

# Biodiversity and Reclamation



Pictured above: Burrowing Owl at North of Chile.

## Biodiversity and Reclamation

With nearly one million animal and plant species now threatened with extinction,<sup>10</sup> the United Nations has declared 2021–2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Several multilateral organizations have highlighted the need for urgent and transformational action by companies, governments and civil society to curb biodiversity loss and its impact on ecosystems.

By their nature, mining operations have the potential to directly and indirectly impact biodiversity and ecosystems. Stakeholder expectations and regulatory requirements are increasing in response to widening recognition of these impacts.

Teck's operations are adjacent to or within areas of high biodiversity value, including temperate and arctic areas, mountains, forests and deserts. This proximity, combined with the nature of our operations, makes land and biodiversity management a high priority. As such, we work collaboratively with stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples to develop integrated approaches to land use and employ the

biodiversity mitigation hierarchy to avoid, minimize, rehabilitate or offset our impacts. In accordance with the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) commitments, we do not explore or mine in World Heritage sites and we respect all legally designated protected areas, including International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) category Ia, Ib, II, III and IV protected areas. To achieve our strategic priority of working towards securing a net positive impact on biodiversity in areas affected by our activities, all our operations have biodiversity management plans that they will continue to implement over the next five years.

### GRI Indicators and Topic Boundary

304-103, 304-1, 304-2, 304-3, 304-4, G4-MM1, G4-MM2, G4 MM10

This topic is considered most material by government, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and society in the context of all Teck sites that are in an active, care and maintenance, or closure state.

### How Does Teck Manage This Topic?

Information about how we manage biodiversity and reclamation, including relevant policies, management practices and systems, is available for [download on our website](#).

<sup>10</sup> Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). 2019.

## 2020 Highlights

5,930  
hectares

of total land  
reclaimed

Finalized a Joint Management Agreement with the Ktunaxa Nation Council for more than **7,000 hectares of land** purchased by Teck in southeastern British Columbia in 2013 for conservation; under the Agreement, the **Ktunaxa Nation and Teck will jointly manage the land for conservation purposes**, protecting significant fish and wildlife habitat.

## Our Performance in Biodiversity and Reclamation in 2020

**Our Targets and Commitments** The following table summarizes our performance against our new sustainability strategy and goals for biodiversity and reclamation.

Sustainability Strategy Goal	Status	Summary of Progress in 2020
Strategic Priority: Work towards securing a net positive impact on biodiversity		
<b>Goal:</b> By 2025, all operating sites have and are implementing plans to secure net positive impact.	On track	Continued advancing implementation of existing biodiversity management plans for operating sites and conducted gap assessment to identify key work that will be required to fulfill our 2025 goal.

### Case Study: Klinse-Za Caribou Pen Project

In the mid-1990s, almost 200 caribou lived in the Klinse-Za caribou herd in northeast B.C. By 2014, the herd had declined to less than 20. The Klinse-Za maternal penning project was launched that year to support the recovery of the herd, led by the West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations in partnership with the technical expertise of Wildlife Infometrics Inc. and West Fraser Integrated Forestry, with funding support from the government and industry sponsors, including Teck. The penning program is located in the Peace region of British Columbia, near Teck's former Quintette

Operations, which closed in 2000. When the program started, there were only 36 caribou left in the region after decades of excessive predation - 16 in the Klinse-Za herd and 20 in the nearby Scott herd. As of December 2020, the combined population sits at 95 caribou as a result of conservation efforts. Supporting the Klinse-Za penning project aligns with our commitment to responsible resource development and with our vision to achieve a net positive impact on biodiversity. Read the full case study at [teck.com/news/stories](https://teck.com/news/stories).

**Table 10: Key Activities and Accomplishments in Biodiversity and Reclamation in 2020**

Operation	Performance Highlight
Highland Valley Copper Operations	Installed permanent sample plots in benchmark native vegetation and initiated a series of native ecosystem restoration trials.
Elk Valley steelmaking coal operations	<p>Fording River Operations began a reclamation trial aimed at re-establishing high-elevation grasslands in bighorn sheep winter ranges. This trial also incorporates the design of wetter areas and specific landform elements into waste rock dump re-sloping/revegetation projects.</p> <p>Line Creek Operations constructed bird shelters, with the aim of diverting cliff swallows away from buildings and equipment.</p>
Cardinal River Operations	Updated closure regulatory submission with findings from an ongoing grizzly bear study. The study, which was initiated in 1998 as a result of the Cheviot Mine Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) decision and funded in part by Teck, reached more substantiated and positive conclusions about the impacts of mining on grizzly bears than had been assumed in the EIA.

**Achieving Net Positive Impact (NPI)**

For Teck, achieving NPI means that biodiversity gains realized through mitigation activities in the regions where we operate exceed biodiversity losses from the impacts of our operations. Our operations use quantitative metrics to demonstrate NPI on natural terrestrial, marine and other aquatic habitats and ecosystems; on critical landscape functions; and on biodiversity elements prioritized by stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples, including irreplaceable or highly threatened populations and species of plants and animals.

To secure NPI, each of our operations has a biodiversity management plan (BMP), which is aligned with the ICMM Performance Expectation 7.2, and the Mining Association of Canada’s Towards Sustainable Mining (MAC TSM) Biodiversity Conservation Management Protocol. We use

these plans to track potential impacts, mitigation actions and associated engagement with stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples.

In 2020, all Teck sites continued to implement their BMPs. We conducted an external scan and gap assessment to guide our work on securing NPI, the results of which will form the basis of our site workplans in 2021.

**Area Reclaimed and Disturbed**

At the end of 2020, Teck had a total footprint of 33,578 hectares (ha), of which 27,648 ha are yet to be reclaimed and 5,930 ha have been reclaimed. As this data relates to operations and sites in care and maintenance, the area of land yet to be reclaimed will generally increase over time until the mining areas are closed and become available for reclamation.

**Table 11: Area Reclaimed and Disturbed<sup>(1)</sup>**

	2020 <sup>(2)</sup>	2019 <sup>(2)</sup>	2018 <sup>(2)</sup>	2017
Area reclaimed during the current year (ha)	212	18	31	30
Area disturbed during the current year (ha)	1,094	1,846	1,018	388
Area of land yet to be reclaimed (ha)	27,648	26,683	24,914 <sup>(3)</sup>	23,922 <sup>(3)</sup>
Total area of land reclaimed (ha)	5,930	5,781	5,705 <sup>(3)</sup>	5,878 <sup>(3)</sup>
<b>Total footprint (ha)</b>	<b>33,578</b>	32,464	30,619	29,800

(1) The area of land disturbed in the current year may include land that was previously reclaimed and has been re-disturbed. The total area of land reclaimed may decrease in a year, due to unsuccessful reclamation attempts or the mining of a previously reclaimed area. Total footprint is the sum of total area of land yet to be reclaimed and total area of land reclaimed. Values are based on estimates stemming from the use of Geographic Information Systems.

(2) Quebrada Blanca Phase 2 Project data has been included, as it is an active project with land disturbance.

(3) In an effort to constantly refine the values, annual surveys are conducted and estimates are refined, which may lead to restatements of historical values.

## Significant Incidents and Non-Compliance Related to Biodiversity<sup>11</sup>

We assess the severity of environmental incidents based on the potential environmental, safety, community, reputational and financial impacts. Based on our incident severity criteria,

there were no significant incidents related to biodiversity in 2020. There were also no significant charges, fines and penalties for non-compliance related to biodiversity in 2020.

For information on our management of water quality in the Elk Valley, see pages 14–15.

## Closure and Closure Planning

Our approach to mine closure begins before mining starts and carries on throughout the life cycle of the mine. We engage with Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the area on our closure planning, with a focus on supporting the economic and social transition after mining ends. We create closure plans grounded in our closure principles. This includes ensuring safety and stability, promoting socioeconomic transition and contributing to risk mitigation. For more information, see the Biodiversity and Reclamation page on [our website](#).

Closure activities progressed in 2020 at our operations where mining has recently concluded:

- **Duck Pond Operations** implemented additional groundwater management measures and progressed soil remediation while continuing to operate water treatment

- **Coal Mountain Operations** which is in care and maintenance, continued to develop and implement innovative rehabilitation and water management activities
- **Cardinal River Operations** announced its closure in 2020 and advanced closure activities, including the development of a conceptual closure and reclamation plan, and an integrated water management plan for closure and engagement with Indigenous groups and communities, and non-Indigenous stakeholders
- **Pend Oreille Operations** which is in care and maintenance, advanced closure mitigation studies and prefeasibility studies at its tailings facility

## Post-Closure

A legacy property is a property previously explored, constructed, operated or acquired by Teck that is in an inactive state (no longer being explored, developed or operated), not expected to become active again and

permanently closed. In total, we actively undertake management actions on 28 properties, and we track the status of eight other properties that are owned and managed by third parties.

<sup>11</sup> Definition of significant environmental incidents is on page 14.