

## Oil Sands Monitoring (OSM)

### 2016-2017 PROJECT PLAN SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>F1-1-3 TEK Berry Health</b>
<b>Type of Project:</b>	Focused Study
<b>Delivery Agent:</b>	Wood Buffalo Environmental Association (WBEA)
<b>Project Contact:</b>	Bob Myrick (AEP) - bob.myrick@gov.ab.ca Sanjay Prasad (WBEA) - sprasad@wbea.org
<b>Budget:</b>	\$ 390,000

#### **Project Description:**

The Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) project focuses on evaluating the quality and availability of berries with support from Fort McKay Sustainability Department using an approach that is both culturally-meaningful and science-based. The project is led by the Fort McKay Berry Focus Group comprised of interested Elders who have worked together on the project since 2011. In 2015, four berry patches were visited monthly, and then sampled in late August/early September by the Group, WBEA staff, and WBEA contractors. The berries are being analyzed for trace elements, and health promoting constituents. As in 2014, the sites were equipped with solar-powered meteorology stations (Temperature, Relative Humidity, Wind Speed/Wind Direction, precipitation, leaf wetness) operating continuously, and passive samplers for selected air pollutants (SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, VOC). Analysis for 2015/16 is underway and a report will be provided to the group at our yearly validation meeting, March 2016.

#### **Project Objectives:**

- To learn from and use Traditional Ecological Knowledge in environmental monitoring
- To employ community-based monitoring and western science (where appropriate) to monitor indicators of environmental stress due to air pollution.

#### **Key Outcomes:**

The project aims to gain greater understanding of the current, and/or potential effect of air emissions on a traditional land resources

#### **Geographic Scope:**

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB)

#### **Associated Data and Reports:**

WBEA will respect the commitments made to Community Elders and project participants for release of information and traditional knowledge. WBEA will obtain all necessary permissions from Community members and associated stakeholders prior to releasing data from this program. A report on Berry Monitoring will be produced in conjunction with Fort McKay.