

NPC 150661: Monitoring Program Pilot in Ahiak MBS

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Proposal Status: Conformity Determination Issued

[Overview Documents](#)

[Project Overview](#)

Type of application: New

Proponent name:

Danica Hogan

Proponent company:

Canadian Wildlife Service

Project Description:

Ahiak Migratory Bird Sanctuary is one of the pilot sites for developing and implementing monitoring protocols as part of the Ecological and Conservation Monitoring Program (ECOMaP), a program aimed at monitoring the status and effectiveness of the Protected and Conserved Areas Network managed by Environment and Climate Change Canada. The goal of this project is to develop and implement monitoring protocols for priority species as identified by the Ahiak Area Co-Management Committee (ACMC), which includes species at risk, light geese, and other birds. Arctic PRISM (Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring) is one of the few survey protocols that monitor shorebirds, and other non-colonially nesting birds, in the Arctic. The goal of PRISM surveys is to find out which bird species are there, if they are breeding or not, how many there are, and what habitats they are using. Adopting this protocol inside the MBS will enable us to compare population trends inside the MBS with those generated for the same region outside the MBS, which will provide valuable information about the value of the MBS to several groups of birds. Additionally, we intend to develop and implement sustainable long-term monitoring protocols to assess light goose use of the MBS using aerial survey techniques, such as colony perimeter mapping and transect-based aerial surveys. Light goose colony trends and use of the MBS is the primary concern of the Ahiak ACMC and information from these surveys will be used to help inform management decisions. In 2025-2026, we plan to focus on project development and fuel caching for a summer 2026 field season. In 2026-2027, we plan to focus on conducting on-the-ground PRISM surveys for shorebirds and landbirds, and aerial surveys for light geese

[Project Schedule](#)

Start Date:

2026-03-01

End Date:

2027-07-31

[Project Map](#)

List of project geometries:

Id

Geometry

Location Name

[15454](#)

point

Karrak Lake Field Camp

[15457](#)

point

Perry River Cabin and Fuel Cache

[15479](#)

point

Ellice River Cabin and Fuel Cache

[15480](#)

point

McNaughton Lake Old Cabin Site and Fuel Cache

NPC Planning regions:

No Approved Plan

[Project Land Use and Authorizations](#)

Project Land Use:

Scientific Research

Licensing Agencies:

Government of Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service

Government of Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service

Government of Nunavut - Department of Environment

Kitikmeot Inuit Association

[Material Use](#)

Equipment:

Type

Quantity

Type

Use

Helicopter - Bell 407 or similar

1

TBD

travel to and from survey plots, aerial surveys

Twin Otter Fixed-wing Aircraft

1

TBD

fuel caching and removal of empty drums

Fuel Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

Aviation fuel

30

205

for helicopter fueling - number of drums is still to be determined

Propane

6

20

for cooking and heating

Hazardous Material and Chemical Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

No data found

Water Consumption:

Daily Amount (m²)

Retrieval Method

Retrieval Location

0

from freshwater source near field camp (Karrak Lake or Perry River)

bucket or small pump

Waste and Impacts

Environmental Impacts:

Potential environmental impacts from this project are primarily associated with aircraft use. These include disturbance to wildlife while travelling to survey sites and potential for fuel spillage while refueling or from fuel caches. All aircrafts are equipped with spill kits, and drums will be placed in portable berms to contain any potential spills. Pre-existing fuel cache locations will be used whenever possible and to minimize the number of new fuel cache locations required. Empty drums will be taken to air strip at Perry River or Karrak Lake at the end of each field season where they can be picked up by Twin Otter and transported to Cambridge Bay for proper disposal. No temporary camps will be established within the MBS as the field crew will be staying at preexisting cabin sites at Perry River or Karrak Lake. All garbage and human waste will be removed from the cabin sites at the end of the field season.

Waste Management:

Waste Type

Quantity Generated

Treatment Method

Disposal Method

Greywater

6 persons worth for 3 weeks

will use greywater dumping location established by the existing field camp

disposed of in sump pit at camp location

Non-Combustible wastes

10 bags

will be stored in bear barrels until removed from camp

flown out with camp

Sewage (human waste)

6 persons worth for 3 weeks

cat holes will be dug and waste buried when away from camp

solid waste bagged and flown out