| Department Responsible | Date Approved |
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| Safety and Sustainability | June 2026 |
| **Target Audience:** | **Review Date** |
| All VGM Employees, Contractors and Visitors | June 2027 |

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|---|---|
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# Caribou and Traffic Management

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## 1 OBJECTIVE

To provide clear direction for users of the Valentine Gold Mine (VGM) access road, site haul roads and auxiliary roads when encountering caribou and during caribou migration.

## 2 SCOPE

This procedure applies to all Equinox employees, contractors and visitors who will be operating any vehicle or mobile equipment on the VGM access road, site haul roads or auxiliary roads.

## 3 PURPOSE

The purpose of this SOP is to define mitigation measures to avoid or reduce adverse effects of VGM related traffic on caribou. These measures apply throughout all project phases and will be monitored for effectiveness and amended where necessary.

To avoid or reduce adverse traffic effects on caribou, four levels of caribou protection were developed for the Caribou Protection and Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan (CPEEMP) with specific thresholds for reporting and implementation of mitigation measures. For complete information please refer to the Levels of Caribou Protection from CPEEMP (Appendix B).

## 4 REFERENCES

- Caribou Protection and Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan (CPEEMP)
- Environmental Protection Plan (EPP)
- Traffic Management Plan (TMP)

Where requirements overlap, the most protective measures will apply.

## 5 DEFINITIONS

None

## 6 ACRONYMS

- **VGM** Valentine Gold Mine
- **CPEEMP** Caribou Protection and Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan
- **EPP** Environmental Protection Plan
- **TMP** Traffic Management Plan
- **OHS** Occupational, Health and Safety

## 7 PROCEDURE

### 7.1 General Protection Measures

The following mitigations must be followed by drivers of all vehicles or operators of all equipment on the access road or at the VGM, at any time of the year.

- Transportation of workers and materials to and from VGM is conducted using the access road and is managed through a Traffic Management Plan (Appendix A) aimed at reducing traffic frequency and thereby reducing noise, dust, and mortality risk.
- Most Equinox employees and embedded contractors are required to make the return trip from Millertown to the VGM for their scheduled shifts via bus. Following arrival at the VGM, they travel on the site shuttle to and from their associated work areas during their shift.
- Project vehicles must follow posted speed limits implemented by Equinox along the access road, site roads and haul roads.
- All Project vehicles operating on the access road and site roads shall be equipped with a functioning two-way radio and communicate the vehicle location at posted kilometer markers every 2 kilometers.
- Drivers must notify site security of any caribou observations and will be notified of caribou observations to allow lowering speeds accordingly.
- During dry and/or high wind conditions, water will be applied to the access road, site roads and haul roads as needed to mitigate dust emissions. The application of water will be limited to non-freezing temperatures to avoid icing that can present a safety hazard. The application of dust suppressants other than water (e.g. calcium chloride) to roads as an alternative option to watering will be considered in consultation with the regulator.
- The right-of-way will be always given to caribou. In response to wildlife observations, vehicles will reduce speed and stop, if necessary, to allow wildlife to cross or leave the road.

### 7.2 Migratory Protection Measures

These measures are intended to reduce traffic volume, vehicle speed, and disturbance within identified migration corridors. The following mitigations are to be followed by all drivers and equipment operators associated with the VGM, when specific migratory management levels associated with the fall and spring migration periods are implemented.

- Project vehicles along the access road, site roads, and haul roads must follow reduced speed limits and added traffic control measures within the migration corridor.
- Convoys shall be used to the extent possible.
- The VGM environment team will deploy increased traffic control signage within the migration corridor and at known crossing locations and driver compliance will be enforced.
- Project-related traffic on the access road shall be reduced during migration periods to the extent practical.
- Breaks in snowbanks associated with snow clearing along roadways will be created at ~200 m intervals, to the extent practical, through the migration corridor to provide caribou with crossing opportunities. Where possible, breaks will be aligned on opposite sides of the road and with existing wildlife trails (where these occur). Snowbanks will typically be < 1 m tall to ease caribou crossing roadways during spring and fall migration. To be applied for all roads east of the plant site, and on the public access road from site for ~10 km.
- Breaks in the haul road berm will be created at ~200 m intervals, throughout the migration corridor to provide caribou with crossing opportunities. Breaks will be aligned on opposite sides of the road and with existing wildlife trails, provided these are OHS compliant.
- Protocols should be implemented to maximize supply and warehousing inventory levels prior to migration periods, to reduce traffic volumes on the access road.
- Protocols should be implemented to limit rotation changes to the degree possible (also considering worker health and safety) to reduce traffic levels during the migration period.
- Planning prior to, during, and post-migration periods are integrated with the migration-period caribou monitoring and the associated thresholds for increased caribou protection levels.
    - Equinox will continuously review coordination during construction, operations, and closure, and target the maximum reduction in traffic levels practical during migration periods.

### 7.3 Caribou Encounters on Roads

The following protocols are to be followed by all drivers of any type of vehicle or equipment travelling on any road, at any time of the year. During the migration periods in spring and fall, speed limits will be reduced within the migration corridor – notifications will be provided to all employees and contractors, and signage will be posted along the road, indicating reduced speed limits and known crossing locations.

- Respect speed limits and always watch for wildlife and other vehicles.
- Caribou (as well as other wildlife) will always be given the right of way on all VGM roads.
- If a caribou is seen on a road, STOP as far back as possible, greater than 50 m is preferred:
  - Turn off the engine.
  - Turn on the emergency flashers to warn other vehicles approaching from either direction.
  - Radio or call site security to notify and request a notification be sent to other drivers, noting the location of the caribou.
  - Wait until the caribou has crossed and moved away from the road before continuing – continue at a reduced speed (20 km/hr) until at least 100 m past the last location the caribou was visible on the road.

While few open areas exist along the access road, the following protocols are to be followed where such areas are found, and on mine site roads, where open areas are more common:

- If a caribou is seen within 100 m of the road (250 m for haul trucks), slow down to 20 km/hr:
  - If the caribou is resting, feeding or moving away from the road, continue with caution and at reduced speed until at least 100 m past the location.
  - If the caribou is moving towards the road STOP as far back as possible, turn off the engine and:
    - Turn on the emergency flashers to warn other vehicles approaching from either direction.
    - Radio or call site security to notify and request a notification be sent to other drivers, noting the location of the caribou.
    - Wait until the caribou has crossed and moved away from the road by 50 m (where visible) before continuing – continue at a reduced speed (20 km/hr) until at least 100 m past the last location the caribou was visible on the road.
- If a caribou is seen greater than 100 m from the road (greater than 250 m for haul trucks):
  - If the caribou is resting, feeding, or moving away from the road, continue as usual.
  - If the caribou is moving towards the road:
    - Proceed with caution at a reduced speed (20 km/hr)
    - Turn on the emergency flashers to warn other vehicles approaching from either direction.
    - Radio or call site security to notify and request a notification be sent to other drivers, noting the location of the caribou.

## 8 TRAINING & COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS

- Light Vehicles - Class 5 Licence
- Buses, Ambulance – Class 4 Licence
- Semi-Trailers – Class 1 Licence
- Heavy Equipment – Heavy Equipment Operator Certification

## 9 PPE REQUIREMENTS

- Two-way Radio

## 10 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**All Employees/Contractors/Visitors:**

- Review and follow this SOP and all established health and safety policies, plans, programs, departmental procedures and work instructions related driving on the VGM access road, hauls roads and auxiliary roads.
- Ensure all caribou sightings are reported to security.
- Provide feedback for improvement or clarity of this SOP where necessary.

**Supervisors/Coaches:**

- Ensure employees under their supervision review this SOP and are clear on expectations.
- Provide feedback for improvement or clarity of this SOP where necessary.
- Initiate the SOP review process when updates are needed.
- Be the collator for the SOP review process.

**Superintendents:**

- Review and approve this SOP prior to release.
- Ensure employees under their supervision review this SOP and are clear on expectations.
- Commit resources for document review and revision activities.
- Ensure this SOP is reviewed/revised at the pre-determined frequency in Section 12.

**Security:**

- Make a radio all-call when caribou are reported on or near the access road or site haul and auxiliary roads.
- Ensure all relevant information related to caribou observations is recorded, and details and relayed to the VGM Environment Team, immediately.

## 11 COMMUNICATION

A publishing notification via email shall be sent to Valentine Gold Mine site and/or the departmental area on all newly published documents by the Document Control Coordinator.

The latest version of this SOP will be included in onboarding documentation for new and existing employees, and in awarded contract documentation for new and existing contractors as part of their terms and conditions. Further a copy will be provided to all visitors as part of their visitor site access.

## 12 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT & PROCEDURE REVIEW

This SOP should be reviewed as required when the referenced standards or regulatory requirements change; a formal review shall be required within three years of the revision date.

## 13 REVIEW DATE

Date of Last Review: June 3, 2026

## 14 APPENDICES

Appendix A – Traffic Management Plan

Appendix B – Levels of Caribou Protection

# APPENDIX A TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

# APPENDIX B LEVELS OF CARIBOU PROTECTION

**Levels of Caribou Protection from CPEEMP**

| Protection Level | Activation and Deactivation Thresholds | Monitoring and Reporting | Mitigations |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Level 1: Normal Operation** | Always activated | Routine caribou monitoring (Section 5.0) | Mitigations in Table 4.2 corresponding to Level 1 always apply |
| **Level 2: Caribou on site** | Activated when caribou are detected ≤1 km of Project activities outside a migration period<br>Deactivated when caribou move >1 km from Project activities, based on monitoring conducted by the on-site Environmental Team | Increased caribou monitoring (see Section 5.0)<br>Bi-weekly reporting of Level 2 activations to NLDFFA – Wildlife Division. However, if groups of ≥5 caribou are observed on site, Wildlife Division will be notified immediately. | Mitigations in Table 4.3 for Level 2 apply. Specifically, activities will be reduced or suspended when caribou are detected within 1 km of active work areas. |
| **Level 3: Pre- and post- migration** | Activated pre- and post-migration<br>Spring<br>• Activated March 11 (3 weeks prior to start of historical spring migration)<br>• Deactivated two weeks after all collared caribou are >3 km from the Project Area<br>Fall<br>• Activated October 11 (3 weeks prior to start of historical fall migration)<br>• Deactivated two weeks after all collared caribou are >3 km from the Project Area | Increased caribou monitoring (Section 5.0).<br>• Weekly reporting of caribou movement and observations to Wildlife Division. | Mitigations in Table 4.4 for Level 3 apply, including but not limited to the following:<br>Informing/reminding personnel regarding their roles and responsibilities relating to caribou (Section 4.2)<br>Preparing for suspension of activities and subsequent start-up in Marathon pit area, reduced access road traffic, and pre-migration inspection of site conditions. |
| **Level 4: Migration** | Activated during spring and fall migration seasons as defined by the caribou calendar as illustrated in Figure 4-1<br>Spring:<br>• Activated when ≥1 collared caribou cross the Southern boundary of the 'virtual fence', or earlier, when a group of migrating caribou (≥5 caribou) are observed ≤3 km (visual, drone, or on-site remote cameras) of the Project area<br>• Deactivated when 95% migrating collared caribou are >3 km north of the Project area but reactivated if ≥ 5 caribou are ≤3 km (visual, drone, or on-site remote cameras) of the Project area.<br>• Consult with Wildlife Division regarding deactivation if no active collars have entered the virtual fence for 5 consecutive days.<br>Fall:<br>• Activated when ≥1 collared caribou cross the Northern boundary of the 'virtual fence'; or earlier, when a group of migrating caribou (≥5 caribou) are observed ≤ 3 km (visual, drone, or on-site remote cameras) of the Project area<br>• Deactivated when 95% of migrating collared caribou are >3 km south or east of the Project area but reactivated if ≥ 5 caribou are ≤3 km (visual, drone, or on-site remote cameras) of the Project area.<br>• Consult with Wildlife Division regarding deactivation if no active collars have entered the virtual fence for 5 consecutive days. | Highest level of caribou monitoring (Section 5.0)<br>Daily reporting of caribou movement and observations to Wildlife Division | Level 4 mitigations apply, including but not limited to:<br>Suspended activities in Marathon pit area, reduced access road traffic, and possibility of additional Project activity reduction or suspension when caribou are observed ≤1 km of site features and activity (beyond areas with already restricted activities)<br>Level 4 protections apply to areas identified in Figure 4-3 that are northeast of the identified management divide. |