

Appendix 6

Breeding Bird Nest Monitoring and Management Plan



MEADOWBANK GOLD PROJECT

Breeding Bird Nest Monitoring and Management Plan

In Accordance with Migratory Birds Regulations

Prepared by:
Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

Version 2
May 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2008, Agnico Eagles Mines Ltd. has been in the process of building infrastructure for the Meadowbank Gold Project north of Baker Lake. In 2017, Agnico has to build the Amaruq Exploration Access Road between the Meadowbank Site and the Amaruq Site. Some land clearing activities at the proposed mine site are planned through the summer months. Since disturbance or destruction of the nests of breeding birds is not permitted under Section 6(a) of the Migratory Birds Regulations, a nest monitoring program is required that identifies active nests and provides recommendations for avoiding disturbance at all nests.

This Breeding Bird Nest Monitoring and Management Plan (Plan) outlines the design, identification, protocol and monitoring regarding the nest identification and monitoring to be conduct from May 15 to July 31, as snow condition permit.

The objectives of this Plan are summarized as follows:

1. Describe nest survey protocols;
2. Identify suitable nest management tools; and
3. Outline monitoring of individual nests.

This updated version of the Breeding Bird Nest Monitoring and Management Plan was developed in May 2017 in concordance with Section 6(a) of the Migratory Birds Regulations. This document will supersede all previous versions of the Breeding Bird Nest Monitoring and Management Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

This plan will be immediately implemented (May 2017) and is subject to any modifications proposed as a result of the review and approval process.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Agnico Eagle – Environment Superintendent

Agnico Eagle – Environmental Senior Coordinator

Agnico Eagle – Environmental Technician

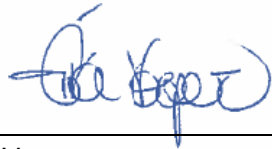
Agnico Eagle – Amaruq Exploration Access Road Supervisor

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version	Date (YMD)	Section	Page	Revision
1	08/04/08			First version of the plan – nest monitoring along the Meadowbank AWAR
2	17/05/18	All	All	Update to include monitoring to be done along the Amaruq Exploration Access Road, change supervisor responsible.

Prepared By: Environmental Department

Approved by: _____



Erika Voyer
General Supervisor Environment

Table of Contents

1 INTRODUCTION 6

2 NEST SURVEY PROTOCOL..... 7

3 REPORTING PROTOCOLS FOR ACTIVE NESTS 8

4 NEST MANAGEMENT TOOL..... 9

5 ACTIVE NEST MONITORING 10

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A	Active Bird Nest Identification Form
Appendix B	Bird identification

1 INTRODUCTION

In 2008, Agnico Eagles Mines Ltd. has been in the process of building infrastructure for the Meadowbank Gold Project north of Baker Lake. In 2017, Agnico has to build the Amaruq Exploration Access Road between the Meadowbank Site and the Amaruq Site. Some land clearing activities at the proposed mine site are planned through the summer months. Since disturbance or destruction of the nests of breeding birds is not permitted under Section 6(a) of the Migratory Birds Regulations, a nest monitoring program is required that identifies active nests and provides recommendations for avoiding disturbance at all nests.

This Breeding Bird Nest Monitoring and Management Plan (Plan) outlines the design, identification, protocol and monitoring regarding the nest identification and monitoring to be conducted from May 15 to July 31, as snow condition permits.

The objectives of this Plan are summarized as follows:

4. Describe nest survey protocols;
5. Identify suitable nest management tools; and
6. Outline monitoring of individual nests.

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2 NEST SURVEY PROTOCOL

Agnico Eagle will have to conduct a survey in the proposed disturbed area from May 15 to July 31 as described in the protocol below:

- 1) Conduct surveys in proposed disturbance areas between May 15 and July 31 as snow conditions permits;
- 2) Complete surveys for active nests in proposed construction areas a minimum of four days prior to any disturbance (e.g., topsoil stripping, road construction, quarry development, etc.);
- 3) Traverse the entire proposed disturbance site by doing transect spaced by a maximum of 5 m apart and look for active nests of breeding birds. If there is two observers, transect can be spaced by a maximum of 10 m apart;
- 4) Survey an additional 30 m area on all sides of the proposed disturbance area;
- 5) For all active nests observed in the proposed disturbed area, follow the protocol described in Section 3 "Reporting protocols for active nests" below.

3 REPORTING PROTOCOLS FOR ACTIVE NESTS

For all active nests observed, follow the protocol describe below:

- 1) Complete Active Bird Nest Identification Form (see Appendix A);
- 2) Give each nest a unique identifier (e.g., Nest 1, Nest 2, etc.);
- 3) Identify nesting bird species (See Appendix B for Bird Identification);
- 4) Take GPS coordinates at nest;
- 5) Take digital photos of nest and surroundings;
- 6) Mark a suitable exclusion zone with wood stakes and green spray paint as described in Section 4 “Nest Management Tool” below. To minimize and avoid and increased risk of depredation, do not identify/mark actual nest site with artificial markers, flags or stakes. Use natural features or construct small rock piles or cairns to help identify the nest site on future monitoring visits;
- 7) Report the location of each active nest (UTM coordinates, road station #, quarry, etc.) to Senior Environmental Coordinator. The Senior Environmental Coordinator will be in charge to advise the Construction Supervisor that a nest has been found and provide with advice or deny the ongoing construction as long as the nest is in the area; and
- 8) See Section 5 below for the Active Nest Monitoring.

4 NEST MANAGEMENT TOOL

For all active nest observed in the proposed disturbed area, Agnico will establish an exclusion zone as per the guideline describe below;

- 1) Where feasible, establish and mark a 20 m exclusion zone around all passerine and shorebird nests. Smaller exclusion zones may be necessary for some nest sites depending on site-specific issues and constraints. Exclusion zones will need to be determined on a site-specific basis;
- 2) For shorebirds such as Semipalmated Plover or American Golden Plover that choose to nest on disturbed surfaces (e.g., road bed with vehicle activity), exclusion zones will be established on a site-specific basis, but will likely be in the order of 5 m;
- 3) Where feasible, establish and mark a 40 m exclusion zone around all waterfowl, gull and crane nests. Smaller exclusion zones may be necessary for some nest sites depending on site-specific issues and constraints. Exclusion zones will need to be determined on a site-specific basis; and
- 4) Establish and mark a 100 m exclusion zone around all raptor nests. Smaller exclusion zones may be required for some nest sites to ensure that a small access road can be provided to construction areas outside exclusion sites.

5 ACTIVE NEST MONITORING

For all active nest observed, the following protocol will be follow:

- 1) Monitor all active nests approximately once every two to three days to observe nesting stage;
- 2) Observe nests with binoculars or spotting scope to avoid close approaches;
- 3) If development activities outside the exclusion zone appear to be disturbing nesting birds, increase the width of the exclusion zone;
- 4) If nests have been determined to be inactive due to completion of nesting, depredation, abandonment or chicks have fledged, remove the exclusion zones around the nest only once a final nest survey in the excluded area has determined that no other active nests are present and once approve by the Senior Environmental Coordinator; and
- 5) If active nests are no longer present, report to Senior Environmental Coordinator. The Senior Environmental Coordinator will be in charge to advise the Construction Supervisor that a nest is no longer active and construction activity can resume within the previous exclusion area. Once approve by the Senior Environmental Coordinator, the exclusion area can be removed.

APPENDIX A

Active Bird Nest Identification Form



Active Bird Nest Identification Form

Nest #: _____

UTM Coordinates: _____

Location: _____

Date (day/month/year) _____

Observer Names: _____

Species: _____

Management Action Taken: _____

Notes on Location: _____

Photo identification: _____

Date (d/m/y)	Eggs in Nest	Young in Nest	Empty Nest	Comments

APPENDIX B

Bird Identification

Passerine and shorebird

Ptarmigan



Lapland Longspur



Snow bunting

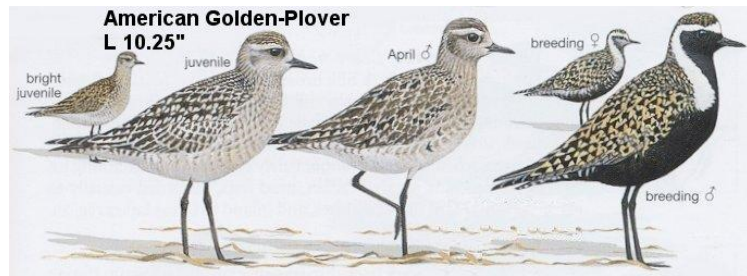


Semipalmated plover or American golden plover

Semipalmated plover



American golden plover



Waterfowl, gull and crane

Long tailed Jaeger



Canada goose



Snow goose



Blue brandt goose



Lesser white fronted



Seagull



Long tailed duck



Common loon



Red Throated Loon



King eider



Sandhill crane



Raptors

Rough legged haw



Peregrin falcon



Bald Eagle

