

Presented By: UNBC's Natural  
Resources & Environmental Studies  
Institute



# PUBLIC PRESENTATION



Thursday  
April 12, 2018

7:00 pm

LIDO Theatre

10156 100 Ave  
Fort St John, BC

Participants can also  
attend remotely by  
going to:

[www.unbc.ca/nres-  
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## Efforts by industry to reduce impact on migratory birds in northeastern BC

Guest Presenter: Mark Phinney, RPBio, RPF

Senior Environmental Advisor

Encana Corporation

### Presentation Summary:

The boreal forest is extremely important to North American birds, with hundreds of species and billions of individuals nesting or migrating through the boreal forest. The Peace River area of BC is at the southern edge of the boreal zone and is particularly rich in bird life, with a mix of species from north, south, east & west. Local survey results show a population decline in many bird species, and this is supported by regional and national data. Causes for these declines are unclear, but likely involve a range of factors on breeding, migration and wintering grounds. In general, habitat conditions in the boreal forest have been less affected by human activities than migration and wintering areas, but the southern edge of the boreal forest zone is an exception. Locally, there has been substantial loss of wetlands, natural grasslands, and old forest to industrial and agricultural development. There are provincial regulations and industry-specific guidelines that maintain or protect habitat for nesting birds. In addition, there are federal and provincial regulations that prohibit the destruction or disturbance of bird nests and eggs. It is difficult for any industry operating in potential bird nesting habitat to fully comply with these prohibitions, and responses to the issue vary widely. The pros and cons of two examples of innovative approaches will be discussed: a Calgary-based oil & gas exploration company active in the Peace River area, and a consortium of forest companies active in the BC interior.

Mark Phinney is a professional forester and wildlife biologist who has lived and worked in the Dawson Creek area for nearly 20 years. Mark graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry-Wildlife. He has worked in New Brunswick and BC as a wildlife biologist in a number of different capacities. With his wealth of local experience, Mark has helped industrial proponents address the regulatory requirements that protect wildlife and habitat while seeking a balance between industrial development and environmental protection.

### *All are welcome to attend. No registration required.*

The Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute at the University of Northern British Columbia, together with its partners, invite those with interest in learning more about migratory bird management to attend this presentation and discussion.

This project is funded by the **Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program** on behalf of its program partners **BC Hydro**, the **Province of BC**, **First Nations** and the **public**, who work together to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by existing BC Hydro dams.

