

EKA WI. 2115.33 Incidental Wildlife Survey

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Brief Description:	Protocol for monitoring and recording incidental wildlife sightings reported at the Ekati Diamond Mine.

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Task Description:

Record wildlife sightings occurring outside of planned surveys, including observations of wildlife made by staff outside of the environment department.

HSE Information / Safety Risks:

- Equipment Interactions
- Wildlife Encounters
- Slips, Trips & Falls

Additional Resources Required:

- Light vehicle
- Radio for communication with the environment department and heavy vehicles
- Binoculars & spotting scope with tripod
- GPS and spare batteries
- Camera
- Incidental survey forms, clipboard and pencil
- *Peterson's Field Guide to Animal Tracks; Sibley's Field Guide to Birds*

Work Preparation:

1. Be familiar with the species of wildlife that you are likely to encounter on any given day including migratory birds and species defined as valued ecosystem components in the Environmental Agreement (Grizzly bear, wolverine, caribou and wolves). You need to be comfortable identifying caribou herd composition, wildlife behavior and habitat identification to complete this survey.
2. If you are not comfortable with the requirements above, you can bring the wildlife and habitat reference sheets posted in the wildlife office.

Work Execution Steps:

1. Complete a JHA describing all risks and the steps taken to eliminate these risks.
2. When wildlife is observed, record the following information:
 - Date, species of wildlife, number of animals, age and sex. If caribou are present record the composition of the herd.
 - Location, using UTMs if possible, or grid map number with location description.
 - Dominant behavior (e.g. B = Bedded, F = Feeding, W = Walking; see survey form for a list of behavior codes) and breeding evidence for birds (see bottom of survey form).
 - Comments should contain a note if any photos were taken and any pertinent comments related to unusual behaviour or anything out of the ordinary. Take photos of interesting wildlife/wildlife sign observations. Save only the best or most representative photo on SharePoint with the

following naming conventions yyyy-mm-dd Location Subject (e.g wolf track)

3. Return to the Wildlife Technician office and enter data collected into the corresponding Excel spread sheet on SharePoint. Have the Wildlife Tech who did not enter the data complete QA/AC and scan the completed form and save on SharePoint.

General Remarks:

- Separate field sheets incidental for mammals, caribou and birds.
- When caribou are observed, immediately initiate a behavioural survey on the animals.

Appendix

Approval signatures record