



## EAST SIDE WILDLIFE MONITORING UNDERWAY

The East Side Road Authority (ESRA) is monitoring woodland caribou and moose populations to help minimize or avoid the impacts on wildlife related to the construction of an all-season road network on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

The \$2.475-million, three-year Wildlife Monitoring Plan is part of the environmental licensing process for the all-season road network. The monitoring plan will provide information on moose, woodland caribou and fur bearer species near the proposed route.

The information obtained through the study will help to assess the potential impact on wildlife species, determine the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures and identify any potential mitigation measures that may be required.

In February, ESRA began work on two wildlife monitoring studies:

**Caribou Study** – 60 Caribou will be studied in the following areas:

- 40 caribou in the region between Bloodvein and Poplar River First Nations and between Lake Winnipeg and the Manitoba-Ontario border
- 20 caribou between Bunibonabee and St. Theresa Point First Nations and between Norway House and Red Sucker Lake First Nations

**Moose Study** – 20 moose will be studied in the following areas:

- 10 adult female moose in the region between Berens River and Bloodvein First Nations
- 10 adult female moose in the region between Hollow Water and Bloodvein First Nations

In both studies, animals will be humanely captured by an experienced contractor selected and hired by Manitoba Conservation. This approach has been highly successful at collaring animals with minimal risk to the animal. The collars will stay on the animal for three years and then they release and fall from the animal to be retrieved for use in future studies.

No immobilizing drugs will be used so that collared animals remain available for harvesting by Aboriginal peoples. Please contact ESRA at 1-866-356-6355 if you harvest a collared moose or caribou so ESRA can retrieve and re-use the collar.

The Wildlife Monitoring Plan involves a variety of techniques including aerial surveys, automated satellite tracking collars, furbearer track surveys and studies using infrared trail cameras. All monitoring and research conducted as part of the program will be planned and implemented with the involvement of ESRA, Manitoba Conservation, the Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee and various community land-use committees. As the monitoring program proceeds, local trappers and residents from east-side communities will be engaged to gather specific wildlife information and field data.

All data collected will be used to adapt road construction plans where necessary to minimize or avoid potential impacts on wildlife.

For more information on the East Side Transportation Initiative, please visit the ESRA website at [www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca](http://www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca) or contact ESRA at:

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