

Public Registry Notice for s.83 Exception – *Kluane National Park and Reserve*

Kluane National Park and Reserve

Site:

Kluane National Park and Reserve

SARA Competent Department:

Parks Canada Agency

Date of Notification:

March 17, 2017

Species:

Little Brown Myotis

Exceptions

Period for the Exception:

20-03-2017 to 15-04-2017

01-10-2017 to 01-04-2019

Area where the Exception Applies:

The exception will apply to the Park Administration and Operations building owned by Parks Canada at 119 Logan Street in Haines Junction, Yukon Territory.

Activity:

Removal and replacement of the exterior siding on the Park Administration and Operations' building.

Rationale for the Exception:

Little brown myotis have been roosting in the attic, eaves, and siding of the Park Administration and Operations building for Kluane National Park and Reserve, from mid-April to October, for many years. Bats have been able to access the building through crevices and holes in the wood siding that were created by woodpeckers. In previous years, bat guano and bat mites on staff's desks have been reported requiring removal by hazardous material specialists. During renovations to the interior of the building in summer of 2016, piles of bat guano were discovered inside the walls. Additionally, carcasses of two bats were found in the hallways of the building since the renovations were completed.

While the risk of rabies and other diseases from a bat is small, bats and bat guano in the workplace present a risk to the health of Parks Canada staff and any member of the public visiting the building.

Alternatives & Mitigations

Alternatives Considered:

Artificial roosting sites were placed near the Park Administration and Operations building in 2015 so that returning bats could use these instead of the interior of the building. Three of the six 'bat hotels' were in use by the end of the 2016 summer. Renovations to the interior of the building excluding the attic occurred during the 2016 summer. However, the building is architecturally complex so it was difficult to determine how the bats were getting in, where they were roosting and how to separate these areas from the areas used by staff and the public. Bats and bat guano were still found in the building during the summer of 2016.

Mitigation Measures Implemented or to be Implemented:

Kluane National Park and Reserve will minimize disturbance to bats by following the Parks Canada Agency's Standards for Managing Bats in Protected Heritage Areas and National Best Management Practices for Managing Bat Maternity Roosts in Built Assets. This will include: 1) mitigating impact on returning bats by installing bat hotels on trees and poles surrounding the building, 2) ensuring the work to render the holes in the exterior of the building inaccessible will take place prior to the expected migration in mid-April 2017, 3) ensuring the removal of the existing siding and its replacement will take place outside of the season where bats are present (pre and post migration).

Signatures

"I, the Field Unit Superintendent, am of the opinion

- That the activity qualifies for an exception under s. 83 of the *Species at Risk Act*;
- That all reasonable alternatives to the activity that would reduce the impact on the species have been considered and the best solution has been adopted; and
- That all feasible measures will be taken to minimize the impact of the activity on the species or its critical habitat or the residences of its individuals."

Diane Wilson, A/Field Unit Superintendent, Yukon Field Unit

Date: 2017-03-17