



Office of the Superintendent  
Jasper Field Unit  
P.O. Box 10  
Jasper, Alberta  
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July 17, 2023

Trevor Willson

**Subject: Simon Creek Bridge Licence of Occupation proposal**

Dear Trevor Willson:

Thank you for your June 14, 2023 email enquiry regarding a Licence of Occupation for the proposed Simon Creek Bridge on the Athabasca Pass Trail, and your detailed proposal letter, dated June 26, 2023.

I appreciate your passion for this special area of the park, and the comprehensive proposal you have made. Consistent with decisions conveyed to you regarding the Simon Creek Bridge, Jasper National Park will not be replacing this bridge in the near future. In alignment with the 2022 Jasper National Park Management Plan and the 2017 Athabasca Pass NHSC Management Statement, Parks Canada will not consider issuing a Licence of Occupation at this time. This will ensure that the ecological integrity of the area will be maintained and visitor services will be in keeping with the offer provided in wilderness areas.

Further to prior correspondence on this topic, many factors were considered in this decision. The Jasper National Park Trail Maintenance Matrix identifies the Athabasca Pass Trail as a remote route. With very few visitors using this trail, it is a low priority in the allocation of the limited resources available for trail maintenance and may lead to increased and unexpected costs. Further, the bridge replacement may result in an increase in human use and impact in this remote area. This is inconsistent with direction in the Jasper National Park Management Plan. The Athabasca Pass National Historic Site of Canada Management Statement indicates that for those unable to travel the route of the Athabasca Pass, an educational and engaging communication and interpretation program will be provided. This will continue to be Parks Canada's focus for the area.

The replacement of the Simon Creek Bridge will continue to be included in the Jasper Field Unit's management team regular reviews of its capital plan, which allows for adjusting priorities against emerging requirements and available resources. In addition to the initial cost of an asset, when making investment decisions, consideration is also given to several factors including alignment with the Management Plan and Statement, wilderness goals, visitor experience, and lifecycle costs.

Sincerely,



Jasmine P. Ramratan  
Acting Field Unit Superintendent