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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** December 5, 2008  
**TO:** Tawanis Testart, MVEIRB  
**FROM:** Justin Himmelright  
**CC:**  
**RE:** Responses to DAR IR#2

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Hello Tawanis,

Please find attached our responses to IR#2.

Regards,  
Justin Himmelright

**IR Number: IR0708-001-01**  
**Source: GNWT**  
**To: Selwyn Resources**  
**DAR Section: 11**  
**Issues: Heritage Resources**

### **Preamble**

The DAR makes the following assessment of direct and indirect impacts on archaeological sites: "There are no known archaeological sites in the development area, so no direct or indirect impacts to sites are anticipated." This assessment fails to account for potential impacts on unrecorded heritage resources in the development area. This area has never been inspected in detail by an archaeologist; thus, the locations and characteristics of potential heritage resources in the development area comprise an information gap in the DAR. A heritage resource impact assessment of the development area would resolve this information gap and facilitate a more accurate assessment of direct and indirect impacts to heritage resources.

### **Request**

1. Will the proponent conduct a heritage resource impact assessment of their project area before beginning development activities?
2. If yes, please provide details on the planned methodology and timeline of this assessment.
3. If no, please provide a rationale for not doing this assessment and explain what steps will be taken to protect unknown heritage resources that may be found in the project area.

### **Response**

1. We will not be conducting a formal archaeological survey of the project area prior to drilling. All work sites (trails, drill pads, etc.) are reconnoitered prior to disturbance. This process is undertaken to ensure that valued features, including heritage resources, are not disturbed. See our SOP on Heritage Protection in Appendix I of the DAR.
2. See above.
3. In mineral exploration programs, the selection of sites for drilling is progressive in nature and is based on a continually evolving understanding of the mineralized strata, including information attained from recently completed drill holes. Thus, knowledge gained from each completed drill hole affects the placement of subsequent drilling sites. For this reason it is not possible to plan specific sites for future drilling with any certainty (see pg 2 on page 15 of the DAR). Given this uncertainty, having company staff reconnoiter and inspect potential drill sites in advance of drill sitting and placement is believed to be an appropriate procedure to guard against impacts to potential heritage resources.

#### **Additional notes.**

The Project area is in a remote location, and there is little information to suggest there has been any historic use of the Howard's Pass area. There are no recorded archaeological sites on either the YT or NT sides of the border at Howard's Pass, there are no fish-bearing streams, and no permanent ice patches. An Archaeological Overview Assessment (AOA) was recently completed for the YT portion of the Project, where the project is sufficiently advanced to warrant such

research, this past summer. No archaeological sites were identified and the area was assessed to hold low archaeological potential. Traditional knowledge studies conducted in Tulita in 2006 (included in Land Use Permit application documents) indicated no traditional use of the area in the memory of community elders. This is further supported by research presented in the Sahtu Atlas<sup>1</sup> where historic access and transport routes are shown and there are none in the vicinity of the Project area.

In summary there is very low risk to archaeological sites from this work; there are unlikely to be any in the area, the geographic extent of ground disturbance is small and diffuse, and all work sites are reconnoitered in advance of disturbance to prevent impact to previously unrecorded sites.

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<sup>1</sup> [The Sahtu Atlas](#): Maps and Stories from the Sahtu Settlement Area in Canada's Northwest Territories. Sahtu GIS Project, 2005.

**IR Number: IR0708-001-02**

**Source: GNWT**

**To: Selwyn Resources**

**DAR Section: 10**

**Issue: Wildlife Protection Plan**

### **Preamble**

GNWT-ENR has reviewed a Wildlife Protection Plan (WPP) for the Selwyn Resources Ltd. Project Access Road (LUP MV2005F0028). The WPP “includes a description of physical measures to be put in place by the Operator (Selwyn Resources) to limit impacts to wildlife as well as the operational procedures and practices to be followed by employees and contractors”. At present there is no WPP, nor is there a wildlife management plan (WMP) for the mineral exploration program at Howard’s Pass.

### **Requests**

1. Please clarify if the WPP created for the Selwyn Resources Ltd. Project Access Road will also apply to the proposed mineral exploration program? If not, provide a rationale.
2. If the WPP submitted for the Access Road will not also apply to the mineral exploration program, will the developer be developing a WPP and/or a WMP specific to this development?
3. Will these plans take into account potential cumulative effects of both the NWT and the Yukon developments, particularly as these developments may impact woodland caribou?

### **Responses**

1. The WPP was submitted to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board as a requirement of a Land Use Permit that has been issued to Selwyn by that Board, and is unrelated to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Board’s assessment of Selwyn’s proposed mineral exploration program. Further, the WPP for the access road is not appropriate for the mineral exploration program, as the activities on the access road (transport) are dissimilar to activities on mineral claims (drilling). We note that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) included in the WPP for the access road are adhered to company wide, regardless of the jurisdiction in which the activity is to take place.
2. Selwyn will not be developing a WPP or WMP for the mineral exploration program. Selwyn’s updated SOP on “Preserving Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat during Project Activities” (Sept 2008) will be adhered to. This document was used in the WPP, and is attached to this response for reference.
3. SOPs are developed to protect natural features, and are adhered to as a matter of Company policy regardless of jurisdiction.

**IR Number: IR0708-001-03**  
**Source: GNWT**  
**To: Selwyn Resources**  
**DAR Section: 10**  
**Issue: Potential Wildlife Impacts**

### **Preamble**

GNWT-ENR is concerned about the timing of the drill program (June-November). In the maps provided in the DAR, it appears that both the Nahanni and the Finlayson herds have occurred in the vicinity of the project area during calving, post calving and the fall rut in 2007 and 2008. There is a decreased occurrence of caribou during the late winter. The DAR states that the “movement of caribou (into the project area) continues through June to peak of post-calving in July” (p. 64), and “there is limited use of the project area during the fall rut” (p.65). In addition, the use of the area is “primarily associated with movement to/from other habitats” (p. 69). The DAR also states that drilling will occur on 0-4 drill rigs at any given time, on a 24 hour basis (p. 70), and that helicopter support flights will vary with the number of active exploration drill sites (p. 70).

The DAR lists numerous studies that indicate that there are negative effects (potentially including low calf survival) to caribou when they are exposed to disturbance from aircraft, specifically during post calving (p. 71). The DAR also states that some animals are more susceptible to aerial disturbance (including caribou and grizzly bears) than others (such as moose or wolves).

The drilling program, as described in the DAR, consists of two categories: exploration drilling and definition drilling. Exploration drilling is helicopter supported, whereas definition drilling is largely land supported. The 25 exploration sites are widely dispersed on the landscape (fig. 3 & 4), whereas the 75 definition drilling sites are relatively concentrated into one area.

### **Requests**

1. Given that the two caribou herds potentially impacted by this development (Finlayson & Nahanni herds) appear to be in decline, is it possible to restrict the drill program, and associated helicopter support, to exclude periods of times when caribou will likely be in the area and should not be disturbed, such as calving, post-calving and fall rut?
2. What is the estimated number of helicopter flights/drill rig/day for exploration drilling and for definition drilling?
3. In order to decrease the impact of over-flights on animals in the project area; can the proponent restrict helicopter flights to a frequently used, relatively narrow flight path that then branches off towards individual drill sites?
4. The developer describes the drilling program in the NWT (100 holes total – 25 exploration & 75 definition) in the DAR. What is the drilling program in the Yukon Territory, and what are cumulative impacts (direct & indirect) on caribou of the combined NT & YT drilling programs?
5. If caribou do venture into the development area during sensitive time periods, such as calving, post-calving and the fall rut, what is the developer's proposed course of action in response? For example, would the presence of caribou trigger a cessation of drilling and other activities? Will this response be different if caribou are present in less sensitive time periods?

6. How will caribou be monitored in the development area and in the surrounding area? How would the developer modify their development plan if a large number of animals move through development area? Does the developer have plans to work with Parks Canada, GNWT or the Yukon government to use collar data as a part of their program, as well as a means to monitor caribou?
7. How will the developer monitor animal movements in the development area during October and November, when shorter days and fewer daylight hours will restrict visibility?

## Responses

1. The northern limits of both herds extend into the proposed development area. Based on surveys during that season, caribou are not known to calve within the XY Nose or Anniv development areas due primarily to high snow levels that are typical at these elevations in May. Cows with calves have been noted to use these areas after calving (i.e., post-calving) once the snow levels have receded in subalpine and alpine habitats. After calving, caribou continue to move into the area and use habitats of the area, including the development areas, until they migrate to their respective rutting areas in fall. Due to the restrictive snow levels during the winter months, caribou are notably absent from the area between November and April. Similar to caribou, drilling activities generally occur during those months when snow loads and ambient temperatures are not overly restrictive. Selwyn will ensure that pilots operating in the area follow the best practices identified in *Flying in Caribou Country: How to Minimize Disturbance from Aircraft*<sup>2</sup>.
2. The estimated number of helicopter flights/drill rig/day for exploration drilling is two (at shift change every 12 hours), plus occasional fuel delivery flights (once every few days). For definition drilling, the estimated number of helicopter flights/drill rig/day is zero.
3. Aircraft operating on behalf of Selwyn will operate according to its *Standard Operating Procedures for Preserving Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat during Project Activities (September 16, 2008)*, and to the best practices guidance document *Flying in Caribou Country: How to Minimize Disturbance from Aircraft*. Flight corridors between camps and drill sites will be selected on the basis of mitigations to wildlife, safety to crews and pilots, and efficiency of flights lines in terms of time spent and fuel consumption. To the extent possible Selwyn will ensure that aircraft will operate in a responsible and safe manner that minimizes potential impacts to caribou from aircraft over-flights.
4. Drilling plans in the Yukon are covered under existing exploration permits issued by the Yukon Government, and are outside the scope of this assessment. The scale of the NWT operations under this review are small relative to work already underway in the Yukon. Adding a this small scale drill program in the NWT will have no significant effect on the cumulative impacts of the combined operation. Based on field experience from these existing operations, the effects to caribou from exploration work is low.

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<sup>2</sup> Mining and Petroleum Environmental Research Group (MPERG). 2008. *Flying in Caribou Country: How to Minimize Disturbance from Aircraft*. Whitehorse, YT. Available at: [http://www.geology.gov.yk.ca/pdf/2008\\_1.pdf](http://www.geology.gov.yk.ca/pdf/2008_1.pdf).

5. Caribou have been documented to use habitats within the XY Nose and Anniv development areas during the post-calving and fall rut periods. As noted in the Selwyn SOP, active work will temporarily cease if caribou are visible from a work area (includes drill sites). This SOP is actively applied regardless of season. Experience from drilling operations directly adjacent in the YT to the XY Nose and Anniv development areas in the NT have shown that caribou will avoid or be temporarily displaced from the immediate area around an active drill site. They have been observed to move back into the area and continue to use the habitat once drilling operations have demobilized from a work area. The area of avoidance is typically small (caribou have been observed to use habitats within several hundred meters of active work areas) and associated timeline are typically short (active drilling on any given site is typically less than 2 to 3 weeks).
6. Caribou will be monitored using a two-tiered approach that includes routine reporting wildlife observations, and wildlife survey. Caribou observed in the vicinity of active drill sites or along the flight path of helicopters will be reported to the Site Management and operational modifications applied per Selwyn SOP. When it is reasonably possible to do so, similar to studies that have been undertaken since 2007, Selwyn will continue to survey/monitor caribou in the vicinity of its claims/leases.

Selwyn currently has a data sharing agreement with the Yukon Government (YG); and has accessed existing radio collar, composition count and population survey data for the Nahanni and Finlayson caribou herds. This data has been used to inform Selwyn's project planning and development activities since 2007. In addition, Selwyn partnered with the YG in 2007 to conduct fall composition counts for the Finlayson and Nahanni caribou herds; and the northern portion of the Finalyson range in 2008. Selwyn also assisted YG in fall 2008 with the capture and collaring program for the Nahanni Caribou Herd. Selwyn is certainly willing to work with other agencies such as Parks Canada or GNWT in a similar manner.

7. For the duration that Selwyn is in active operating in the development area, including October and November, routine monitoring will be undertaken by Selwyn. This will involve reporting of all wildlife observation to the Site Management, which will then be documented in Selwyn's Wildlife Log. The Wildlife Log will be reviewed regularly to determine any trends or issues associated with wildlife and the development. Mitigation measures will be adapted as needed to address any adverse trends. When it is reasonably possible to do so, Selwyn will conduct an aerial fall rut survey during the first week of October. Timing is consistent with the fall rut survey period for other northern woodland caribou herds.

**IR Number: IR0708-001-04**  
**Source: MVEIRB**  
**To: Selwyn Resources**  
**DAR Section: 10**  
**Issue: Wildlife Species at Risk**

### **Preamble**

Section 79 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) states that adverse effects on listed species must be identified and assessed and, regardless of significance, mitigated and monitored. In the view of ENR, species listed as endangered, threatened and of special concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) should be treated consistently with those listed on Schedule 1 of SARA.

### **Requests**

1. What are the potential adverse impacts on other species at risk that may occur in the development area; these include wolverine and grizzly bears? Please consider both direct and indirect impacts.
2. How will the identified impacts be mitigated and monitored?

### **Response**

#### Question 1:

As identified in the Developer's Assessment Report, species considered to be of conservation concern in the project area include grizzly bear (page 58), and wolverine (page 60). Grizzly bear and wolverine are listed as 'special concern' under COSEWIC and as sensitive under the NT General Status Ranking program. Grizzly bear is also listed under Appendix II of CITES. .

A summary of potential direct and indirect impacts for each species is provided in the section below.

#### **Grizzly Bear**

Both direct and indirect impacts to grizzly bear may occur in response to disturbances from the proposed development. Direct impacts may include mortality, in circumstances where grizzly bears pose a threat to personnel operating in the area or property. Indirect impacts may include avoidance or temporary spatial displacement due to noise or visual disturbances associated with drilling or helicopter operations. The duration of the potential effects will be intermittent when operations are occurring.

#### **Wolverine**

Both direct and indirect impacts to wolverine may occur as a result of the proposed development. Direct impacts may include mortality resulting from destruction of wolverine with problem or nuisance behaviours (e.g., destruction of property). Indirect impacts will be primarily associated with visual or noise disturbances from drilling or helicopter operations. Wolverine may temporarily avoid active work areas.

#### Question 2:

To mitigate impacts to grizzly bears and wolverine, Selwyn will conduct project activities according to its *Standard Operating Procedures for Preserving Wildlife and Wildlife*



*Habitat during Project Activities (version September 16, 2008)*. A copy of the standard operating procedures is attached.

In addition, to minimize the potential for impacts to grizzly bears, project personnel will conduct activities in a manner consistent with Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) guidance document *Safety in Grizzly Bear and Black Bear Country*<sup>3</sup>. The general guidance documents *Flying in Caribou Country: How to Minimize Disturbance from Aircraft*<sup>4</sup> and *Flying in Sheep Country: How to Minimize Disturbance from Aircraft*<sup>5</sup> will be used to minimize potential impacts to wildlife from aircraft operating in the development area. All reasonable measures will be taken by Selwyn to minimize impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat throughout all aspects of its operations.

For the duration of the development period, routine monitoring will be undertaken by Selwyn. This will involve reporting of all wildlife observations to the Site Management, which will then be documented in Selwyn's Wildlife Log. When it is reasonably possible to do so, Selwyn will conduct and or partner on aerial surveys for wildlife during key seasonal periods. The wildlife log and wildlife survey data will be reviewed regularly to determine any trends or issues associated with wildlife and the development. Mitigation measures will be adapted as needed to address any adverse monitoring trends.

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<sup>3</sup> Government of the Northwest Territories. No date. *Safety in Grizzly Bear and Black Bear Country*. Available at <http://www.nwtwildlife.com/Publications/safetyinbearcountry/safety.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> Mining and Petroleum Environmental Research Group. 2008. *Flying in Caribou Country: How to Minimize Disturbance from Aircraft*. Whitehorse, YT. Available at [http://www.geology.gov.yk.ca/pdf/2008\\_1.pdf](http://www.geology.gov.yk.ca/pdf/2008_1.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Mining Environmental Research Group. 2002. *Flying in Sheep Country: How to Minimize Disturbance from Aircraft*. Whitehorse, YT. Available at [http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/pdf/flying\\_in\\_sheep\\_country.pdf](http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/pdf/flying_in_sheep_country.pdf).

**IR Number: IR0708-001-05**  
**Source: MVEIRB**  
**To: Selwyn Resources**  
**DAR Section: 10**  
**Issue: Wildlife/Human Interactions**

**Preamble**

The DAR states that the drill rigs will be run by two employees at any given time, with a shift change every 12 hours.

**Requests**

1. What type of wildlife safety training/precautions will be provided to employees, in regards to potential wildlife/human interactions
2. How will food and/or waste be stored at drill sites?

**Responses**

1. All staff and contractors are briefed on Selwyn SOPs, including “Preserving Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat during Project Activities” (Sept 2008). Adherence to SOP’s is required under employment /contractor agreements, and compliance is audited by senior staff. In addition, Selwyn employees receive bear aware training.
2. Drillers and driller’s helpers typically take a bagged lunch to the drill site at the beginning of their shift. The bagged lunch is often carried to site in a day pack, which is typically kept on or near the drill. Waste, including leftover lunch bags, is taken out at shift change.

**IR Number: IR0708-001-06**  
**Source: MVEIRB**  
**To: Selwyn Resources**  
**DAR Section: 10**  
**Issue: Wildlife and Aircraft Interactions**

**Preamble**

The DAR states that “the best practices manual “Flying in Caribou Country: How to Minimize Disturbance from Aircraft (MPERG, 2008) will be used as a guide for pilots operating in the area...Where possible, flight paths will avoid areas that are known (or suspected) to have high concentrations of wildlife...” (p. 71)

**Requests**

1. Will the developer also follow the guidance document entitled “Flying in Sheep Country: How to Minimize Disturbance from Aircraft” (MPERG, 2002-6)?
2. What is the developer’s definition of “high concentration”?

**Responses**

1. Wildlife studies completed to date indicate that sheep do not use the Howard’s Pass area. Should sheep be encountered, guidance in “Flying in Sheep Country” will be followed.
2. High concentrations are defined by Selwyn as aggregations of >10 individuals in a square km area, based on ocular estimates.

**IR Number: IR0708-001-07**  
**Source: MVEIRB**  
**To: Selwyn Resources**  
**DAR Section: 10**  
**Issue: Caribou Herd Clarification**

### **Preamble**

On page 69 of the DAR states "...the overall ranges of the Finlayson (23,000,000 ha) and the Nahanni (18,000,000 ha) caribou herds is very small in scope. Yet on page 70, the DAR states "... the Nahanni caribou herd range is about 1,800,000 ha and the Finlayson caribou herd range is about 2,300,000 ha." This is contradictory.

### **Requests**

1. Please clarify the size of ranges for these two caribou herds.

### **Responses**

The range areas for the Nahanni and Finlayson herds have been defined in the following publications:

- In "South Nahanni Woodland Caribou Herd Seasonal Range Use and Demography"(Gullickson and Manseau, 2000) and "Census for the South Nahanni Mountain Caribou Herd" (Gunn et al, 2002), the Nahanni Herd range is defined as 1,800,000 Hectares.
- In "Summary – Late Winter Population Survey of Finlayson Caribou 2007" (Adamczewski et al, 2007), the Finlayson Herd range is defined as 2,300,000 Hectares

The above numbers were intended to be used throughout the DAR. The contradicting numbers in the DAR are typographical errors.

**IR Number: IR0708-001-08**  
**Source: MVEIRB**  
**To: Selwyn Resources**  
**DAR Section: 3.6, 13**  
**Issue: Open Burning of Solid Waste**

### **Preamble**

The developer currently holds an air emission permit (#4201-60-023), issued by Yukon Environment, that authorizes the open burning of “solid waste” at their Don Valley Camp and XY Camp. These camps are located in the Yukon in close proximity to the NWT border. The permit sets few restrictions on the type of solid waste material that may be burned, has no limits on the amount of solid waste that can be burned; and contains no conditions to prevent toxic smoke emissions from being transported across the NWT/YT border and deposited on lands and waters in the NWT.

In the view of ENR, open burning of waste material is an out-dated and inefficient method of disposing of solid wastes. The low temperature, smoldering nature of open burning tends to result in poor combustion of material, enhancing the emissions and production of toxic substances. Of particular concern is the potential to produce persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic contaminants such as chlorinated organics (e.g. dioxins and furans) and heavy metals (e.g. mercury).

Although toxic contaminants are released to the atmosphere, their impacts are often expressed in other ecosystem components through processes of deposition and transfer. The dominant exposure pathways for wildlife are through vegetation and subsequent ingestion of that plant material by animals is the primary mechanism by which dioxins and furans enter the terrestrial food chain. Similarly, deposition onto soil, followed by erosion and runoff into water bodies with subsequent uptake by benthic organisms is the primary mechanism by which dioxins and furans enter the aquatic food chain.

Due to the potential to cause adverse environmental impacts, ENR considers the open burning of non-segregated municipal solid wastes (camp waste) as an unacceptable waste management option. The only wastes that are suitable for open burning are paper products, paperboard packaging and untreated wood wastes as described in the document titled *Municipal Solid Wastes Suitable for Open Burning* available at [www.enr.gov.nt.ca/eps/environ](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/eps/environ) under the Waste Management Program heading.

### **Requests**

1. Please demonstrate how open burning of solid waste at the XY and Don Camps will not result in the transport of toxic contaminants across the territorial border and subsequent deposition on lands and waters in the NWT.

### **Responses**

1. Burning of solid waste at XY and Don Camps is done within the jurisdiction of the Yukon Territory, and is authorized by permits issued under the Yukon Environment Act, specifically under Yukon Air Emissions Permit 4201-60-023. These facilities are outside the watershed area of the Mackenzie Valley as such

not subject the jurisdiction or mandate of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act and the GNWT

The subject of MVEIRB's Environmental Assessment #EA708-001 (of which this IR is a part) is Selwyn's application for a Type B Land Use Permit for mineral exploration in the Northwest Territories (the Development) which does not include any authorizations for open burning.

The open burning in question is outside the scope of the assessment and outside the jurisdiction and mandate of the Act on which the assessment is based.

**Additional Notes:**

In the Yukon, open burning of over 5 kg of waste per day triggers the need for an Air Emissions Permit. Burning more than 50kg of waste per day triggers an environmental assessment under the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act.



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**Sept 16, 2008**

**TO: Employees and Contractors**

**FROM:** Justin Himmelright, VP Environment and Community Affairs

**RE: Selwyn Resources – Standard Operating Procedure for Preserving Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat during Project Activities**

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Crews and equipment working in the project area have the potential to encounter and affect wildlife species, sensitive habitats, and the environment. It is necessary for all personnel conducting work on the Selwyn Project site to maintain a high standard of environmental practice, and performance while undertaking activities on the land base. Wildlife and habitats, which includes species and ecosystems at risk, are protected and managed for at all regulatory levels. To reduce potential effects, Selwyn requires that all personnel working on behalf of the company, including travel to and from the project site, follow the protocols outlined below.

- Ensure food, garbage or waste products are stored in airtight, reusable food and beverage containers, if available, to reduce the potential for littering. If unavailable, ensure all garbage and food wastes are disposed of properly at designated locations at the camp or work site.
- Do not feed wildlife. Feeding wildlife can lead to habituation for some species such as bears, or to dangerous and unsafe human-wildlife conflicts both at the work site and camp.
- No personnel shall carry or discharge firearms for the purpose of hunting wildlife. Only company designated personnel, with a permit, may use a firearm for managing dangerous wildlife-human conflicts if required.
- Personnel must adhere to posted speed limits on speed controlled roads, travel at reasonable speeds along roads at the project site, and according to road and weather conditions, whichever is applicable.
- If wildlife are visible within 500 m of a road while driving a vehicle, stop the vehicle and turn off the ignition. Wait until the animal has left the area (500 m of the road) before proceeding.
- Do not purposefully attract (e.g. feed), harass, harm or handle any wildlife encountered at the work site, or camp areas.
- Avoid bears whenever possible, and be aware of your surroundings when working in bear country. Try to avoid surprising a bear by making your presence known when working in the field. Additional information is available at camp or from the on-site environmental staff.
- Avoid conducting work within ecologically sensitive areas such as wetlands, riparian areas, denning sites, or mineral licks, whenever possible. If sensitive habitats or features are encountered during field operations, stop work and consult the on-site environmental staff for further guidance.

- During aerial operations, it is important to recognize, avoid or minimize disturbance to sensitive wildlife and habitats, including sensitive seasons such as caribou calving. For additional guidance, consult the following best practice documents:
  - *Flying in Sheep Country: how to minimize disturbance from aircraft.*  
Available at [http://www.emr.gov.yk/pdf/flying\\_in\\_sheep\\_country.pdf](http://www.emr.gov.yk/pdf/flying_in_sheep_country.pdf) or from onsite Environmental staff
  - Flying Low? Think again...  
Available from onsite Environmental staff
  - Flying in Caribou Country. How to minimize disturbance from an aircraft.  
Available from onsite Environmental staff
- Migratory birds are protected in Canada under the ***Migratory Birds Convention Act***. The collection or destruction of birds, their nests, or their eggs is illegal. The disruption of nesting migratory birds is prohibited. All stick nests (including inactive nests) are protected under the *NWT Wildlife Act*. Destruction of these nests is illegal.
- Ensure that environmental safeguards are in place to reduce the potential for hazardous material (e.g. fuel) discharges to the environment, and ecological sensitive areas. This includes ensuring staff are briefed on environmental concerns, that safeguards such as spill kits are available, and adhering to safe handling practices of hazardous materials at site.
- If you encounter wildlife or a habitat area and you are unclear on how to proceed, contact Selwyn's on-site environmental program staff for guidance.

**Site Specific Notes:**

The following items are of special interest and concern for contractors and employees working on the Selwyn Project.

**Species of interest**

The following species may be present in the project area. Some are afforded special protection under the *Species At Risk Act*. These animals are of management interest as species of special concern by the *Council on the Status of Endangered Animals in Canada (COSEWIC)*.

If you observe one of these animals from your work area, cease work immediately and consult onsite environmental specialists:

- Woodland caribou
- Grizzly bear
- Wolverine
- Peregrine falcon
- Rusty blackbird

Work can resume once the animal is no longer visible from the work area. DO NOT ENCOURAGE THE ANIMAL TO LEAVE THE AREA. Be sure to report your sighting to onsite Environmental staff.