

FIELD STUDIES INFORMATION SHEET

March – September 2011: Avian Study Program

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 anticipates formally entering the environmental assessment process in early 2011 with the submission of a Project Description Report to the provincial and federal environmental assessment agencies.

Throughout the spring and summer of 2011, BC Hydro will be continuing to conduct avian field studies initiated in 2010 within and adjacent to the Peace River valley between Hudson's Hope and the Alberta border. The objectives of the studies are to gather data on the presence and habitat use of select bird species both within the proposed Site C project area and the region.

The 2011 avian field studies will collect additional data on breeding season use and the importance of the Peace River valley and adjacent habitats for northern goshawk, broad-winged hawk, owls, grouse, marsh birds, songbirds and swallows through species-specific surveys. Helicopter based surveys for conspicuous raptor stick nests will also be conducted.

Work will include ground based surveys (boat, foot and/or vehicle based) which will be completed using a combination of call playback surveys, point counts and nest searches. During call playback surveys, calls of target species are broadcast to stimulate vocal responses from territorial males and/or breeding pairs. During point counts for songbirds, surveyors listen and record all birds heard singing or observed.

Suspected nesting of raptors (hawks and owls) will be investigated by searching the area around the sighting for nests or young birds. Previously documented nest sites will be re-visited to determine occupancy. Once located, the characteristics of the nest will be described.

For further information, please contact:
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AVIAN STUDY PROGRAM March – September 2011

- BC Hydro is conducting avian field studies in the Peace River Region
- Keystone Wildlife Research is leading the work
- Work will be conducted by Registered Professional Biologists
- Work will be conducted to Resource Inventory Committee Standards