

Rangeland

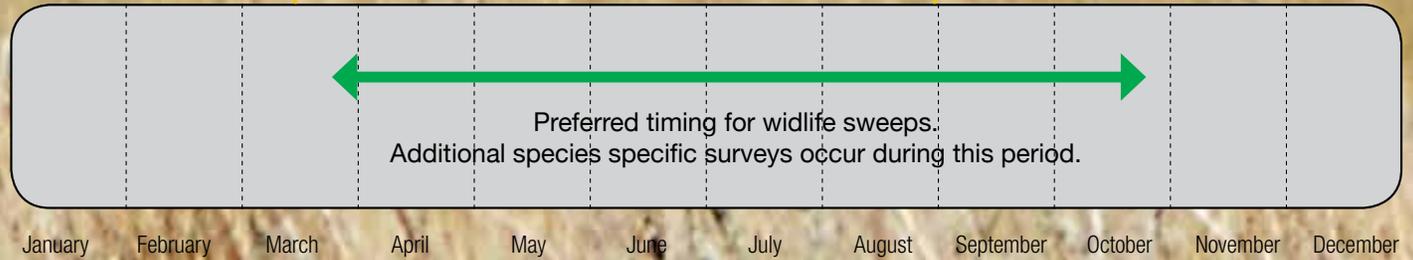
Conservation
Service Ltd.



Wildlife Surveys



Key Bird Nesting Period



Did you know that Alberta is home to over 100 species of wildlife that have special conservation designations? With breeding season upon us and migratory birds returning, it is important to protect our wildlife and their habitat during all stages of project planning. To help minimize potential impacts on wildlife, surveys are required prior to commencing construction activities.

Breeding Bird Nest Searches

Under the Federal Migratory Birds Convention Act and Alberta's Wildlife Act, regulations prohibit the disturbance or destruction of migratory bird nests on Crown and freehold land. Vegetation removal is not recommended between April 15 and August 25. However, if vegetation removal must occur during this period, a bird nest search needs to be conducted prior to clearing activities.

As provincially managed species, nest searches for raptors may be necessary from March 15 to August 31, depending on the location of the activity and habitat type in the area.

Enhanced Approval Process

The Provincial government through its Enhanced Approval Process (EAP) requires that all surface dispositions have wildlife sweeps conducted prior to construction activities.

Species-specific surveys are required when a sensitive wildlife layer is identified during the Landscape Analysis Tool search. To apply as a standard disposition application, these surveys must be conducted during species appropriate timing. These specific surveys and associated timings occur for the following ranges:

- Sensitive Raptor (May 1st to June 30th);
- Burrowing Owl (May 15th to July 15th);
- Sharp-tailed Grouse (March 15th to May 1st);
- Sensitive Snake Species (April 1st to June 15th, or August 15th to October 31st);
- Swift Fox (September 1st to February 15th); and
- Ord's Kangaroo Rat June 15th to September 1st.

Additional surveys may be required for eastern short-horned lizard, amphibians and grassland birds. Wildlife surveys are also recommended for activities that occur on freehold land where suitable habitat for these species is present.

Rangeland Services Provided

Rangeland Conservation Services Ltd. (Rangeland) has the expertise to conduct various wildlife assessments, including:

- Literature and GIS reviews;
- Pre-clearing bird nest searches;
- Wildlife sweeps;
- Breeding bird point count surveys;
- Raptor surveys;
- Burrowing owl call playback and ground search surveys;
- Sharp-tailed grouse lek surveys;
- Amphibian nocturnal call playback and diurnal non-acoustic surveys;
- Snake hibernacula surveys;
- Bat acoustic surveys;
- Remote camera surveys; and
- Swift fox, Ord's Kangaroo Rat and eastern short-horned lizard ground search surveys.

Rangeland works with their clients to provide appropriate avoidance and setback mitigation strategies to minimize potential impacts on wildlife and important habitat features.

Photo Credit: Rangeland Conservation Service Ltd.



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