

FIELD STUDIES INFORMATION SHEET

Habitat and Mapping Ground Surveys: August - October 2011

The Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C) is now in Stage 3, the environmental and regulatory review phase, which will include an independent environmental assessment. Stage 3 work includes conducting environmental and engineering field studies on and around the Peace River between the Williston Reservoir and the Alberta border. BC Hydro formally entered the environmental assessment process in May 2011 with the submission of a Project Description Report to the provincial and federal environmental assessment agencies.

Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM) surveys and ground truthing for the wildlife species model will be completed between August 1 and October 31, 2011 in the Peace Region. The surveys will verify the results and increase the accuracy of the 1:50,000 biophysical map of the region that was updated in 2010 and conduct the ground truthing needed to finalize draft wildlife species models.

The completed biophysical mapping will provide information on the distribution and abundance of ecosystems in the area adjacent to the proposed Site C project, while the wildlife species models will be used to assess potential project effects on individual wildlife species.

Areas targeted for ground truthing to verify the 1:50,000 mapping will be located in the regional study area outside of the TEM mapped area. Surveys will target ecosystems under-sampled in 2010 and those that were difficult to characterize from air photography.

Several ecosystems mapped on the TEM may represent ecological communities at risk. These sites will also be targeted for field sampling in order to verify the occurrence of these communities.

Field sampling will be conducted by foot and or boat.

For further information, please contact:
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- BC Hydro is conducting ecosystem mapping in the Peace Region
- The study will complete the field surveys needed to finalize draft wildlife species models
- Field sampling will be conducted by foot and or boat
- BC Hydro will obtain permissions before land is accessed
- Keystone Wildlife Research is leading the work