

### 2016-2017 PROJECT PLAN SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>WE1-1-4 Amphibian and Wetland Health</b>
<b>Type of Project:</b>	Focused Study
<b>Delivery Agent:</b>	ECCC
<b>Project Contact:</b>	Bruce Pauli (ECCC) - bruce.pauli@canada.ca
<b>Budget:</b>	\$ 424,009

#### **Project Description:**

This project is a continuation of the “Amphibian and Wetland Health” project in the Wildlife Health Component of the Joint Oil Sands Monitoring (JOSM) program. It involves the identification of gaps in our understanding of ways to assess wetland health. Another key aspect of the project is to generate information necessary and crucial to the development of the most robust, scientifically-credible and cost-efficient long term monitoring program to recommend for monitoring potential oil sands environmental impacts to wetlands. We plan enhanced cooperation with other researchers in the oil sands community, i.e. with other groups in ECCC (Atmospheric Science and Technology Directorate (ASTD) and Water Science and Technology Directorate (WSTD)), with Parks Canada Agency, with Alberta Environment and Parks, and with academia.

#### **Project Objectives:**

The aim of this revised project is to align amphibian and wetland health activities that were being conducted under JOSM into an integrated wetland monitoring program – including being integrated with other components of the monitoring program – that uses wildlife contaminants and toxicology assessments in sentinel wetland-associated species to provide a monitoring program for the health of wetlands in the oil sands region, and establish the techniques and assessment endpoints necessary to recommend a robust system for monitoring the health of wetlands in the oil sands.

#### **Key Outcomes:**

- Provide an assessment of the exposure and effects of chemicals of concern in sentinel wildlife species and in their habitat in wetlands in the oil sands in an integrated and multi-disciplinary fashion, and
- Establish a long-term program for monitoring wetland health in the region to assist in the monitoring of potential oil sands environmental impacts.

#### **Geographic Scope:**

Northern Alberta, extending into the Peace-Athabasca Delta as well as the NWT and Saskatchewan for comparison purposes.

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

Data from this project will be housed in the ECCC open data catalogue and the Oil sands Information Portal. Progress updates on the project are reported at the Peace-Athabasca Delta Ecological Monitoring Program Annual Forum which includes outreach to Indigenous Peoples and community members.