



TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

DATE April 3, 2025

Project No. CA-EI-CW238404

TO Darryl Drohomerski
Town of Drumheller

FROM Alannah Gallo

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PRE-CONSTRUCTION WILDLIFE SWEEP RESULTS FOR THE ROSEDALE BERM WITHIN THE TOWN OF DRUMHELLER

1 INTRODUCTION

The Town of Drumheller (Drumheller) retained WSP Canada Inc. (WSP) to conduct a wildlife sweep prior to construction activities for the Rosedale flood prevention berm between the Red Deer River and the Rosedale residences within the town of Drumheller, approximately 8 km southeast of the Drumheller downtown. This memo contains the wildlife sweep results for the Rosedale berm with a focus on the areas where drilling was to occur along the berm.

Wildlife sweeps are required to meet the Alberta Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions (MSSC; Government of Alberta [GOA] 2024). A wildlife sweep is conducted by a Qualified Professional as close to the first day of construction as possible to assess the proposed project area and surrounding site to identify important wildlife features (e.g., nests, dens) that must be avoided during associated activities (GOA 2020).

The 2022 update to the Migratory Birds Regulations (MBR) under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (MBCA) protect the active and inactive nests of 18 species, including pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). Pileated woodpecker roosting and feeding cavities are not protected under the updated MBR. Pileated woodpecker nests require registration through Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) Abandoned Nest Registry (GOC 2022a) and confirmation of non-occupancy by any migratory bird over 36 months prior to removal of the tree containing the nest cavity (GOC 2022b).

2 METHODS

As per the Wildlife Sweep Protocols: Sensitive Species Inventory Guidelines (the Wildlife Sweep Protocols; (GOA 2020), wildlife sweeps should be conducted within 10 days of the start of activities by a qualified professional unless alternative timing has been justified to assess the proposed project and surrounding area to identify important wildlife features (e.g., raptor stick nests, pileated woodpecker nest cavities, dens). Disturbance to important wildlife features must be avoided during construction activities (GOA 2020).

Following the Wildlife Sweep Protocols (GOA 2020), wildlife sweeps were conducted within 10 days of the start of activities, with one sweep on February 25, 2025, and a second sweep on March 10 and 11, 2025. The Rosedale berm plus a 100 m buffer was swept to search for evidence of wildlife (e.g., tracks, scat), sensitive habitat features (e.g., mineral licks, dens, burrows, nests), and wildlife observations (i.e., visual, and auditory observations). The 100 m buffer was limited due to the Red Deer River to the north and private property to the south (Project area). The wildlife sweeps were conducted during daylight hours and during suitable weather conditions for observing wildlife and detecting important wildlife features. A GPS was used to record a tracklog of the sweep and locations of important wildlife features with photographs taken if features were present.

3 PRE-CONSTRUCTION WILDLIFE SWEEP SURVEY RESULTS

On February 25, 2025, two biologists walked the Project area and 100-m buffer where access allowed. The wildlife sweep took place between 13:00 to 16:00. Weather conditions on site were favourable with clear skies, no wind, and temperatures ranging between -5°C and -3°C.

The Project area consisted of trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), and willow species (*Salix* species) (Appendix A).

A tree with a large cavity, potentially a nest or den cavity was observed near the southern portion of the Project area. The cavity was deemed inactive during the survey, however the tree was flagged to be checked for activity during subsequent wildlife sweeps (Appendix A). An inactive den had been identified in a previous survey that was conducted in July 2024 (12 U 387212E; 5697932 N), however due to snow cover the den could not be located during this survey. No tracks or other signs (e.g. digging, breathing holes, scat) were observed in the area where the den was previously observed. Other wildlife sign observed during the wildlife sweep include deer species (*Odocoileus* species) tracks and pellets, moose (*Alces alces*) pellets, hairy woodpecker (*Leuconotopicus villosus*) feeding cavities, and an old ungulate species kill site (Appendix A), due to the lack of colour in hair found and age of the kill site the ungulate species could not be identified (Appendix A).

On March 10 and 11, 2025, a second wildlife sweep was conducted and two biologists walked the Project area and 100-m buffer, where access allowed. Weather conditions on site were favourable with clear skies, no wind, and temperatures ranging between -5°C and -3°C. Wildlife sign observed included deer species tracks and pellets, moose pellets, rabbit tracks and pellets, an inactive black-billed magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) nest, beaver (*Castor canadensis*) chewed trees, and woodpecker species (*Picidae* species) feeding cavities. The inactive cavity flagged in February was checked and remained inactive. Wildlife observed included blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), house finch (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*), white-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), black-billed magpie, mountain cottontail (*Sylvilagus nuttallii pinetis*), and an incidental bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) pair flying across the Red Deer river.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

No wildlife features requiring setbacks or other mitigation were observed during the surveys. Any work activities that the Town of Drumheller chooses to undertake should occur as soon as possible after the wildlife sweep, which was completed on March 11, 2025.

5 CLOSURE

This report was prepared by WSP for the Town of Drumheller. The material in this report reflects WSP's best judgment considering information available to it at the time of preparation. If the Town of Drumheller edits, revises, alters, or adds to the material in this report in any way, all reference to WSP and WSP's employees must be removed unless the Town of Drumheller changes are agreed to by WSP. Any use which a third party makes of this report or any reliance on or decisions to be made based on it, are the responsibility of such third party. WSP accepts no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by any third party as a result of decision made or action based on this report.

We trust the information contained in this report is sufficient for your present needs. Should you have any questions regarding the project, please do not hesitate to contact the signatories below at (780) 918-7816.

WSP Canada Inc.



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AG/CS/rd

Attachments: Appendix A - Wildlife Features and General Habitat Identified During Wildlife Sweep

APPENDIX A

**Wildlife Features and General
Habitat Identified During Wildlife
Sweep**



**Photo 1: Moose pellets within the Project area
(February 25, 2025)**



**Photo 2: View looking east of the Project area,
showing proximity to residences and
the Red Deer River (February 25, 2025)**



**Photo 3: Large tree cavity within the Project
area (February 25, 2025)**



**Photo 4: Inside of the large tree cavity in
Photo 3 (February 25, 2025)**



Photo 5: Deer species pellets and tracks observed within the 100 m buffer (February 25, 2025)



Photo 6: Hairy woodpecker and feeding cavities observed within the 100 m buffer (February 25, 2025)



Photo 7: Ungulate species kill site observed within the 100 m buffer (February 25, 2025)

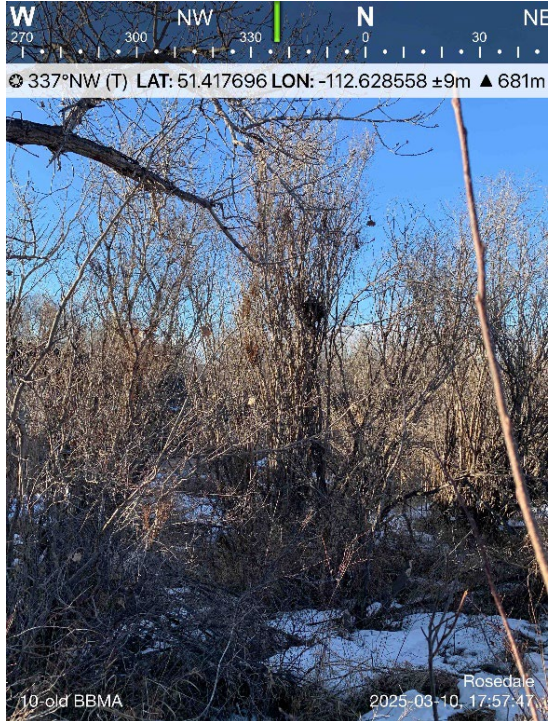


Photo 8: Inactive black-billed magpie nest (March 10, 2025)

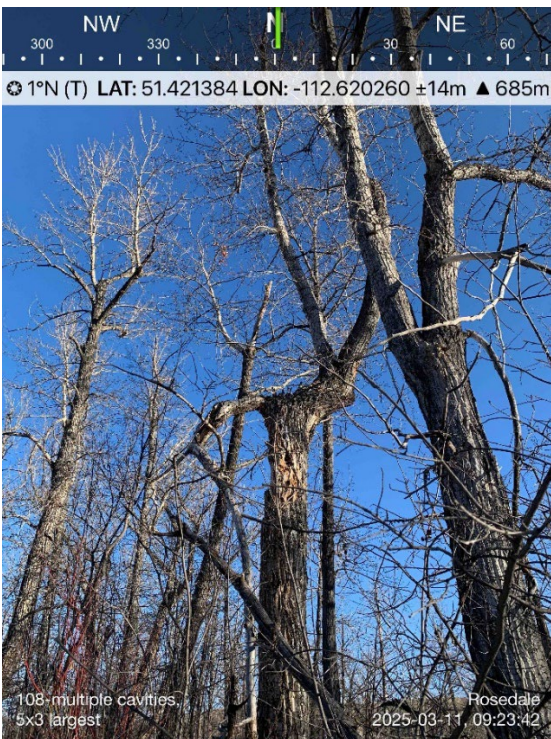
Appendix A
Wildlife Features and General Habitat Identified During Wildlife Sweep



**Photo 9: Beaver activity at base of tree
(March 10, 2025)**



**Photo 10: Site photo looking north
(March 10, 2025)**



**Photo 11: Inactive multiple cavities
(March 11, 2025)**



**Photo 12: Deer and rabbit tracks
(March 11, 2025)**



Photo 13: Site photo looking northeast (March 11, 2025)