

Cartier Bay Wetland Protection Project Update – September 2016

BC Hydro is planning to construct the Cartier Bay wetland protection project in the flats south of Revelstoke in October 2016.

The Cartier Bay wetland, approximately 26 hectares in size, is created by a filled, collapsed box culvert at the bottom of a gap in the abandoned railbed that runs 300 metres west of the Cartier Bay peninsula and parallel to the old highway. The collapsed culvert holds back water and prevents the Cartier Bay wetland from draining as the Arrow Lakes Reservoir water levels drop. The box culvert is eroding, putting the wetland at risk from draining.

We plan to protect the wetland and reinforce the box culvert area by installing rock rip rap on the river side of the old rail line at the box culvert.



Construction at site is expected to start the week of Oct 17, 2016 and take about a week. Swamp mats will be used to allow heavy equipment access the site and minimize disturbance between the Old Arrowhead Highway, embankment, and the box culvert site. A temporary turn-around and material stockpile area will also be constructed.

The rip rap will be installed at the same height as the existing low point of the box culvert, maintaining its current size. We no longer plan to expand the Cartier Bay wetland as originally proposed in January 2013. This decision was made based on public concerns, the results of an [ecological impact assessment](#), an [independent review](#) from a wetland restoration specialist and an extensive review of wildlife monitoring in the area. These reviews indicate that Cartier Bay currently has high quality wildlife habitat that may be put at risk by altering the wetland.



Photo of the collapsed box culvert in abandoned railbed that creates Cartier Bay wetland.

We also no longer plan to create a new wetland by filling an adjacent gap in the old rail line north of Cartier Bay as originally proposed in January 2013. This decision was also made based on the ecological assessment and the independent review from a wetland restoration specialist.

All work has been approved by the BC Comptroller of Water Rights. BC Hydro has also acquired a conservation storage water licence from the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations associated with the protection work in the Cartier Bay wetland.

Questions? Please get in touch.

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