

BASELINE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY.

A BIOLOGICAL AND HABITAT SURVEY OF THE BLOOD TRIBAL LANDS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN. IT WILL INCLUDE VEGETATION, MAMMALS, BIRDS, REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS, AND ARTHROPODS. THE PROTOCOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION WILL BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE [ALBERTA NATURAL HERITAGE INFORMATION CENTER](#) (ANHIC) AND THE RESULTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSFER TO THE ANHIC FOR STORAGE. DATA COLLECTION PROTOCOLS ARE FROM THE METHODOLOGIES AND PROTOCOLS FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES: ALBERTA FOREST BIODIVERSITY MONITORING PROGRAM, ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT NETWORK, AND THE RECOVERY OPERATIONS MANUAL - RECOVERY SECRETARIAT, RECOVERY OF NATIONALLY ENDANGERED WILDLIFE (RENEW). THE SURVEY WILL GENERATE THE INFORMATION ON WHICH TO DEVELOP THE SWIFT FOX REINTRODUCTION STRATEGY AND EVALUATE ITS SUCCESS.

THE METHODOLOGIES USED FOR THE VARIOUS TAXONOMIC GROUPS TO BE SAMPLED ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Group	SURVEY METHOD	SOURCE
VEGETATION	GROUND VEGETATION BIODIVERSITY MONITORING PROTOCOLS SHRUB AND SMALL-TREE STRATUM BIODIVERSITY MONITORING PROTOCOLS	ROBERTS-PICHETTE AND LYNN GILLESPIE (1999)
MAMMALS, REPTILES & BIRDS	PROPOSED PROTOCOLS FOR MONITORING TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATES ALBERTA FOREST BIODIVERSITY MONITORING PROGRAM: PROPOSED	SHANK, C.C. AND D.R. FARR. 1999. ALBERTA FOREST BIODIVERSITY MONITORING PROGRAM TECHNICAL REPORT #3

	PROTOCOLS FOR MONITORING TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATES	
REPTILES		
AMPHIBIANS	RESEARCHING AMPHIBIAN NUMBERS IN ALBERTA RANA RESEARCHING AMPHIBIAN NUMBERS IN ALBERTA. ALBERTA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION / ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT / UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA.	HTTP://WWW3.GOV.AB.CA/SRD/FW/AMPHIB/RANA.HTML
ARTHROPODS	PROTOCOLS FOR MEASURING BIODIVERSITY: ARTHROPOD MONITORING IN TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS	<i>FINNAMORE, WINCHESTER, BEHAN-PELLETIER (1999)</i> HTTP://INTRO.HTML/WWW.EMAN-RESE.CA/EMAN/ECOTOOLS/PROTOCOLS/TERRESTRIAL/ARTHROPODS/INTRO.HTML

WHERE SPECIFIC METHODOLOGIES ARE NOT CONTAINED IN THE REFERENCED PROTOCOLS (ABOVE) THE METHODS CONTAINED IN SUTHERLAND(1996), BOOKHOUT (1994) OR SCHEMNITZ (1984) WILL BE USED.

SAMPLING PLOTS FOR ALL TAXONOMIC GROUPS EXCEPT BIRDS WILL BE SELECTED TO REPRESENT THE ECO-ZONES OF THE BLOOD TRIBAL LANDS. THE AERIAL EXTENT OF THE ECO-ZONES WILL BE DETERMINED FROM AERIAL PHOTOS AND TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS OF THE LAND. SAMPLING PLOTS WILL BE PROPORTIONED ACCORDING TO THE PERCENTAGE OF LAND OCCUPIED BY EACH ECO-ZONE, WITH A TOTAL OF 50 SAMPLE PLOTS BEING USED. (EXAMPLE - IF WE HAVE 5 ECO-ZONES WITH THE FOLLOWING PERCENTS 50%, 20%, 10%, 10% AND 10% THEN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLING PLOTS BETWEEN

THE SITES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS 25, 10, 5, 5, AND 5). THE LOCATIONS OF THE SAMPLING PLOTS WITHIN THE ECO-ZONES WILL BE CHOSEN RANDOMLY.

THE DATA RESULTING FROM THE SURVEY WILL BE EXTRAPOLATED TO THE ENTIRE ECO-ZONE AND HABITAT TYPE MAPS FOR THE BLOOD LANDS WILL BE GENERATED. THESE MAPS WILL BE USED THREE PURPOSES:

1. A GENERAL HABITAT CLASSIFICATION OF THE BLOOD LANDS.
2. A BASIS FOR THE SELECTION OF SWIFT FOX RELEASE SITES.
3. A BASELINE TO EVALUATE CHANGES IN HABITAT AFTER THE SWIFT FOX RELEASES.

THE SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED DURING THE SPRING AND SUMMER OF 2004. STAGING OF THE SAMPLING FOR THE VARIOUS TAXONOMIC GROUPS WILL PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR SELECTING THE SWIFT FOX RELEASE SITES BY MID-AUGUST.