



Fish & Wildlife Protection & Preservation

Casino Mining Corporation (CMC) has taken a measured and conservative approach to developing its Casino Project, including around the protection of the environment and surrounding wildlife and fish habitats.

Wildlife

The landscape around the proposed mine site, located in the Yukon and Klondike Plateau ecoregions, is populated with moose and woodland caribou. These animals play an integral role in the culture of the region, providing sustenance and resource opportunities for some residents.

The Project occurs within the historic range of the Forty Mile caribou and the current range of the Klaza caribou herd. The primary concern for the caribou is the availability of suitable late-winter habitat. The moose population is considered low in this region, but these animals remain the primary harvest species for resident hunters. Concerns expressed by resource managers include the potential increased access via the Freegold Road extension for harvest of caribou, moose and other terrestrial wildlife.

Other wildlife in the region include Dall's sheep, wood bison, grizzly bear, black bear, wolves, wolverine, lynx, marten, coyote, and red fox. Also, small mammals such as porcupine, snowshoe hare, red squirrel, mink, muskrat, otter, weasel, beaver and collared pika.

Bird species in the area include raptors, such as peregrine falcon, golden eagle and gyrfalcon, waterfowl and other waterbirds, and upland bird species including grouse, ptarmigan, kingfisher, woodpeckers and songbirds.

CMC has established a Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan and a Road Use Plan to mitigate for and monitor effects of the project on wildlife. The plans will be adaptive to allow for input from stakeholders, and will include details such as:

- Traffic management planning to avoid potential effects to wildlife;
- Strictly controlled, gated, and monitored access road;
- A no hunting policy;
- Detailed mitigations during construction, operations and closure; and
- On-going wildlife monitoring programs and support of regional wildlife studies.

It is the company's intention that the Selkirk First Nation, Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation, Yukon Government, and wildlife management bodies are actively involved in the ongoing access and wildlife management of the Freegold Road. Other First Nations and stakeholders will also continue to be involved through the Wildlife Working Group.

Water Quality

Since 2008, Casino has completed annual aquatic environmental studies near the proposed mine site. Our commitment is to develop appropriate management and mitigation plans to protect downstream water quality.

The annual data collection from these studies has been used to develop a database that helps us understand the baseline conditions of the water quality in the streams around the proposed Casino mine project. These annual studies include:

Geochemistry: Allowing us to assess the potential for metal leaching and acid rock drainage from the materials that may be exposed during mining at the Casino site.

Hydrology: Examining the movement and distribution of water. This is important for developing safe and effective water management plans, including the amount of water available for use by the project.

Surface water quality: Helping us to ensure the protection of aquatic life, wildlife and drinking water sources.



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Fish Habitat

Casino has been conducting fish baseline studies within the proposed mine project area each year since 2008. These studies have shown a broad range of species in the area including: Arctic grayling; slimy sculpin; burbot; round whitefish; Chinook salmon; and chum salmon.

An estimated 18,000 square meters of fish habitat may be impacted by the Casino mine project, and will require an authorization under the federal Fisheries Act by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. As a result, a Fish Habitat Compensation Plan (FHOP) has been developed to ensure a net benefit to fish populations using varying strategies such as new habitat creation, restoration or enhancement.

Casino is also exploring ways to improve habitat for Yukon River Chinook salmon. Our team is working closely with local partners and stakeholders, including Selkirk and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, to identify options to improve Chinook salmon freshwater habitat.

One opportunity being explored is the reinstatement of a historical watercourse channel adjacent to the Yukon River, just north of the Casino property. If restored, the channel would provide new high-quality habitat for Chinook salmon seeking early-life food and protection.



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