



SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SURVEYS

The Sharp-tailed Grouse breeding and nesting season is upon us. Provincial legislation contains legal obligations regarding the protection of this species and their nest and dancing sites (leks). To prevent an activity from contravening provincial legislation or approval conditions of a project authorization, a [Sharp-tailed Grouse survey](#) is required for projects that could potentially impact their breeding activities within suitable breeding habitat.

Regarding these legal obligations, here are some things to consider when planning a project:

- Unlike some other migratory bird species, Sharp-tailed Grouse return to their lek sites year after year. This means that projects that are expected to be constructed in winter in suitable breeding habitat will require a spring survey prior to approval and/or construction.
- Previously identified lek locations are provided by the Government of Alberta upon request and can be cross-referenced against a project location to determine potential impacts to grouse and leks. It is the expectation of regulators that proponents assess for lek locations as part of due diligence and that known lek locations are surveyed to determine breeding activity before construction activities occur.
- The survey window is from mid-March through mid-May. Surveys undertaken outside of this time frame may not be considered valid for regulatory approvals or due diligence.
- The survey range extends through much of southern, central, and eastern Alberta in the Grassland, Parkland, and Boreal Forest Natural Regions.
- Leks have protective setbacks ranging between 100 m and 1,600 m. The setback distance from a lek varies depending on:
 - type of development
 - level of disturbance
 - construction schedule



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TECHNICAL ALERT



HOW WE CAN HELP

These surveys are required to ensure compliance. Summit has a team of experienced wildlife and regulatory specialists who can determine where and when Sharp-tailed Grouse surveys are required for your projects with provincial legislation.

For additional information visit our website at summitearth.com, call your Summit representative or contact these area specific numbers.

British Columbia, NW & S Alberta Call: 403 818 4129

NE Alberta and N Saskatchewan Call: 780 218 9953

S Saskatchewan & Manitoba Call: 306 281 3311

HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

Summit is committed to protecting the health and safety of our employees, contractors and the public in the communities in which we work and live. Our **Work Smart, Work Safe** focus is integral to our day-to-day business practices.

Safety is a Summit core value that is integrated into our culture at every level. We not only practice and focus on safety daily in our operations; we strive to educate, continuously improve and evolve our policies and practices.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & PERMITTING
- ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION & MONITORING
- ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
- REMEDIATION & RISK MANAGEMENT
- RECLAMATION & RESTORATION CONSULTING
- DRILLING WASTE MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS
- PIPELINE, FACILITY AND WELLHEAD DECOMMISSIONING AND ABANDONMENT
- ICT, WATERJET AND CONVENTIONAL CUT AND CAPS
- HYDROGEOLOGY & WATER MANAGEMENT
- SPILL RESPONSE & REMEDIATION

