



Fact Sheet: Environmental Impacts from Site C Dam

- The Peace River valley in northeastern BC is incredibly beautiful, the river wild and many areas still pristine. These untouched places are natural treasures.
- The east-west orientation of the river with its steeply sloping alluvial banks results in a [biodiversity hotspot](#) creating a nursery of extraordinary abundance for many species.
- [Over 300 wildlife species and over 400 plant species](#) have been identified to date in the Peace River Valley. [Biologists believe there are many more](#) unidentified species present. Site C Dam will flood important wildlife birthing habitat, critical migratory bird habitat and rare plant species.
- [Site C reservoir will destroy critical wintering and calving habitat](#) for elk, moose, mule and white-tailed deer.
- [BC Hydro has identified 63 species at risk](#) in the Site C project area. This includes 23 species of invertebrates, one amphibian species, 30 migratory bird species of which two are raptors and six species of mammals.
- [Environment Canada states that ¾ of BC's 247 bird species use the Peace region](#); of which 32 are 'at risk', including the Canada Warbler, Common Nighthawk and Olive-sided Flycatcher.
- Site C dam could cause mortality of migratory birds by killing individuals or destroying active nests. [Environment Canada noted the absolute prohibition on incidental take of migratory bird or destruction of an active nest](#) under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.
- [Twenty-eight eagles' nests will be destroyed](#) for Site C dam in the Peace River Valley.
- The Joint Review Panel stated the Site C dam “would cause significant adverse effects on migratory birds which cannot be mitigated”.
- The Site C reservoir [may](#) destroy habitat for 3 species of fish including: migratory Arctic grayling; migratory bull trout and mountain whitefish.
- [A BC government brochure](#) emphasizes that the province has a “global responsibility for the conservation of this [bull trout] species”. Bull trout are particularly sensitive to habitat alteration, such as dam construction, logging, road-building and the removal of streamside vegetation.
- [BC Hydro has proposed](#) a “bizarre, multi-million dollar boondoggle to save fish from the Site C dam”, paying 25.5 million to build a “trap and haul” facility which will cost \$1.5 million every year to maintain.
- Methylmercury contamination of sports fish due to Site C is a [significant concern](#) for local anglers and First Nations.
- [According to Dr. Clayton Apps](#), Wildlife Biologist:
 - “Site C will form yet another barrier to wildlife movement in a region where industrial development is expanding rapidly.”
 - “Site C will threaten the future survival of several wildlife populations in the Peace region.”

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