



BURKE MOUNTAIN NATURALISTS SAY:

KINDER MORGAN - KEEP OUT OF PARKS!

KINDER MORGAN WANTS TO CUT THEIR COSTS BY TAKING SHORTCUTS ACROSS PARKS

Colony Farm Regional Park is not the only protected area under threat from pipeline construction. Within Metro Vancouver, **Surrey Bend Regional Park** and the **Brunette River Greenway** in Burnaby could also be impacted. Across BC, a number of Class A parks and other Protected Areas are threatened by pipeline development including Bridal Veil Falls Park near Chilliwack. Other examples are described below.

Lac du Bois Grasslands Protected Area

Just north of Kamloops, this 15,000 ha protected area was established in 1996 to protect rare native grasslands which offer habitat for 30% of BC's species at risk. The Lac du Bois area protects habitat for California bighorn sheep as well as for sharp-tailed grouse and many other ground-nesting birds. Construction and burial of a fibre optic line several years ago caused severe disturbance to the fragile bunchgrass/lichen plant community. A devastating scar from this construction work still lies across the land. Recovery of the lichens could take decades. Kinder Morgan is proposing to construct their pipeline for about 10 km through this extremely sensitive protected area to avoid private lands with a cost savings to them of over \$20 million.

North Thomson River Provincial Park

Established as a Class A provincial park in 1967, this 126 ha park is situated at the confluence of the Clearwater and North Thompson Rivers. The park offers interesting transitional habitat between the dry south and wet interior regions of the province. It contains archeological sites and a campground. It provides winter habitat for mountain caribou and contains some old growth forest. The proposed new pipeline would cross about 2 km of the Park with an estimated \$3.1 million for construction costs. An alternative route which avoids the park would cost \$4.2 million.

Finn Creek Provincial Park

Established as a Class A provincial park in 1996, this 303 hectare park is adjacent to Highway 5 about 70 km north of Clearwater BC. The park protects the lower braided channels of Finn Creek, surrounding riparian areas and islands in the North Thompson River. The Park offers habitat for grizzly bear, moose and birds as well as spawning areas for bull trout, coho and chinook salmon. The new pipeline is proposed to cross 1.4 km of the park including Finn Creek at an estimated cost of \$2.9 million. An alternate route just outside of the park on the east side would cost an estimated \$4.9 million. A trenchless pipeline crossing of the Park and Finn Creek with less impact on habitat would cost \$6.8 million.

BC'S BILL 4 ALLOWS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

This spring, despite overwhelming public opposition, the provincial government passed Bill 4 which now allows industry to conduct "research" in all provincial parks and protected areas. This research is intended to facilitate the alteration of park boundaries to allow industrial development such as pipelines through areas which were once fully protected under the Parks Act. Bill 4 is a devastating blow to all those who have worked for decades to protect significant ecological areas within parks throughout BC.

On August 28, Kinder Morgan and BC Parks announced a public consultation period regarding the park boundary adjustments needed to allow the proposed pipeline crossings of Finn Creek, North Thompson River and Bridal Veil Falls Parks as well as the Lac du Bois Protected Area. **Comments are due October 12 and can only be submitted online by going to www.transmountain.com/bc-parks-application** where details are also posted about the process and proposed impacts on the parks.

KINDER MORGAN - KEEP OUT OF PARKS!

Kinder-Morgan is proposing to use Colony Farm Regional Park as a construction site to assemble the portion of their Trans Mountain pipeline which will go under the Fraser River. The pipeline would be assembled, welded together and tested for leaks before being “pulled” under the Fraser River. They will require a very long construction area in addition to access roads for trucks and work space. Once constructed, the pipeline is proposed to be pulled underground in the field immediately adjacent to the Park which is managed by the provincial government as part of the Forensic Psychiatric Institute. **Parks are for people and wildlife; they are not construction sites available for the use of private corporations!**

AGRICULTURAL SOILS AND WILDLIFE HABITAT AT RISK

Kinder Morgan wants to use the fields in the Park southwest of Colony Farm Road as a construction site for up to several months. Trucks travelling through these fields could compact the soils and destroy their agricultural capability. In addition, these fields provide valuable habitat for many wildlife species including species at risk such as barn owls, great blue herons and barn swallows. While these fields might look “empty” to Kinder Morgan, they actually provide a unique type of environment for wildlife called “old field habitat”.

These tall grass meadows offer nesting habitat for many small birds. In addition, birds of prey, such as red-tailed hawks, harriers and barn owls fly over these fields year-round in search of meadow mice and voles. Once, the Fraser River delta had many hectares of old field habitat but, now, much of this land in Delta and Richmond is covered by industrial development, Port Metro Vancouver facilities, highways, the airport and residential areas. The ability of the remaining agricultural fields in Delta to support wildlife is increasingly compromised by the growing number of large greenhouses. **The fields at Colony Farm Park help to sustain the species that once depended on expansive grassy meadows along the Fraser River estuary.**

Over 200 species of birds rely on Colony Farm Park for habitat. One bird of particular interest is the beautiful lazuli bunting which migrates from Central America to nest at Colony Farm each spring. Colony Farm is known as the regional hot-spot for these colourful buntings. The fields proposed for pipeline construction are one of the critical areas where these birds nest every year.

PROTECT OUR PARK -THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND!

In the early 1900s, Colony Farm had been a prize-winning farm where food was grown to supply Riverview Hospital and other institutions in the lower mainland. The provincial government closed Colony Farm in the early 1980s. The Burke Mountain Naturalists campaigned to create Colony Farm as a new Regional Park which was finally protected in 1995. By that time, Colony Farm had become an oasis of green surrounded by development. Thousands of people in local communities supported the creation of this new park at Colony Farm. This spring, the City of Coquitlam wrote a letter to Kinder Morgan opposing their proposed use of the park for pipeline testing and construction. However, in August, the National Energy Board ruled Kinder Morgan has the power to enter and conduct tests on any Crown or private land that lies on their intended pipeline route.

SIGN THE
PETITION

**PLEASE SIGN OUR PETITION TO REQUEST THAT
KINDER MORGAN STAYS OUT OF PARKS!**