

Industrial Guidelines

for privately owned land (updated)

Industrial developments have the potential to degrade natural habitats and negatively impact species at risk. Your knowledge of your land can help in reducing these impacts. The information provided here can help you identify key features on your land and how to lessen the impact of development on those areas.

Industrial guidelines for Alberta's species at risk on private land are based on the standards developed by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) for the Enhanced Approval Process (EAP) on public land. Setback distances and timing restrictions are used to assist in minimizing the impact of disturbance on sensitive wildlife. The guidelines are designed to reduce impacts of industrial developments and encourage appropriate assessments and site planning.



Industrial developments should avoid permanent habitat areas like cliffs, wetlands, streams and streamsides and badlands.



Rattlesnake Hibernaculum

Ferruginous Hawk Nest

Some parts of your farm or ranch may provide features that are very important to species at risk for long periods of time. Areas such as cliffs, wetlands, streamside (riparian) habitats or badlands are often used by wildlife for breeding, nesting, denning, or over-wintering. Industrial developments should avoid these permanent habitat areas, especially when they have been identified as important through a MULTISAR Species at Risk Conservation Plan.

We encourage you to become familiar with the species at risk in your area and learn to identify them by sight and sound. Some species at risk are not associated with easily recognizable permanent habitat features, but rather with general habitats that you may have on your farm or ranch, such as native grasslands. You may have noticed a large stick nest in a tree (possibly belonging to a ferruginous hawk) or a burrow surrounded by small bones and dead insects (possibly from a burrowing owl). Keep in mind that species at risk may return to the same habitats year after year.



Liz Saunders

Working with developers

When industrial developments are proposed on your privately owned land you will usually have the opportunity to meet with the company or their consultants. You should ask them to do pre-development wildlife surveys of the land to identify any key habitat features and/or the presence of species at risk and ask for a copy of the results. You can encourage wildlife and species at risk conservation by also asking for setback distances to be maintained between the development and the key habitats or species at risk production sites (e.g. nests, dens). These setbacks, and avoiding activity around the site during the periods of highest sensitivity for the animal (usually the breeding and rearing season), can help minimize the impact of industrial developments on species at risk. Minimizing the impact on their habitat is also important. ASRD recommends minimal disturbance of soil and vegetation and natural recovery whenever possible. In cases where reseeding is necessary, certified native seeds should be used that are native to the local area and free of species listed in the Weed Control Act or invasive agronomic species. By following these recommendations, you can help assure Alberta's resources are developed in a manner that helps sustain species at risk and their habitats.



Liz Saunders

Developers are advised to avoid disturbing native habitats by placing developments on or near disturbed areas. If that is not possible, disturbance to soil and vegetation should be minimized. Natural recovery is recommended, but if reseeding is necessary only local plant species free of weeds or invasive species should be used.

Most wildlife breed and raise young in the spring and early summer. This is a very sensitive time when disturbance should be avoided.



Joel Nicholson

As a landholder you have the opportunity to influence when and where development occurs on your land and how the land is reclaimed. You can ask developers to follow ASRD's Upstream Oil and Gas Approval Standards for the Enhanced Approval Process (EAP) that all upstream oil and gas development and downstream oil and gas pipeline projects must abide by on public land. Developers are aware of ASRD's EAP and the use of its associated Landscape Analysis Tool (LAT) so the impact of development should be minimal. If there are any concerns Fish and Wildlife staff are available to help. Contact information is on the back of this factsheet.

Please visit <http://www.srd.alberta.ca/ManagingPrograms/EnhancedApprovalProcess/documents/EAP-UpOilGasApprovalStandard-Oct19-2010.pdf> for more information.

This table shows some of the most common setbacks and restrictions implemented voluntarily by industrial developers on private land. The ASRD website should be consulted for the most up to date information (<http://srd.alberta.ca/ManagingPrograms/FishWildlifeManagement/WildlifeLandUseGuidelines/Default.aspx>).

Ask for a pre-development wildlife survey of your land and a copy of the LAT tool results. This will identify which setback distances and timing restraints are recommended for your property.

Recommended setbacks and time restrictions for industrial development(s):

Key Wildlife Habitat	Timing Constraint for activities	Setback Distance (metres)
Raptor nests (Prairie Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Bald Eagle)	March 15 - July 15	1000
Burrowing Owl nest	Year round (high impact) April 1 - August 15 (medium impact) No time restriction (low impact)	500 (high and medium impact) 200 (medium impact August 15 - October 15; low impact) 100 (medium impact October 16 - March 31) 50 (low impact October 16 - March 31)
Sharp-tailed Grouse lek (dancing ground)	year round (high impact) March 15 - June 15 (medium and low impact)	500 (high impact) 100 (medium and low impact)
Greater Sage Grouse range (lek and active Greater Sage Grouse habitat)	year round	3200 (lek) 1000 (areas identified and mapped as habitat)
Wetlands - permanent and temporary (amphibian habitat)	year round	100 (permanent and semi-permanent wetlands or seasonal wetlands in sensitive amphibian ranges) 45 (other seasonal wetlands)
Short-horned Lizard (coulees or valley edges)	year round	200 (high impact) 100 (medium and low impact)
Snake hibernacula and rookeries (Prairie Rattlesnake, Bull Snake, Hognose Snake)	Hibernacula: year round (high impact) No time restriction (medium and low impact) Rookeries: March 15 - October 31 (medium and low impact)	Hibernacula: 500 (high impact) 200 (medium and low impact) Rookeries: 200 (all impacts) 50 (medium and low impact November 1 - March 14)
Swift Fox den	February 16 - July 31 (medium and low impact)	500 (high impact) 100 (medium impact) 50 (low impact)

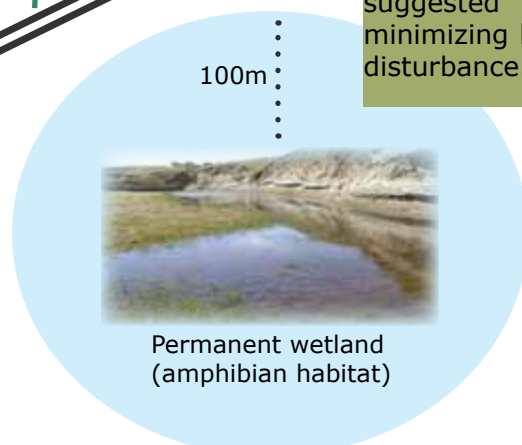
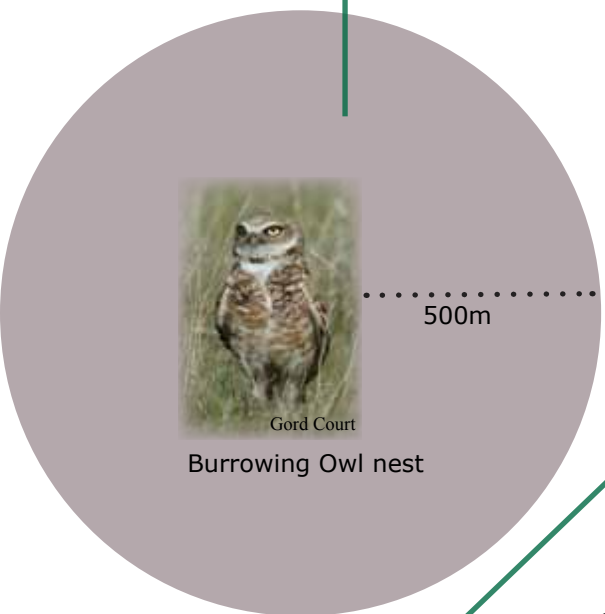
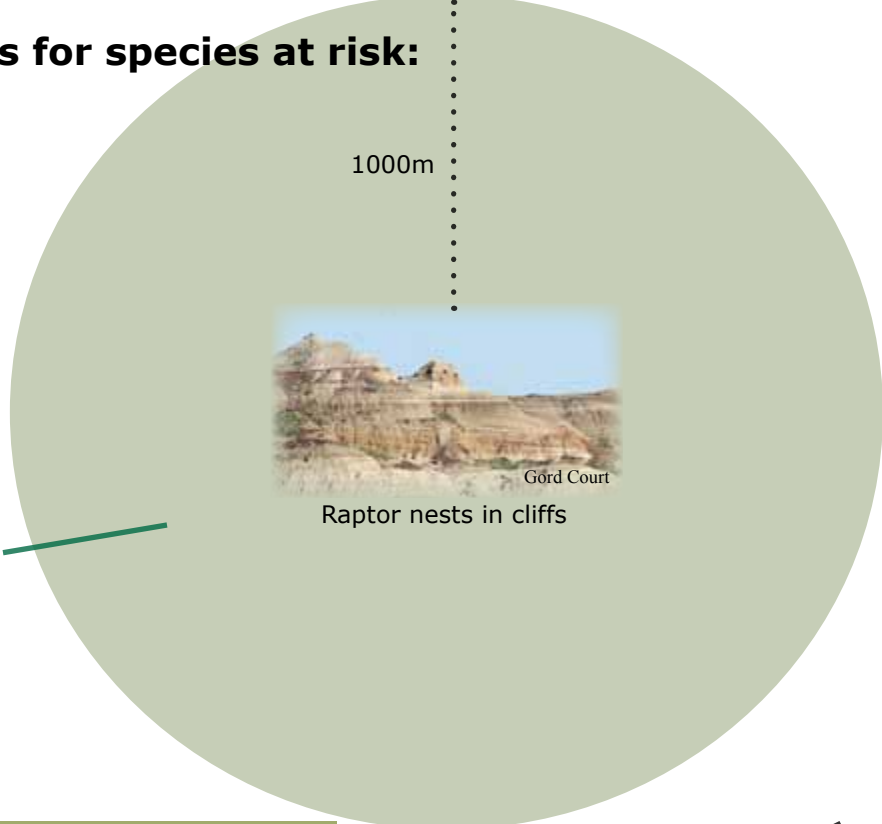
Applying recommended standards for species at risk:

1. Ask for a pre-development wildlife survey to identify species at risk habitat, nests and current locations. Let the developer know you would like ASRD's EAP approval standards for public land followed when they are on your land, including setbacks and timing constraints.

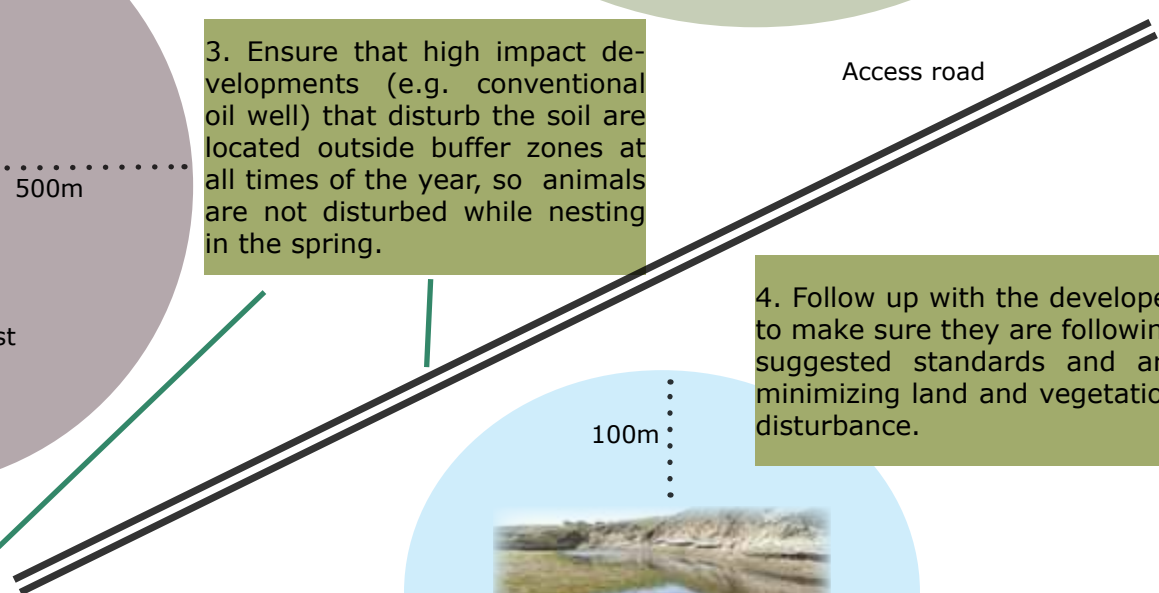
2. Be aware of how far setback distances extend around each habitat feature (nests, wetlands, leks, hibernacula) so you can ensure they are being followed. Ask for a copy of the LAT report.

3. Ensure that high impact developments (e.g. conventional oil well) that disturb the soil are located outside buffer zones at all times of the year, so animals are not disturbed while nesting in the spring.

4. Follow up with the developer to make sure they are following suggested standards and are minimizing land and vegetation disturbance.



Wellsite



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ASRD's Fish and Wildlife managers vary by region.

Please visit <http://www.srd.alberta.ca/AboutUs/SRDContacts/FisheriesWildlifeManagementAreaContacts.aspx> to see who is your contact person or contact MULTISAR for more information.

