

From: jitka Hromadkova <jitka@biocone.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 4:47 PM
To: Al Hoggan <ahoggan@md.bonnyville.ab.ca>
Subject: Notice of Wildlife Research June 15-29

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Hello,

I am writing to notify you that team of Biologists will be collecting water samples for eDNA analysis as part of Wildlife Research for Amphibian monitoring that is led by Biocone Inc. Bonnyville is part of our Study Area where we will be sampling.

I've attached a letter with further details. Please contact me if you have any questions or require more information from our team.

Best Regards,

Jitka

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Jitka Hromadkova MSc, P.Biol

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to:
MD of Bonnyville
CAO: ahoggan@md.bonnyville.ab.ca

Subject : Notice of eDNA sampling as part of Wildlife Research

To Whom It May Concerns,

This letter is a courtesy notification that Biocone Inc. will be undertaking scientific research within the Frog sub-watershed. Weather permitting, we anticipate being in the area this summer between June and July. A team of professional biologists will be collecting water samples at thirty-five locations for laboratory analysis.

This project results from a creative sentencing order by the Alberta Court of Justice for contravening the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act. Creative sentencing is a form of restorative justice permitted under legislation that allows for the funds to be directed towards relevant projects that benefit society-at-large. The results of this research will be made publicly available to further conservation efforts for a healthy wetland ecosystem and species at risk in Alberta.

We will be collecting environmental DNA (eDNA) from water sampling within the Frog Sub-watershed to detect the presence of the Canadian Toad, Northern Leopard Frog, Western Toad, and to test for the harmful chytrid fungus. Both the Northern Leopard Frog, and Western Toad, are classified as species of Special Concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada and are indicators of overall wetland health. The collection of eDNA from water sampling will minimize the need to handle amphibians.

Visitors to the area can expect to see our team working in wetlands and aquatic habitats between June 15 and 29, 2024. We will also have signs posted that water sampling for scientific analysis and conservation purposes is being conducted."

Sincerely,

Jitka Hromadkova MSc., P.Biol.