

Wildlife and Environmental Mitigation Plan

Esker Gold Project – 2025 Early-Stage Exploration Program

Guardian Exploration Inc.

1. Purpose

This plan outlines measures to minimize potential environmental and wildlife impacts during the Esker Gold Project. The program is designed to avoid disturbance through low-impact practices, daily fly-in access, and strict adherence to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) principles and environmental stewardship.

2. Project Setting

- Location: ~170 km west-northwest of Arviat, east of South Henik Lake
- Land Tenure: Combination of Crown and Inuit Owned Land
- Habitat Zone: Tundra with low shrub and muskeg; within Caribou Late Summer Core Range
- Project Season: August 21 – September 25, 2025

3. General Mitigation Approach

Guardian Exploration Inc. commits to:

- Operate with minimal environmental footprint
- Avoid all known sensitive areas (wildlife habitat, wetlands, archaeological sites)
- Employ trained staff and local monitors to ensure compliance
- Follow principles of respect for wildlife, land, and traditional knowledge

4. Wildlife Mitigation Measures

Risk	Mitigation Measure
Disturbance to caribou or bears	- Work only during late summer; avoid calving/post-calving periods - Avoid known migration corridors - Flight paths adjusted to avoid visible wildlife
Attracting wildlife to site	- No food, waste, or fuel cached on site - No feeding or approaching wildlife - Waste packed out daily
Bear encounters	- All crews trained in bear awareness - Bear deterrents (e.g., bear spray, air

	horns) available - If required, Inuit bear monitor hired from Arviat
Nesting birds or small mammals	- Avoid known nesting zones or dens - No brush clearing unless absolutely necessary
Aircraft-wildlife interaction	- Helicopter flights avoid flying low over caribou, waterfowl, or raptors - Pilots briefed on wildlife avoidance protocols

5. Environmental Mitigation Measures

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measure
Vegetation disturbance	- No mechanized ground disturbance - Foot access only - Sampling sites selected to minimize trampling
Soil erosion or trenching	- No mechanical trenching used - Any hand-dug pits or soil sampling sites restored immediately
Water quality risk	- No water withdrawal or discharge at site - No sampling near lakeshores or active streams
Spill or contamination	- No on-site fuel storage - Daily spill kits carried - Offsite refueling only
Waste or litter	- Zero-waste policy on site - Garbage removed daily - No burning or burial of waste
Cumulative impacts	- Project duration is short (5 weeks) - No roads, structures, or camp constructed - Natural conditions restored daily

6. Monitoring and Reporting

- Daily wildlife observations recorded in field notes
- Any wildlife interactions or incidents reported internally and to KIA/NPC if required

- Photo documentation of sites pre- and post-visit
- End-of-season summary included in project report

7. Training and Awareness

All field staff will be trained in:

- Wildlife safety and behavior
- Spill prevention and environmental protection
- Principles of IQ and respect for cultural values
- Emergency protocols for wildlife encounters

8. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) Integration

Guardian commits to integrating IQ by:

- Consulting local knowledge holders
- Hiring Inuit staff and bear monitors when available
- Respecting wildlife as a shared resource
- Operating with care and humility on the land

9. Emergency Response

In case of wildlife conflict or environmental concern:

- Fieldwork will be suspended if caribou or bears are present near site
- Emergency contacts will be notified per contingency protocols
- KIA and HTO will be informed in the event of a serious incident