

PRIDDIS SLOUGH WILDLIFE MONITORING

ARE WILDLIFE USING THE PRIDDIS SLOUGH UNDERPASS?

The Priddis Slough is a large permanent wetland situated in southwest Calgary and is a part of Calgary's Ecological Network. In 2018, the City of Calgary built 194 Ave SW and included a bridge over the slough to retain hydrological function of the wetland. To determine the efficacy of the bridge over the Priddis Slough to facilitate wildlife movement a wildlife monitoring program was developed. Recommendations based on findings were developed for future road mitigation in regards to mammal movement.

MONITORING METHODS

Species were recorded using 6 camera-traps in the Priddis Slough area, at the rail and slough underpass from May 25, 2020 through May 31, 2021. We also walked snow transects during winter months.



RESULTS

There were over 1,000 wildlife detections with the camera-traps, including deer, coyotes, red foxes, moose, skunks and weasels. The cameras identified that coyotes and red foxes successfully crossed using the underpass. There were over 170 animal tracks observed during snow tracking from late November to early March. Results indicated that animals are moving across 194 Ave SW and most crossed over the road.

Deer species only successfully crossed using the slough underpass during the winter months. This may be due to the presence of ice and snow that provide a travel option over the placed rock (rip rap) that hinder deer from crossing during most of the year.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue wildlife monitoring including number of animal-vehicle collisions to inform risk management as traffic volumes increase.
- Consider installing fencing to direct animals to the slough underpass and place additional small diameter drainage rock and/or soil along the abutments for ease of wildlife crossing during ice-free months.
- Continued/increased efforts of transportation planners and designers working with ecologists to better understand and facilitate wildlife movements in the ecological network.

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