

# Teck's Elk Valley Operations

## Context

Teck Resources Limited (Teck) has major business units focused on copper, zinc, steelmaking coal and energy, and is the world's second-largest seaborne exporter of steelmaking coal. The company is making efforts to continually strengthen its sustainability performance, guided by the company's Sustainability Strategy, which is organized around six focus areas: Community; Our People; Water; Energy and Climate Change; Air; and Biodiversity. It sets short-term goals for their operations in each focus area to 2020 and long-term goals to 2030. Teck's commitment to environmental and social best practices is exemplified by the Line Creek Operations, one of its five steelmaking coal operations in the Elk Valley region of Southeastern British Columbia.



**Lead:** Industry (B.C.)

**Steps of the Mineral Development Sequence:**

Development, operation, closure, post-closure

**Key Finding:** Dedication to working collaboratively with local communities and sharing best practices across a company help ensure that short- and long-term environmental and social goals are met and a net positive impact is achieved in the operating area.

## Description of Measures Implemented

In 2016, the Ktunaxa Nation Council and Teck signed an Impact Management and Benefits Agreement that creates numerous long-term benefits for the Ktunaxa people and increased certainty around future sustainable mining development in the Elk Valley region. Spanning approximately 40 years and all five steelmaking operations, it is one of the most comprehensive agreements of its kind in place in Canada. It sets out commitments for both parties in the areas of consultation and engagement, environment and land stewardship, employment and business opportunities for Ktunaxa citizens, and cultural resources management. Prior to this, the Ktunaxa Nation Council and Teck signed a Consultation Agreement in 2010 and a Working Protocol Agreement in 2007.

Teck also works with a number of local partners and organizations on economic, social and environmental initiatives. For instance, it partnered with the local Elk Valley communities of Elkford, Fernie and Sparwood, and local First Nations through the Elk Valley Economic Initiative (EVEI). The goal of the EVEI is to expand and diversify business opportunities in the region, with the aim of increasing the number of permanent Elk Valley residents. Teck also works with the Elk River Alliance (ERA), an organization that brings together individual citizens, local governments, companies, and community groups, with the shared purpose of keeping the Elk River watershed healthy – fishable, drinkable and swimmable – for future generations. Finally, Teck engages water users in the Elk Valley on the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan, an area-based watershed management plan that was developed cooperatively with the Ktunaxa Nation, federal and provincial ministries, and input from independent scientists and the public.



Elk Valley community initiative participants

Recognizing the importance of biodiversity conservation management as part of community engagement, Teck's Line Creek Operations developed a comprehensive Biodiversity Management Plan that aligns with the company's commitment to achieve a net positive impact on biodiversity in areas affected by its activities. This plan includes ongoing reclamation planning and activities such as wildlife

monitoring and compiling land characteristics to guide progressive reclamation plans. The reclamation activities include re-establishing landforms and native vegetation in previously mined areas. Reclaimed areas are then monitored for vegetation quality and wildlife use. To date, 21 hectares have been reclaimed at Line Creek.

To further support biodiversity conservation, Teck announced the purchase of approximately 7,150 hectares of private lands in British Columbia's Elk Valley and Flathead River Valley in October 2013. This is one of the single biggest private-sector investments in land conservation in British Columbia's history and will conserve an area over 17 times the size of Vancouver's Stanley Park. Teck is currently working in cooperation with the Ktunaxa Nation, communities and other stakeholders to develop management plans to protect key wildlife and fish habitat in the Elk Valley and Flathead River Valley.

## Results

Line Creek Operations received a Mining Association of Canada (MAC) Towards Sustainable Mining Leadership Award in 2015 for its outstanding performance. The TSM Leadership Award is granted only when a facility meets or exceeds a Level "A" ranking in their results across all six performance areas of the TSM initiative: Aboriginal and community outreach; safety and health; crisis management; tailings management (not applicable to Line Creek); biodiversity conservation management; and energy use and greenhouse gas emissions management. While Line Creek's scores reflect leadership across all TSM performance areas, the facility stands out for demonstrating best practices in Indigenous and community outreach, biodiversity conservation management, and energy use and greenhouse gas management. In these areas, Line Creek achieved the highest possible ranking—level "AAA"—across all indicators, and is the fourth Teck operation to win this award.



One of Teck's Elk Valley Operations

## Lessons Learned

The following attributes were critical to achieving the positive results at Teck's Line Creek Operation:

- Dedication to working collaboratively with local communities to build strong relationships and create lasting mutual benefits, as it helped advance business priorities while making meaningful contributions to communities.
- Sharing best practices across the company's operations helped increase the likelihood that good ideas would be implemented systematically.
- Setting short-term (to 2015) and long-term (to 2030) goals in the company's Sustainability Strategy first published in 2010. These goals were seen as stretch goals that would not be easy to attain. Through action plans implemented across the company, Teck achieved all 28 of its 2015 short-term goals and recently developed a new set of short-term goals to 2020.

### For more information:

To learn more about Teck's steelmaking coal operations, including Line Creek Operations, visit [www.teck.com/products/steelmaking-coal](http://www.teck.com/products/steelmaking-coal)

To learn more about Teck's approach to sustainability, visit [www.teck.com/responsibility/our-sustainability-strategy](http://www.teck.com/responsibility/our-sustainability-strategy)