

## **Husky TAN16 Pipeline Release - Wildlife Management Plan**

### **Introduction**

Matrix Solutions Inc. (Matrix) and Focus Wildlife International (Focus) worked with Husky Energy to develop and implement a wildlife management plan for the pipeline release (TAN16) incident which occurred on July 21, 2016. Part of the incident response included a spill-specific wildlife mitigation plan outlining an approach to reducing risks to wildlife that may come into contact with the released product, or be impacted by cleanup activities. During the incident, mitigation measures and protocols were in place to minimize these potential impacts.

The Wildlife Management Plan components included; surveys to determine wildlife presence and use of the impacted areas, options for deterring wildlife from potentially impacted habitat, as well as recovery, rehabilitation, decontamination and release activities of impacted wildlife. The wildlife management plan activities were coordinated with government agencies, and work was completed in accordance with permits provided by Environment Canada and Saskatchewan Environment.

### **Wildlife Observations and Assessment**

Wildlife monitoring was conducted to determine habitat use, and to locate and recover impacted individuals. Land and boat reconnaissance surveys, aerial waterfowl and bird habitat area surveys, wetland assessments of water bodies adjacent to the river were undertaken, along with compilation of relevant desktop information. Information gathered from the designated wildlife field team comprised of third-party wildlife biologists was continually assessed to determine appropriate mitigation strategies. Incident Command System software was utilized to track and map observations.

To enable wildlife observation monitoring, a Husky Wildlife Reporting Hotline was set up for personnel and public to report potentially impacted wildlife to the wildlife field team.

### **Mitigation Strategies**

Mitigation efforts were prioritized for species based on their level of conservation concern. Several provincially and federally listed Species at Risk were known to occur in the affected area, or expected to occur based on range and habitat. Husky continued to adapt the approach to wildlife management and deterrence strategies as information about impacted or threatened wildlife became available.

Key habitat in areas of higher contaminant concentration was the focus for deterring and hazing of wildlife, and monitoring of wildlife presence. Deterrents were strategically placed in high risk areas of heavy oiling, areas of pooling contaminants, and particularly sensitive habitats; including areas of high bird activity and historical wildlife staging areas. Silt fencing was installed to reduce impacts to amphibians, and snow fencing was used to keep large animals out of priority work areas. Deterrents included Mylar tape, pennant flagging, audio deterrents and scare tactic (visual deterrents). Deterrent placement was a high priority response activity to prevent oiling of wildlife in the area or those migrating through. Deterrents were maintained until the risk was no longer evident. Nest sweep surveys

and set-backs were also conducted before habitat disturbance (use of heavy equipment, impacted vegetation clearing, etc.).

Aquatic mammals and waterbirds were the most impacted by the pipeline incident, As a result, a focused aquatic mammal response plan was developed that provided protocols for live trapping and impacted beaver lodge cleaning. Lodge cleanup allowed for the removal of oil and oily vegetation from beaver lodges in spill impacted areas as clean habitat is critical for release. Lodge cleanup was timed to ensure the beavers were released before fall, allowing them to rebuild lodges and cache food before freeze-up.

Capture, collection and stabilization of oiled wildlife was undertaken by experienced professionals, following internationally established protocols. Wildlife was held in captivity at a wildlife rehabilitation facility until appropriate release sites with acceptable clean habitat were located and healthy animal release criteria was met. 55 impacted individuals were recovered and transported to the wildlife rehabilitation facility, with 43 being successfully rehabilitated and released. Wildlife data was submitted to the appropriate regulatory authorities, as required.