

6.0 Current use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes:

6.1 The Proponent shall provide access to private lands to Aboriginal groups for their current use of land, including hunting and plant harvesting.

Status: Ongoing

Supporting Analysis:

New Gold provides access to private lands where it is safe to do so. On a regular basis, New Gold also provides site tours to community members so they are familiar with the lands.

6.2 Current use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes: The Proponent shall avoid use of herbicides along the transmission line corridor unless required to prevent fire hazards. The Proponent shall minimize the removal of non-woody vegetation within the transmission line corridor.

Status: Ongoing

Supporting Analysis:

Over the life of the Mine the line will be inspected and if necessary vegetation that would impact the line may need to be managed. The use of herbicide for vegetation management is not intended.

During 2017 there was no need to manage vegetation along the line.

6.3.1 The Proponent shall, throughout all phases of the Designated Project, undertake progressive habitat restoration as per any requirements set by Ontario in the Mine Closure Plan for the Designated Project. Habitat restoration shall include: a consideration of habitat types that support a diversity of wildlife species and traditional uses by Aboriginal peoples, including ungulates and furbearers, as well as native plant species previously collected at the Project Site for food and medicinal purposes.

Status: Ongoing

Supporting Analysis:

During 2017 the project was still heavily under construction so minimal progressive reclamation occurred. However, in areas where re-vegetation did occur native seeds and plant species were used. Throughout the design and construction phase all development has incorporated the use of native seeds and plants into design and as the project progresses this practice will be maintained.

6.3.2 The Proponent shall, throughout all phases of the Designated Project, undertake progressive habitat restoration as per any requirements set by Ontario in the Mine Closure Plan

for the Designated Project. Habitat restoration shall include: separating and stockpiling removed organic rich material during construction (of open pit and during tailings dam stripping) for use to support revegetation and other reclamation activities.

Status: Ongoing

Supporting Analysis:

During construction activities, organic rich material was separated and stockpiled in designated areas for use in revegetation and other reclamation activities. In 2017 organic rich material was salvaged during development of areas within the East Mine Rock Stockpile, West Mine Rock Stockpile, Mine Rock Pond dam footprint, open pit water collection sumps, Tailing Management Area dam footprints and clay borrow pit areas.

6.4 The Proponent shall monitor habitat restoration to verify the success of revegetation efforts. Monitoring starts with construction and ends once habitat has been restored and proven effective.

Status: Ongoing

Supporting Analysis:

In the early stages of the Rainy River Mine the largest construction undertaking that has seen the most reclamation is the creation of three man made diversions to re-route former water systems known as the West Creek, Clark Creek and Teeple Drain. Construction of these diversion structures referred to as the West Creek, Clark Creek and Teeple Diversions commenced in 2015 with commissioning commencing in late 2016 and mid 2017. As part of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada approval process for these structures, New Gold is required to complete an annual monitoring report of the fisheries, fish habitat and compensation of these structures. In regard to habitat restoration, the 2017 reports indicate the following; Teeple diversion constructed habitat remains stable and in place. Shorelines and graded offset features are stable, and riparian vegetation cover and plantings have achieved moderate to good coverage, but are not yet at the targeted 80% success criteria.

In 2018 New Gold will be required to complete similar studies in the Clark Creek and West Creek Diversion systems.

As the project advances further reclamation studies and practices will be implemented to meet future mine closure requirements.

6.5 The Proponent shall restore access to the Project Site for the Aboriginal groups during the decommissioning phase, to the extent that such access is safe, for their traditional purposes.

Status: This condition is not applicable at this stage of the project

Supporting Analysis:

This condition is not relevant to the current early operations phase of the project.

6.6 The proponent shall consult with the Aboriginal groups on the implementation of conditions 6.1, 6.4 and 6.5.

Status Update: Ongoing

Supporting Analysis:

6.1 - Through negotiated agreements and in the Rainy River Mine Aboriginal Consultation Plan (Version 2, February 2015), New Gold has engaged Aboriginal groups on accessing New Gold property.

6.4 - Updates on habitat restoration and the success of revegetation efforts are provided during site tours, at Environmental Monitoring Board meetings, and at Impact Benefit and Participation Agreement communication meetings.

6.5 - Not applicable during the current early operations phase.

Supporting Documentation

There is no supporting documentation for Section 6.0