REPORT

William A Switzer Provincial Park Rare Lichen Survey of Proposed Maintenance Construction Areas, Aug 1 - 4, 2007

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William A Switzer Provincial Park Rare Lichen Survey, Aug 1 - 4, 2007

Summary

A list of 62 lichens that occurred in surveyed sites in the Gregg Lake area, William A Switzer Provincial Park in August, 2007, was compiled and rare lichens that occurred in these sites were assessed. Five rare lichens found in the park were: *Cladonia bacilliformis, Peltigera evansiana, Ramalina dilacerata, R. intermedia* and *R. sinensis.*

Methodology

Areas to be disturbed in the Gregg Lake area of the park were surveyed for rare lichens, (following the guidelines of the Alberta Native Plant Council (ANPC 2000)), while walking slowly along trails to be brushed or newly developed, as well as by meandering through other previously undisturbed areas as identified in contract No 08-WCA-212. The observer noted lichens on tree and shrub species, that were within the limits of the survey, such as Lodgepole pine, White spruce, Balsam poplar (Poplar), Willow, Aspen, Alder and Shepherdia. Grounddwelling lichens and those on boulders in the trail were also included in the survey. Descriptions of the habitat and vascular plant flora for each surveyed area are found in Williams (2007). The limits of the survey included entire polygons where indicated, existing unsurfaced trails with up to 1 m buffer on each side of the trail, and up to 2.5 m on each side of the flagged central line for a new trail to be developed. Collections were verified in the lab using a dissection microscope. Occurrences of rare lichens were documented following the protocol of the Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre (ANHIC 2002). Mitigation of rare lichens was carried out when deemed necessary and when there was not time to return to sites later.

Results

In William A Switzer Provincial Park, 62 lichens were recorded during this survey including the five rare lichens. Appendix 1 lists the lichens found at each site by substrate and whether the lichen was tracked; Appendix 2 lists the lichens.

Notes on sites surveyed in William A Switzer Provincial Park, Gregg Lake area

1. Loop A

The actual survey area differed from the one described in contract No 08-WCA-212. Based on the instructions received from Bruce Duffin at the site (pers.com. 2007), the area west of the existing Loop A (instead of the area east of the Loop A) was surveyed. Also, the width of the survey area was reduced from 100 m to 20 m. The new Water Treatment Plant area east of Loop A was surveyed as originally planned.

South Loop A and North Loop A are small areas (10m X 20 m) around the convenience store that will be cleared for parking stalls; the rare lichen *Ramalina intermedia* occurred on Aspen and Lodgepole pine, *Ramalina dilacerata* on Lodgepole pine and *R. sinensis* was found on White spruce and Lodgepole pine at these sites.

In the new Water Treatment Plant area, *Ramalina dilacerata* occurred on White spruce and in the Pull-thru Trailer area *R. sinensis* was found on Willow and White spruce. The rare small yellow pointed lichen, *Cladonia bacilliformis*, grew on a stump; this lichen is found elsewhere in the park.

All three *Ramalina* species are commonly found throughout the park and do not require tracking (Table 1). Lichens found on various substrates are listed in Appendix 1.

Table 1. List of tracked/rare lichens found in surveyed sites in William A. Switze	er
Provincial Park, Alberta, August 1-4, 2007.	

Species	Rank	Tracked	No. of Sites/Occurrences
Cladonia bacilliformis	S2S3	Υ	2
Peltigera evansiana	S2S3	Υ	2
Ramalina dilacerata	S2	Υ	4
Ramalina intermedia	S1	Υ	7
Ramalina sinensis	SU	Υ	5

2. Amphitheatre

The existing amphitheatre area will be expanded to include about a 50 m by 20 m area. *Ramalina sinensis* and *R. dilacerata* were found on White spruce within parameters of this new footprint.

3. Loop F, Sanitary Treatment Plant area

A small treed area (about 50 m by 50 m) north of Loop F will be disturbed to accommodate a new Sanitary Treatment Plant. *Ramalina dilacerata* was found on Lodgepole pine and Willow at this site (Appendix 1). This lichen is found throughout the park.

4. Loop L, Lakeside Parking Lot

Approximately 60 m x 20 m of White spruce/Aspen/Lodgepole pine forest will be removed to expand an existing parking lot near the waterfront at the Lakeside Gregg Lake Campground. The rare lichens *Ramalina intermedia* and *R. sinensis* were found on Willow and White spruce at this site; *R. sinensis* also occurred at this site on Aspen and Lodgepole pine. Road dust, with calcium and other nutrients, may play a role in the abundance of these lichens at this site. The rare sorediate lichen, *Peltigera evansiana* was found in the ditch here; this lichen appears to favour disturbed sites as it was also found just up the road on the Emergency Exit Road for the New Group site. Positive identification was done in the lab for this lichen and no mitigation was carried out; however, this lichen most likely occurs elsewhere in the area.

5. New Group Campsite and emergency exit road (Hay River Road)

About 150x100 m of White spruce/Aspen/Lodgepole pine/feathermoss stand will be cleared for a new group campground. An unsurfaced emergency exit road (Hay River Road) near the proposed group campground (ca 400 m long and ca 5 m wide) will be brushed and graveled. As mentioned above, *Peltigera evansiana* was found on the Emergency Exit Road, a disturbed right-of-way into the campsite area. This rare lichen was moved to a safe area high up on the adjacent road bank. Location information is on the Element Occurrence sheet that will be submitted to ANHIC. In the proposed campsite area, *Ramalina intermedia* was found on White spruce. This lichen is found throughout the park (Appendix 1).

6. Backcountry Trail west of Cache Lake to Graveyard Lake.

A new backcountry trail (about 3 km long) is being planned for west of Graveyard and Cache lakes. The rare lichens *Ramalina intermedia* and *R. sinensis* were found sporadically on Willow and White spruce along the length of this trail. These lichens occur in adjacent forest on the trail. *Cladonia bacilliformis* occurred on a charred log that was a former tip-up. This lichen is found elsewhere in the park.

7. Hiking trails connecting Loops F and L and other short trails

The hiking trail connecting Loops F and L (ca 2.5km long) that will be brushed was surveyed. *Ramalina intermedia* occurred on White spruce and Poplar twigs on this trail. Other short trails in the Gregg Lake area were surveyed; no rare lichens were found.

Recommendations

In most cases, the rare lichens *Ramalina dilacerata, R. intermedia* and *R. sinensis* were found on various tree and shrub substrates throughout the park in areas that were not surveyed. Moisture and light requirements for these lichens, as well as road dust, are met in this geographic area of the province to enhance colonization and growth of these lichens. No mitigation for these lichens was deemed necessary.

Although documented only two times during this survey, *Peltigera evansiana* appears to enjoy disturbed areas of high light intensity and is likely more widespread within W.A. Switzer Provincial Park than it appears. This inconspicuous lichen may be generally under-collected and hence on the tracking list. The specimen found on the Emergency Exit Road for the New Group site was moved to a safe area high up on the adjacent road bank. The new location should be protected from further disturbance during surfacing and brushing of the road (UTM locations of the new site has been deposited with ANHIC). *Peltigera evansiana* was also found in the ditch within the proposed Lakeside Parking Lot area. Positive identification was done in the lab, so no mitigation was carried out. Because this lichen is likely more widespread within W.A. Switzer Provincial Park than it appears, no mitigation is deemed necessary for this occurrence of *Peltigera evansiana*.

Cladonia bacilliformis was documented two times during this survey. It grows on logs and stumps, is inconspicuous and small and may be under-collected. On the backcountry trail this lichen was moved to a log approximately 20 m off trail. The Loop A occurrence of this lichen was not mitigated but will likely be found elsewhere in the park.

References

Alberta Native Plant Council. 2000. ANPC Guidelines for Rare Plant Surveys in Alberta. Information Bulletin: March 2000.

Duffin, Bruce (pers. comm.) Duffin Consulting Ltd., Spruce Grove, Alta.

Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre (ANHIC). 2002. Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre tracking list of all lichen elements (compiled November 2002). Alberta Community Development, Parks and Protected Areas Division. Edmonton, Alta.

[URL: http://tprc.alberta.ca/parks/heritageinfocentre/docs/lichen_list.pdf]

Williams, J. 2007. Summer 2007 vegetation and rare plant surveys of proposed maintenance / construction projects in W.A. Switzer Provincial Park. Report. Alberta Parks Agreement No. 08-WCA-212.

Site	Substrate	Lichen	Tracked
South Loop A, Store area	Lodgepole pine	Evernia mesomorpha	
		Vulpicida pinastri	
		Lecanora impudens	
		Usnea scabrata	
		Tuckermannopsis americana	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Usnea lapponica	
	White spruce	Hypogymnia physodes	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Ramalina americana	
		Usnea lapponica	
		Ramalina sinensis	Y
	ground	Peltigera canina	
		Peltigera aphthosa	
		Peltigera leucophlebia	
		Cladonia mitis	syn <i>Cladina mitis</i>
	Shepherdia	Usnea sp.	small
	rock	Leptogium saturninum	
		Stereocaulon alpinum	
	log/stump	Parmelia sulcata	
		Cladonia fimbriata	
		Phaeophyscia orbicularis	
	Aspen	Ramalina intermedia	Y
		Caloplaca holocarpa	
		Physcia adscendens	
North Loop A, from store	Lodgepole pine	Usnea lapponica	
		Ramalina intermedia	Y
		Ramalina sinensis	Y
		Ramalina dilacerata	Y
		Tuckermannopsis americana	
		Hypogymnia austerodes	
		Usnea scabrata	
		Usnea filipendula	
	ground	Peltigera aphthosa	
		Peltigera canina	
		Peltigera rufescens	
		Peltigera retifoveata	
	charred stump	Hypocenomyce scalaris	
		Cladonia chlorophaea	
		Cladonia fimbriata	

		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Vulpicida pinastri	
		Parmelia sulcata	
	ana un d	Hypogymnia austerodes	
Loop A, Water Treatment	ground	Peltigera aphthosa	
		Peltigera retifoveata	
	Loagepole pine	Evernia mesomorpha	
		Tuckermannopsis americana	
		Usnea scabrata	
		Bryoria lanestris	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Hypogymnia austerodes	
		Parmeliopsis ambigua	
		Vulpicida pinastri	
		Letharia vulpina	
	Willow	Usnea lapponica	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Usnea substerilis	
	log	Parmeliopsis ambigua	
		Parmeliopsis hyperopta	
		Cladonia deformis	
		Vulpicida pinastri	
		Hypocenomyce scalaris	
		Cladonia gracilis	
		Lecanora impudens	
		Imshaugia aleurites	
		Cladonia sulphurina	
		Stereocaulon alpinum	
		Cladonia mitis	
	White spruce	Usnea lapponica	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Ramalina dilacerata	Y
		Hypogymnia austerodes	
		Melanelia elegantua	
		Leptogium saturninum	
	Alnus crispa	Usnea lapponica	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
	Shepherdia	Usnea lapponica	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Ramalina americana	

		Melanelia elegantua	
Loop A, Pull-thru trailer site	l adgenale nine	Parmelia sulcata	
		Hypogymnia austerodes	
		Usnea lapponica	
		Tuckermannopsis americana	
		Bryoria lanestris	
		Usnea scabrata	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Vulpicida pinastri	
		Evernia mesomorpha	
		Bryoria fuscescens	
		Evernia mesomorpha	
	Willow	Usnea lapponica	
	VIIIOW	Bryoria lanestris	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Ramalina sinensis	Y
		Leptogium saturninum	1
	ground	Peltigera aphthosa	
	ground	Peltigera canina	
		Peltigera leucophlebia	
	Alnus crispa		small
		Parmelia sulcata	Silidii
	Stump	Cladonia gracilis	
	Stump	Cladonia graciiis Cladonia sulphurina	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Vulpicida pinastri	
		Leproloma membranaceum	
		Usnea lapponica	
		Tuckermannopsis americana	
		Parmeliopsis ambigua	
			Y
		Hypocenomyce scalaris	1
		Cladonia coniocraea	
		Cladonia cornuta	
		Parmeliopsis hyperopta	
		Cladonia chlorophaea	
		Cladonia cervicornis spp. ver	ticillata
		Imshaugia aleurites	
		Letharia vulpina	
	White spruce	Hypogymnia physodes	
		Usnea lapponica Ramalina sinensis	Y
		ramalina sinensis	T

Amphitheatre	White spruce	Usnea lapponica	
		Usnea filipendula	
		Melanelia elegantua	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Leptogium saturninum	
		Hypogymnia austerodes	
		Ramalina sinensis	Y
		Usnea scabrata	
		Bryoria fuscescens	
		Caloplaca holocarpa	
		Vulpicida pinastri	
		Ramalina dilacerata	Y
		Ramalina americana	
	Lodgepole pine	Usnea lapponica	
		Tuckermannopsis americana	
		Hypogymnia austerodes	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Usnea scabrata	
		Bryoria fuscescens	
		Usnea filipendula	
		Bryoria lanestris	
		Evernia mesomorpha	
	ground	Peltigera aphthosa	
		Peltigera canina	
		Peltigera leucophlebia	
		Peltigera membranacea	
	Aspen	Leptogium saturninum	
		Usnea lapponica	
		Usnea scabrata	
		Lecanora impudens	
		Ramalina americana	
	Aspen snag	Ramalina americana	
	log/stump	Parmeliopsis ambigua	
		Parmeliopsis hyperopta	
		Cladonia coniocraea	
		Cladonia chlorophaea	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Usnea lapponica	
		Vulpicida pinastri	
		Hypogymnia austerodes	
		Imshaugia aleurites	

		Cladonia crispata	
		Platismatia glauca	
		Lecanora impudens	
		Evernia mesomorpha	
		Hypocenomyce scalaris	
		Tuckermannopsis americana Cladonia deformis	
		Cladonia delormis	
	Willow	Parmelia sulcata	
		Usnea lapponica	
		Usnea subfloridana	
		Ramalina americana	
Loop F, Sanitary Treatment	Willow	Usnea lapponica	
		Vulpicida pinastri	
		Ramalina dilacerata	Y
		Leptogium saturninum	
		Melanelia elegantua	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Hypogymnia austerodes	
		Lecanora impudens	
	log/stump	Cladonia fimbriata	
		Parmeliopsis ambigua	
		Parmelia sulcata	
	Lodgepole pine	Tuckermannopsis americana	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Bryoria fuscescens	
		Usnea scabrata	
		Parmeliopsis hyperopta	
		Usnea lapponica	
		Evernia mesomorpha	
		Ramalina dilacerata	Y
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Bryoria lanestris	
		Usnea scabrata	
	ground	Peltigera aphthosa	
		Cladonia mitis	
		Peltigera canina	
		Peltigera neckeri	
	Stump	Hypocenomyce scalaris	
	Otamb	, ,	
	Otamp	Vulpicida pinastri	
		Vulpicida pinastri Parmelia sulcata	
		Parmelia sulcata	

		Cladonia cornuta	
		Cetraria ericetorum	
	Aspen	Lecanora impudens	
Loop L, Lakeside Parking Lot	Aspen	Ramalina americana	
	Ларон	Ramalina sinensis	Y
		Usnea lapponica	1
		Physcia adscendens	
		Hypogymnia austerodes	
		Lecanora impudens	
		Leptogium saturninum	
	l odgenole nine	Ramalina sinensis	Y
		Usnea lapponica	1
		Ramalina americana	
		Caloplaca holocarpa	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Tuckermannopsis americana	
		Usnea scabrata	
		Usnea filipendula	
		Hypogymnia austerodes	
		Bryoria lanestris	
	ground	Peltigera canina	
	ground	Peltigera leucophlebia	
		Peltigera aphthosa	
		Peltigera ponojensis	
		Peltigera rufescens	
		Cladonia cariosa	
		Stereocaulon tomentosum	
		Peltigera evansiana	Y
	White spruce	Usnea lapponica	1
		Usnea scabrata	
		Hypogymnia austerodes	
		Evernia mesomorpha	
		Usnea hirta	
		Usnea subfloridana	
		Leptogium saturninum	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Ramalina intermedia	Y
		Ramalina sinensis	Y
		Ramalina americana	-
		Caloplaca holocarpa	
		Melanelia elegantula	
	Willow		v
	Willow	Ramalina intermedia	Y

		Ramalina sinensis	Y
		Leptogium saturninum	
		Parmelia sulcata	
	charred stump	Parmelia sulcata	
	enanea etamp	Usnea lapponica	
		Imshaugia aleurites	
		Usnea scabrata	
		Evernia mesomorpha	
New group campsite; Emergency Exit road	4	Peltigera rufescens	
New group campate, Emergency Exit road	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Peltigera evansiana	Y
		Cladonia cariosa	•
		Cladonia pyxidata	
		Cladonia phyllophora	
		Stereocaulon alpinum	
		Cladonia pocillum	
New Group Campsite	Lodgepole pine	Tuckermannopsis americana	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Usnea lapponica	
		Bryoria fuscescens	
		Bryoria lanestris	
		Caloplaca holocarpa	
		Usnea substerilis	
		Vulpicida pinastri	
		Ramalina americana	
		Leptogium saturninum	
	White spruce	Hypogymnia austerodes	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Usnea lapponica	
		Leptogium saturninum	
		Usnea scabrata	
		Melanelia elegantula	
		Caloplaca holocarpa	
		Usnea filipendula	
		Bryoria lanestris	
		Ramalina americana	
		Ramalina intermedia	Y
	ground	Peltigera aphthosa	
		Peltigera canina	
		Peltigera leucophlebia	
		Cladonia mitis	
		Cladonia crispata	
		Peltigera rufescens	
		Peltigera retifoveata	

	Aspen	Usnea lapponica	
	•	Parmelia sulcata	
		Hypogymnia austerodes	
		Bryoria lanestris	
		Physcia adscendens	
		Lecanora impudens	
		Ramalina americana	
		Leptogium saturninum	
	Shepherdia	Parmelia sulcata	
		Usnea lapponica	
	Willow	Usnea lapponica	
		Parmelia sulcata	
		Caloplaca holocarpa	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Vulpicida pinastri	
		Usnea scabrata	
	Stump/log	Vulpicida pinastri	
		Cladonia gracilis	
		Cladonia sulphurina	
		Cladonia bacillaris	
		Hypogymnia physodes	
		Parmeliopsis ambigua	
	rock	Parmelia sulcata	
		Hypogymnia austerodes	
Connector trail, Cache Lake to Graveyard	White spruce	Ramalina intermedia	Y
		Ramalina sinensis	Y
	Willow	Ramalina intermedia	Y
	log/stump	Cladonia bacilliformis	Y
2.5 km trail, Loop F to Loop L	White spruce	Ramalina intermedia	Y
	Poplar	Ramalina intermedia	Y

Appendix 2 : List of Lichens that Occur in Surveyed Sites in the Gregg Lake area of William A. Switzer Provincial Park		
Lichen	Tracked	
Bryoria fuscescens		
Bryoria lanestris		
Caloplaca holocarpa		
Cetraria ericetorum		
Cladonia bacillaris		
Cladonia bacilliformis	Υ	
Cladonia cariosa		
Cladonia cervicornis spp. verticillata		

Cladonia chlorophaea	
Cladonia chlorophaea	
Cladonia coniocraea	
Cladonia cornuta	
Cladonia crispata	
Cladonia deformis	
Cladonia fimbriata	
Cladonia gracilis	
Cladonia macilenta	
Cladonia mitis	
Cladonia phyllophora	
Cladonia pocillum	
Cladonia pyxidata	
Cladonia sulphurina	
Evernia mesomorpha	
Hypocenomyce scalaris	
Hypogymnia austerodes	
Hypogymnia physodes	
Imshaugia aleurites	
Lecanora impudens	
Leproloma membranaceum	
Leptogium saturninum	
Letharia vulpina	
Melanelia elegantula	
Parmelia sulcata	
Parmeliopsis ambigua	
Parmeliopsis hyperopta	
Peltigera aphthosa	
Peltigera canina	
Peltigera evansiana	Y
Peltigera leucophlebia	
Peltigera membranacea	
Peltigera neckeri	
Peltigera ponojensis	
Peltigera retifoveata	
Peltigera rufescens	
Phaeophyscia orbicularis	
Physcia adscendens	
Platismatia glauca	
Ramalina americana	
Ramalina dilacerata	Y
Ramalina intermedia	Y
Ramalina sinensis	Y
Stereocaulon alpinum	

Stereocaulon tomentosum	
Tuckermannopsis americana	
Usnea filipendula	
Usnea hirta	
Usnea lapponica	
Usnea scabrata	
Usnea sp.	small
Usnea subfloridana	
Usnea substerilis	
Vulpicida pinastri	