

# SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SURVEYS

The Sharp-tailed Grouse breeding and lekking 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 migratory bird species, Sharp-tailed Grouse return annually to their lek sites. Therefore, projects anticipated to be built in winter within suitable breeding habitat require a spring survey before approval and/or construction.
- Previously identified lek locations are available from the Government of Alberta upon request. These locations can be compared with project sites to assess potential impacts on grouse and leks. Regulators expect proponents to evaluate lek locations as part of their due diligence, and known lek sites should be surveyed for breeding activity prior to construction.
- **The survey period is from mid-March to mid-May, and surveys conducted outside this timeframe may not be deemed valid for regulatory approvals or due diligence.**
- The survey area encompasses much of southern, central, and eastern Alberta, spanning the Grassland, Parkland, and Boreal Forest Natural Regions.
- Leks have protective setbacks ranging between 100 m and 500 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](http://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: 403 802 3649

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
- CONSTRUCTION & ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION/MONITORING
- 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

