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Wildlife Management Plan



Touquoy Gold Project

Wildlife Management Plan

Proponent:

Atlantic Gold
6749 Moose River Road
RR#2 Middle Musquodoboit
Halifax, NS, B0N 1X0

Submitted by:

McCallum Environmental Ltd.
2 Bluewater Road, Suite 135
Bedford, NS B4B 1G7

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INTRODUCTION

This Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) has been prepared to guide the construction, operation and decommissioning of Touquoy Gold Mine Project, while minimizing interaction with terrestrial wildlife. The purpose of the WMP is to outline protocols minimize interactions between terrestrial wildlife and Project activities. This plan has been developed in accordance with Condition 5.4 of the Environmental Assessment Approval, granted Feb 1, 2008. Condition 5.4 states that Prior to operation, the Proponent shall develop and implement a plan for minimizing interactions between wildlife and project activities. The Plan should be developed in consultation with NSDNR Wildlife Division and must be acceptable to NSEL.

Project activities can impact wild species in a number of ways. Development of infrastructure can cause direct impacts to habitat used by terrestrial fauna, including upland forested habitat and wetlands. Sensory disturbance to terrestrial fauna would result from rock blasting, clearing, grubbing, infrastructure construction and overall increased traffic during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. This could result in localized avoidance of the Project Area by some wild species. Increased human activity could result in increased usage of the Project Area by opportunistic species such as Coyotes, Raccoons, Skunks or Black Bears. These opportunistic species generally have a higher risk of becoming habituated to human activity, which can lead to nuisance or aggressive behaviors, increasing risk to both wildlife and site personnel. As such, many of the protocols outlined herein are related to reducing the risk of wildlife habituation.

Changes to ambient noise levels and the presence of periodic vibrations from blasting have the potential to adversely affect fauna and birds by influencing migration and behavioral patterns. Noise and vibration is provincially regulated via the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations and the Pit and Quarry Guidelines, which protect the health of site workers and the general public at project area boundaries, respectively. Direct mortality of fauna species could result from project activities, particularly due to the increase in traffic during construction and operation of the facility. Increased traffic poses a risk to wildlife along all site roads.

The primary goal of this WMP is to reduce human-wildlife interactions, to ensure safety of both wildlife and site personnel. A specific Mainland Moose Management Plan (MMMP) has also been prepared for this Project, to outline specific management and monitoring requirements related to the Endangered Mainland Moose.

As the Project develops, this plan may evolve to reflect best practices, collected information and input from DNR and the Mi'kmaq; any updates to this plan will be submitted to NSE. This plan has been developed for Touquoy Gold Mine Project; however, this plan will evolve to address the Company's work in other areas, such as Beaver Dam and its exploration activities as well.

1.0 Communication Protocol

Clear communication between team members is the key to successful environmental management. Atlantic Gold is committed to effective communication within the project team and all appropriate regulatory agencies. All communication and reporting for specific activities related to Wildlife Management will be outlined throughout this document. Key Personnel involved in the implementation of this Plan are identified below as well. Any sightings of Mainland Moose are to be reported immediately to the Environmental Technician.

Key Personnel Contact List

Position	Name	Phone Number
Project Team Contacts		
Director of Environment and Community Relations	Janis Rod	902-225-4436
Head of Health and Safety and Human Relations	Paul MacDonald	902-222-0459
Environmental Technician	Madeline Hill	902-759-3001
Regulatory Contacts		
Nova Scotia Environment Inspector	Rachel Bower	Contact via Director of Environment and Community Relations, Janis Rod
Department of Fisheries and Oceans	Lisa Paon	
Department of Natural Resources, Regional Biologist	Shavonne Meyer	
NSE After Hours Emergency	1-800-565-1633	

2.0 Wildlife Management

Atlantic Gold is committed to reducing human-wildlife interactions at the Touquoy Gold Project. The following strategies will help to identify and track where wildlife are using the Project Area, and the management strategies to help reduce interactions. Although Atlantic Gold is not responsible for managing wildlife populations, Atlantic Gold acknowledges their responsibility to conduct appropriate operations with consideration of wildlife and wildlife habitat. As such, Atlantic Gold will work with site personnel to assist in reducing wildlife interactions through the following actions:

- A wildlife sighting policy has been developed and will be communicated with all site personnel during site orientation. A wildlife sighting card has been developed to help facilitate communication of wildlife observations, particularly the Mainland Moose. Any sightings of Mainland Moose will be recorded and included in an annual report to NSDNR. The Wildlife Sighting Cards are attached (Appendix A), and will be made available to all site personnel.
- Habitat connectivity will be maintained and fragmentation reduced by limiting clearing and disturbance to the approved Project Area. Whenever possible, clearing and grubbing activities should be completed outside the accepted breeding bird window (May 1 to August 31).
- All site workers shall comply with regulations outlined in the Migratory Bird Convention Act, which prohibits the disturbance of migratory birds, their nests and eggs. If any nest is identified, Atlantic Gold must be notified immediately, so steps can be taken to identify the species and determine appropriate mitigation or avoidance if required. Several species of birds known to nest around active construction sites have been included in the Wildlife Sighting Report Card for this reason.
- An awareness campaign about wildlife poaching will be implemented. Report a Poacher signs will be posted in site offices and lunch rooms, and reviewed during site orientation. Any evidence of poaching will

be reported immediately to Site Supervisor, who will ensure immediate reporting to NSDNR and the local RCMP. A sample 'Report a Poacher' sign is provided in Appendix A

- Turtle crossing signs may be installed near major watercourse crossings, or in areas where Snapping Turtles have been observed, in an effort to increase awareness and reduce vehicular collisions. A sample 'Turtle Crossing' sign is provided in Appendix A.
- Vehicles will adhere to safe speed limits, particularly around blind corners. Vegetation along roadsides will be managed to improve visibility between wildlife and drivers.
- Vehicles will yield to wildlife on roads.
- Vehicle collisions with wildlife will be reported to the Environmental Technician.
- Access for wildlife to the pit areas will be limited by installation of a pit perimeter berm and/or fence.
- ATV usage on site will be limited for all purposes except those required for mining related activities. Furthermore, public access into the active mine and processing area will be controlled.
- Wildlife harassment within the Project Area will not be tolerated. Wildlife will not be chased, caught, diverted, followed or otherwise harassed by any site personnel. Any wildlife harassment shall be reported to the Environmental Technician.
- Garbage disposal will occur at designated disposal locations throughout the project for removal. Garbage bin lids shall be closed at all times other than during loading or unloading. No garbage is to be kept in trucks or opened garbage bins so they are accessible to wildlife (including birds). Bear-proof bins may be used where deemed appropriate or necessary based on bear activity.
- Feeding or harassment of any wildlife by site personnel will not be permitted. Any wildlife harassment or feeding (direct or indirect) will be reported to the Site Supervisor so disciplinary actions can be taken.
- All site personnel will be prohibited from engaging in fishing or hunting within the Project Area. Firearm possession by site personnel is prohibited within the Project area as well.
- In the event of encounters with injured wildlife at the worksite, the Environmental Technician will contact the local Provincial Wildlife Officer. No attempt will be made to move the animal, and no person at the worksite will come into direct contact with the animal.
- Dead animals will be reported, as soon as possible, to the Environmental Technician who will notify the local Provincial Wildlife Officer. The locations of animals will be marked and reported to the Environmental Technician. The Environmental Technician will record the date and time it was found; state of decomposition; injury sustained (if identifiable); and species. If a dead, injured or sick Mainland Moose is identified, Atlantic Gold will consult with NSDNR to determine appropriate actions.
- Site personnel will be permitted to carry air horns and whistles to be used as wildlife deterrents. Where necessary based on remote work or based on the level of bear activity, bear bangers or bear spray may be permitted for use on site. The risks and benefits of carrying wildlife deterrents, and their proper use, must be reviewed with Site Safety Personnel. All wildlife deterrent equipment shall be visually checked for defects. Equipment must be kept in an immediately available location, ready for use. Wildlife awareness and the use of wildlife deterrents must be considered during pre-job safety assessments or tail-gate meetings.

- Atlantic Gold will consult with NSDNR to determine appropriate actions for managing nuisance or aggressive wildlife on a case-by-case basis. The conditions outlined herein are focused on preventative measures, to reduce the likelihood of wildlife becoming nuisance or aggressive.
- The measures of this WMP will be communicated to site personnel during site orientation, and will be made available for use as subjects of safety meetings. Furthermore, the measures outlined in this WMP will be communicated to the Community Liaison Committee and local Mi'Kmaq groups where applicable, as an education and stewardship measure, to promote wildlife management on private lands in the vicinity of the Touquoy Gold Project Area.

Attachments Provided in Appendix A:

1. Wildlife Righting Report Card
2. Report a Poacher Sign
3. Turtle Crossing Sign

APPENDIX A



ATLANTIC GOLD

Touquoy Gold Project

Wildlife Sightings Report Card

*To be completed and submitted to Environmental Technician within 2 days of sighting

Observation Date: DD/MONTH/YEAR Report Date: DD/MONTH/YEAR Name: _____

Species: Mainland Moose White-tailed Deer Black Bear Coyote
 Snapping Turtle Wood Turtle Other: _____
 Raptor - Species : _____ Owl - Species : _____
 Swallow - Species : _____ Other Bird - Species : _____

Observation type: Individual Tracks Scat Nest or Den Other: _____

Location (be as specific as possible, waypoint if possible) _____

Individual observation details:

Sex: Male Female Unknown Maturity: Adult Juvenile Unknown

Behaviour: _____

Individual injured? Describe _____ Individual deceased?

Report the following to Site Supervisor ASAP: Moose (or signs thereof), Snapping or Wood Turtles (or signs thereof), any bird nesting activity (i.e. agitated behavior, bird carrying nesting material, nest with young, bird carrying food), any deceased or injured wildlife, or any nuisance or aggressive behavior from any species (particularly Black Bear or Coyote).



ATLANTIC GOLD

Touquoy Gold Project

Wildlife Sightings Report Card

*To be completed and submitted to Environmental Technician within 2 days of sighting

Observation Date: DAY/MONTH/YEAR Report Date: DAY/MONTH/YEAR

Name: _____

Species: Mainland Moose White-tailed Deer Black Bear Coyote
 Snapping Turtle Wood Turtle Other: _____
 Raptor - Species : _____ Owl - Species : _____
 Swallow - Species: _____ Other Bird - Species : _____

Observation type: Individual Tracks Scat Nest or Den Other: _____

Location (be as specific as possible, waypoint if possible) _____

Individual observation details:

Sex: Male Female Unknown Maturity: Adult Juvenile Unknown

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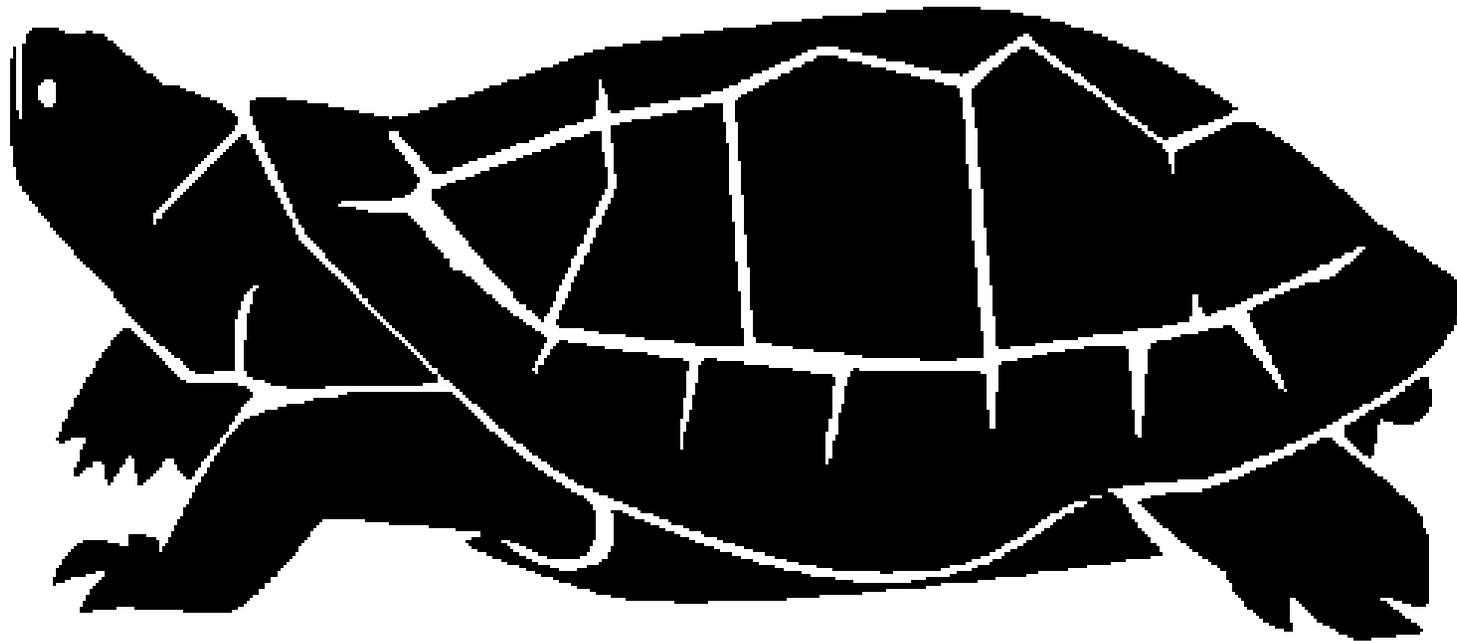
REPORT A POACHER



Report Suspected Poaching Activity to
Environmental Technician Immediately,

Or call 1-800-565-2224. For more information, visit:

www.novascotia.ca/natr/enforcement/reportapoacher.asp



TURTLE CROSSING – REDUCE SPEED

MAY through OCTOBER

Report Turtle Sightings to Environmental Technician