



Dear {FIRST_NAME|Wilderness Defender},

Wilderness & Wildlife Defenders will be familiar with the proposal by Brewster (an Arizona-based entertainment company) to construct a huge glass walkway beside the Icefields Parkway in Jasper National Park. Opposition to this development, entirely inappropriate in such an important National Park, has been extensive.

Parks Canada is now providing limited opportunity for the public to comment on one aspect of the development. Despite the fact that the consultation period is very restricted (closing date for comments is December 16, 2011) it is important that they hear from those people who believe that this proposal should be rejected immediately.

- Nigel Douglas, AWA Conservation Specialist

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Time to Oppose "Contrived Thrill-Seeking Development" in Jasper National Park

AWA

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Time to Oppose "Contrived Thrill-Seeking Development" in Jasper National Park

The Issue

Parks Canada is now asking for public comments on Brewster's draft *Environmental Assessment* (EA) for its "discovery walk" project. While objections to the project go far beyond the narrowly-defined environmental considerations in the assessment, there has been little other opportunity for Canadians as a whole to comment.

Background

AWA believes that the proposed "discovery walk" should not be allowed in Jasper National Park. Described by the Bow Valley Naturalists as a "contrived thrill-seeking precedent" there is no public demand for the project, which goes against everything that national parks should represent.

AWA has written a number of times to express our opposition to the proposal. Objections include:

- Development of such a major engineering project would be

entirely inappropriate in Jasper, one of Canada's highest profile and most ecologically important national parks.

- If such an offensive development is allowed to proceed, it would be difficult to imagine any future development in the park ever being turned down.
- No evidence has been offered by Brewster or Parks Canada that there is a demand for contrived "visitor experiences" such as this development, other than from the company which stands to make a profit from them.

Specific objections to the EA include:

- The time period for assessing the EA, and providing comments is far too short.
- The Canadian public, who have a stake in National Park management, have not been consulted in the proposed development.
- Brewster's "market survey" of the views of its own supporters, cited in the EA, should in no way be construed as any sort of gauge of public opinion. If major developments are proposed for Jasper National Park, then opinion polls should be conducted into the opinions of all park users, not just a selection of sympathetic individuals.
- Part of the justification for the project (Section 3.1 Purpose and Justification) is the need to improve traffic safety. If traffic safety needs to be improved in this area, then it should be improved, irrespective of whether Brewster builds a major development in the area. Improving traffic safety should certainly not be used as a "justification" for this proposal.
- Although the EA refers at times to the construction traffic which would affect the site, it does not consider the broader effects of the considerable construction traffic on the Icefields Parkway as a whole.

Surprisingly, the Environmental Assessment is not available on the website for Jasper National Park. Instead one has to access the [Brewster website](#).

[Click here](#) to read AWA's comments on the proposed development.

Take Action!

Closing date for comments is **December 16, 2011**.

Comments can be sent to the following people. (Letters sent to MPs at the House of Commons do not need stamps).

The Hon. Peter Kent,
Minister of the Environment
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Email: Minister@ec.gc.ca

Alan Latourelle, Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada
Agency
Email: Alan.Latourelle@pc.gc.ca

Greg Fenton, Superintendent, Jasper National Park
Email: Greg.Fenton@pc.gc.ca

Linda Duncan, NDP Environment Critic
Email: Duncan.L@parl.gc.ca

Ms. Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada
Email: lnc@greenparty.ca

And please don't forget to send a copy of your letters to
awa.nd@shaw.ca

Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action

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