

# Biodiversity and Reclamation



## Biodiversity and Reclamation

With more than half of the world's economic output moderately or highly dependent on nature,<sup>4</sup> biodiversity loss and the related impacts on ecosystems represent a significant risk to companies, governments and civil society. As global understanding of ecosystem services improves, it has become clear that protecting, conserving and restoring nature is critical to help address climate change.<sup>5</sup> Recognizing this, in 2021, the Glasgow Climate Pact emphasized the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems.<sup>6</sup> Global market-led initiatives supported by governments and financial institutions, such as the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, are also supporting greater action on preserving and enhancing biodiversity.

Mining activities can have direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems. In response to the potential for these impacts, regulatory requirements in many jurisdictions are becoming increasingly stringent. Teck aims to avoid, minimize or rehabilitate the effects of negative impacts on biodiversity at our operations. We have made a commitment to not explore or mine in World Heritage sites and to respect all legally designated protected areas, including International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) category Ia, Ib, II, III or IV protected areas. Our activities

span a range of areas of high biodiversity value, and we continue to work towards securing a net positive impact on biodiversity. With operations within or adjacent to temperate, arctic, forested, mountain and desert landscapes, land and biodiversity management is a priority for Teck. The Indigenous Peoples, communities and other stakeholders in the areas where we operate expect us to contribute to the protection, conservation and restoration of biodiversity, and we work collaboratively with them to develop our approach to land use.

### 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 one of the most material by government, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and society in the context of all Teck sites that are in an active 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>4</sup> Major financial institutions, corporates and governments endorse launch of Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures. TNFD. 2021.

<sup>5</sup> IPBES-IPCC Co-Sponsored Biodiversity and Climate Change Workshop Report. IPBES-IPCC. 2021. <sup>6</sup> Adaptation at the Forefront of COP26 Outcomes in Glasgow. UNFCCC. 2021.

## 2021 Highlights

**129**  
hectares (ha)

of total land  
reclaimed

Implemented the Elk Valley's largest rehabilitation program to date, with over **800 ha revegetated**

Received government approval for **Quebrada Blanca's compensatory Yurugaico Protection Area**

## Our Performance in Biodiversity and Reclamation in 2021

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

Sustainability Strategy Goal	Status	Summary of Progress in 2021
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	Advanced the implementation of biodiversity management plans for operating sites and conducted gap assessments to identify key work that will be required to meet our 2025 goal.  Finalized an updated the Teck Closure Standard that includes biodiversity requirements, and updated our Bird Guideline for Canadian sites, which informs site-level plans and actions to achieve net positive impact (NPI).

## Performance Metrics

### Indicator

Number of sites with completed gap assessments to identify key NPI activities

**2021:** 13 sites

### Indicator

Area reclaimed during the current year

**2021:** 129 ha

**Table 6: Key Activities and Accomplishments in Biodiversity and Reclamation in 2021**

Operation	Performance Highlight
Cardinal River mine	Executed a significant reclamation project in the site’s MacKenzie Redcap area. Work included road decommissioning, soil placement, creek crossing removal and water management infrastructure removal. This reclamation has reduced the need to further actively manage water using pumps in these areas, reducing risk to the environment.
Elk Valley steelmaking coal operations	<p>Achieved over 180 ha of land recontouring, 300 ha of site preparation and 800 ha revegetated in 2021, as part of the Elk Valley’s largest rehabilitation program to date.</p> <p>Utilized new analytical tools, leading to more informed conservation strategies, activities and measurement of results. These tools were used to monitor species such as the federally endangered whitebark pine. Roughly 10,000 seedlings were planted at the Fording River Henretta High Elevation Grassland Trial, creating a new whitebark pine habitat.</p> <p>Collected seeds from 45 native plants from the region, many of which are unavailable commercially, to support native plant reclamation efforts.</p> <p>Initiated a new project to investigate bighorn sheep use of mine-impacted landscapes in the Elk Valley.</p> <p>Rehabilitated 20 kilometres (km) of roads, including 60 exploration drill pads and removed 40 culverts.</p> <p>Performed full reconnection of Chauncey Creek through a culvert removal and highway bridge project, reconnecting approximately 14km of habitat, in order to address recovery of the westslope cutthroat trout.</p>
Highland Valley Copper Operations	Continued several research programs focused on aspects of ecosystem reclamation including aquatic and riparian areas, soil microbial communities and prescribed burning.
Carmen de Andacollo Operations	Continued the work at our El Runco biodiversity area, designed to protect representative biodiversity in the Andacollo Region. The site includes a seed nursery protecting over 4,200 endemic species and is also used for endangered cacti species relocated from the operating area. In addition to new planting on-site in 2021, Peruvian pepper trees were donated to schools in Andacollo for urban planting.
Quebrada Blanca Operations	Obtained approval from the government of Chile for Teck’s proposed compensatory Yuruguaico Protection Area. Conservation studies and plans were undertaken for a Peruvian tern nesting colony and marine otters in the vicinity of the port, and for vicuñas and vizcachas near the mine site and roads.
Trail Operations	Completed the expansion of our Grohman Narrows conservation area. Rare brushland plant communities were identified and mapped for the Lower Columbia valley.

## Working to Achieve a 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) that is aligned with the International Council on Mining and Metals (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 and plan mitigation actions, and associated engagement with stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples.

In 2021, all Teck sites continued to implement their BMPs. We conducted an internal gap assessment to guide our work on securing NPI, the results of which have formed the basis of our site workplans in 2021–2025. In 2021, we also finalized our Closure Standard, which includes requirements relevant to site-level BMPs.

**Table 7: Number and Percentage of Operations with Biodiversity Management Plans (BMPs) in place**

Operation	2021	2020
Number of Operations with BMPs in place	9	9
Percentage of Total Operations with BMPs in place	100%	100%

## Case Study: Working with Local Communities to Create the Alconcha Salt Flat Conservation Area

As part of our work on securing a net positive impact on biodiversity, Teck partnered with the Ollagüe Quechua community to develop a biodiversity conservation area for the Alconcha Salt Flat, a unique and high-value wetland ecosystem near our Quebrada Blanca Operations. The initiative, a first of its kind in Chile, demonstrates the

innovative results that can come from collaboration between industry and communities. In addition to leading to the creation of an important conservation area, this work will also protect and preserve water rights for the communities and ecosystems in the area. Read the full case study at [teck.com/news/stories](https://teck.com/news/stories).

## Area Reclaimed and Disturbed

At the end of 2021, Teck had a total footprint of 34,152 hectares (ha), of which 28,026 ha are yet to be reclaimed and 6,126 ha have been reclaimed. As this data relates to both active and

closed sites, the area of land yet to be reclaimed will generally increase over time until the mining areas become available for reclamation.

**Table 8: Area Reclaimed and Disturbed<sup>(1)</sup>**

	2021 <sup>(2)</sup>	2020 <sup>(3)</sup>	2019 <sup>(3)</sup>	2018
Area reclaimed during the current year (ha)	129	212	18	31
Area disturbed during the current year (ha)	506	1,094	1,846	1,018
Area of land yet to be reclaimed (ha)	28,026	27,648	26,683	24,914
Total area of land reclaimed (ha)	6,126	5,930	5,781	5,705
<b>Total footprint (ha)</b>	<b>34,152</b>	33,578	32,464	30,619

(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) Includes data from our active operations, as well as our Cardinal River mine, Coal Mountain mine and Pend Oreille mine. Does not include Duck Pond mine.

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

## Significant Incidents and Non-Compliance Related to Biodiversity<sup>7</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 2021. See page 55 in the Water Stewardship chapter for more information on the resolution of charges under the *Fisheries Act*.

## 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 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 socio-economic transition and contributing to risk mitigation. For more information, see the Biodiversity and Reclamation page on [our website](#).

In 2021, we finalized a new Closure Standard, which provides mandatory requirements for the effective management of mine closure at Teck. As of 2021, 100% of Teck's operations have considered the impacts of closure, including the cost of decommissioning and reclamation. 50% of current, active operations have comprehensive closure plans. Closure activities progressed in 2021 at our operations where mining has recently concluded:

- **Duck Pond mine** advanced closure work including demolition of the mill and continued progression of groundwater management measures and soil remediation while continuing to operate water treatment
- **Coal Mountain mine (CMm)** completed work on one of Teck's highest-consequence dams to significantly reduce the health, safety and environmental risks to downstream communities and aquatic ecosystems; CMm also progressed innovative rehabilitation initiatives and supported the advancement of ongoing water-related research and development
- **Cardinal River mine** submitted regulatory closure applications, including updated closure and reclamation plans
- **Pend Oreille mine** advanced closure engineering studies while continuing water management and treatment operations

## 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 manage 29 properties, and we track the status of six other properties that are owned and managed by third parties.

<sup>7</sup> Definition of significant environmental incidents is on page 50.