vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Detailed
Frogs/Amphibians	2-Highly vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Detailed
Redside Dace	2-Highly vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Detailed
Forest Ecosystem Processes - Grazing/Browsing Levels	1-Moderately vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Moderate
Forest Ecosystem Processes - Fire Regime	1-Moderately vulnerable	1-Predictable and manageable impacts likely	Moderate
Terrestrial Plant Communities (including impacts from invasive species)	1-Moderately vulnerable	1-Predictable and manageable impacts likely	Moderate

Potential valued components may include:	Vulnerability rating	Magnitude of impacts	Anticipated Work Required
Core Habitat	1-Moderately vulnerable	1-Predictable and manageable impacts likely	Moderate
Fish and Fish Habitat	1-Moderately vulnerable	1-Predictable and manageable impacts likely	Moderate
Aquatic and Riparian Plant Communities (including impacts from invasive species)	1-Moderately vulnerable	1-Predictable and manageable impacts likely	Moderate
Midland Painted turtle	1-Moderately vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Moderate
Eastern Milksnake	1-Moderately vulnerable	2-Considerable impacts likely or uncertainty	Moderate
Wildlife Health - Human Wildlife Conflict (including garbage, animal relocation and releases, light and noise disturbance)	1-Moderately vulnerable	1-Predictable and manageable impacts likely	Moderate
Bats (Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis, Tri-colored Bat)	1-Moderately vulnerable	1-Predictable and manageable impacts likely	Moderate
Migratory Birds and their habitat	1-Moderately vulnerable	1-Predictable and manageable impacts likely	Moderate
Water - Surface Water Quality and Quantity	1-Moderately vulnerable	1-Predictable and manageable impacts likely	Moderate
Water - Groundwater Quality and Quantity	0-Less vulnerable	0-Limited impacts likely	Minimal
Wildlife Health - Disease	0-Less vulnerable	1-Predictable and manageable impacts likely	Minimal
Hydrological Conditions	0-Less vulnerable	1-Predictable and manageable impacts likely	Minimal

Potential valued components may include:	Vulnerability rating	Magnitude of impacts	Anticipated Work Required
Aquatic Structural Connectivity	1-Moderately vulnerable	1-Predictable and manageable impacts likely	Moderate
Map Turtle	1-Moderately vulnerable	0-Limited impacts likely	Minimal
Butternut	0-Less vulnerable-	1-Predictable and manageable impacts likely	Minimal

Thank you and we look forward to working with you on this study.

Katherine Cumming
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 Parks Canada