



Blackwater Mine

Country Foods and Socio-Economic
Conditions Follow-Up Program (DS 6.13)
2025 Annual Monitoring Report

PREPARED FOR



Blackwater
Mine

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Blackwater Mine

Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions Follow-Up Program (DS 6.13) 2025 Annual Monitoring Report

March 2026



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AEMP	Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program
AGM	Aboriginal Group Monitor
Annual Monitoring Report	Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions Annual Monitoring Report
BC	British Columbia
BW Gold	Blackwater Gold
CEA	Canadian Environmental Assessment
CEAA	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
CFM	Community Feedback Mechanism
CFMP	Country Foods Monitoring Plan
CFSEC	Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions
COPC	contaminants of potential concern
DS	Decision Statement
EAC	Environmental Assessment Certificate
EAO	Environmental Assessment Office
FSR	Forest Service Road
FUP	Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions Follow-Up Program
FWSS	Fresh Water Supply System
LDN	Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation
LGO	Low Grade Ore
Mine	Blackwater Mine
NPM	numeric performance metric
NWFN	Nadleh Whut'en First Nation
TL	transmission line
TSF	Tailings Storage Facility
TSS	total suspended solids
UFN	Ulkatcho First Nation
WMMP	Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Program
WMP	Water Management Pond

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of follow-up monitoring for the year of 2025, in connection with the Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions Follow-Up Program (CFSEC FUP) for the Blackwater Mine. The purpose of follow-up monitoring is to review the accuracy of the environmental assessment of the Mine, which anticipated no negative socio-economic effects to Indigenous Peoples as a result of changes to access, availability and quality of country foods.

In 2025, the Mine transitioned from construction to operations in January, and commercial production in May.

Monitoring of feedback did not indicate that Mine activities restricted access to harvesting areas. BW Gold did not receive any feedback indicating changes in the availability of country foods caused by Mine activities in 2025. Monitoring data collected in 2025 demonstrated that plant and berry availability was influenced more by wildfire patterns than by Mine activity, and invasive plants were not observed to displace country food species. There was one black bear mortality along the Kluskus Forest Service Road (FSR) in 2025; however, it is unknown whether Mine personnel were involved. Feedback was received about general road use and unauthorized public access to land near the transmission line; however, this input was not connected to a change in country foods or socio-economic conditions for Indigenous People. No wildlife or plant tissue samples were collected in 2025. Concentrations of contaminants of potential concern (COPCs) in fish tissue samples collected in 2025 were aligned with predicted levels and were below guideline levels for human health.

Two Aboriginal Group Monitors (AGMs) were interviewed in advance of preparing this annual report regarding their observations on the environmental context and potential impacts to Indigenous People. Comments were made regarding effects of dust and water quality on country food quality, though no effects were observed in 2025. Surface water monitoring identified elevated concentrations of certain metals (such as iron and aluminum) compared to baseline and predicted levels, but concentrations remained below human health guidelines.

The results of follow-up monitoring did not provide indicators that the Mine has affected food security, health, or cultural practices in 2025. Indigenous groups did not report Mine-related changes in their ability to harvest or consume country foods or express concerns about health effects or cultural impacts linked to Mine activity.

One low-level adaptive management trigger was reached in 2025 regarding elevated concentrations of COPCs in surface water, identified through monitoring under the Aquatic Effects Management Plan (AEMP) and Country Foods Management Plan (CFMP). These concentrations remained below guideline thresholds for human health and did not indicate risk to people consuming country foods. Adaptive management measures have been implemented through the AEMP and CFMP, and as such, no additional measures are recommended under the CFSEC FUP.

Revisions to the CFSEC FUP are planned for 2026 to reflect changes to related management plans and data availability.

1. INTRODUCTION

BW Gold Ltd. (BW Gold), a wholly owned subsidiary of Artemis Gold Inc., is operating the Blackwater Mine, an open pit gold and silver project in central British Columbia (BC) located approximately 112 km southwest of Vanderhoof. The Mine is accessed via the Kluskus and Kluskus-Ootsa Forest Service Roads (FSRs) and received its federal and provincial environmental approvals in 2019 under New Gold Inc., before Artemis acquired the project and transferred the Environmental Assessment Certificate to BW Gold in 2020. Since then, BW Gold has secured key authorizations including *Mines Act* Permit M-246 (2021) and *Environmental Management Act* Permits for effluent and air discharges (Permits 110602[2021], 110650 [2023], and 110652 [2023]), with amendments issued in 2023 for the Mine Plan and Reclamation Program. Construction began in October 2022. The first gold and silver pour at the Mine was achieved in January 2025. Commercial production was declared in May 2025.

Condition 6.13 of the Decision Statement (DS) required the following for Blackwater Gold (BW Gold):

The Proponent shall develop, prior to construction and in consultation with Indigenous groups and relevant authorities, a follow-up program to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment as it pertains to adverse environmental effects of the Designated Project on the socio-economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples as a result of changes to access, availability and quality of country foods. The Proponent shall implement the follow-up program from construction through decommissioning and shall apply conditions 2.9 and 2.10 when implementing the follow-up program.

To address requirements of DS 6.13, a Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions Follow-Up Program (FUP) (ERM 2022) was prepared. The FUP was prepared based on consultation and input from Indigenous groups. The FUP is published on BW Gold's website.

Annual reporting requirements are outlined in DS 2.11, 2.12 and 2.13, and DS 2.14 outlines expectations associated with sharing the annual report. In accordance with DS 6.15, a plain language summary has been prepared to communicate the results of the monitoring activities.

This Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions Annual Monitoring Report (Annual Monitoring Report), describes the monitoring activities and results related to the FUP. This is the second annual report prepared by BW Gold in compliance with DS 6.13. Section 2.0 this report summarizes the monitoring results, incorporating findings from linked management and monitoring reports (listed in Table 1.4-1). This report has been prepared by qualified individuals.

1.1 REGIONAL SETTING

The Mine is located within the traditional territories of Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation (LDN), Ulkatcho First Nation (UFN), Skin Tyee Nation, and Tsilhqot'in Nation. The Kluskus and Kluskus-Ootsa FSRs and Mine transmission line cross parts of the traditional territories of Nadleh Whut'en First Nation (NWFN), Saik'uz First Nation, and Stellat'en First Nation (collectively, the Nechako First Nations), as well as the traditional territories of the Nazko First Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn Band, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, and Yekooche First Nation (Environmental Assessment Office [EAO] 2019a, 2019b).

1.2 OVERVIEW OF CONSTRUCTION AND DISTURBANCE ACTIVITIES IN 2025

Construction and disturbance activities in 2025 included continued development of the open pit using conventional drill, blast, load and haul techniques, and operations of the mill. Several milestones were achieved in Q1 2025, including the commencement of mill operations (January 22), initial deposition of tailings (January 25), and placement of Low Grade Ore (LGO) on the LGO Stockpile (March 14). By May 2025, commercial production was achieved, and operations continued through the year.

Construction activities continued through 2025 as well with a focus on those activities outlined below:

- Continued development of Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) Dam C;
- Development of the Low Grade Ore (LGO) stockpile foundation panels;
- Construction of water management infrastructure;
- Establishing ancillary buildings and associated facilities; and
- Tree clearing and soil salvage occurred where needed to support those activities.

No works occurred on the Mine Access Road, Upper or Lower Waste Rock Stockpiles, Fresh Water Supply System (FWSS) (excluding the Freshwater Reservoir), or Northern Diversion System.

1.3 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Annual Monitoring Report is to provide the results of monitoring activities related to the FUP. In doing so, the Annual Monitoring Report provides a review the accuracy of the environmental assessment as it pertains to adverse environmental effects of the Mine on the socio-economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples as a result of changes to access, availability and quality of country foods. This Annual Monitoring Report provides information on consultation and engagement with Indigenous groups in relation to how activities of the Mine may interact with country foods, in such a way to affect socio-economic conditions.

The objectives of this Annual Monitoring Report are to:

- Summarize the monitoring activities carried out in 2025 to support the FUP;
- Report any changes to the FUP, including the rationale for new or modified mitigation measures; and
- Document engagement with Indigenous groups related to the implementation of the FUP.

The reporting period for the purpose of evaluating effects is January 1 to December 31, 2025.

1.4 LINKAGES TO OTHER REPORTS

The implementation of monitoring for the FUP relies on data and analysis of other management and monitoring reports. Table 1.4-1 describes the reports that have informed this Annual Monitoring Report.

TABLE 1.4-1 LINKED REPORTS

Document Name	Monitoring Year ^a	Relationship to this Annual Monitoring Report
Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions Follow-Up Program: Current Conditions Report	2023	Provides data on country foods access, availability, and quality, for consulted Indigenous groups. This data informs the analysis of changes to monitored effects of Mine activity on country foods as detailed in Section 2.4 of this report.
Country Foods Monitoring Plan (CFMP) Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) Condition 41 Annual Report	2023	Provides an assessment of short- and long-term effects of Mine-related activities on aquatic and terrestrial environments and country food quality based on a sampling program of air quality, soils, surface water, plants and berries, fish tissues, and small mammal tissues. Each CFMP Annual Report also evaluates the effectiveness of mitigation measures and identifies the need for continued actions and/or additional adaptive management for the subsequent reporting year. Results from the report pertaining to plants and berries inform Section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report, as this is the most recent year where plants and berries were sampled under the CFMP (see below).
CFMP EAC Condition 41 Annual Report	2025	Per Section 8, Planned CFMP Sampling Program for 2026, of the CFMP, sampling of berries and plant tissue was not conducted in 2024 or 2025, as measurement of contaminants of potential concern (COPCs) did not meet or exceed guidance thresholds for human health in 2023. Therefore, the 2025 Annual Report focuses on quality of surface water and fish tissue. Results from the 2025 monitoring report inform Section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report.
Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Program (WMMP) Compliance Report	2025	Provides results of wildlife monitoring and mitigation activities for various species, including beaver, black bear, grouse and moose (Table 2.1 of this report details the findings). The WMMP report analyzes monitoring results against impact predictions and outlines any adaptive management measures. These findings inform Section 2.4 of this report.
Invasive Plant Report	2025	Describes the Mine's 2025 activities to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive plants and noxious weeds. Relevant monitoring results, which include the 12 invasive species found in the surveyed area, are presented in Section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report.
Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) Interpretive Report	2025	Presents monitoring results for aquatic species such as kokanee salmon, rainbow trout and whitefish. Monitoring results from this report also inform the CFMP's analysis of water and fish tissue. Section 2.3 of this report describes observed quality and availability data for these species.

Document Name	Monitoring Year ^a	Relationship to this Annual Monitoring Report
Aboriginal Group Monitor (AGM) and Monitoring Report	2025	Details on-the-ground conditions and monitoring activities of AGMs. This report is linked to the <i>Aboriginal Group Observation Reports (January–December monthly reports)</i> referenced below.
Aboriginal Group Observation Reports	Jan–Dec 2025 monthly reports	Details observations made by AGMs within the FUP monitoring area. Observations related to species access, availability, and quality are summarized in Section 2.3 and integrated into Section 2.4 of this report.

Source: Artemis Gold 2026a; Entia 2026; ERM 2023, 2024, 2026a, 2026b, 2026c.

Note:

^a This column of Table 1.4-1 provides the year the monitoring occurred to inform the analysis and results. Please see the references section of this Annual Monitoring Report for the year these linked reports were published.

1.5 MONITORING AREA

Figure 1.5-1 presents the monitoring area for the FUP monitoring activities¹. As described in the FUP, this area corresponds to the CFMP study area and linear components associated with the Mine. Additionally, there is a buffer surrounding the linear components is 1.5 km on either side, for a total width of 3 km.

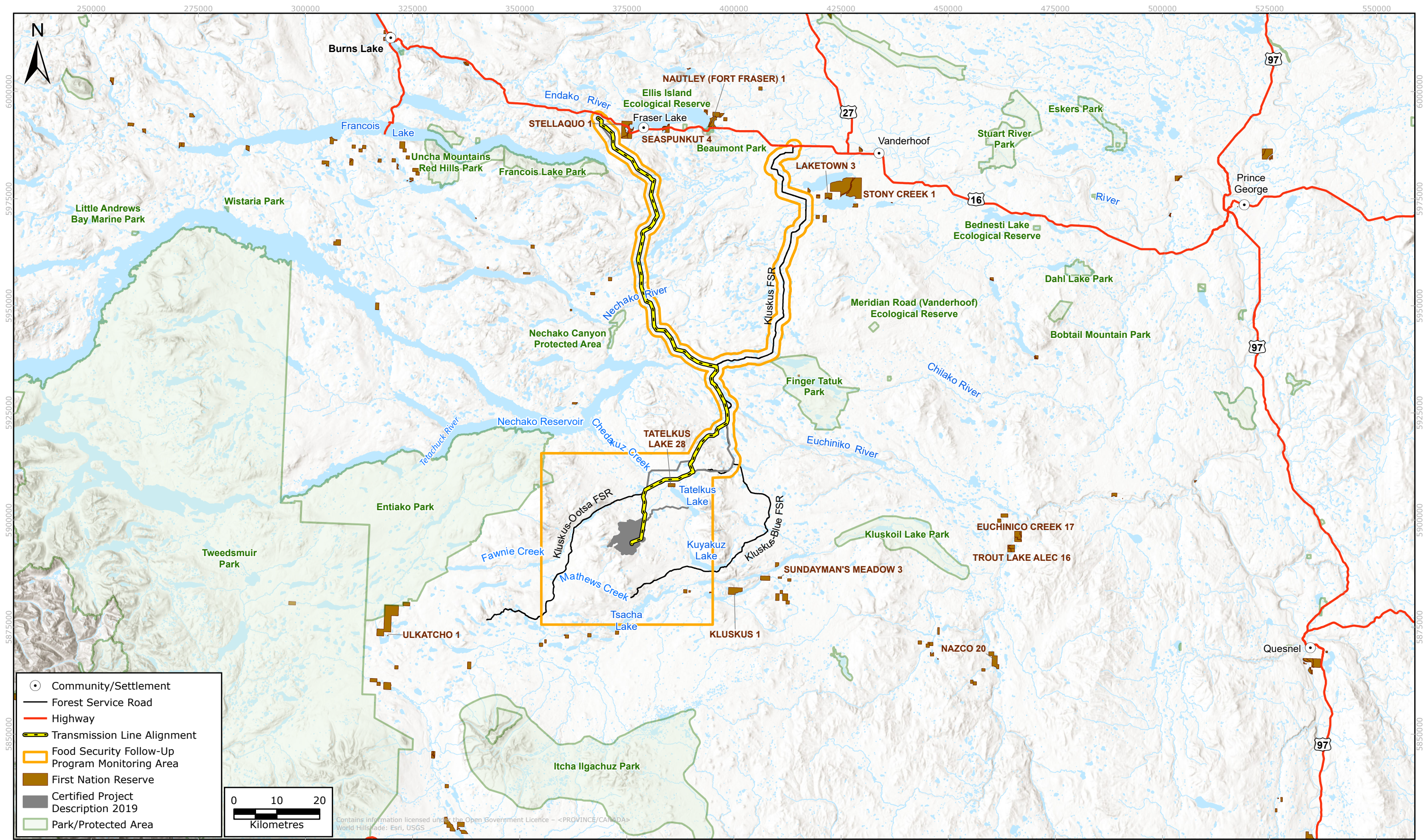
1.6 CONSULTATION

This report is provided as an appendix to the Blackwater Gold Mine Annual DS Follow-Up Report: January to December 2025 report, a draft of which is shared with Indigenous groups for review and comments by March 31, 2026.

Any comments received on this 2025 Annual Monitoring Report will be reviewed, and the outcomes of the comment and response process will be reflected in the final Blackwater Gold Mine Annual DS Follow-Up Report: January to December 2025, to be issued by June 30, 2026.

¹ Figure 1.5-1 may include a difference of less than 20 metres on either side of the transmission line corridor when compared to the monitoring area delineated in the 2022 FUP relative to the post-construction alignment. This difference is not visually discernible on the figure.

FIGURE 1.5-1: COUNTRY FOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM MONITORING AREA



2. MONITORING RESULTS

2.1 DECISION STATEMENT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

Section 6.6.3 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's 2019 Environmental Assessment Report (CEAA 2019b) indicates that based on the assessment and in consideration of the proposed mitigation measures, the Mine is not likely to result in a significant adverse effect on Indigenous people's health and socio-economic conditions. DS 6.13 requires the proponent to verify or monitor the accuracy of the environmental assessment, focusing on monitoring of adverse environmental effects on the socio-economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples due to changes to access, availability, and quality of country foods.

2.2 APPROACH

BW Gold recognizes that Indigenous groups undertake country foods harvesting in different ways and in different locations, and the relationship of country foods to socio-economic conditions differs from Nation to Nation. To prepare this Annual Monitoring Report, the results of linked reports (Table 1.4-1) and information requests to BW Gold were reviewed, and relevant data compiled to support an analysis of changes to socio-economic conditions resulting from effects to country foods access, availability and/or quality. Section 2.3 provides a summary of the results of linked monitoring reports, and Table 2.3-2 summarizes the monitoring results from biophysical sampling programs for the species that are monitored within the FUP. This Annual Monitoring Report provides data analysis that may be applicable to all Indigenous groups.

Through ongoing engagement with LDN and UFN in 2025, BW Gold understands that there is an interest in providing and/or validating information that may be reported in relation to country foods harvesting. BW Gold is working with LDN and UFN to design and schedule workshops with community members to validate and/or collect data on country foods harvesting. BW Gold, LDN, and UFN have not identified a timeline for these workshops as of the preparation of this report.

As was the case for the 2024 Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions (CFSEC) Monitoring Report, LDN and UFN have stated a preference for current context or monitoring results associated with their country foods to be withheld. This preference has been respected in this monitoring report.

Limited qualitative or quantitative information has been received by Indigenous groups regarding country foods, and/or any changes to socio-economic conditions. The absence of Nation-specific information limits the ability to distinguish how any changes to country foods may uniquely affect a Nation.

Plants and Berries: The following species are sampled under the CFMP and which are also included in the FUP: black huckleberry, blueberry, Hudson Bay tea/Labrador tea, and soapberry. Mushrooms and poplar bark, two species identified by Indigenous groups as important country foods, are not monitored within the CFMP, but are included in the FUP. However, no information regarding access, availability or quality of mushrooms or poplar bark has been provided through FUP monitoring activities, BW Gold's Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM), or engagement undertaken by BW Gold. Similarly there is limited information regarding access to plant and berry picking areas for most species, recognizing that this information is often confidential by family or Indigenous group.

According to Section 4.3 of the CFMP, sampling of berry and plant tissues is conducted every three years following Construction, with additional sampling triggered as needed by results compared to thresholds defined in the CFMP. Baseline sampling data for vegetation under the CFMP was collected in 2022 and reported on in the FUP: Current Conditions Report (ERM 2023). Further vegetation sampling conducted in 2023 for the CFMP EAC Condition 41 Annual Report 2023 (ERM 2024) did not trigger additional sampling of plants in 2024 or 2025. Due to hot and dry conditions, only two huckleberry samples were able to be collected and comparison to CFMP triggers could not be undertaken for berries. As such, this Annual Monitoring Report includes the most recent vegetation quality data available from 2023 and reported in the CFMP: EAC Condition 41 Annual Report released in 2024, which does not include assessing berries for trigger exceedances. The next sampling of berries and plant tissues is planned for the summer of 2026.

Wildlife: BW Gold worked with LDN and UFN in 2023 and 2024 to establish a program to receive donated game tissue for sampling as part of the CFMP. This is a supplementary program intended to support a better understanding of the quality of meat and game from animals harvested near the Mine, with results informing analysis of country foods quality under the CFSEC FUP. The program continued in 2025 although no donations were received, as was also the case in 2024. Several options to improve participation in the program were discussed with LDN and UFN in 2025 (e.g., paying hunting crews, work with government to see what samples are collected from international hunters, outreach to guide outfitters) and engagement of trappers and guide outfitters is considered by BW Gold for 2026. These collaborative efforts may also contribute to future socio-economic analysis conducted under the CFSEC FUP.

The WMMP monitors wildlife abundance, distribution, and mortality; as these indicators provide data that can inform an assessment of country foods availability as part of FUP monitoring. The WMMP includes several site-specific and species-specific monitoring programs which apply to species identified in the FUP. Relevant site-specific programs conducted in 2025 include: pre-clearing surveys; interactions, incidents, and mortalities monitoring; and site wildlife camera monitoring. Moose is the only species identified in the FUP with a standalone monitoring program under the WMMP, while black bear and beaver are included in the furbearers monitoring program and grouse are included in the upland birds monitoring program. Examples of species-specific monitoring activities conducted in 2025 include ungulate pellet count surveys and snow track surveys (moose) and variable radius point county surveys (upland bird population monitoring; ERM 2026c).

Fish: The components of the AEMP relevant to the FUP conducted in 2025 included surface water quality monitoring, chronic toxicity testing, fish community monitoring, fish tissue metal sampling, and fish spawning monitoring. Fish community and spawning monitoring was conducted for kokanee and rainbow trout, while fish tissue metal sampling was conducted for these species and whitefish. This tissue metal sampling was analyzed in the context of human health thresholds through the CFMP (ERM 2026a).

Wildfire-Related Constraints

Wildfires in 2023 and 2024 affected multiple monitoring programs by limiting access to portions of monitoring areas, delaying fieldwork, and creating gaps in data coverage that are important to consider when interpreting multi-year results throughout this report. Although wildfires also occurred near the Mine in 2025, they had limited influence on monitoring activities. For example, aerial surveys for waterbirds planned for September were delayed until October due to wildfire-related

conditions (ERM 2026c). Wildfires deposited ash and debris into surface waters and resulted in erosion of sediments, also affecting water quality in the streams immediately downstream (ERM 2026a). In contrast to previous years, some coverage that had been disrupted in 2023 and 2024 was restored in 2025, with previously inaccessible invasive plant survey sites successfully completed (ERM 2026b). Wildfires and related conditions can affect the completeness and comparability of inputs from multiple years of linked reports, and also influence the ecological context in which country foods are harvested. These considerations are further presented in Section 2.3 where they have been identified in the linked reports.

2.3 SUMMARY OF RELEVANT DATA FROM LINKED REPORTS

The following provides a summary of data from linked reports that informs the data analysis (Section 2.4) for this Annual Monitoring Report.

Summary of Data from the Community Feedback Mechanism

BW Gold has a CFM that facilitates the opportunity to receive messages, including feedback or complaints, regarding the Mine, including changes or concerns to access, availability, or quality of country foods, or changes to socio-economic conditions emerging from the Mine.

According to data provided by BW Gold (Artemis Gold 2026b), 20 messages were recorded through the CFM in 2025. This represents a decrease from the 81 messages received in 2024.

Of note in relation to feedback documentation is that, effective September 1, 2025, feedback related to safety incidents on the Kluskus FSR reported by contractors and employees was no longer documented or reported as part of the CFM. Feedback on road safety and conditions from community members who are not employed with the Mine or contractors is still received through the CFM. Notwithstanding this administrative change, the number (and nature) of complaints received through the CFM has changed (declined) since the previous year.

Feedback received in 2025 included concerns about the impact of water draw from Tatelkuz Lake on Kuyakuz Lake, mine vehicles driving through Saik'uz (Stoney Creek 1), general mine-related traffic and road safety (including on the Kluskus FSR), waste left after powerline installation, public access along a road adjacent to the transmission line (TL), dust from Mine, contractor accessing private lands, wildlife mortality, and wildfire risk.² An additional comment was received thanking BW Gold for a donation. Feedback was primarily received from people based in Vanderhoof, Saik'uz First Nation (Stoney Creek 1), and Fraser Lake.

Feedback that has been considered in monitoring the potential for changes to country foods harvesting and socio-economic conditions is presented in Table 2.3-1. Of note, while some of the concerns may relate to potential for changes to country foods harvesting and socio-economic conditions, none of the complainants overtly outlined a change in access, availability or quality of country foods. As such, it is recognized that a conservative approach is used in the documentation and classification of feedback related to the FUP.

² In some cases, feedback is received and documented, but upon review BW Gold confirms that the concern is not related to activities of the Mine. This occurred in 2025, for example in relation of a concern related to logging transportation and the flight path/disturbance of a helicopter.

TABLE 2.3-1 FEEDBACK RELEVANT TO THE COUNTRY FOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM

CFSEC FUP Topic	Feedback	Implications for CFSEC FUP
Access	A concern about public use of a TL access along adjacent to private property. BW Gold investigated the complaint and proposed installing berms and other deterrents within the TL right-of-way to limit access. BW Gold designed mitigation measures in areas where they have authorization to perform works within the TL right-of-way. The property owner was satisfied with the planned actions.	Changes to land access due to the project, although not specified for harvesting purposes
Availability	A black bear mortality was reported on June 10, 2025, on the Kluskus FSR. The bear was struck within the Joseph Trapline, and the BW Gold Environment Department moved the carcass over 500 m from the road to prevent attracting other wildlife to the road, per the WMMP. The incident was logged and reported to the Ministry of Forests. One trapline holder acknowledged the message, and no concerns were raised.	Reduced availability of harvested species

Source: Artemis Gold 2026b.

Summary of Observations from the Aboriginal Group Monitor and Monitoring Reports

Aboriginal Group Monitors undertake environmental monitoring and document observations, and this information can support understanding any changes to access, availability and quality of country foods. The number, representation and availability of AGMs changed throughout 2025, for various reasons including personal and career changes at the Mine (Artemis Gold 2026a). BW Gold continues to work with Nations to fill vacant monitor positions.

As part of the monitoring activities, monthly Observation Reports are prepared, and in 2025 monthly reports were available for: January to December 2025. October was the month with the highest number of CFSEC species observations, followed by May, which may reflect elements of seasonality in the environment. The documentation of observations in the monthly reports is open to the discretion of the individual monitors.

The 2025 Observation Reports included information regarding daily caribou monitoring³, wildlife camera review, survey programs, and sampling activities. Monitors reported observing black bear, moose, grouse, rainbow trout, huckleberries (not specified if black huckleberry or other variety), and several other wildlife and plant species that are not monitored under the FUP but may be used for country food or medicinal purposes (i.e., juniper).

Interviews with Aboriginal Group Monitors

In 2025, BW Gold held discussions with two AGMs to gain their perspectives on access, availability, and quality of country foods, linked to Section 4.2.3, Country Foods Data Verification and Updates, of the CFSEC FUP. These discussions guided by questions from Appendix C, Country Food and Socio-Economic Conditions Information Discussion Guide Example, of the CFSEC FUP.

³ Caribou is not a species that is monitored as part of the FUP.

In these interviews, AGMs provided observations and commented on dust, water quality, water availability, and wildlife collisions along the Kluskus FSR, further described in Section 2.4. One monitor noted that wildfires have improved access to plant gathering areas in 2025, although this comment was not linked to Mine-related activities. Some of the comments have not been confirmed in relation to the Mine but included: an observation of increased ticks on moose in NWFN territory, reported sea lice in the gills of trout and salmon in NWFN territory, and water levels in NWFN territory being lower than usual. These observations are understood to be in NWFN territory and outside of CFSEC FUP monitoring area (Figure 1.4-1), and are not considered further in this Report.

Both AGMs reported that they did not anticipate Project-related changes to the following: water access; hunting and trapping access and availability; fishing access and availability; plant gathering access and availability; food security; health; and culture and culture camps. One AGM also reported that they did not expect Project-related changes to water, wildlife, fish, and plant quality.

Summary of Invasive Plant Monitoring Results

Invasive plant species field surveys were conducted in August 2025. These surveys identified 12 invasive plant species present in the surveyed area⁴, with the most prevalent species being invasive yellow hawkweed, similar to the monitoring results in 2024. Consistent with 2024 results, invasive plants were common in high-use, long-disturbed areas, including the former exploration camp area, construction camp, security gate, mobile maintenance and environmental office, and Heavy Equipment Assembly Pad. Areas with few or no invasive species were primarily located in the northern and eastern portions of the Mine that were not affected by wildfires over the past several years. As reported in 2024, invasive plant species were less prevalent in newly constructed and burned areas. There was an overall increase in the number of invasive plant species occurrences recorded in 2025 compared to 2024. In addition, all but one invasive plant species were recorded in a higher number of grid cells in 2025 compared to 2024, which may be due to a year-on-year increase in the number of grid cells surveyed. One invasive plant species (i.e., bull thistle) that was observed in 2024 was not observed in 2025. Overall, invasive plant species were observed with varying abundances, densities, and distributions (ERM 2026b).

Summary of Species Monitoring Results

Table 2.3-2 provides a summary of monitoring activities and results for species monitored under the FUP based on results from the linked monitoring program reports listed in Table 1.4-1 and further described in Section 2.2. Data that was not updated in 2025 is noted in grey, italicized font to distinguish new monitoring results from historic results that support understanding ongoing monitoring and trends.

⁴ The Invasive Plant Management Plan and associated monitoring efforts apply across the "Mine Area", which encompasses the Mine site and its associated components. While it was not feasible to survey the entire Mine Area due to its large size, certain areas were prioritized for monitoring in 2025. These included high-risk areas (e.g., Mine entrances, roadsides, trails, etc.), areas where invasive plant infestations were identified during the 2023 and 2024 surveys, and high habitat value areas.

TABLE 2.3-2 SUMMARY OF MONITORING RESULTS FOR SPECIES INCLUDED IN THE COUNTRY FOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM

Species	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Monitoring Year	Monitoring Results
Plants and Berries			
Black Huckleberry	CFMP EAC Condition 41 Annual Report	2023	- Two samples of black huckleberries were obtained in 2023 monitoring activities, and limited sample size is attributed to a hot and dry summer. A high concentration of arsenic was detected in one sample and was determined to be an outlier that was likely not resulting from Mine activities. - All COPC concentrations were below the Baseline, Predicted, and country foods Guideline numeric performance metric (NPM)^a for berries.
	Aboriginal Group Observation Reports	2025	An AGM reported observing a small patch of large huckleberries at KM9 on the C-trail in August 2025.
Blueberry	CFMP EAC Condition 41 Annual Report	2023	No blueberry samples were collected in 2023 due to a hot and dry summer.
Hudson Bay Tea / Labrador Tea	CFMP EAC Condition 41 Annual Report	2023	- Fourteen Labrador tea samples were collected in 2023, with the mean concentrations of all parameters lower than Baseline, Predicted, and country foods guideline NPM for plants. - There was an increase in aluminum concentrations in Labrador tea samples, an increase was observed in multiple species in all subareas, and it has been reported that it is unlikely this change is attributed to Mine construction activities.
Mushrooms	Engagement and CFM Aboriginal Group Observation Reports	2025	- An AGM reported observing morel mushroom in area near Chedakuz Creek in June 2025. - No comments received regarding mushrooms to date.
Poplar Bark	Engagement and CFM	2025	No comments received regarding poplar bark to date.
Soapberry	CFMP EAC Condition 41 Annual Report	2023	No soapberry samples were collected in 2023 due to a hot and dry summer.

Species	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Monitoring Year	Monitoring Results
Aquatic Species			
Kokanee Salmon	CFMP EAC Condition 41 Annual Report	2025	No kokanee were captured as part of the 2025 fish tissue metals sampling, despite gillnetting, angling, and hoop netting efforts.
	AEMP Interpretive Report	2025	- Peak kokanee spawning density observed in 2025 was generally similar to 2024. Data collection in 2025 covered the entire spawning season, while the spawning survey was delayed due to wildfire in 2024. - Kokanee lengths by age were generally consistent across the water bodies studied. Due to insufficient ageing data, comparisons among control and impact sites were not completed in 2025. - As observed in the kokanee fry outmigration report, kokanee growth patterns were generally consistent across the creeks studied. - Abundance estimates in 2025 of kokanee fry were higher than 2024 across all sites, likely due to increased sampling frequency that improved detection of migration peaks and enhanced estimate accuracy. - Kokanee fry were in good condition^b at impact sites. Small differences in condition between sampling sites were within what would normally be expected in nature.
Rainbow Trout	CFMP EAC Condition 41 Annual Report	2025	Average concentrations of COPCs for rainbow trout were below baseline, predicted, and guideline NPMs, meaning that no human health effects are expected.
	AEMP Interpretive Report	2025	- Trends in rainbow trout abundance in 2025 were mixed across sites, and complicated by factors such as the construction of the Freshwater Reservoir and fish salvage operations. - There is statistical evidence that the population structure of rainbow trout (i.e., the age distribution of fish based on length measurements) is variable between impact and control waterbodies. This was also the case for 2023 and 2024. - Differences in rainbow trout condition between control and impact sites were minimal in 2025.
	Aboriginal Group Observation Reports	2025	An AGM reported observing rainbow trout going upstream and downstream during spawner sampling at Davidson Creek and Creek 661 in June 2025. An AGM also participated in rainbow trout sampling in May 2025.

Species	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Monitoring Year	Monitoring Results
Aquatic Species (cont'd)			
Whitefish	CFMP EAC Condition 41 Annual Report	2025	Average concentrations of COPCs for whitefish were below baseline, predicted, and guideline NPMs, meaning that no human health effects are expected.
	AEMP Interpretive Report	2025	No abundance or condition sampling is included in the AEMP for whitefish.
Wildlife			
Beaver	CFMP EAC Condition 41 Annual Report	2025	No data on beaver quality was collected through the donated game tissue program in 2025.
	WMMP Compliance Report	2025	A total of one beaver dam and seven beavers were observed during the wildlife field season through a combination of field surveys and camera detections.
	Aboriginal Group Observation Reports	2025	One beaver was observed on wildlife cameras in October 2025 by an AGM.
Black Bear (Fat)	CFMP EAC Condition 41 Annual Report	2025	No data on black bear quality was collected through the donated game tissue program in 2025.
	WMMP Compliance Report	2025	- Black bear was the most frequently observed furbearer during wildlife monitoring in 2025, with 68 individuals recorded through field compliance programs, wildlife cameras, and other incidental sightings. - Another seven bears of unspecified species were recorded, which were likely black bears. - BW Gold personnel also reported one observation of black bear scat in the Construction Camp. - A deceased black bear was reported on KM82 of the Kluskus FSR in June 2025, likely struck by a vehicle. However, it is unknown whether the personnel involved in this incident were Mine personnel.

Species	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Monitoring Year	Monitoring Results
Wildlife (cont'd)			
Black Bear (Fat) (cont'd)	Aboriginal Group Observation Reports	2025	- AGMs reported the following black bear observations: - One at KM13, one large bear at Davidson Road, and one at an unspecified location in May; - One large bear within the Mine site in August; and - One small bear at an unspecified location and one large bear at the side of 065A Road in September. - In October, an AGM observed large black bear tracks in the Water Management Pond (WMP) area (WMP-D).
Grouse	CFMP EAC Condition 41 Annual Report	2025	No data on grouse quality was collected through the donated game tissue program in 2025.
	WMMP Compliance Report	2025	- A total of six grouse were incidentally observed in 2025. - One spruce grouse mortality was reported in June 2025, determined based on an observed wing and feather spot along the transmission line. The mortality was likely due to predation and not attributed to collision with power line.
	Aboriginal Group Observation Reports	2025	- AGMs reported the following: - Two male spruce grouse and one female at an unspecified location in April; - Two grouse and one grouse at unspecified locations in October; and - One grouse and three grouse, also at unspecified locations in November.
Moose	CFMP EAC Condition 41 Annual Report	2025	No data on moose quality was collected through the donated game tissue program in 2025.

Species	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Monitoring Year	Monitoring Results
Wildlife (cont'd)			
Moose (cont'd)	WMMP Compliance Report	2025	- Results of ungulate pellet count surveys conducted in 2025 suggest that moose may be starting to return to areas that were burned from the July 2023 wildfire. - Based on pellet and moose track surveys, moose presence near the Mine in 2025 was generally similar to 2024, except for the following: - There was an increase in moose pellet concentration in a bedding area; and - There were more moose tracks in an area near Mt. Davidson due to easier access for the species in a year that recorded low snowpack in the area. - One hundred and thirty-two moose individuals were observed in 2025 through incidental observations during WMMP monitoring programs, snow track field surveys, wildlife cameras, and other observations by BWG personnel. - Four moose beds were observed during snow track field surveys in May 2025. - No vehicle collisions with moose were reported in 2025.
	Aboriginal Group Observation Reports	2025	- AGMs observed moose tracks in the following locations: - Along the road before the operations camp in March; - Northern Diversion Channel in October; - During an on-foot survey to 705-01 in November; and - At Creek 505 in December. - AGMs reported the following moose observations: - A small moose at an unspecified location in May; - A female adult moose with a calf near an ungulate pellet surveying site on the C-trail in June; - One moose along the KM6.5 of the C-trail in August; and - A female adult moose with a calf at KM11 of the C-trail in October. - Moose droppings were also reported near Cultural Heritage Site #6 in August.

Species	Data Source(s)	Most Recent Monitoring Year	Monitoring Results
Surface Water			
Drinking Water	CFMP EAC Condition 41 Annual Report	2025	- Average concentrations of aluminum and iron were higher than predicted at sampling sites in 2025. However: - These levels remained below Guideline NPMs for water quality and, therefore, concentrations are below levels of concern for human health; and - These higher concentrations were not consistently observed across the year, with some peaking at various times and returning to baseline levels by the end of 2025. - The primary reasons for these higher concentrations likely include: - The discharge of total suspended solids (TSS) from the Mine into Davidson Creek due to an Erosion and Sediment Control failure upstream; - Overland water flow from areas affected by wildfires into Davidson Creek; - Clearing by the Mine upstream of Davidson Creek; and - Impacts from a Mine dust plume incident on Creek 661. - The average cobalt concentration over the year remained below the Guideline NPMs; however, maximum concentrations exceeded the Guideline NPMs in the second half of the year. This may be related to unrecovered seepage from the Interim Environmental Control Dam. - Deviations from predicted levels of COPCs in 2024 and 2025 have led to a conclusion of a medium-level trigger under the CFMP adaptive management framework.

Source: Artemis Gold 2026a; Entia 2026; ERM 2026a, 2026c.

Notes:

^a “NPM” is the term used in monitoring for the CFMP to represent quantitative human health-specific trigger concentrations of COPCs. In the CFMP, “Guideline NPM” represents applicable environmental media or tissue guidelines or country foods trigger benchmarks for COPCs in the context of effects on human health. Similarly, “Baseline NPM” represents baseline concentrations of COPCs measured by the CFMP and “Predicted NPM” represents predicted COPC concentrations based on the Blackwater Gold Project: Human Health Risk Assessment Update report (Entia 2022).

^b “Condition” under the AEMP refers to a quantitative, comparative measure of the plumpness of fish, which is calculated using the weight and length of fish.

In 2024, three vehicle collisions with moose were recorded, prompting BW Gold to implement mitigation measures to reduce the risk of wildlife mortality along Mine roads and trails. Mitigation measures implemented in 2025 included installation of wildlife crossing signs and regular staff reminders of wildlife sightings along roads. In 2025, no vehicle collisions with moose occurred, indicating that these measures were effective at reducing potential for moose collisions. Additionally, wildlife monitoring has indicated that there have been no vehicle collisions with focal species along the Blackwater Access Road Mine or other Mine trails, which are private access and closed to non-Mine personnel. Although 2025 was the second year that vehicle collisions have been reported along the Kluskus FSR, it is unlikely that the mortality was a result of a BW Gold employee or contractor. BW Gold staff reported all mortalities observed along the Kluskus FSR and Mine-specific roads. BW Gold issued notices reminding personnel of increased wildlife collision risk windows during dawn and dusk and in the spring and fall months. Notices included information regarding protocols outlined in the WMMP such as Wildlife Right-of-Way, Wildlife Signage, and Seasonal Awareness as well as other Safe Driving Practices.

2.4 DATA ANALYSIS

Table 2.4-1 incorporates the results of the sampling programs, as well as indicators and data from other sources to support the analysis of FUP monitoring. Table 2.4-1 also indicates if an adaptive management threshold is triggered, based on the thresholds identified in Table 5-1 of the FUP.

2.5 EFFECTIVENESS OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Based on the assessment and in consideration of the proposed mitigation measures, the Mine was not expected to result in a significant adverse effect on Indigenous people's health and socio-economic conditions as a result of changes to country foods access, availability, or quality (CEAA 2019b).

The FUP outlines triggers to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures and determine whether adaptive management measures are needed. As described in Table 2.4-1, the monitoring results are aligned with the predicted effect from the environmental assessment, and no adaptation measures are triggered for the following:

- Change of access to harvesting area(s) due to spatial overlap or intersection with FUP monitoring area;
- Change in effort required to access alternate harvesting areas;
- Change in availability of country foods;
- Change in perception of food security due to change in access, availability and/or quality of country foods;
- Changes in levels of physical activity associated with country foods harvesting;
- Change in health associated with perceptions of country foods and/or trust in consumption of country foods; or
- Change in culture due to changes in country foods harvesting associated with Project activities, components or effects.

TABLE 2.4-1 SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR MONITORED EFFECTS OF THE COUNTRY FOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM

Category	Monitoring Focus	Monitored Indicators	Summary of Information		Analysis		Trigger for Adaptive Management (Yes/No)
			Summary of Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions: Current Context Report (2023)	Summary of Monitoring Results (2025)	Predicted Effect(s) or Concerns Raised ^a	Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions Monitoring Results	
Country Food Access	Change of access to harvesting area(s) due to spatial overlap or intersection with FUP monitoring area	- Area or number of location(s), level of use by harvesters and importance of berry/vegetation harvesting areas lost due to spatial overlap with Project footprint or interaction with Project activities - Number of meetings where Indigenous groups are asked about or share perceptions related to changes in access to country foods as a result of the Project - Number of complaints raised in relation to removed access of country foods, received through the CFM	Access to country food harvesting areas remains possible for Indigenous communities; however, in some cases, it is constrained by industrial development, deteriorating trail and road conditions, environmental changes, and safety concerns, particularly around key water crossings.	In 2025, while some complaints were regarding vehicles on the Kluskus FSR and unauthorized public use of a road adjacent to the Transmission Line, no concern was made in relation to how these activities influenced country food access. Plants and Berries: No evidence from complaints, feedback or engagement records indicates that the Mine site is limiting access to areas used for the harvest of plants and berries. One AGM noted that wildfires have improved access to plant gathering areas (and availability of plants) in 2025, while another noted overarching concerns about access to the Mine area for plant harvesting. Fish: No evidence from complaints, feedback or engagement records indicates that the Mine site is limiting access to streams, lakes, or other areas used for the harvest of aquatic species. Wildlife: One AGM noted overarching concerns about access to the Mine area for wildlife harvesting. No other evidence from complaints, feedback, or engagement records indicated that the Mine site is limiting access to wildlife harvesting areas.	Loss or Alteration of Access: The Mine could interfere with some land users’ ability to reach specific areas due to the location of the Mine site and freshwater supply pipeline on currently used access routes. <i>Effect rating: Not significant.</i>	Based on available information, there is no evidence that activities of the Mine in 2025 have resulted in a change for land users to access country foods harvesting areas. The monitoring findings are aligned with the predicted effect from the environmental assessment.	No
	Change in effort (time, expense and risk) required to access alternate harvesting areas	- Compliance with notification and Project schedule sharing - Number of hours the FSRs are closed or one lane, due to the Project - Number of meetings where Indigenous groups are asked about or share perceptions related to changes in effort to access country foods as a result of the Project - Number of complaints raised in relation to increased effort to access country foods harvesting locations, received through the CFM	Harvesting requires time, travel, and financial investment. Limited to no information has been provided by any individual or Indigenous group regarding the time or expenses associated with country foods harvesting including plants and berries, wildlife and fish. Notwithstanding, variable and increasing fuel costs, long distances, and expenses associated with preparing for safety risks (e.g., unpredictable weather) influences the effort to practice country foods harvesting.	No input was received through engagement with Indigenous groups that a change in effort has been required to access alternate harvesting areas due to Mine activities in 2025. No information was received regarding changes to harvesting plants and berries, wildlife or fish. In 2025, BC saw an inflation rate of around 2.1%, compared to 2.6% in 2024. The cost of gas in BC continued to decline in 2025 (Statistics Canada 2026).^b	As Above—Loss or Alteration of Access: The Mine could interfere with some land users’ ability to reach specific areas due to the location of the Mine site and freshwater supply pipeline on currently used access routes. <i>Effect rating: Not significant.</i>	There is no evidence that the level of effort associated with accessing harvesting areas has changed due to the activities of the Mine in 2025. External conditions (e.g., inflation and the cost of gas) have changed over the past several years; however, there is no indication that these external factors influenced the effort to access harvesting areas. The monitoring findings are aligned with the predicted effect from the environmental assessment.	No

Category	Monitoring Focus	Monitored Indicators	Summary of Information		Analysis		Trigger for Adaptive Management (Yes/No)
			Summary of Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions: Current Context Report (2023)	Summary of Monitoring Results (2025)	Predicted Effect(s) or Concerns Raised ^a	Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions Monitoring Results	
Country Food Availability	Change in availability of country foods ^c	- Compliance with the no fishing, hunting, trapping gathering policy - Compliance with BW Gold’s speed limits on roads - Compliance with breaks in snowbanks using trail breaks - Compliance with effluent discharge requirements - Number of Project vehicle-wildlife strikes - Presence and type of wildlife interactions in the FUP monitoring area, based on AGM reports, and winter track survey results - Presence and type of aquatic species in the FUP monitoring area, based on review of intake screens - Presence and type of invasive species in the FUP monitoring area - Number of meetings where Indigenous groups are asked about or share perceptions related to changes in the availability of country foods as a result of the Project - Number of complaints raised in relation to the availability of country foods, received through the CFM	Availability of country foods (plants and berries, wildlife and fish) is perceived to be declining due to environmental disturbances, habitat loss, and observed reductions in key species such as moose and salmon, which are harder to locate, and harvest compared to previous generations.	Plants and Berries: No trends can be gleaned from the monitoring data available for 2025. One AGM noted that wildfires have improved availability of plants (and access to gathering areas) in 2025. Surveys of invasive plant species conducted in 2025 indicated an overall increase in the presence of invasive plants compared to 2024. No monitoring information indicated that invasive species are displacing native species that are country foods. No other evidence from complaints, feedback, or engagement records indicated that the Mine site is impacting availability of plants and berries. Wildlife: One black bear was likely killed by a vehicle strike on the Kluskus FSR in June 2025. It is unknown whether the personnel involved in this incident are Mine personnel. One AGM reported concerns about wildlife collisions on the Kluskus FSR. No other evidence from complaints, feedback, or engagement records indicated that the Mine site is impacting availability of wildlife. Fish: Kokanee fry abundance appeared higher in 2025, while rainbow trout trends were mixed. Both trends were likely influenced by methodological differences year-to-year. Whitefish abundance is not monitored through the AEMP. Water: One AGM noted concerns over water availability and cited that they were unable to take water from Davidson Creek for an unspecified reason. There were fluctuations in water flows in Davidson Creek in 2025, partially due to a dry summer and partially due to Mine activities. A freshwater reservoir is planned for construction in 2026, which will reduce future Mine-related fluctuations in water flows for Davidson Creek. Another monitor raised concern that water availability may be more limited in summer due to the Mine. The freshwater reservoir will also address this concern.	Reduced Harvesting Success: The Mine could result in a reduction in plant gathering, hunting and trapping success due to a decrease in the quantity of resources available around the Mine site. Note, a reduction in fishing success was not predicted. <i>Effect rating: Not significant.</i>	Wildfires in previous years may have increased the availability of plants and berries in this monitoring year. However, this change is not associated with Mine activities. Invasive species were not reported as displacing native plant species that serve as country foods. BW Gold did not receive information from Indigenous groups regarding changes to plant/berry availability due to the Mine. No vehicles/driving associated with the Mine were confirmed to have resulted in wildlife fatalities in 2025. Aside from a general concern from an AGM regarding collisions with wildlife on the Kluskus FSR, BW Gold did not receive information from Indigenous groups regarding changes to wildlife availability due to the Mine. This represents an improvement from 2024, likely resulting from additional mitigation measures implemented by BW Gold in 2025 to reduce the risk of wildlife mortality along Mine roads and trails. Data from the AEMP did not indicate adverse effects of the Mine on fish abundance. BW Gold did not receive information from Indigenous groups regarding changes to fish availability due to the Mine. Although water flows around the Mine site fluctuated in 2025, there is no evidence that these fluctuations impacted water for country foods, as a pathway for any change to country foods harvesting. The construction of the freshwater reservoir is expected to prevent further fluctuations. The monitoring results are aligned with the predicted effect from the environmental assessment.	No

Category	Monitoring Focus	Monitored Indicators	Summary of Information		Analysis		Trigger for Adaptive Management (Yes/No)
			Summary of Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions: Current Context Report (2023)	Summary of Monitoring Results (2025)	Predicted Effect(s) or Concerns Raised ^a	Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions Monitoring Results	
Country Food Quality ^d	Change in quality of country foods	- Results of CFMP Monitoring - Compliance with effluent discharge requirements - Observations and feedback on appearance of wildlife, as reported in AGM monthly reports - Observations and feedback on appearance of vegetation as reported in AGM monthly reports - Number of meetings where Indigenous groups are asked about or share perceptions related to changes in the quality of country foods as a result of the Project - Number of complaints received through the CFM in relation to the quality of country foods in proximity to the Project - Changes in perception of country foods quality information provided by Indigenous groups if and when made available	While most country food samples met safety guidelines, concerns persist regarding contaminants from past and current industrial activity, particularly in relation to water and the health of country foods like moose and fish.	Plants and Berries: No quality data was collected for plants and berries in 2025, and no feedback on country food (plants) quality was received through engagement or the CFM. One AGM expressed overarching concerns that dust from the Mine might affect plants in the future. Wildlife: No tissue samples for wildlife species have been collected to date. One AGM expressed overarching concerns that dust from the Mine might affect wildlife in the future. One AGM reported that they noticed more algae forming in the water around the Mine site and expressed concern about the impacts of a change in water quality on wildlife. The algae was likely due to clearing that took place onsite in 2025, which increased sunlight on waterbodies, resulting in algae growth. No other evidence from complaints, feedback, or engagement records indicated that the Mine site is impacting quality of wildlife. Fish: Levels of COPCs in fish tissues sampled in 2025 (including for rainbow trout and mountain whitefish, no kokanee were sampled) were below baseline, predicted, and guideline NPMs, indicating no expected effects to human health. Rainbow trout and kokanee fry showed minimal differences in condition between control and impact sites in 2025. Whitefish condition is not monitored through the AEMP. One AGM expressed overarching concerns that dust from the Mine might affect fish quality in the future. AGMs also noted concerns about changes in water quality impacting fish. No other evidence from complaints, feedback, or engagement records indicated that the Mine site is impacting quality of fish. Water: Average concentrations of aluminum and iron were higher than predicted (Predicted NPM) at sampling sites in 2024 and 2025. Average cobalt concentrations over the whole year did not exceed Guideline NPMs; however, maximum concentrations observed in the second half of the year did. However, all average COPC concentrations over the year are below levels of concern for human health. Aside from the concerns of AGMs regarding algae described above, no other complaints, feedback, or engagement records indicated concerns that the Mine is impacting quality of water.	Changes to Quality of Air, Water, Soil, and Country Foods: The Mine may affect the quality of water, soil, and country foods through dust deposition and changes to water quality. This may expose Indigenous land users to COPCs and resulting increased health risk. <i>Effect rating: Not significant.</i>	No tissue samples for wildlife species were collected in 2025, and no engagement or feedback has been provided to BW Gold regarding the quality of wildlife/game. The absence of this information does not allow BW Gold to determine any changes to the quality of hunted wildlife. While there have been some changes in the concentrations of plant and berry samples, these changes were not attributed to the Mine, and as such, it is determined that the Mine did not affect the quality of harvested plants or berries. There was no evidence from fish tissue sampling and fish condition monitoring that the Mine’s activities have altered the quality of fish. While average concentrations of COPCs in surface water did not exceed guidelines for human health, some COPCs have exceeded predicted concentrations in both 2024 and 2025. This has triggered a medium-level adaptive management response through the CFMP, which corresponds to a low-level monitoring trigger and action under the CFSEC FUP. Aside from surface water quality results, the monitoring results are aligned with the predicted effect from the environmental assessment.	Yes
Food Security	Change in perception of food security due to change in access, availability and/or quality of country foods	- BC Inflation Rate - Results of CFMP Monitoring - Compliance with effluent discharge requirements - Number of meetings where Indigenous groups are asked about or share perceptions related to changes in food security as a result of the Project - Number of complaints received through the CFM in relation to the quality of country foods - Feedback on changes in perception of food security, as reported in focus groups/workshops - Changes in perception of foods consumption pattern and/or perceptions of food security information provided by Indigenous groups if and when made available	Many households rely on traditional foods to supplement limited store-bought options, and food insecurity is prevalent in Indigenous Nation communities. Notwithstanding, specific food insecurity rates are not available for all Indigenous groups involved in this monitoring program and food insecurity rates are largely generalized for Indigenous People in BC.	No evidence from complaints, feedback or engagement records indicate that Indigenous Nations have experienced a perceived change in food security due to changes in access, availability, and/or quality of country foods (plants and berries, fish, and wildlife) caused by Mine construction or activity. In 2025, BC saw an inflation rate of around 2.1%, compared to 2.6% in 2024. The inflation rate for food in BC was 3.2% in 2025, compared to 3.0% in 2024 (Statistics Canada 2026).	Reduced Access to Quantity of Country Foods: Effects of the Mine on moose harvesting for traditional purposes could have potential effects on Indigenous peoples’ food security. <i>Effect rating: Not significant.</i> Socio-Economic Effect: There could be a socio-economic effect from reduced access to and quantity of country foods. <i>Effect rating: Not significant.</i>	There is no evidence that activities at the Mine have resulted in changes to perceptions of food security due to the change in access, availability, and/or quality of country foods. The monitoring results are aligned with the predicted effect from the environmental assessment.	No

Category	Monitoring Focus	Monitored Indicators	Summary of Information		Analysis		Trigger for Adaptive Management (Yes/No)
			Summary of Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions: Current Context Report (2023)	Summary of Monitoring Results (2025)	Predicted Effect(s) or Concerns Raised ^a	Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions Monitoring Results	
Health	Changes in levels of physical activity associated with country foods harvesting	- Compliance with notification and Project schedule sharing - Number of hours the FSRs are closed or one lane, due to the Project - Number of meetings where Indigenous groups are asked about or share perceptions related to changes in the amount of physical activities associated with harvesting as a result of the Project - Number of complaints raised in relation to increased effort to access country foods harvesting locations, received through the CFM	Harvesting activities such as hunting, fishing, and berry picking involve considerable physical exertion, contributing to physical health and wellness, especially for youth and Elders who participate regularly.	No complaints, feedback, or engagement records indicated that Indigenous nations have attributed to changes in levels of physical activity associated with harvesting plants and berries, fish, or wildlife to the activities of the Mine.	Loss or Alteration of Access: The Mine could interfere with some land users’ ability to reach specific areas due to the location of the Mine site and freshwater supply pipeline on currently used access routes. <i>Effect rating: Not significant.</i>	There is no evidence that Mine activities have been associated with changes in accessing local harvesting areas, and as such, changing the approach to harvesting or levels of physical activity associated with country foods harvesting. The monitoring results are aligned with the predicted effect from the environmental assessment.	No
	Change in health associated with perceptions of country foods and/or trust in consumption of country foods	- Number of times public health care services were accessed per community, total and by key service category - Number of meetings where Indigenous groups are asked about or share perceptions related to changes in health as a result of the Project - Number of complaints raised in relation to change in perceptions of country foods and/or trust in consumption of country foods associated with Project-related activities and/or impacts, received through the CFM - Changes in perception of foods consumption pattern information provided by Indigenous groups, if and when made available	Community members report that country foods are seen as healthier and more trustworthy than store-bought foods, though concerns about contamination from industrial sources have created stress and hesitancy among some harvesters.	No complaints, feedback, or engagement records indicated that Indigenous nations have attributed changes in health associated with perceptions of country foods (plants and berries, fish, and wildlife) with the activities of the Mine. At a meeting with Indigenous nations in June 2025, it was noted that the Federal DS requires signage where surface water consumption is not advisable. Concerns were raised regarding the effect of this signage on perceptions of water and fish safety. In response, BW Gold committed to proposing specific locations and rationale for sign placement. While signage was installed at the Tailings Storage Facility in 2025, engagement with Indigenous nations regarding additional signage locations is ongoing.	Concern: The potential for increased mortality or contamination of country foods, and the perception that country foods are contaminated, as this could result in community members avoiding them. While no direct effect was stated in relation to trust or perceptions of country foods, the CEAA determined the potential for an effect to current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes was Not significant.	There is no evidence that Mine activities have caused changes in health associated with perceptions of country foods and/or trust in consumption of country foods. BW Gold will continue to engage Indigenous nations on water quality signage to comply with the Federal DS and proactively address potential changes to perceptions of country foods’ safety. The monitoring results are aligned with the predicted effect from the environmental assessment.	No

Category	Monitoring Focus	Monitored Indicators	Summary of Information		Analysis		Trigger for Adaptive Management (Yes/No)
			Summary of Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions: Current Context Report (2023)	Summary of Monitoring Results (2025)	Predicted Effect(s) or Concerns Raised ^a	Country Foods and Socio-Economic Conditions Monitoring Results	
Culture	Change in culture due to changes in country foods harvesting associated with Project activities, components or effects	• Compliance with notification and Project schedule sharing • Results of CFMP Monitoring • Compliance with effluent discharge requirements • Compliance with the no fishing, hunting, trapping gathering policy • Compliance with BW Gold’s speed limits on roads • Number of Project vehicle-wildlife strikes • Presence and type of wildlife interactions in the FUP monitoring area, based on AGM reports, and winter track survey results • Presence and type of aquatic species in the FUP monitoring area, based on review of intake screens • Presence and type of invasive species in the FUP monitoring area • Number of meetings where Indigenous groups are asked about or share perceptions related to changes in culture as a result of the Project • Number of complaints raised in relation to access and experience of cultural activities received through the CFM	Country food harvesting remains central to cultural identity, reinforcing intergenerational knowledge-sharing, language use, ceremonial practices, and community cohesion through both daily activities and special events.	No complaints, feedback, or engagement records indicated that Indigenous nations have attributed changes in culture due to changes in harvesting plants and berries, fish, or wildlife to the activities of the Mine.	Changes in Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes: Mine activities may: • Affect quality of harvesting and other cultural land use experiences through visual and auditory disturbances; • Reduce harvesting success due to decrease in quantity and quality of resources; and • Restrict access to cultural and traditional sites; <i>Effect rating: Not significant.</i>	There is no evidence that Mine activities have caused changes in culture associated with country foods harvesting and the relationship of harvesting with knowledge sharing or language use. The monitoring results are aligned with the predicted effect from the environmental assessment.	No

Source: Artemis Gold 2026a; Entia 2026; ERM 2023; ERM 2024; ERM 2026a, 2026b, 2026c.

Notes:

^a As summarized in the Blackwater Gold Project Environmental Assessment Report (CEAA 2019b).

^b In the previous CFSEC Monitoring Report, this was incorrectly reported as an inflation rate of 2.4% for BC in 2024. This was the inflation rate for Canada.

^c Availability of country foods, as defined in Section 3 of the FUP, refers to the quantity of country foods, per species within the area. As such, reduced availability could refer to reduced wildlife, fish, or plant harvest success due to Mine-related reduced species presence or worsened species health, as well as reduced harvesting success as a result of avoidance of harvesting in areas within proximity to the Project.

^d The CFMP includes approaches for monitoring the presence of COPCs which have potential to change the quality of country foods. As such, the FUP does not include measured indicators related to COPCs but does consider CFMP findings on COPCs in assessing country foods quality.

As indicated in Table 2.4-1, triggers for adaptive management were reached for the following:

- Change to the quality of country food, due to a moderate threshold trigger associated with the average concentrations of COPCs in surface water.

The change and thresholds are presented below with the focus on determining the effectiveness of the mitigation measures in relation to the predicted effects.

Change to the quality of country food: Monitoring results of the CFMP in 2025 indicated that surface water COPC concentrations were higher than Baseline and Predicted levels, although did not exceed Guideline levels. Changes to COPCs concentrations may alter the quality of country foods; however no changes in quality have been reported for any of the country foods which were assessed in 2025 (i.e., aquatic species) and the Mine has not received complaints or concerns from Indigenous groups regarding changes to the quality of country foods at all and not in response to changes in water quality. Further, the COPC concentrations remain below Guideline NPMs and do not pose a risk to human health.

Notwithstanding, in accordance with the FUP adaptive management thresholds (Table 5-1 of the FUP), a **low-level** FUP trigger has been identified. Various mitigation measures have been recommended through the AEMP and CFMP to address surface water COPC concentrations, some of which are already in place. It is determined that the mitigations identified through the AEMP and CFMP are appropriate and sufficient and no adaptation measures are recommended in relation to the FUP monitoring. Monitoring of COPC surface water concentrations is recommended as part of the CFMP.

In conclusion, the 2025 monitoring results support the original environmental assessment that the Mine is not predicted to cause significant adverse effects on the health or socio-economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples as a result of changes to country foods access, availability or quality. The monitoring indicates that existing mitigation measures remain effective, and where thresholds have been reached, there have been mitigations and activities identified in linked plans (i.e., AEMP and CFMP) to address the findings. Continued monitoring and engagement will allow the Mine to address any emerging concerns. Through engagement, additional information and perspectives may be received from Indigenous groups to enhance or refine the FUP monitoring. Additionally, the Indigenous monitors may provide information, perspectives or observations regarding species or Mine activities that also support FUP monitoring.

No modification or additional mitigation measures have been identified under the FUP for the next monitoring year. Additionally, no changes to the FUP have been made in 2025 to date; however, an update to the FUP is planned for 2026.

3. REFERENCES

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