

Reducing Environmental Risk in a Results-Based Regulatory System

Mark Sherrington

Abstract

The oil and gas industry in Western Canada continues to develop, requiring roads, pipelines and processing facilities. This infrastructure is often built in landscapes that have several other resource users. The forestry industry and oil and gas (energy) are working together to better coordinate development in Alberta and NE BC to and maintain key wildlife populations, recreational attributes through groups within the Foothills Research Institute (FRI). In addition, several energy companies including Shell are studying ways to better ways to return existing cleared areas (footprint) to the natural ecosystem types typical of these areas. Reclamation trials are being set up on pipelines in the foothills within woodland caribou habitat (a threatened species) to determine the most effective reclamation methods that also fit within a typical project lifecycle in the oil and gas industry.

Mark Sherrington is a senior environmental planner in Shell's upstream oil and gas environment team. Through working closely with the gas exploration and development groups in Shell Canada and with external stakeholder groups, surface environmental risks are identified and managed in the foothills areas of Alberta and NE BC. Mark previously worked on the biodiversity assessments for oil and gas projects in Alberta including mineable and in-situ oil sands projects. He has an M.Sc. in Geography from the University of Calgary.

