

FIELD STUDIES INFORMATION SHEET

Avian Surveys: March – September 2014

The Site C Clean Energy Project is currently undergoing a cooperative environmental assessment by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office. BC Hydro is continuing to conduct environmental and engineering field studies on and around the Peace River between the Williston Reservoir and the Alberta border to inform detailed mitigation and monitoring planning. Project construction will not take place unless Site C receives environmental certification, regulatory permits and authorizations, and approvals to proceed.

Throughout the spring and summer of 2014, BC Hydro will be conducting avian field studies within and adjacent to the Peace River valley between Hudson's Hope and the Alberta border. These studies are being conducted to collect additional data to inform the development of wildlife mitigation and monitoring plans. The surveys will collect data on the presence and activity status of Bald Eagle nests along the Peace River and its major tributaries, and the use of the Peace River by early migrating waterfowl.

Helicopter-based surveys will be used to locate Bald Eagle nests. Previously documented nest sites will be re-visited to confirm the nest is still present and determine if it is active or inactive. New nests will be logged and their activity status determined. Nests will be considered active if they are occupied by a bird or egg. At the end of the breeding season, active nests will be re-surveyed to determine the number of young that the nest produced. Bald Eagle nest surveys will be completed in the early spring (late March), in May to determine nesting activity, and in August to record fledgling success.

Waterfowl surveys will involve using a low-flying helicopter over the river. The number, species and sex of early migrating waterfowl will be recorded. The surveys will take place once a month in late March, mid-April and May and will take place over the course of six hours per day.

Field study updates are available at www.sitecproject.com and in the Community Consultation offices in Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope.

For further information, please contact:
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AVIAN SURVEYS March – September 2014

- BC Hydro is conducting spring waterfowl and Bald Eagle nest surveys in the Peace River Region.
- The study involves the use of a low-flying helicopter over the Peace River and its major tributaries from Hudson's Hope to the B.C. / Alberta border.
- Keystone Wildlife Research is leading the work.