Pre-application requirements for formal dispositions

This publication is available online at Pre-application requirements for formal dispositions - Open Government (alberta.ca)

The Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions is available online at: Master schedule of standards and conditions - Open Government (alberta.ca)

Pre-application for formal dispositions | Forestry and Parks

Contents

Revision History

Version date	Author and Organization	Description
March 1, 2014	Operations Division, ESRD	Edits made to align conditions with the Integrated Standards and Guidelines and rebranded to meet both ESRD and AER procedures.
April 28, 2017	Operations Division, Environment and Parks (AEP)	Edits made to address updated administrative processes, implemented as part of the Disposition Management Realignment Process, update of the Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions and alignment with the AER.
June 7, 2017	Operations Division, AEP	Update Table D1.
October 4, 2017	Operations Division, AEP	Revise wording in Exception Codes section, removed reference to non-routine and added new verbiage.
April 30, 2018	Operations Division, AEP	Routine updates as part of MSSC release.
November 1, 2019	Operations Division, AEP	Updated to include information on the new Tourism and Commercial Recreation Lease (TCL) disposition type.
January 23, 2024	Lands Operations Division, Forestry and Parks	Updated to address organizational changes, updated business processes in relation to reservations and incorporated BMP and Outcome components of the MSSC.

Introduction

On behalf of Albertans, the Government of Alberta manages Crown lands to accommodate many different values and intents, such as:

- recreation and tourism,
- access for multiple industries,
- mineral and material extraction,
- agricultural grazing,
- the preservation of ecosystem services,
- the protection and management of airsheds, watersheds and biodiversity, and
- the protection of sites having cultural, heritage and historical significance.

To undertake an activity on Crown land, a proponent typically must obtain a formal disposition from a regulatory agency as delegated by the Government of Alberta.

This Pre-application Requirements for Formal Dispositions document identifies requirements and other information that proponents need to understand **prior** to applying for a formal disposition. Among other benefits, this document helps support:

- consistent pre-application procedures for use of Crown lands throughout the province.
- clarity for applicants regarding the expectations of regulatory agencies.
- consistent and transparent standards and conditions regarding how activities are to be situated and constructed on Crown land.
- better awareness among proponents, prior to application, of the requirements to properly plan activities on Crown land and ensure environmental and resource values are identified and protected.

As part of efforts to streamline the regulatory process, provide clarity to proponents, and provide regulatory consistency, Forestry and Parks (the Ministry) and the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) regularly update processes and procedures. Together, the Ministry and the AER have consolidated and clarified numerous guidelines and conditions to inform this document.

Importantly, this Pre-application Requirements for Formal Dispositions document only applies to processes related to authorizations granted under the *Public Lands Act* and the *Mines and Minerals Act*.

It does not identify or address requirements under other Alberta statutes, municipal bylaws, or federal legislation. A proponent must ensure they have complied with requirements under these in relation to the activity they wish to undertake.

A proponent should review this document in its entirety before making an application for a disposition, to ensure all pre-application requirements have been addressed. Particular attention should be paid to standards and operating conditions that identify the need for surveys or planning processes prior to making an application. An incomplete application will be rejected by the regulatory agency and a proponent will be required to reapply.

General Information

Before identifying and gathering information required for an application, it is helpful for a proponent to understand key concepts regarding formal dispositions on Crown land. This section provides an overview of expectations and systems.

Submission requirements

A completed application for a formal disposition consists of, at a minimum:

- documentation showing the securing of required consents,
- a File Number for Consultation (FNC #),
- a spatial analysis report (through either the Landscape Analysis Tool or Energy Development Planning Tool),
- completed application forms applicable for the proponent's activity,
- an application plan, and
- any other required attachments and plans in support of the application.

If a proponent's application is found to be deficient or missing required information, the application may be rejected or refused in accordance with the Public Lands Administration Regulation.

Qualified personnel

In many cases, a proponent must have qualified personnel conduct on-site assessments as part of their application for a formal disposition.

The following are some recommended qualifications that proponents may wish to consider when sourcing qualified personnel:

- Extensive experience working within Alberta combined with experience in the related industry.
- Knowledge and understanding of Alberta legislation as it applies to Crown land within Alberta.
- Knowledge of mapping products, systems and spatial tools.
- Knowledge and understanding of the Government of Alberta's, policies, standards of practice, land use planning documents, desired outcomes, best management practices, operating conditions and guidelines.
- Knowledge and understanding of federal legislation as it applies within Alberta.
- Knowledge and understanding of Government of Alberta systems that facilitate disposition application.
- Background and/or education in earth/biological/environmental science or related fields.
- Knowledge and understanding of regional issues, consultation requirements, and notification process.

The above list is not inclusive. There may be other qualifications that proponents should consider when sourcing qualified personnel to conduct on-site assessments.

Integrated Resource Management

In making decisions regarding dispositions on Crown land, the Government of Alberta follows principles of Integrated Resource Management (IRM).

These principles require that proponents plan their activities in ways that consider the needs of all resources, and all land users, on the land base. This helps ensure that cumulative environmental impacts are minimized, and that orderly resource development occurs on Alberta's landscapes.

For most surface dispositions a proponent can identify the potential for developments related to their activity, such as electrical power, pipelines, road access or other future operational needs. Opportunities may exist for a proponent to plan for these related developments in concert with existing users on the same or nearby landscapes. (For example, by planning common access development, or strategic siting of power lines or pipelines.) By having these considerations and exploring these integration opportunities in advance, proponents can better align their activities in ways that minimize the overall footprint and fragmentation on the landscape.

Spatial analysis tools and databases

Regulatory agencies utilize multiple systems and common databases to provide information to proponents prior to and during application processes. Notable systems include:

- **Landscape Analysis Tool (LAT)** – This is a digital geospatial tool utilized for activities regulated by the Ministry that illustrates the standards and conditions that apply to a specific activity in relation to a proposed location within Alberta. The LAT generates a LAT report which forms part of the formal disposition based on its submission as part of a disposition application.

- **Energy Development Planning Tool (EDPT)** – This is a digital geospatial tool utilized for activities regulated by the AER that allows a proponent to apply a spatial intersection to a proposed area to identify site sensitivities and constraints. The EDPT provides the spatial analysis in a report called the Energy Development Planning Analysis (EDPA). The EDPA is intended for planning purposes only and does not need to be included with the application.

- **Geographic Land Information Management and Planning System (GLIMPS)** – This embodies the lands disposition database for the province as informed through multiple regulatory systems. This system is also accessed by regulatory staff when issuing authorizations and approvals for multiple sectors. The standards and conditions as identified within the Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions (MSSC) table are uploaded within the GLIMPS system, that are later referenced and selected during the issuance of these temporary authorizations or approvals.

These systems are web-enabled geospatial mapping tools designed to provide proponents with essential information, as well as standards and conditions related to a proposed activity. These systems analyze the activity type and its location and reference integrated logic in relation to base spatial information and sensitive features as identified. They allow proponents the ability to map and view their proposed activities, identify areas of concern, and understand requirements that the proponent must satisfy prior to making an application for a disposition. This better enables a proponent to make necessary adjustments to their activity prior to application, helping them avoid costly delays.

To ensure spatial analysis tools are used effectively and activities are properly placed in areas of lesser impact, proponents should consider the following:

- A proponent must use information and reports (for example, land standing reports, reservation reports) generated in their entirety and become aware of all applicable standards and conditions (including restrictions or setbacks) to assist in the proper placement of their activity.

- When deciding on the placement of a proposed activity, a proponent must ensure they have met any pre-application requirements and are able to meet all standards and conditions based on their proposed activity.

- A proponent should ensure their activity is located outside of sensitive areas whenever possible to do so.

- A proponent must ensure they have complied with any direction or condition (for example, the completion of a required survey or planning function) prior to making an application.

- Depending on the results generated by the spatial analysis tool, a proponent is encouraged to adapt their proposed activity. for example, adjustments to the location, sizing and orientation of the activity) to avoid or better align with sensitive features.

- A proponent must ensure that, prior to making an application, their activity conforms to the results and outputs of the spatial analysis tool. If a choice is made not to meet any standard identified, then additional mitigation must be provided with the application that meets the outcomes identified within the Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions. (See the chapter on “Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions”.)

Regulatory agency expectations

Alberta’s regulatory agencies expect that, prior to submitting an application for a formal disposition, a proponent has:

- researched the proposed lands to identify affected stakeholders or reservations,
- researched and identified all standards and conditions related to their activity,’
- planned their activity to conform with all applicable standards and conditions, and
- considered environmental impacts in their entirety when planning the proposed placement and details of their activity.

This table includes expectations that the following has occurred. (More detailed information regarding these regulatory expectations is provided in the identified sections of this document.)

Regulatory Expectation	Expectations
Report Generation	1. Generate a Public Land Standing report, 2. Generate (if necessary) a Land Use Reservation Report (LURR) to identify reservations within a general area if the LAT Report is insufficient. 3. Generate a spatial assessment of the proposed lands through; o Landscape Analysis Tool (LAT) report - for Government of Alberta land applications, or o Energy Development Planning Analysis (EDPA), for AER applicants. • The generation of these reports are key to the applicant assessing whether a planned activity can be situated on the proposed land and whether there are stakeholders that may be affected or reservations that may limit application.
Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions	• The proponent has reviewed Best Management Practices and Desired Outcomes referenced in the Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions, to assist in the proper siting and placement of proposed activity.
Addressing Consent Requirements	• Through report generation, the proponent has identified all impacted stakeholders and has obtained required consents, including addressing any items of concern, prior to submitting an application. • Consent is also required before the issuance of authorizations or approvals (for example, Temporary Field Activity or Regulatory Temporary Field Authorizations).
Indigenous consultation	• The proponent has followed Government of Alberta policies and procedures in respect of completing required Indigenous consultation. • The proponent has completed a Pre-consultation assessment of the proposed activity.
Alignment to Land Use Planning	• The proponent has assessed their proposed activity in accordance to established higher level plans to ensure the activity meets plan requirements.
Planning the Activity	The proponent has: • minimized the footprint of the proposed activity to only the area that is needed for the operation of the activity. • identified any Land Reservations in relation to the placement of their activity and has complied with any required Actions identified in the Land Reservation.

Regulatory Expectation	Expectations
	• identified higher-level plans and considered in respects to the placement of the activity (if allowed). • identified waterbodies, watersheds and wetlands when determining the placement of the proposed activity and has made all attempts to place the activity outside of these waterbodies, watersheds and wetlands while applying identified setbacks. • identified and protected other resource values through proper planning and completion of appropriate site or field surveys, to guide proper placement of the proposed activity and mitigation of the activity's impacts on resource values. • coordinated, managed and integrated access with other users to ensure only required access is developed to the level required to facilitate development and operation of the proposed activity, while minimizing increased public access to sensitive areas. • considered and addressed environmental impacts of the proposed activity and provided site-specific details on how these impacts will be addressed during the construction, operation and reclamation phases of the activity. • reviewed and considered the Best Management Practices (BMPs) (as identified in Appendix A of this document) when planning and siting their proposed activity. BMPs provide good planning techniques and procedures that will reduce impacts on Crown land and its competing resources. By following the BMPs, a proponent can increase the likelihood of their application being approved, as impacts to the environment would be minimized.
Non-Standard Application	• When considering a non-standard application, the proponent will have reviewed the Desired Outcomes (as identified in Appendix A of this document) to ensure any proposed mitigation is in alignment with those Desired Outcomes. • If the Desired Outcomes will not be achieved, then the proposed mitigation will not be acceptable to the regulatory agency and the proponent's application may be refused.

In environmentally sensitive areas and/or areas with multiple use activities, more detailed information may be required before approval is granted. The specific content of the detailed information should be discussed with the appropriate regulatory body during the planning stage of the proposed project.

The proponent should be certain that all information and documents submitted regarding construction methods, operations, timing constraints, etc., are accurate and complete. These submissions are referenced during application review. They can also be associated with any formal disposition that is approved and therefore subject to compliance.

Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions

In the interests of supporting regulatory consistency, the Ministry and the AER have worked together to consolidate and clarify numerous standards and conditions for activities on Alberta's Crown lands. One output of this work is the Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions (MSSC).

The MSSC identifies conditions that apply to activities that fall under the:

- *Public Lands Act,*
- *Parks Act*,
- *Mines and Minerals Act,* and
- Geophysical Regulations.

A proponent should consult the MSSC when planning their activity, prior to submitting an application for a formal disposition.

Using the MSSC

The MSSC is a foundational document that is referenced by regulatory bodies when reviewing applications and selecting conditions when a decision is made to issue approvals, authorizations, or formal dispositions. Conditions and Standards can be selected through established systems or through manual processes as tied to regulatory review.

A copy of the MSSC is available at: https://open.alberta.ca/publications/master-schedule-of-standards-and-conditions

The MSSC identifies which conditions apply to certain disposition, purpose and activity types. These are organized into categories related to specific resource values or land themes. Associated to the identified categories are Desired Outcomes and Best Management Practices as found within Appendix A that provide additional context in respects to planning and operation expectations of the regulators as explained below;

- Desired Outcomes must be addressed when applying Non-Standard. In situations where a Non-Standard application is submitted, the applicant* is responsible for ensuring the desired outcomes can still be achieved as identified in the proposed mitigation*. If the desired outcomes are not addressed, the application may be refused. The regulator is responsible for review and confirmation.

- Best Management Practices should be referenced and followed in the planning and siting of the proposed activity. These BMPs are provided to illustrate good planning techniques and procedures that will reduce impacts on public land and its competing resources. By following the BMPs, the success of application approval are greatly increased.

The standards and conditions listed in the MSSC are configured into IT systems that are used by regulatory agencies as part of the disposition application process (for example LAT, EDPA, GLIMPS).

Parameters that drive standard or condition selection within LAT and EDPA are:

- Disposition type,
- Purpose/Activity type,
- Risk Ranking (if applicable) and
- Supporting Spatial Layers (if applicable).

As list above, an individual parameter or a combination thereof, create a system logic that will drive the selection of a condition based on those related inputs.

Conditions

Conditions consolidated in the MSSC are organized by category or theme so that proponents (and regulatory staff) can readily identify applicable conditions. Each is identified by a specific condition number and wording that is incorporated into Crown lands formal dispositions, authorizations and approvals.

There are two types of conditions in the MSSC:

- **Approval Standards** – These are conditions that must be followed unless the proponent choose to submit a non-standard application. A proponent may only make a non-standard application when an Approval Standard is identified as part of the disposition, and the proponent provides:
  - justification as to why they cannot follow the Approval Standard; and
  - provides alternate mitigation that attempts to address the intent of the Approval Standard and the associated desired outcomes of the condition category.

  If mitigation is not possible, then sufficient justification for why mitigation is not possible must be provided for consideration by the regulatory body.

- **Conditions** – These are identified as part of the disposition, are not negotiable and must be adhered to.

Approval Standards and Conditions may contain terms that require further definition. In these cases, those terms are accompanied by an asterisk*, which means, these are further defined as referenced within the Alberta Public Lands Glossary of Terms. These definitions ensure applicants are fully aware of their meaning and intent. The Alberta Public Lands Glossary of Terms is available on the Ministry's website.

The MSSC is formatted to align with processes and systems used by regulatory agencies when reviewing applications for and issuing formal dispositions. However, the MSSC does not explicitly define every condition that could apply to a Temporary Field Activity (TFA) or Regulatory Temporary Field (RTF).

In many cases TFAs or RTFs can be incidental to existing formal dispositions and thus can be subject to any standards or conditions of the associated formal disposition, or other standards or conditions as appropriate. In other situations, TFAs and RTFs may be issued for stand-alone activities, and conditions may be specifically identified for those activities.

Some conditions in the MSSC were created specifically for TFA or RTF issuance and therefore are identified as such, however even though conditions or standards may not be specifically identified for TFA or RTF activities, any of the conditions within the MSSC can be considered by a regulatory agency in the course of issuance, based on the particulars of the activity and any related regulatory needs.

Pre-application requirements

Public Land Standing report

A proponent must generate a Public Land Standing report. This report will identify stakeholders or other parties that have interests in any land the proponent intends to use for their activity. The report provides information that must be considered by the proponent prior to submitting an application for a formal disposition. If the interests of stakeholders are not addressed, the application may be rejected or refused.

The Land Standing report should be generated early in the activity planning process. However, it is recognized the planning of an activity and the preparation of an application can take considerable time, depending on the nature of the proposed activity. In the meantime, there may be changes on the subject landscape.

For this reason, the Land Standing report must be no older than seven days at the time a proponent submits their application. A proponent should generate an additional Land Standing report accordingly. This will enable the proponent to identify, consider and address any new activities on the land that may have been approved by regulatory agencies while the proponent

has been planning their activity and preparing their application. Taking this prudent measure will help avoid delays in the proponent's application being reviewed.

If a proponent has an Electronic Transfer System (ETS) account, they can complete their own land searches. Details can be found on the Alberta Energy and Minerals website.

Crown land data can also complete a one-time report. To access this service, a proponent can send a request with land description details to: crownlanddatasupport@gov.ab.ca.

The regulatory agency considering the proponent's application may request a copy of the "detailed" Land Standing report at any time throughout the lifecycle of the disposition, to support compliance and assurance processes.

Affected disposition holders

Where a proposed activity will overlap with an existing formal disposition, the holder of the existing disposition is considered an affected disposition holder.

Proponents are expected to align their proposed activities in ways that utilize existing footprints on the landscapes and reduce new disturbance wherever possible. For this reason, it makes sense for a proponent to establish working relationships with affected disposition holders and other existing disposition holders.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the importance of land users protecting their infrastructure. Land users are encouraged to pursue positive working relationships, and enter into productive agreements and arrangements, so as to achieve a reduction of footprint while ensuring existing infrastructure is protected.

Land use reservations

For many years, land use reservations have been established within Alberta to represent an endorsed commitment to a parcel of land, manage environmental sensitivities, identify areas of special concern and identify areas of sanctioned company resource investment. A land use reservation may restrict the types of activities that are permitted within the reservation area or may specify steps that must be taken (such as obtaining consent) in order for an activity to occur within the reservation area.

A proponent is encouraged to identify reservations early in the planning process to help them select an appropriate area to situate their proposed activity. This will also help prevent delays in the application process. A proponent can generate a Land Use Reservations Report (LURR) to identify reservations within a general area.

The LURR will inform a proponent of whether their proposed activity will intersect with any land use reservations. It will also identify which reservations, if present, may have restrictions that could prevent the authorization of a specific activity or sector.

If a reservation will be intersected by their proposed activity, the proponent should ensure their activity:

- is permitted to occur on that land,
- meets the identified Action(s) as related to a Sector, specified in the reservation, and
- does not conflict or interfere with the intent of the reservation.

Addressing reservations during application

A regulatory applicant should recognize if their activity is identified in the Sector listing. For a detailed breakdown of applicable Crown land surface dispositions as informed by sector, please refer to Appendix A (Relationship of sectors to PLAR Activities A1) and Appendix B (Relationship of sectors to PLAR Activities A2) within the Land Use Reservation Program procedures guide.

If reservations are identified within the LAT report or OneStop application process, the applicant will need to satisfy any requirements identified as follows:

Action	Definition	Regulatory steps required
As per Approved Plan	A Reservation placed on the land to reference an approved plan that has been developed and approved though established processes.	Applicants must review the plan and ensure any proposed activity is in alignment with the plan. Activities prohibited within the plan cannot be applied for, and if submitted may be subject to refusal.
As Per Established Conditions	A Reservation's Management Intent can be achieved by following Established Conditions as already defined within established procedures, or as further defined within the Reservation. An identified Sector would need to meet the established conditions as defined.	Applicants, depending on the activity being applied for need to identify and reference the established conditions as appropriate. For clarity, applications submitted for; • Crown land activities will adhere to the Master Schedule of Standards and Conditions. • *Forest Act* activities will adhere to the Alberta Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Ground Rules. Should additional direction be included in the reservation that doesn't align with established regulatory conditions, the applicant can seek direction from the reviewing regulatory agency to assess which conditions are appropriate. With awareness of established conditions, an applicant can plan their activity in accordance with the conditions prior to making a regulatory application.
Clearance	An applicant from an identified Sector must contact the reservation holder and provide all necessary and relevant regulatory application information to receive an informed and timely clearance response to meet requirements of application. A Clearance package is to include (at minimum): activity sketch/survey plan, activity type, location listing, the CLR affected, and any other pertinent information of the applicant's proposed activity.	The applicant will ensure that proof of clearance is documented as part of a regulatory application process. The reviewing regulatory agency has the ability to manage exceptions if justification is provided by an applicant if attempts were made and Clearance could not be obtained. Although discretion can be exercised, conversations with the reservation holder may be required.
Information/Awareness	Applicant should review available information on the reservation to assess whether an adjustment in activity design or placement is required based on the aspects of the Reservation identified.	Depending on the activity being applied for, although the reservation may not be restrictive, aspects of its intent may be considered as part of the overall regulatory decision.
Notification	An applicant from an identified Sector must notify the reservation holder (in writing) by providing all necessary and relevant regulatory application information. The applicant must demonstrate proof of Notification at time of their regulatory application. Notification package to include: activity sketch/survey plan, activity type, location listing, the CLR affected, and any other pertinent information of the proposed activity.	The applicant will ensure that proof of Notification is documented as part of a regulatory application process. Should the reservation holder state concerns or require mitigation, the applicant should consider these requests as part of the application.
No Surface Disposition	An applicant from an identified Sector would be prohibited from making application on these reservation lands, and any application submitted would be rejected or refused.	Ensures specific activity applications by Sector are allowed (if appropriate) as referenced within the Reservation. Seek guidance from the reservation holder as required.
Referral	The reservation triggers the reviewing regulatory agency to refer a regulatory application to the reservation holder for input prior to a decision being rendered. This Action is used to ensure rights of both the reservation holder and regulatory	Referral responses received are considered in the regulatory body's review. The regulatory body as the delegated authority is empowered to make decisions based on stakeholder inputs. Although not required, a regulatory applicant can reach out to the reservation holder to ensure any concerns can be addressed, prior

Action	Definition	Regulatory steps required
	applicant can be managed and informed by a regulatory decision.	to application. Failure to understand these impacts may delay or impact issuance of an authorization.
Site Assessment	The reservation triggers an identified Sector to complete site assessments, as per established assessment procedures to inform the application submission. Site assessment documents may be required to be submitted at time of application to document completion and to provide information that may be considered in the regulatory decision.	Applicant to complete site assessments as required and provide documents (if required) at time of application.

Note: If the Sector as related to the proposed activity is not identified in the CLR, then the CLR requirements are not applicable to the regulatory applicant.

For each reservation, the proponent must follow any Action(s) related to the applicable Sector that are specified in the reservation. This will typically involve contacting the reservation holder and providing information about the proposed activity.

Note: Should a proponent have questions regarding a reservation and any requirements related to a specified Action, the proponent should contact the reviewing regulatory agency for clarification before contacting the reservation holder.

The reservation holder is obligated to review the proposed activity to determine if the reservation intent would be maintained if the proposed activity were approved. If required, the reservation holder must provide the proponent with a response within the referral timelines established by the applicable regulatory agency. A reservation holder may request additional time to review the request submitted by the proponent. Such a request should be honored if it is sincere. If a response is not received within the allotted referral timeline, the proponent may proceed with their application.

As part of their application for a formal disposition, a proponent must have a verifiable means to show the date on which information was submitted and received by a reservation holder (for example, email read receipt, registered mail, etc.).

Should a reservation holder identify valid concerns regarding impacts of the proposed activity on the reservation, then the proponent is responsible for working with the reservation holder to address these concerns. This must be done prior to submitting an application for a formal disposition. Addressing the reservation holder's concerns may involve the proponent making changes to the siting, timing or construction techniques used in their proposed activity.

If the concerns of a reservation holder cannot be resolved, the proponent can choose to:

- not submit an application for those lands, since the concerns cannot be mitigated, or
- submit an application for those lands, complete with mitigation, including correspondence from the reservation holder on whether there is support for the proposed mitigation as part of the application submission.

The regulatory agency will review the application and assess mitigation in respect of the concerns raised by the reservation holder and will provide final direction on whether the proposed activity will be permitted. The issuing regulatory agency may ask the proponent and reservation holder for all previous communication records regarding the concerns and the identified reservation in order to support its decision. This information can be requested at any point throughout the life of the disposition to support compliance and assurance processes.

It is important to note that any reservations that are intersected by a proposed activity will be identified at the time of application, by way of the LAT report or the OneStop portal. If any reservation is identified, then all Action(s) associated to an applicable Sector, as specified in the reservation, will need to be addressed before the application proceeds.

For this reason, it is prudent for a proponent to generate a reservations report and identify and address any reservations well in advance of submitting an application.

For more information on Land Use Reservations, their overall structure and components, and addressing reservations for a regulatory application, please reference the Land use reservation program procedures guide located on the website. For information on how to generate a LURR, a proponent can visit the Government of Alberta's Land Use Reservation Program website.

Provincial Grazing Reserves

Provincial Grazing Reserves (PGRs) are areas placed under reservation (identified by the Purpose "Range Management", and Reason "Provincial Grazing Reserve"), and managed by the Crown for the purpose of providing grazing opportunities to community stakeholders. Many of the PGRs are managed by an association. However, decisions regarding the overlapping issuance of activities within a PGR fall to the Crown.

If a proponent intends to submit an application for a public lands disposition that will overlap with a PGR, it is the proponent's responsibility to contact the local PGR agrologist to ensure the activity can be accommodated within the PGR. The proponent will need to ensure the PGR reservation is cleared prior to submitting their application for a disposition.

Indigenous consultation

The Government of Alberta's Guidelines on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management outline policy committing Alberta "to consult with First Nations and Metis Settlements where land management and resource development have the potential to adversely impact First Nations' rights and traditional uses." The guidelines require proponents to consult with First Nations in accordance with the policy. To access the guidelines, search "Consultation Guidelines" on the Government of Alberta's Indigenous Relations website.

To facilitate a consistent application of the guidelines during the issuance of formal dispositions, the proponent must follow the EDS First Nations Consultation user guide. Through the Electronic Disposition System, File Number of Consultation (FNC) numbers are issued to the proponent to track consultation procedures, documents and decisions granted by the government to the proponent. The FNC number is an integral part of the electronic application process to receive a public lands formal disposition. To access the procedure, search "First Nations Consultation Procedures" on the Government of Alberta website.

Addressing consent requirements

Prior to submitting an application for a formal disposition on public lands, a proponent must consider and understand the impacts their proposed activity will have for resource values, stakeholders, and existing authorization holders. A proponent must also address First Nations consultation requirements. Where necessary, a proponent must take steps to satisfy consent requirements in relation to their activity and its placement on the landscape.

To effectively address these matters, a proponent must undertake a number of steps, including:

- generate a Public Land Standing report; and
- generate a geospatial assessment through the LAT or EDPA, as applicable.

These reports are integral for enabling a proponent to assess whether their proposed activity can be situated on the land, to determine if there are any parties that may be affected by their proposed activity, and to identify any conditions that restrict or limit use of the land.

Consent of existing authorization holders

When an application for a new disposition, authorization or (in some cases) approval will involve a geographic area that is subject to prior rights, the proponent is required to obtain consent from the holder of those prior rights. (This requirement also applies to public lands amendment applications.)

Surface access to occupied public land requires consent from the occupant. Occupants are land users, such as forest management agreement holders, grazing lease holders, or other holders of formal dispositions on public land.

Consent from the following disposition holders must be submitted with a new application or amendment application at the time of submission:

- Timber Dispositions
  - Forest Management Agreement (FMA)
  - Deciduous Timber Licence (DTL)
  - Coniferous Timber Licence (CTL)
  - Deciduous Timber Permit (DTP)
  - Coniferous Timber Permit (CTP)
- Agricultural Dispositions
  - Grazing Permits (GRP)
  - Grazing Leases (GRL)
  - Grazing Licence (FGL)
  - Farm Development Lease (FDL)
- Commercial and Industrial Dispositions
  - Miscellaneous Lease (DML/MLL)
  - Surface Material Lease (SML)
  - Mineral Surface Lease (DMS/MSL)
  - Recreational Lease (REC)
  - Tourism and Commercial Lease (TCL)
  - Pipeline Installation Lease (DPI/PIL)
- Government of Alberta Activities
  - Departmental Regulatory Sites (DRS)
  - Parks Regulatory Sites (PRS)
  - Provisional Roadways (RDS)

Under the Public Lands Administration Regulation, the following dispositions are considered “vacant disposition area”. These require consent from existing disposition holders within the geographic area on which a proponent wishes to situate their proposed activity. Such consent must be obtained prior to any activity being conducted on the land:

- Authorizations
- Commercial Trail Riding Permit (CTR)
- Easement (EZE)
- Licence of Occupation (DLO/LOC)
- Pipeline Agreement (DPL/PLA)
- Rural Electric Association Easement (REA)
- Vegetation Control Easement (VCE/RCV)

Before submitting an application to the issuing regulatory agency, a proponent must contact the occupant to obtain consent to access the land. If consent is required, a copy of the consent must be submitted with the application for the disposition application to be considered a complete application.

For consents to be accepted by the Ministry, the following information must be provided:

- Date of consent
- Applicant's name
- Consenting disposition holder's name or company
- Disposition type
- Purpose.

For consents to be accepted by the AER, certain requirements must be satisfied. Proponents should reference Consent Bulletin 2015-02 or contact the AER for specific requirements.

A consenting disposition holder may choose to include a client reference/file number to identify the site requiring consent. If the regulatory agency cannot associate the consent to the specific application, the consent document will not be accepted.

An application that does not include required consent(s) will be considered incomplete and will be rejected by the regulatory agency.

Alignment to land use planning

A proponent must ensure that their proposed activity is in accordance with plans that have been enacted by the Government of Alberta in respect of land use and resource development.

Several higher-level plans are developed and work together to outline land and resource management parameters and describe the management intent of specific areas in Alberta. These plans are departmentally recognized and approved.

Higher-level plans include, but are not limited to:

- Access Management Plans
- Area Structure Plans
- Caribou Range Plans
- Integrated Resource Plans
- Land Use Framework Regional Plans
- Public Land Use Zones
- Regional and Sub-regional plans
- Regional Integrated Decisions

Prior to the submission of an application, a proponent is required to identify higher-level plans applicable to the location of their proposed activity. It is the proponent's responsibility to be familiar with the outcomes, intent and restrictions identified in these plans and to address them prior to submission of an application. Any requirements specified in a plan as associated to a sector or specific activity must be followed.

Through the generation of geospatial analysis reports (as informed by the reviewing regulatory body), plans located on Government of Alberta websites and other spatial tools, applicable plans will be identified. Higher-level plans may also be identified as associated to a reservation. Once identified, the applicant must review the plan and consider any direction provided as related to the activity or their sector and apply it to the placement of their activity if allowed.

Located below in this document is general descriptions and guidance in respects to each type of plan, however any specific direction will be located within the specific plan being intersected.

Should an applicant have any questions in respects to a higher-level plan, the following direction is suggested;

1. If the applicant is unclear regarding any details or objectives of the plan:
    a. Direct these questions to the owner of the plan.
        i. If you are unable to identify the owner of the plan, speak to the appropriate reviewing regulatory body for insight as to whom the owner would be.

2. If the applicant is unsure of how their activity is affected by the plan:
    a. Direct these questions to the appropriate reviewing regulatory body.

The applicant is to retain any records of communication or direction provided for the life of the disposition, as the regulatory body may ask for these records at any time in order to support compliance and assurance processes.

This chapter identifies and describes many types of higher-level plans that may apply to a proponent's activity.

Land use framework regional and sub regional plans

The *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* enables the creation of regional and sub-regional plans for regions in the province. When a regional plan is complete, it is formally incorporated as a regulation and has legal force and effect.

Through regional planning, the Government of Alberta provides provincial leadership and clear policy direction to support land-use decision-makers at regional and local levels as implemented through regulatory process. Regional planning is an ongoing and collaborative process. Regional plans are developed in consultation with all Albertans, including indigenous communities, stakeholders, municipalities and the public. Regional plans are reviewed every five and ten years to evaluate their ongoing effectiveness and relevance to regions.

A regional plan integrates environmental, social and economic considerations, and provides context for future and more detailed planning. This ensures that planning for land use and environmental management are aligned and integrated. Each plan establishes desired outcomes for a land-use region and the key strategies to achieve those outcomes. It also serves as grounding for Alberta's cumulative effects management approach, which is integrated amongst various spatial scales – provincial, regional, sub-regional, local, and site-specific.

A proponent can identify applicable regional plans through the Base Features section of geospatial analysis reports. The proponent must be familiar with the requirements of any applicable plan and ensure that their proposed activity adheres to the plan.

To access Land Use Regional and Sub-regional plans, search Alberta.ca using the specific plan name.

Integrated Resource Plans and Regional Integrated Decisions

Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs) and Regional Integrated Decisions (RIDs) exist for landscapes across parts of Alberta, generally include information and guidance about resource strategies and objectives, compatible and non-compatible uses, and mitigation options. However, each IRP and RID can be variable in terms of their format and content. Often, an IRP or RID will be delineated into sub-areas such as zones, Resource Management Areas, or in some cases both.

To access existing RIDs and IRPs search "Integrated Resource Plans" on Alberta.ca.

Public Land Use Zones

A Public Land Use Zone (PLUZ) is an area of Crown land to which legislative controls apply, in order to assist in the management of industrial, commercial and recreational land uses and resources. Prior to 2011, these were known as Forest Land Use Zones, however with the proclamation of the Public Land Administration Regulation (PLAR), PLUZ's were redefined as referenced within Schedule 4 of the regulation.

The existing Public Land Use Zones cover approximately 11,200 square kilometres of Crown land in Alberta. Within certain PLUZs there is significant recreational infrastructure for public use, such as trails, camping areas and staging areas. For proposed activities within a PLUZ, the proponent should seek information and direction on the Government of Alberta website (search "Public Land Use Zones"). Also reference PLAR Division 1, Zones, Areas and Trails for Recreation. If questions are still evident, the proponent can contact the reviewing regulatory body for direction. Information regarding PLUZs intersected by your proposed activity can be retrieved by searching "Public Land Use Zones" on Alberta.ca to reference the specific PLUZ for information or direction.

Access Management Plans

There are three approved access management plans in Alberta. These plans support Integrated Land Management objectives and collaborative agreements between the Government of Alberta, industry and municipalities. Current Access Management Plans include:

- Chungo Creek Industrial Access Management Area
- Kakwa Copton Industrial Corridor Plan, and
- Berland Smoky Access Plan.

The applicant is to ensure that the proposed activity adheres to the access management plan. If an applicant proposes a deviation from the direction provided in the access management plan then mitigation or justification will be required as part of the supplement submission during application.

These plans can be found by searching by plan name on Alberta.ca.

Footprint management

Footprint is a growing concern within Alberta due to the increased level and diversity of activities occurring throughout the province. To help ensure continued development and economic growth, the Government of Alberta has measures in place to manage the increase in total footprint from activities on Crown land. If the total footprint from activities continues to grow without accelerated reclamation of disturbed yet inactive areas, then newly proposed activities may be limited to areas of less disturbance.

Footprint Management plans are proactive and coordinated approaches to manage levels of human disturbance on a landscape scale. The plan will manage the extent, rate and duration of footprint to meet the objectives and targets set out in regional plans and environmental management frameworks including the Biodiversity Management Framework.

Footprint Management plans continue to support concurrent industrial, commercial, and recreational activities but also ensures any footprint is managed to sustain industrial and commercial purposes, access and recreation or tourism opportunities for all Albertans. Integrated Land Management (ILM) is a strategic, planned approach to managed human footprint on the landscape by:

- Actual footprint reduction (including reclamation)
- Working together (coordinated approaches to reduce impacts on other users)
- Reducing the intensity or longevity of footprint (temporal)
- Efficient use of land (spatial)

Footprint plans identify detailed integrated land management practices to achieve the objectives.

When proposing new activities within an area that has an approved footprint plan, applicants will need to assess the proposed projects in respects to the footprint plan objectives to ensure the best use of land is occurring.

Please search Alberta.ca for Footprint Management Plans to identify and access any documents, spatial boundaries, and further details on how those plans may impact activity proposals within those areas.

Planning the activity

In undertaking detailed planning of their proposed activity, a proponent must understand and conform to expectations that have been established regarding the management of ecosystems. These include expectations regarding the level of land disturbance and the protection of resource values such as water and biodiversity.

Having regard for these expectations in the planning stages can help avoid delays during the application process.

Managing footprint of an activity

A proponent is expected to plan their proposed activity in ways that will minimize its total footprint and, hence, minimize land disturbances.

Measures that a proponent can utilize to mitigate the footprint of their activity include:

- aligning activities and infrastructure within already disturbed areas to utilize existing footprint during the ongoing use of public lands (for example, a pipeline or easement corridor following exiting or planned access corridors),
- minimizing activity sizes or right-of-way widths to only what is required,
- practicing phased and scheduled clearing and construction activities utilizing only the land required, rather than clearing the total disposition to accommodate future proposed expansion,
- completion of reclamation for inactive or abandoned sites and implementing progressive or advanced reclamation techniques that return the land to a productive state prior to disposition abandonment and final reclamation certification.

A proponent should examine all aspects of their proposed activity with reference to the above measures, to ensure the best use of land is occurring.

As part of this, a proponent must identify whether a Footprint Management Plan applies to the intended location of their proposed activity. Proponents should visit the Alberta.ca for access to Footprint Management Plan documents, spatial boundaries, and further details on how those Footprint Management Plans may impact new disposition proposals within those areas.

Resource values

Species at Risk

A proponent must consider whether their proposed activity will intersect with any Species at Risk range. These can be identified in a LAT report.

If their proposed activity will intersect with a range of a Species at Risk identified below, a proponent must complete an appropriate field survey. A field survey is not required for certain wildlife species as there are specific approval standards that address the needs and setback distances for these species.

The following species require the completion of a sensitive species survey prior to submitting an application:

- Burrowing Owl
- Endangered and Threatened plants (Tiny Cryptanthe, Small-flowered Sand Verbena, Soapweed, Western Spiderwort, Porsild’s Bryum, Whitebark Pine, Limber Pine, Slendered)
- Ord’s Kangaroo Rat
- Sensitive Amphibians
- Sensitive Raptors (Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle)
- Sensitive Snakes (Prairie Rattlesnake, Bullsnake, Western Hognose snake)
- Sharp-tailed Grouse
- Swift Fox

The completion of a field survey assists in determining the siting location for a proposed activity and options for mitigation measures in respect of impacts to the species at risk. A sensitive species survey must occur at the time of year appropriate for species detection, as described in the Sensitive Species Survey Guidelines. To access the guidelines and the appropriate form, search “Sensitive Species Inventory Guidelines” on Alberta.ca.

The results of an acceptable survey are valid for two years from the date of the survey. Winter surveys, where allowed, are not considered to be valid beyond the season in which they are conducted and are subject to certain survey constraints (for example, all stick nests are considered occupied for winter surveys).

Other species may require surveys as noted in the MSSC, depending upon the proposed timing and location of the proponent's activity. These include the following species:

- Greater Short Horned Lizard
- Long-billed Curlew
- Mountain Plover
- Short-eared Owl
- Sprague's Pipit
- Upland Sandpiper

A Wildlife Research Permit may be required for surveys that are designed to elicit a response, alter the behavior, or are being undertaken in close proximity to a den, nest, or house of a wildlife species and which have potential to result in avoidance or abandonment of the site.

Please contact the local Ministry office for more information, or search "Wildlife Research Permits" on Alberta.ca.

Where a survey is required, a proponent must document completed survey work. This documentation must be submitted as part of the formal disposition application. A proponent must also submit data collected through the survey to the Fish and Wildlife Management Information System (FWMIS). (Note that the LAT number must be included in the FWMIS entry form in the "Project Information" field.) The FWMIS also offers additional information on sensitive species on Alberta landscapes. To access the information within FWMIS, search "Fisheries and Wildlife Management Information System" on Alberta.ca.

Additional information can also be found on the Alberta Conservation Information Management System (ACIMS). To access the information within ACIMS, search "Alberta Conservation Information Management System" on Alberta.ca.

The Habitat Suitability Index Model Tool can be used to evaluate habitat values for select Species at Risk. To access the tool, search "Habitat Suitability Model Search Tool" on Alberta.ca.

Watersheds and wetlands

When planning their proposed activity, a proponent must ensure impacts to watersheds, watercourses and wetlands are avoided. This will ensure Alberta's wetlands are sustained so they continue to benefit the environment, society, and the economy.

To achieve this, a proponent should consider and plan their activity to support the following outcomes:

- Watercourses and wetlands of the highest value are protected for the long-term benefit of all Albertans.
- Watercourses and wetlands and their benefits are conserved and restored in areas where losses have been high.
- Watercourses and wetlands are managed by avoiding, minimizing, and if necessary, replacing lost wetland value.

When planning their activity around watercourses and wetlands, it is crucial a proponent apply the appropriate setbacks and that sighting, and installation follow departmental policies and regulations under the *Water Act* and any applicable Code of Practice.

TABLE 1: PROVINCIAL WATERCOURSE DESCRIPTIONS AND SETBACKS[1]

Type	Width	Channel characteristics	Setback requirements[2]
Large Permanent[1]	> 5 m	Defined Channel	100 m
Small Permanent[1]	0.7 – 5 m	Defined Channel	45 m
Intermittent/Spring[1]	< 0.7 m	Defined Channel	45 m

[1]/[2] *Alberta Wetland Classification System* – Government of Alberta

Type	Width	Channel characteristics	Setback requirements[2]
Ephemeral		No Defined Channel	15 m

1. May or may not contain continuous flow.
2. The setback for watercourses is measured from top of break (valley), or if undefined, from the top of the bank.

TABLE 2: PROVINCIAL WATERBODY DESCRIPTIONS AND SETBACKS[2]

Type	Basin characteristics	Setback requirements
Lakes	Open Water (> 2m Depth)	100m
Permanent Shallow Open Water Ponds (S&K V*)		
Permanent Shallow Open Water Wetlands (S&K V*)	Deep marsh margin	100 m
Permanent Open Water (> 2m depth) deep marsh margin Semi-Permanent Wetlands (S&K IV) Semi-Permanent Wetlands (S&K IV)	Emergent deep marsh in the centre of the basin, wet meadow margin around perimeter; may have open water phase in wet years.	100 m
Non-permanent Seasonal Wetlands (S&K III*) Non-permanent Seasonal Wetlands (S&K III*)	Shallow marsh in the centre of the basin, wet meadow margin around perimeter	45 m
Non-permanent Temporary Wetlands (S&K II*)	Wet meadow vegetation throughout	15 m setback requirement for wellsites and pipelines
Fens	No defined channel – slow flowing	No specific setback – attempt to leave undisturbed
Bogs	Peatland – acidic wetland – no flow	No specific setback

3. The setback is from the defined bank of the waterbody or the outer margin of the last zone of vegetation that is not defined/bounded by upland vegetation communities.

Permanent and naturally occurring bodies of water

Under section 3 of the *Public Lands Act*, the ownership to the bed and shore of all permanent and naturally occurring bodies of water in the province is vested in the Crown in right of Alberta. This includes marshes and shallow open water wetlands, surface water within permanent and naturally occurring bodies of water, and permanent surface water within wetlands.

It is the responsibility of proponent to identify the existence of potentially permanent and naturally occurring bodies of water on the landscape before submitting an application for a formal disposition. If the planning, siting and installation of the proposed activity will impact the Crown-owned bed and shore of a body of water, then the proposed activity will require a regulatory approval and the proponent will need to provide mitigation as part of the application.

The Alberta Wetland Classification System (2013) should be used to determine the general permanency of the body of water and whether its bed and shore is claimable by the Crown.

[1/2] *Alberta Wetland Classification System* – Government of Alberta

If at any given time the climate conditions result in the temporary draw-down or drying of the water feature, then the proponent should review historical aerial/satellite photography to assess the general wetland class and its permanency. Descriptions of waterbodies are consistent with terms provided within the Alberta Wetland Classification System. Tables 3 and 4 below can also be used as guidance to determine the classification of a body of water and the Crown's ownership of its bed and shore.

TABLE 3: CROWN OWNERSHIP CLAIMS RELATED TO WETLAND CLASSES

Wetland class	Crown claimable
Bogs	No
Fens	No
Swamps	No
Marshes	See Table 4
Shallow Open Water	See Table 4

TABLE 4: CROWN OWNERSHIP CLAIMS RELATED TO MARSHES AND SHALLOW OPEN WATER WETLANDS

Marsh and shallow open water types	Plant community in centre of basin	Permanency	Crown claimable
II - Temporary	Wet meadow	Temporary	No
III - Seasonal	Shallow marsh	Seasonal	No
IV – Semi-Permanent	Deep marsh	Semi-Permanent	Yes
V – Permanent	Open water and submersed aquatic vegetation	Permanent	Yes
VI - Intermittent	Saline plant community	Variable	Case-by-Case

Managing access for an activity

Owing to Alberta's continued growth, there is a variety of established access across the province, including access under existing dispositions. The creation of access has impacts on the total amount of land disturbance across the province. This can have impacts on ecosystem services and the health of biodiversity. Recognizing this, the Government of Alberta has taken steps to manage access in areas of Alberta.

Access is one aspect of an activity where a proponent can provide huge benefit in respect of integrated land management and protecting important resource values.

While considerable access has been approved over time, existing access routes may not be practical for a newly proposed activity, the growing needs within an area or to protect valued resources. When a new activity is being proposed, the proponent should work with the regulatory agency to explore how access can be established such that:

- existing access is utilized to the extent practical,
- old, underdeveloped or undesirable access is removed,'
- the access is useful to other potential users of the land now or in the future,
- the access minimizes impacts to resource values.

A proponent must ensure that their proposed activity adheres to any access management plan in place. If the proponent proposes a deviation from the direction provided in an access management plan, then mitigation or justification will be required as part of the application.

Road classes

All access roads applied for under a public lands disposition are required to use the road classes as defined in Table 5 below. Corner cuts do not contribute to the road class width calculation.

Roads approved and constructed do not need to be amended to reflect a higher road classification and will be permitted to be used at the current approved standard and right of way width. Should a road need to be amended to another road classification, then the existing road classes will apply and can be selected. For existing historical access, the primary purpose and constructed road surface of the access should be considered when selecting an amended access road classification. Right of way width is not the only determining factor.

TABLE 5: ROAD CLASS SPECIFICATION

Class	Right-of-Way width	Description
Class I	≤ 40 m	• All weather primary road. • Right-of-Way width should be the minimum required to allow travel, while addressing safety and environmental concerns.
Class II	≤ 30 m	• All weather or dry weather secondary road which serves as a branch road from primary road. • Right-of-Way width should be the minimum required to allow travel, while addressing safety and environmental concerns.
Class III	• 15m Right-of-Way where terrain or other conditions allow. • Up to 20m width when constrained by terrain conditions; not to exceed 35% of the length of the route.	• All weather or dry weather tertiary road. • Right-of-Way width should be the minimum required to allow travel, while addressing safety and environmental concerns. • Site specific cuts, fills and widening may be required (bends, slope, etc.)
Class IV	• ≤ 15m with variable allowance for terrain conditions. • Up to 20m where required for watercourse approaches (to enable water management) and side slopes; all not to exceed 20% of the length of the route.	• Frozen or dry conditions. • Stripping of topsoil permitted. • No ditch or grade development, except on a site- specific basis for drainage control and water management. Grade and ditch development not to exceed 20% of the length of the route. • Can be constructed and used year-round when conditions are suitable. • Should a portion of the route become impassable due to wet conditions, drainage problems, or rutting, site specific improvements (i.e., matting, padding, culverts etc.) to the problematic area(s) may be implemented. Wholesale matting of the entire access route is only permitted during active pad development and must be removed after the site has entered production phase. • Some access improvements required to support wellsite activity (e.g., wire line) should be temporary only and must be removed after the activity is over. • Right-of-Way width should be the minimum required to allow travel, while addressing environmental concerns. • Roads will typically follow contours of the landscape more closely than do higher standard routes. • Cuts and fills should be minimized.
Class V	• 10m with variable allowance for terrain conditions. • Up to 20m where required for watercourse approaches (to enable water management) and side slopes. All not to exceed 20% of the length of the route.	• Minimal disturbance – frozen or equivalent to frozen (for example, rig matting). • Allows for winter operations, extends the winter drilling season and/or emulates frozen ground access when frost conditions are not adequate or not present. • Access will minimize ground disturbance under non- frozen ground conditions and will mimic frozen ground access. • Ground disturbance, surface vegetation disturbance, Right-of-Way clearing and surface improvements will be minimized. • Can be constructed and used during favorable ground conditions. Use during unfavorable ground conditions require cessation of use or mitigation measures (for example, rig matting). • May require adjustments to well drilling/completions schedules and require use of alternative vehicles for production monitoring. • Road width will be minimized wherever possible by sharing space with pipeline Right-of-Ways, seismic lines and through the use of vehicle pullouts. • Route construction may not be feasible for all terrain conditions. A combination of padding, geo-textile, matting, road culverts, corduroy or other drivable surfaces may be required during non-frozen ground conditions.

Class	Right-of-Way width	Description
		• Gravel may be used in site-specific situations for safety or environmental protection of water crossings, but its use should be minimal.
VI (Prairie and Parkland)	• ≤ 10m	• Dry year round; is required. existing linear disturbances.

Three-phase route selection process and alignment process

To facilitate route selection and alignment, it is recommended a proponent provide documentation of

- the advantages and disadvantages of various routes.
- the proponent's efforts to integrate with other disturbance features and resource users.
- rationale for selecting a particular route; and
- the potential impacts that will require mitigation.

The issuing regulatory agency may seek to examine this documentation for linear access developments identified in Table 6, after disposition approval has been obtained.

TABLE 6: THREE-PHASE ROUTE SELECTION AND ALIGNMENT PLANNING PROCESS*

Road class	High visible, mapped and other identified management areas*	General areas
I-II	All	All
III	≥ 1km	≥ 2km
IV, V and VI	≥ 2km	Not Required

Class I	All	All
Class II		
≥ 15 m	≥ 2 km	≥ 5 km
< 15 m	≥ 5 km***	Not Required

* Regulatory body acceptance of Phases I and II is recommended.

** Includes lands with high visibility (for example, viewscapes, aesthetic considerations), lands within mapped sensitivity layers, lands covered by Crown Land Reservations (CLR).

*** Except if the entire proposed pipeline right-of-way parallels an existing road or pipeline disturbance.

Below are steps for a proponent to follow as part of the Three-Phase process.

- **Phase I – Development Corridor Selection (Regional and Local Planning Elements).** Use the regional and local planning elements to locate, evaluate and select a linear corridor/alignment. Follow these steps:
    - Identify area affected by the proposed linear development.
    - Compile, evaluate and analyze the data (regional and local planning elements).
    - Identify all linear corridor/alignment options within the area.
    - Identify all impacts along each corridor/alignment option.
    - Evaluate environmental impacts for each corridor/alignment.

- Rank corridors/alignments according to environmental impacts (lowest to highest).
- Select the preferred corridor/alignment option.

- **Phase II – Route Selection (Local Planning Elements).** Use the local planning elements to locate, evaluate and select a linear route within the preferred corridor. Follow these steps:
  - Evaluate and analyze all the data (local planning elements) within the preferred corridor.
  - Identify route selection options within the preferred corridor/alignment.
  - Evaluate environmental impacts for each route/alignment.
  - Rank routes/alignment according to environmental impact (lowest to highest).
  - Select preferred route/alignment option.
- **Phase III – Site-Specific Evaluation of Preferred Route/Alignment (Site-Specific Planning Elements).** Use the site-specific planning elements to evaluate and locate the centre line survey for the preferred route/alignment. Follow these steps:
  - Locate landforms, watersheds, waterbodies, watercourses, and other physical features that are to be avoided, or for which the effects of proposed activities should be minimized or mitigated.
  - Locate critical wildlife habitats, fisheries habitats, timber resources and other such features that are to be avoided, or for which the effects of proposed activities should be minimized or mitigated.
  - Complete technical site evaluation (for example, geo-technical soil testing, hydrological surveys).
  - Identify potential impacts on other lands.
  - Locate and survey the route.

Powerline Hazard Assessment

The purpose of a Power Line Hazard Assessment Plan (PHAP) is to help power line operators in reducing wildfire risk with their operations, reducing the number of wildfire ignitions caused by power lines, and improving partnerships for wildfire risk reduction. It also helps power line operators mitigate the threat of infrastructure damage from an encroaching wildfire. The PHAP also serves as a risk-based tool used by industry to inform hazard tree maintenance, right-of-way widening and tree freeing programs, as well as wildfire best management practices.

The PHAP is applicable to all power lines within the province of Alberta. It is a pre-application requirement for power line approvals that fall within the Forest Protection Area of Alberta. This also applies to Vegetation Control Easements (VCE), but not to underground lines.

Power line approvals that fall within identified FireSmart Community Zones must be referred to the Government of Alberta prior to application to ensure alignment with community FireSmart planning. To access the PHAP application, go to https://www.alberta.ca/firesmart

APPENDIX A: DESIRED OUTCOMES AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Category	Desired Outcome	Best Management Practice
Land Management	1. Minimize negative impacts of disturbance. 2. Minimize footprint. 3. Maximize opportunities for integration. 4. Maintain opportunities for a full range of resource values and interests on the landscape. 5. Increase potential for re-growth, restoration and reclamation of industrial features. 6. For Sand and Gravel (S&G) activities, maintain or enhance the natural hydrology of the area, including water quality and quantity. 7. For S&G activities, maintain or enhance upland island habitats that occur within the excavation area. 8. For S&G activities, minimize overall footprint by applying for only the area required for the development of the activity. 9. Reclamation of used lands is completed throughout the lifecycle of the disposition to ensure lands are returned to the Crown in a reclaimed state as soon as possible."	1. Integrated Land Management (ILM)* principles should be considered in all applications. 2. Activities should be planned in a manner that minimizes disturbance and adverse environmental effects. This includes environmentally sensitive areas such as: sensitive soils (for example, erodible soils, saline or sodic soils); unstable slopes; waterbodies and wetlands; streams; areas likely to have rare plant or animal species and areas of importance to wildlife such as breeding grounds, nesting areas or winter range. 3. Formal disposition proposals and incidental activities* should be located within existing clearings or trails* and limit clearing in any new areas. 4. Locate developments to avoid wetlands*, coulees* and river benchland* areas. 5. Minimize the number of linear features by using a shared corridor for pipelines, utility services, and roads, where managed all-weather access is required. 6. Landscape fragmentation should be minimized. 7. Developments should be located to minimize the amount of borrowed materials. 8. If an off-lease sump is used, consideration should be given to reduce the wellsite size. 9. Road design should consider the following: a. Minimize the number of watercourse* crossings, b. Minimize the total footprint, c. Minimize new clearing, d. Minimize disturbance/grade, and e. Avoidance of loop roads. 10. Minimal disturbance* techniques should be used wherever possible. 11. Access routing should be planned such that future pipeline corridor needs are considered and integrated. 12. When gates are used for access control*, the gate shall be constructed at locations and in a manner, which will contribute to their effectiveness in preventing access to the road (in combination with applying public access restrictions). 13. All industrial activity should be sequenced to avoid/minimize repeat operations or multiple entries into the area. 14. Exploration wells* should use existing access where available, and when temporary access clearing is required, corridor width should be kept to a minimum. 15. New disturbances should consider the impacts for other users/values. 16. Existing sites with on-lease contamination should be avoided (based on documented proof of contamination). 17. Selected routes and pipe size, or capacity, should allow for field expansion. 18. Attempts should be made to clear all linear disturbances to a variable width* within the approved disposition right-of-way to achieve the minimum footprint possible. 19. Pipeline rights-of-way should not be used as access shortcuts during construction. 20. Attempts should be made to locate incidental borrow pits* within 100 metres of existing or planned access. 21. Use spoil piles from existing dugouts on grazing leases. 22. The level of disturbance can be minimized by considering the right-of-way width, number of pipelines, using common trench, trench width, installation method, no strip or partial strip of topsoil*, working space requirements (for example., road crossings, stream

Category	Desired Outcome	Best Management Practice
		crossings), slash disposal, soil salvage, and time of year for construction. 23. The level of disturbance can be minimized by using methods such as directional drilling, horizontal drilling, slant-hole drilling, or multiple well pad sites. 24. Lease sites should have rounded corners and irregular boundaries that conform to topography to minimize disturbance. 25. Operators should monitor the soil for impacts such as erosion* and rutting, and if impacts are noted it may be necessary to upgrade access as a means of environmental protection. 26. New linear disturbances that intersect existing roads* should incorporate techniques that reduce the line of sight from the existing road*. Techniques include using live vegetation, horizontal directional drilling, doglegs*, and boring. 27. Attempts should be made to reduce the visual impacts of proposed activities within high visible areas*, such as: a. Activities within, adjacent* to, or viewed from recreational sites and tourist developments. b. Activities seen from elevated public viewpoints. c. Activities adjacent* to or viewed from major travel corridors (roads, lakes and rivers), rural/urban forest interface and site-specific areas identified during the planning process. d. Activities adjacent* to primary and secondary highways in Alberta. The three-phase planning process as referenced in the "Pre-Application Requirements for Formal Dispositions" as amended is considered a best practice for linear developments. Use of this process is suggested when planning and selecting a route for linear developments before application is made for a disposition. 28. Variable width* construction methods are recommended for linear developments to minimize footprint. 29. Operators should utilize above ground water storage facilities to reduce the need for reservoirs. 30. Minimize the proliferation of reservoirs in a given area. 31. When locating reservoirs, avoid floodplains and areas prone to overland flooding in the vicinity of fish-bearing waterbodies to prevent possibility of fish capture. 32. When constructing reservoirs, Disposition Holders should install amphibian exclusion fencing that prevents the establishment of amphibian populations while allowing larger mammals access and egress*. 33. Maintain availability of water sources for multiple users. 34. Ensure required *Water Act* applications are submitted in tandem with any associated land use application. 35. In addition to complying with federal, provincial and local laws and regulations respecting the environment including the release of substances, the disposition holder shall take necessary precautions to prevent contamination of land, water bodies and the air with particulate and gaseous matter. 36. Locate reservoirs outside of sensitivity zones. 37. Locate reservoirs adjacent* to existing high grade access. 38. Applications for additional access dispositions should not be submitted if access under disposition already exists. 39. Lands are developed and utilized in an environmental manner. 40. Only the required footprint for the development of the activity is applied for. 41. Integration of activities, especially access to activities is coordinated with other industry. 42. For geophysical activities, the holder should ensure existing lines are reused and do not mechanically clear new lines. 43. No new access should be developed unless otherwise unavoidable.

Category	Desired Outcome	Best Management Practice
		44. The area required for facilities and storage should be as small as practical. 45. Use sediment* control measures to limit erosion* and potential fouling of nearby water sources. 46. Once an area is depleted of resources and no longer being excavated, steps should be taken to initiate the reclamation of the area.
Vegetation	1. Restore vegetative cover with desirable species. Sites should demonstrate a positive successional pathway that provides assurance that the site will achieve a community similar to the offsite control. 2. Minimize loss of native vegetation. 3. Minimize negative effects of vegetation control activities. 4. Maximize utilization of merchantable timber/vegetation, when encountered. 5. Reduce the risk of wildfire. 6. Minimize the spread of vegetation disease and insect pests. 7. Minimize the introduction of noxious and restricted invasive plants (weeds).	1. All equipment used, including ancillary equipment (for example, rig matting) should be cleaned and free of weeds. 2. During the location of activities, timber values should be considered. 3. Mechanical vegetation control is the preferred form of vegetation management (trimming, cutting, mowing, etc.). 4. Chemical control methods should be applied by spot application only. 5. The FireSmart Guidebook for the Oil and Gas Industry should be considered when planning activities. 6. Rollback* material should consist primarily of coarse woody debris* (for example, non-merchantable tree trunks, large branches, root balls and stumps). 7. Rollback* is to be spread in a manner that does not create: a vertical fire hazard – ensure rollback* does not create ladder fuels to surrounding standing timber, particularly in relation to conifer stands; a horizontal fire hazard – leave rollback* free sections. 8. Avoid continuous accumulations of fine fuels. Fine fuels shall be fully disposed of at a safe time to reduce fire hazard. Fine fuels are defined as fuels that ignite readily and are consumed rapidly by fire (for example, cured grass, fallen leaves, needles, small twigs). 9. Rollback* must remain flat on the ground and in contact with the soil. 10. Ensure that rollback* does not exceed approximately 50 percent ground coverage.
Soil	1. Conserve soils and minimize loss of vegetative propagules. 2. Prevent degradation, contamination and destruction to the soil's chemical, physical and/or biological properties to sustain future growth of vegetation and fauna. 3. All soils are protected from erosion* (i.e., wind, water, gravity or sedimentation) caused by human activity. 4. Maintain the integrity of the permafrost layer.	1. Activities should be routed around sensitive terrain or soil conditions (for example, steep, erosive slopes; sand dunes; coulee* complexes; wet soils). 2. In areas where access cannot avoid soft or sensitive terrain, minimal disturbance* techniques should be considered to minimize impacts. 3. Minimize compaction, rutting, and damage of vegetation. 4. Some soil conditions (for example, salt, gravel) may require the use of three lift* stripping procedures, as outlined in the "Guidelines for Alternative Soil Handling Procedures during Pipeline Construction" (Alberta Pipeline Environmental Steering Committee, 1996). 5. Avoid areas of permafrost by re-routing activities where possible. 6. In permafrost areas, avoid complete removal of vegetation (for example, shrubs) and surface organic material. 7. In permafrost areas, disturbance to hummocks should be minimized. 8. In permafrost areas, every effort should be made to utilize brush for creating a working surface.
Watercourse/ Waterbody	1. Maintain natural drainage. 2. Maintain riparian* habitat structure that contribute to water quality and maintain aquatic life and function. 3. Prevent soil and deleterious substances/materials from entering watercourses*. 4. Maintain the integrity of the bed and shore*. 5. Maintain aquatic and terrestrial habitat. 6. Maintain fish passage*. 7. Maintain landscape connectivity along natural movement corridors.	1. All weather access should not parallel fish-bearing streams within 500 metres. 2. Where topography (slope, elevation) limits the ability to locate roads away from riparian* areas, access roads should be located as far away from the bed and shore* of the watercourse* as possible. 3. Bore* or directional drill pipeline watercourse* crossing is preferred. However, where geotechnical conditions preclude the use of bored or direction drilled crossings, the installation of a second pipe should be undertaken at the crossing site, to accommodate future capacity requirements. For infrastructure

Category	Desired Outcome	Best Management Practice
		where multiple pipelines are proposed (for example, separate diluent and dilbit pipelines), both pipelines shall be constructed in the same place in the same year, rather than two consecutive years of disturbance as occurs when one line is installed in one season and the second line installed in the second season. 4. Pipeline inspections at watercourse* crossings sites should be planned and undertaken in a manner that they will not require in-stream work (no open cut or trenching). 5. The Disposition Holder should minimize the number of crossings within the disposition, unless doing so results in greater disturbance (i.e., footprint hectares) and/or negative environmental impacts (for example, impacting landscape sensitivities) than creating a new crossing. 6. Stream crossings should be located at stable channel-type locations, not at actively eroding areas (for example, bends in the watercourse*). 7. In respects to watercourse crossing structures, the Disposition Holder should stake, flag, or otherwise mark the location of culverts to prevent damage by road maintenance equipment. 8. All equipment should be kept clean and not be a source of sediments* or contaminants. 9. Minimize roads and other linear developments to reduce the need and establishment of watercourse crossings. 10. Coordinate access and industrial development strategies which integrate the sequencing (time and space) of activities among various operators to minimize the number of watercourses crossing installations. 11. Roads or access no longer required should be deactivated and reclaimed reducing the number of watercourse installations or barriers. Crossing owners should participate in a cooperative approach to planning remediation priorities between crossing owners and regulators (Watercourse Crossing Management Directive). 12. All licences, authorizations and approvals issued under the *Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, *Water Act* or *Public Lands Act* should not be taken to mean the Disposition Holder has complied with federal legislation. The Disposition Holder should contact Habitat Management, Fisheries and Oceans in relation to the application of federal laws relating to the Fisheries Act (Canada). Fisheries Protection Program, Fisheries and Oceans Canada 867 Lakeshore Road, Burlington, Ontario, L7R 4A6 Telephone: 1-855-852-8320 Email: Fisheriesprotection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca Web address: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca The Disposition Holder should also contact the Navigation Protection Program, Canadian Coast Guard, 4253-97 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 5Y7, phone: 780-495-4220, relating to the Navigation Protection Act. 13. Regardless of any authority issued under the *Public Lands Act*, the Disposition Holder must not remove or use water unless authorized under the Water Act.
Reclamation	1. Conserve reclamation material* and minimize loss of land productivity. 2. Re-establish the original landform and drainage. 3. Promote prompt re-vegetation of disturbed lands to the pre-disturbance plant community. 8. Re-vegetate disturbed land to target the establishment of a self-sustaining, ecologically	1. Associated facilities should be reclaimed immediately following abandonment or completion of the activity. 2. Reclamation monitoring should occur within in the first growing season after disturbance to address invasive species. 3. Adaptive management strategies and monitoring should be utilized during all phases of reclamation to ensure approved vegetation community trajectories are maintained. Monitoring frequency should be adjusted based on site challenges and risks.

Category	Desired Outcome	Best Management Practice
	suitable species that are integrated with the surrounding area.	4. Progressive reclamation* should be completed on any areas not required for operations. 5. Construction, operation, and reclamation plans for activities occurring in bogs* and fens* should address the maintenance of surface and subsurface flow to prevent impacts as a consequence of flow obstruction and consider that all areas of infill should be removed during reclamation (for example, well pads and roadbeds). 14. Native re-vegetation should be considered first in all cases of temporary, progressive or final reclamation*.
Integrated Use on Agriculture and Grazing Lands	1. Maintain integrity of range allotments within the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve by maintaining forage allocations (animal unit month - AUMS*) and minimizing impacts to the ability of livestock to access and use the forage allocations. 2. Maintain forage allocation (AUM*) and minimize impacts to the ability of livestock to access and use the forage allocation, within the Provincial Grazing Reserve (PGR). 3. Minimize impacts to the agricultural operation, infrastructure, assets, forage allocation (AUM)*, livestock, tame pasture* and native grasslands*. 4. Minimize impacts to both agricultural and industrial users utilizing the same landbase while ensuring that agricultural dispositions continue to provide multiple use benefits such as wildlife habitat and recreation.	1. For additional information, specific schedules or questions regarding management of the Provincial Grazing Reserves, Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve or other agricultural disposition, contact the local Government of Alberta Rangeland Agrologist. 2. New oil and gas wellsite developments will make full and preferential use of existing access infrastructure. Fences should not be cut, and access should be gained through existing gates where possible. 3. Discuss location of proposed new activities on agricultural dispositions with the local Rangeland Agrologist prior to application to minimize livestock distribution conflicts, future end land use conflicts, pasture/cultivated land fragmentation of other disposition management conflicts. 4. Fenced wellsites and right of ways should be placed adjacent* to existing fences or other boundary features (fenced buffers*) in a way that will not interfere with livestock movement on the agricultural disposition. 5. Timing for construction and reclamation activities be coordinated with the agricultural disposition holder, range allotment holder or Provincial Grazing Reserve associations to minimize interference with livestock operations such as take-in/take-out days. 6. All livestock must be confined to the agricultural disposition or pasture field as found. 7. It is suggested that vehicle traffic be kept below 50 km/h on roads through the pastures with livestock, and slower, if cattle are adjacent* to the road. In addition, the right-of-way will be given to cattle accompanied by riders on horseback attempting to move cattle from one field to another. 8. Refrain from using the sound of horns when livestock are near cattle guards to avoid injury caused when startled livestock attempt to cross the cattle guard. 9. Interim reclamation* should take place after drilling on portions of the site not necessary for production. All infrastructure required during the production phase (tanks, separator, flow lines, etc.) should remain fenced. Fences must be maintained to ensure livestock are kept out. 10. Dust control must be applied as required during the grazing season to minimize impact to livestock health. 11. Leave all gates as found unless otherwise specified by the agricultural disposition holder.
Rangeland Management	1. Minimize impacts while ensuring that agricultural dispositions continue to provide multiple use benefits such as wildlife habitat and recreation. 2. Sustainable management of agriculture dispositions and related activities to ensure long-term forage resource for the livestock industry.	1. Grazing stewardship aligns with the four principles of range management: balance livestock demand with available forage, distribute livestock grazing impact, avoid grazing in vulnerable periods and provide effective rest after grazing. 2. Fences are constructed, maintained and repaired to contain livestock within the disposition. 3. Fence construction enables wildlife movement: a top wire no higher than 42 inches, bottom wire no lower than 18 inches and no page wire fencing. The construction of wildlife crossings where needed are encouraged in areas of high wildlife volume. 4. Use of the agricultural disposition maintains riparian areas and their ecological functions.

Category	Desired Outcome	Best Management Practice
Wildlife	1. Maintain the ecological conditions necessary for naturally sustainable wildlife populations to exist throughout Alberta, and conserve the habitat that they require. a. Maintain unique and/or important wildlife habitat* sites. b. Avoid or minimize development within key habitats (local and landscape scales) and key seasons. c. Maintain habitat intactness, connectivity, and allow for wildlife use, breeding and passage throughout areas by minimizing habitat loss and fragmentation. 2. Minimize potential adverse effects of land use activities on wildlife population health. 3. Reduce the potential for species avoidance of anthropogenic features. 4. Decrease potential for sensory disturbance* and displacement of wildlife. 5. Limit potential for human-wildlife conflict.	1. All sensitive and endangered species sighting should be reported to the local Forestry and Parks regional biologist, the issuing regulatory body, and entered into the Fisheries and Wildlife Management Information System (FWMIS) using the guidelines and load form located on the Fish and Wildlife website. In forested areas, line-of-sight should be limited to 200 metres on non-roadway linear features (cross-country). 2. Recommended setback distances for selected sensitive wildlife species or features within the Boreal and Foothills Natural Sub-Regions can be found in Table 3 of the MSSC. 3. Wildlife surveys* should be conducted annually until project construction is completed; ensuring that the surveys follow the procedures outlined in the Sensitive Species Survey Protocols. 4. A wildlife sweep* of the proposed development area should be conducted prior to construction to ensure the site is free of features (for example, nests, dens) that indicate the presence of significant wildlife habitat* features. 5. The regulatory body recommends no construction on native grasslands*, nor activities impacting native grassland* from April 15th to August 15th to reduce impacts to grassland nesting birds.
Species at Risk	1. Prevent human caused mortality of Species at Risk. 2. Reduce risk of predation associated with anthropogenic features and activities. 3. Conserve and protect critical habitat*.	
Greater Sage Grouse	1. Conserve and protect greater sage grouse Critical Habitat*. a. Maintain integrity of remaining leks* and allow for reoccupation of historical lek* sites. b. Maintain habitat connectivity between lek* sites and nesting/brood rearing habitat. c. Maintain key winter and nesting/brood rearing habitat. d. Decrease sensory disturbance*. 2. Maintain greater sage grouse attendance at lek*.	1. Site visits and operational work should be avoided between December 1 and September 15th.
Sensitive Raptor Range	1. Prevent mortality of young, nest abandonment, and nest depravation. 2. Minimize impacts to nest sites and foraging habitat.	1. Attempts should be made to remotely monitor dispositions within 1000 metres of sensitive raptor nests. 2. Use topographical features to provide visual concealment of facilities from known nest/den locations and as a noise suppressant.
Colonial Nesting Birds (American Pelican, Great Blue Heron and Western Grebe)	1. Maintain nesting colony sites and avoid negative effects on bird reproductive productivity.	1. Use topographical features to provide visual concealment of facilities from known nest/den locations and as a noise suppressant.
Burrowing Owl Range	1. Maintain habitat and active nests sites for the burrowing owl. 2. Prevent mortality of young, nest abandonment, and nest depredation."	1. Use topographical features to provide visual concealment of facilities from known nest/den locations and as a noise suppressant.
Sensitive Snake (prairie rattlesnake, bullsnake, & Western hognose snake, wandering	1. Prevent destruction of snake hibernacula and rookeries by human activities. 2. Maintain habitat, hibernaculum* and rookery* sites. 3. Prevent human-caused and road mortality, and persecution of snake species."	1. New road developments should not parallel coulee* edges or adjacent* river valleys within 1.6 kilometres of identified snake hibernacula*. 2. A speed limit of 50 km/hr should be maintained on road portions within 1.6 kilometres of snake hibernacula* between April 1st and October 31st to reduce the potential for snake mortality."

Category	Desired Outcome	Best Management Practice
garter snake, plains garter snake, and eastern-yellow bellied racer)		
Sharp-Tailed Grouse Survey and Leks and Buffers	1. Decrease sensory disturbance* for the sharp-tailed grouse at leks*. 2. Maintain integrity of sharp-tailed grouse leks*. a. Maintain the opportunity for sharp-tailed grouse to attend leks*. 3. Maintain habitat connectivity between lek* sites and nest and brood rearing habitat."	1. Attempts should be made to remotely monitor dispositions within 500 metres of sharp-tailed grouse leks*. 2. Avoid vegetation disturbance within 1000 metres of the any sharp-tailed grouse lek*. This should be maintained year around. 3. Use topographical features to provide visual concealment of facilities from known nest/den locations and as a noise suppressant. 4. Attempt to avoid surface facility densities in excess of one well pad per 2.5 km2 (1 well pas per square mile). 5. Minimize surface disturbance* and fragmentation through use of the smallest facility footprints possible, use of multiple well pads, clustering of roads and pipelines, and the widest possible spacing of surface facilities. 6. Attempt to replace any permanently impacted, disturbed, or altered sharp-tailed grouse lek* habitats by enhancing shrubland and grassland within or immediately adjacent* to sharp-tailed grouse lek* habitat."
Swift Fox Range	1. Maintain active swift fox den sites* (residencies) and access to foraging habitats. 2. Reduce human caused mortality of Species at Risk from all sources. a. Prevent swift fox road mortalities. b. Reduce predation of swift fox. 3. Decrease sensory disturbance* at active swift fox den sites*."	1. Use topographical features to provide visual concealment of facilities from known nest/den locations and as a noise suppressant.
Ord's Kangaroo Rat Range	1. Maintain Ord's kangaroo rat den sites* and habitat. 2. Decrease sensory disturbance*, in particular light pollution. 3. Prevent human caused mortality."	1. All new developments should not have artificial illumination within 1000 metres of an Ord's kangaroo rat dens and dens and habitat. 2. No work should be conducted from a half hour before sunset until a half hour after sunrise year around in Ord's kangaroo rat range. 3. Use topographical features to provide visual concealment of facilities from known nest/den locations and as a noise suppressant. 4. The construction of new access routes should be avoided in sand hill complexes occupied by Ord's kangaroo rats."
Greater Short-Horned Lizard Range	1. Maintain habitat for the Greater Short-Horned lizard populations. 2. Prevent human caused mortality.	
Piping Plover Waterbodies	1. Maintain piping plover waterbodies including identified habitat areas. 2. Prevent mortalities, nest abandonment, and nest depravation due to predators, off road vehicles and cattle."	1. Use topographical features to provide visual concealment of facilities from known nest/den locations and as a noise suppressant.
Sensitive Amphibian Ranges	1. Maintain sensitive amphibian breeding ponds and hibernation sites.	
Endangered and Threatened Plant Ranges	1. Maintain area and extent of endangered and threatened plant species in Alberta. 2. Preserve the seed bank of endangered and threatened plant species in Alberta. 3. Reduce or decrease the introduction of invasive species and noxious* weeds."	1. The key to conservation of whitebark and limber pine is to locate trees that are genetically resistant to blister rust and mountain pine beetle. Trees exhibiting resistance are of highest priority for protection. Sensitive Species Inventory Guidelines for whitebark and limber pine will provide protocols for detecting trees with apparent resistance. 2. Wellsites, roads, pipelines and associated facilities should be re-vegetated to Endangered and Threatened plant species when these species are present in the adjacent* vegetation type, to a

Category	Desired Outcome	Best Management Practice
		percentage that reflects historical levels. Re-vegetation should use only locally-sourced seedlings or seed sources, whenever possible, and be done in consultation with issuing regulatory body staff. 3. If whitebark or limber pine trees with cones are observed, try to avoid construction activity (for example, heavy equipment working) between August 15 and September 30, when Clark's nutcrackers are collecting and caching seeds."
Other Sensitive and Endangered Species	1. Minimize impacts to breeding territories and nesting sites. 2. Prevent mortality of young, nest abandonment, and nest depravation of sensitive breeding birds."	1. Industrial activity should be avoided within 100 metres of the breaks of any coulee*. 2. Use topographical features to provide visual concealment of facilities from known nest/den locations and as a noise suppressant."
Caribou Range	1. Reduce all sources of human-caused direct mortality associated with anthropogenic features (i.e., hunting, poaching, and vehicle collision). 2. Reduce excessive predator-caused mortality for both calves and adults (i.e., related to predator abundance, distribution, ease of travel, and hunting success). 3. Reduce habitat loss (i.e., due to habitat change or conversion). a. Avoid habitat changes which negatively affect caribou population growth. b. Avoid development within key habitats (local and landscape scales) and key seasons. c. Increase harmonization with forest industry operating ground rules and long-term spatial forest harvesting plans. 4. Reduce the partial avoidance (i.e., reduced use) that caribou demonstrate in relation to industrial features. 5. Reduce potential increases in the distribution, productivity and abundance of other prey species. 6. Coordinated access and industrial development strategies, which integrate the sequencing (time and space) of activities, should be used to minimize human footprint on caribou ranges. Amount of cumulative clearing can be minimized through an integrated review of planned disturbance between all land users. Applicants* should contact other companies in the area. 7. Contribute to goals and objectives outlined in Alberta's woodland caribou recovery plan (2004), Alberta's woodland caribou policy (2011), the federal recovery strategies for boreal caribou (2012) and southern mountain caribou (2014), as amended."	1. Newly constructed linear features should be located on or beside existing disturbances*. 2. Operations should be planned to avoid high quality and/or effective caribou habitat types. 3. Work should be planned and implemented so that disturbances furthest from arterial all-weather access roads are completed in early winter. 4. The area required for facilities, wellsites, multiwell pads*, and exploration wells* should be as small as practical. Number of well pads should be minimized by directionally drilling as many wells as geology and drilling technology will allow from one site. 5. Oil and gas wells should be remotely operated and wellsites should have sufficient resources (for example, methanol, tanks) on-site to allow for reduced site visits. 6. During pipeline construction some coniferous trees should be delimbed at the stump and limbs retained on site to provide a seed source. 7. Welded pipe, which is higher than 0.75 metres above ground level, should not remain on the ground or on skids for more than three (3) days. 8. Snow plowing of access routes should be minimized in caribou range. 9. Sources of sensory disturbance* (for example, noise, traffic) associated with operations should be minimized. 10. No pets, personal firearms or personal recreational vehicles should be allowed for company employees and contractors. 11. Where possible, excavated areas such as borrow pits should be constructed where topography allows it to be self-draining to avoid the retention of water. Note: Best Management Practices refer to partial reforestation of newly constructed pipelines through using an Integrated Land Management (ILM)* approach."
Grizzly Bear Zones	1. Reduce all sources of human-caused mortality. 2. Reduce human-bear conflicts. 3. Avoid development within key habitats (local and landscape scales) and key seasons. a. Maintain high value and low mortality risk habitat areas. 4. Avoid development of grizzly bear attractants (all sources)."	1. Information about operating in grizzly bear areas should be obtained from the regional office of the issuing regulatory body. 2. All workers operating in grizzly bear areas should be provided with 'Bear Awareness Training'. 3. To the extent possible, newly constructed linear features should be located on or beside existing disturbances*. 4. Operations should be planned to avoid high quality and/or effective grizzly bear habitat types. 5. Coordinated access and industrial development strategies, which integrate the sequencing (time and space) of activities, should be

Category	Desired Outcome	Best Management Practice
		used to minimize human footprint within grizzly bear areas. Amount of cumulative clearing can be minimized through an integrated review of planned disturbance between all land users. Applicants* should contact other companies operating in the area. 6. Reforestation should occur within two (2) years of pipeline construction and should match the adjacent* forest type across the entire width of the pipeline cover, with the exception of 1.5 metres on each side of the trench-line. Note: Tree planting densities should be consistent with the 'Timber Supply Analysis' for the area. Reforestation should occur using an ILM approach. 7. The area required for facilities, wellsites, multiwell pads*, and exploration wells* should be as small as practical. Number of well pads should be minimized by directionally drilling as many wells as geology and drilling technology will allow from one site. 8. Oil and gas wells should be remotely operated and wellsites should have sufficient resources (for example, methanol, tanks) on site to allow for reduced site visits. 9. Crossings of permanent watercourses* should be avoided as much as possible. 10. Permanent camps should be constructed within 100 metres of arterial all-weather permanent access. 11. Camps should be located on existing man-made clearings when possible. 12. During pipeline construction some coniferous trees should be delimbed at the stump, and limbs retained on site to provide a seed source."
Trumpeter Swan Waterbodies/ Watercourses	1. Protection of the long-term integrity and productivity of trumpeter swan breeding habitat. 2. Avoid industrial disturbance to trumpeter swans during nesting and rearing of cygnets. 3. Minimize the access created near swan lakes to reduce the potential for disturbance of trumpeter swans from recreational and industrial use. 4. Avoid habitat alteration in proximity to swan breeding habitat areas."	1. From April 1st to September 30th, there should be no direct flights over identified lakes or waterbodies.
Special Access Zone	1. Maintain natural habitat viability of wildlife refuges (i.e., source habitats). 2. Maintain intent and structure of existing Buck for Wildlife project areas. 3. Reduce excessive mortality of wildlife from all sources."	1. Effective public access control* is desirable along all Class IV and higher access routes.
Key Wildlife and Biodiversity Areas	1. Protect the integrity of ungulate winter ranges, river corridors and biodiversity* areas where species tend to concentrate. 2. Protect locally and regionally significant wildlife movement corridors. 3. Protect areas with rich habitat diversity and regionally significant habitat types and habitat diversity. 4. Protect hiding and thermal cover. 5. Protect the complex biological structure and processes of identified riparian* areas. 6. Reduce excessive mortality of wildlife from all sources. 7. Protect ungulate energy reserves, body condition and reproductive potential."	1. Applicants* should plan the access option that uses existing temporary access or to strive to access resources from outside the zone (for example, directional drill, remote production). 2. Oil and gas wells should be remotely operated and wellsites should have sufficient resources (for example, methanol, tanks) on-site to allow for reduced site visits. 3. Effective public access control* is desirable along all Class IV or V access roads. 4. Long-term and permanent access routes should not be developed below the valley 'breaks' of rivers, except in isolated cases for river crossings. 5. Reforestation should occur within two years of pipeline construction and should match the adjacent* forest type across the entire width of the pipeline cover, with the exception of 1.5m on each side of the trench-line. Note: tree planting densities should be consistent with the 'Timber Supply Analysis' for the area. Reforestation should occur using an ILM approach."

Category	Desired Outcome	Best Management Practice
Mountain Goat and Sheep Areas	1. Avoid land use disturbances that may have a direct or indirect adverse effect on the behaviour of the sheep/goats. 2. Conduct industrial activities* at times when sheep/goats are least sensitive to disturbance (for example, outside of lambing and kidding period). 3. Ensure that the majority of a given sheep/goat zone is available for sheep/goats use at any point in time. 4. Provide periods of no industrial activity to allow full use of the entire zone following each industrial activity period and during sensitive periods in the life cycle of sheep and goats. 5. Avoid alteration of physical habitat conditions, including conducting activities such that ideally no long-term residue of industrial activity persists. 6. Protect sheep and goat energy reserves, body condition and reproductive potential."	1. Avoid alteration of physical habitat conditions. Localized cliff and other features that provide escape terrain should be given particular protection. 2. Production activities should involve remote production technologies to the fullest extent possible. 3. Industrial activity should be localized so that only small areas of a given Sheep/Goat Land Use Zone are affected at any point in time. 4. Communication and cooperation between companies should occur to limit activities to one industrial program per individual Sheep/Goat Land Use Zone per year. 5. The drilling of wells beneath Sheep/Goat Land Use Zones should be done from outside of the zone. 6. Activities should be reduced or postponed during weather conditions that are adverse for sheep/goats. 7. All aircraft flights over Sheep/Goat Land Use Zones should be at least 400 metres above ground level."
Critical Habitat of Aquatic Species of Risk	1. Conserve and protect critical habitat* for aquatic species at risk. a. Provide awareness to the presence of federally identified and protected aquatic critical habitats*. b. Prevent the destruction to any part of identified aquatic critical habitat*. 2. Maintain the long-term integrity and productivity of critical habitat* for species at risk."	
Grassland and Parkland Natural Region	1. Maintain and promote native vegetation (grass, forbs and shrub species) throughout the Grassland and Parkland Natural Region. 2. Maintain natural terrain features and viewscapes (including badlands coulees*, upland prairies and river valleys). 3. Ensure that no invasive, undesirable, plant or weed species are introduced. 4. Ensure the current biodiversity is maintained and all ecological functions are not impeded; this includes: soils, vegetation, water, wildlife and Species at Risk. 5. Minimize fragmentation of intact native grasslands*. 6. Maintain Fescue Grasslands* in recognition of their special sensitivity to disturbance. 7. Minimize disturbance of Fescue Grasslands*."	1. Industry should avoid disturbing native grasslands*. Industrial activities* should not cause significant disturbance to the structural and functional integrity of native prairie and parkland ecosystems. Existing access or non-native cover areas should be used. Long-term monitoring of the re-vegetated areas should be conducted until the native species* community has been restored. 2. Specialized equipment (for example, prairie protector blades) should be used to minimize scalping during topsoil* replacement, particularly when topsoil* has been stored on native grasslands*. 3. Cottonwood forests (balsam poplar, plains cottonwood and narrowleaf cottonwood) should be protected from removal or damage in river valleys and on floodplains. 4. Use existing disturbances* (wellsites or access roads) or non-native cover areas."
Parks and Protected Areas	1. Restrict/minimize disturbance. 2. Restrict/minimize footprint. 3. Maximize opportunities for preservation & conservation of Alberta's Natural Heritage, flora and fauna, specified areas, landscapes and natural features and objects in them that are of geological, cultural, historical, archeological, anthropological, paleontological, ethnological, ecological or other scientific interest or importance. 4. Maintain/enhance opportunities for public access, education, use and enjoyment, recreation and overall experiencing of Alberta's Natural Heritage. 5. Increase potential for re-growth, restoration	1. Activities that are not permitted are commercial timber harvesting, and surface mineables [for example, coal, diamonds, limestone and other quarriable minerals, peat, and sand and gravel (some exceptions)]. 2. Decisions for approval of Industrial dispositions are based on existing commitments related to subsurface mineral rights (with surface access) granted through the Department of Energy prior to designation of a park or protected area. This commitment to honour existing commitments is captured in the Energy Information Letters (INFORMATION LETTER 2003-25, INFORMATION LETTER 2012-30, INFORMATION LETTER 2014-34). 3. Sub-Surface mineral rights sold after designation of a site (Provincial Parks Act or *Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands Act*) have a “no surface

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	and reclamation of existing industrial features. 6. Ensure public safety in areas of parks and protected areas which are dedicated to recreation (i.e., campgrounds, day-use, trails, etc.). 7. Lasting protection for the benefit of present and future generations."	access" restriction so that the proponent is aware that they will not be granted access within the park or protected area to develop the resource (for example, they can directionally drill from outside). 4. Existing utilities and expansions or modifications to those are accommodated but typically must be tied to an existing commitment. Utilities to parks facilities or cottages are typically permitted. 5. Recreational (commercial and non-profit) dispositions are coded as a PML because they are typically referred to as Parks Miscellaneous Lease. Recreational dispositions typically come into the parks and protected areas system through the conversion of existing *Public Lands Act* dispositions (existing commitments) that come up for renewal or assignment and occur within park boundaries. 6. Management of Sand and Gravel activities and inquiries is handled under Section 7 of the *Provincial Parks Act*. Section 7 can be used to provide interim management of lands that have non-permitted uses, such as sand and gravel extraction, until such time as the non-conforming land use is concluded. 7. The *Provincial Parks Act* — Section 7 Declaration Regulation extends some or all provisions of the *Provincial Parks Act* and regulations to certain lands that are under the Minister's administration, but not legally established as a provincial park or recreation area by Order in Council. The purpose of the regulation is to provide for interim management or protection of lands that are to be added to a park or recreation area at a later time or, lands which have been acquired for land exchange purposes. Lands are added to and removed from the regulation by adding or repealing sections and corresponding Schedules to the Regulation. Applying the Section 7 regulation requires a Ministerial regulation package to be prepared for Ministerial signoff. 8. For summer cabin dispositions, Holders should submit for review a ""Cottage Lot Lease Permission for Development"" application when requesting to undertake improvements to the lands or associated structures."