

Valued Components

Wildlife - Mammals

and the Manitoba–Minnesota Transmission Project

Why do we assess mammals?

Mammals are valued by scientists, government, trappers, hunters, First Nations, Metis and the general public for scientific, cultural and social reasons.

How will we determine potential effects on mammals?

In the environmental impact statement (EIS), potential effects on mammals will be determined based on the evaluation of information gathered from local users of the land, the public, First Nations and Metis, trail cameras, field surveys, and existing desktop data sources.

Certain mammals will be focused on during the assessment:

- black bear – a top predator species valued by resource users;
- elk – the elk herd within southeastern Manitoba has been marginalized and has a narrow range of tolerance for environmental change;
- white tailed deer – important to resource users and public.

What assessment activities are underway?

The project team has been undertaking field studies within the study area as well as on existing transmission lines to assess potential effects. Activities include:

- aerial winter track surveys;
- trail cameras;
- elk breeding surveys;
- bear bait monitoring.



Mammal habitats will be assessed.

What are some of the potential effects on mammals?

Potential effects on mammals could include but are not limited to:

- change in habitat availability – land clearing will reduce the amount of available habitat for some mammals;
- change in mortality risk – increases in construction and related traffic may result in mammal-vehicle collisions or improved access for hunters and predators;
- change in movement patterns – construction may alter distribution of mammals and cause avoidance. Presence of the transmission line and fragmentation of habitat may affect movement patterns of some mammals.

What measures are we considering to reduce the potential effects on mammals?

Manitoba Hydro will propose mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on mammals that may include:

- avoiding known den locations during construction;
- timing of construction activities to avoid sensitive breeding periods;
- developing an access management plan to manage access by hunters.



Valued components (VCs) are components of the natural and human environment that are considered by the proponent, public, First Nations groups, Metis, scientists and other technical specialists and government agencies involved in the assessment process to have scientific, ecological, economic, social, cultural, archaeological, historical, or other importance.

For more information or if you would like to share your concerns, contact us at mmtp@hydro.mb.ca or toll free at 1-877-343-1631.