

FIELD STUDIES INFORMATION SHEET

December 2010 – BC Hydro Fisher Study Program

The Site C Clean Energy Project is now in the 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.

BC Hydro is initiating a fisher monitoring study in December 2010. Fishers are members of the weasel family. They are about 60 cm in length and weigh 3 to 5 kg (6 to 11 lbs). They are a forest dwelling carnivore. BC Hydro is studying fishers because they are a provincially important species, they are harvested for their fur, and they have specific needs for trees with large cavities for denning. This study will further BC Hydro's understanding of fisher habitat use and movement patterns in and adjacent to the Peace River Valley. Developed in consultation with the Ministry of Environment, the study methodology and approach meet current best practices and Wildlife Act Permit requirements.

The study area extends from the Peace Canyon Dam to the confluence of the Pine and Peace Rivers on both sides of the Peace River. The study area runs along the north and south banks of the river, and extends up the banks and along the plateau. Instrumented animals may travel outside of these boundaries, and when this occurs, they will be followed to their location.

The study begins with setting-out capture stations, hair sampling stations and pre-baiting activities within the north and south study areas. Capture of individual fisher will occur between January and March 2011. During this time, approximately 25 to 30 fishers will be outfitted with radio-transmitters.

Over the next two years, both fixed-wing and ground based telemetry will be used to track instrumented fishers. This data will be analyzed to determine habitat use and movement patterns; DNA analysis from collected hair samples will be used to understand the current population of fishers; and data on fisher's use and location of den trees will be collected via ground based surveys.

For further information, please contact:
Kate O'Neil, Community Relations
Site C Clean Energy Project
Community Consultation Office – Fort St. John
Office: 250-785-3415 Cell: 250-793-5416

FISHER STUDY PROGRAM December 2010

- BC Hydro is studying the ecology of fishers in the Peace Region
- BC Hydro will obtain the necessary permissions before land is accessed
- All capture work will be conducted under a Wildlife Act permit
- BC Hydro has been communicating with trappers in the study area
- Keystone Wildlife Research is leading the work