

## **Biodiversity and Species of Conservation Concern within the Proposed Project Albany Area**

CanPacific Potash has proposed a solution potash mine, Project Albany, to be located in the area of Sedley, Saskatchewan. The Technical Proposal was submitted April 5, 2017, and the Environmental Impact Statement was dated January 2019.

The project area includes:

- 4,394 ha of pasture/grassland
- 1,002 ha of wetland
- 802 ha of riparian

Well field development will disturb or destroy habitat for many species of conservation concern including several species at risk. The development will include trenching and construction of underground pipes, injection and recovery well heads, valve stations, concrete pads, access roads, etc. The project's well field will impact numerous pasture quarters and wetlands. The well field includes a "20 year well field" and "ultimate well field". Well field boundaries are displayed on the maps but the well sites are not. The majority of the "20 year well field" includes pasture quarters which are mostly native-dominant grasslands. The "ultimate well field" includes additional pasture quarters many of which are also native-dominant grasslands.

The plant site would be constructed on cultivated quarters but in close proximity to native-grassland/native prairie and Wascana Creek.

Throughout the project area, biodiversity and occurrences of species at risk, other sensitive species and sensitive wildlife features are highest in the pasture quarters.

While the majority of pasture quarters in the project area are privately owned, there are many road allowances through these quarters and public roads which allow for public access and enjoyment.

There are also two quarter sections of Crown conservation lands belonging to the Saskatchewan Representative Area Network (RAN).

Breeding habitat and sensitive wildlife features (i.e. nests, leks, dens, potential hibernacula, etc.) were detected throughout the project area with the majority occurring on pasture quarters.

A total of 146 wildlife species were detected:

- 124 breeding bird species (migratory and non-migratory)
- 17 mammal species (e.g. American badger, pronghorn)
- 4 amphibian species (e.g. northern leopard frog, tiger salamander)
- 1 reptile species

A total of 25 wildlife species of conservation concern (SOCC), including 14 species at risk (SAR) were detected:

- 2 mammal species (American Badger and Pronghorn)
- 2 amphibian species (Northern Leopard Frog and Tiger Salamander)
- 21 bird species (e.g. Baird's sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, Sprague's pipit)

The most notable bird species at risk and other sensitive bird species detected in the project area's pasture quarters and wetlands during the 2017 and 2018 wildlife assessments included.

- American bittern (breeding adults)
- Baird's sparrow (breeding adults)
- Bank swallow (breeding colonies)
- Barn swallow (breeding colonies)
- Bobolink (breeding adults)
- Ferruginous hawk (breeding pair, nestlings and 1 active nest)
- Horned grebe (breeding adults and active nests)
- Lark bunting (breeding adults)
- Loggerhead shrike (breeding adults, fledglings and active nests)
- Long-billed curlew (breeding adults)
- Sharp-tailed grouse (breeding adults and 5 active leks)
- Short-eared owl (breeding adults, owlets and active nests)
- Sprague's pipit (breeding adults)

Prepared by Public Pastures – Public Interest