



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
POWER
CORPORATION**

Empowering Communities

**TALTSON WINTER ROAD
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN**

**TALTSON HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY
TALTSON RIVER, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

April 2019

DOCUMENT MAINTENANCE AND CONTROL

The Director, Health, Safety & Environment is responsible for the distribution, maintenance and updating of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan. This Plan will be reviewed annually and updated as required, taking into account changes in the law, environmental factors, NTPC policies, and Taltson Generating Facility characteristics. Changes in phone numbers, names of individuals, etc. that do not affect the intent of the Plan are to be made as required. Additional copies can be provided by the Director, Health, Safety & Environment.

DOCUMENT HISTORY				
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1 INTRODUCTION

The Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC) proposes to reopen the 56 km Taltson Winter Road from Fort Smith, NT to the NTPC Taltson Dam (the project). The facility operates under the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) water licence MV2011L4-0002. Taltson Hydro was built in 1965 and supplies power to the South Slave communities of Enterprise, Fort Resolution, Fort Smith, Hay River, and K'at'l'odeeche First Nation.

An overhaul of key infrastructure within the generating station and camp is planned to begin in 2020 and a winter road (WR) is required to transport equipment and materials for the overhaul. NTPC is preparing to apply for a Type B water licence and Type A land-use permit for the Taltson WR in April 2019. This Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) has been prepared by Associated Environmental Consultants Inc. (Associated) to support these permits.

1.1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the *Wildlife Act* (GNWT 2013, c.30). Section 95 of the *Wildlife Act* contains provisions outlining criteria for when a WMMP will be required as well as the mandatory content for such plans. WMMPs are an important tool for the protection and conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat in the context of sustainable development (ENR 2018).

This WMMP has been developed to demonstrate how NTPC will minimize project effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, remain in compliance with regulatory requirements, and address public concern. This Tier 1, Basic WMMP is a living document, to be updated as necessary, through engagement and adaptive management.

Below is a description of the project, potential project effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, associated mitigation, and a mitigation monitoring plan.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NTPC plans to reconstruct the historical Taltson WR, from Fort Smith to Taltson Dam, that was used in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s to access the site for construction, maintenance, and upgrades (see Figure 1). In 2009, NTPC obtained the MVLWB land-use permit MV2008F0027 for the operation of the Taltson WR. The road was brushed but construction of the road was never completed due to a change in operational requirements.

2.1 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

Construction is tentatively scheduled to start December 15, 2019 for 30 to 45 days, followed by operation (45 to 60 days each year) for up to three seasons. The current condition of the road allows only snow machine use up to approximately KM 30 in the winter to access traplines and recreational cabins.

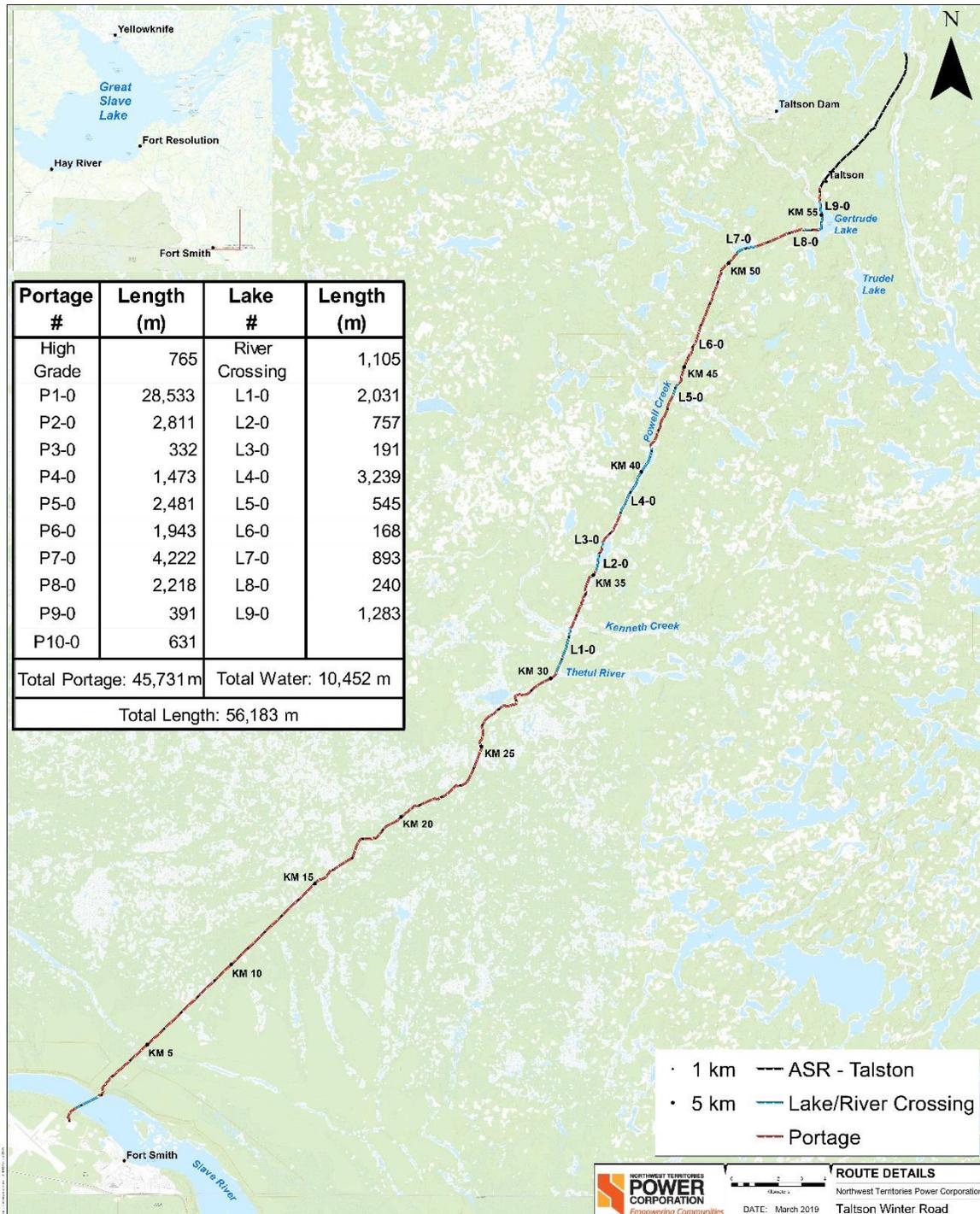
The proposed WR follows the same historical alignment of the WR used in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 2009-2010, with an average portage (overland) right-of-way width of 6-8 m. The alignment is a historical route that was again cleared in 2010 and is used by snowmobiles so relatively little brushing will be required. A small amount of brushing will be required to remove regrown alders on the portages beyond KM 30 (see Figure 1). Vegetation removed will be left onsite adjacent to the road alignment and widening of the alignment is not expected.

No soil stripping, removal of overburden, excavation, trenching, or draining of waterbodies/wetlands is expected with the project construction. Water will be added to portages to build up ice levels during construction. In areas of relatively high humidity, the snow will compact under the weight of construction vehicles and very little water will be required. In very dry areas, water will be essential in the development of running surface over portages. Locally sourced water (Slave River and lakes along the route) will be used to compact snow and overlay a minimum of 10 cm of ice on all portages to minimise damage or rutting.

No change to existing hydrology will result from construction of the WR. One small temporary culvert (≤ 24 inch diameter CSP) may be installed at KM 43.6 across one stream with open water. A culvert is recommended in place of a snow bridge, which has potential to act as a dam and alter the hydrology of the area. Excavation is not required for culvert installation - the culvert will be placed within the open stream bed, and the WR will be constructed over the culvert. The culvert will be removed at the end of operations each WR season. In addition, a sharp corner and steep hill at KM 2.0 will require snow fill to construct the portage. The snow fill will be removed at the end of operation each season to prevent excessive erosion during freshet at that location.

There are many beaver dams and lodges along the route that will remain in place through construction. When possible each dam will be encased in ice to protect the integrity of the dam and ensure stability of the road. Snow and ice will be built up on either side of the dam to create ramps for vehicles, which are not expected to impact the dams. Lodges and push-up will be avoided by micro-siting the route around these.

Figure 1: Taltson Winter Road Map



2.2 PROJECT OPERATION

Operation will include trucks to transport equipment for the dam upgrade (2020-21) and demobilization and removal of replaced equipment from the dam (2022). Each year a maximum of 500 heavy loads is expected over 45-60-day operation period. The maximum daily frequency of vehicles will be 8-10 heavy trucks doing a one-day round trip, and 2-4 light pickups each day. The maximum weight allowance will be 65,000 kilos, including vehicle weight. Trucks will travel in vehicle convoys and maximum speed limits of 30 kph will be set and posted along the route. The speed limit for construction equipment will be 40 kph while clearing snow.

The project has minimal sloping portages; however, if required, small amounts of sand will be used to provide traction for vehicles (e.g., down slope to Slave River). Sand will be sourced from Fort Smith and used sparingly because it acts as a thermal sink.

2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project is in boreal forest, dominated by white spruce (*Picea glauca*) with patches of trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*). Forest is interspersed with open bogs of black spruce (*Picea mariana*), willow (*Salix* spp.) and Labrador-tea (*Rhododendron groenlandicum*). Deciduous shrubs of alder (*Alnus* sp.), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), and willow (*Salix* spp.) grow along the trail edges.

During the site reconnaissance conducted in February 2019, the only wildlife directly observed were birds (ravens [*Corvus corax*], ptarmigan [*Lagopus* sp.]). Fresh and older sign (tracks) of many other species was evident, including moose (*Alces alces*), deer (*Odocoileus* sp.), wolf (*Canis lupus*), lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), American marten (*Martes americana*), weasel (*Mustela* sp.), and snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*). River otter (*Lontra canadensis*) tracks were observed at the dam, and presumably could occur near the lakes along the route. There was no section along the route that showed heavier wildlife use than others (i.e., no obvious movement corridor); however, the powerline which crosses the project near KM 46, may be used as a movement corridor.

The WR alignment crosses several beaver (*Castor canadensis*) dams and passes by beaver lodges, which are more frequent beyond KM 30. Dams have created open wetlands where short shrubs and grass can be visible in some areas above the snow. Beaver activity is presumed to be current, as fresh sign of predators (wolves and wolverines) investigating lodges was observed.

2.4 REGULATORY SETTING

The following Federal and Territorial acts and regulations have been taken into consideration for the construction and operation of the project:

- *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (the project will take place outside of the migratory bird breeding window)
- *Species at Risk Act*

- *Northwest Territories Species at Risk Act*
- *Northwest Territories Wildlife Act*

The 2019 Statutory Requirements for Wildlife in the Northwest Territories provides a summary of pertinent sections of the legislation listed above, with interpretation guidelines (see Appendix C).

2.5 ENGAGEMENT

As part of the land-use permit and water licence application process through the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) NTPC is required to gather input from stakeholders on the application package. Engagement provides an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute knowledge and solutions to the process, which is mutually beneficial to all parties involved. The engagement process is outlined in detail in the *Taltson Winter Road Engagement Plan* (NTPC, 2019) and *Taltson Winter Road Engagement Log* (NTPC, 2019).

In January 2019 engagement for the winter road began with notification emails, phone calls and meetings with stakeholders taking place as outlined in the *Taltson Winter Road Engagement Log* (NTPC, 2019). Meetings were conducted with key stakeholders as requested. One key stakeholder is Mr. Ken Schaefer who holds a registered trapline in the project area. NTPC confirmed that Mr. Schaefer will be compensated for construction of the road within his trapping area, once the road is operational and a compensation agreement will be finalized by April 30, 2019. Mr. Schaefer provided knowledge of the area, including the history of the WR, fish and wildlife presence in the area, and safety considerations for specific portions of the WR. Mr. Schaefer demonstrated his trapping area and discussed his recent trapping history. A meeting also occurred with Mr. Tim Heron who was representing the Northwest Territory Metis Nation. A Fort Smith resident Mr. Heron also provided knowledge of the area, including beaver dam locations, fishing and trapping practices, and local traffic patterns and some suggestions for signage along the road.

A public engagement and open house was held in Fort Smith on March 28, 2019. Personnel from NTPC and the ice road engineering consulting firm (NOR-EX) provided a presentation on the project, followed by a question and answer session. NTPC and NOR-EX addressed questions from the public regarding winter construction specifications, safety precautions, environmental and archaeological mitigation measures, shared access of the road, and site restoration and abandonment.

A public engagement and open house session was also held in Fort Resolution on March 29, 2019. NTPC and NOR-EX addressed public inquiries regarding fuel management and spill response, potential effects on wildlife habitat, and mitigation measures for wildlife encounters on the road.

2.6 WILDLIFE SPECIES

The WMMP focuses on wildlife species occurring in and near the project that are important harvestable species, have specific regulatory requirements, and/or are protected by legislation (Section 2.4).

One active registered trapline is present within the project footprint. Animals harvested on the trapline primarily consist of muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), with lesser numbers of American beaver, Canada lynx, mink, otter, and weasel.

The project does not overlap with the boreal caribou (NT1 Herd) range to the west (J. Wilson, personal communication, 2019b), or the barren-ground caribou Beverly Herd winter range. The Beverly Herd is located approximately 30 km northeast of the northern terminus of the project (Species at Risk Committee 2017b). The project is within the historical range of the Beverly Herd; however, the herd has not been recorded in the area since the 1950s (Thomas et al., 1998 in Species at Risk Committee 2017b).

The species considered in this WMMP are presented in Table 1. The project is not expected to affect birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, or insects; however, these species groups were still considered.

Table 1. Wildlife species in or near the project

Common Name	Scientific Name	SARA Listing ¹	COSEWIC Assessment ²	NWT SARA Listing ³	SARC Assessment ⁴
Mammals					
American beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	-	Not assessed	-	Secure
American marten	<i>Martes americana</i>	-	-	-	-
Black bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	-	Not at Risk	-	Secure
Canada Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	-	Not at Risk		Secure
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	-	Not assessed	-	-
Grey wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	-	Not at Risk	-	Secure
Little brown Myotis	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Schedule 1 – Endangered	Endangered	Special Concern	Special Concern
Moose	<i>Alces alces</i>	-	Not assessed	-	Secure
Northern Myotis	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Schedule 1 – Endangered	Endangered	Special Concern	Special Concern

Common Name	Scientific Name	SARA Listing ¹	COSEWIC Assessment ²	NWT SARA Listing ³	SARC Assessment ⁴
Snowshoe hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>	-	-	-	-
Weasel	<i>Mustela spp.</i>	-	-	-	-
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	-	Not assessed	-	-
Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>	Schedule 1 – Special Concern	Special Concern	-	Not at Risk
Wood bison	<i>Bos bison athabasca</i>	Schedule 1 - Threatened	Special Concern	Threatened	Threatened
Birds					
Bank swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Schedule 1 - Threatened	Threatened	-	-
Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Schedule 1 - Threatened	Threatened	-	-
Common nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Schedule 1 – Special Concern	Threatened	-	-
Olive-sided flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Schedule 1 – Special Concern	Threatened	-	-
Peregrine falcon <i>anatum/tundrius</i> complex	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Schedule 1 – Special Concern	Not at Risk	-	Not assessed
Red-necked phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Under Consideration	Special Concern	-	-
Rusty blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Schedule 1 – Special Concern	Special Concern	-	Not assessed
Short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Schedule 1 – Special Concern	Special Concern	-	Not assessed
Yellow rail	<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	Schedule 1 – Special Concern	Special Concern	-	-
Fish					
Shortjaw cisco	<i>Coregonus zenithicus</i>	-	Threatened	-	-
Amphibians					

Common Name	Scientific Name	SARA Listing ¹	COSEWIC Assessment ²	NWT SARA Listing ³	SARC Assessment ⁴
Northern leopard frog	<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	Schedule 1 - Special Concern	Special Concern	Threatened	Threatened
Insects					
Gypsy cuckoo bumble bee	<i>Bombus bohemicus</i>	Schedule 1 - Endangered	Endangered	-	Not assessed
Yellow-banded bumble bee	<i>Bombus terricola</i>	Schedule 1 – Special Concern	Special Concern	-	Not assessed

1. *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) (SC 2002, c.29)

2. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC 2016)

3. *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* (GNWT 2009, c.16)

4. Northwest Territories Species at Risk Committee (Species at Risk Committee 2017)

3 POTENTIAL PROJECT EFFECTS

The current condition of the road allows snow machine use up to KM 30 at the Hanging Ice River in the winter to access traplines and recreational cabins. The road currently functions as a convenient wildlife corridor and provides a line of sight for predators. Potential project effects on wildlife are presented in Table 2.

Minimal impact on wildlife habitat is expected as a result of project construction, as the alignment currently exists and minimal vegetation clearing (brushing and danger tree removal) is required to reopen WR. The first 30 km of the project alignment are currently cleared of trees and will require only low brush removal within portage sections (Figure 1). In addition, approximately 10 km (70,000 m²) of the project alignment occurs over lakes and wetlands and will not require vegetation management. One section of the alignment, approximately 4,415 m², at Portage 10 will require removal of regenerating trees (no larger than 20 cm in diameter). The remaining portions of the alignment require only sporadic vegetation management as they are already cleared (some spots may require minimal brushing of shrubs (primarily alder) within portage sections). Road construction techniques will also avoid impacts to beaver dams crossed by the WR where possible. Encasing the dam with ice during construction supports the structure of the dam and provides load-bearing strength. Maintaining the integrity of beaver dams is critical to maintain water levels under the ice and effectively support the weight of vehicles.

During winter operation of the road, traffic will primarily be convoys of trucks carrying supplies to and from the dam. Strict rules for drivers will be enforced to avoid potential for wildlife habituation (e.g. feeding wildlife, leaving refuse) and accidental wildlife strikes (Section 4). The main impact of operation may result from driver error or road failure leading to an accidental spill of deleterious substance (e.g. diesel) into a watercourse. Spills on top of the road surface can be adequately recovered, but spills under the ice may discharge downstream, and not be readily accessible for mitigation. Scenarios for this are addressed in mitigation (Section 4) as well as the Spill Contingency Plan.

The reopening of the Taltson WR will improve non-operational access into the area and can lead to increased pressure on wildlife from hunting and trapping. Engagement with the local trapping lease-holder has occurred, and an agreement on the approach and mitigation for this has been reached. Improved access may also enable hunters to access the Beverly caribou Herd from Taltson Dam, thereby increasing hunting pressure on the herd.

Table 2. Potential project effects on wildlife

Potential Effect	Project-related Mechanism of Effect	Project Phase
Habitat alteration and loss	Site clearing	Construction
	Spills, erosion, and deleterious substances	Construction and Operation
	Invasive plants	Construction and Operation
	WR construction	Construction
Wildlife injury and mortality	Wildlife collision with traffic	Construction and Operation
	Human-wildlife conflicts and attracting/habituating wildlife	Construction and Operation
	Spills, erosion, and deleterious substances	Construction and Operation
Changes to wildlife abundance and/or movement	Sensory disturbance and avoidance	Construction and Operation
	Obstruction or reduction of movement	Operation
	Access for hunting and trapping	Construction and Operation

4 WILDLIFE MITIGATION

Mitigation measures for wildlife and wildlife habitat are provided in Table 3 and are designed to avoid and/or minimize potential project effects. The mitigation measures apply to all project personnel, contractors, and visitors to site who use Taltson WR.

The following mitigation by avoidance has been incorporated into the project:

- Restrict the project footprint and operation to the existing WR alignment only;
- Maximize the use of frozen lakes and rivers for the WR, and
- Ensure portages will not exceed the minimum required width for construction, unless required for safety.

Additional management plans have been prepared for the project, which contain mitigation and monitoring measures relevant to wildlife. These include the following:

- Taltson WR Operations and Maintenance Plan - includes information regarding speed restrictions, vehicle spacing, refuse disposal, and wildlife sightings/incidents
- Taltson WR Spill Contingency Plan - includes spill prevention measures and spill response procedures, and
- Taltson WR Waste Management Plan - includes refuse management procedures and hazardous materials transport.

Table 3. Wildlife Mitigation Measures

Potential Effect	Project-related Mechanism of Effect	Mitigation
Habitat alteration and loss	Site clearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize vegetation clearing to brushing and danger tree removal only. • Conduct site clearing during winter months only. • Leave removed vegetation onsite, adjacent to the alignment. • Construct vehicle pullouts in non-vegetated locations along the alignment.
	Spills, emissions, and deleterious substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the site-specific Spill Contingency Plan and Waste Management Plan developed for the project. • Use industry standards for fuel containment, storage, handling, and transport. • Equip all equipment and trucks with industry-standard emission control systems and spill kits. • Train all staff in spill response procedures and use of spill kits. • Regularly maintain all equipment and trucks to ensure all are in good working order and free of leaks. • Prohibit idling except where necessary for construction. • Where possible, refuel equipment and vehicles away from watercourses. • Refuel equipment and vehicles with appropriate spill containment in place, and mitigation measures at hand in case of accidental spill (see Spill Contingency Plan).
	Invasive plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check vehicles and equipment entering or leaving the project for dirt or plant propagules.
	WR construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the integrity of beaver dams within the project alignment, by ensuring that they are encased in a solid block of ice during construction where possible. • Avoid beaver lodges and other features when establishing the road alignment.

Potential Effect	Project-related Mechanism of Effect	Mitigation
Wildlife injury and mortality	Wildlife collision with traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce a no-chase policy. If wildlife is observed on the road all vehicles will stop and wait until wildlife have left the road. • Incorporate regular 'jump-outs' along the length of the WR to allow wildlife to safely vacate. • Enforce a maximum speed limit of 30 kph along the route. • Erect wildlife crossing signage and post speed limits along the route. • Convoy vehicles (4-6 heavy vehicles at a time) to minimize the frequency of disturbance and collision risk to wildlife. • Precede convoys with a light pick-up truck to minimize collision risk when possible.
	Human-wildlife conflicts and attracting/habituating wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the site-specific Waste Management Plan developed for the project • Train all staff on WR Orientation, and Standard Operating Procedures for wildlife encounters (Appendix A). • Prohibit littering. • Prohibit feeding or interacting with wildlife. • Collect and store all food and food waste in a manner inaccessible to furbearers. Incinerate waste locally or take off site to an approved facility.
	Spills, emissions, and deleterious substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prevent spills beneath the ice surface, diesel carriers will review the requirements of the Spill Management Plan. Diesel will be transported using appropriate containment. • Limit the number of diesel-carrying vehicles travelling on the road at one time. • Carefully monitor the quality of ice supporting vehicles along the WR.
Changes to wildlife abundance and/or	Sensory disturbance and avoidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convoy vehicles (4-6 heavy vehicle at a time) to minimize the frequency of disturbance and collision risk to wildlife. • Precede convoys with a light pick-up truck to minimize collision risk. • Prohibit idling except where necessary for construction.

Potential Effect	Project-related Mechanism of Effect	Mitigation
movement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document project-related use of the Taltson WR during operation (e.g., number of convoys, number and size of vehicles in convoys).
	Obstruct or reduce movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain snow banks to be <1 m high and create breaks in snow berms (i.e., jump-outs) every 500 m so wildlife can readily move off the road as vehicles approach. • Multiple measures outlined in sections above are also applicable here.
	Access for hunting and trapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local stakeholders have been consulted to help manage impacts to current users and wildlife. • Prohibit hunting, fishing, and trapping by all project staff and contractors. • Prohibit recreational use of project vehicles at any time during construction or operation. • Prohibit non-project related vehicles from parking at or around the Taltson Dam or airstrip, to limit access beyond the project.

5 WILDLIFE MITIGATION MONITORING

5.1 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

NTPC will assign a Project Monitor (NTPC employee or contractor) for this project who will be responsible to ensure compliance with the WMMP and other safety and environmental policies. In addition, NTPC personnel will also conduct inspections for compliance. The mitigation measures described in this WMMP apply to all project personnel, contractors, and visitors to site who use Taltson WR. In cases of operational challenges the Project Monitor will manage the situation with support from NTPC staff. The project personnel will be notified by radio if any wildlife is observed on the road according to current communication procedures.

Specifically, the Project Monitor will be responsible for compliance with the various management plans for the project on behalf of the Project Manager, Engineering (e.g., Waste Management Plan, Spill Contingency Plan, and this WMMP). The Project Monitor will report to Project Manager, Engineering and have the authority to suspend works should the likelihood of an adverse effect on environmentally sensitive features (e.g., wildlife or wildlife habitat) arise. The temporary suspension of works will remain in effect until remedial measures have been taken to remove the environmental threat to the satisfaction of NTPC. The Project Monitor will be notified if a species at risk is observed in or near the project and will advise on appropriate species-specific mitigation.

The Project Manager will be responsible for training all project staff and contractors on the environmental sensitivity and prohibitions of the project at the beginning of each phase.

5.2 WMMP MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

The monitoring requirements of this WMMP span both the construction and operation phases of the project. Monitoring will be conducted to determine whether mitigation measures are being implemented and are functioning as intended, and include:

1. Vegetation brushing and danger tree removal;
2. Installation and removal of culverts (at kilometer 43.6), as may be necessary;
3. Construction with snow fill placement and removal (at kilometer 2.0);
4. Vehicle and equipment cleanliness (i.e., free of mud and plant propagules);
5. Project-related vehicle operation, such as idling, speed limits, adherence to 'no chase' policy, recreational use;
6. Snowbank height and 'jump-outs'; and
7. Prohibited activities such as littering, food storage, wildlife interactions, hunting/trapping.

GNWT requires that WR be designated as public roads. Therefore, NTPC does not have the authority to control public access to the road. Speed limit signs will be posted along the road, which will apply to all vehicles. Signs may also be installed in the project area to state that hunting is permitted for subsistence purposes only.

Mitigation measures are provided in Section 4, and procedures for wildlife encounters and sightings are provided in Section 5.4 and Appendices B, and D.

5.3 REPORTING

An environmental monitoring report will be prepared and submitted to NTPC on a weekly basis. Information will be collected following a checklist specific to potential construction/operation and site issues, along with photos. The report will summarize:

- Activities undertaken during the reporting period;
- Log of vehicular traffic, both project and non-project related;
- Key communications or meetings;
- Mitigations in place during the reporting period;
- Any deficiencies noted, and corrective actions undertaken by the contractor or employees;
- Water use;
- Log of wildlife observations and incidents; and
- Any outstanding environmental issues to be addressed.

A final report will be prepared at the completion of the project that summarizes all construction activities undertaken, mitigations, water quality results, and any incidents or issues encountered on site, along with the corrective actions undertaken for the works. The report will be submitted to GNWT ENR and MVLWB as required by conditions of the approvals or authorizations obtained for the works.

5.4 WILDLIFE OBSERVATION AND INCIDENTS LOG

All employees, truck drivers, and on-site contractors will be provided a Wildlife Monitoring Form and be responsible for documenting wildlife incidents in the project area (Appendix B). The Project Monitor will be responsible for collecting and analysing these logs to determine the following:

- species presence and abundance on and near the project;
- locations where species most often interact with the project;
- occurrence of predators and possible waste management concerns;

- locations of animal-vehicle collisions, near misses, and mortality (including defense of life and property), and
- non-project related use of the WR.

The purpose of this analysis will be to inform wildlife use of the project area, identify critical areas required action or adaptive management, and monitor hunting/trapping pressure in the area. This information may inform changes to this WMMP.

NTPC will be responsible for reporting the following wildlife incidents to the GNWT ENR officer without delay (Table 4) (Appendix B):

- Any wildlife mortality as a result of defense of life and property;
- Injured and suspected diseased wildlife;
- Wildlife carcass (unrelated to trapping);
- Incidence of human-wildlife conflict and anytime property is damaged by wildlife; and
- Anytime deterrents are used.

Table 4. Wildlife incident contacts

Name	Company/Agency	Title	Phone Number	Email
Wildlife Emergency Line ¹	GNWT ENR (Ft. Smith)	-	1-867-872-0400	
Big Game Vehicle Collision	GNWT ENR	Renewable Resource Officer	1-866-762-2437	
Bison in the Bison Control Area ²	GNWT ENR		1-866-629-6438	
Wildlife Violation	GNWT ENR	Renewable Resource Officer	1-866-762-2437	
Species at Risk Observation				wildlifeobs@gov.nt.ca

1. Includes general wildlife observations/sightings including bears.
2. Slave River lowlands.

6 REFERENCES

- CCME (Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. 1996. Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life for benzene, toluene and ethylbenzene.
- ENR (Environmental and Natural Resources, Government of Northwest Territories). 2018. Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan Guidelines 2: Content Requirements.
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- Species at Risk Committee. 2017a. Northwest Territories Species at Risk Committee. Species Assessment Process. Available online.
- Species at Risk Committee. 2017b. Species Status Report. Porcupine Caribou and Barren-ground Caribou in the Northwest Territories. (Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East, Bathurst, Beverly, Ahiak, and Qamanirjuaq herds) (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*) in the Northwest Territories. Species at Risk Committee, Yellowknife, NT.
- Species at Risk Act*, S.C. 2002, c.29
- Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, S.N.W.T. 2009, c.16
- Wildlife Act (NWT)*, S.N.W.T. 2013, c.30
- Wilson, J. Wildlife Biologist, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Northwest Territories. March 6, 2019. Personal communication (via email) with Stephanie Murphy of Associated.

APPENDIX A

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

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STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES			
Organization:	ABC Inc.	SOP #	SOP-ED-001
Division:	Environment	Effective Date:	May 28, 2015
Issued By:	John Doe, Project Manager	Location/Camp:	123 Camp
Subject:	Wildlife Encounters in Camp Vicinity (1km radius of campsite)		
Revision:	Revision 2	Replaces:	Version 1 (May 28, 2014)

Purpose:

The purpose of this SOP is to provide proper protocols and assist camp/field staff in determining the proper mitigation when dealing with wildlife species that enter the camp vicinity in order to protect life and/or the destruction of property.

Scope:

Encompasses all project staff situated at the camp vicinity during the periods of operation over the course of the land use permit and/or lease.

Actions deemed necessary are determined by the Wildlife Monitor (SOP-ED-002).

Responsibility:

- Project Manager is responsible for the development and implementation of the plan.
- Wildlife Monitor:
 - Daily monitoring of wildlife or signs of wildlife within the camp vicinity (SOP-ED-003)
 - Daily communication with all field staff regarding wildlife encounters (SOP-ED-004)
 - Provide awareness training for all field staff (SOP-ED-005)
 - Ensure that proper actions are taken to prevent loss of life or property during wildlife encounters (SOP-ED-006)
 - Report encounter to Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) (SOP-ED-007)
- Field Staff:
 - Complete awareness and prevention training (SOP-ED-005),
 - Report any wildlife encounters within the camp vicinity to the Wildlife Monitor (SOP-ED-007)

Procedure:

	Steps
1	If safe to do so; record details involving the wildlife species within the campsite area.
2	Notification to all field staff that wildlife species that may pose a threat to the campsite have been encountered within the camp vicinity. (SOP-ED-008)
3	If necessary, report to ENR regional office for guidance on necessary next steps to ensure human/wildlife safety and protection of property. Continued reporting to ENR regional office may be required depending on the status of the wildlife encounter.
4	DO NOT APPROACH WILDLIFE
5	If necessary, keep all doors and windows in camp and/or vehicles closed until wildlife have left the area.
6	If safe, continue to monitor the behaviour and movement until the wildlife is no longer a threat (SOP-ED-009).
8	If necessary, refer to standard operating procedures for Wildlife Deterrence (SOP-ED-010) Injured Wildlife (SOP-ED-011), Wildlife Mortality (SOP-ED-012) or Destruction of

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	Property (SOP-ED-013).
Recording:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">If wildlife have been found within the campsite area the Wildlife Monitor, if safe to do so, fill out the <i>Wildlife Incident Form</i> if the wildlife has been determined to be a possible threat to the campsite (i.e. bear) or a Wildlife Sighting Log if determined not to be a threat (i.e. beaver)	
Reporting:	
24-Hour Emergency Wildlife @ 867-873-7181 (Yellowknife)	
1	All reported wildlife encounters must be investigated by the Wildlife Monitor immediately.
2	When there is a wildlife encounter with a wildlife species and there is a potential for human/wildlife conflict or destruction of property.
3	Anytime deterrence has been used to remove wildlife from the camp vicinity (SOP-ED-010)
Supporting Documents: <i>(Please attach)</i>	
1	Wildlife Sightings Log
2	Wildlife Incident Reporting

APPENDIX B

GNWT WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORTING

Wildlife Observation and Incident Log

OBSERVER INFORMATION

Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Vehicle Reg: _____ **Email:** _____

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT/OBSERVATION

Date/Time of Observation: _____

Location of Observation (*road, camp, drainage, nearest kilometer mark*): _____

Number of animals: _____

Activity of person/people when animal(s) seen (*on foot, driving, etc.*): _____

Activity of animal(s) when seen (*walking, browsing, digging, etc.*): _____

Did the animal(s) see the person/people/vehicle?

If so, what was reaction? (*ran away, sauntered away, stopped and watched, continued its previous activity bluff-charged people, etc.; please describe*): _____

List actions of observer (*move away, stop vehicle, etc.*): _____

Was human food or trash available to the animal(s)? (*on ground, vehicle, in non-bearproof canister, etc.*) _____

How was food stowed? _____

TALTON WINTER ROAD

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT/OBSERVATION, CONTINUED

Length of observation:

Closest distance to animal(s):

Condition of animal(s) (*any visible injuries?*):

OTHER INFORMATION

Additional notes that may help describe the incident/observation:

Form submitted to Environmental Monitor:

yes

no

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WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORTING

Application and Scope:

The following is intended as a guideline to identify wildlife that requires immediate reporting and sampling (if necessary) from exploration camps and mines. This is not intended to cover every possible scenario.

1. ENR encourages all those conducting activities on the land or residents to record and report all instances of injury or possibility of disease in wildlife.
2. As per *Section 39 (2) of the Wildlife Act*, any defense of life and property kills must be reported without delay to ENR. All reasonable efforts must be made to ensure the hide and other valuable parts do not spoil and that these are turned over to an ENR Officer to avoid any wastage.

Notification Procedures:

1. *When to Report Wildlife*
 - Anytime wildlife is determined to be injured.
 - Anytime wildlife is suspected of being diseased.
 - Anytime wildlife is found dead.
 - Anytime there is the potential for human/wildlife conflict such as an occupied bird nest or wolf or bear den.
 - Anytime wildlife was deterred from camp.
 - Anytime there is a defensive kill.
 - Anytime property is destroyed.
2. *What information should be collected and reported upon initial observations:*
 - Record the following information
 - i. Fill out the **Wildlife Incident Record Form**
 - ii. When known, include details on the incident such as:
 1. Behaviour and movements
 2. Loss of life or property
 3. Reason for attraction to area
 4. Estimation of how long the animal was dead
 5. Any other animals seen in the area
 - Photographs (wildlife mortality)
 - i. Add photo name/label
 - ii. General area

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- iii. Animal (one from each side, head, and tail)
- iv. Anything unusual
- v. Any obvious injuries or marks

3. Who to Contact

North Slave Region

Wildlife Emergency (867) 873 - 7181 (24 Hours)
Yellowknife (867) 767-9238 ext. 53461
Fax: (867) 873 - 6230

South Slave Region

Wildlife Emergency (867) 872 - 0400 (24 Hours)
Fort Smith (867) 872 - 6400
Fax: (867) 872 - 4250

Inuvik Region

Wildlife Emergency (867) 678 - 0289 (24 Hours)
Inuvik (867) 678 - 6650
Fax: (867) 678 - 6659

Sahtú Region

Wildlife Emergency (867) 587 - 2422 (24 Hours)
Norman Wells (867) 587 - 3500
Fax: (867) 587 - 3516

Dehcho Region

Wildlife Emergency (867) 695 - 7433 (24 Hours)
Fort Simpson (867) 695 - 7450
Fax: (867) 695 - 2381

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Details of Action Taken: (reporting, deterrence type, disposal, removal of attractant, etc.)

DATE: mm/dd/yy

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Was the incident resolved?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Has Environment & Natural Resources been contacted?		
Contact Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Date/Time Reported: _____		

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APPENDIX C

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR WILDLIFE IN THE NWT

Statutory Requirements for Wildlife in the NWT

NWT Wildlife Act		
Topic	Section of NWT Wildlife Act	Notes
Birds and nests	51. (1) Subject to section 17, no person shall, unless authorized by a licence or permit to do so, destroy, disturb or take (a) an egg of a bird; (b) the nest of a bird when the nest is occupied by a bird or its egg; or (c) the nest of a prescribed bird.	In the <i>NWT Wildlife Act</i> , prescribed birds will likely include raptors from the following families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falconiformes • Strigiformes • Accipitriformes <p>Bullet (c) of the <i>NWT Wildlife Act</i> does not specify that the nest has to be active.</p>
Wildlife abodes	51. (2) Subject to section 17, no person shall, unless authorized by a licence or permit to do so, break into, destroy or damage a den, beaver dam or lodge, muskrat push-up or hibernaculum.	
Disturbance and harassment	52. Subject to section 17, no person shall, unless authorized by a licence or permit to do so, (a) engage in an activity that is likely to result in a significant disturbance to big game or other prescribed wildlife; or (b) unnecessarily chase, fatigue, disturb, torment or otherwise harass game or other prescribed wildlife.	"big game" means species of wildlife prescribed as big game, or an individual of a species of big game; Schedule A – Part 1 of the Wildlife General Regulations, sets out the species prescribed as big game, and Schedule B sets out prescribed wildlife for the purpose of paragraphs 52(a) and (b) of the Wildlife Act.
Chasing Wildlife	55. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or the regulations, a person may chase wildlife away from a dwelling place, camp, work site, municipality or unincorporated community, or its immediate vicinity, if doing so is necessary to prevent injury or death to a person or damage to property.	"wildlife" means (a) all species of vertebrates and invertebrates found wild in nature in the Northwest Territories, and individuals of those species, except (i) fish as defined in section 2 of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> (Canada), and (ii) other prescribed species and subspecies, (b) species of wildlife referred to in paragraph (a) that are domesticated or held in captivity, and individuals of those species, and (c) prescribed species or subspecies of vertebrates and invertebrates, and individuals of those species or subspecies.
Defence of life and property	56. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or the regulations but subject to	

	<p>subsection (4), a person may harvest and consume wildlife or take and consume the eggs of birds if it is necessary to prevent starvation of a person.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or the regulations but subject to subsection (4), a person may kill wildlife if it is necessary to prevent injury or death to a person.</p> <p>(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or the regulations but subject to subsection (4) and any regulations specified as applying in respect of this section, a person may kill wildlife if it is necessary to prevent damage to property.</p> <p>(4) Subsections (1), (2) and (3) do not provide a defence to a contravention of this Act or the regulations for a person who resorts to harvesting or killing wildlife as a result of his or her mismanagement.</p>	
<p>Reporting</p>	<p>57. Subject to the regulations, a person shall, as soon as is practicable, report the harvest or kill of big game or other prescribed wildlife to an officer, if</p> <p>(a) under section 56, the person harvested big game or other prescribed wildlife to prevent starvation, or killed big game or other prescribed wildlife to prevent injury or death to a person or damage to property; and</p> <p>(b) the harvest or kill would, but for subsection 56(1), (2) or (3), be a contravention of this Act or the regulations.</p>	<p>Section 7 of the Wildlife General Regulations describes what information must be included in the report.</p>
<p>Accidental kill or wounding</p>	<p>58. A person who, with a motorized vehicle, accidentally kills or seriously wounds big game or other prescribed wildlife on a highway as defined in section 1 of the <i>Motor Vehicles Act</i>, shall report the event to an officer within the time fixed in the regulations.</p>	<p><i>Sub-section 8(1) of the Wildlife General Regulations specifies that any person who accidentally kills or seriously wounds big game or other prescribed wildlife with a motorized vehicle on a highway must report the event to an officer within 24 hours after the incident.</i></p>
<p>Feeding wildlife</p>	<p>65. (1) Subject to subsection (2), no person shall intentionally feed big game, fur-bearers or other prescribed wildlife.</p> <p>(2) Subsection (1) does not apply in respect of a person feeding wildlife lawfully kept in captivity or in circumstances permitted by</p>	<p><i>Schedule A – Part 2 of the Wildlife General Regulations sets out the species prescribed as fur-bearers</i></p>

	the regulations.	
Wildlife Attractants	<p>66. (1) No person shall deposit, place or leave in, on or about land or premises food, food waste or another substance if there is a reasonable likelihood that it could attract big game or other prescribed wildlife to the land or premises and endanger a person, a domestic animal or wildlife.</p> <p>(2) Subsection (1) does not apply in respect of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the drying or caching of meat, pelts or hides, except in a manner contrary to regulations respecting the treatment, caching and identification of wildlife and parts of wildlife left temporarily on the land; (b) a person lawfully harvesting furbearers with bait; or (c) other persons and circumstances exempted by the regulations. 	
Damage to habitat	<p>93. (1) No person shall substantially alter, damage or destroy habitat.</p> <p>(2) A person who establishes that he or she acted with legal justification in altering, damaging or destroying habitat shall not be convicted of an offence under subsection (1).</p>	<p>“habitat” means the area or type of site where a species or an individual of a species of wildlife naturally occurs or on which it depends, directly or indirectly, to carry out its life processes;</p>
Requirement for Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan	<p>95. (1) A developer or other person or body may be required, in accordance with the regulations, to prepare a wildlife management and monitoring plan for approval by the Minister, and to adhere to the approved plan, if the Minister is satisfied that a development, proposed development, or other activity is likely to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) result in a significant disturbance to big game or other prescribed wildlife; (b) substantially alter, damage or destroy habitat; (c) pose a threat of serious harm to wildlife or habitat; or (d) significantly contribute to cumulative impacts on a large number of big game or other prescribed wildlife, or on habitat 	<p>New regulations under the Wildlife Act define prescribed species as territorially managed wildlife (not migratory birds or fish) assessed or legally listed as species at risk under federal or NWT legislation.</p> <p>Information on species at risk in the NWT can be found at the NWT Species at Risk Website.</p> <p>Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan Guidelines will be released by July 2019.</p>
Contents of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan	<p>95. (2) A wildlife management and monitoring plan must include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a description of potential disturbance to big game and other prescribed wildlife, potential harm to wildlife and potential impacts on habitat; 	

	(b) a description of measures to be implemented for the mitigation of potential impacts; (c) the process for monitoring impacts and assessing whether mitigative measures are effective; and (d) other prescribed requirements.	
Species at Risk (NWT) Act		
Topic	Section of the Act or Regulations	Notes
Designated Habitat	80. No person shall destroy any part of designated habitat.	
Species conservation	151. (1) The Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Minister, may make regulations respecting the conservation of pre-listed species or listed species, including but not limited to (a) requiring the doing of things that may conserve the species; (b) prohibiting activities that may adversely affect the species; (d) imposing prohibitions against (i) killing, harming, harassing, capturing or taking an individual of a species,	For up-to-date information on Regulations and Permits issued under the Act go to http://nwt-species-at-risk.ca/en/Regulations
Habitat conservation	152. The Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Minister, may make regulations respecting the conservation of habitat of pre-listed species or listed species or the area in which the habitat is located or the surrounding area, including but not limited to (a) requiring the doing of things that may conserve the habitat or area; (b) prohibiting activities that may adversely affect the habitat or area; (c) imposing prohibitions against damaging or destroying the habitat or area; (d) controlling, restricting or prohibiting any use of, access to, or activity in the habitat or area; and (e) controlling, restricting or prohibiting the release of any substances in or into the habitat or area.	For up-to-date information on Regulations and Permits issued under the Act go to http://nwt-species-at-risk.ca/en/Regulations
Designating habitat	153. (1) The Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Minister, may, by regulation, designate habitat, or a component or combination of components of habitat, of a pre-listed species or a listed species.	For up-to-date information on Regulations and Permits issued under the Act go to http://nwt-species-at-risk.ca/en/Regulations
Designated habitat	154. The Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Minister, may make regulations respecting the conservation of	For up-to-date information on Regulations and Permits issued under the Act go to

	<p>designated habitat or the area in which designated habitat is located or the surrounding area, including but not limited to</p> <p>(a) requiring the doing of things that may conserve the designated habitat or area;</p> <p>(b) prohibiting activities that may adversely affect the designated habitat or area;</p> <p>(c) imposing prohibitions against damaging the designated habitat or area;</p> <p>(d) controlling, restricting or prohibiting any use of, access to, or activity in the designated habitat or area; and</p> <p>(e) controlling, restricting or prohibiting the release of any substances in or into the designated habitat or area.</p>	<p>http://nwt-species-at-risk.ca/en/Regulations</p>
Migratory Birds Convention Act		
Topic	Section of the Act or Regulations	Notes
Deposit of harmful substances	5.1 (1) No person or vessel shall deposit a substance that is harmful to migratory birds, or permit such a substance to be deposited, in waters or an area frequented by migratory birds or in a place from which the substance may enter such waters or such an area.	
Migratory Birds Regulations (federal) enabled under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i>		
Topic	Section of the Act or Regulations	Notes
Disturbance and/or destruction of migratory birds, their nests and eggs	<p>5(1) of the Migratory Bird Regulations states that no person shall hunt a migratory bird except under authority of a permit.</p> <p>6. Subject to subsection 5(9), no person shall</p> <p>(a) disturb, destroy or take a nest, egg, nest shelter, eider duck shelter or duck box of a migratory bird, or</p>	<p>"Hunt" means to chase, pursue, worry, follow after or on the trail of, lie in wait for, or attempt in any manner to capture, kill, injure or harass a migratory bird, whether or not the migratory bird is captured, killed or injured.</p> <p>Currently, the regulations do not provide for authorizations or permits for the inadvertent harming or killing of migratory birds and the disturbance or destruction of their nests and eggs (a.k.a. "incidental take") in the course of industrial or other activities.</p> <p>For further advice on how to avoid incidental take or reduce risks to migratory birds and their nests and eggs, refer to the avoidance guidelines and frequently asked questions related to the protection of migratory bird nests and eggs as well as the fact sheet "Planning Ahead to Reduce Risks to Migratory Bird Nests" at: http://www.ec.gc.ca/paom-</p>

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Species at Risk Act (federal)		
Topic	Section of the Act or Regulations	Notes
Killing, harming, etc., listed wildlife species	32. (1) No person shall kill, harm, harass, capture or take an individual of a wildlife species that is listed as an extirpated species, an endangered species or a threatened species.	“individual” means an individual of a wildlife species, whether living or dead, at any developmental stage and includes larvae, embryos, eggs, sperm, seeds, pollen, spores and asexual propagules.
Damage or destruction of residence	33. No person shall damage or destroy the residence of one or more individuals of a wildlife species that is listed as an endangered species or a threatened species, or that is listed as an extirpated species if a recovery strategy has recommended the reintroduction of the species into the wild in Canada.	“residence” means a dwelling-place, such as a den, nest or other similar area or place, that is occupied or habitually occupied by one or more individuals during all or part of their life cycles, including breeding, rearing, staging, wintering, feeding or hibernating.
Destruction of critical habitat	58. (1) Subject to this section, no person shall destroy any part of the critical habitat of any listed endangered species or of any listed threatened species — or of any listed extirpated species if a recovery strategy has recommended the reintroduction of the species into the wild in Canada — if (a) the critical habitat is on federal land, in the exclusive economic zone of Canada or on the continental shelf of Canada; (b) the listed species is an aquatic species; or (c) the listed species is a species of migratory birds protected by the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994.	“critical habitat” means the habitat that is necessary for the survival or recovery of a listed wildlife species and that is identified as the species’ critical habitat in the recovery strategy or in an action plan for the species.
Destruction of critical habitat	61. (1) No person shall destroy any part of the critical habitat of a listed endangered species or a listed threatened species that is in a province or territory and that is not part of federal lands. (1.1) Subsection (1) does not apply in respect of (a) an aquatic species; or (b) the critical habitat of a species of bird that is a migratory bird protected by the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994</i> that is habitat referred to in subsection 58(5.1). (2) Subsection (1) applies only to the portions of the critical habitat that the Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Minister, by order, specify.	

<p>Agreements and Permits</p>	<p>73. (1) The competent minister may enter into an agreement with a person, or issue a permit to a person, authorizing the person to engage in an activity affecting a listed wildlife species, any part of its critical habitat or the residences of its individuals.</p> <p>2) The agreement may be entered into, or the permit issued, only if the competent minister is of the opinion that</p> <p>(a) the activity is scientific research relating to the conservation of the species and conducted by qualified persons;</p> <p>(b) the activity benefits the species or is required to enhance its chance of survival in the wild; or</p> <p>(c) affecting the species is incidental to the carrying out of the activity.</p> <p>(3) The agreement may be entered into, or the permit issued, only if the competent minister is of the opinion that</p> <p>(a) all reasonable alternatives to the activity that would reduce the impact on the species have been considered and the best solution has been adopted;</p> <p>(b) all feasible measures will be taken to minimize the impact of the activity on the species or its critical habitat or the residences of its individuals; and</p> <p>(c) the activity will not jeopardize the survival or recovery of the species.</p>	
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