

# WILDLIFE SWEEPS

Wildlife sweeps in Alberta are required year-round. Both federal and provincial legislation contain legal obligations regarding the protection of breeding, nesting, and denning wildlife.

The following should be considered when planning a project:

- Wildlife and their features have legal protections that vary depending on location, type of activity, time of year, and regulatory authority.
- Some wildlife features (e.g., dancing grounds [leks], den sites, amphibian breeding ponds, nests, etc.) have associated regulatory setback guidelines.
- The recommended setback distance from [wildlife features](#) varies depending on:
  - type of feature and wildlife
  - type of development
  - level of disturbance
  - construction schedule
- Non-migratory birds are protected under the Alberta Wildlife Act and can start nesting as early as January under the right weather conditions.
- The general migratory bird nesting period may start as early as mid-March and extend until late-August, but the season varies regionally and is dependent on weather conditions.
- The new Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022 provide protection to migratory bird nests when they contain a live bird or a viable egg. Year-round protection remains for inactive and active nests built by 18 migratory bird species (listed in Schedule 1 of the regulations), whose nests are often reused. A project may be in violation of legal requirements if an active nest built by a Schedule 1 species is damaged, destroyed, or disturbed without following the conditions stated under section 5 (2) of the regulations.
- Wildlife assessments must be completed by a qualified individual who possesses the appropriate skills, experience, education, and training.





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### TECHNICAL ALERT

#### HOW WE CAN HELP

To prevent an activity from contravening federal and provincial legislation or approval conditions of a project authorization, a wildlife sweep is required prior to construction where wildlife and wildlife habitat may be impacted.

Additionally, if project disturbance activities are not continuous throughout a project area and for the duration of a project following a wildlife sweep, additional sweeps are required to ensure wildlife have not initiated a new nest or den during periods of project inactivity.

Summit has a team of experienced wildlife and regulatory specialists who can determine where and when wildlife sweeps are required for your projects.

For additional information visit our website at [summitearth.com](http://summitearth.com), call your Summit representative or contact these area specific numbers.

British Columbia, NW & S Alberta

Call: 403 818 4129

NE Alberta and N Saskatchewan

Call: 403 802 3649

S Saskatchewan & Manitoba Call: 306 281 3311



#### HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

Summit is committed to protecting the health and safety of our employees, contractors and the public in the communities in which we work and live. Our **Work Smart, Work Safe** focus is integral to our day-to-day business practices.

Safety is a Summit core value that is integrated into our culture at every level. We not only practice and focus on safety daily in our operations; we strive to educate, continuously improve and evolve our policies and practices.



#### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & PERMITTING
- CONSTRUCTION & ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION/ MANAGEMENT
- REMEDIATION & RISK MANAGEMENT
- RECLAMATION & RESTORATION CONSULTING
- DRILLING WASTE MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS
- PIPELINE, FACILITY AND WELLHEAD DECOMMISSIONING AND ABANDONMENT
- ICT, WATERJET AND CONVENTIONAL CUT AND CAPS
- HYDROGEOLOGY & WATER MANAGEMENT
- SPILL RESPONSE & REMEDIATION