

## Highland Valley Copper 2040 Fact Sheet: Wildlife Management



### About Highland Valley Copper 2040

Teck's **Highland Valley Copper Operations (HVC)** is proposing the **Highland Valley Copper 2040 Project (HVC 2040)** to extend the life of the operation to at least 2040, through an extension of the existing site infrastructure. HVC 2040 allows for the continuation of social and economic benefits, while also helping to meet the growing demand for copper driven by the transition to a low-carbon future. HVC 2040 would yield approximately 1.95 billion tonnes of additional copper over the life of the Project.

HVC recognizes the importance of wildlife and biodiversity. Biodiversity is the abundance and variety of living organisms and ecosystems in nature, and protecting it is integral to sustainability. HVC operates in a region with diverse ecosystems, including wetlands, creeks, grasslands, and forested areas. Mining activities can have impacts on plants, animals, and their habitats, both directly and indirectly. To manage these impacts, HVC works to minimize its footprint, mitigate impacts, reclaim mining areas for the use of future generations, and continually research and monitor the environment in which we operate. HVC has implemented a Wildlife Management Plan and Reclamation Program with the aim of achieving a net positive impact on biodiversity in the long term.

### Wildlife Management Overview

HVC manages wildlife through a site-wide Wildlife Management Plan and Reclamation Program.

The overall objective of HVC's Wildlife Management Plan is to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate effects on wildlife and biodiversity. It also seeks to minimize impacts to areas of cultural and traditional significance for Indigenous Peoples.

Through the Wildlife Management Plan, special attention is paid to wildlife habitats during periods of greatest sensitivity (e.g., migration, breeding activities) as well as species of conservation concern.

These objectives are achieved by various means including:

- Techniques to avoid disturbance to wildlife and wildlife habitat where possible or mitigate when needed
- Wildlife monitoring programs
- Wildlife surveys
- Environmental awareness training for HVC employees and contractors

### Wildlife Habitats and Studies

HVC has conducted a number of wildlife studies and monitoring programs to monitor and better understand activity on site. These studies have included:

- Aerial surveys and trail cameras utilized to monitor population and health of various wildlife, such as ungulates, wild cats, and furbearers.
- A multi-year nest box monitoring program focussing on bluebirds and swallows with over 250 boxes constructed, distributed, and monitored around HVC. By providing abundant nesting habitat, the number of bluebirds has increased over the last 10 years to healthy enough levels to be considered a sustainable population.
- A migratory bird survey, which identified 192 species utilizing the Highmont Wetland (a rare high elevation wetland), that was created on a reclaimed tailings pond.

Regular surveys of various wildlife allows HVC to monitor and update the Wildlife Management Plan to keep it current and applicable to species on the HVC site.

## **HVC 2040 Wildlife Management**

HVC 2040 will result in approximately 804 hectares of additional land disturbance around the HVC site. To complete the environmental assessment and regulatory permitting process for the Project, HVC has undertaken field surveys to identify ecosystems and wildlife habitat in the area to support habitat suitability modelling.

Through the environmental assessment process, HVC will conduct surface water quality and quantity modelling and groundwater modelling to determine potential surface or groundwater impacts as a result of construction, operation, and closure of the Project. The modelling work will inform the development of any necessary additional mitigation measures.

## **Engagement and Assessment Processes**

As the existing Wildlife Management Plan continues to be adaptively managed and updated, HVC will reach out to Indigenous Governments and Organizations and other stakeholders for input. This feedback will help the Wildlife Management Plan continue to meet the needs of local communities. An updated plan will be developed as part of the Indigenous-led and Provincial assessment processes.

## **Engage with Us**

Throughout both the construction and operation of HVC 2040, HVC will continue to monitor wildlife in, and around, HVC, and work to continue protecting wildlife and enhance biodiversity through evolving mitigation and management strategies. We want to hear from you about our Wildlife Management Plan and the future of HVC. Email [HVC2040.feedback@teck.com](mailto:HVC2040.feedback@teck.com) or call 1.855.523.3429 to share your feedback, and visit [teck.com](https://teck.com) to learn more.